EXCLUSION BLACKWOOD

Exclusion Blackwood is an extension of the Roman Key Card Blackwood convention. The concept behind this convention is to show a void while exploring for the possibility of a slam. The idea behind Exclusion Blackwood is attributed to Bobby Goldman (1938 – 1999). The *Bridge World, May 1981* Volume 52, Number 8 has an article about the Exclusion Blackwood convention, written by Mr. Ron Gerard. Exclusion Blackwood is also referred to as Voidwood.

The bidding process must include suit agreement, such as 1S-P-3S.

It is agreed that Spades is the trump suit. Normally, the opener, who is looking for a possible slam contract, will employ Roman Key Card Blackwood to discover the number of Key Cards held by the responder. However, when the opener has a void, s/he wants to find out about partner's Key Cards **excluding** that void suit. That is done by jumping to the 5 level in the void suit.

After 1S-P-3S-P-

Opener bids

5C Exclusion Blackwood - void in Clubs

or

5D Exclusion Blackwood - void in Diamonds

or

5H Exclusion Blackwood - void in Hearts

By jumping to the Five Level opener shows slam interest and a void in the bid suit. The responder, realizing the location of the void, responds to the Exclusion Blackwood convention by counting his Key Cards **except** the Key Card in the suit, in which the opener is void.

The bid on the Five Level by the opener is treated the same as had the opener bid 4 No Trump, employing normal Roman Key Card Blackwood. Therefore, the responder would bid according to the appropriate form (1430 or 3014) of Roman Key Card Blackwood steps.

After 1S-P-3S-P-

5C by Opener **Exclusion Blackwood - void in Clubs**

5D: Responder has 1 or 4 Key Cards
5H: Responder has 0 or 3 Key Cards
5S: Responder has 2 Key Cards without the Queen of trump
5 NT: Responder has 2 Key Cards with the Queen of trump

5D by Opener **Exclusion Blackwood—void in Diamonds**

5H: Responder has 1 or 4 Key Cards
5S: Responder has 0 or 3 Key Cards
5NT: Responder has 2 Key Cards without the Queen of Trump
6C: Responder has 2 Key Cards with the Queen of Trump

5H by Opener **Exclusion Blackwood—void in Hearts**

5S: 1 or 4 Key Cards
5 NT: 0 or 3 Key Cards
6C: 2 Key Cards without the Queen of Trumps
6D: 2 Key Cards with the Queen of Trumps

In all bidding auctions, it is important to remember that **the promised void suit Key Card is not counted as a Key Card when responding**.