

Homework answers -trial bids

1) 1S-----2S

3H

standard trial bid in new suit

2) 1H-----2H

Pass.

Did you try 3D ? Perhaps not terribly wrong but you do only have 16 pts { whereas you *usually* need 17 }; the shape is also not very prepossessing. In general balanced hands with 15/16 pts should not try for game after a minimum raise.

3) 1Sp-----2Sp

3H

A trial bid in a 3 card suit.

Quite a clever bid- partner will know to look at their Heart holding when evaluating their hand.

Another possible bid is 2NT. This one seems a bit odd though when you hold an agreed 5 card major. {One downside to 2NT is that partner may even take it into her head to pass 2NT!}.

4) 1H-----2H

4H.

And now we go straight to game as there is no doubt that we have enough points and there is no need for a trial bid.

{One student has contacted me to ask is 4D is correct. Well a bid at the 4 level in a new suit is not a trial bid for game (such bids are bid at the 3 level.) What might it mean ? Presumably a slam sounding noise. *If* you think that you are interested in a slam *and* if you think partner will be on the same wavelength *then* 4D wouldnt be a bad effort }.

5) 1S-----2S

Pass.

15pts and a balanced hand is not enough to try for game.

6) 1H-----2H

3D.

Now we *do* make a trial bid with only 16. Why is this right with this hand but wrong hand (2) ? This time we are distributional.

7) 1S-----2S

3H-----4Sp.

Quite a bid our 4sp but our Hearts KJx will fit well with partner and may be just the ticket to make 10 tricks.

8) 1H-----2H

3D-----4H

We are maximum so go to game regardless of our holding in the trial suit.

9) 1S-----2S

3C-----Pass.

We are minimum and have no Hons in Clubs.

10) 1H-----2H

3D-----4H

There is no certainty about this but we have Qx in diamonds which should help to "fill" partner's trial suit.

11) We led the singleton Hrt hoping partner would win with the Ace and return the suit for us to ruff. It was not to be. Declarer starts to draw trumps -now we must jump up quickly with the Ace spades. If we could get partner in they could lead back a Hrt for us to ruff. Shall we try diamonds or clubs ? The answer is to try both! Lead the Ace diamonds -if partner signals HI then we carry on with diamonds; if partner signals LOW then we lead a small club hoping partner will win. No certainty either will work but you have to try.

12) You lead the Ace Hrts and it occurs to you that if you can the K Hrts the dummy will be able to trump Hrts. Therefore at trick 2 we switch to a trump. {Should declarer themselves play another Hrt we will win and play a second spade }. Might we sometimes miss our chance to even score our K Hrts if we play this way ? Yes that is true but in the long run seems the best way to beat the game contract ie we may allow the declarer to make overtricks but seldom , to just make their contract.

13) Now we lead the Ace Hrts and follow it with the K Hrts.
The difference is that we can never hope to draw dummy's trumps -there are too many of them.

14) South has missed a beat here. Their partner has opened the bidding and they have a good 10 pts themselves. The declarer in 1NT is very likely to come a cropper. The best bid is Double. {the Q clubs is the best lead }.