

# **B**ridge **L**esson

**MODERN SLAM BIDDING**

**CLASS 1**

# WHAT DO WE NEED TO MAKE SLAM?

**33+ POINTS**

 **AKJ4**

 **KQ8**

 **943**

 **A73**

 **Q8**

 **AJT4**

 **AKQ8**

 **94**

# WHAT DO WE NEED TO MAKE SLAM?

**LESS POINTS  
NEEDED  
WHEN SHAPE  
IS INVOLVED**

 **AKJT864**

 **8**

 **3**

 **AT73**

 **Q72**

 **963**

 **A754**

 **KQ2**

## MODERN SLAM BIDDING

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1 ♠

P 2 ♦ P 2 ♥

P 2 ♠

**YOU**

♠ **AQ986**

♥ **Q94**

♦ **J2**

♣ **AT9**

## WHEN ARE WE ON THE ROAD TO SLAM?

**STEP 1:**

**WE ARE IN A GAME FORCING AUCTION**

**STEP 2:**

**WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A TRUMP FIT**

(NOT ALWAYS NECESSARY)

# MODERN SLAM BIDDING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU ★
------	-------	------	----------

			1♠
P	2♣	P	2♠
P	3♠	P	??

## YOU

♠ **AQJ753**  
♥ **A87**  
♦ **KQ4**  
♣ **6**

# MODERN SLAM BIDDING

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
------	------------	------	-----

	1♠	P	2♣
P	2♠	P	??

## YOU

♠ **KT8**  
♥ **J43**  
♦ **A7**  
♣ **AQJ74**

# LET'S GET PESSIMISTIC

## WAYS TO GO DOWN IN SLAM;

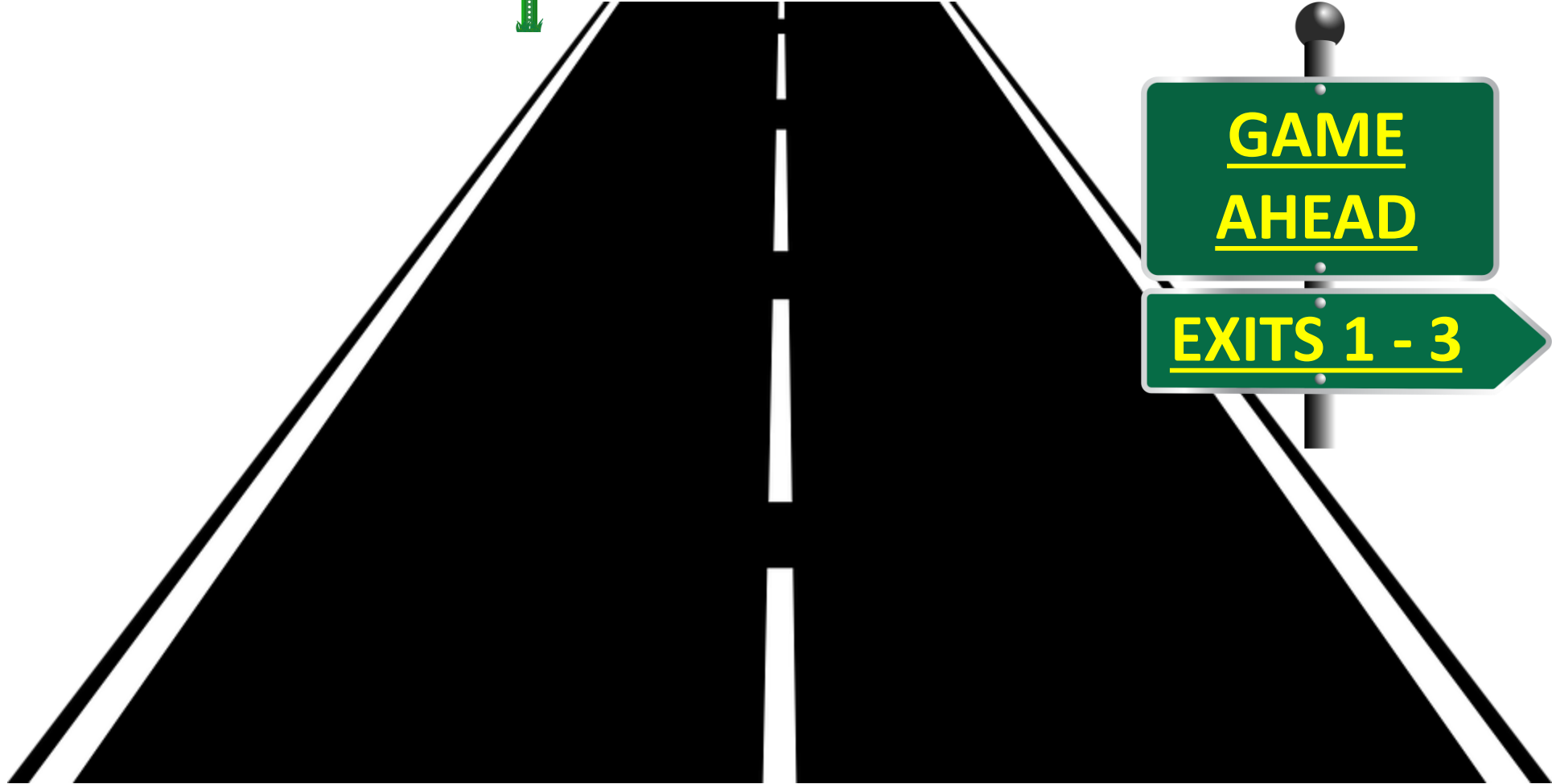
1. Not enough strength
2. Off 2 quick tricks
3. Mis-matched hands
  1. i.e. Lots of values opposite partner's shortness.
4. Off too many key cards

