

Correct the Bidding Error(s) - 7

- 1 -

**A** North

K965  
K  
Q875     S     N  
A973     1H     1S  
          2H     2-NT  
South     P

A7  
AQ9642  
3  
QT86

**B** North

Q8  
AT  
K85     N     S  
KQT942     1C     1H  
          2C     P

South

A76  
K962  
973  
A86

**C** North

A98  
K73  
542     N     S  
AK85     1C     1D  
          1-NT     5D  
South     P

K76  
962  
AKQT73  
J

**D** North

AQ84  
8  
K9874     N     S  
A64     1D     1H  
          1S     2C  
South     P

76  
KT962  
J  
KT852

**E** North

62  
AKJ32  
98     N     S  
AK86     1H     1S  
          2C     3C  
          5C

South

J753  
Q  
KT94  
QT73

**F** North

K4  
AKT97  
62     N     S  
K986     1H     1S  
          2C     2S  
          3S     P

South

QJT632  
Q  
KT  
T732

**G** North

J6  
AK952  
KJ84     S     N  
73     1C     1H  
          4H     P

South

AK87  
QJ64  
A  
AJ86

**H** North

A72  
K6  
AQJ72     N     S  
AK6     1D     1S  
          3C     3-NT  
South     P

South

QJ986  
Q52  
K85  
T7

**I** North

AQJ4  
AQ5  
K2     N     S  
T763     1-NT     "2D"  
          2H     3-NT  
South     4H     P

South

K983  
KJ964  
94  
AJ

## Answers

**A) When both Opener and Responder hold invitational values, especially in misfit scenarios, game level contracts should be avoided.** Opener, here, should re-bid **3C**, not “Pass” Responder’s

invitational **2-NT** call. It would suggest a minimum opening count with 6-Hearts and 4-Clubs. Partner knows you have opening count, and his/her invitational bid of **2-NT** shows no more than 11-12 HCP’s, with fewer than 2 Hearts. South’s bid of **3C** is a rejection of a game-level contract, and is not forcing. Responder can either “Pass,” or bid “**3H**”, but a contract of **3-NT** must be avoided at all cost.

The correct bidding, here, should be: **1H – 1S – 2H – 2NT – 3C – Pass**

**B) Responder, South, holding invitational values (11-12 HCP’s), should take a second bid, even if Opener has shown minimum values. Opener may hold a maximum of his/her “minimum” values (13-14 HCP’s), and game might still be feasible.**

South, here, must bid again with his/her 11 HCP’s. Game is possible should Opener hold the top of his/her opening count. South should bid **3C**! Opener may then “Pass” with a bare minimum opening, but will be encouraged to bid on, perhaps even to **3-NT**, with a maximum of 13-14 HCP’s. In this instance North will accept the invitation and bid **3-NT**.

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

**C) Most hands that make 5 of either Minor suit will also produce 3-NT, or even 4-NT. You, therefore, can achieve the same, or even a better match-point score, with less effort in that you will make nine or ten tricks, instead of eleven.**

In this instance, South should bid **3-NT**, resisting the temptation to bid **5D**. When South tables his/her Dummy at No-Trump, Partner will be elated to see six probable tricks in the Diamond suit.

*Except in extreme cases, which this is not, prefer a 9-trick game in NT, which will, most times, make 4, to an 11-trick game in either Minor suit.*

**D) Some hands do just not fit the mold. In these instances the bidder must pick from amongst several improbable and distasteful choices, since few, if any, good choices exist.**

The re-bid, by South, of **2C** fails to limit his/her miserly strength and almost assuredly prompts Partner to carry the auction too high. A re-bid of **2H** is likely to be a disaster, as well, as Partner has already shown preference for the two other suits, and could have one, or even no Hearts, at all. The best choice, from amongst multiple bad choices is **1-NT**, even though South would prefer a more balanced distribution. A **1-NT** response will assuredly put a termination to an already uncomfortable situation. Furthermore, Opener, not knowing that South’s bid of **2C** was incorrect, should not have “Passed,” as, with only one exception, any new suit bid by Responder is forcing for 1-round.

