

## Defensive Bids Over An Opening 1N

<div><div><div>♠ Q73</div><div>♥ A62</div><div>♦ Q1093</div><div>♣ KJ10</div></div><div><div>♠ 1094</div><div>♥ 1043</div><div>♦ AK2</div><div>♣ 7632</div></div><div><div>♠ AK862</div><div>♥ QJ98</div><div>♦ 8</div><div>♣ Q85</div></div><div><div>♠ J5</div><div>♥ K75</div><div>♦ J7654</div><div>♣ A94</div></div></div>	<div>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1N</td><td>2♣<sup>(1)</sup></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♦<sup>(2)</sup></td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table><div>1 Both majors 2 Asking for longer major</div></div> <div><p>With 3-3 in the majors West is keen to play in a possible 5-3 fit. He uses a conventional 2♦ call and East shows his longer suit. Mission accomplished as an eight card spade fit is found.</p><p>This contract may fail but is likely to make as declarer can ditch a club loser on one of dummy's top diamonds. A winning defence could see South leading an unlikely heart (one of East's suits) to North's ♥A. North switches to a club and the defence now has three club and two heart winners. Declarer will also lose a trump for the setting trick.</p></div>	West	North	East	South		1N	2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	2♠	All pass				
West	North	East	South														
	1N	2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass														
2♦ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	2♠	All pass														
<div><div><div>♠ K43</div><div>♥ Q4</div><div>♦ AJ42</div><div>♣ J1063</div></div><div><div>♠ 1062</div><div>♥ 75</div><div>♦ 109765</div><div>♣ A42</div></div><div><div>♠ A75</div><div>♥ J1093</div><div>♦ KQ3</div><div>♣ K97</div></div><div><div>♠ QJ98</div><div>♥ AK862</div><div>♦ 8</div><div>♣ Q85</div></div></div>	<div>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1N</td><td>2♣<sup>(1)</sup></td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♦<sup>(2)</sup></td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2N</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table><div>1 Both majors 2 Asking for longer major</div></div> <div><p>This time the partner of the Landy bidder doesn't find an eight card fit but has enough values to invite partner to bid 3N. South has a minimum hand and passes.</p><p>East may lead ♦K and declarer does best to duck this. This is a <i>Bath coup</i>, played in the hope that East will return a second diamond into the jaws of the ace-knave combination. West should help his partner by discouraging a continuation (playing ♦5 – if low is discouraging – or ♦10 if playing “high hates”. Declarer is likely to make at least eight tricks but the defence can come to one spade, two diamonds and two clubs to hold the contract (after winning ♣A, West switches back to diamonds).</p></div>	West	North	East	South			1N	2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	2♥	Pass	2N	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
		1N	2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>														
Pass	2♦ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	2♥														
Pass	2N	All pass															

<div>♠J8 ♥A32 ♦J865 ♣A1096  ♠AK1062      ♠Q54 ♥QJ987      ♥54 ♦9      ♦K432 ♣85      ♣J732  ♠973 ♥K106 ♦AQ107 ♣KQ4</div>	<div>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1N</td></tr><tr><td>2♣<sup>(1)</sup></td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦<sup>(2)</sup></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥<sup>(3)</sup></td><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <div>1 Both majors 2 Asking for longer major 3 Bids hearts with 5/5 shape</div> <p>Well not all methods are perfect and here East West are likely to miss the better 5-3 spade fit. Some may bid 2♠ over 2♣ arguing that they'd rather play in spades (even if only a 4-3 fit) with good three card trump support than playing in hearts with such a measly collection. That works very well here.</p> <p>2♥ will be touch and go as the defence can play a forcing game by playing on the minors (or conspire to give North a spade ruff). Declarer may lose control of the hand. The best way to play the hearts is to cross the dummy and finesse ♥7. It's just possible that West will make three hearts and five spades for the contract.</p>	West	North	East	South				1N	2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	2♥ <sup>(3)</sup>	All pass		
West	North	East	South														
			1N														
2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass														
2♥ <sup>(3)</sup>	All pass																
<div>♠A6 ♥8753 ♦QJ106 ♣J109  ♠543      ♠K2 ♥J109      ♥K64 ♦K987      ♦A532 ♣K74      ♣Q832  ♠QJ10987 ♥AQ2 ♦4 ♣A65</div>	<div>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1N</td><td>2♠</td></tr></table> <div>All pass</div> <p>So we've added Landy to our armoury of competitive bids but there's still a place for our natural overcalls. Here South has a good-textured six card suit and good shape (6331 being better than 6322, though you'd still overcall 2♠ with the flatter hand).</p> <p>West may start with ♥J and that does declarer no harm. He wins and runs ♠Q (hoping West has a singleton or doubleton king of spades) but the finesse loses. There are always at least eight tricks – five spades, two hearts and a club (with some chance of making a ninth trick).</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1N	2♠								
West	North	East	South														
Pass	Pass	1N	2♠														

