

Stamford Bridge Club

23rd March 2016

Countering Enemy Preempts A Recap

1

We use takeout double over preemptive openings in the same way that we do over 1level opening bids.

We use our **SOS thinking** in a similar way. To re-state. We'd *like* our takeout doubles to obey our three rules:

S - shortage in the opener's suit

O - opening points (11+hcps) and

S - support for the other three suits (usually 4cards each in two suits and 3/4cards in the third).

2

We do not live in a perfect world. We may use a bid that is not ideal but it may still work.

It's important to realise that when the opponents pre-empt, they take up a lot of our bidding space. We may have to use some imagination.

3

In response to a takeout double of a preemptive bid, a non-game jump is invitational (c.10-12hcps).

Because it is invitational it isn't forcing but partner will bid game if a little better than minimum.

4

Our overcalls are similar to what we would do over a 1level bid.

At the 2level they promise 5 or more cards of reasonable quality (c.10+hcps). If partner has support and about 10-11hcps he can invite game by raising.

5

If the overcall has been made at the 3level we'd like the suit to have **at least 6cards** ... but may, sometimes, have to make the bid with 5. At the 3level the overcaller is likely to have opening values [12+hcps].

We should generally raise to game with 10-11hcps - we have **NO ROOM** to invite and the cost of missing game is too high.

6

A 2N overcall over a weak2 opening bid shows **1+stop and 15-18**. It's the same range as a 1N overcall over a 1level bid (less memory strain).

7

We **respond to 2N** in the same way as we do to a 2N opening (or 2N rebid after a 2♣/2♦ start). Namely:

- 3♣ Stayman
- 3♦ Transfer to hearts
- 3♥ Transfer to spades

[but remember to take into account the lower point count when judging the level at which to play]

8

When the opposition bid so high we have little room for manoeuvre. It's usual to play that after a 3level pre-empt

3N **Shows at least one stop and about 16-22 hcp**

We don't play conventions over this. **All bids are natural.** The partner of the 3N bidder may, for example, bid a 6card major (or guess to bid a 5card one, though no 8card fit is guaranteed)

9

Generally the preemptor seeks to create havoc and the other side has all the problems.

Things can, however, backfire for the opening bidder. If an opponent opens, say, 3♠ and you hold

♠ A Q 9 8 4
♥ A J 10
♦ K J 7 4
♣ Q

What should you do?

10

Pass *in tempo* and hope partner re-opens with a **Double**.

To do anything else is to **mis-state your hand**. Your chance of extracting a juicy penalty will have disappeared.

11

Next week (30th March):

Workshop with David

Discards in Defence

12

