

## **TRANSFER RESPONSES OVER 1C (Revisited)**

In December 2003 and January 2004, we presented Transfer Responses over Standard One Club Opening Bid. At that time I had not played this system and therefore presented the possible ideas. However after trying the transfer system with my partner Amod Rele for nearly 28 months, we would suggest slightly different structure (given below). We certainly recommend this for any serious partnership in Tournament Bridge.

With transfer responses some difficult hands can be bid much better and when responder shows a 4-card major, opener's 1NT rebid shows 18-19 HCP, which is certainly an advantage. Also this allows making the range of 1NT opening narrower. Although 15-17 HCP 1NT opening is very popular, we prefer range as 15-16 for 1NT opening. All balanced hands of 17 HCP without 5-card major are included in 1C Opening.

### **Responses and rebids after 1C Opening**

Playing transfer responses, we suggest to open 1C on all hands as you normally would do and also on all balanced 17-19 HCP hands (min 2 Clubs). This means when you open 1D, you will never have balanced 17-19 hand and jump rebid to 2NT shows different hand. Since opener rebids 1NT with 17-19 HCP hand, you may respond with less than five points when non-vulnerable and holding at least 4-cards in a major suit.

1C – ? 1D – Shows 4+ HCP and 4+ card Heart suit 1H – Shows 4+ HCP and 4+ card Spade suit 1S – Denies 4-cards in a major, bal 5-11 HCP or or 4+ C/Ds or Inverted in Clubs, unbal 1N – Inverted in Clubs, may be semi balanced 2C – Shows 5+ Diamonds GF 2D – Shows single suiter major, upto 7 HCP (see December 2004 bulletin) 2H – Reverse Flannery (see Nov 2004 bulletin) 2S – Balanced Invitational 11-12 HCP, no major 2N – 12+ HCP GF without 4 card major 3C – Preemptive in Clubs 3D/H – Transfer to H/S, preemptive 3S – Raise to 3NT, opener to become declarer	1C – 1D (showing 4+ hearts) – ? 1H – 2-4 cards in H, 12-14 HCP but can be more 1S – 4 card Spade in an unbalanced or semi- balanced hand with at least 4 clubs. 1N – 17-19 HCP, Balanced hand, may have 4S. 2C, 2D, 2S same as you would bid earlier 2H – 4 Hearts, 15-17 HCP. 2N – 16+ HCP, any of following hands: a) Long clubs good hand (better than 3C) b) 6+Clubs and 3 card Heart support c) 5 Card club with 4 card Heart, GF hand 3C – 16-18 HCP, Long clubs, NF, denies 3 H 3D/S – Splinter, 4 card H support 3H – 4 card H support and 18-19 HCP Bal. 4C – 6+ Clubs and 4 card H support
1C – 1H (showing 4+ spades) – ? 1S – 2-4 cards in S, 12-14 HCP but can be more 1N – 17-19 HCP, Balanced hand 2C, 2D, 2H as earlier 2S – 4 Spades, 15-17 HCP 2N – 16+ HCP, any of following hands: a) Long clubs good hand (better than 3C) b) 6+Clubs and 3 card Spade support c) 5 Card club with 4 card Spade, GF hand 3C – 16-18 HCP, Long clubs, NF, denies 3 S 3D/H – Splinter, 4 card S support 3S – 4 card S support and 18-19 HCP Bal. 4C – 6+ Clubs and 4 card S support	1C – 1S (Bal or 4+D/C or Cs Inverted) – 1N – ? 2C – Inverted in Clubs 2D – To play 2H – 5+ Clubs and 4 Diamonds, Inv 2S – 5+ Diamonds and 4 Clubs, Inv 2N – Balanced, Invitational 3C/D – Natural, Invitational
1C – 1S (Bal or 4+C/D or Clubs Inverted) – ? 1N – Generally 12-14 HCP balanced but can also be 4-4-1-4 or 34-1-5 with bad clubs 2C – same as earlier (can have 5 clubs only) 2D – Either 17-19 HCP Bal or light Reverse 2H, 2S – Reverse 2N – 19+ HCP, GF Clubs or Diamond reverse 3C – 16-18 HCP, 6+ clubs, NF 3D/3H/3S – Splinters with long clubs	1C – 1S – 2D (17-19 HCP or light D reverse) – ? 2H – Sign-off or Relay, Opener responds 2S – Diamond Reverse 2N – Balanced 17-19 HCP hand 3C – 6 clubs and 4+ diamonds 2S – At least Invitational hand 2N/3N – 17-18/19 HCP, Balanced 3C – 5+ clubs and 4+ diamonds 3D – 6 clubs and 5 diamonds 3H/S – Stopper for NT, maximum hand 2N – Natural forcing, 10-11 HCP 3C/D – Natural, Forcing 3H/S – Shortness and promises Diamond suit 3N – To play

For any difficulties or any further bidding sequence clarification, you can contact us.

