

BRIDGE

Unit 5

IMPROVE YOUR ACOL BIDDING

Playing a Chicago style game, you should now be able to bid, play and score sufficiently well, with friends of a similar standing, to enjoy this fascinating game. Some of you will be aware how Duplicate Bridge removes the unfairness of one side continually getting all the points.

In this unit we will cover:

A suggestion for bidding 4-4-4-1 hands,
More on Jacoby Transfer bids, 4th Suit Forcing and a method of hand evaluation, the Losing Trick Count

There are also a number of bidding quizzes with answers at the back of the booklet.

I hope that as you develop, you will not become rude to your partner. Partners should, as Zia Mahmood says, be thought of, and treated as, the best player in the world, *while you are playing with them.*

Finally. Please remember that we play this amazing game for enjoyment!

A friendly Duplicate Bridge Group is firmly established at Newburn Leisure Centre. Players can get the feel for club Bridge in a learning environment where assistance on bidding or play problems is always at hand. They meet on Mondays at 12.45 pm and you are most welcome.

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OPENER'S REVERSE BIDS 1.

Opener's REBID defines the shape of the hand - AND its strength.

By now you will know that when you rebid a 2nd suit, you guarantee FIVE of your 1st suit. (a 5-4 shape)
 You will also know that when you open 1 of a suit you promise anything from 11 HCPs - 19+ HCPs
 Because that is such a wide range, your REBID should also clarify whether your opening bid was a normal 11-16 or a much stronger 17+. IF your hand has 17+HCPs, you must show it with a REVERSE BID

With a normal opening hand, 11-16, your rebid should **NOT be higher than 2 of your opening suit.** e.g.

West	East
♠ 32	♠ A8764
♥ AQ32	♥ 95
♦ 87	♦ KJ6
♣ AK1097	♣ 832

W	E	NOT
1♣	1♠	
2♣		2♥

West is **not strong enough** to bid a forcing 2♥. 2♥ would force east to give preference to clubs at the 3 level. West should simply rebid a non-forcing 2♣, which east will PASS.

With a strong opening hand, 17+, your rebid **MUST be higher than 2 of your opening suit. - A REVERSE!**

West	East
♠ K2	♠ A8764
♥ AQ32	♥ 95
♦ Q7	♦ KJ6
♣ AK1097	♣ 832

W	E
1♣	1♠
2♥	

On hand 2, west with 18 pts. is **strong enough** to bid higher than 2♣. 2♥ is forcing for 1 round and is called a REVERSE BID. East with 8 pts. now knows that they have at least 25pts. With a good stop in the unbid suit, diamonds, east can bid 3NT. On hand 1. 3NT would be a silly contract!

NOTE - The bid of 2♥ is not a jump bid. It is the cheapest way of bidding hearts after spades. It is a REVERSE bid though because it is higher than a normal rebid of 2♣.

West	East
♠ K2	♠ A8764
♥ AQ1032	♥ 95
♦ Q7	♦ KJ6
♣ AK109	♣ 832

W	E
1♥	1♠
3♣	

On hand 3, west again has a strong opening hand of 18 pts. West could rebid 2♣ to show the 5-4 shape BUT that would suggest a normal opening hand of 11-16 pts. To show the STRENGTH of the hand west needs to make a REVERSE bid of 3♣. Remember to use the STOP card when you jump a level of bidding.

Sometimes you can reverse on only 15 HCPs

West	East
♠ K2	♠ A87
♥ AQ1032	♥ K5
♦ Q7	♦ KJ653
♣ KJ109	♣ 832

W	E
1♥	2♦
3♣	

On hand 4, west has only 15 HCPs. But when east responds 2♦ s/he is promising at least 10 pts. Therefore west can rebid 3♣ (higher than 2♥) to show 15+ pts.

On another day, (and a different hand), if east responded 1♠ west should only rebid 2♣. ♠ A875
♥ K5
♦ KJ65
♣ 832

The same principle of REVERSE BIDS also works when opener's hand is Balanced.

West	East
♠ K2	♠ A873
♥ AQ103	♥ 95
♦ Q107	♦ KJ65
♣ KJ109	♣ 832

W	E
1♥	1♠
1NT	pass

On hand 5, west has 15 HCPs. East has 8 HCPs. Note that the 1NT rebid is **lower than 2 of the opening suit.** 1NT shows 15/16 balanced. Your side do not have 25pts, so PASS

West	East
♠ KQ	♠ A873
♥ AQ103	♥ 95
♦ Q107	♦ KJ65
♣ AJ109	♣ 832

W	E
1♥	1♠
2NT	3NT

On hand 6, west has 18 HCPs. East has the same 8 HCPs. Note that the rebid is **higher than 2 of the opening suit.** It is a REVERSE BID but not 100% forcing. 2NT shows 17/18 balanced. With 8 pts. east can now bid game.

Now, before you open, decide what STRENGTH your REBID will be to show 11-16 or 17+

OPENER'S REVERSE BIDS 2.

Opening hands with 12 -16

With only 12-16 pts, opener's rebid is limited to bids which are not higher than two of the opening suit.

If you open 1♥ your rebid should not be higher than 2♥

If you open 1♦ your rebid should not be higher than 2♦

Your hand

♠	KJ72
♥	AQ832
♦	97
♣	Q9

Barrier

2♥	
2♦	
2♣	
1NT	
1♠	
1♥	

You Partner

1♥	2♦
2♥ (NOT 2♠)	

Your hand

♠	92
♥	A732
♦	AK873
♣	K10

Barrier

2♦	
2♣	
1NT	
1♠	
1♥	
1♦	

You Partner

1♦	1♠
2♦ (NOT 2♥)	

Opening hand with 15+

However
If your partner bids a new suit at the 2 level, showing 10+ pts. you could make a reverse bid on 15 pts. to ensure that you bid to game.

♠	KJ72
♥	AQ832
♦	K7
♣	Q9

♠	Q2
♥	A732
♦	AK873
♣	K10

You	Partner
1♥	2♦
2♠	

You	Partner
1♦	2♣
2♥	

NOTE :

Showing four card support to partner's major is NOT a reverse!
e.g. Although 2♠ is over your 'barrier', you are simply showing 4 card support.

You	Partner
1♥	1♠
2♠	

With 17+ you would rebid STOP 3♠

Balanced Opening hand with 15/16

With balanced hands of 15+ your rebid will be in NTS (Unless partner shows an 8 card fit in a major).

NOTE
1NT is lower than 2♥!

♠	KJ7
♥	AQ83
♦	K732
♣	Q9

You	Partner
1♥	1♠
1NT = 15/16	

Opening hands with 17+

With 17+ pts. your rebid should be a reverse bid to show your strength. e.g.

No barrier

3♦	
3♣	
2NT	
2♠	
2♥	
2♦	
2♣	
1NT	
1♠	
1♥	
1♦	
1♣	

Your hand

♠	A
♥	A732
♦	AK873
♣	K104

You Partner

1♦	1♠
2♥	

♠	K5
♥	A7
♦	AK87
♣	K10932

You Partner

1♣	1♠
2♦	

When your second suit is lower ranking than your first suit, you need to jump a level of bidding to show the reverse.

♠	K5
♥	A7
♦	AK873
♣	K1093

You Partner

1♦	1♠
3♣	

Balanced Opening hand with 17/18

Balanced Opening hand with 17/18

NOTE
With 17 pts, your rebid is higher than 2 of your opening suit.

♠	AQ2
♥	A732
♦	KQ873
♣	K10

You	Partner
1♦	1♠
2NT = 17+	

QUIZ ON TWO SUITED REBIDS

Hand 1
Opening bid

♠ AJ532
♥ KQ
♦ K874
♣ Q9

1♠

REBID?

What do you rebid if partner responds - - ?

