

## “New Minor Forcing” (NMF)

“*New-Minor-Forcing*” is recognized as a re-bid by Responder of an alertable, forcing, cue-bid, using the alternate, previously-un-bid, Minor suit as evidenced in the bidding sequence as follows:

**(One of either Minor) – (One of either Major) – (1-NT [or] 2-NT) – (“New” [2<sup>nd</sup>] Minor)**

This bidding sequence shows Responder’s *likely* holding of a 5-card Major suit, although Responder, on rare occasions, might, alternatively, hold a 2-suited hand and, merely, just 4-pieces of the Major suit mentioned. The minimum HCP’s required for Responder to invoke a “*New-Minor-Forcing*” sequence, seeking a possible Major suit fit with Opener, is invitational strength or better; i.e., 11 HCP’s, or more, should Opener’s first re-bid have been 1-NT, and 7 HCP’s, or more, opposite Opener’s re-bid of 2-NT. In either case, Responder’s bid, being likely artificial, is forcing, but here, the similarity ends, in that a “*New Minor Forcing*” sequence opposite Opener’s re-bid of 1-NT, is forcing for only 1-round, as a game-level contract might not be possible; while a “*New Minor Forcing*” sequence opposite Opener’s re-bid of 2-NT, is forcing to game. In either case, Opener’s Re-bids are all alertable!

Opener is now asked to either show, or to disavow 3-card support for Responder’s Major suit, (or to show 4-Hearts, if present, in the case of example “b” (below); as Responder, in this case, has not yet denied the presence of 4-Hearts. Also, Opener has not yet shown the strength of his/her opening count (12-13 HCP’s = a minimum) or (14 HCP’s = a maximum), should Opener’s first re-bid have been 1-NT.

When responding to Responder’s “*New-(2<sup>nd</sup>)-Minor*” when using the “*New-Minor-Forcing*” system, Opener’s third response (????) differs when Responder’s Major suit is Hearts “a” (below), as opposed to when Responder’s Major suit is Spades “b” (below)

- a. One-of-a-Minor – 1H – 1-NT – (New [2<sup>nd</sup>] Minor) - ????
- b. One-of-a-Minor – 1S – 1-NT – (New [2<sup>nd</sup>] Minor) - ????

Opener’s re-bid of 1-NT, in the bidding sequence shown in example “a” *guarantees the absence* of Opener’s hand containing 4-Spades, due to his/her failure to re-bid an obligatory 1S, “*Up-the-Ladder*,” if holding 4-pieces in the Spade suit. Therefore, in this bidding sequence Opener can immediately address whether or not he/she has 3-pieces of Responder’s Heart suit using any one of the “*New-Minor-Forcing*” conventional bids (shown below), since a hypothetical Spade fit is non-existent. In “b,” Opener has not yet denied the presence of a 4-card Heart suit.

### When Opener’s First Re-Bid is 1-NT and When Responder’s Major Suit, First Response, is 1H

| <u>Without 3-card Support<br/>For Responder’s Heart Suit</u> |                  | <u>With 3-card Support<br/>For Responder’s Heart Suit</u> |                  |
|--|------------------|---|------------------|
| <u>Opener</u>  | <u>Responder</u> | <u>Opener</u>   | <u>Responder</u> |
| 1C/1D  | 1H               | 1C/1D   | 1H               |
| 1-NT   | “2D”/“2C”        | 1-NT  | “2D”/“2C”        |
| “2-NT”<br>(with 12-13)                                       |                  | “2H”<br>(with 12-13)                                      |                  |
| “3-NT”<br>(with 14)  |                  | “3H”<br>(with 14)   |                  |
| <b>Pass or 3-NT</b>  |                  | <b>Pass, 3H, or 4H</b>                                    |                  |

(One of either Minor) – 1H – 1-NT – (“New” [2<sup>nd</sup>] Minor) – (“2H,” “3H,” “2-NT” or “3-NT”)

“2H” saying, “*I hold 3-Hearts and a minimum 12-13 HCP’s.*”

“3H” saying, “*I hold 3-Hearts and a maximum 14 HCP’s.*”

“2-NT” saying, “*I hold only 2-Hearts and 12-13 HCP’s.*” or

“3-NT” saying, “*I hold only 2-Hearts and 14 HCP’s.*”

In the bidding sequence shown in example “b,” however, Responder, if holding five Spades and four or five Hearts would necessarily mention Spades first. Since Opener knows that playing the hand in a potential 4-4 or 5-4 Heart fit is preferable to playing in a 5-3 Spade fit, Opener’s first response would address whether he/she does, or does not, hold 4-Hearts in case that information would have relevance for the Responder.