*(Contributed by Sudhir Aggarwal)*

## TRANSFER RESPONSES OVER STANDARD 1C

In the earlier days most of the bidding was natural. However today experts use transfers in many situations. Most of the people use Jacoby Transfers when responding to partner's Notrump Openings. Transfers have many advantages like making stronger hand declarer most of the time.

Many experts who play Strong Club based system (Precision) use transfer positive responses in a wide variety of methods. However transfer responses to 1C Opening now have not been limited only to Strong Club system but experts use these over Standard 1C as well particularly those who prefer Walsh style of responses. In responding to 1C, Walsh style response bypasses the Diamond suit to bid a major unless the responder has an opening hand.

With transfer responses some difficult hands can be bid much better and also when responder shows a 4-card major, opener's 1NT re-bid shows 18-19 HCP which is certainly an advantage.

### Responses and re-bids after 1C Opening

Playing transfer responses, we suggest to open 1C on all hands as you normally would do and also on all balanced 18-19 HCP hands (min 2 cards in Club). This means when you open 1D, you will never have balanced 18-19 hand and jump re-bid to 2NT can used for other better purposes.

1C – ? 1D – Shows 5+ HCP and 4+ card Heart suit 1H – Shows 5+ HCP and 4+ card Spade suit 1S – Transfer to 1NT, can have either a) 5+ HCP without 4 card major or b) GF hand in D with or without major c) Or simply play it as 4+ D, 5+ HCP 1N – You can decide any one of following a) 8-10 HCP Balanced, no 4 card major b) 11-12 HCP, Invitational, no major c) GF hand in D with or without major 2N – 12+ HCP GF without 4 card major All other bids as you would normally bid	1C – 1H (showing 4+ spades) – ? 1S – Min 2 cards in S, 12-14 HCP but can be more. Can have 4 spades in a bad hand. 1N – 18-19 HCP, Balanced hand 2C, 2D, 2H as earlier 2S – Usually 4 Spades, 12 –14 HCP 2N – 16+ HCP, any of following hands: a) Long clubs good hand (better than 3C) b) 6+Clubs and 3 card Spade support c) 5 Card club with 4 card Spade, GF hand 3C – 16-18 HCP, Long clubs, NF, denies 3 S 3D – 4 card S support and 18-19 HCP Bal. 3H – 4 card S support 15-17 unbalanced hand 3S – 4 card S support 15-17, semi bal. hand 4C – 6+ Clubs and 4 card S support 4D/4H – Splinters, 18+ HCP, 4 card S support
1C – 1D (showing 4+ hearts) – ? 1H – Min 2 cards in H, 12-14 HCP but can be more. Can have 4 hearts in a bad hand. 1S – 4 card Spade in an unbalanced or semi-balanced hand with at least 4 clubs. If you have 4-3-3-3 hand, just bid 1H. 1N – 18-19 HCP, Balanced hand 2C, 2D, 2S same as you would bid earlier 2H – Usually 4 Hearts, 12 –14 HCP. You can bid with 3 card H in an unbalanced hand. 2N – 16+ HCP, any of following hands: a) Long clubs good hand (better than 3C) b) 6+Clubs and 3 card Heart support c) 5 Card club with 4 card Heart, GF hand 3C – 16-18 HCP, Long clubs, NF, denies 3 H 3D – 4 card H support and 18-19 HCP Bal. 3H – 4 card H support 15-17 unbal or semi bal. 3S/4D – Splinters, 18+ HCP, 4 card H support 4C – 6+ Clubs and 4 card H support	1C – 1S (Transfer to 1NT or 4+ Diamonds) – ? 1N – Generally 12-14 HCP balanced but can also be 4-4-1-4 or 34-1-5 with bad clubs 2C – same as earlier (can have 5 clubs only) 2D, 2H, 2S – Reverse 2N – 18-19 HCP, Balanced Hand 3C – 16-18 HCP, 6+ clubs, NF 3D/3H/3S – Splinters with long clubs 1C – 2N – ? 3C – Puppet to 3D, after which opener re-bids Pass – to play 3H/S – Short suit 3N – Diamond Shortage 4C – Diamond Shortage, slammish hand 4D/H/S – Short suit, 4-4-4-1 hand 3D – 5-4 in minors 3H/S – Natural, Reverse 4C – Long Clubs, Slam try

We will continue our discussion on Transfer Responses to Standard 1C opening in the next edition of our Newsletter where we will see further developments after initial response of 1D(H), 1H(S) and 1S(Transfer to 1NT or Ds).

