



## Lesson 8 Teacher's Notes

### Aims

- To emphasise the importance of a system
- To demonstrate how knowing the meaning of a bid allows us to make logical deductions

### Content

- 1 Emphasise the importance of **limiting** your hand: “**Never lie about your strength**”  
Demonstrate how easy it is to make deductions when you **know** partner's strength
- 2 **Balanced** and **unbalanced** hands  
A balanced hand is one of these shapes: 4-3-3-3, 4-4-3-2, 5-3-3-2. Any other shape is not “balanced”  
A **doubleton** (two cards in a suit) can exist in both balanced and unbalanced hands  
**Singletons** (one card in a suit) and **Voids** (no cards in a suit) always mean the hand is unbalanced
- 3 To open **1NT** the hand must be both balanced **and** with the correct point count
- 4 Opening **one of a suit**. Revision of which suit to open and more detail  
“**We open our longest suit**” with unequal length.  
With two 5-card suits, (or two 6-card suits) we *always* open the higher-ranking suit  
(One exception, with ♣/♠ open a club to help bidding development)  
With two 4-card suits we **normally** open the higher:  
    with 4-4 in ♠ + ♣ we open 1 ♠;  
    with 4-4 in ♠ + ♦ we open 1 ♠  
    with 4-4 in ♥ + ♣ we open 1 ♥  
    with 4-4 in ♥ + ♦ we open 1 ♥  
BUT: with 4-4 in both majors or both minors we open the **lower**  
    with 4-4 in ♠ + ♥ we open 1 ♥  
    with 4-4 in ♦ + ♣ we open 1 ♣  
  
(With three 4-card suits, a 4-4-4-1 shape, there are special rules  
    in brief, a 4-4-4-1 hand with both **black** suits opens 1 ♣  
    a 4-4-4-1 hand with both **red** suits opens 1 ♥  
        with 4-4-4 in ♠+♥+♦ open 1 ♥  
        with 4-4-4 in ♥+♦+♣ open 1 ♥  
        with 4-4-4 in ♠+♦+♣ open 1 ♣  
        with 4-4-4 in ♠+♥+♣ open 1 ♣  
There is no need to introduce this yet unless someone asks!)
- 5 **Responses** to an opening bid of 1 of a suit. (Revision from Lesson 7)  
With 6-9 points we have a minimum response.  
    We bid 2 of partner's suit with 4+-card trump support (limit raise)  
    With 4 or more cards in a suit we can bid at the 1-level we bid that  
    Otherwise we bid 1NT  
Higher bids mean we have more than minimum points