1NT *2♣ *2♦ *2♥ 2♠ 2NT 3S

3-4-3-3
11 HCPs

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Is the bid a limit or forcing bid?

* These bid show 10+ points. Therefore opener can REVERSE on 15+ HCPs

Hand 2
Opening bid

♠ A85
♥ KQ765
♦ 8
♣ QJ97

1♥

REBID?

1♠ 1NT 2♣ 2♦ 2♥ 3♥

1 2 3 4 5 6

Is the bid a limit or forcing bid?

Hand 3
Opening bid

♠ A8
♥ KQ76
♦ A10
♣ KJ972

1♣

REBID?

1♦ 1♥ 1♠ 1NT 2♣ 3♣

1 2 3 4 5 6

Is the bid a limit or forcing bid?

Hand 4
Opening bid

♠ AQ532
♥ K10874
♦ QJ
♣ 8

1♠

REBID?

1NT 2♣ 2♦ 2♥ 2NT 2♠ 3♠

3-4-3-3
11 HCPs

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Is the bid a limit or forcing bid?

When partner bids at the 2 level, showing 10+ pts. a simple rebid of 2♥ *could be passed*, but it gives you a better chance of finding the best game contract. IF partner simply gives suit preference with 2♠ you could now bid 3♥ to complete the picture of your hand

You must know what your rebid will be, BEFORE opening!

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hand 1	2♦	3♦	3♦	3♦	P	4♠	4♠
Hand 2	2♣	2♣	3♣	2♥	P	4♥	
Hand 3	2♥	3♥	2♥	2♥	2♥	3NT	
Hand 4	2♥	2♥	2♥	4♥	4♥	P	4♠

**Suggested
Rebids**

QUIZ ON BALANCED REBIDS.

16 Opening bid

♠ AQ532
♥ KQ9
♦ QJ7
♣ Q4

What do you rebid if partner responds - -?

1NT* 2♣ 2♦ 2♥ 2♠ 3♠ 2NT

Is the bid forcing or a limit bid ?

* In teams you could rebid 2NT in case partner has 9 HCPs, but it is only a 1 in 4 chance! Not worth it at pairs?

16 Opening bid

♠ AQ53
♥ KQ97
♦ QJ7
♣ Q4

What do you rebid if partner responds - -?

1♠ 1NT 2♣ 2♦ 2♥ 3♥

Is the bid forcing or a limit bid ?

19 Opening bid

♠ AQ53
♥ KQ9
♦ KQJ7
♣ Q4

What do you rebid if partner responds - -?

1NT 2♣ 2♦ 2♥ 2♠ 3♠

Is the bid forcing or a limit bid ?

16 Opening bid

♠ AQ5
♥ Q97
♦ KQJ76
♣ Q4

What do you rebid if partner responds - -?

1♥ 1♠ 1NT 2♣ 2♦ 3♦

Is the bid forcing or a limit bid ?

18 Opening bid

♠ AQ5
♥ AQ975
♦ KJ7
♣ Q4

What do you rebid if partner responds - -?

1♠ 1NT 2♣ 2♦ 2♥ 3♥

Is the bid forcing or a limit bid ?

Did you notice - that all the hands on page 4 were *two suited hands*? The rebid was always another suit! It is important to recognise that all the hands on *this* page are *balanced hands* with 15-19 HCPs. Even though there is a five card major in hands 1 and 5 and there are two four card suits in hands 2 and 3, the hands *are* balanced and should be bid as balanced hands! Your rebid should be in NTs *unless a major suit fit is found*. With two four card suits of the same rank, open the lower suit 1st, but - - with a four card major and a four card minor, we recommend that you open the major first.

MORE on TRANSFER BIDS 1.

Transfer Bids

Transfers totally replace weakness takeouts over 1NT, **but they are much more than that.**

At their simplest, transfer bids are used after partner has opened 1NT or 2NT.

Respond 2♦ to show a **five card** heart suit. Respond 2♥ to show a **five card** spade suit.

They say nothing about your HCPs! You may have a mammoth slam hand, or a Yarborough.

Transfers work extremely well because:

After the 1NT opening bid it puts the **responding** hand in control of the auction.

If the responding hand is weak it allows the stronger 1NT hand to play the contract.

This ensures that the lead is coming round to the 1NT hand which may have awkward tenaces.

Used *with* 'Stayman', transfers allow you to make an accurate description of responder's hand.

They can disguise weak hands in a way that can make it difficult for the defence to enter the bidding.

They can provide an effective escape from 1NT which can be a very dangerous opening bid.

In short you must add them to your Acol system, even in this introductory form.

When your partner completes the transfer,

1. Pass with 0 - 10 HCPs.

After the completion of the transfer, a new suit bid by responder is FORCING for at least one round.

2. With 11+ pts. bid a 2nd four card major (or a five card minor). Opener cannot pass your rebid.

3. With 11/12pts. and an otherwise balanced hand bid 2NT (Do not rebid the 5 card suit again.)

4. With 13+ pts. and an otherwise balanced hand bid 3NT (Do not rebid the 5 card suit again.)

1NT	♠ 109863 ♥ 932 ♦ A62 ♣ 75
-----	------------------------------------

Bid 2♥ (Transfer)
After partner completes the transfer to 2♠ **PASS**

1NT	♠ 863 ♥ 93 ♦ A9762 ♣ K75
-----	-----------------------------------

PASS
With five card minor suits.
Only transfer into the major suits!

1NT	♠ 63 ♥ KQ932 ♦ A6 ♣ 7542
-----	-----------------------------------

Bid 2♦ (Transfer)
After partner completes the transfer to 2♥ **PASS**

1NT	♠ AK863 ♥ K32 ♦ A6 ♣ 754
-----	-----------------------------------

Bid 2♥ (Transfer)
After partner completes the transfer bid 3NT to show game values (13+)
Do not rebid 4♥.
Opener may only have two hearts!!!

With a 5/3 major suit fit, opener should usually opt to play in 4♥/♠

Partner	You	Your hand
1NT	2♥ (Transfer)	♠ AQ863
2♠	2NT	♥ K32
	Showing 5 spades,	♦ QJ6
	11/12 pts.	♣ 54

Partner	You	Your hand
1NT	2♥ (Transfer)	♠ AQ985
2♠	3NT	♥ K32
	Showing 5 spades,	♦ QJ3
	13+ pts.	♣ Q5

Partner	You	Your hand
1NT	2♥ (Transfer)	♠ AQ863
2♠	3♥	♥ K932
	Showing 5 spades,	♦ QJ6
	4 hearts 13+ pts.	♣ A

Partner	You	Your hand
1NT	2♦ (Transfer)	♠ Q98
2♥	Pass	♥ KQ532
	Showing 5 spades,	♦ J763
	0-10 pts.	♣ 5

TRANSFER BIDS 2.

Transfer bids are made by responder, over partner's 1NT or 2NT opening bids - to show a **5+** card major.
If you are adventurous - use them as well over 1NT overcalls by partner!

Note that the RESPONDING HAND is in CONTROL OF THE AUCTION.

After the completion of the transfer, responder's suit rebid is natural and FORCING.

2NT & 3NT rebids are limit bids.

Responding with strong two suited hands.

One 5 card major and a 5 card minor.

1NT	2♥ (Transfer)	♠ AQxxx ♥ Kx ♦ QJxxx ♣ A
2♠	3♦	
	<i>Showing five spades, five diamonds (13+)</i>	
Opener bids 3NT, 4♠ or 4♦/5♦		
He cannot pass!		

One 5 card major and a 4 card minor.

1NT	2♥ (Transfer)	♠ AQxxx ♥ Kx ♦ QJxx ♣ Kx
2♠	3NT	
	<i>Showing five spades (13-17)</i>	
Opener can PASS or bid 4♠		
He <i>knows</i> that you have five spades and with this fairly balanced hand it is not worth bidding a four card minor.		

