Slam Bidding II (Control Bids)

The following guidelines are an adjunct to the summary in Slam Bidding I. Please remember these are not universal and are different than outlined in some texts, for example, "25 Conventions." As always, discuss these with your Partner(s) before assuming they use the same guidelines.

- After suit agreement, new suits above 3NT are Control Bids; below 3NT, new suits are a 1-round force and may be a Control Bid

- Initial Control Bids show an Ace/King; Control Bids above game may show shortness (not in a natural suit bid by Partner)

- Returning to the trump suit denies additional control(s) or a minimum considering previous bids; it is <u>never</u> a Control Bid

- Limited hands <u>with a minimum</u> typically deny a control when Partner makes an initial Control Bid

- Control Bids are generally made "up the line"; initiator may bypass a suit when information on a specific suit is needed

- If a Partner skips a suit when responding to a Control Bid, Partner denies a control in the skipped suit (except when short in the suit and the initial Control Bid is made below game)

- Rebidding a control shows 1st & 2nd round control, i.e. the Ace and the King or a singleton Ace

Example Control Bidding Sequences

After West supports ♠s, East has a difficult bidding decision: (a) Bidding 1430 is not recommended when you have an unprotected suit (♠); (b) Showing a singleton/void below game level is also not recommended; (c) Returning to the trump suit may miss an easy slam and HE (combined 22+13=35) projects slam is likely *provided there are not two missing KeyCards*.

Here we show that East makes the conservative bid but West, knowing East has two KeyCards (from the 2♠ bid), tries for slam by bidding past game. Now East can show the 2nd round control in Diamonds which allows bidding the slam.

West

♠ Q J 4
♥ A K 2
♦ Q 3
♣ A K Q 7 4

East

♠ A K 10 9 6 5
♥ 6
♦ 10
♣ J 10 9 8 2

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
5 ♣	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
6 ♠	All pass		