

The Beginner's Page - 6

Last week we look at our rebid when partner responds in a new suit. We continue the theme this week:

Hand 7	Hand 8	Hand 7 is too weak for 1NT, so you open 1♦. But what is your rebid if partner responds 1♥? You have the correct point count for a 1NT rebid but that is wrong because it denies a 4 card major. Rebid 1♠.
♠ AQ74	♠ AQJ4	Hand 8 is too strong for 1NT. This time open 1♦ and rebid 2♠ over 1♥. It has the values for 2NT but that again denies 4♠'s.
♥ A54	♥ A54	
♦ J963	♦ AJ83	
♣ Q2	♣ K2	

What do you do if you don't have a good 2nd suit to bid and can't bid NT? You can rebid a 6 card suit: -

Hand 9	Hand 10	Here we open 1♥ and partner responds 1♠ in both cases. Rebidding a 6 card suit is fine, so with Hand 9 you bid 2♥. Hand 10 is stronger and 3♥ is the bid. This tells partner that you have a good hand with a good ♥ suit and invites him to bid game if he can.
♠ Q7	♠ K7	
♥ AQJ654	♥ AQJ654	
♦ J63	♦ J63	
♣ Q2	♣ A2	

And here are a couple of trickier hands: -

Hand 11	Hand 12	In both cases you open 1♣. But what do you rebid with Hand 11 when partner responds 1♦? A 2♦ bid is not unreasonable, but I prefer 1NT. Always support major suits, but NT usually scores more than minor suit contracts. With Hand 12 partner responds 1♠ to your 1♣ opening. With weak ♥'s it is better to support with 2♠ than bid 1NT. This bid usually shows 4 card support, but not always.
♠ QJ7	♠ AQ7	
♥ K6	♥ 64	
♦ QJ43	♦ QJ43	
♣ KJ42	♣ KJ42	

So. Don't be in a rush to support partner's minor suit if NT is a sensible option, but support a major suit even with just 3 cards if the shape dictates.

And what should opener do if partner's original response was a strong jump shift?

Here we have something different. Partner's jump has made the auction forcing to game, so there is no need for you to jump with a good hand. In fact, the reverse is often the case. Since a jump takes up bidding space, we often bid slowly with good hands and jump with bad ones. This is called fast arrival: -

Hand 13	Hand 14	With Hand 13 we opened 1♦, with the intention of bidding 2♣ over partner's 1♥/♠/NT response. However, partner bids 2♥. This is game forcing and guarantees a good long ♥ suit. Now 3♣ here would not be unreasonable, but I prefer 4♥. You have adequate support for ♥'s but that's all. So don't encourage partner. With Hand 14 we again opened 1♦ and partner jumped to 2♥. This hand is much better in support of ♥'s. Bid 3♥, forcing, and showing decent support for partner.
♠ K7	♠ A7	
♥ Q6	♥ Q64	
♦ KJ543	♦ KJ643	
♣ QJ42	♣ A42	