<div>♠J75</div> <div>♥102</div> <div>♦A764</div> <div>♣AQJ10</div> <div>♠AK1062</div> <div>♥QJ987</div> <div>♦9</div> <div>♣85</div> <div>♠3</div> <div>♥AK54</div> <div>♦Q853</div> <div>♣7632</div> <div>♠Q984</div> <div>♥63</div> <div>♦KJ102</div> <div>♣K94</div>	<div>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1N</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♣<sup>1)</sup></td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <div>West's 2♣ overcall might be a little shaded after two passes but East, who holds a seven loser hand, is worth the jump bid in hearts (the spade shortage is not really an asset but he holds about an eleven count if credit is made for that holding). With his 5/5distribution West bids the game (yes, only a ten count but more clear on a losing trick count basis as he holds a six loser hand).</div> <div>Declarer's best play is to ruff one spade low and one spade high. In that way he minimises the risk of a spade overruff and can draw three rounds of trumps, if necessary. Here the trump break is benign and declarer should lose just three tricks - one diamond and two clubs.</div>	West	North	East	South		1N	Pass	Pass	2♣ <sup>1)</sup>	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass		
West	North	East	South														
	1N	Pass	Pass														
2♣ <sup>1)</sup>	Pass	3♥	Pass														
4♥	All pass																
<div>♠A9874</div> <div>♥K4</div> <div>♦109876</div> <div>♣2</div> <div>♠J10</div> <div>♥653</div> <div>♦Q52</div> <div>♣AJ975</div> <div>♠63</div> <div>♥Q109</div> <div>♦AJ4</div> <div>♣KQ1064</div> <div>♠KQ52</div> <div>♥AJ872</div> <div>♦K3</div> <div>♣83</div>	<div>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1N</td><td>2♣<sup>(1)</sup></td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1 Both majors</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <div>This is not so easy to bid if looking at the North hand in terms of high card points but the distribution makes the leap to game a fair bet (for losing trick counters it's a seven loser hand).</div> <div>The defence begins with two rounds of clubs, declarer ruffing the second. He can draw trumps and set up the heart suit by ruffing the third round. With ♦A well placed declarer comes to eleven tricks (five trumps, four hearts, a diamond and a diamond ruff).</div>	West	North	East	South			1N	2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	4♠	All pass		1 Both majors			
West	North	East	South														
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<div><div><div>♠10752</div><div>♥KQ3</div><div>♦97654</div><div>♣8</div></div><div><div>♠AQJ3</div><div>♥AJ1097</div><div>♦32</div><div>♣Q2</div></div><div><div>♠64</div><div>♥64</div><div>♦K8</div><div>♣AJ107543</div></div><div><div>♠K98</div><div>♥852</div><div>♦AQJ10</div><div>♣K96</div></div></div>	<div>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1N</td></tr><tr><td>2♣<sup>(1)</sup></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass (!)</td><td>All pass</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">1 Both majors</td></tr></table> <div>Yes, once in a blue moon, the responder to the Landy overcaller has a hand on which it is appropriate to pass – very long clubs and no thoughts of game.</div> <div>North’s best lead is a diamond, giving the defence the first two tricks. South does best to switch to a heart. The club finesse fails but declarer can come to nine tricks by way of six clubs, two spades and ♥A. Declarer may hold himself to eight tricks if he thinks South has led away from one of the heart honours. Now he may be prepared to take two finesses in hearts and will lose two hearts, two diamonds and a club. In other words, the winning line is to play on spades, hoping that South has the king.</div>	West	North	East	South				1N	2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	Pass (!)	All pass	1 Both majors			
West	North	East	South														
			1N														
2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	Pass (!)	All pass														
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<div><div><div>♠74</div><div>♥K6</div><div>♦K87</div><div>♣AQJ652</div></div><div><div>♠K653</div><div>♥A1084</div><div>♦Q104</div><div>♣K3</div></div><div><div>♠J1092</div><div>♥J932</div><div>♦J52</div><div>♣109</div></div><div><div>♠AQ8</div><div>♥Q75</div><div>♦A963</div><div>♣874</div></div></div>	<div>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1N</td><td>3♣<sup>(1)</sup></td><td>Pass</td><td>3N</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">1 11-15, 6+suit of good quality</td></tr></table> <div>When we introduce artificiality (with 2♣ showing the majors) something has to give and that’s the inability to make a natural 2♣ overcall. Instead we have to show clubs at the three level and, for this reason, we should always have a good six card suit. Because South can expect such a suit he has an easy 3N bid.</div> <div>With the club finesse working there are always ten tricks (six clubs, two diamonds, a heart and a spade) and an eleventh trick could come from a spade lead or the 3-3 diamond break, the latter allowing ♦9 to be promoted.</div>	West	North	East	South	1N	3♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	3N	1 11-15, 6+suit of good quality							
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<p>♠AK64 ♥K752 ♦K1073 ♣8</p> <p>♠J73                      ♠1082 ♥A864                    ♥Q103 ♦A85                      ♦62 ♣A63                    ♣J10954</p> <p>♠Q95 ♥J9 ♦QJ94 ♣KQ72</p>		<p><i>Board 10 (sic) Talk : Dealer East : Both vulnerable</i></p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1N</td><td>2♣<sup>(1)</sup></td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦<sup>(2)</sup></td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♥<sup>(3)</sup></td><td>Pass</td><td>2N</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3N<sup>(4)</sup></td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Both majors 2 Seeking a major suit fit 3 Bids hearts as 4/4 4 Hope partner's feeling sharp</p> <p>West led ♥4 and now the contract can be defeated particularly if East switches to a club or returns ♥3 (the normal ♥10 sets up ♥7 as a stopper). In practice North's intervention worked very well as declarer made four spades, a heart, three diamonds and a club. Nine tricks and a fine matchpoint score (80%).</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1N	2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>(2)</sup>	Pass	2♥ <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass	2N	Pass	3N <sup>(4)</sup>	All pass	
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