Responding with strong balanced hands.

One 5 card major

1NT	2♥ (Transfer)	♠ AQ753 ♥ K75 ♦ QJ3 ♣ Q2
2♠	3NT	
	<i>Showing FIVE spades (13-17)</i>	
Opener bids 3NT, 4♠ or 4♦/5♦		

1NT	2♦ (Transfer)	♠ AQ2 ♥ 86532 ♦ QJ8 ♣ K4
2♥	2NT	
	<i>Showing five hearts 11/12 pts.</i>	
Opener can PASS or bid 4♠		

1NT	2♦ (Transfer)	♠ 2 ♥ 975432 ♦ QJ8 ♣ 864
2♥	PASS	
	<i>Showing five hearts (0 -10)</i>	
Opener can PASS or bid 4♠		

Responding with strong two suited hands. (Both majors)

1NT	2♥ (Transfer)	♠ AQ532 ♥ K986 ♦ QJ4 ♣ 8
2♠	3♥	
	<i>Showing five spades, four hearts (13+)</i>	
Opener bids 3NT, 4♥ or 4♠		

1NT	2♥ (Transfer)	♠ AQ865 ♥ K9743 ♦ 62 ♣ A
2♠	3♥	
3NT	4♥	
	<i>Showing five spades, five hearts (13+)</i>	

1NT	2♦ (Transfer)	♠ AQ93 ♥ K8642 ♦ J3 ♣ 74
2♥	2♠	
	<i>showing five hearts, four spades (11+)</i>	
Opener can sign off with 3♥/♠ or 2NT.		

What happens if the opponents overcall!!

N	E	S	♠ 8 ♥ A6 ♦ QJ96543 ♣ 862
1NT	2♣	2♦	
2♦ is NOT a transfer			
After intervention all bids are NATURAL.			

2♦ is NOT forcing. Opener should pass.
To force, you would need to jump a level!

WITH 4 CARD MAJORS

Do you remember this one?

1NT	?	♠ KQ85 ♥ A4 ♦ QJ84 ♣ 973
What do you bid with this hand?		

STAYMAN

TRANSFER BIDS 3.

The following three variations of transfer bids require much more thought and should only be added to your game when, and if, you are handling the standard transfers well.

1. Stayman (Without 11 HCPs)

It has been made clear in earlier lessons that you require 11+ points before you use 'Stayman'.

Well, now there is the exception to that principle.

If, after your partner opens 1NT, you have 5/4 in the majors and a *weak* hand (0 -10) points and therefore no interest in game you *could* simply transfer into the five card suit.

♠ A9876
♥ K765
♦ 54
♣ 32

You could bid 2♥ (transfer to spades.) - but what if partner held -

♠ J5
♥ AQ98
♦ KQ98
♣ J76

You have missed your magic 4/4 fit in hearts.

The solution is to use 'Stayman'. If partner re-bids 2♥ or 2♠ you pass!

If partner re-bids 2♦ you bid your five card major and partner passes, (by partnership agreement).

The sequence has no other meaning. At worst partner will have ♠ J5 ♥ AQ9 ♦ KQ98 ♣ J765

2. Two spades (*A simple use of an unused bid)

The only two level response to 1NT which has no meaning so far is 2♠.

At the moment, we suggest that you use this bid simply as a transfer to 2NT.

Partner opens 1NT and you have a weak hand of 0-8ish pts. with 6+ of a minor, bid 2♠ to transfer into 2NT. After which, your 3♣ or 3♦ bids will be passed by opener. e.g. **(OBVIOUSLY, you have to agree this with partner!)**

♠ 65
♥ 842
♦ KJ108742
♣ 9

If you held a good six or seven card minor with 10 ish pts. many competitive players might simply risk 3NT, hoping to pull in six tricks in the minor suit

e.g.

♠ Q5
♥ 842
♦ AKJ874
♣ 92

On a good day 3NT will make.

IF you are wanting to move ahead more quickly, I can give you a more advanced use of this convention.

3. Transfers after 1NT is doubled*

1NT is a very good descriptive and pre-emptive bid, but it has its dangers. Although every first round double of a *suit* bid is for 'take out' the double of 1NT is for penalties, and you need some form of wriggle to escape.

We suggest that at this early stage, responder should use the opponent's double as an opportunity to **transfer** into any five card suit. Do so with 0-6 points. (With more points, pass unless very shapely)

N	E	S	W
1NT	- Double	Re- double	tells opener to transfer to clubs.
1NT	- Double	2♣	tells opener to transfer to diamonds.
1NT	- Double	2♦	tells opener to transfer to hearts.
1NT	- Double	2♥	tells opener to transfer to spades.

These transfers ensure that the contract is played by the stronger hand.

The lead is coming *around* to the probable tenaces, rather than *through* them.)

* This is the first part of an excellent wriggle which will be covered in the Intermediate level units.

RESPONSES USING TRANSFERS & STAYMAN

Partner opens		With this hand, you respond		Partner rebids	Now what and WHY?	
1.	1NT	♠ AJ874 ♥ 87 ♦ KQ9 ♣ A42	2♥ (transfer)	2♠	?	
2.	1NT	♠ 87 ♥ AK875 ♦ J97 ♣ A42	2♦ (transfer)	2♥	?	
3.	1NT	♠ 9872 ♥ AK87 ♦ J9 ♣ A42	2♣ (Stayman)	2♥	?	
4.	1NT	♠ KQ98 ♥ AK987 ♦ J9 ♣ 42	2♦ (transfer)	2♥	?	
5.	1NT	♠ 982 ♥ AJ987 ♦ 1092 ♣ A4	2♦ (transfer)	2♥	?	
6.	1NT	♠ AJ982 ♥ AJ987 ♦ 9 ♣ Q4	2♥ (transfer)	2♠	?	
7.	2NT	♠ AJ98 ♥ J9872 ♦ 97 ♣ Q4	3♦ (transfer)	3♥	?	
8.	2NT	♠ 8 ♥ K987 ♦ 10972 ♣ KQ109	3♣ (Stayman)	3♦	?	
9.	1NT	♠ J982 ♥ KQ987 ♦ 97 ♣ Q4	2♣ (Stayman)	2♠ 2♦	Pass 2♥	Four difficult responses that require special partnership agreement There are TWO occasions where you can use Stayman without 11 HCPs. Here, with 5/4 in the majors it gives you an extra chance to find a fit and stop at the 2 level.
10.	1NT	♠ QJ98 ♥ J987 ♦ Q1093 ♣ 2	2♣	2♠	Pass	The other time you can use Stayman without 11 HCPs is when you have a singleton or void in clubs. (4-4-4-1) You are guaranteed a response from partner which you will PASS!
11.	2NT	♠ QJ987 ♥ J987 ♦ 109 ♣ K4	3♠	4♥	Pass	With 5 spades and 4 hearts you cannot get to the best contract by a transfer. SO after a 2NT opening by partner 3♠ shows precisely 5 spades AND 4 hearts. (With 5 hearts and 4 spades use a normal transfer & rebid spades.)
12.	1NT	♠ 987 ♥ J9 ♦ KJ109732 ♣ 4	2♠	2NT	3♦	With 6+ diamonds in a weak hand, you would like to play in 2♦, but because 2♦ would be a transfer to hearts, many players use the meaningless bid of 2♠ to transfer to 2NTs. Then you bid your long minor. Partner PASSES.

THE 4-4-4-1 HAND

One of the most awkward hands to bid in 'Acot' is the 4 - 4 - 4 -1 distribution.

