



Lesson 55 Teacher's Notes

Bidding Opponents' Suit

Aims

- To emphasise the differences between Competitive auctions and Uncontested auctions
- To develop bidding skills in the competitive auction
- To stress the importance of **pre-emptive raises in competition**
- To introduce the **cuebid of opponent's suit** as a strength-showing bid.

Content

- 1) Remind the class that bidding is different in competitive auctions:
eg opening bids are based on High Card Points: overcalls are based on Playing Tricks.
When both sides are bidding **playing strength** is what matters, and playing strength is greater when your side has lots of trump.
Explain how it is useful to differentiate between raises based on trump length and those based on high cards: it helps decide whether to sacrifice when opponents bid game or slam.
- 2) Define a **cuebid**: a bid in a suit ***you do not want to play in***.
In a slam auction once a suit is agreed a bid in a new suit is a **control-showing cuebid**.
In competitive auctions a bid of a **suit opponents have bid** is a **strength-showing cuebid**.
It goes without saying that a cuebid is Forcing – it is a bid in a suit you do not want to play in!
- 3) Look at the extra bids that are available when both sides are bidding.
You cannot make a takeout or negative double unless opponents bid.
You can Pass quite freely when you know partner has another chance to bid.
And you can **bid their suit**. This is a **cuebid**, a suit where you cannot possibly want to play.
But it is different from a cuebid in a slam auction.
It is used to show strength but no better alternative action.
- 4) Look at the **cuebid** when they open and partner makes a **takeout double**.
It is the only way to show strength and/or two or more places to play.
It asks partner to bid his best suit so that you can bid again and so reach your best spot.
- 5) Look at the **cuebid** when partner **overcalls**.
You do not need it to show two places to play – you can always bid a good suit of your own.
So we use it to differentiate between different types of raise.
A simple raise shows limited values with 3+card support
A jump raise shows 4+card support and a raise based on distribution rather than high cards – it is a **pre-emptive raise** which suggests that a sacrifice might be a good idea.
A sound raise with high cards is shown by the **unassuming cuebid**.
Cue-bidding their suit shows **a raise based on high card strength**. It says you think partner will make his contract and advises against a sacrifice.