

Stamford Bridge Club

9th September 2015

Pre-emptive Bidding  
Recap

1

Pre-empts – lengths of suit (generally)

**2level** pre-empts – usually **6card** suits

**3level** pre-empts – usually **7card** suits

**4level** pre-empts – usually **8card** suits

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Why are these bids useful?

For all levels (2, 3 & 4)

**Frequent** (lots of hands in the 5-9 hcp range)

**Closely defined**

Partner can quickly assess where we are going (may assist greatly in reaching game)

**Pre-emptive** (inevitably)

We force the opponents to start bidding at a level higher than they would like. That increases the possibility of their being at the wrong level or in the wrong suit. We might find a profitable sacrifice.

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The basic conditions for all pre-empts

**5-9** high card points

Opened suit has “**reasonable**” quality –

(e.g. Suit headed by K Q 10 **OK**  
Suit headed by J 8 6 **Not OK** )

**HCPs** in the **longer suits**, particularly the bid suit, an asset

Have regard to **vulnerability** – be more conservative when vulnerable (be **penalty-conscious**)

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And we can add a few other comments

**Not 4cards** in a **side suit major**

Be careful if holding a **void or two aces**  
(makes hand more/too powerful)

**Usual shapes**

2level : 6331 6322 64minor21

3level : 7321 7222 74minor11

4level : 8311 8320

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Visualisation

Remember that we try to **visualise** what partner has. With a pre-empt that's easier than a sound 1 or 2 level opening as you can place most of the values in opener's long suit.

6

Summary of some sequences after a 3level pre-empt

<b>3major – 4major</b>	To make or sacrifice – let them guess!
<b>3level – 3N</b>	Expect to make

And some less common ones:

<b>3level – 3new suit</b>	Forcing but these auctions are rare
<b>3minor – 4minor</b>	Not invitational – merely increasing the pre-empt
<b>3minor – 5minor</b>	To make or sacrifice – let them guess!

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Last week we said we'd look at a few **pitfalls** when we decide to open with a pre-emptive bid

Here are a few:

We may suffer a massive penalty (**Board 1**)

We may cut across partner's intentions (**Board 2**)

... and if we do open with a side 4card major this may happen (**Board 3**)

... and as a general point, if partner has a "rock crusher", the higher we pre-empt the less room for partner to investigate the optimum contract

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