The present Acot approach is:

When the singleton is **red** bid the suit under the singleton.
 When the singleton is **black** bid the middle suit

♣	♦	♥	♠	
1	4	4	4	Open 1♥*
4	1	4	4	Open 1♣
4	4	1	4	Open 1♦
4	4	4	1	Open 1♦

The Problem Hand

♠ QJ64	♠ A2
♥ J973	♥ Q84
♦ AJ87	♦ K96
♣ A	♣ KJ1032

1♥* 2♣
 2♦ 4♥

* Not standard Acot but we recommend that you open 1♦!
 If partner bids 2♣ re-bid 2♦. On an assumed 5-3 diamond fit partner will usually prefer 3NT to 5♦

1♦	2♣
2♦	3NT

The worst outcome is that partner with exactly 10pts. may pass the 2♦ rebid and you would play in a 4-2 diamond fit.

The problem with this type of hand is that as soon as you bid your second suit, partner will assume that you have five of your first suit.

After a 1♥ open, a 2♣ rebid would show five hearts. With 12+ points and three hearts partner is likely to bid 4♥. With no fit 3NT may be best.

4-4-4-1 hands have poor playing strength unless a 4-4 trump fit is found.

Consequently I would not tend to open 'light' on such hands and would always have a good 12+pts.

♠ KJ32	A poor 12 pts. No stuffing
♥ QJ53	Singleton king is unfortunate
♦ Q642	This hand I might pass.
♣ K	

A good 12 pts.
 9s & 10s provide good stuffing
 This hand I would open 1♦.

♠ AK72
♥ J1098
♦ KJ108
♣ 7

♠ KJ108
♥ 10975
♦ AQ86
♣ A

Open 1♦ and rebid 2NT over 2♣. Prefer to lie about one point rather than one card.
 The times it would go wrong are rare. Opposite your 4-4-4-1 with a singleton club, partner would need no four card major and precisely 10 pts. for you to be playing in a 24 point 3NT. (With only 12 pts. rebid 2♦).

♠ 2
♥ KQ98
♦ AJ105
♣ AQ97

After 1♦-1♠, I would have little difficulty in rebidding 1NT.
 The most important element in bidding 4-4-4-1 hands, is that you know *before* you make your opening bid, what your rebid will be. Give your partner the fullest picture of your hand, accepting that there is no foolproof way of expressing the hand in two bids.

♠ K1085
♥ 10975
♦ A
♣ AQ86

♠ QJ97
♥ A8
♦ KQJ87
♣ 109

However partner must get the picture if the bidding proceeds
 1♣ - 1♦
 1♥ - 1♠*
 2♠ - 4♠ * (Even if this is taken as a *4th suit force*, 2♠ tells the story!)

LOSING TRICK COUNT 1.

L.T.C. (Opening bids)

Undoubtedly you will be using the Milton Work count to determine the strength of your hand.
i.e. ace = 4, king = 3, queen = 2 jack = 1. (These are **High Card Points**.)
It is a good rough and ready method of determining the strength of a hand.

You may also add length points to determine whether you can open 1 of a suit. (*One extra point for a 5 card suit.*)
OR if a fit is found, you can add 5 pts. for a void, 3 for a singleton and 1 for a doubleton.

You probably do not yet consider the importance of **controls**.

Controls are **aces** and **kings** and in hand evaluation they count **2** for an **ace** and **1** for a **king**.

A recent innovation in hand evaluation is the '**Losing Trick Count**' and it is a method I recommend that you try. It will improve the accuracy of your bidding in suit contracts **BUT ONLY IF** an eight card trump fit, is found. Certain elements of the LTC can be used even if your partner does not use it!

Because it enables you to bid with fewer HCPs than you have been used to, it should be played with discipline, and only when considered together with HCPs *and* controls.

It offers a very accurate assessment of the playing potential of your hand, *in SUIT contracts* when a trump fit of eight cards has been found!

In each of the four suits, there are only **THREE** potential losers, the ace, king and queen of the suit. e.g.

A K x x	You are missing the queen.	Count 1 loser
K Q x x x	You are missing the ace.	Count 1 loser
A Q x x	You are missing the king.	Count 1 loser
K x x x	You are missing ace and queen.	Count 2 losers
A K	Count 0 losers.	
A Q	Count 1 Loser.	
x x x x x	Count 3 losers.	
A x x x	Count 2 losers.	
A K Q x x	Count 0 losers.	
xx	Count 2 losers (<i>You cannot have three losers with only TWO cards in the suit.</i>)	

Count the HCPs, controls and losers, on these hands -

♠ A K 9 4 3
♥ 10
♦ J 9 4 3 2
♣ A 5

12, 5, 6 loser

♠ 3
♥ K Q 9 3 2
♦ Q 10 4 3 2
♣ A 5

11, 3, 5 loser

♠ A J
♥ K 9 3 2
♦ K J 10 3 2
♣ 5 2

12, 4, 7 loser

♠ Q J 9 4 3 2
♥ K 9 3
♦ A 6
♣ K 5

13, 4, 6 loser

An opening bid is assumed to be 12+HCPs with 3 controls, and 7 losers. (but most players will optimize and open with ANY 2 of these 3 criteria).

LOSING TRICK COUNT 2.

When you open 1 of a suit, partner will expect you to have **12+HCPs, 3 controls and a 7 loser hand**. On hands that are *not* balanced, it is usual to open 1 of a suit if you have *two* of these *three* elements,

Open the bidding on each of the following hands: *NOTE They must also, and do, conform to the 'Rule of 19'*

♠ A K 9 4 3
♥ 10
♦ 10 9 4 3 2
♣ A 5

11 HCPs, 5 controls, 6 loser

Open 1♠

♠ Q J 10 7 3
♥ A 10 8
♦ 2
♣ K 9 8 5

10, 3, 7 loser

Open 1♠

♠ A J
♥ K 9 3 2
♦ K J 10 3
♣ 10 5 2

12, 4, 8 loser

Open 1 NT*

♠ Q J 9 4 3
♥ K Q 9 3
♦ 9 4
♣ K Q

13, 2, 6 loser

Open 1♠

* The bid of 1NT is the only opening one level bid where your partner will assume you to be an *eight* loser rather than a seven loser hand. Remember this when your partner has opened 1NT and you discover (through Stayman) a 4/4 major fit with a seven loser. It may not be enough for game.

L.T.C. Responses (when/if you have a major suit fit).

Partner opens 1♠ and you have four spades.

Add your losers to partners assumed 7 losers, then subtract from 18!

This will tell you the level at which to play. *e.g. If responder is a 7 loser with four spades, take 7+7 from 18 = 4♠*

Hand 1

Opener is 6 loser

♠ A Q 9 4
♥ A K 2
♦ Q 8 4
♣ A 9 3
30 HCPs
♠ K J 6 2
♥ J 5 2
♦ K 6 5 3
♣ K 7

Responder is an 8 loser

$$6 + 8 = 14$$

$$18 - 14 = 4$$

Despite the difference in HCPs, both hands will produce 10 tricks in spades.

Hand 2

Opener is 6 loser

♠ A J 9 4 3 2
♥ K J 9 3 2
♦ 9
♣ 2
18 HCPs
♠ K Q 6 5
♥ 10 5
♦ 8 6 5 2
♣ A 7 5

Responder is an 8 loser

Partner, north, opens 1♠.

What do you respond holding this hand?

♠ K 9 6 5 3
♥ 10 5
♦ 8 6 5 2
♣ A 7

You are an 8 loser with a spade fit and should therefore respond 3♠.

After an opening bid of 1♠ by partner what would you respond with these hands?

