

The opponents are playing transfers

It may not be a convention that you wish to play but if your opponents do play transfers then you will need to know what they are up to and what if anything their bids prevent you from calling.

We are going to look at the simplest of transfer systems where, in the auctions :-

1NT ----- 2D* the bid of 2D shows a 5 card heart suit

and

1NT -----2H* the bid of 2H shows a 5 card spade suit.

{Incidentally it is perfectly in order for you to ask an opponent " is that a transfer bid?" and " can you explain to me what the bid means (please) as I don't play transfers ?". You might learn that actually the transfer bidders don't know much more about the bids than you for one thing ! }.

The transfer bid promises 5 cards in the next higher suit and any amount of points : ie they might have a "weak takeout" sort of hand of 0-----10 pts or a much stronger "strong takeout" type of 13 + pts

Here is such an auction with you still to bid :

(opponent) -----(partner) -----(opponent) -----(you)
1NT pass 2D* ?

let us say that you have either of these quite presentable overcall hands

e.g i) AQJ976 e.g ii)432
87 8
K54 AK2
K4 KQJ9876

now although you don't know yet how many points the transfer bidder holds (whether they are weak or strong) it seems to me that you don't really care ! Both of these hands look good enough to overcall and so you should just make the obvious bid of your suit. You can bid Sp at the two level and Cl at the 3 level .

{Funnily enough it would have been a lot harder if the opponents had bid strong take outs and *weren't* playing transfers; the auction would then have gone :

(opponent) -----(partner) -----(opponent) -----(you)
1NT pass 3H ?

and you probably would not have relished bidding 3 Sp or 4 Cl }.

So , whether the transfer bidder is weak or strong if you have an "obvious" overcall you should bid it. Over the page we will have to decide what to do when our hand is not so hot.

