

You are Dealer and open One Club. Partner responds One Heart. Are you obliged to make a rebid ? If the next hand Passes then yes, you should bid again. But if the next hand overcalls, you no longer have to bid. Many players overlook this, as South did on the following hand :

Q7
K4
A985
K10872

You decide to open One Club and partner responds One Heart. Well, you have to rebid Two Clubs now. If you don't like that idea then maybe you shouldn't have opened the bidding. Looking at your hand, a response of One Heart or One Spade is not a great surprise.

Things change if your right-hand opponent enters the bidding with Two Diamonds. You don't like the idea of bidding Three Clubs, you can't support partner's suit and you're not strong enough to think about bidding No Trumps or Doubling for penalties. With no suitable bid to make, a Pass looks easily the best option.

Now say your right-hand opponent overcalls One Spade. This time you can rebid your club suit comfortably at the 2-level ... but you don't *have* to bid at all. Just like the situation above with the Two Diamond overcall, it might be that a Pass gives a more accurate picture of your hand than a bid. Having opened One Club, your partner knows that you have a hand of opening bid strength. When you Pass now, you tell partner that you have a minimum opening bid with little more to add to that. Your hand is in the 10-13 point range, you don't have support for partner's suit (and you would raise partner's hearts with 3-card support here) and you don't have any extra suit length.

The following hands are similar to the one above but both are worth a rebid :

Q3	7
K5	K94
A85	AJ84
KQ10852	KQ1087

Rebid Two Clubs with the first hand. Your hand is better than minimum and you have a good 6-card suit. A rebid of Two Hearts is best with the second hand. Partner is more likely to want to know that you have support for his heart suit than a long club suit (he already knows you have clubs).

Our opponents bid the following hands well :

AQJ5
J2
K1094
843

8
AK83
Q6
KQJ972

With South dealer, the bidding started One Club – One Diamond and South rebid One Heart.

South has a good hand but it's not worth a jump rebid of Two Hearts. This is a game-forcing bid. Bearing in mind that North's hand could be very weak, South needs a really strong hand (say the Ace of clubs instead of the two) in order to commit his side to a game contract at this stage.

North continued with One Spade, a natural bid and not 'fourth suit forcing' at the 1-level, showing four spades and at least four diamonds. A fourth suit bid of Two Spades would show a hand such as this :

Qxx
Jxx
AQJxx
Qx

South jumped to Three Clubs to show his good hand with (very likely) a 6-4 shape. North realised that a game contract in clubs should have a chance but his nice diamonds persuaded him to bid Three No Trumps. Five Clubs made 11 tricks but Three No Trumps made 10 tricks for a better score. Well bid.

Enjoy your bridge,