

Coping with opponents and overcalls

You are opener and the opponents overcall at the one level :-

e.g

N	E	S	W
1D	1Sp	P	P
?			

We can say straight away that partner is likely to be weak { they didn't bid } and that game for our side is unlikely. You could just write the whole thing off and wait for a new deal when you will get better cards , but in general it is winning bridge to be competitive and to try to play the hand or to push your opponents a level or two higher.

North should try to find a bid in such auctions.

As North your hand might be one of these types :

a) strong balanced	b) one suited	c) distributional
Qxx	Q	x
KJx	AQx	AQxx
AQxx	KJxxxx	AQxxx
AQx	Axx	Kxx

We have said that you should want to bid . You will have had some idea what your intended rebid was with these hands { you thought for instance that you would rebid in No Trumps with (a) and rebid your suit with (b) and possibly bid your second suit with (c).}

Now it would be unsafe to blithely advise someone to *just ignore the overcall and bid what you would have bid* . Better advice might be to bid what you would have bid but a level or two lower. {{ later you will see that there is often an extra option but we will come to that }}. Looking again at our opening hands.

e.g

N	E	S	W
1D	1Sp	P	P
?			
Qxx			
KJx			
AQxx			
AQx			

We had intended to rebid 2NT. Should the 1Sp overcall make us change our minds ? Well only a little is the answer. To bid 1NT seems reasonable.

{{Are you worried about the meagre honour holding you have in the opponent's spade suit ie { Qxx }?. Well it isn't great but you should bid it anyway .}}

e.g

N	E	S	W
1D	1Sp	P	P
?			
Q			
AQx			
KJxxxx			
Axx			

We probably *originally* thought of rebidding 3D with the hopes of getting to 3NT or 5D. Now those ambitions seem , well a little ambitious. Content yourself with bidding 2D.

