

Control Cuebidding

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<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaBidding/ControlCuebidding.pdf>

From my Standard Canadian Eh! Book

17.6 Control-Showing Cuebids

When partner's suit is supported, the trump suit is set. If the suit is a major, the final contract will be that major, and new suits are forcing one round. New suits can be either game tries or cuebids.

S	W	N	E
1♥	P	2♥	P
2♠	P	3♥	P
4♣	P	4♥	P

North thought 2♠ was a game try with a four-card ♠ suit. Is it a reverse? Sure, it does show 16-17 points otherwise why would South be inviting. North is not interested in game, and when South bids 4♣, North realizes 2♠ was a cuebid and re-evaluates the entire bidding. Therefore, 4♣ asks North to also cuebid and North shows no first round ♦ control.

However, if the suit is a minor, the final contract may not necessarily be that minor because a No Trump game is often preferred. New suits are also forcing one round but are either showing a stopper looking for 3NT or a cuebid looking for slam.

S	W	N	E
1♦	P	3♦	P
3♠	P	3NT	P
4♣	P	4♥	P
6♦	All Pass		

North thought 3♠ was just a ♠ stopper looking for 3NT, but 4♣ indicates that 3♠ was indeed a cuebid, denying first round control in ♥'s. When South shows first round ♣ control, North shows first round ♥ control. That is all South needs to know to bid slam.

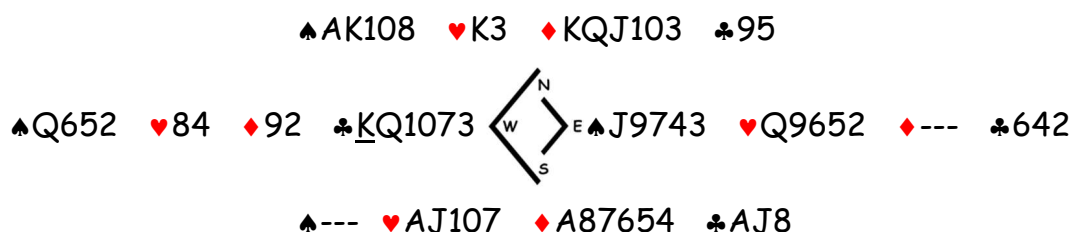
From my Two-Over-One Book

Chapter 63

This book contains standard cuebidding. For the Italian Style of cuebidding with Last Train, Serious Three No Trump and Picture Jumps, either see Ken Rexford's book, "Cuebidding At Bridge, A Modern Approach," or my book on "Slam Bidding."

Example 63.1: (continued from Example 16.1 in chapter 16)

South Dealer North South Vulnerable



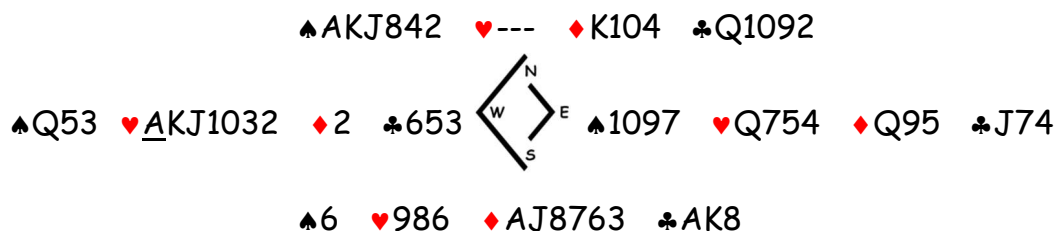
South cannot bid Three No Trump with a void, but South can make a forcing-to-game call of 3♦. If North bid Three No Trump, South will pass disheartened if North is not interested in ♦'s, but he is with a 3♠ cuebid. With standard cuebidding, the bidding should go as follows.

	N	E	S	W	
	1NT	P	2♣	P	
	2♠	P	3♦	P	GF Auction
1 st rnd ♠ ctrl	3♠	P	4♣	P	1 st rnd ♣ control
temporizing 4♦	4♦	P	4♥	P	1 st rnd ♥ ctrl
2 nd rnd ♠ ctrl	4♠	P	4NT	P	1430 keycard
	5♠	P	5NT	P	specific Kings
♥K not ♣K	6♥	P	7♦	All Pass	

3♠ was a cuebid in support of ♦'s. South can probably jump to 6♦, but North would certainly raise 5♦ to 6♦. However, there is a grand at stake.

Example 63.2: Cuebid Sets Trump

South Dealer East West Vulnerable



	S	W	N	E	
	1♦	2♥	2♠	P	
	3♦	P	3♥	P	1 st rnd ♥ ctrl, ♦'s are trump
1 st rnd ♣ ctrl	4♣	P	4♥	P	2 nd rnd ♥ ctrl
2 nd rnd ♣ ctrl	5♣	P	6♦	All Pass	

Opening Lead: ♥Ace

This happened in the Chardonay bracketed knockout event of the Penticton regional. North cuebid first round control in ♥'s which set ♦'s as trump. South then cuebid first round control in ♣'s, South showed second round ♥ control and 5♣ showed second round control in ♣'s.

South could have shown second round control in ♠'s with a 4♠ bid, but since ♠'s was his partner's suit, he was pretty sure partner needed to hear about ♣'s not ♠'s. He was right, and North bid 6♦.

We got 940 for 6♦+1 and at the other table they were in 4♠+2 for -480 giving us +10 IMPs. The ♦ hook is taken because the pre-emptor is played for shortness in the trump suit when he did not make a singleton lead. Whether 4♠ had two or three overtricks, we still won +10 IMPs.