

Trial bids

Look at this auction and see if you can guess what is going on

N S
1S -----2S
3D

North has heard their partner support spades but still bids another suit.
Can North seriously want to play in diamonds having already agreed spades ?

The answer to that is an emphatic "No !".
North actually still wants to play in Spades *but* wishes to invite South to go to game.

Here are the N/S hands.

N	S
AQxxx	Kxxx
Jx	xxx
QJxx	Kxx
AK	xxx

1S -----2S
3D -----

North's bid of 3D { a new suit after having agreed spades } sends *two* messages :

- 1) North is strong { usually 17+ pts }
- 2) North has a second suit { diamonds}.

South in turn is being asked to :

- 1) go to game if they have maximum { or near maximum } points ie 8 or 9
- 2) go to game *whatever* their points *if* they have a "fit" in the second suit ie if they have honours in the second suit.

On our above hand South will accept the invitation to game and bids 4Sp.

NB notice that without this arrangement South would simply pass the 3Sp invitation on the basis that they had minimum points.

{ incidentally if you care to check the two hands , you will see that there are only 3 losers between the N/S hands and that 10 tricks are easy}.

Heres another example:

AKx	Jxx	1H -----2H
KJxx	----- Qxxx	3C-----3H
xx	KJxx	Pass.
AQxx	xx	

... and 9 tricks look about the limit.