♠ Q 9 7 4
♥ A Q J 8
♦ 7 4
♣ J 9 3

3S

♠ Q 10 7 4
♥ 9 8
♦ 7 4 3
♣ K 9 3 2

2S

♠ Q 9 7 6 4
♥ A Q J 8
♦ 7
♣ J 9 3

4S

♠ K Q 9 7 6
♥ A Q 9 8 5
♦ 4
♣ A 2

4NT

LOSING TRICK COUNT 3.

L.T.C. Examples

A responding hand is assumed initially to be at worst 6+ H.C.P.s, a nine loser and perhaps 1 control.

♠ 43	
♥ AKQ9	
♦ A4	
♣ QJ732	
♠ J75	
♥ J852	
♦ K865	
♣ K10	

5 loser

5 + 9 = 14.
18 - 14 = 4
Final contract 4♥

9 loser

Suggested bidding

North	South
1♣	1♥
4♥	pass

♠ 43	
♥ Q10964	
♦ KQ	
♣ A873	
♠ J752	
♥ KJ8	
♦ J9865	
♣ 9	

7 loser

7 + 9 = 16.
18 - 16 = 2
Final contract 2♥

9 loser

Suggested bidding

North	South
1♥	1♠
2♣	2♥
pass	

♠ KQ1043	
♥ -	
♦ A4	
♣ Q10732	
♠ J75	
♥ 9842	
♦ K863	
♣ K9	

4 loser

4 + 9 = 13.
18 - 13 = 5
Final contract 4♠

9 loser

Suggested bidding

North	South
1♠	1NT
3♣*	4♠

*Opener's **jump** rebid (a reverse) promises five spades, four clubs and either 17+ pts or a 5 loser

♠ AQ10432	
♥ 72	
♦ K4	
♣ AJ7	
♠ K752	
♥ 983	
♦ A63	
♣ K106	

9 loser

HOWEVER

The Losing Trick Count is a guide, NOT an infallible rule!

After north opens 1♠, any south that simply bid 2♠ because it is a 9 loser is either a raging pessimist who shouldn't play card games or is so fixated on the power of the LTC that they can blind themselves to their 10 juicy HCPs. (4 controls !!!)

OPTIMISE YOUR RESOURCES!

The response must be **Stop 3♠** (as you were taught in year 1 to show 10-12 pts and a fit).

and REMEMBER

That LTC ONLY works when a fit is shown. Until then, work in HCPs.

LOSING TRICK COUNT 4.

L.T.C. combined with HCPs and controls

The following is a *rough* guide to the relationship between HCPs, L.T.C. and controls.

Opening hands

23-25 HCPs	= 7 controls	= 4 loser
20-22 HCPs	= 6 controls	= 5/4 loser
17-19 HCPs	= 5 controls	= 5 loser
14-16 HCPs	= 4 controls	= 6 loser
12/13 HCPs	= 3 controls	= 7 loser

An opening bid by your partner is assumed to be **12+ HCPs with 3 controls and 7 losers.**

Subsequent bids will clarify the position.

Responding hands

9 -11 HCPs	= 2 controls	= 8 loser
6 - 8 HCPs	= 1 control	= 9 loser

A responding hand is initially assumed to be **6+ HCPs and 9 losers.**

Subsequent bids will clarify the position

The L.T.C. in Operation

A 10 loser with a fit for partner
 This extreme example, which is an actual hand from a teams competition, is clearly difficult to bid after a 1♠ open from south. It's included simply to demonstrate the LTC method of evaluation.

	♠ 6543	
	♥ 94	
	♦ 64	
	♣ 87654	
♠ QJ8		♠ A
♥ J1063		♥ Q752
♦ 1093		♦ AJ75
♣ KQJ	♠ K10972	♣ 10932
	♥ AK8	
	♦ KQ82	
	♣ A	

N	E	S	W
p	p	1♠	p
p-	X*	3♠**	p
p	p	p	

* X = Protective double for takeout
 ** 3♠ = 19 points
 South did blame north for passing!

At the other table the thin game was reached after this sequence.

N	E	S	W
p	p	2♣*	p
2♦**	p	2♠***	p
4♠	p	p	p

* 2♣ = 7 controls / 4 loser
 ** 2♦ = 0-7 HCPs
 *** 2♠ = Non-forcing

The key to this sequence was the opening bid of 2♣ which showed a strong four loser hand. North has a fit and is a 10 loser.
 $18 - (4+10) = 4.$

Extras

WHEN you are feeling confident with the LTC there is an additional tweak that you can make to give even more accuracy. In the Milton Work Count (ace = 4, king = 3 etc.) aces are undervalued at 4 and queens are overvalued at 2. Many players therefore take another half loser off their hand for every ace held and add half a loser for every unprotected queen.

When you're dealing in half losers it is *not* wise to have two overbidders in your partnership (or two underbidders), and decide whether your temperaments are compatible before getting into a permanent partnership with anyone. (*Bit like marriage really*).

4TH SUIT FORCE 1.

In an uncontested auction, the bid of the fourth suit is always conventional. - *It must be alerted.*
 The bid asks partner to show a little more about the shape of his hand. - *It cannot be passed!*

Partner	You	You hold
1♣	- 1♥	♠ KJ3
1♠	- ?	♥ KJ962
		♦ J8
		♣ A82

You clearly have enough points for game but what can you bid?
 2NT or 3NT would promise a diamond stop.
 2♣/3♣ are non-forcing limit bids.
 2♥ is weak with six cards. Opener should normally pass this bid.
 3♥ would suggest a six card suit.

The solution, is to make a conventional bid of the *fourth suit*. Your rebid must be alerted.

Some pairs agree that bidding the 4th suit at the 2 level, is forcing for only one round, but is forcing to game if made at the 3 level. Others play *all* 4th suit forcing bids as forcing to game.

Discuss this with any new partner.

Partner	You	You hold
1♥	- 1♠	♠ AK963
2♣	- 2♦	♥ 43
?		♦ 964
		♣ AQ7

The 2♦ bid is a *4th suit forcing* bid.

Some of partner's responses could be:

- 2♥ I have nothing extra, my diamonds aren't great or I would bid 2NT. I don't have three spades.
 - 2♠ Yes partner, I have three spades for you.
 - 2NT I have diamond stoppers.
 - 3♣ showing a fifth club
 - 3♦ I have four diamonds too.
- | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| ♠ - ♥ - ♦ - ♣ | |
| 3 5 1 4 | |
| 1 5 3 4 | or 2 - 5 - 2 - 4 |
| 2 5 1 5 | or one spade & two diamonds. |
| 0 5 4 4 | |

With no interest in game responder will simply give *suit preference* or rebid his own suit . e.g.

W	E
1♥	- 1♠
2♣	- 2♥

W	E
1♥	- 1♠
2♣	- pass

W	E
1♥	- 1♠
2♣	- 2♠

What would east rebid with each of these hands?

W	E
1♥	- 1♠
2♣	- ?

East
 ♠ AJ752
 ♥ 94
 ♦ J96
 ♣ J84

With this hand east would simply sign off giving suit preference to hearts. 2♥

East
 ♠ AJ752
 ♥ 984
 ♦ K9
 ♣ K84

With this hand east would make an the invitational, but not forcing bid of 3♥

East
 ♠ AJ752
 ♥ 52
 ♦ KQ4
 ♣ K72

Here east could bid 2♦ (forcing) or bid 3NT to show the stop in diamonds. (2♦ would find out if west had three spades).

East
 ♠ AQJ753
 ♥ 52
 ♦ 62
 ♣ K32

Here east would rebid 3♠, invitational, but not forcing.

4TH SUIT FORCE 2.

In each of the following bidding sequences the fourth suit has been bid to either deny a good stop in the 4th suit, or partner wants more information about your shape.

