

The Beginner's Page - 5

We have got to the stage where we open and partner responds. Last week we studied when responder had made a limit bid. This time we will look at when partner's bid is a new suit (and thus unlimited).

Hand 1	Hand 2	With Hand 1 we opened 1♥ and partner responded 1♠. We cannot support with just a doubleton. 1NT shows 12-14 points and is a possibility, but with a 2 nd suit it's best to bid it, so 2♦.
♠ Q7	♠ K7	Now the 2♦ rebid with hand 1 showed a minimal hand (about 12-16 pts). With more we have to jump and so 3♦ is correct with Hand 2. This is game forcing.
♥ KJ763	♥ AQJ63	
♦ AQ54	♦ AKJ8	
♣ 65	♣ J6	

So that's easy when we have a second suit to bid. A simple bid of a lower ranking suit shows a minimum or average hand and a jump in a new suit is forcing. But what if your 2nd suit is higher ranking than your first?

Hand 3	With hand 3 we opened 1♦ and partner responded 1♠. Again we cannot support with just a doubleton. 1NT shows 12-14 points and is a possibility, but with a 2 nd suit it's usually best to bid it. But if we bid 2♥ and partner has a weak hand and prefers ♦'s then we are up at the 3 level. Also, of course, partner responded 1♠ and not 1♥, so probably does not have a ♥ suit. So we don't bid this ♥ suit and have to rebid 1NT. Fine. If partner does indeed have a ♥ suit then he will bid it now, so no problem.
♠ Q7	
♥ AQ54	
♦ KJ762	
♣ 65	

Hand 4	With hand 4 we again opened 1♦ and partner responded 1♠. This hand is stronger and we don't mind forcing partner to give preference at the 3 level. So we bid 2♥. Bidding a higher ranking suit than the one you opened is called a reverse and shows 16+ points. A reverse always shows more cards in the 1 st bid suit than the 2 nd . A reverse is forcing when playing Standard American and partner cannot pass. Since this bid is forcing, there is no need to jump to 3♥. Indeed, a jump to 3♥ shows something completely different (short ♥'s!!).
♠ K7	
♥ AQ54	
♦ KJ7632	
♣ A	

Hand 5	With hand 5 we again opened 1♦ and partner responded 1♠. This hand is certainly strong enough to reverse, so 2♥?
♠ AJ6	No! A reverse promises 5+ cards in the first bid suit. This hand was too strong for a 1NT opener and the correct bid over partner's 1♠ is a jump to 2NT, showing 18-19 points. If partner had responded 2♣ then we jump to 3NT (a 2NT bid would be a non-jump and show 12-14 points)
♥ AQ54	
♦ KJ76	
♣ A5	

Hand 6	A 1♦ opening again. What do you bid if partner responds (a) 1♠, (b) 2♣, (c) 2♦?
♠ AQ	(a) Over 1♠ you cannot bid 2♥ at that is a reverse. 1NT (12-14) is correct.
♥ Q1082	(b) Over 2♣ you again cannot bid 2♥ (it's still a reverse) 2NT is correct. It is a non jump and shows 12-14 points.
♦ Q976	(c) Pass. You are minimum; partner has denied ♥'s and prefers ♦'s to NT.
♣ QJ5	Fine, so be it.

To be continued next week.....