Heritage Towne Lake Bridge Roger Burrows' BRIDGE LESSONS

- 1. Bidding NoTrump
- 2. Bidding Major Suits
- 3. Bidding Minor Suits
- 4. Preemptive Bids & Strong 2-Clubs Openers
- 5. Overcalls
- 6. Artificial Doubles & Cryptic Convention Rundown
- 7. Play of the Hand Declarer
- 8. Play of the Hand Defense

HAND EVALUTION GUIDELINES

- 1. Hand evaluation (fixed): 1) High Card Points, 2) Shape, 3) "LTC".
 - Variables: prior bids, partner agreements, vulnerable?, which chair, short suits, ...
- 2. With a suit fit, Playing Points (PPs) = HCP + shortage points.
 - With fit and a void, PPs = HCP +5; singleton, HCP +3; doubleton, HCP +1.
- 3. Losing Trick Count (LTC) max 3 per suit. 7- open, 8- respond.
 - Weak Queen, like Qxxx, add 1/2 LTC.
- 4. 25 combined "points" for Major or NT game, 33 points for Small Slam.
 - HCP in NoTrump and "Playing" Points in a suit.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- 1. If Responder has not passed or bid NT, her new suit is forcing!!!
 - The "Golden Rule" of bidding.
- 2. "Golden fit" is 8+ trumps total in your hand + Partner's hand.
 - Note: the Law of Total Tricks says total # of trump = total # of tricks.
- 3. With 2 equal suits, open the higher ranking.
 - For responses and rebids, bid up the ladder.

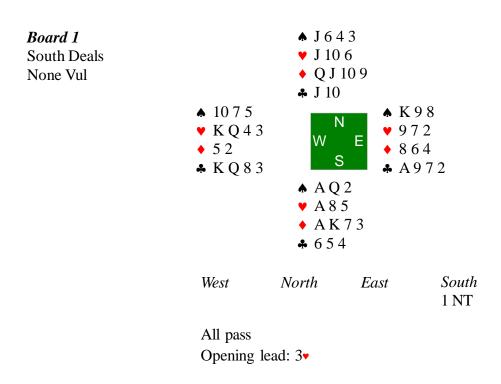
Bidding in NoTrump

Roger Burrows' Bridge Lesson 1

- 1. 1NT and Pass
- 2. 1NT and Stayman
- 3. 1NT and Jacoby Transfer 1 / 2
- 4. 1NT and Jacoby Transfer 2 / 2
- 5. 1NT and 2S
- 6. 1NT and 3C or 3D
- 7. 1NT and Texas Transfer



Opening 1 NoTrump Responding with a bust hand

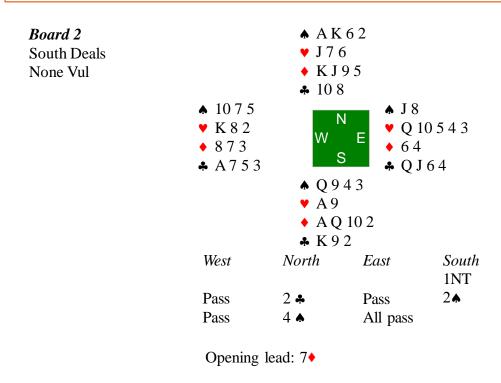


Bidding:

- 1. South has a solid 1 NoTrump opener with 17 HCP, 4-3-3-3, and 7 LTC. She is promising strength and distribution, albeit with no stopper in Clubs.
- 2. South is promising a stopper in 3 suits.
- 3. When South opens 1NT, North is obligated to immediately <u>announce</u> the partnership's NT point range (15-17 HCP for American Standard).
- 4. North has a weak and balanced hand with 6 HCP, 4-4-3-2, 11 LTC. Even opposite the strongest 1 NoTrump opener, it's likely not enough for game.

- 1. West makes a standard opening lead -- 4th from longest and strongest.
- 2. Sadly for the defense, it gives declarer a second Heart trick.
- 3. Now South has 2 Hearts, 4 Diamonds, and the A♠, plus a working finesse on the K♠.

Responding to 1 NoTrump with 8+ HCP and a 4-Card Major "Stayman"

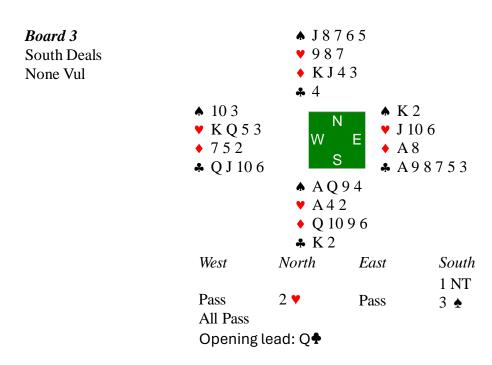


Bidding:

- 1. South opens 1 NoTrump with 15 HCP and 4-4-3-2. North announces 1NT range.
- 2. North responds 2C Stayman showing 8+ HCP and a 4-card Major.
- 3. North has 12 HCP so for sure game-going. North will make <u>forcing</u> bids to game.
- 4. South's rebid is 2S, showing at least 4 Spades.
- 5. North has found a golden fit in Spades and goes directly to game.
- 6. The Stayman convention has done its job by 1) finding the fit in a major and 2) making South the declarer (the strong, 1NT opener).

