

## BRIDGE ETIQUETTE:

Before we give you some bidding tips, there is one thing that we see going wrong almost on every hand in face-to-face bridge. Defenders choose to write down the contract in their convention card before making an opening lead. This deprives Declarer of some very needed time to examine the Dummy and make a plan. PLEASE make your opening lead and THEN write down the contract. Otherwise it is a breach of etiquette.

One more: The auction goes:

1H - Pass - 3H - Pass

4H

And the next person taps the table instead of passing. This is NOT your right or privilege. You must put the green card down if you wish to pass. There are still two bids remaining at the table.

It MIGHT go

1H - Pass - 3H - Pass

4H - Pass - Pass - Double

OR

1H - Pass - 3H - Pass

4H - Pass - Pass - 4NT (Unusual for the minors)

A tap is only acceptable as a Pass in the Pass out seat and at no other time. Please watch yourselves with this dreadful habit.

## QUICK QUIZ

1. 1S by your RHO (Right hand opponent) and you have

S AQ5

H K76

D A987

C QJ8

2. 1S by your RHO (Right hand opponent) and you have

S AQ5

H KQ7

D AQ98

C QJ8

3. 1S by your RHO (Right hand opponent) and you have

S 9

H 83

D AJ765

C K10987

4.2S by your RHO (Right hand opponent) and you have

S KQ8  
H AQ9  
D K76  
C K942

5.1H by your RHO (Right hand opponent) and you have

S AQ7654  
H 9  
D 743  
C 972

6.1H by your RHO (Right hand opponent) and you have

S AK876  
H 76  
D Q98  
C A97

ANSWERS:

1. Easy. 1NT. Change the S Queen into the H Queen and you still have to bid 1NT. You just have to pray harder.

2. 2NT will show a very different hand (see # 3) and you cannot overcall 1NT with 20 HCP. So what to do? You must Double first and then bid the cheapest number of NT after partner bids. This shows 19-20 HCP. With 15-18 HCP, you would have overcalled 1NT.

3. 2NT here is the Unusual NT. It shows at least 5-5 in the two lower unbid suits i.e. in this case: The minors. A perfect description of your hand. The point count is undetermined. You should have at least one decent honour in each of your long suits though.

4. 2NT. After a weak two bid, this shows 15-18 HCP and at least one stopper in the opponent's suit. Alex calls this the Tom Jones bid.

"It's Not Unusual!" You might not get that one.

5. 2S. You would open 2S if you were the Dealer. You do exactly the same thing as an overcaller, trying to make it as difficult as possible for your opponents to bid.

6. 1S. A simple overcall showing 8-17 points including distribution. Some players get confused about this and want to double to show opening points. Later, you will never be able to show your long suit though as doubling first and then bidding your long suit shows 18 or more points.

And now here is a hand that came up on Saturday.

NORTH (Alex)

S KJ72  
H K986  
D AK  
C 7

SOUTH (Barbara)

S A  
H A107543  
D J10873  
C 7

I was South in first chair and opened 1H. The hand is light on points but heavy on shape. It also fulfills the Rule of 20.

Alex bid 2NT. I showed my singleton (or void) Club which was happiness for him as now he knows we can only lose one Club.

4NT by him and I responded 5S showing two keycards including the Queen of trump. I did not have the Queen of trump but when you have six trump opposite four trump, you pretend you do as the Queen is most likely going to fall. He bid 6H.

1H - 2NT  
3C - 4N  
5S - 6H

It makes easily as South's Diamond suit sets up. Shape, beautiful shape!

Would you have opened 1H? Purists who never count their distribution till they have found a fit may not open. We disagree with that philosophy.

## TIPS FROM TONY JACKSON IN CALIFORNIA

### **2/1: Should I bid my major suit at the 1-level?**

Yesterday (actually, was in March!) at the unit game in Petaluma someone asked me the question I probably get most: playing 2 over 1, after my partner opens the bidding, if I hold a 4 card major and enough points to commit to game, should I make a game forcing 2/1 bid or bid the major suit?

1H - (P) - 2C

or

1H - (P) - 1S

Which is better if you hold 4+ spades?

Here is my recommendation:

1. With 5 spades, always show your spades (bid 1 spade)
2. With 4 spades and 4 or fewer clubs, show your spades
3. With 4 spades and 5 or more clubs, bid 2 clubs

Quick explain: with 5 spades, if you don't bid 1S you will never convince your partner you have 5 and you may miss a good spade fit.

With only 4 spades, you should still bid them if you have 4 or fewer clubs. But with 5 or more clubs, it's more important to show your clubs. The idea is this aphorism: SHOW YOUR SHAPE!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Not a Shutout Bid**

One last thing: Some people confuse these two sequences:

1H - (P) - 4H  
and

1C - (P) - 1H - (P)  
4H

In the first auction, 4H is a weak bid, showing a "weak freak". (Ed. note: 2-9 points including distribution.)

