

STAMFORD BRIDGE CLUB

21ST JANUARY 2015

RED SUIT TRANSFERS

Why transfer?

3 reasons:

1 Opening bid is 1NT (or 2NT). Typically such hands contain broken suits or tenaces (eg A Q x or K J x).

There is a clear advantage if the lead comes round to such holdings, rather than through them.

2 Often, though not always, the no trump hand is the stronger. It is better to hide your assets from enemy eyes.

3 It increases the number of meaningful auctions. With responder always making a second bid there's always a second bite of the cherry.

Example:

N	♠ Q T x x x	P	?
	♥ T 9		
	♦ A x x		
	♣ T x x		
S	♠ x x	1NT	
	♥ A Q x x		
	♦ K x x		
	♣ K J x		

The hand will probably play better in 2♠. Is this better played by North or South?

The **principle** of transfer responses over 1NT is as follows:

- a response of 2♣ is Stayman
- a bid of 2♦ shows a 5-card or longer heart suit
- a bid of 2♥ shows a 5-card or longer spade suit

Remember the rule:

“Stayman with 4, Transfer with more”

The only exception to this rule is:

If responder has a weak hand with 5-4 in the major suits he should bid 2♣ (Stayman). He may pass a reply of 2♥ or 2♠ and bid his 5-card suit over a 2♦ response.

(remember workshop on responding with 2♣ Stayman)

So, back to the responses of 2♦ & 2♥

- The response of 2♦ shows 5+hearts.
- It asks opener to bid 2♥.
- Responder can pass with a limited hand (the equivalent of making a weak takeout bid of 2♥ when using natural responses to 1NT) or bid on with extra values.

- Similarly, the response of 2♥ shows 5+spades
- It asks partner to bid 2♠
- This can be passed (which is equivalent to 1NT – 2♠ when not using transfers) or responder may bid on.

How strong do you need to be to use Transfers?



Answer:

- As strong or as weak as you like
- No limits
- None/zero/zilch points to 28 points
(if you have more you should question partner's bidding)

Note: if opponents double the 1NT opening or bid a suit, transfers are usually abandoned and suit bids become natural.

This is subject to partnership agreement (system on/system off).

Continuing the bidding after a red suit transfer after 1NT - 2♦; 2♥,

Pass: showing a weak takeout to 2♥
(0-9[10] points)

Bid a new suit :

natural, forcing for 1 round, at least game invitational

(e.g. 2♠, 3♣ or 3♦) - opener can't pass

Bid 3♥: a 6-card or longer heart suit, invitational (about 9-11 pts)

Bid 4♥: a 6-card or longer heart suit, sign-off

In addition, responder may now bid **no trumps**. This shows a balanced hand, bearing in mind that responder, by using the transfer response, has already shown a 5-card major suit.

So, after

1NT 2♦
2♥ 2NT

Responder has shown

(a) exactly five hearts, otherwise generally a balanced hand (so 5-3-3-2 shape)

(b) 11-12 points, inviting game

Opener may now:

- Pass
- Bid 3♥ with 3 or more hearts (declining the game invitation)
- With enough to go on to game - raising to 3NT or bidding 4♥ (again with 3 or more hearts in the latter case)

Examples of using transfer responses

♠ Q 9 8 7 5	1NT	2♥
♥ 7 5 2	2♠	P
♦ J 10 8	(a weak hand with	
♣ 7 4	long spades)	

♠ 8 7	1NT	2♦
♥ A Q 7 5 2	2♥	3N
♦ 8 7 2	(a balanced game	
♣ A K 4	force w/ 5hearts)	

♠ 8 7	1NT	2♦
♥ A Q 8 7 5 2	2♥	3♥
♦ A 8 7	(game invitational	
♣ 7 4	with 6hearts)	

♠ A J 8 7	1NT	2♦
♥ K 10 8 7 2	2♥	2♠
♦ K 7	(game invitational	
♣ 7 4	w/ 5hearts/4spades)	

♠ K 8	1NT	2♦
♥ A Q 8 7 5	2♥	3♣*
♦ K 7	(game forcing w/	
♣ Q 9 7 4	5hearts & 4clubs)	
*could bid 3NT here		
treating as balanced		

♠ K 7 3	1NT	2♦
♥ A Q 8 7 5	2♥	3♦
♦ A Q 7 4	(game force with	
♣ 7	5hearts/4diamonds)	

♠ 8 7	1NT	2♦
♥ A Q 8 7 2	2♥	2N
♦ Q 7	(game invitational,	
♣ Q J 7 4	“balanced”)	

♠ 9 8	1NT	2♦
♥ A Q 8 7 5	2♥	3♣*
♦ 8 7	(game invitational,	
♣ A J 10 9	one round force)	

*Might bid 2N as no fit guaranteed in above auction and may get too high

Similarly, after

1NT 2♦
2♥ 3NT

responder has shown a five card heart suit in a balanced hand and values for game, e.g. 3+ points but no slam desire.

Opener may now choose between 3NT (by passing) when he holds only two hearts and a game contract of 4♥ with three or four card support for partner's 5-card suit.

Higher ambitions

Note that, since the 3NT bid by responder is not forcing, he must bid more strongly if he wishes to show a 5-card heart suit, a balanced hand and also slam ambitions. He may, after the transfer, bid a new suit forcing, or perhaps make a cue bid.

Transfer responses to the 2NT Opening Bid

A good method of responding to a 2NT opening bid (*and also after 2♣ – 2♦; 2N and 2♦ – 2♥; 2NT*) for players who are used to transfer responses to a 1NT opening bid is as follows:

- A response of 3♣ is still Stayman
- 3♦ shows five or more hearts
- 3♥ shows five or more spades
- A 3NT response is to play

So, it's similar to responding to 1NT,
just one level higher