- 1. Not wanting to start trump, Hearts, or Clubs, West makes a passive lead of "second-down from nothing".
- 2. After a big Diamond, South pulls trump in 3 rounds.
- 3. Declarer takes 4 Spades, 4 Diamonds, the A♥, and a Club ruff.
- 4. The indirect finesse with the K♣ fails, but 4 Spades is made.

Responding to 1 NoTrump with a 5-Card Major "Jacoby Transfer" 1/2

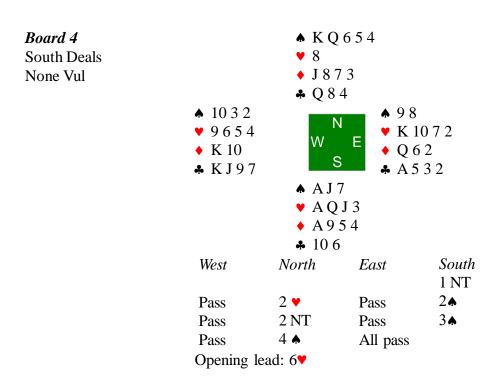


Bidding:

- 1. South opens 1NT with 15 HCP, 4-4-3-2, and 6 LTC.
- 2. North has a weak hand with 5 Spades and 9 LTC. The plan is to transfer South to 2S and leave it.
- 3. For South, the transfer is to her best suit. She has 4 Spades with 2 of the top 3 honors.
- 4. South "super-sizes" her rebid to 3S.
- 5. Although strongly encouraged by partner, North passes.

- 1. West leads from top-of-a-3-card-honor sequence.
- 2. East will take the A♣ and returns the 6♥ to lead toward weakness on the board.
- 3. South takes the A♥, and cashes the K♣ with a Heart pitch from dummy.
- 4. South must lose a Club, a Diamond, and a Heart.
- 5. South will get to dummy by leading small Diamonds.
- 6. The finesse of the King of trumps then succeeds, and declarer makes 10 tricks.

Responding to 1 NoTrump with a 5-Card Major "Jacoby Transfer" 2/2

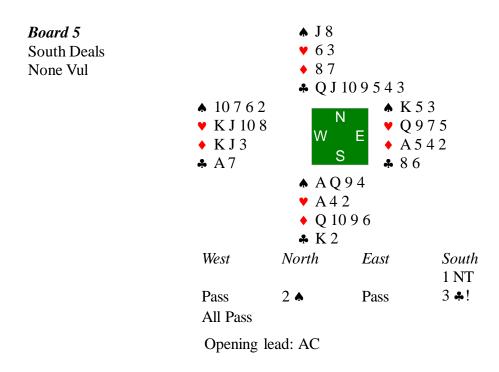


Bidding:

- 1. South opens 1NT with 16 HCP, 4-4-3-2 and 7 LTC. It's correct even with the worthless doubleton in Clubs.
- 2. With 5 Spades, North makes the transfer bid of 2H.
- 3. South completes the transfer by bidding 2S.
- 4. North bids invitational 2NT which shows 8-9 HCP and exactly 5 Spades. South can pass or chose Spades or NT. Remember that South could have 2 Spades only.
- 5. Holding 3 Spades with 2 honors, South jumps to game in Spades.

- 1. With no better plan, West starts second-down from nothing.
- 2. Sadly for the declarer, South must eventually lose 2 Clubs and 2 Diamonds for down one.

Responding to 1 NoTrump with a 2S Bid

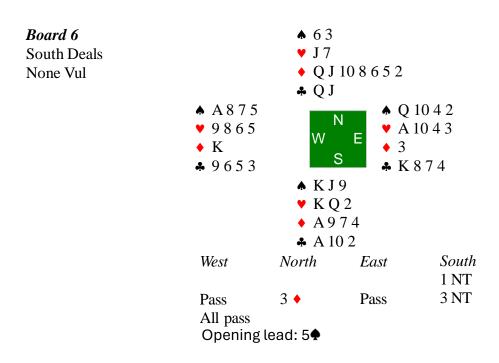


Bidding:

- 1. South opens 1NT with 15 HCP, 4-4-3-2, and 6.5 LTC.
- 2. North has a pitiful few HCP and wants South to declare in Clubs. She bids an artificial 2S, a <u>relay</u> by partnership agreement.
- 3. South must Alert immediately and explain the relay to 3C if asked.
- 4. South completes the relay (aka "a transfer") with 3C.
- 5. North passes. If the long suit was Diamonds, North would bid 3D. The bidding is then over either way.