But the 4H bid in the second auction is NOT WEAK, it is a very strong bid.

Why the difference? You have to understand these are fundamentally different auctions. In the first one opener has shown a full opening hand with 5 hearts. Responder has 5 or more hearts, so a 10+ card fit.

In the second auction, both opener and responder have only promised 4 hearts. If opener had 5 hearts, they would have opened 1 heart, not 1 diamond. Responder has only promised 4 hearts. So there is only a known 8 card fit. Might be more, but opener certainly doesn't know that.

And more important, in the second auction responder has shown only 6 points. How on earth is opener going to bid to game if responder has only 6 points and 4 hearts? Opener must have a VERY strong hand (19+ points) to bid to game.

This is a bridge fundamental. If you don't understand this, then your bridge is going to suffer. You need to be able to understand what your partner has (and doesn't have) in order to make effective bids.

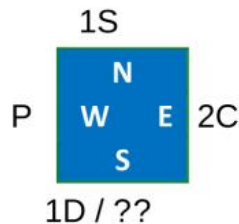


SUPPORT DOUBLES by  
BARBARA SEAGRAM

It is always wonderful to be able to know whether partner has 3 card support for your suit or 4 card support for your suit primarily if you only have a four-card suit yourself.

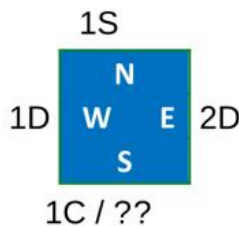
While 3 card support is adequate, 4 card support is much better. Have a look at the philosophy and the two examples which follow:

South (YOU)	West	North	East
1D	Pass	1S	2C
??			



OR another scenario:

South (YOU)	West	North	East
1C	1D	1S	2D
??			



When partner responds 1H or 1S to your opening bid and your RHO (Right Hand Opponent) either makes an overcall or raises your LHO's overcall, now you can tell partner exactly how many trumps you have. This is by using a special convention called the

## "Support Double"

In the above scenarios when the opponents enter the bidding:  
If you have only 3 card support for partner's major, then you will say "DOUBLE". This says you have only 3 card support.

**This is an unlimited bid.** i.e. You could have just 13 points, or as much as 16 or 19.

If you have 4 card support for partner's major, you will raise her major (H 's or S 's) e.g 2S or 3 S with 16-18 etc:

If you have fewer than 3, you can bid something else, anything else that you bid, including "Pass" will guarantee fewer than 3 card support.

You have the following hand and the bidding has gone as follows:

### Hand A)

<i>South (YOU)</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
1D	Pass	1S	2C
??			

		1S	
		N	
P	W	E	2C
		S	

1D (Dealer) / ??  
S x  
H KJx  
D AKxxxx  
C Kxx

On hand A) you will bid 2D now

### Hand B)

<i>South (YOU)</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
1D	Pass	1S	2C
??			

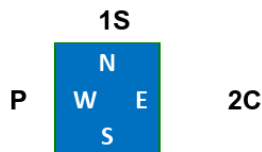
		1S	
		N	
P	W	E	2C
		S	

1D (Dealer) / ??  
S KQ4  
H AKJ6  
D 97543  
C 4

On hand B) you will bid Double now, showing 3 card support for partner's Spades.

Hand C)

South (YOU)	West	North	East
1D	Pass	1S	2C
??			

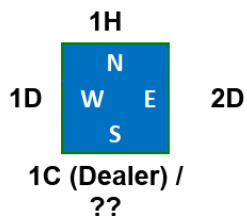


1D (Dealer) / ??  
S K874  
H A876  
D AQ3  
C 43

On hand C) you will bid 2S now, showing FOUR-card support for partner's Spades.

Hand D)

South (YOU)	West	North	East
1C	1D	1H	2D
??			



NOTE: When both of the opponents are in the bidding, it is imperative that you look to your right and assess if your RHO has bid past the 2H level. If he has, then support doubles are off as you will only play them up to and including the level of 2H by RHO.

If East had raised to 3D on the above example, Support Doubles are off because it is past the 2H level.

If you bid 2H or 3H or 4H, then you guarantee 4 card support.

With 13-15 and 4-card support, raise to 2H

With 16-18 and 4-card support, raise to 3H

With 19+ and 4-card support, raise to 4H

If you bid "Double" then you guarantee 3 card support (and partner does not know your point range). If you make any other bid, partner knows you have fewer than 3 H 's. **The double merely shows how many cards you have for support, it does not show how many points you have.**

NOTE: Support Doubles are also off (cancelled) when RHO overcalls 1 NT. If you double now, this is 100% a penalty double.

