

## A Basic Modern Acol Bidding System

### LESSON 7: Bidding as Opener with other shapes, "Coping with Intervention" and a Summary

Normally, two bids are sufficient for opener to describe his hand, but there are some shapes that require a third bid. This shows an additional card: e.g. 5-5, 6-4 and 6-5 distributions.

Consider these auctions; what does the bidding "conversation" say about opener's shape?

1♠-2♣-2♥

5♠, 4♥

1♠-2♣-2♥-3♣-3♥

5♠, 5♥ - repeating a second suit shows 5 cards in that suit

1♠-2♣-2♥-3♣-3♠

6♠, 4♥ - opener choose the cheaper 2♥ rebid, showing 5-4 at this stage, the 3rd round spade bid shows the extra spade

1♥-2♣-2♠-3♣-3♠

6♥, 5♠ - the three spade rebid shows five spades, but with 5♠ 5♥ he would have opened 1♠, so he must have six hearts.

#### THE BIDDING CONVERSATION

Bidding two suits normally shows a 5-4 shape. Before responder bids, opener has had another chance to describe their cards. Responder is asking the questions and ultimately places the contract, whilst opener tends to continue describing. Bidding a third suit shows 5-4-3-1. With this shape it is best to keep bidding at the lowest level.

Opener holds: a 5431 distribution:

♠AK973

♥KJ74

♦10

♣AJ5

And the bidding starts

(1) 1♠-2♣-2♥-2♠

(2) 1♠-2♦-2♥-2♠

(3) 1♠-1NT-2♥-2♠

So far nothing has been decided in these auctions. Opener should follow the general principle and keep describing his hand to partner.

He has already shown his 5♠-4♥ shape in the hand above so he will not be bidding either of these suits again. He will say something about his remaining four cards.

Answers:

(1) 3♣ Three cards in clubs. Five clubs may be the correct contract!

(2) 2NT A well-stopped unbid suit. Is 3NT possible? Partner may be making a preference bid with just 2 spades

(3) 3♣ Opener shows his 3-card fragment, about 16 points and invites game. With no game interest he would pass 2♠

## COPING WITH INTERVENTION

For now consider this simple principle: if the opponents interfere with your auction

IF YOU CAN MAKE YOUR PLANNED BID, DO SO. IF THE OPPOSING INTERVENTION HAS PREVENTED YOU, PASS.

Strip away their bids and only focus on your partnership's bids. If they have bid a suit, you would need a stopper (or two) to be playing in NT.

## SUMMARY

FIRST, opener must determine whether or not his hand is BALANCED (normally 4432, 4333 and 5332). Opener's whole bidding strategy depends on the answer.

### IF BALANCED:

11/12-14	Open 1NT
15-17	Open one-of-suit (with two 4-card suits open the higher ranking except with 4♥ 4♠) Rebid lowest NTs
18-19	As above, but rebid NTs with a jump (but not to 3NT if over a 2 over 1 bid by partner)
20-22	Open 2NT
23-24	Open 2♣, Rebid 2NT
25-27	Open 2♣, Rebid 3NT

### IF UNBALANCED:

9-22	Open One-of-Suit (Rule of 19/20)
23+	Open 2♣

When rebidding, observe these guidelines:

- IF you bid two suits, you should be (at least) 5-4. You will occasionally have to break this when you hold a 4441 distribution.
- IF you repeat a suit, you should have 6+ cards. Again this guideline can be broken if you play reverses.