

Cue bid or Blackwood ?

Our first hands are all going to be Blackwood hands . See if you can see the common factor with these hands.

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| <p>a)</p> <p>1Sp-----3Sp</p> <p>4NT</p> <p>AQxxx</p> <p>Axx</p> <p>KQx</p> <p>Kx</p> | <p>b) 1H-----2C</p> <p>2D -----4H</p> <p>4NT</p> <p>x</p> <p>KJxxx</p> <p>AKQx</p> <p>Axx</p> |
| <p>c)</p> <p>1Sp-----3D</p> <p>3Sp -----4Sp</p> <p>4NT</p> <p>KQxxx</p> <p>Kxx</p> <p>Kxx</p> <p>Ax</p> | <p>d) 2H-----3C</p> <p>3H ----- 4H</p> <p>4NT</p> <p>AKx</p> <p>AKQJxxx</p> <p>Kx</p> <p>x</p> |

Well there is probably more than just one common factor (!); the 4NT bidder for instance is always in a position to know that the pair have in the region of 30 pts or so; they also always know that there is an agreed (good) trump suit . Most importantly of all -the 4NT bidder knows that the pair has at least 1st or 2 nd round control in *every* suit .

Compare the above with these cue bid hands :-

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| <p>e)</p> <p>1Sp-----3Sp</p> <p>4C</p> <p>AKxxx</p> <p>KQJx</p> <p>xx</p> <p>Ax</p> | <p>f) 1H-----2C</p> <p>2D -----4H</p> <p>4Sp</p> <p>Ax</p> <p>KJxxx</p> <p>AKQx</p> <p>xx</p> |
| <p>g)</p> <p>1Sp-----3D</p> <p>3Sp -----4Sp</p> <p>5D</p> <p>KQxxx</p> <p>KQJ</p> <p>Axx</p> <p>xx</p> | <p>h) 2H-----3C</p> <p>3H ----- 4H</p> <p>4Sp</p> <p>AK</p> <p>AKQJxxx</p> <p>xx</p> <p>Ax</p> |

All of these hands cuebid when the cuebidder has a suit that is "wideopen" ie has a suit that doesnt have 1st or 2nd round control .Whenever the slam initiator has a suit like {xx} or {Qxx} or {Jx } or {xxx} then Blackwood is wrong and cuebids are essential.