

DON'S CORNER

by Don Gardner

This article is an advertisement for two conventions popular with tournament players, but should be used by all bridge players. If you are not convinced of that, print out today's hand for future reference. This hand occurred in a regular weekly duplicate game, and no pair played in the optimum contract. This is your hand:

♠	A 8
♥	2
♦	A Q 10
♣	A J 10 9 6 5 4

You are deciding what to open when you realize partner is the dealer. He opens 1NT and before you decide what to bid, write down what you want to find out about partner hand (can't do it at the table, but you can do it here).

SCROLL DOWN FOR THE SOLUTION

SOLUTION

Here is the list of things you would like to know about partner's hand:

1. How many aces does he hold?
2. Does he hold the K Q of clubs?
3. Does he hold the K of diamonds?
4. Does he hold the K of spades?

Do you use conventions which will give you these answers? If you use:

- a. Four-way transfers after a 1NT opening by partner, and
- b. Keycard Blackwood

The first thing you have to do is set clubs as the trump suit. That can be done using four-way transfers:

1NT - 2♠ - 3♣

That is what you need to do to make the K♣ a keycard.

Now us Keycard Blackwood: 1NT - 2♠ - 3♣ - 4NT - 5♠

Partner has two keycards plus the Q♣

This response by partner answers Questions 1 and 2

Next, bid 5NT asking for partner's lowest ranking King (other than the trump suit). He responds 6♦ showing the K♦ (answers Question 3).

The bidding so far is:

1NT - 2♠ - 3♣ - 4NT - 5♠ - 5NT - 6♦

You have one more question to answer and the partnership has to be in sync to find the answer. You now bid 6♠ ASKING if partner has the K♠. He would bid 6NT if he did not have it (you would then pass since you can count 12 tricks, and bid 7♣ if he did).

If he bid 7♣, you would correct to 7NT since you can now count 13 tricks. You might guess to bid 7NT, but the above is a guarantee.

Partner's Hand

♠	K Q 4
♥	A 7 4
♦	K 7 5 4
♣	K Q 8