

Getting to game /bidding constructively *when the opponents overcall....*

You are South and partner opens 1NT

(N)	(E)	(S)	(W)
1NT		?	
		A43	
		K87	
		KQ76	
		J76	

you have no problems here -you simply raise to 3NT . Simple.

Suppose though the auction was as follows with East overcalling :-

(N)	(E)	(S)	(W)
1NT	2S	?	
		A43	
		K87	
		KQ76	
		J76	

Should the overcall put you off ?

One thing to say is that these days players seem to overcall on any old rubbish and that the 2Sp overcall *need* not be much of a worry.

Even if the overcaller is of the old school and the 2Sp shows a fair playing hand you still have your 13 pts and would expect partner to have a play for game.

So what to bid ?

In the long run you won't go far wrong bidding 3NT ie ignoring the overcall completely. That's probably the best choice but if you like the thrill of a gamble you could try a penalty double of 2Sp. There is no guarantee that 2Sp will go off but on balance they are likely to go anything from 1 off to 2 or 3 light. Either bid , 3NT or double are not unreasonable.

Suppose your hand was a Queen or so less . e.g

(N)	(E)	(S)	(W)
1NT	2S	?	
		843	
		K87	
		KQ76	
		QJ6	

If there had been no overcall you would bid 2NT , what now after the 2Sp bid ?

Firstly there is no reason to be put off -your side still has the majority of the points. A bid of 2NT (even with no Spade "stops") is completely normal and partner can raise to 3NT if they wish.

Other than 2NT you might gamble and double the 2Sp bid. {I have tried this bid over the years and although it can pay off with plus scores of 500 it has to be admitted that the 2Sp contract has made more times than I care to remember}. Pass would be too feeble.

