

SMOLEN

AT THE BRIDGE TABLE, WE OFTEN FIND OURSELVES IN A QUANDRY, DEFINED AS A STATE OF DOUBT. SUPPOSE PARTNER OPENS 1 NT, SHOWING 15-17, AND YOU HOLD A HAND WITH 5-4, IN THE MAJORS SUITS. WHAT DO YOU DO?

MANY PLAYERS PLAY A CONVENTION CALLED SMOLEN IN THIS SITUATION. USING SMOLEN, YOU JUMP IN YOUR FOUR-CARD MAJOR INSTEAD OF YOUR FIVE-CARD MAJOR. THIS HAS THE BENEFIT OF MAKING THE 1 NT BIDDER THE DECLARER WHEN HE HAS THREE-CARDS IN YOUR FIVE-CARD MAJOR SUIT. HERE'S AN EXAMPLE:

WEST	EAST
1 NT	2 CLUBS
2 DIAMONDS	3 SPADES

THE AUCTION ABOVE SHOWS 5 SPADES AND ONLY 4 SPADES.

WHAT IF YOU HAVE 6-4 IN THE MAJORS? CONSIDER THIS AUCTION:

WEST	EAST
1 NT	2 CLUBS
2 DIAMONDS	4 DIAMONDS or 4 HEARTS IS A TEXAS TRANSFER

WHAT IF YOU'RE 5-5 IN THE MAJORS, WITH VALUES FOR GAME?

WEST	EAST
1 NT	2 HEARTS (TRANSFER)
2 SPADES	3 HEARTS (5-5 MAJORS) GAME FORCING

NOTE: IF I HAVE A BALANCED HAND, 4-3-3-3, I BID 3 NT

		A10	DEALER	1 NT
		1073		2 DIAMONDS
		AK9		
		KQ865		
J96				874
8542	PASS			K9
Q865				J1042
A2				9743
		KQ532		
		AQJ6		
		73	2 CLUBS	
		J10	???????	

		Q82		
		A96	DEALER	1 NT
		K54		2 DIAMONDS
		AQ107		
				PASS
		K874		PASS
		AK653		
		873	2 CLUBS	
		4	???????	

Q&A: DO YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT THE TRANSFER? YES, YES, YES

DO YOU SUPER ACCEPT WHEN PARTNER TRANSFERS? YES, WILL HAVE 17 H.C.P. AND AT LEAST 4 IN THE TRANSFER SUIT.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN PARTNER TRANSFERS AND THE OPPONENT DOUBLES FOR A LEAD?