

Those so and so opponents overcalling again..

We have seen that an overcall can sometimes affect { and force us to change } the bid that we would have made. So in auctions like :

N	E	S	W
1S	2H	?	
		Qxx	
		xxx	
		AQxx	
		xxx	

South has to bid 2Sp rather than the 1NT that they first thought they might have replied.

By and large we can cope with a *simple* overcall - problems become greater when *both* opponents decide to get in on the act.

Something like this :

N	E	S	W
1S	2C	2S	3C
?			

Now North might have two types of hand that they wish to bid.

- i) *competitive* - a hand that they are not prepared to sell out to 3C and are prepared to take a chance on making 3Sp. Points anything between 12-16
- ii) *game try* - a *serious* hand that they expect to make 3 Sp with but would like partner to consider bidding 4Sp. A hand "worth" 17/18 .

Well in the amateur game North simply pauses for a long time before bidding 3S; conversely if they are happy to bid they make their bid of 3S in double quick time . Well such cheating cannot be condoned so we need a method to distinguish the two types of hand that North might hold (and also ourselves from the cheaters).

The following approach has been around since the year dot.

- i) *With a competitive hand simply bid bid your agreed suit at the three level.*
- ii) *With a "serious" hand bid a new suit.*

Here are the two auctions bid with our new refined approach.

i)

N	E	S	W
1S	2C	2S	3C
3S			

ii)

N	E	S	W
1S	2C	2S	3C
3D			

In auction (ii) the bid of a new suit { called a "game try " } shows that opener is serious about their bid and would like partner to consider going on in the auction. More examples overpage.