

**Lesson 6 Overcalling with strong hands**

Last week we considered competing in the bidding with a good suit and not many points. Occasionally the Gods of bridge give you a stronger hand. Today we will consider several options to describe a stronger hand. There are three alternatives.

1. With a hand strong enough to open and support for the three unbid suits , Double.
2. With 15-17 points and a good stop in the suit that has been opened bid 1NT
3. With a strong hand and a long suit, jump in the suit.

I will look at these 3 alternatives over the next three weeks. Initially I was only going to deliver 9 lessons but as we look like being isolated for another 10 weeks I thought I would extend the lessons to 12 or more.

An ideal hand for a (take out )double over a bid of 1H would be:-

I have described this bid as a take out double to distinguish it from a penalty double which might be made at a higher level in the bidding

Spade A Q 5 3 ) 15 high card points and support for S,D,C

Hearts 6 )

Diamomds K Q 6 2 )

Clubs K J 8 5 )

The weakest hand on which you should double 1H would be

Spades K J 3 2 ) The hand is just strong enough to open the bidding

Hearts 8 3 ) It does not contain a good suit.

Diamonds Q J 8 2 ) It does have support for the unbid Major suit

Clubs A J 2 ) It has at least 3 card support for the minor suits

I would expect a weak double of any opening bid to have good support for any 4 card major. With a stronger hand you might only hold a good 3 card suit for one f the unbid majors.

**Responding to a take out double**

If the bidding has started

1H Double (Normally written as X ) Pass. The doubler’s partner must bid no matter how poor their hand is.

If the bidding had gone 1H X 2H the partner is let off the hook and can pass a very weak hand.

Going back to the sequence 1H X Pass the doubler’s partner should:-

1. Bid their best suit at the lowest available level with 0-8 points
2. Jump 1 level in their best suit with 9-12 points
3. Bid the opening bidder’s suit with 13 + Points.

The doubler should then be in a position to judge whether the partnership has enough for game.

It is important not to get carried away if the bidding goes:-

1H X Pass 1S just because you hold 4 Spades. Your partner knows that already. They have made a simple raise so will hold 4 spades and less than 9 points. You need a hand of 15 poins or better to continue,

There is more to it than this but I have given you the basics on the take out double. Now try this weeks quiz.

Take out double quiz

Part 1 Your Right hand opponent opens the bidding 1H what do you bid holding the following hands?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Spades | Hearts | Diamonds  | Clubs |
| 1 | A J 10 7 | 4 | K 9 6 2  | K Q 9 6 |
| 2 | A 8 | 8 6 3  | A J 8 4  | K J 9 6  |
| 3 | K J 8 6 2  | 2 | Q 9 8  | A 8 6 5 |
| 4 | J 9 7 3  |  | K Q 73 | A K 7 4 2 |

Part 2 The bidding has gone 1H X Pass what do you bid with the following hands?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Spades | Hearts | Diamonds | Clubs |
| 1 | J 7 4 2 | K 6 3  | 8 4 2  | 8 5 3 2  |
| 2 | Q 9 6 2  | J 6 4 2  | K 10 7 | A 5 3 |
| 3 | 10 8 6 4 | K 3  | A J 6  | A Q 8 3 |
| 4 | Q 4  | K 10 5 3 2 | 9 4 3  | J 8 4  |

Answers to last week quiz were:

1 1H 2 Pass 3 1S 4 Pass

Answers to this week’s quiz will appear on the club’s facebook page and in lesson 7 next week.

As I cannot get the usual feedback that I get in a live class I would appreciate your comments and suggestion on the last 2 weeks.