

After an auction has started 1S-----4C

opener can (basically) do one of two things . They can *sign off* in 4sp or they can go for a slam. {If they are interested in a slam for instance they might bid 4NT }. Here are two such examples :-

a) 1Sp----- 4C
4Sp

AQxxx
KQx
xx
KQx

b) 1Sp----- 4C
4NT

AQxxx
KQx
KQx
xx

Perhaps it wasn't obvious to you go for a slam on the second hand ? (or not to go for a slam on the first one perhaps).

If you remember your lessons on slam bidding you will recall that the 4NT bidder must have a control in each of the side suits - in (a) the diamonds are wide open so 4Sp is the bid; in (b) opener has controls in diamonds + hearts and *knows* partner has control in clubs so 6Sp will have a fair chance as long as there are 3 Aces between the two hands.

{{ if this is difficult there is an easier method to gauge suitability for slams.

If you have *duplication of values* ie high cards in the suit that partner has splintered in , that is a bad thing (and you should not want to get too high). ie if you have Kings, Queens or Jacks opposite partner's singleton then they will be in a sense wasted and you should draw your horns in. If you have no high cards in the suit partner splinters in , then that is very much a good thing and might encourage you to go on.

More examples :

a) 1Sp----- 4D
4Sp

KQxxx
Qx
AQJ
Axx

b) 1Sp----- 4D
4NT

KQxxx
AQJ
xx
AQx

In hand (b) opener knows that partner can "look after" the diamonds and that there are no wasted values between the two hands.

In hand (a) there is duplication of values in diamonds as opener's AQJ diamonds are somewhat wasted opposite a singleton.

Splinter bids are useful and they can easily be grafted onto the Acol system.

Two words of warning . 1) Your partner may never have heard about splinter bids and think your triple jump to 4Cl is *Gerber* or some such antiquated bid or simply have no idea what it means. 2) Your partner may think that splinter bids apply in all triple jump sequences e.g 1C ----- 3Sp e.g 1Sp-----4H {{ There are good players who do play these two extensions but I would strongly suggest that you don't as these bids "sound" natural and are open to misinterpretation. }}.Stick with 1H -----4C/4D + 1S-----4C/4D