

Correct the Bidding Error(s) - 6

- 1 -

A North
 KJ7532
 Q4
 Q83 S N
 A7 1H 1S
 2D 2S
 P
South
 T9
 AK753
 AK64
 32

B North
 98
 KT975
 AQ5 N S
 AJ9 1H 2H
 P
South
 K76
 Q84
 J987
 864

C North
 AQ73
 64
 KT652 N S
 K5 1D 2D
 P
South
 JT98
 98
 AQ974
 76

D North
 87
 AQ8
 K9874 N S
 A53 1D 1H
 ???
South
 AJ5
 J962
 62
 8642

E North
 K862
 J3
 AQ9 N S
 AK86 1-NT 2-NT
 P
South
 QT9
 KT9
 KT8
 JT73

F North
 KJ6
 QT9
 62 N S
 KQ862 P 1D
 2C 3C
 P
South
 T9
 AJ
 KT854
 A973

G North
 Q86
 A853
 854 S N
 753 1-NT "2C"
 2S 2-NT
 3-NT P
South
 KJ94
 KJ6
 A76
 AJ8

H North
 K874
 KQ
 AQ876 N S
 J9 1D 1H
 1S 3-NT
 P
South
 A9
 A9752
 KT32
 Q7

I North
 AQJ2
 AK
 K2 N S
 T7642 1C 2C
 2-NT P
South
 963
 98
 Q84
 AKJ53

Answers

- 2 -

A) A jump re-bid, by a Responder, into Responder's first bid suit, is invitational and shows a 6-card suit and 11-12 HCP's. A non-jump re-bid is weak (6+ pieces and 6-8 HCP's).

North, here, should have re-bid **3S**, not **2S**! South would then have known that North held invitational values, was inviting to game, and South could then either "Pass," bid **4S**, or **3-NT**.

In this instance, South would accept the invitation and bid **4S**.

B) Even holding "primary" support for Partner's opening suit, some very weak hand With 5-7 HCP's, (10 Losers or more), especially ones with a 4-3-3-3 distribution, are too weak to support Opener directly. Better to bid 1-NT and, if given the opportunity to bid again then support Partner at the 2-Level on Responder's first re-bid.

South, here, should first bid **1-NT**! With this rag of a hand, ten Losers for those who play "LTC" ("Losing Trick Count"), South needs to discourage Partner by first bidding **1-NT**. Even opposite most 19 HCP hands held by Opener, this holding will, often, not produce game.

C) When playing the Standard American system of bridge (5-card Majors), it is imperative that both Opener and Responder bid "Up-the-Ladder"; i.e., never by-passing any 4-card suit, especially a Major holding. To not do so is to invite the possibility of missing a Major suit "Golden (8-card) Fit". This holds true even if there be a "Golden-Fit" in one of the Minor suits.

Before supporting the Diamonds, here, South should first bid **1S**! It is imperative that South temporarily suppresses Diamond support, here, in favor of attempting to find a fit for his/her 4-card Major suit, Spades in this instance. If Partner denies Spade support, say, by next bidding **2C** or **1-NT**, South can then support the Diamond suit at his/her next bidding opportunity.

The bidding, here, would proceed: **1D – 1S – 2S – Pass**

D) As Opener, when holding minimum opening count values and an evenly-balanced hand, do not let the absence of apparent stoppers prevent you from re-bidding 1-NT on your first re-bid.

Bid **1-NT** here, even devoid of a Spade stopper! You cannot "Pass" a new suit bid by Responder. You must not re-bid this poor-quality 5-card Diamond suit, and you cannot support Partner's perceived 4-card Heart suit, holding only 3-pieces. Disregard the lack of a Spade stopper and re-bid **1-NT**. If No-Trump becomes the final contract, trust that Partner will, hopefully, have a Spade stopper, and if not, then the Opponents still have to find that fact out.

The bidding, here, would proceed: **1D – 1H – 1NT – Pass**

E) So-called "Intermediaries" (9's and 10's), are significant cards when held in combination with honors in the same suits. Give them significant status when bidding marginal hands, especially when considering No-Trump contracts.

South, here, should bid **3-NT**, here, not **2-NT**! Even though the Partnership may have only 24-25 HCP's, South's hand is worth much more than 9 HCP's, especially in a No-Trump contract. All four tens may be significant, and even the nine of Spades may be, as well.

North, with a maximum 17 HCP's, should have accepted South's **2-NT** invitational bid in any event.

F) A 2-Level, new suit response by a previously-passed Partner is not forcing as it would be by a similar bid made by a Partner who had not previously passed.

South, here, should “**Pass**,” Opener’s re-bid of **2C**. Opener, here, had previously passed, and, therefore, cannot hold more than 12 HCP’s, and might possibly hold even fewer. If South bids again the Partnership might get too high! South, knowing this, and absent any competitive pressure from the Opponents, should not bid any further.

The bidding here should have proceeded as follows:

P – 1D – 2C - Pass

G) A Responder to any opening 1-NT by Partner must never use Stayman unless he/she is able to sensibly handle all three possible responses (“2D”, 2H, or 2S) which Opener might make, once Stayman is initiated.

North, here, must “**Pass**”! It is certainly tempting to bid “**2C**”, invoking Stayman, looking for an 8-card Major suit fit in either Hearts or Spades. If Opener were to respond **2H** or **2S**, North would “**Pass**,” and be a hero. But, alternatively, if Opener lacks a 4-card Major and were to respond “**2D**”, North would then be stuck. If North were to then try to escape the dilemma by bidding **2-NT**, Opener, South, with a maximum 16 or 17 HCP’s, would accept the perceived invitation and bid a hopeless **3-NT** contract.

H) When you know there is game in a hand, but you are not certain where the game contract lies, temporize and bring Partner into the decision-making process.

South, here, by bidding “**2C**” (“**4th suit forcing**”), is asking for a Club stopper for a hoped-for final **3-NT** contract. South knows that a game contract is certainly probable, for Opener has shown opening count, and that coupled with Responder’s 13 HCP’s should likely suffice to make a game-level contract somewhere; but where?

If Opener, North, had a Club stopper, as he/she did not, he/she would have bid **3-NT**. By re-bidding **3D**, Opener now denies holding a Club Stopper, and leaves it to South to place the final contract, which South does at **5D**.

The bidding, here, should proceed: **1D – 1H – 1S – “2C” – 3D – 5D - Pass**

I) When Responder holds the top of his/her limited first response, and is invited to game by Opener, Responder must accept the invitation and proceed to game.

North, here, must be interested in game else he/she would have “**Passed**” South’s **2C** limited response. Since South is at the top of his/her limited response and could hardly have a better holding for his/her single raise, he/she should accept the invitation and bid **3-NT**!

The bidding, here, would proceed: **1C – 2C – 2NT – 3NT – Pass**