**IF RHO MAKES A TAKEOUT DOUBLE (TOD) INSTEAD OF OVERCALLING A SUIT**

If RHO makes a TOD, you (the opener) will now bid Redouble to show 3 card support and just as before, you will raise partner's major in order to show 4 card support.

Any other bid that you will now make other than Redouble or a raise of partner's suit (at any level) will now show 2 or fewer in partner's major.

Acknowledgements:

Some of the material for this handout are courtesy of Eddie Kantar, with his permission.

## **LONG, STRONG SUIT IN DUMMY? IT'S TIME FOR DEFENDERS TO CASH WINNERS IN SIDE SUITS**

**by Andrew Robson**

Defences fall into two main categories: active and passive. Active defence involves trying to score tricks quickly by breaking (starting) new suits. Leading a new suit frequently costs a trick so, all things being equal, you would prefer to play passively, giving nothing away. Active or passive – that is the question?

The nub is this: when (versus a suit contract) dummy has a long, strong suit, one that will provide declarer with discards for his losers, a defender must attack, trying to win tricks quickly. If you dally, declarer will draw trumps and will dump his losers on dummy's long suit.

If dummy has no such long, strong suit, the defence should stay clear of breaking new suits. Instead they can lead trumps (crucial if it looks like declarer will ruff some losers in dummy) but bad if it will pick up (reveal) partner's honours), or defence should just go completely passive (not helping declarer)

Examples include leading a suit where dummy has crummy cards and making declarer ruff in the long hand (with trumps that will win tricks anyway), or letting declarer win a high card that will always win.

See the following 4S contracts: West leading C Q and East correctly winning C Ace on both hands (declarer is marked with C K and it might be a singleton). What next – active or passive?



**Board A**

	<b>S</b> K 9 6 3 <b>H</b> A K 6 2 <b>D</b> A J 3 <b>C</b> 6 4	<b>N</b> <b>W</b> E <b>S</b>	
<b>S</b> A J 4 <b>H</b> 10 7 4 <b>D</b> 9 7 6 <b>C</b> Q J 9 8			<b>S</b> 8 <b>H</b> Q J 5 3 <b>D</b> Q 10 5 2 <b>C</b> A 10 7 2
	<b>S</b> Q 10 7 5 2 <b>H</b> 9 8 <b>D</b> K 8 4 <b>C</b> K 5 3		

**Contract: 4 S by South****Lead: C Q**

In (A) there is nothing to fear in dummy: no long, strong suit that will provide declarer with discards for his losers. East is best simply returning a second club. Unless declarer is inspired, he will win C K and lead S 2 to S K. He will now have to lose two trumps to West's S A J and, in the fullness of time, a diamond to East's D Q (he will try D 4 to D J but the finesse will lose). Passive defence – down one.

**Board B**

	<b>S</b> K 9 6 3 <b>H</b> A Q J 10 <b>D</b> A J 3 <b>C</b> 6 4	<b>N</b> <b>W</b> E <b>S</b>	
<b>S</b> A 4 <b>H</b> 7 6 4 <b>D</b> K 9 7 6 <b>C</b> Q J 9 8			<b>S</b> 8 <b>H</b> K 5 3 2 <b>D</b> Q 10 5 2 <b>C</b> A 10 7 2
	<b>S</b> Q J 10 7 5 2 <b>H</b> 9 8 <b>D</b> 8 4 <b>C</b> K 5 3		

**Contract: 4 S by South****Lead: C Q**

In (B) dummy has a threatening heart suit. After East's H K has won, dummy's hearts will provide declarer with discards – clearly in diamonds. East must switch to D 2 at trick two (key play) in the hope West holds D K. Here D K will force out dummy's D A, declarer will lose to West's S A and the defence will take a promoted diamond trick plus later (when the finesse loses) H K. Active defence –

down one. The diamond switch at trick two was a risk East had to take on (B), but on (A) it would have let 4S make.

## **MASTER POINTS** **by STEVE ALLEN (TREASURER OF GRAND RIVER BRIDGE CLUB)**

modified slightly by Barbara

Founded in 1937, the ACBL is the largest bridge bank in North America, serving over 160,000 customers and selling to thousands of successful investors through branches like your local bridge club. They boast a massive vault, hundreds of feet underground, in small-town Mississippi (approximate schematic is below). It does not house and protect traditional currencies like the dollars you pay for bridge games or the gold you spend on groceries. There's another currency. It's called master points.

Can you spend this currency? No.

Can you buy them? No (many have tried).

Can you sell them or give them away? No.

Can you hold them in your hand or purse? No.

Does ACBL Bank pay interest, dividends, or capital gains? No. Here's how you can find out how rich (or poor) you are.

- Use the ACBL banking website

[www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org): Go to MyACBL.

It contains your official bank account statement.

- The back cover of the ACBL's monthly Bulletin bank magazine lists your month-end balance.
- The Common Game results email offers a How Close am I to my next ACBL Rank link.

