

**Lesson 5 Overcalling**

Morniing Class, help yourselves to tea coffee and biscuits. In lesson 5 we are going to consider for the first time both pairs taking part in the bidding. In lessons 1-4 one pair has been bidding and their opponents sat in silence. That rarely happens at the bridge table.

To overcall you do not need the Rule of 20 that we learned in Lesson one but you do need a good 5 card suit. Add the number of cards in your suit to the number of honours( A,K,Q,J,10) in the suit.

Example 1

Spades A Q J 7 6 has 5 cards plus 3 honours = 8 so you can overcall and bid of C D or H with 1 Spades and if the bidding had gone 1D Pass 2D you could overcall 2S if you had a few points in the other suits

Example 2

Hearts K 9,7,5,3 Spades A 10 5 Diamonds J 4 Clubs Q J 3 hear you have 11 poits and a 5 card heart suit with only 1 Honour so you cannot overcall 1H.

There are 3 reasons for overcalling:-

1. You may wish to play the contract.
2. You may wish to deny the opposition bidding space
3. You may want to tell your partner what to lead.

If you want to overcall your bid should meet 2 of the 3 reasons.

Example 3

North opens the bidding 1C

East holds S A J 10.7,4 H 5 D Q 9 7 C K 6 3 2 10 points and a 5 card suit with 3 honours

His overcall of 1S denies South the ability to bid 1D or 1H

East would like his partner to lead Spades so it is an excellent overcall.

**Responding to partner’s overcall.**

This is really easy

With 0-9 points All you have to do is add the number of cards you hold in Partners suit to the 5 they are known to hold and bid to that level.

If you hold 3 cards 5 + 3 = 8 bid 2 of partner’s suit

If you hole 5 cards 5 +5 = 10 bid 4 of partner’s suit

With 10 points + 3 card support bid the opener’s suit.

You need a very strong suit to change the suit after an overcall

Quiz.

The opposition open 1D and you hold the following hands. Do You overcall?

1 C 5 3 2 D 8 3 H A K J 7 3 S Q J 6

2 C A K 5 4 2 D 8 3 H 5 3 2 S Q J 6

3 C 5 3 2 D Q J 6 H 5 3 2 S A K 5 4 2

4 C K 3 2 D Q J 6 H Q 6 4 3 2 S K J 2

Answers next week though if you cannot wait I will post them on the Ringwood Bridge Club Face book page. Bet no one has told you we have one.

See you next week, keep washing those hands.

Example 4

North opens 1C

East holds S Q j H K J 3 D J 8 74 2 C A 6 3 This time East holds 12 points and a 5 card suit but an overcall of 1D does not stop South bidding H or S and East does not want a Diamond lead so they Pass