

Ace asks are designed to keep you out of bad slams.

This chestnut is true! You shouldn't launch into an ace ask unless you are prepared to bid the slam when you get an appropriate answer.

1H 4NT

This is an auction which should be incredibly rare. After all, responder has not given opener a chance to make a rebid. If opener has a strong hand, there may be a grand slam available! Grand slams require more than all the Aces and all the Kings. They make up just eight tricks! So, the ace asker must have some idea where the tricks are coming from.

This is especially true when the final contract will be No Trumps. Usually, the full 33 HCP will be needed when there is no long suit to establish.

Don't ask for aces if you can't stand some of the answers.

This is an important chestnut!

Often, you will be using RKC Blackwood. Two keycards plus the Queen gives a response of 5S. If you plan to play in hearts, this response has to be enough for 6H.

As a general rule, you shouldn't use an ace ask until you are sure that the partnership is in the slam zone.

The ace ask is the last checkback before bidding the slam.