If you hold stops in the fourth suit, show them by bidding NTs, but if you have FOUR cards in the 4th suit, bid the suit to complete the picture.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
1♦ - 1♠ 2♣ - 2♥	1♣ - 1♦ 1♥ - 1♠	1♦ - 1♥ 2♣ - 2♠	1♥ - 1♠ 2♣ - 2♦	1♥ - 2♣ 2♦ - 2♠

In each of these constructive sequences, the bid of the fourth suit forces the opener to give more definition about his hand. The fourth suit may, **or may not be**, a natural suit but a game contract is very likely.

Opener, with a stop in the 4th suit may bid NTs. e.g.

♠ 6 ♥ KQ4 ♦ AJ1052 ♣ QJ64	1♦ - 1♠ 2♣ - 2♥ 2NT - 3NT	♠ AJ752 ♥ 52 ♦ KQ4 ♣ K72
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If opener's *first* rebid has not given the full distributional picture, they may now rebid one of their suits. With a 5-5 or a 6-5 they would now rebid their second suit.

♠ 6 ♥ Q ♦ AJ10532 ♣ AJ642 1♦ - 1♠ 2♣ - 2♥ 3♣	♠ - ♥ J98 ♦ AQ1052 ♣ KJ642 1♦ - 1♠ 2♣ - 2♥ 3♣	♠ A ♥ KQ975 ♦ AQJ1052 ♣ QJ 1♦ - 1♠ 2♥ - 3♣ 3♥
--	---	---

In the following examples opener responds to the 4th suit forcing to further describe their hands

West ♠ K54 ♥ 6 ♦ AJ654 ♣ A875 1♦ - 1♠ 2♣ - 2♥ 2♠	West ♠ 4 ♥ A986 ♦ AJ65 ♣ A875 1♦ - 1♠ 2♣ - 2♥ 3♥	West ♠ K542 ♥ A986 ♦ 4 ♣ A875 1♣ - 1♦ 1♥ - 1♠ 2♠	West ♠ 4 ♥ A98 ♦ AJ876 ♣ AQ54 1♦ - 1♥ 2♣ - 2♠ 3♥	
♠ K4 ♥ K6 ♦ AJ654 ♣ A875 1♦ - 1♥ 2♣ - 2♠ 3♦	♠ K54 ♥ AJ876 ♦ 4 ♣ A875 1♥ - 1♠ 2♣ - 2♦ 2♠	♠ 4 ♥ AJ876 ♦ AQ6 ♣ AJ65 1♥ - 1♠ 2♣ - 2♦ 2NT	♠ KQ42 ♥ AJ986 ♦ A864 ♣ - 1♥ - 2♣ 2♦ - 2♠ 3♠	♠ 4 ♥ AJ986 ♦ KJ62 ♣ A87 1♥ - 2♣ 2♦ - 2♠ 3♣

When to bid NTs instead of 4th suit.

Partner	You	Your rebid of 1NT	=	6-9 HCPs	with a stop in the 4th suit.
1♣ -	1♥	Your rebid of 2NT	=	10-12 HCPs	with a stop in the 4th suit.
1♠ -	? NT	Your rebid of 3NT	=	13-16 HCPs	with a stop in the 4th suit.

You 1♣ - 1♥ 1♠ - 1NT ♠ 942 ♥ K6542 ♦ AJ6 ♣ 54	You 1♣ - 1♥ 1♠ - 2NT ♠ 942 ♥ KQ54 ♦ AQ6 ♣ 1095	You 1♣ - 1♥ 1♠ - 3NT ♠ A4 ♥ J10942 ♦ AK65 ♣ J2
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REVISION QUIZ

- 1.) Put the following opening bids in rank order for strength 1♠, 2♠, 3♠. strongest weakest
- 2.) The opponents open the bidding with 1♥. Partner overcalls 1NT. How many points has s/he?
- 3.) Partner opens 1♥. You bid 1♠. Partner rebids 2NT. How many points has s/he?
- 4.) The opponents open the bidding with 1♥. Partner DOUBLES. How many Hearts has s/he?
- 5.) Partner opens 1♠. What will you respond with ♠ 75 ♥AQ843 ♦J107 ♣952?
- 6.) In the sequence 1♠ - 2♣
2NT ? is the 2NT bid forcing? Why?

- 7.) Partner has opened 1♥. What is the point range?
- 8.) Partner has opened 1♥ and re-bid 2♣. How many hearts has she? and how many clubs?
- 9.) You have opened 1♥. Partner responds 2♥ showing four hearts. What is their point. range?
- 10.) You have opened 1♥. Partner responds 3♥ showing four hearts. What is their point. range?
- 11.) You *open* 1♥. Partner responds 1♠. You re-bid 2♣. Partner bids 2NT. You bid 3♣. What is your shape?
- 12.) You *open* 1♥. Partner responds 1♠. What is partner's point range? Is the 1♠ bid forcing?

Counting distributional and HCPs, what will you open with the following hands?

- 13.) ♠KJxx ♥10xx ♦Axxx ♣KQ
- 14.) ♠KJxxx ♥ - ♦Axxxx ♣Kxx
- 15.) ♠KJxx ♥10x ♦Axxxx ♣KQ
- 16.) ♠AKQx ♥ - ♦Qxxxxxx ♣KQ
- 17.) ♠x ♥K10xxx ♦Axxxx ♣KQ
- 18.) ♠Kxx ♥10xx ♦Axx ♣KQJx

- 19.) With partner's points and yours, how many points do you need to bid 3NT?
- 20.) With partner's points and yours, how many points do you need to bid 4♥ or 4♠?
- 21.) How many trumps should you have **between you** to bid 4♥ or 4♠?
- 22.) If parter *re-bids* 1NT after opening 1♦ how many points do they have?
- 23.) If partner *opens* 1NT how many points do they have?
- 24.) If partner *responds* 1NT after your opening bid of 1♥ how many points do they have?
- 25.) Give the possible *distributions* of a balanced hand or or
- 26.) Give the requirements of a *balanced* hand
- 27.) Over which bids would you use '*Stayman*'? or
- 28.) You *open* the bidding with 1NT. Partner bids 2♥. You have 14 HCPs and four hearts. What do you bid?
- 29.) What do you open with 24 HCPs?
- 30.) What do you open with 9 HCPs & seven clubs?

UNIT 5 TRANSFERS QUIZ

1. After which opening bids by partner do you use transfers?
2. Can you use transfers over partner's 1NT overcall?
3. What do transfers show?
4. Does a transfer show the strength of the hand?
5. Can a transfer be passed?
6. Can you use transfers after opponents overcall partners 1NT?
7. Can you use transfers after opponents double partners 1NT?
8. If you bid another suit after partner completes the transfer, is it forcing?
9. Would such a new suit be natural?
10. Can you transfer into the minors?
11. What is the difference between 'Stayman' and transfers?
-
12. Can you play 'Stayman' *and* transfers after NT bids?
13. Can you play weakness takeouts *and* transfers?
14. After 1NT, what would a 2♠ response be?
15. After 1NT, what would a 3♥ response be?

