

STAMFORD BRIDGE CLUB

6th JULY 2016

COMPETITIVE BIDDING

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In the past we have done workshops on:

- Overcalls: remember the 'Suit Quality Test'?
- Take out doubles

Today we will look at some other issues. So:

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To Bid or Not To Bid?

Play **Hand 1**

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AIMS OF COMPETITIVE BIDDING

- To 'steal' the contract
- To lose a smaller penalty than the opps can make in a contract
- To push opps to a level they can't make (and, possibly, **double**)

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Play Hand 2

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What determines whether to bid or not?

- When to compete?
- When not to compete?
- Whether to double?

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You sit West

♠ K 6 2	♠ A J 10 8 4
♥ 10 5 4 3	♥ 8
♦ K 9 3	♦ 10 9 8 2
♣ Q 3 2	♣ A J 10

Bidding:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♥	1♠	2♥
?			

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- Strength of your hand
- Total number of trumps (compete to the 'level of the fit')
- Extra values
- Likely score and risk of penalties
i.e. hand evaluation and risk/benefit analysis.

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Play **Hand 3**

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Does everyone know the score for each bid they make? and the likely penalty if doubled?

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3 Spades?

140

3 Diamonds?

110

4 Hearts (vul and non vul)?

620/420

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**5 Diamonds (“ “ “ “)
?**

600/400

3 off non vulnerable?

Minus 150

2 off doubled vulnerable?

Minus 500

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Play Hand 4

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Did we double here or bid on?

Why?

What was our thinking?

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Bid on or double?

There is a marked reluctance to double for penalties.

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Is this because

- **we don't know the scores;**
- **are too nice; or**
- **too scared to get it wrong?**

“If you don't double some making contracts, you aren't doubling enough”

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Let's try **Hand 5**

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Hands up.

Who bid on

- **As North?**
- **As East?**

Who doubled?

Why?

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Hand 6

A bit of fun

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Some rules and maxims

Remember these?

- **Cover an honour with an honour**
- **Eight ever, nine never**
- **Lead fourth from your longest and strongest**

All guides, NOT to be followed mindlessly.

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**For competitive bidding
add**

- **Five level belongs to the opposition**
- **When in doubt bid Four Spades over Four Hearts**
- **When in doubt bid one more on freak deals**
- **When you hold four of opps' trumps consider a penalty double**

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Hand 7

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Unassuming cue bid – a game try: “I have support for your suit and values for game if you are more than minimum”

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**So how do we decide?
Always consider the following:**

- **If you have support for partner's suit, support**
- **Compete to the level of the fit**
- **Possible cost of competing**
- **Extra values**
- **Defensive values**
- **Double fit**
- **Losing trick count?**

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**And finally ...telling little
fibs**

Hand 8

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Does West bid?

**Overbid by one trick to
avoid concealing the fit.**

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Law of total tricks (advanced)

**The law says that the total number
of trumps – **when each side is
playing in its best fit** - is the same
as the total number of tricks
available.**

**Need to be able to determine how
many trumps you and opps have
in best suits.**

***For more info, see Larry Cohen
“To Bid or Not To Bid”.***

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