


## Blackwood with a void

Using Blackwood with a void is not a good idea as can be seen from this example.

|                               |   |                                |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
|                               | ♠76<br>♥KT98<br>♦A7<br>♣QT965   |                                |
| ♠K932<br>♥J3<br>♦KQT962<br>♣8 |  | ♠QJT8<br>♥AQ7652<br>♦-<br>♣AK7 |
|                               | ♠A52<br>♥4<br>♦J9543<br>♣J432   |                                |

### Auction

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH    |
|------|-------|------|----------|
| Pass | Pass  | 1♥   | Pass     |
| 1♠   | Pass  | 4♦   | Pass     |
| 4♠   | Pass  | 4NT  | Pass     |
| 4♦   | Pass  | 6♠   | All Pass |

Sitting West as dealer, I passed and partner opened 1H. Responding with 1S, I saw partner jump to 4D. This shows 4 card Spade support and either a singleton or void in Diamonds.

Not wishing to miss game I duly bid 4S. However, partner was still not content and bid 4NT. We play Roman keycard so I replied 5D – showing one keycard (KS).

Now partner bid 6S.

### The Play

North led the AD which was ruffed in dummy.

The QS and JS also won with South holding up the AS.

I cashed the AC and KC and ruffed a Club to come to hand.

Now the KD and QD were cashed revealing a less than favourable break.

Another Diamond was ruffed in dummy and then the AH cashed and finally a Heart was ruffed.

This gave only a total of 11 tricks with the AS and one Diamond loser.

### Commentary

Two points worth noting:

- I was a passed hand and despite having a beautiful hand, partner should have been satisfied with a 4S contract.
- When you have a void, Blackwood should not be used since when I show one keycard, partner does not know which one!

It could have been AS, KS or AD. The AD is the least useful card because when missing both AS and KS, 6S is certainly doomed. I have an almost maximum passed hand but still could not make 6S.

With voids, cue bidding is preferable whereas with singletons or long suits, Blackwood is better.

There have been other interesting hands which show the pros and cons of going for Slam with a void. See "Bidding Slam with a void Oct 2014" or "Josephine (slam with a void) Dec 2014".

*Happy Bridging, Bal*