	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.
Partner opens	1NT	1NT	1NT	1NT	1NT
You hold	♠ K9732 ♥ 876 ♦ 3 ♣ J754	♠ AQJ2 ♥ QJ642 ♦ K743 ♣ -	♠ K9732 ♥ Q62 ♦ 743 ♣ A5	♠ 32 ♥ 764 ♦ QJ97542 ♣ 5	♠ KJ975 ♥ AK42 ♦ Q84 ♣ 5
What do you respond ?	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Partner rebids	2♠	2♥	2♠	2NT	2♠
Now what?	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

BIDDING THEORY QUIZ

1. The first bid other than pass is called anbid
2. If *partner* makes the first bid *your* first bid is called abid
3. When the first player to bid, bids again, it is called abid
4. If your right hand opponent opens 1♥, what are your options
 a b c d
5. What are the purposes of a simple *suit* overcall?
 a
 b
 c
 d
6. What is needed for a simple overcall?
7. Is an overcall a forcing bid?
8. When *might* you to respond to partner's overcall?
9. Partner opens. If RHO overcalls, is your change of suit forcing?
10. What are the requirements for an overcall bid of 1NT? HCPs
 and
11. What does a direct DOUBLE show?
12. Would you bid with NO points after partner's double?
13. When might you jump a level in response to partner's takeout double?
14. Holding 12+ pts., when might you **pass** an opening bid on your right?
 a.....
 b.....
15. During the auction, which is the protective position?
16. What would a jump overcall show?
17. After R.H.O. opens 1♥, you overcall 2♥. a. What is this bid called?.....
 b. What does it show

PRACTICAL BIDDING QUIZ

1: Opening Bids:

You hold the following:

♠ AQ964
♥ K7
♦ Q975
♣ A5

♠ KQ82
♥ J4
♦ QJ84
♣ K105

♠ AK65
♥ K98
♦ KQ7
♣ AQ8

What is your opening bid?

a:

b:

c:

2: Responding:

Partner opens 1♥ You hold:

♠ 7
♥ 643
♦ QJ62
♣ KQ753

♠ KJ762
♥ 87
♦ A98
♣ A64

♠ K86
♥ AQ82
♦ 8743
♣ 64

How do you respond?

a:

b:

c:

3: Rebids:

You open 1♥

Partner responds 1♠:

♠ K862
♥ AQ96
♦ J6
♣ KQ4

♠ J10
♥ AQ874
♦ Q985
♣ AQ

♠ KJ65
♥ AQJ82
♦ A874
♣

How do you respond?

a:

b:

c:

4: Overcalls?

RHO opens 1♣, and you hold:

♠ AK862
♥ Q6
♦ J96
♣ K74

♠ QJ10
♥ 874
♦ K9854
♣ 73

♠ KJ65
♥ AQ98
♦ K874
♣ 6

What do you bid?

a:

b:

c:

5: Respond to INT.

Partner opens INT

♠ KQ7
♥ K4
♦ Q852
♣ A764

♠ J83
♥ K108762
♦ 5
♣ Q83

♠ AJ82
♥ KQ75
♦ K53
♣ 73

What do you bid?

a:

b:

c:

6: Takeout Doubles?

RHO opens 1D

♠ KQ76
♥ K432
♦ 52
♣ AQ64

♠ AJ3
♥ KQ876
♦ 52
♣ K83

♠ AK8
♥ AKQ752
♦ Q5
♣ 73

What do you bid?

a:

b:

c:

7: INT Overcalls?

RHO opens 1D

♠ KQ76
♥ AQ
♦ KJ5
♣ QJ64

♠ AJ3
♥ KQ
♦ AQ7542
♣ 98

♠ AK10
♥ AQ752
♦ KQ5
♣ 109

What do you bid?

a:

b:

c:

ANSWERS Page 4

Opening bid	Partner responds	Your rebid should be
1♠		
♠ AJ532 ♥ KQ ♦ K874 ♣ Q9	1NT	2♦ Limit
	2♣	3♦ Forcing (Over the barrier)
	2♦	3♦ Forcing (Over the barrier)
	2♥	3♦ Forcing (Over the barrier)
	2♠	Pass
	3♠	4♠ Limit
	2NT	4♠ Limit
15 HCPs		

Opening bid	Partner responds	Your rebid should be
1♥		
♠ A85 ♥ KQ765 ♦ 8 ♣ QJ97	1NT	2♣ Limit
	1♠	2♣ Limit
	2♣	3♣ Limit (Not a reverse.)
	2♦	2♥ Limit
	2♥	Pass
	3♥	4♥ Limit
12 HCPs		

Opening bid	Partner responds	Your rebid should be
1♣		
♠ A85 ♥ KQ76 ♦ A ♣ KJ972	1♦	2♥ Forcing (A reverse.)
	1♥	3♥ Invitational (A reverse.)
	1♠	2♥ Forcing (A reverse.)
	1NT	2♥ Forcing (A reverse.)
	2♣	2♥ Forcing (A reverse.)
	3♣	3NT Usually better than 5♣
17 HCPs		

Opening bid	Partner responds	Your rebid should be
1♠		
♠ AQ532 ♥ K10874 ♦ QJ ♣ 8	1NT	2♥ Limit (Not a reverse.)
	2♣	2♥ Limit (Not a reverse.)
	2♦	2♥ Limit (Not a reverse.)
	2♥	3♥ Invitational.
	2♠	3♠ Invitational.
	3♠	4♠ Limit
12 HCPs		

ANSWERS Page 5

Opening bid	Partner responds	Your rebid should be
1♠		
♠ AQ532 ♥ KQ9 ♦ QJ7 ♣ Q4	1NT	Pass
	2♣	2NT Game force
	2♦	2NT Game force
	2♥	4♥ Limit
	2♠	Pass
	3♠	4♠ Limit
	2NT	4♠ Limit
16 HCPs		

Opening bid	Partner responds	Your rebid should be
1♥		
♠ AQ53 ♥ KQ97 ♦ QJ7 ♣ Q4	1♠	2/3♠ Limit
	1NT	Pass
	2♣	2NT Game force
	2♦	2NT Game force
	2♥	Pass
	3♥	4♥ Limit
16 HCPs		

Opening bid	Partner responds	Your rebid should be
1♠		
♠ AQ53 ♥ KQ9 ♦ KQJ7 ♣ Q4	1NT	3NT Limit
	2♣	2NT Game force
	2♦	4NT Blackwood
	2♥	4♥ or 4NT
	2♠	3NT Limit
	3♠	4♠ or 4NT
19 HCPs		

Opening bid	Partner responds	Your rebid should be
1♦		
♠ AQ5 ♥ Q97 ♦ KQJ76 ♣ Q4	1♥	1NT Limit
	1♠	1NT Limit
	1NT	Pass
	2♣	2NT Game force
	2♦	Pass
	3♦	3NT (16 + 10)
16 HCPs		

Opening bid	Partner responds	Your rebid should be
1♥		
♠ AQ5 ♥ AQ975 ♦ KJ7 ♣ Q4	1♠	2NT Limit
	1NT	2NT Limit
	2♣	2NT Game force
	2♦	2NT Game force
	2♥	3♥ Invitational
	3♥	4♥ or 4NT
18 HCPs		

BIDDING QUIZ ANSWERS

Page 9 (Transfers & Stayman)

1. 3NT With 13+ pts and a balanced hand.
With only two spades partner will pass.
With 3+ spades partner will bid 4S.
2. 2NT With 11/12 pts and a balanced hand.
With only two hearts and 12 pts. partner can pass.
With only two hearts and 14 pts. partner can bid 3NT.
With 3+ hearts partner and 12 pts will bid 3H.
With 3+ hearts partner and 14 pts will bid 4H.
3. 3H Inviting game if partner has 14 HCPs or a 7 loser.
4. 2S A forcing bid that shows five hearts & four spades.
5. PASS You do not have the values for game!
6. 3H A forcing bid that shows five spades & four hearts.
IF partner bids 3NT you correct to 4H.
Partner has two spades & three hearts.
7. 3S Showing 5 hearts & four spades.
Allowing partner to bid the best game contract.
8. 3NT You have tried to find a 4-4 heart fit. Now bid strength.
The singleton is a worry but partner has 20 pts.!

