



## Lesson 50 Teacher's Notes

### Quantitative No-Trump Bidding

#### Aims

- To revise bidding in no-trump auctions
- To refine hand evaluation of balanced hands
- To introduce the Quantitative NT Raises to 4NT and 5NT and how to bid over them

#### Content

- 1) Revise NT auctions based on the point count

When partner opens 1NT or 2NT he shows a balanced hand with a specific point range.

We add our points to partner's to decide the level at which to play

With two balanced hands we estimate our combined resources like this:

We need at least a combined 25 HCP to make a game 3NT

We need at least a combined 33 HCP to make a small slam 6NT

We need at least a combined 37 HCP to make a Grand Slam 7NT

So when partner opens 1NT and we have a balanced hand we bid like this:

0-10 HCP Not enough HCP for game, so **Pass**.

11-12 HCP Enough for game opposite 14, not enough opposite 12 so **2NT**, an invitational raise

13-18 HCP Enough for game, not enough for slam, so **3NT**

19-20 HCP Enough for game, maybe enough for slam if partner has 14, so **4NT**, inviting slam

21-22 HCP Enough for 6NT, not enough for 7NT, so **6NT**

23-24 HCP Enough for 6NT, maybe for 7NT, so **5NT**, forcing to 6NT inviting 7NT

25-28 HCP Opponents do not have much! **7NT**

*(Remind the class that you can make the same bids after using Stayman or Major suit transfers.)*

- 2) Introduce the term **quantitative no-trump bids** to describe the 4NT and 5NT responses to opening bids of 1(2)NT. Their meaning is "Pass if you are minimum, bid on if you are not minimum"  
Emphasise that in 'no fit' no-trump auctions 4NT is NOT Blackwood.

1♥ 2♣ 1♥ 1♠

2NT 4NT 2NT 4NT .

In auctions where no suit is agreed, opener makes a **limit rebid** in NT and responder is unlimited

The jump to 4NT shows a balanced hand with the right points for slam if partner is maximum.

4NT is the Blackwood ace-asking bid only **when your side has agreed a suit to play in**.

**If no suit has been agreed** a raise to 4NT is **quantitative**.

- 3) Look at Hand Evaluation in no-trump

We have never told the 1NT opener what to do with 13 points: is this minimum or maximum?

When you are middle of the range bid on with

- a source of tricks (a good 5-card suit or two 4-card suits with honours/intermediaries))
- good **intermediates** (tens and nines are useful)

Pass with the barren 4-3-3-3 distribution, scattered unsupported honours, and no intermediate cards



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- 4) Illustrate how you may make slam in a 4-4 fit when you cannot make 12 tricks in NT.  
At game level we usually play in 3NT or 4 of a major, because we need just 9 tricks to make 3NT, 10 to make 4 of a major. We are reluctant to play in 5 of a minor, which needs 11 tricks.  
When partner opens 1NT we look for an 8-card fit in a major, failing which we usually play in NT.  
In a small slam we need 12 tricks no matter what the denomination, so we are prepared to play in 6 of a minor when that is best. How can we find a 4-4 minor suit fit for slam?  
By ***bidding 4-card suits upwards*** over the 4NT response.  
If opener decides he is not minimum he can bid his cheaper 4-card suit at the 5-level to see whether partner has support for it or not. Responder raises with 4-card support.  
Without support responder bids a 4-card suit of his own, or 5NT with no available suit  
Either partner can jump to 6 of a 5-card suit in case there is an 8-card fit there  
*(Exactly the same principles apply after the extremely rare 5NT response, but that is forcing to slam, so pass is not an option.)*