- 1. It seems unlikely that the defense will trump in on anything.
- 2. West decides to start with the A♣ and followed by the 7♣.
- South will lead the 4♠ toward the J♠.
- 4. East covers with the K♠ and can only take 2 top Diamonds.
- 5. Now South will discard the second Heart in dummy on the second top Spade.
- 6. Declarer makes 10 tricks.

Responding to 1 NoTrump with a 3C or 3D Invite



Bidding:

- 1. South opens with 17 HCP, balanced distribution, and 7 LTC.
- 2. North, with only 7 HCP but long Diamonds, invites to game with a 3D response.
- 3. She expects South to pass with a weak doubleton in Diamonds.
- 4. Because North's 3D bid is natural, South does not owe an Alert to the opponents.
- 5. South has maximum 1NT HCP, and 4 Diamonds with the Ace! She happily bids 3NT.

- 1. West has 2 4-card majors. She picks the 4th down from the longest and strongest.
- 2. After collecting the first Spade, South should lead the A♦ with 11 trump total. The King falls.
- 3. Declarer will run 7 Diamond tricks, pitching a Club and 2 Hearts. This maintains stoppers everywhere.
- 4. South leads the Q♣ from dummy. With the K♣ in East ("on-side"), South only loses the 2 major suit Aces.

Responding to 1 NoTrump with a Texas Transfer

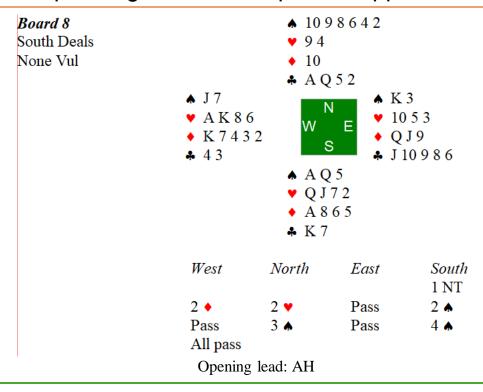
Board 7 **▲** J 10 9 7 6 5 3 **9** 8 7 South Deals A K None Vul **4** 65 **♠** Q **∧** K 8 ♥ KJ10 **6** 5 3 2 **♦** 8752 ◆ J 4 3 ♣ Q9874 ♣ AJ 10 3 **♦** A 4 2 AQ94 ♦ Q 10 9 6 ♣ K 2 North South West East 1 NT 4 🌲 Pass Pass All pass Opening lead: 7♣

Bidding:

- 1. South opens 1NT with 15 HCP, 4-4-3-2, and 6 LTC.
- 2. Opposite 1NT, North knows the hand will be played at 4 Spades. There is no way to find enough for slam interest, and nothing short of game in Spades will do.
- 3. North bids 4♥, a Texas Transfer to 4♠ from South.
- 4. This cuts off a chance for East to bid at a low level and find some lucky suit-fit.
- 5. South completes the transfer to 4♠.

- 1. West leads 4th from her long suit.
- 2. East collects her Ace. It would be standard to return the J♣, but look at the dummy's distribution. Declarer might work out a sluff of a Heart on a Diamond.
- 3. East switches to the 5♥, second from nothing. Partner is also looking at dummy and will understand the switch.
- South goes up with the A♥ and leads a small Diamond.
- 5. South unblocks Diamonds in 2 rounds from dummy and leads the J♠.
- 6. East ducks with 8♠. If South has the A♠ and Q♠, at least make South guess about the K♠. There is no advantage in "covering an honor with an honor" here.
- 7. South plays the A♠ and the Q♠ falls from West.
- 8. South plays the Q♦ and pitches the last Heart from the board.
- 9. South loses only the A♣ and the King of trump, making 11 tricks.

Responding to 1 NoTrump After Opponent's Interfere



Bidding:

- 1. South opens 1NT with 16 HCP, 4-3-3-2, and 6 LTC.
- West overcalls 2. Opponents love to interfere with 1NT! North should ask East what understanding they have about that bid. Typically, it's Diamonds and a biddable major.
- 3. North's understanding with Partner is "Systems on over". Our bids mean the same as if the overcall never happened. 2♥ is a transfer to Spades, announced by South.
- 4. Note: If West had overcalled with the bid North wanted to make, she would double. The double has a special meaning of "stolen bid". South should "Alert".
- 5. South completes the transfer with 2♠.
- 6. North's hand is strong enough for game unless South has a worthless Spade doubleton. North invites game and South is happy to raise to 4♠.

Play of the Hand:

- West will cash the A-K♥ and try a Diamond.
- Declarer wins, crosses to dummy, and finesses for the K♠. It wins, and South takes 11 tricks when trump splits.

Notes:

- 1. Our recommended HCP range for 1NT is 15-17 HCP, 20-21 HCP for a 2NT opener, and 25-27 HCP for a 3NT opener.
- 2. Stayman and Jacoby Transfer conventions apply after a 2NT opener.