

Correct the Bidding Error(s) - 5

- 1 -

A North

K53
86
AKQ987 N S
A2 1D 1S
 3D 4D
South 5D P

T976
AQ4
T53
843

B North

A
KT97
AQ65 N S
AQJ9 1D 1H
 4H P

South
K7
AQ843
KJ74
65

C North

N S
1H 1S
2D 3D
3-NT P

South
KT98
5
QT754
J76

D North

K7
A5
AQJ85 N S
KJ74 1D 1H
 2C 2D
 P

South
AJ8
KQ62
T9873
8

E North

K862
5
AQ9 N S
AK862 1C 1H
 1S 3-NT
 P

South
A7
AK74
863
Q974

F North

K862
QJT
5 N S
AK862 1C 1H
 1S “2D”
 3C 3-NT
 P

South
AQJ
K742
863
Q97

G North

AJ8
A86
432 N S
AT87 1C 1D
 1-NT 3D
South P

KQ6
753
AKQT76
9

H North

T72
8
AKJ86 N S
AQ85 1D 1H
 2C 2H
South P

K864
AT973
52
97

I North

AK742
75
K2 N S
KJ85 1S 1-NT
 P

South

Answers

- 2 -

- A) *A jump, by Opener, in his opening suit shows a 6-card holding with 16-18 HCP's, and is not forcing. If it had been a jump-shift into a new suit, it would, opposite Responder's minimum of 6 +HCP's, have been forcing to game.*

Here, holding values which, together with Opener's perceived maximum of 18 HCP's falls short of those necessary for a realistic game-level contract, South must "Pass" Opener's 3D Re-bid.

- B) *When Partner, who has opened the bidding, jumps to game opposite Responder's thus-far presumed minimum of 6 HCP's, Opener is evidencing a holding of 20 HCP's, its equivalent, or more. If Responder holds opening values or more, he/she must take control of the bidding and explore for a possible Slam-Level contract.*

Opener's jump to game is not a "sign-off", and South, as Responder, in this instance, becomes the "Captain." The bidding, here, should have proceeded:

1D – 1H – 4H – "4-NT" – "5S" – "5-NT" – "6D" – 6H - Pass

- C) *When Responder holds the barest of values which has enabled him/her to make an initial response other than a "Pass," and Opener, absent a jump-shift, shows a maximum of 18 HCP's, Responder must not encourage any further bidding.*

South, here, must "Pass" Opener's re-bid of 2D, not bid 3D! If South bids once again, Opener might easily proceed to 3-NT with as few as 16 HCP's. Responder, under such circumstances, should not take a second bid with fewer than 9 (+) HCP's.

- D) *With extra values, Opener must take positive action so as to insure that if Responder holds more than the barest of minimum values, that a game-level contract will not be missed.*

North should not "Pass" on his/her 3rd chance to bid, rather should call 2-NT or 3D, both of which would encourage Responder to seek a game-level contract if holding the top of his/her minimum response. Responder, at this point, should be able to assist in finding the appropriate final contract. The bidding, here, should proceed as follows:

1D – 1H – 2C – 2D – 3D – 3NT – Pass

- E) *Oft times, Responder, holding game values is looking for a 3-NT contract but is unsure as to whether or not the Partnership holds at least one stopper in the as-yet, un-bid suit. A leap to 3-NT might be correct, but absent a stopper in the suit in question, such a contract might be a disaster. Mark time with an artificial "4th suit forcing to game," sometimes called a "Western Cue-Bid". This forces to game, in most Partnerships, and asks Partner for a stopper in the specific 4th suit bid. Absent this requirement the Partnership can avoid the wrong spot of 3-NT. If Opener bids anything other than 3-NT, thereby denying a stopper, the Partnership can seek an alternative Minor suit final game-level contract.*

Here, the bidding should proceed:

1C – 1H – 1S – "2D" – 3NT - Pass

Had North not held a Diamond stopper, the bidding might have proceeded as follows:

1C – 1H – 1S – "2D" – 3C – 5C - Pass

F) *Once again, we look at a “Western Cue-Bid” scenario, this time where we find that Opener does not hold a stopper in Diamonds, the suit in question.*

North recognizes the forcing 4th suit artificial call of “2D” from South as seen in “E” above. Absent a Diamond stopper for the invited 3-NT contract that South was looking for, North must bid something other than 3-NT. The bidding, here, would proceed as follows:

1C – 1H – 1S – “2D” – 3C – 5C - Pass

G) *South need not bid 3D (invitational to game), rather should call 3-NT directly.* Firstly, with opening values opposite Partner’s opening bid, game is likely. Secondly, South should resist the obvious temptation to re-bid his/her Diamond suit. When South tables the Dummy hand and Partner gets the first glimpse of the probable 6 tricks in the Diamond suit, he/she will be charmed. Except in extreme cases, a nine-trick 3-NT game-level contract is preferable to an 11-trick game in either Minor suit.

The bidding in this instance should proceed as follows:

1C – 1D – 1NT – 3NT – Pass

H) *When you, as Responder to Partner’s limited holding, sense a misfit and hold less than game values,, seek to end the bidding as soon as possible.*

A re-bid of 2H by South risks playing opposite a singleton or a void, and should only be done with minimum values and a suit consisting of 6 or more pieces, not 5. A bid of 2S would be considered a “Reverse”, and a “Reverse “by Responder evidences opening count or better, and is forcing to Game, and that bid is sure to drag the Partnership, in this case, beyond a level that could conceivably be made. Since Opener probably holds at least 5-Diamonds, a false preference to 2D, here, is the least of all possible evils and is designed to quickly end the auction.

1D – 1H – 2C – 2D – Pass

I) *Holding nine or more cards distributed between two suits, Opening Bidder, should, at least without further input from Responder, be reluctant to wind up, at least initially, in a No-Trump contract.*

North, here, must bid 2C, not “Pass” on his/her first re-bid! Because North’s pattern is unbalanced, and especially when holding minimum values, he/she should try, at least initially, for a suit contract. South can then “Pass,” raise Clubs, return to Spades, or, holding six or more pieces of either red suit, bid two of either one, which North must then “Pass,” else with opening values, Responder can also choose to proceed to a 3-No-Trump contract.

Remember, any one Player in a Partnership must not singularly decide on the final contract unless he/she is armed with the knowledge of full understanding as to Partner’s strength and distribution. In the final analysis, it should be a joint effort with the final decision made by the Partner who first knows everything about Partner’s holding; i.e., the “Captain.”