

**Stamford Bridge Club**

**22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016**

**Protective Bidding**

Let's play **Board 1**

1

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Before we go through Board 1 some terminology and background information.  
If we bid/make a call immediately following an opponent's bid we act in the

**DIRECT SEAT**

e.g. (1♣) 1♠

If, however, we bid **following two passes** we are doing so in the

**PROTECTIVE SEAT**

e.g. (1♣) P (Pass) 1♠

We call this the Protective Seat because we are **protecting our partner**. That protection comes about because, unless we have a big hand, partner is marked with values following the responder's pass.

Why do we need to protect partner with a weakish hand?

Because

The contract may belong to us

We may even have game available

By bidding we can push the opponents up to higher levels

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We should not be afraid to bid with very light hands in the protective seat. As a guide we use a very important concept ...

### **The transferred king principle**

This states that

In the protective seat we can be a king lighter when making a call than we would be in the direct seat

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e.g. If 1level overcalls generally show 8+hcps in the direct seat we can act when a king lighter ... so with 5+hcps

So back to **Board 1**

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And here is another example. You will often see, as here, that when the protective bidder is lighter, his partner has a weak no trump type hand.

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The last illustration alluded to jump overcalls.

In the direct seat we like to play **weak jump overcalls** as they put pressure on the opponents' bidding space.

In the protective seat that's not the case. When responder fails to do anything but pass, opener has a good idea of his side's (lack of) ambition.

It's better to use a protective seat jump overcall to show a **decent opening hand with at least six cards**.

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Let's try **Board 2**

### **Comment**

**In the protective seat, a jump overcall shows 6+cards in the suit and about 12-15hcps**

Having introduced the **principle of the transferred king** we have to make adjustment when responding to the protective overcall.

**Mentally take away a king from your responding hand. With that "new" hand what response would you make to a **direct bid/call**? That's the bid you now make.**

**Board 3** shows bidding with which we are familiar but which also extends our use of the **transferred king principle**

### **Comment**

In the direct seat, our takeout doubles show at least 11hcps. Now, in the protective seat, they can be as light as 8hcps.

A jump response to a takeout double in the direct seat shows 8-10hcps. So, opposite a protective double, we increase this to 11-13hcps.

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We'll look at **Board 4** which will add to our armoury

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### **Comment**

Yes, in the direct seat we would not have had enough to bid.

With a direct 1N overcall showing 15-18 we adjust, in the protective seat, so that the bid shows 12-15. The strength is similar to an opening 1N bid.

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**Board 5** provides another example

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### Comment

The responder would have had an invitational hand opposite a 1N opening bid. Opposite a protective 1N the situation is just the same. So bid similarly.

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**Interlude** - Some considerations when bidding in the protective seat

It's important to get into the auction and you'll be bolder/more flexible than in the direct seat. That means:

When bidding no trumps, your stopper(s) **might not be robust**

When overcalling at the 1level you **might bid a 4card suit** (hopefully of good quality)

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And because we want to revise some other tools we now use let's look at **Board 6**

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### Comment

That was a transfer and invite sequence to game. It might have been played in 3N too.

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Summary

The differences between the direct and protective seats are as follows:

Type of bid	Direct Seat	Protective Seat
1level o/call	5+suit, 8+	(4)5+suit, 5+
2level o/call	5+, 10+hcps	5+, 7+
Jump o/call	Weak	Intermediate
	6cards, 5-9	6+, 12-15
Takeout X	11+	8+
1N	15-18	12-15
Hand too strong for o/call	X (19+)	X (16+)
Michaels	5/5	As Direct
Unusual 2N	5/5	- ditto -*

*\*but some play this as 19-21, balanced (with 16-18 balanced, start with X and bid a minimum number of no trumps)*

Practice examples

Let’s look at some protective seat hands where the auction has begun (1♦) P (Pass):

♠ Q 10 8 6  
♥ A 10 7 4  
♦ 8  
♣ Q 10 9 7

X – perfect shape

♠ J 9 8  
♥ A 4  
♦ K 10 9 6  
♣ K J 9 7

1N – 12-15, balanced, usually w/ stopper

♠ A 8 7  
♥ A 3  
♦ K J 9 7  
♣ K Q 5 2

Too strong for 1N. X then minimum no trump bid shows 16-18.

♠ Q 7  
♥ A K Q 2  
♦ 10 7 4  
♣ J 5 4 2

1♥ - very good 4card suit

♠ Q 7  
♥ J 5 4 2  
♦ 10 7 4  
♣ A K Q 2

Pass or 1N – your choice

So far the opponents haven’t been overly active. Sometimes we bide our time and make quite a delayed entry to the party.

... which takes us to **Board 7**

## Comment

We let the auction proceed then fizzle out. If we are light but have appropriate shape we now enter the fray.

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We'll end another example of this with **Board 8**. Before that, however, remember:

When in the pass out seat (perhaps having passed earlier) it might be appropriate to act positively

By acting you may buy the contract cheaply (or reach game); alternatively you may force the opponents up a level

Get more active – give it a try. It's worth a lot of points but **don't hang partner for having done something good** by driving the bidding too high

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Next week (Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> June)

**Supervised Play**

(featuring some examples of what we've covered today)

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