

Book Review – The Language of Bridge by Kit Woolsey

Kit is a winner of 3 World Championships and 19 American National Titles

The book is based upon 5 card majors 2/1 but it is not about system or conventions - it is more about training you to think in the right way.

Example:

You hold as South AT84 K6 A83 QJ95 and bid as follows

1C	1H
1S	2D
2N	3H
?	

1C = opening values – no 5 card major unless holding 6 Clubs. If balanced, weaker or stronger than 15-17. Maybe 3 card suit

1H = 4+ Hearts, responding values

1S = 4+ Spades and some shape – hence 4+ Clubs. Not strong enough to force to game with a jump shift

2D = fourth suit forcing to game

2N = Natural – not 3 hearts

3H = 6 card suit – looking for best strain but could be stronger

Example:

You hold as South AT84 K6 A83 QJ95

1C	1H
1S	2D
2N	3H
?	

Priority is to choose best strain

With KJxx xx KQT ATxx then you would bid 3N

With this hand, you are going to play in Hearts, but that doesn't mean you have to bid 4H. Partner could be minimum in which case 4H is enough, but partner is unlimited, and would be interested in knowing you have more than a minimum.

With ATxx Kx Qxx QJxx then bid 4H

Here you must bid 4m

Most players would bid 4D – diamond control – no club control.
Kit suggests 4C is the best bid – Why?

1. You are showing support for hearts and a decent hand
2. If you bid 4D partner has no room - he has to sign off or push on whereas if you bid 4C which allows partner to show slam interest with a last train bid of 4D (this shows moderate slam interest)
3. Is there a danger of landing in a slam missing 2 top clubs? No – partner can't be looking for a slam missing AS, AD, KH and also have nothing in clubs.

If partner holds Kx AQTxxx xx Kxx then he will sign off in 4H

If partner holds Kx AQTxxx Kx Kxx then you wouldn't expect him to move over 4H from you and slam is good, but on this hand he can now bid 4D and you can take it from there.

Example:

You hold as South AKQJxxx Axxxx - x

Partner opens 1C

1C 1S

2C ?

What are you thinking?

With this hand, your first thought is that spades are trumps and you are trying to get information – hence 1S. Partner rebids 2C – a minimum hand with long clubs. What now?

Suppose partner holds x QJx xxx AKJxxx - slam is great

But with x xxx QJx AKJxxx slam is awful

The key is to find partner's heart holding – so bid 2D

If partner bids 3C – no heart stop so no slam.

If partner bids 2NT – he has a heart stop and slam is likely

If you held AKJxxxx AQTxx - x then you want heart support so bid 2H as hearts might be the best strain