

U3A Improver Bridge

Lesson 11: Opener's Rebids – Weak & Moderate Hands

If you open the bidding with one of a suit and partner responds in a new suit his response is **forcing** (unless he had already passed) and opener must bid again. So, when opening the bidding with one of a suit you must be prepared to rebid. Mentally divide your hand into one of two groups, moderate hands of up to 15 points and strong hands of 16-19 points, this week we will deal with the first category and next week deal with strong rebids.

With a hand of not more than 15 points there are four options:

1. Rebid your own suit at the lowest available level; shows at least a 5-card suit with no intervening suit worth bidding. E.g. 1H-1S-2H shows at least a 5-card Heart suit and you do not have a Club or Diamond suit.
2. Support your partner's suit by raising one level; shows at least 4-card support for partner's suit **but** if partner's response to 1S has been 2H he guarantees a 5-card suit so can support with 3 – magic number is to have at least 8 trumps between the two hands. E.g. 1D-1H-2H or 1H-2C-3C
3. Show a second suit, lower-ranking than the first, offering responder a choice; note that the first suit must be at least as long as the second. E.g. 1H-1S-2D or 1S-2C-2H.

K 5

A Q 6 4 3

A J 8 7

J 3

Open 1H and rebid 2D over 1S, 1NT or 2C

4. Rebid in no-trump at the lowest available level; lesson 9 covered these rebids

It is important to note that on a hand such as:

A Q 6 5

K Q 10 3 2

K 6

8 7

When you open 1H and partner responds 2C you **cannot** bid 2S as you are not strong enough – you are asking partner to go up to the 3-level to give simple preference. We will deal with stronger hands on which you can do this next week.