

## Cue bids for slams

So far ,whenever a player has realised that a slam might be on , they have resorted to using Blackwood.

AQ654		KJ32
KQJ2	-----	A5
2		876
AQ5		K987

1S-----3S  
4NT-----5D  
6Sp.

And that was fine.

On the next hand , Blackwood although not unreasonable does leaves the final contract perilously high.

AQJ94		10832
KJ92	-----	85
2		KQJ
AQ5		KJ87

1S-----3S  
4NT-----5C  
5Sp.

Perhaps we will make 5S perhaps we won't.

The problem in a nutshell is that the Blackwood enquiry necessarily propels the auction to at least the five level ,a level which may be too high already.

An improvement would be a method that discovered how many Aces (and controls ) were held but which allowed us to stop at the *game level* if we so wished.

There is such a method of course and it is called cuebidding.

Look at that last hand again .This time we will use cue bids .

AQJ94		10832
KJ92	-----	85
2		KQJ
AQ5		KJ87

1S-----3S  
4C\*-----4Sp  
Pass.

Opener's 4C\* bid is a cue bid. It says that opener has the Ace Clubs { or a void in clubs) and asks partner to name any Aces (or voids) they have outside the trump suit.Responder has no Aces and so sends that message by signing off in 4 Sp. 4Sp is a fair contract.

