MOST COMMON BIDDING MISTAKES

Making take out doubles without the right shape. You should not be making take out doubles just because you have an opening hand.

Failing to open hands which should be opened (and opening hands which shouldn’t be opened).

Failing to make a lead directing double when an opponent makes a conventional bid. Double is lead direct.

Random pre-empts. 1st or 2nd seat, (a) my suit will be good, (b) If I have an Ace of my suit, I won’t have an outside Ace, In 3rd seat, NO RULES, anything goes, partner needs a big fit to take action.

Incorrect evaluation of balanced hands.

Not using Stayman with some weak hands.

IT’S A GOOD IDEA TO THINK “DOES MY PARTNER KNOW THE WHOLE STORY OF MY OPENING BID OR DO I HAVE MORE TO TELL”.

WHEN THE OPPONENTS BIDS SHOW STRENGTH, OPTIONS TO CONSUME SPACE WITH PRE-EMPTIVE ACTIONS ARE DESIRABLE.

WHEN THE OPPONENTS BIDS SHOW WEAKNESS, WE SHOULD BE MORE CONCERNED WITH THE ABILITY TO SHOW STRENGTH.

BASIC PREEMISE: CAN NEVER BE PRE-EMPTIVE ACTIONS BY MEMBERS OF OPPOSING SIDES ON THE SAME DEAL.

ASK YOURSELF: WHAT’S FORCING, WHAT’S NON-FORCING, WHAT’S INVITATIONAL? BE CAREFUL TO REVALUE YOUR HAND BEFORE YOU REBID
TEST YOUR BIDDING

YOU OPEN  1 SPADE, PASS, PASS, DOUBLE

1. You hold:   AJ1087  KQ876  K2  3   WHAT’S YOUR BID?
2. You hold:   AQ976  AK3  AQ10  108   WHAT’S YOUR BID?
3. You hold:   AKJ986  3  QJ84  K5   WHAT’S YOUR BID?
4. You hold:   KQ1096  AKJ103  A2  3   WHAT’s YOUR BID?
5. You hold:   AK109865  2  AJ10  K5   WHAT’S YOUR BID?
6. You hold:   AJ876  KQ92  43  QJ   WHAT’S YOUR BID?

OPPONENT OPENS 1 DIAMOND, PARTNER DOUBLES, OPPONENT REDOUBLES

1. You hold:   A1054  43  108753  54   WHAT’S YOUR BID?
2. You hold:   76  105  1082  KQ9732   WHAT’S YOUR BID?
3. You hold:   765  K54  J863  984   WHAT’S YOUR BID
4. You hold:   5  K843  753  108532   WHAT’S YOUR BID?
5. You hold:   A104  AJ64  97  A743   WHAT’S YOUR BID?
6. You hold:   KJ8642  65  976  43   WHAT’S YOUR BID?