

Stamford Bridge Club

5th August 2015

Opening 15+ Balanced Hands

1

Assumption

We are all playing an opening 1NT bid as showing **12-14**.

If you open a stronger no trump, you'll need to adjust the scheme.

2

What hands do we treat as balanced?

Generally 4 3 3 3; 4 4 3 2; and 5 3 3 2

So can include a 5card suit, including a major. e.g.

With

♠ J 9 4 3 2

♥ Q T 9

♦ A K

♣ Q J 4

If you open 1♠, what is your rebid?

Possibly 2♠? Horrible!

Eliminate the rebid problem by opening 1NT

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Occasionally we might hold a 4card major and a weak 5card minor (with 2 doubletons) e.g.

♠ Q 5

♥ Q 10 6 2

♦ A K

♣ J 8 5 4 2

After 1♣ – 1♠, opener will be consulting the ceiling

... or 5/4minors, especially longer and weak clubs

♠ Q 5

♥ A K

♦ Q 10 6 2

♣ J 8 5 4 2

After 1♣ – 1♠, more neck trauma

Moral : Make a **first round bid** that gives you less of a problem on the **second round**.

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We can build a no trump ladder

(assuming opener, when 15+, doesn't have 4card support for responder – then raise immediately)

With:

12-14 Open 1NT

15-18 Open a suit (lower of 2 4carders) and
 rebid in no trumps

If responder bids at 1 level:

1NT 15-16

e.g. 1♣ - 1♥; 1NT

2NT 17-18 (even as a raise of 1NT)

e.g. 1♦ – 1♠; 2NT

*If responder bids at 2 level**

2NT 15-18, FULL RANGE

e.g. 1♥ – 2♦; 2NT

Why? See over

**(new suit)*

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Opener rebids 2NT after a 2level response

In more primitive bidding 2N shows 15-16 and 3NT shows 17-18. A 2level response promises (9)10+ HCPs so, if opener has 15+:

We are committed to play in game+

Don't jump to 3NT with 17-18 as it takes up
valuable bidding space

(Talk Hand 1)

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... and to complete our no trump ladder

19-20 Open 2NT

21-22 Open 2♣; rebid 2NT over 2♦ relay

23-24 Open 2♦; rebid 2NT over 2♥ relay

25-26 Open 2♦; rebid 3NT over 2♥ relay

You might, if in range, treat some big 4441 hands as balanced, not least if the singleton is an honour. Again it's a question of **being prepared and being flexible**.

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... and remember ...

Over any conventional sequence with a 2NT rebid, Stayman and transfers still apply (by partnership agreement). e.g.

2♣ - 2♦;

2NT 3♣ is Stayman

3♦ is a transfer to ♥s

3♥ is a transfer to ♠s

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Moving towards slam

We're looking at big hands so slams are a real possibility.

Let's say, after 1♥ - 2♠; 2NT - 3♥, opener, with 5 hearts, knows there's an 8 card fit.

Any bid in a new suit, once an eight card fit has been found*, is a **cue bid**.

*(*usually when a major has been agreed at the 3level; or a minor at the 4level. In the latter case you may want 3level new suit bids to show values, probing towards a playable 3NT).*

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Cue bids – a brief refresher

We covered these some time ago and this week (and next) you may have a chance to practise using them.

They provide a method of sharing information about **CONTROLS** (Aces and Kings – or voids and singletons) in the side suits once the trump suit has been agreed. The aim is to explore whether a slam is on (and possibly) which slam.

If a side suit lacks a control **any contract always has at least two losers and slam will always fail (provided they lead that suit).**

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... example auction

2♣ 2♦
2♠ (forcing to game) 3♠ (sets suit for cues)
4♣ cue bid (ace*) 4♥ cue bid (ace*)
5♣ cue bid (king**) 5♦ cue bid (king***)
etc

**or a void*

***or singleton ace of club (i.e. 1st and 2nd round controls)*

****or a singleton diamond*

Note any bypassed suit implies a lack of the relevant control (so 4♥ denied 1st round diamond control – no 4♦ bid, etc).

(Talk Hand 2)

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... and so to work ...

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