

**Lesson 7 The 1NT overcall**

In lesson 6 we looked at overcalling with a strong hand an support for the unbid suits Today we consider how to bid a strong hand holding stops in the suit the opponents have opened,

For example :- your right hand opponent opens 1H and you hold

S A Q 53

H K J 9

D Q 10 7 2

C K J 6

You hold 16 points and no 5 card suit and probably 2 heart tricks.

This is an idea hand for a 1NT overcall. We use the bid on any balanced hand with stops in the suit opened and 15-17 high card points.

What do you do with 18-19 Points I hear you ask?

First double then bid NT. The bidding may go:

1H X Pass 2D

Pass 2NT

With 20 points the second bid would be 3NT.

Just like lessons 3 & 4 when we discussed opening 1NT and responses. It is the NT bidders partner who is in charge. If your partrner bids 1NT over a iH bid and you hould a balanced 10 + points you know you are strong enough to bid 3NT. Partner who is going to play the hand will know where the outstanding points are.

With 10 +points and a 4 card malor you can use the 2C Stayman convention used in lesson 4

With 0-5 points and a 5 card suit in D or S you can bid 2D or 2S and the NT bidder will pass because you are in charge.

The answers to lesson 6 quiz are :-

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1.1 | Double | 2.1 | 1 Spade |
| 1.2 | Pass | 2.2 | 2 Spades |
| 1.2 | 1Spade | 2.3 | 2Hearts |
| 1.4 | Double | 2.4 | 2 Clubs |

This week’s quiz

Your right hand opponent opens the bidding 1 Diamond what do you bid with the following hands?

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

Your left hand opponent opens the bidding with 1D your partner bids 1NT and your left hand opponent passes. What do you bid with the following holdings?

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