# SLAM SWINGS

WORSE TO BID A SLAM GOING DOWN THAN TO MISS A SLAM THAT MAKES

C	D	result	Plus	Minus
4♥	N	6	680	
4♥	N	6	680	
4♥	N	5	650	
4♥	N	6	680	
6♥	N	6	1430	
3♥	N	6	230	

ROAD  
TO  
SLAM



GAME  
AHEAD

EXITS 1 - 3



**NOT ENOUGH  
STRENGTH  
FOR SLAM**

**WE DON'T  
INVESTIGATE  
WITH THESE  
HANDS**



## MODERN SLAM BIDDING

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

			1 ♠
P	2 ♦	P	2 ♠
P	3 ♠	P	??

**YOU**

♠ **AQJ753**

♥ **872**

♦ **KQ4**

♣ **6**

**WHEN EITHER PLAYER HAS A  
MINIMUM FOR THEIR RANGE,  
THEY SHOULD GET TO GAME AS  
QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.**

**“FAST ARRIVAL” = MINIMUM**

**MAY HAVE ENOUGH  
STRENGTH FOR SLAM**

**HERE, OUR  
INVESTIGATION TELLS  
US TO SIGN OFF IN  
GAME.**

**COMMON REASONS**

- Not enough strength
- Off 2 quick tricks
- Mis-matched hands



## MODERN SLAM BIDDING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

			1 ♠
P	2 ♦	P	2 ♠
P	3 ♠	P	??

**YOU**

♠ **AQJ753**

♥ **87**

♦ **KQ4**

♣ **A3**

**BE WARY OF TWO SMALL IN A SUIT!**

**THIS POSITION CAN OFTEN LEAD TO TWO QUICK LOSERS.**

WE THINK WE  
HAVE ENOUGH  
VALUES AND ASK  
FOR KEYCARDS.

THROUGH THIS  
WE FIND OUT  
WE DO NOT  
HAVE ENOUGH  
KEYCARDS FOR  
SLAM.



# MODERN SLAM BIDDING

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU



1 ♠

P 2 ♦ P 2 ♠

P 3 ♠ P ??

**YOU**

♠ **AQJ753**

♥ **A87**

♦ **KQ4**

♣ **6**

## HOW DO WE INVESTIGATE?

**KEY CARD BLACKWOOD**

**ONLY WHEN WE KNOW WE HAVE THE  
VALUES FOR SLAM AND HAVE NO OBVIOUS  
ISSUES WITH OUR HANDS.**

**CONTROL BIDDING**

**WHEN WE ARE NOT SURE OF OUR TOTAL  
VALUES, OR WHEN WE HAVE AN ISSUE WITH  
ONE OR BOTH HANDS.**

# MODERN SLAM BIDDING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU ★
			1 ♠
P	2 ♦	P	2 ♠
P	3 ♠	P	??

## YOU

♠ **AQJ753**

♥ **A87**

♦ **KQ4**

♣ **6**

# MODERN CONTROL BIDDING

ONCE WE ARE ON THE ROAD TO SLAM, THE BID OF A NON-TRUMP SUIT IS AN ATTEMPT TO PLAY SLAM.

THIS BID IS CALLED A “CONTROL BID”. IT SHOWS EITHER 1<sup>ST</sup> OR 2<sup>ND</sup> ROUND CONTROL OF THE SUIT BEING BID.

