

Answers blackwood or Quantitative

- 1) Quant 19pts. NB 19 because you are asking partner “do you have the maximum of 14 for your 1NT opener?” (and the message is, if you do have the max then together we have 33 pts and will make a slam).
Might we do it with 18 pts. Yes.
- 2) Quan. Showing 11/12 pts and asking opener to bid 6NT with 22 or 21
- 3) Quantative. You might feel it is slightly odd that we need to ask opener how many points they have when they have given us a pretty fair idea with their 2NT rebid (which shows 17/18) but nonetheless it is a quantitative bid. And opener will sometimes have “a good “ 17/18 and sometimes a “bad “ 17/18 and will appreciate being consulted about slam prospects. I suppose it shows about 15/16 pts
- 4) Blackwood –we are playing in hearts ie a natural suit was last bid before the 4NT bid
- 5) slightly avant garde perhaps (it is only 4th suit forcing though!) but because the last bid before the 4NT call was not a natural call (2D didn't mean diamonds) then 4NT is quantitative. Showing ?? not sure 18-19 approx
- 6) Quantative 18/19 ish pts
- 7) quan. slightly odd auction perhaps but not impossible certainly amongst experts. Phillida please note.
Showing 8/9 pts
- 8) Blackwood
- 8) [8 again] 4NT is ok by me. *Should* show 19 but 18 is close and is Quant
- 9) Blackwood
- 10) 6NT (pretty close to 7NT actually). Not quite strong enough for 5NT which asks opener to bid 6 or 7 NT
But I might make that bid in practise if only because it is such a rare occurrence and I don't think I ever have.
- 11) Again there will be naysayers who object to the auction as given (“why didn't opener bid 3D?” they will cry). And perhaps they have a point but after a 2 level response the sequence as given is how experts bid. Which (as ever) is besides the point anyway. What should opener bid now?
Answer. 4NT as a quantitative call. NB 2Sp was 4th suit forcing not a natural call so 4NT is not Blackwood.
- 12) Pass. 17pts is not enough *to go a slamming*
- 13) 4NT *chez moi*. [3Cl is fine too but might lead to ambiguity]
- 14) On the assumption partner has led a *low* diamond (and therefore holds an honour which has to be the King) we should play the J and expect it to win. The rule of 11 backs this up incidentally.
This wont work if partner has led the 6 from 6 4 3 2 diamonds ie top of nothing but in that case nothing “works” so you may as well be optimistic.
- 15) K Diamonds. Go straight to gaol and do not collect £200 if you led any other card.
If you don't know why (the K diamonds) well look at the bidding. Theres a clue.
- 16) a club in the expectation that partner will ruff it. The double of a freely bid slam is a Lightner double showing a void (somewhere)
- 17) i lead the 9 Sp and “run it”. If the 9 wins. Lead another spade for another finesse. No other choice.

ii) This one is more interesting. You could take a spade finesse which is the best play to not lose a trick to the Q spades. However there is more to it than that. If we can dispose of our losing heart then we wont care if we lose a trick to the Q sp. This line is best : T1) Ace Hrts T2) Ace sp T3) K sp T4) Ace di T5) Kdi T6) QDi *discarding a heart*. If all that worked then you make 12. So ...rather than take the spade finesse (which if it lost we would go down as we would also lose a heart) we played for the drop in spades. (And if the Q dropped we would make 13). Probably it didn't but now we play diamonds and hope to discard the hrt and only lose to the Qsp at the end.

