

We are now going to look at what might happen if the opponents compete in the auction.

i) The opponents bid *before* we have had a chance to bid the weak take out

e.g

N	-----E	-----S	-----W
1NT	2C	?	
		xxx	
		AJxxx	
		QJx	
		Jx	

Well perhaps you were going to Pass and let partner try their luck in 1NT (or perhaps you were going to bid 2H as a weak take out). Whichever you planned on now things are slightly different. Partner obviously can no longer play in 1NT. The answer is to bid 2H now anyway. {we have seen this before -as long as you bid your suit at the lowest possible level then it is assumed to be a weak take out }.

ii) We pass originally but the opponents compete over 1NT

e.g

N	-----E	-----S	-----W
1NT	P	P	2S
P	P	?	
		xxx	
		AJxxx	
		QJx	
		Jx	

Now bid 3H. It is a weak take out -if a little belated and opener must *pass*.

iii) We decide on a weak take out but the opponents compete

e.g

N	-----E	-----S	-----W
1NT	P	2H	P
P	2S	?	
		xx	
		AJxxxx	
		Qxx	
		xx	

Things are getting a little out of hand ! Really you have to see it through and now bid 3H. Opener should not get excited by this as they will recall that you started with a weak take out so can't be too strong.

Anything else to say ? Not really , but exuding confidence as you make your bid can never be a bad thing. If you know your bid is a little suspect , that is the time to appear not to have a care in the world and to bid quickly and authoratively.

