

# HSOG Bridge

## Bidding for Feb 2021 Peggy Bayer



### General System

- Weak NT (12-14)
- Four card majors
- Three weak twos
- Standard attitude in defence

### 1NT opening

- Can have a weak five card major or a weak six card minor
- Responder bids:
  - *Stayman* 2C with 11+ and a four card major
  - *Transfer* 2D/2H with 0+ and a five card major
  - 2NT invitational with 11-12
  - **3C/3D/3H/3S with 16+ and a good suit**

### Other NT openings

- Stayman and transfers apply whenever the partnership's first natural bid is NT, i.e.
  - 1NT opening (12-14) and 2NT opening (20-22)
  - 1NT overcall (15-17) and 2NT overcall (about 16-20)
  - 2NT rebid after a 2C opening (23-24)

### They open 1NT

- Double is penalties (any hand stronger than their 1NT opener)  
Partner normally leaves in the double, only escapes with a weak hand with a long suit
- Other overcalls of their 1NT are natural two level overcalls

### Suit openings

- 1C/1D/1H/1S openings all about 12-19 with at least a four card suit  
Open the lower of two four card suits, the higher of two five card suits
- Rebid NT with 15-17 balanced, jump rebid 2NT with 18-19 balanced
- Respond 1NT with 6-9, respond 1 suit with 6+, respond at 2 level with 10+
- **The 2H response to a 1S opening promises 5+ Hearts (else bid NT)**
- **Reverse with 16+ only**

### 2C opening

- Any hand with 23+ or game in your own hand  
Then rebid 2NT (23-24) or show your suit
- Responder usually bids 2D, except with a very good suit of his own

### Weak openings

- 2D/2H/2S all 5-9 with six card suit
- 3C/3D/3H/3S all 5-9 with seven card suit (or six with really good shape)

- Open at 4 level with eight card suit (or seven with really good shape)
- Responder raises with trump support even with weak hand  
Responder bids a new suit or NT only with a very good hand

## Overcalls

- At the one level, 8+ and at least a five card suit
- At the two level, 10+ and at least a five card suit
- Jump overcalls are weak
- Responding to overcall: weak raises, *cuebid* with good hand, new suits forcing, NT needs strength
- **Overcalls (and doubles) may be made a bit lighter when *re-opening***

## Double

- Doubles of their NT bids are always penalty  
Partner normally leaves it in, escapes with a weak hand with a long suit
- If one partner has a well defined hand (made a pre-empt or NT bid) partners doubles are penalty
- Otherwise, doubles of low suit bids (1C-3S) are takeout
- Double is normally any opening hand short in their suit  
But also any really good hand with 16+ should double then bid a suit
- Responding to a double: normally bid your best suit, jump with 10+, NT needs strength  
Responder can pass the take out double to defend if he has lots of trumps
- Double of their artificial bids show you have that suit (e.g. doubling Stayman shows Clubs)

## Competitive auction

- If they double/overcall a raise of partner's suit is pre-emptive; weak hand lots of trumps
- With a genuine raise of partner's suit *cuebid* the enemy suit, which is always forcing

## Blackwood

- After a suit bid, 4NT asks for Aces (5C=0/4, 5D=1 etc.)  
Follow up bid 5NT asks for Kings (6C=0/4, 6D=1 etc.)
- But 4NT immediately after another NT bid is a natural invite to 6NT (e.g. 2NT-4NT)

## Defensive Carding

- Standard attitude – play a high spot-card to encourage a suit  
Applies when partner lead's a suit (e.g. cashes an Ace) and also on your first *discard*
- **Play high-low with an even number on declarer's lead**

## Defensive Leads

- Opening leads vs NT are normally fourth highest from longest and strongest suit
- Opening leads vs suit contracts can also be doubleton or singleton
- Lead top of touching honour e.g. KQ3, follow suit with lowest e.g. KQ3
- Lead
  - high from a doubleton e.g. 92 or Q3
  - low from an honour e.g. K32
  - middle-up-down (MUD) from three small 873
  - second highest from four small e.g. 9843