BRIDGE – INTERMEDIATE LESSONS I – 39

Bidding When You Are a "*Previously-Passed*" Hand

1. **A new suit response to an opening bid by a "*previously-passed*" Partner is *not* forcing. 3rd or 4th position Opener knows that you had previously "*passed*;" and that you, therefore, hold fewer than 12-13 HCP's. He/she can, therefore, make an informed decision as to whether or not any furtherance to the bidding is necessary.**

Example:	East (You)	West (3rd Position Opener) AKXXX QXX QXXX X
	Pass	1S
	2H	?? (With fewer than 14 HCP's, West can "*pass*" since Game is unlikely.)

2. **Unless a Partnership is utilizing weak jump-responses, a jump-shift by a "*previously-passed*" Partner evidences the point count just short of an opening bid.**

Examples:	South (You)	North
	Pass	1C
	??	

You Hold: (a) AKXX XXX JXX XXX (Bid 1S, a Jump to 2S would show 11-12 HCP's)

(b) AKXX XX JXX KXXX (Bid 2S, evidencing 11-12 HCP's.)

3. **In competition, with you having "*previously-passed*" with almost opening count, and with primary support for Partner, who has overcalled in 3rd position, make a *cue-bid* of the Opponent's suit in response to Partner's overcall. It shows 11-12 support points for Partner.**

Example:	South (You)	West	North	East
	Pass	1H	2C	Pass
	????			

You Hold: KQT XX QXX ATXXX (Bid "2H" to show Club support and just short of opening count.)

4. **With a 4-4-4-1 or a 5-4-4-0 shape, a "*previously-passed*" hand should "*double*" for Take-Out even with as few as 9 HCP's, if the Opponent's suit is your singleton or void.**

Examples:	South (You)	West	North	East
	Pass	Pass	Pass	1H
	??			

You Hold: (a) KJXX X KXXX KXXX ("*Double*" for Take-Out.)

(b) KJXX - KXXXX QXX ("*Double*" for Take-Out.)

(c) KXXX X KXXX QXXX ("*Double*" for Take-Out – It is close enough.)

(d) KXX JXXX AXXX QX ("*Pass*" - You have 4 Cards in the Opponent's suit; i.e., the wrong shape.)

5. **A *direct* overcall of "1-NT", by a "*previously-passed*" hand, after a Major suit opening by the Opponent's, is "Unusual" for the Minors. It is the same as a direct "2-NT" overcall by a hand that had *not* previously "*passed*."** You Hold: X X QJXXXX AJXXX

Examples:	South	West (You)	North	East
(a)	1S	??	(Bid "2-NT" – "Unusual" for the Minors. A 1-NT bid would have been natural; i.e., 15-18 HCP's.)	
(b) (alternatively)		Pass	Pass	Pass
	1S	??	(Bid "1-NT" – "Unusual" for the Minors.)	

Do not confuse (b) above with a "*Pass-out*" (4th-seat),"Balancing" 1-NT which evidences a balanced, or semi-balanced, hand (because, oft times, it might contain two doubletons), with as few as 9-14 HCP's, (a stopper in the Opponent's bid suit is not mandatory), usually denying the distributional requirements for a Take-Out Double, and done in desperation so as not to let the hand to be "*passed-out*" at a low-level. You Hold: AXX KJX QXXX QXX

Example:	South	West	North	East
				P
(a)	1H	P	P	??

(Bid 1-NT - Balancing, and natural. A Balancing "2-NT" would have been "*Unusual*" for the Two Lower-Un-bid suits.)

SUMMARY OF NO-TRUMP OPENINGS AND OVERCALLS:

1B = 1C or 1D or 1H or 1S

(a) **Opening Bid:**

?? (S.A.) 1-NT = Natural, 15-17 HCP's
(ACOL) 1-NT = Natural, 12-14 HCP's
2-NT = Natural, 21-22 HCP's
3-NT = "Gambling" 9-11 HCP's

(b) **Direct(2nd Seat) Overcall:**

1B ?? 1-NT = Natural, 15-18 HCP's
"2-NT"= "Unusual" (5-5)
(2-Lower Un-Bid suits)

(c) **Balancing (4th Seat) Overcall:**

1B P P ?? 1-NT = Natural, 10-14 HCP's
"Double"/1-NT = Natural, 15-17 HCP's
2-NT= Balanced, 19-20 HCP's

(The "Unusual 2-NT" does not exist in the Balancing {4th] seat)

(d) **By a "*Previously-Passed*" Hand in the Direct (2nd) Position:**

P "1-NT" = "Unusual"
P 1B ??? (2-NT = A non-existent bid)

(e) **By a "*Previously-Passed*" Hand when Partner has Opened:**

P 1-NT = Natural, 6-10 HCP's
1B P ??? 2-NT = Natural, 11-2 HCP's over a Minor suit opening

(f) **Following a weak 2-Bid or 3-Bid By an Opponent:**

2B/3B ??? 2-NT = Natural, 15-17 HCP's
3-NT = Natural, to play, game, or near game values

6. **After an intervening overcall over your Partner's opening bid, and assuming you to be a "*previously-passed*" hand, the cue-bid of the Overcaller's suit substitutes for a limit raise showing 11-12 HCP's, the simple raise is natural showing 6-10 HCP's, and the jump-raise becomes pre-emptive.**

Examples:	South(You)	West	North	East
	Pass	Pass	1H	2C
	??			

You Hold: (a) XX AQXX KJXX JXX (Bid "3C" - a cue-bid to show a limit raise, 11-12 HCP's in support of Hearts.)
(b) XX AQXX XXXX JXX (Bid 2H, natural.)
(c) QXX QXXX KXX JXX (Bid 3H - Pre-emptive.)