*(Contributed by Sudhir Aggarwal)*

## **TRANSFER RESPONSES OVER STANDARD 1C (Part 2)**

In the previous Bulletin, we discussed how opener responds to responder's initial responses to 1C opening playing transfer responses. We continue with the bids responder uses to further explore the hand.

### **Re-bids by responder after Initial Response to 1C Opening**

When opener transfers to the major shown by responder at one level, most of the time opener will have balanced hand of 12-14 HCP but some times can have more HCP with awkward hands. If responder has scrapped us a response on a weak hand, he can pass the transfer but he should do it rarely. Re-bids by responder beyond 1NT can be as per your system however we would recommend XYZ convention (or two way check back presented in this bulletin earlier) in which 2C is puppet to 2D where as 2D is game force.

Whenever Opener shows 18-19 balanced hand with 1NT re-bid over 1C-1D/H or 2NT re-bid over 1C-1S, we recommend retransfers. Certainly Opener should become declarer as far as possible. The use of transfer continuations allows responder to control the auction and stop in a part score when necessary.

1C – 1D (showing 4+ hearts) – 1H – ? 1S – Natural one round Force or like 4 <sup>th</sup> Suit F 1N/2H – to play 2C – Puppet to 2D, to play or Invitational hands Over 2D, responder re-bids Pass – to play 2H – Invitational with 5 Hearts 2S – Invitational with 5 Hearts + 4 Spades 2N – Invitational with 4 Hearts 3C/D – Invitational with 4H & 5+ cards C/D 3H – Invitational with 6 Hearts 3S/4D – Splinters in support of Clubs 2D – GF, Opener to shows 3 card support 2S – 5+H and 4+S, GF 2N – Puppet to 3C (to play or 4-4-4-1 GF hands) 3C/D – 5+H and 5+C/D, GF 3H – Good suit, GF 3S/4C/4D – Self splinters, Good heart suit	1C – 1D (H) / 1H (S) – 1N (18-19 Balanced) – ? 2C – Transfer to Diamond (4M + 4D) 2D – Transfer to Heart (shows 5H if bid major otherwise 5S + 4H) 2H – Transfer to Spade (shows 5S if bid major otherwise 4S + 4H) 2S – Transfer to Club (4M + 4C) 2N – Invitational with 4 Cards in the Major 3C/D – 5+M and 5C/D, GF 3H(OM) – 5+S and 5+H, GF 3S(OM)/4C/D/4H(OM) – Self Splinters  1C – 1S – 2NT (18-19 Balanced) – ? 3C = Transfer to Diamond (5+D). After opener accepts transfer, suit bids are all short suits 3D = Transfer to Heart (5D+ 4H) 3H = Transfer to Spade (5D+ 4S) 3S = Transfer to Club (5D+ 4C), Slammish
1C – 1H (showing 4+ spades) – 1S – ? 1N, 2C/D, 2N, 3C same as over 1C-1D-1H 2H – to play, shows weak hand 5S-4H 2S – Constructive, to play 3D/H – 5+S and 5D/H, GF 3S – Good suit, GF 4C/D/H – Self splinters, Good spade suit	1C – 1D(H) / 1H (S) – 2NT (6+C w/wo 3H) – ? 3C – Sign off, opener with stronger hand bids 3D – Single suiter in Clubs, forcing 3M – Clubs + 3 cards in major, forcing 4M – 5C + 4M 3D – Game Force asks opener to describe 3M – 6+C with 3 cards in the major 3OM – Single suiter in Clubs 3N – Single suiter in Clubs, to play 4C – 5C + 4M, shortness in other major 4D – 5C + 4M, shortness in D 4M – 5C + 4M 3M – Sign off 3OM – Stopper, denies 5 cards in the major suit 4D/4OM – Splinter in support of Clubs
1C – 1S (Transfer to 1NT or 4+D) – 1N – ? 2C – Puppet to 2D, to play or Invitational hands Over 2D, responder re-bids 2H/S – Invitational with stopper in bid suit 2N – Invitational with 5D + 4C 3C – Invitational with 4D + 5C 3D – Invitational with Long Diamonds 2D – Game Force, further bidding natural 2H/S – Natural GF, 5+D and 4M 3C/D – Natural, Invitational 3H/3S/4C – Self splinters, Good Diamond suit	The above structure is also applicable after 1D Opening (1D-1M-2N) with long Diamond suit.

With the above structure, it is possible to cover many hands, which are other wise difficult to bid. However keep in mind to alert your opponents when you play the transfer responses.

*(Contributed by Sudhir Aggarwal)*