

BIDDING TUNE-UP
by Barbara Seagram
barbaraseagram@gmail.com
www.barbaraseagram.com

Bridge is a game of mistakes. Even experts make mistakes. It is simply a question of how many mistakes you make. Those who make the fewest consistently win. A good player does not necessarily have a higher I.Q. He/she just knows the common pitfalls and avoids them. It is okay to make mistakes in bridge. With each one, you grow and you always learn from these errors. Try not to make the same ones again. In some things in life, mistakes do matter. An air traffic controller had better not make any; in bridge, they are a constant part of the game. It is impossible to be perfect. When you add a new convention to your repertoire, you will frequently get it wrong the first few times you try it. By the seventh attempt, you should have it down pat!

Here are some fairly common situations that pop up. Here are some guidelines on how to handle them:

1) ♠ J ♥ A8754 ♦ 10543 ♣ AKJ	You open 1H and partner responds 1S. Many players will now bid 1NT. If you make this bid, you are promising to have at least two spades. Your hand is not balanced and your rebid should be 2 D, not 1 NT.
--	--

Your partner may have something like:

♠ A6432
 ♥ 3
 ♦ K982
 ♣ 875

If you rebid 1 NT, she may well now bid 2S, knowing that there is a 5-2 fit. If you rebid 2D, she can pass and this would seem to be the best spot.

2) ♠ Q83
 ♥ AKJ9
 ♦ AK63
 ♣ J5

a) You open 1 D. Partner responds 1S. Your correct rebid is 2NT. This shows 18-19 HCP and a balanced hand. Don't panic about your C holding. Just pray a lot!

b) **Same hand.** You open 1D and partner bids 2C. Your correct rebid is 3NT. The jump in NT as a rebid by opening bidder shows 18-19 HCP balanced. Don't even think about bidding 2H instead, this will show a 17 + point hand alright, but it will guarantee an unbalanced hand and more D than H. Don't worry: If partner has four hearts, she will bid H next. (Checkback Stayman is a useful convention to learn, by the way.)

c) **Same hand.** After opening 1 D, partner bids 1H. At last: a good partner! (Good partners should always provide you with fits!!) You now bid 3H to show 16-18 points and 4 card H support.

d) **Same hand.** 1D by you, 1NT by partner. Your rebid should be 2NT. Let's see now...If you were the opener with 12-14 HCP and a balanced hand, you would have passed 1 NT. With a balanced 15-17 HCP hand, you would have opened 1 NT. Thus, you have just shown 18-19 HCP raising to 2NT.

So, look at that. You have the same hand and 4 different responses by partner. 4 different rebids by you, the opener.

Bidding Tune Up – Barbara Seagram - continued

3)	♠ AQ873	South	West	North	East
	♥ KQT52	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
	♦ K2	2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
	♣ 3	??			

You should now bid 3H. Not 3 NT. Responder may have had:

♠ 6
♥ 743
♦ AQJ76
♣ AQJ8

The safest and thus best contract is 4H. Partner will now raise to 4H because you have found your 5-3 fit in H

One more:

4)	♠ KQ9864	South	West	North	East
	♥ J832	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
	♦ AQ	??			
	♣ 3				

So many players are in a hurry to rebid their spades in this scenario. You really ought to bid 2H next. Partner may have had

♠ 3
♥ A975
♦ 6432
♣ Q876

She can now pass your 2H rebid and you have landed in your 4-4 heart fit

My husband, Alex, has a program in place when he is directing. His players can come to him to have him assess percentage blame. "Whose fault was it?" He now awards percentage responsibility for the error that occurred. "Susie was 75% to blame and you were 25%!" It is all done in humour, of course! The assessment is always followed by a full discussion of that hand. The hands provided above are merely to help partner to better understand. We all know that it is partner who needs advice, not you! Bid lots, play often! Tell everyone you meet about the game of bridge. The world will be a better place.