**When Opener’s First Re-Bid is 1-NT and When Responder’s Major Suit, First Response, is 1S**

**Opener’s Responses Without 4-Hearts, but with 3-Spades**

| <u>Opener</u>               | <u>Responder</u> |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1C/1D                       | 1S               |
| 1-NT                        | “2D”/“2C”        |
| “2S” or “2-NT” (with 12-13) |                  |
| “3S” or “3-NT” (with 14)    |                  |
|                             | Pass, 4S         |

**Opener’s Responses Without 4-Hearts but with Only 2-Spades**

| <u>Opener</u>       | <u>Responder</u> |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1C/1D               | 1S               |
| 1-NT                | “2D”/“2C”        |
| “2-NT” (with 12-13) |                  |
| “3-NT” (With 14)    |                  |
|                     | Pass or 3-NT     |

**Opener’s Responses With 4-Hearts and, also, with 3-Spades**

| <u>Opener</u>               | <u>Responder</u>       |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1C/1D                       | 1S                     |
| 1-NT                        | “2D”/“2C”              |
| “2H” (with 12-13)           |                        |
| “3H” (With 14)              |                        |
|                             | Pass, 4H, “2S” or “3S” |
| “3S” or “2-NT” (with 12-13) |                        |
| “4S” or “3-NT” (with 14)    |                        |
|                             | Pass, or 4S            |

**Opener’s Responses With 4-Hearts but with Only 2-Spades**

| <u>Opener</u>               | <u>Responder</u>        |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1C/1D                       | 1S                      |
| 1-NT                        | “2D”/“2C”               |
| “2H” (with 12-13)           |                         |
| “3H” (with 14)              |                         |
|                             | Pass, 4H, “2S,” or “3S” |
| “3S” or “2-NT” (with 12-13) |                         |
| “4S” or “3-NT” (with 14)    |                         |
|                             | Pass, 4S, or 3-NT       |

(One of either Minor) – 1S – 1-NT – (“New” [2<sup>nd</sup>] Minor) – (“2H,” “3H,” “2S,” “3S,” “2-NT”, or “3-NT”)

“2H” saying, “*I do hold 4-Hearts with 12-13 HCP’s in case you, too, also hold 4-Hearts. If that information is not relevant to your inquiry, please bid “2S,” and I will then address my Spade holding.*”

“3H” saying, “*I do hold 4-Hearts with 14 HCP’s in case you, too, also hold 4-Hearts. If that information is not relevant to your inquiry, please bid “3S”, and I will then address my Spade holding.*”

“2S” saying, “*I do not hold 4-Hearts, but I do hold 3-Spades and a minimum 12-13 HCP’s.*”

“3S” saying, “*I do not hold 4-Hearts, but I do hold 3-Spades and a maximum 14 HCP’s.*”

“2-NT” saying, “*I do not hold 4-Hearts. I hold only 2 Spades and a minimum 12-13 HCP’s.*”

“3-NT” saying, “*I do not hold 4-Hearts. I hold only 2 Spades and a maximum 14 HCP’s.*”

**When Opener's First Re-Bid is 2-NT and When  
Responder's Major Suit, First Response, is 1H**

**Without 3-card Support  
For Responder's Heart Suit**

| <u>Opener</u> | <u>Responder</u> |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1C/1D         | 1H               |
| 2-NT          | "3D"/"3C"        |
| 3-NT          | Pass             |

**With 3-card Support  
For Responder's Heart Suit**

| <u>Opener</u> | <u>Responder</u> |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1C/1D         | 1H               |
| 2-NT          | "3D"/"3C"        |
| "3H"          | 4H               |

**When Opener's First Re-Bid is 2-NT and When  
Responder's Major Suit, First Response, is 1S**

**Without 3-card Support  
For Responder's Spade Suit  
and With 4-Hearts**

| <u>Opener</u> | <u>Responder</u> |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1C/1D         | 1S               |
| 2-NT          | "3D"/"3C"        |
| "3H"          | 4H, "3S,"        |
| Pass, or 3-NT |                  |

**With 3-card Support  
For Responder's Spade Suit  
and With 4-Hearts**

| <u>Opener</u> | <u>Responder</u> |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1C/1D         | 1S               |
| 2-NT          | "3D"/"3C"        |
| "3H"          | 4H, or "3S"      |
| Pass, or 4S   | Pass             |

When "*New Minor Forcing*" has been initiated by Responder, after Opener, has re-bid **1-NT** or **2-NT**, communication by Opener as to his/her possible support of Responder's Major suit holdings **and** his/her high-card point strength are **both** necessary for Responder to proceed in order for the Partnership to wind up in the proper denomination and level of its final contract. Thus, in **all** of these bidding sequences, Responder becomes the "**Captain**," "*passing*" Opener's third response, proceeding to game, or exploring for Slam with the knowledge gleaned from the bidding sequence as to whether a Major suit fit is present or absent; and whether Opener holds a minimum of 12-13 HCP's, or a maximum of 14 HCP's.