



Lesson 57 Teacher's Notes

The 1NT Response

Aims

- To learn how to cope with weak responding hands with no ideal bid – 1NT, a 3-card raise, or the weaker-than-normal 2-level response with a long suit and extreme distribution
- To revise opener's rebid after a 1NT response, and look at further bidding
- To introduce the weak takeout into responder's lower-ranking suit

Content

- 1) Revise the 1NT response: 6-9 HCP *without 4-card support for a major*, and *without a 4-card major that you could bid at the one-level*. (Re-emphasise the importance of bidding 4-card majors in the search for the 4-4 fit)
- 2) Look at hands where 1NT has to be bid on unbalanced hands.
Over 1♠ 1NT is the only possible weak response and may often be unbalanced, particularly with a Singleton spade.
Over 1♥ 1NT denies 4 spades but will often be short in hearts and have a long minor.
Over 1♦ 1NT will be more balanced, though it may have 5 or 6 clubs
Over 1♣ 1NT is normally balanced, 4-3-3-3 with a 4-card minor and limited values
Raise clubs or bid 1♦ with less balanced hands with Quick Tricks
- 3) Look at alternatives to 1NT with weak unbalanced hands: the 3-card raise of partner's major, or bidding a 7-card suit at the 2-level with normally insufficient values. Rebidding the suit at the first opportunity shows this type of hand.
- 4) Look at opener's rebid after a 1NT response.
An unbalanced hand can rebid a lower-ranking suit to show 5-4 in the suits bid and look for a fit.
Responder can give *false preference* to a doubleton, or pass, or raise the new suit with 4 cards.
He can bid a long suit of his own to show a hand not strong enough to respond at the 2-level.
He can also bid a long suit, nonforcing when opener raises 1NT to 2NT with a balanced 17-18 HCP

Opener's rebid of the suit he opened promises at least 6 cards
We do not normally bid a higher-ranking suit in search of a fit, because by bidding 1NT partner has already denied 4 cards in it.
eg 1♥ - 1NT - 2♠ is either 5-6 or a game try in hearts
- 5) Look at the development of the auction. A non-minimum opener may bid out his shape, looking for the best place to play.