The bidding, here, should be: **1D – 1H – 1S – 1NT – Pass**

**E) A non-jump second suit re-bid by Opener limits his/her point count to, at most, 18 HCP’s. With marginal values, up to, and including, 8 HCP’s, Responder must be careful not to over-bid his/her HCP values which could result in overbidding by the Partnership.**

This bidding sequence produces a difficult paradox. Opener could hold as many as 18 HCP’s (absent a jump-shift), and in the worst of circumstances, the Partnership could miss an available Game contract. Although this might remotely occur if South were to “Pass”, the chance of your team getting too high is more likely should you, alternatively, bid **3C**. The better, safer, option, here, is to simple “Pass”!

**1H – 1S – 2C – Pass**

**F) A re-bid at the 2-Level by Responder, of his/her first bid suit, following a non-jump second suit re-bid by Opener, is a “drop-dead” sign-off by Responder. It shows minimum values (6-8 HCP’s) and a 6-card, or longer, suit. It carries with it the hidden perception that the hand is better played in Responder’s 6-card suit using Opener’s HCP values, than it would, hypothetically, be to play in one of Opener’s choices using Responder’s Minimum values.**

In this instance, North should simply “Pass” South’s 2S re-bid.

**G) Responders sometimes erroneously perceive that some game-level re-bids by Opener, although seemingly sign-offs, are simply Opener piecing together the minimum number of HCP’s perceived by Responder’s first bid (6 HCP’s) coupled with game values within Opener’s hand. Responder, who might, by chance, hold extra high-card -point values, has every right to seek a more productive final contract when holding the necessary additional HCP’s. A jump to game by Opener in Responder’s suit, after a simple 1-Level response by Responder, is not a “sign off.”**

North should bid 6H, directly, or if somewhat timid, should at least bid “4-NT” if it feels more comfortable going through the motions of **Blackwood**. Opener’s jump to game is not a “sign-off!” Opener, South, is simply acting upon the knowledge that from his/her perspective, at this point in the auction, Responder may hold as few as 6 HCP’s for Responder’s bid of 1H. Thus, Responder knows that if this be true, that Opener must hold at least 19-20 HCP’s (or its equivalent), or more, for his/her jump to a game-level contract. Responder, in this situation, should take further action in the hand, and proceed to, or at the very least, explore for, a likely Slam contract.

**H) When a Partnership is in an obvious game-forcing auction, the Partners need not rush to conclude the auction. A slower advance to game might, alternatively, serve the Partnership well by allowing further communication so as to uncover what might be the best achievable contract.**

With Responder, having shown a minimum of 6 HCP’s with his/her first response of 1S, and Opener’s jump-shift evidencing 19 or more HCP’s, the scenario places the Partnership in a game-forcing auction. Under these circumstances each Partner commits to keeping the bidding open until a game-level contract has been reached. South originally showed as few as four Spades, and Opener has denied holding four pieces of Spades by him/her failing to support South’s first Spade call. South, here, can afford to mark time by placing a re-bid of “3H,” (“4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing”). If Opener then responds 3S, holding 3-Spades, South can settle on a final contract of 4S. Opener can, with a Heart stopper bid 3-NT, in which case, South will then “Pass.” If Opener, alternatively, bids 4D, showing fewer than 3-Spades and the lack of a Heart stopper, Responder can then raise to game in the Minor (5D). Patience is a virtue!

**I) In responding to Partner’s opening bid of 1-NT, with hands where Responder holds both, four pieces of one Major suit and five of the other, “Jacoby Transfers” are never used. In this instance, only the “Stayman” Convention is utilized. A 4-4 Major suit fit is usually preferable to a 5-3 Major suit fit, assuming both are present.**

Firstly, South must bid “2C” (“Stayman”) in order to seek a 4-4 fit in either Major suit. If Opener responds with either 2H or 2S, South can clearly raise to the 4-Level in either Major since a Golden Fit will have been uncovered and he/she holds game values. If, alternatively, Opener responds “2D”, showing the absence a 4-card Major suit, South can now jump to 3H (the 3-level of his/her 5-card Major) in order to show game values and promising 5-Hearts, now seeking 3-Hearts from the Opener. In this instance, however, an original “2C” bid by Responder will immediately uncover the 4-4 Spade suit fit, and the optimum 4S contract will be achieved.