1<sup>ST</sup> ROUND CONTROL = ACE or a VOID  
“I can win the 1<sup>st</sup> lead of this suit”

2<sup>ND</sup> ROUND CONTROL = KING or a SINGLETON  
“I can win the 2<sup>nd</sup> lead of this suit”

# MODERN SLAM BIDDING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU ★
------	-------	------	----------

			1 ♠
P	2 ♣	P	2 ♠
P	3 ♠	P	4 ♣

**YOU**

♠ **AQJ753**

♥ **A87**

♦ **KQ4**

♣ **6**

# MODERN CONTROL BIDDING

WHEN BIDDING YOUR CONTROLS;

YOU ARE SHOWING THE DESIRE TO PLAY  
HIGHER THAN GAME.

YOU ARE GOING UP THE LINE!

(LOWEST AVAILABLE BID)



1

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

1 ♠ P ??

YOU

♠ QT54  
♥ KQ98  
♦ A5  
♣ JT2

2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

1 ♠ P 2N  
P 3 ♥ P ??

YOU

♠ QT54  
♥ KQ98  
♦ A5  
♣ JT2

3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

	1♥	P	1♠
P	2♣	P	??

**YOU**

♠ AQJ72  
♥ K95  
♦ K3  
♣ KT5

4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

	1♥	P	1♠
P	2♣	P	2♦
P	2N	P	??

**YOU**

♠ AQJ72  
♥ K95  
♦ K3  
♣ KT5

5

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	1♠
P	2♣	P	2♦
P	2N	P	3♥
P	4♣	P	??

**YOU**

♠ **AQJ72**  
♥ **K95**  
♦ **K3**  
♣ **KT5**

6

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	1♠
P	2♣	P	2♦
P	2N	P	3♥
P	4♣	P	4♦
P	4♥	P	??

**YOU**

♠ **AQJ72**  
♥ **K95**  
♦ **K3**  
♣ **KT5**

7

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

			1 ♠
P	2 ♦	P	2 ♠
P	3 ♠	P	??

**YOU**

♠ J98652  
♥ KJ3  
♦ 9  
♣ AK4

8

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

			1 ♠
P	2 ♦	P	2 ♠
P	3 ♠	P	??

**YOU**

♠ QJ9862  
♥ KJ3  
♦ 9  
♣ AK4

9

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

			1♠
P	2♦	P	2♠
P	3♠	P	4♣
P	4♦	P	??

**YOU**

♠ QJ9862  
 ♥ KJ3  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣ AK4

10

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

			1♠
P	2♦	P	2♠
P	3♠	P	4♣
P	4♦	P	4♥
P	4♠	P	??

**YOU**

♠ QJ9862  
 ♥ KJ3  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣ AK4

11

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
------	------------	------	-----

		P	1 ♠
P	2N	P	3 ♥
P	4♣	P	4♦
P	4♠	P	??

YOU

♠ A8752  
♥ 6  
♦ K92  
♣ KQT8

12

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
------	------------	------	-----

		P	1 ♠
P	2N	P	3 ♥
P	4♣	P	??

YOU

♠ AK752  
♥ 6  
♦ K92  
♣ KQT8

13

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

	1 ♠	P	2 ♦
P	2 ♠	P	3 ♠
P	4 ♠	P	??

YOU

♠ KJ4  
 ♥ JT8  
 ♦ AKQ87  
 ♣ K2

14

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

	1 ♠	P	2N
P	3 ♥	P	4 ♣
P	4 ♦	P	??

YOU

♠ QT54  
 ♥ K986  
 ♦ A5  
 ♣ AJT

15

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1 ♠

P

2 ♦

P

2 ♠

P

??

YOU

♠ AK8

♥ Q98

♦ AKQ87

♣ 32



17

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

	1 ♠	P	2 ♦
P	2 ♠	P	3 ♠
P	4 ♣	P	4 ♦
P	4 ♥	P	??

YOU

♠ AK8  
 ♥ Q98  
 ♦ AKQ87  
 ♣ 32

18

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

		P	1 ♠
P	2 ♦	P	2 ♠
P	3 ♠	P	4 ♣
P	4 ♦	P	??

YOU

♠ QJ9762  
 ♥ KJ3  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣ AK4

## ANSWERS TO NUMBERED HANDS

1. 2N
2. 4♠
3. 2♦
4. 3♥
5. 4♦
6. P
7. 4♠
8. 4♣
9. 4♥
10. P
11. P
12. 4♦
13. P
14. 4♠
15. 3♠
16. 4♦
17. 4N