



Lesson 29 Teacher's Notes

The Search for the 8-card Fit in a Major

Aims

- To explain the logic underlying the way we bid
- To emphasise the need to keep the bidding simple
- To demonstrate how applied logic works only if we follow the rules

Content

- 1 Remind the class of the basics of our bidding system.
The aim of bidding is to reach the best **denomination** – no-trump, or a suit where the partnership has a **fit** of at least 8 cards.
The 4-4 major suit fit is particularly important: we have an extra trump in each hand to ruff with.
4-4 fits in the minors are less tempting: to make 5♣ or 5♦ you must take 11 tricks, losing only two.
One extra trick from ruffing is not enough to make a 4-4 fit in a minor better than 3NT where you need only 9 tricks.
- 2 Make the point that an opening bid of 1 of a suit is far less precise than a 1NT opening, so further bidding is much more varied.
Revise the opening bid: we open 1 of a suit with hands of 13-19 points unsuitable for 1NT
We bid our longest suit first
 With two 5-card suits we open the higher first
 With two 4-card suits and 15+ points we bid the **major** with a major and a minor
 1♥ with both majors, 1♣ with both minors
We bid this way to be sure of finding a 4-4- major suit fit
We prefer to open 1♥/1♠ rather than 1 of a minor.
With two 4-card majors we open 1♥ **because this makes it easy for partner to bid 1♠.**
If he does not raise hearts, or bid 1♠, we can rebid no-trump, **confident** that we have not missed a 4-4 major suit fit.
- 3 Explain how **both** partners bid 4-card majors upwards at the 1-level
In the search for a major suit fit we bid major suits **upwards** – but with some care.
If, during our exchange of information, partner **misses out** a major at the 1-level, we assume that he does not have 4 cards in it.
If partner had the chance to bid a 4-card major and did not do so - do not bid that major with only 4 cards.
- 4 Emphasise that when opener bids a second suit he passes two messages at once:
His second suit is biddable, hence at least 4-cards long.
His first suit must therefore be longer, at least 5-cards long
(with 4-4 hands we either raise partner or bid no-trump)
Therefore we can support partner's first suit with 3 cards because we have an 8-card fit.