

Control Bidding to Slam

April 19, 2011

John Williams

[Note: *much of this material is from the Spring 2011 Schwartz-Williams course on **2 Over 1 Bidding***]

Introduction: We know the ‘Rule’ - *Don’t use Blackwood when your partnership may have a suit with 2 quick losers.*” Control bids can be used to determine when it is safe to use Blackwood.

- Control bids are made after a (major) suit has been agreed on in a game-forcing auction.
- A Control Bid is a slam try that promises a control in the suit bid. It is a non-jump bid in a side suit. It is used when a slam is known to be possible.
 - *First round control* is an Ace or a void
 - *Second round control* is a King or singleton

In this lecture we will consider numerous sample hands to illustrate the following control bidding principles:

1. A control bid below game promises either first or second round control.
2. All controls are bid *up-the-line*. Skipping a suit denies a control in that suit.
3. If partner continues to control bid, it guarantees a control in the suit(s) that you have skipped.
4. Below game level, we show controls as long as a slam is possible.
5. A control bid in a suit that partner has bid suit shows the Ace or King, not a singleton or void.
6. A control bid in a known short suit shows a void.
7. Control bidding a suit a second time shows Ace and King.
8. 5 level control bids show 1st round control.
9. After a minor suit has been bid and supported, bidding a new suit shows either a stopper for NT or a control for slam. Subsequently going past 3NT shows the latter.

Control bids

Printed by Dealmaster Pro

<p>1 ♠ AQ104 Dir: N ♥ A Vul: None ♦ K85 ♣ Q9742</p> <p>♠ 87 ♠ 3 ♥ Q9632 ♥ J10874 ♦ J1096 ♦ 7432 ♣ A8 ♣ K105</p> <p> ♠ KJ9652 ♣♦♥♠NT ♥ K5 N 4 - - 4 5 ♦ AQ S 4 - - 4 5 ♣ J63 E - - 1 - - W - - 1 - -</p>	<p>2 ♠ Q97 Dir: E ♥ Q Vul: N-S ♦ 106542 ♣ 10952</p> <p>♠ 52 ♠ A1064 ♥ K97652 ♥ AJ83 ♦ A ♦ KQJ8 ♣ KQ63 ♣ 4</p> <p> ♠ KJ83 ♣♦♥♠NT ♥ 104 N - - - - - ♦ 973 S - - - - - ♣ AJ87 E - - 6 2 5 W - - 6 2 5</p>	<p>3 ♠ AQ108 Dir: S ♥ AQ8 Vul: E-W ♦ J6 ♣ K963</p> <p>♠ 3 ♠ 52 ♥ J7654 ♥ 102 ♦ K1092 ♦ A754 ♣ J54 ♣ Q10872</p> <p> ♠ KJ9764 ♣♦♥♠NT ♥ K93 N - - 2 5 5 ♦ Q83 S - - 2 5 5 ♣ A E - - - - - W - - - - -</p>																											
<p>4 ♠ J9 Dir: W ♥ Q75 Vul: Both ♦ A86432 ♣ J9</p> <p>♠ A65432 ♠ KQ87 ♥ 9 ♥ A62 ♦ K75 ♦ QJ ♣ A83 ♣ KQ72</p> <p> ♠ 10 ♣♦♥♠NT ♥ KJ10843 N - - - - - ♦ 109 S - - - - - ♣ 10654 E 5 - - 6 4 W 5 - - 6 4</p>	<p>RECAP</p> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>N</th> <th>S</th> <th>E</th> <th>W</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Avg HCP</td> <td>10.75</td> <td>10.00</td> <td>10.50</td> <td>8.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bal-anced</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Voids/Singles*</td> <td>0/ 2</td> <td>0/ 2</td> <td>0/ 2</td> <td>0/ 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Suit with 7+</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">* Number of voids/ Number of singletons in all hands.</p>					N	S	E	W	Avg HCP	10.75	10.00	10.50	8.75	Bal-anced	1	1	1	0	Voids/Singles*	0/ 2	0/ 2	0/ 2	0/ 3	Suit with 7+	0	0	0	0
	N	S	E	W																									
Avg HCP	10.75	10.00	10.50	8.75																									
Bal-anced	1	1	1	0																									
Voids/Singles*	0/ 2	0/ 2	0/ 2	0/ 3																									
Suit with 7+	0	0	0	0																									