Page 17 (Revision)

1. 2♠ = 17-22 1♠ = 12-19 3♠ = 6-10
2. 16-18
3. 17/18
4. Usually 0, 1 or 2 (*but there are exceptions*)
5. 1NT
6. Yes. Your bid shows 15+ Partner's 2♣ shows 10+
7. Generally it will have between 11 -19.
8. 5 hearts and 4 clubs
9. 6-9 (*but could be fewer*).
10. 10-12 (*but may be an 8 loser with fewer points*).
11. 5/5
12. 6+ and totally forcing.
13. 1NT
14. 1♠
15. 1♦
16. 1♦
17. 1♥
18. 1NT
19. 25
20. 25
21. 8
22. 15/16
23. 12-14
24. 6-9
25. 4/3/3/3 or 4/4/3/2 or 5/3/3/2
26. No void, no singleton and not two doubletons.
27. 1NT, 2NT (or partner's overcall of 1NT)
28. Pass
29. 2♣
30. 3♣

Page 18 (Transfers)

1. NT & 2NT
2. Yes
3. 5+ cards in a major.
4. No
5. No
6. No
7. Yes if agreed
8. Yes
9. Yes
10. No, unless 1NT is doubled
11. Stayman locates 4 card majors,
Transfers locate 5 card majors
12. Yes
13. No
14. Transfer to 2NT
15. Mild slam try
16. 2♥ then pass
17. 2♦ then 2♠
18. 2♥ then pass
19. 2♠ then 3♦
20. 2♥ then 3♥

Page 19 (Theory)

1. An opening bid
2. A responding bid
3. A rebid
- 4a. pass
- 4b. overcall
- 4c. double
- 4d. cue bid
- 5a. to compete
- 5b. to give a lead
- 5c. to disrupt
- 5d. to offer possible sacrifice
6. Good 5 card suit 8-16
7. No
8. With game interest.
9. Yes
10. 16-18 Good stop.
11. 12+, shortage in enemy suit,
support for other suits
12. You must!
13. 10 ish points
14. Balanced hand 12-14
5+ of enemy suit with 10+
After two passes.
15. 16+ and good 6 card suit
16. Cue bid showing BIG hand.

Page 20 (Practical)

- 1a. 1♠
- 1b. 1NT
- 1c. 2NT
- 2a. 1NT
- 2b. 1♠ (don't jump)
- 2c. 3♥ (optimize)
- 3a. 2♠
- 3b. 1NT
- 3c. 4♠
- 4a. 1♠
- 4b. pass
- 4c. X
- 5a. 3NT
- 5b. 2♦ (transfer)
- 5c. 2♣ (Stayman)
- 6a. X
- 6b. 1♥
- 6c. 2♥
- 7a. 1NT
- 7b. pass
- 7c. 1NT

THE TAKEOUT X

N	E	S	W	→	East
1S	(X)				

♠ 52
♥ KQ104
♦ K873
♣ AQ9

THIS IS THE TYPE OF HAND that would make a **Direct Takeout Double** on each of the sequences shown. It promises 12 pts., a shortage in the enemy suit and at least three card support in the OTHER suits.

East would only pass IF it held lots of spades and the ability to punish north in 1♠

N	E	S	W	→	
1S	P	P	(X)		

♠ 52
♥ KQ104
♦ K873
♣ J109

THIS IS THE TYPE OF HAND that is not strong enough to make a direct Takeout Double - BUT when N/S show weakness by passing out in 2♠, east can compete with a Takeout Double asking partner to bid! If this pushes N/S to 3♠, it has done the job.

N	E	S	W	→	
1S	(2H)				

♠ 52
♥ KQ1084
♦ K87
♣ A109

THIS IS THE TYPE OF HAND where east should prefer to **OVERCALL 2♥** to show a good FIVE card suit with 10-15 pts. NOTE the difference between this hand and the next.

N	E	S	W	→	
1S	(X)				

♠ A2
♥ KQ1084
♦ K87
♣ A109

THIS IS THE TYPE OF HAND where east is too strong for a simple overcall!! With 16+ HCPs east must begin with a Takeout Double. If partner bids clubs or diamonds east then bids another suit, hearts on this hand, to show a hand too strong for the simple overcall.

N	E	S	W	→	
1S	(X)				

♠ A
♥ KQ
♦ K8754
♣ AJ1093

THIS IS AN AWKWARD TYPE OF HAND. *Usually the double of one major suit promises four of the other major.* On this hand, east is too strong to do anything other than double, (unless you use conventional bids such as UNT or Michaels Cue Bids to show two five card suits.)

N	E	S	W	→	
1S	(INT)				

♠ AQ10
♥ KJ4
♦ K8
♣ AJ1093

THIS IS THE TYPE OF HAND where east can show a balanced or semi balanced hand with a spade stop and 16-18 HCPs. (West could use Stayman and transfers after the INT overcall.)

N	E	S	W	→	
1S	(P)	P	X		

♠ KQ52
♥ 104
♦ K873
♣ J109

THIS IS THE TYPE OF HAND where east must PASS. When you have the same-suit as RHO it begins to look like a MIS-FIT. IF west, subsequently doubles, east can bid INT **to show the spade stop** and 6-9 pts.

RESPONDING TO A TAKEOUT X

YOUR PARTNER MAKES A TAKEOUT DOUBLE

It shows 12 pts., a shortage in the enemy suit and at least three card support for the OTHER suits.
REMEMBER that a Takeout Double of one major suit *usually* promises four of the other major.

N	E	S	W
1♥	X	P	?

West 1.	West 2.	West 3.	West 4.	West 5.
♠ 9532 ♥ J106 ♦ 9873 ♣ 105	♠ A32 ♥ QJ6 ♦ Q873 ♣ 1095	♠ AQ32 ♥ 64 ♦ KJ73 ♣ 1095	♠ Q86532 ♥ 6 ♦ KJ732 ♣ 9	♠ 53 ♥ K10642 ♦ K873 ♣ A9
1♠	1NT	2♠	4♠	PASS
The one thing you CANNOT do is to pass.	You have a stop and 8/9 pts. (Better than 2♦)	1♠ would show no interest in proceeding. With 10 pts jump a level.	With no defensive values & what looks like a big fit bid a pre-emptive 4♠	Convert partner's T.O. double into a penalty double by passing!

THIS TIME, PARTNER OPENS & RIGHT HAND OPPONENT DOUBLES

REMEMBER that a Takeout Double of one major suit *usually* promises four of the other major.
It shows 12 pts., a shortage in the enemy suit and at least three card support for the OTHER suits.

N	E	S	W
	1♥	X	?

West 1.	West 2.	West 3.	West 4.	West 5.
♠ 95 ♥ Q1062 ♦ K873 ♣ 1095	♠ A1095 ♥ QJ ♦ K873 ♣ 1095	♠ A10954 ♥ QJ ♦ K873 ♣ 109	♠ 5 ♥ Q86532 ♦ KJ72 ♣ 93	♠ K1054 ♥ 3 ♦ K873 ♣ 10932
2♥	XX	1♠ (forcing)	4♥	PASS
With only 5 points you may wish to pass but showing the support may just make it a bit harder for N/S to find their fit.	A special kind of Takeout Double called a Negative Double. It promises FOUR of the other major & no obvious fit with partner. (6+ at the 1 level)	After a T.O. double, the bid of 1♠ promises FIVE spades. (6+ pts. at the 1 level)	With no defensive values and a big fit bid a pre-emptive 4♥. NOTE that this weak hand IS a 7 loser	Without the double you would bid 1♠. With a singleton heart, this is NOT a hand on which you want to compete.

POINTS TO NOTE.

1. If opponents have a fit, your side has a fit too. If they haven't, nor have you! **Keep out of it!!**
2. With a fit, use the Losing Trick Count to guide you to the level you can bid.
3. If partner makes a Takeout Double - TAKE IT OUT! *especially* if you are weak!
4. If partner makes a Takeout Double - show 10+ pts. by bidding 1 level higher than necessary.
5. Never bid NTs unless you have a stop in the enemy suit!