Glossary of Slam Tools

Cue Bids (Control Bids) In a game forcing auction when you have agreed upon a trump suit and now start showing controls. Controls are void, singleton, Ace or King. There are different ways of showing controls. One way is to show any of the controls up the line. A second way is to only bid first round control (Ace or void).

Gerber is asking for aces by bidding 4C (and then kings with 5C) over a NT auction where Nt was bid first or last. The responses are straight up the line. 4D is 0, 4H is 1, 4S is 2, etc.

Key Card Blackwood (either 1430 or 0314) is bidding 4NT to ask for key cards (the 4 Aces and the King of trump make up the 5 key cards) In 1430 5C is 1 or 4 keys, 5D is 3 or 0, 5H is 2 or 5 without the Queen and 5S is 2 or 5 with the Queen.

Splinter Bids tell partner you have a void or singleton in that suit by jumping an extra level. It promises 4 card support for partner's suit and an opening hand.

Advanced Tools

Grand Slam Force is made in a slam going hand to ask partner to bid 6 or 7 depending upon their trump values. If they have 2 out of the top 3 they are to go to 7 of the agreed upon suit.

Serious 3NT is bid over an agreed major suit fit (ex. 1H-3H) to show strong slam interest. Showing controls are highly suggested unless the responder has nothing to cue.

Frivolous 3NT is played over a major suit also and just says that you wouldn't mind cue bidding if partner has something to cue bid, but you only have a minimum hand.

Exclusion Blackwood (or Voidwood) happens when one of you is void in the agreed upon suit. You use keycard for your responses excluding the void suit. You jump an extra level to start the Exclusion sequence and it must start no lower than 4S.