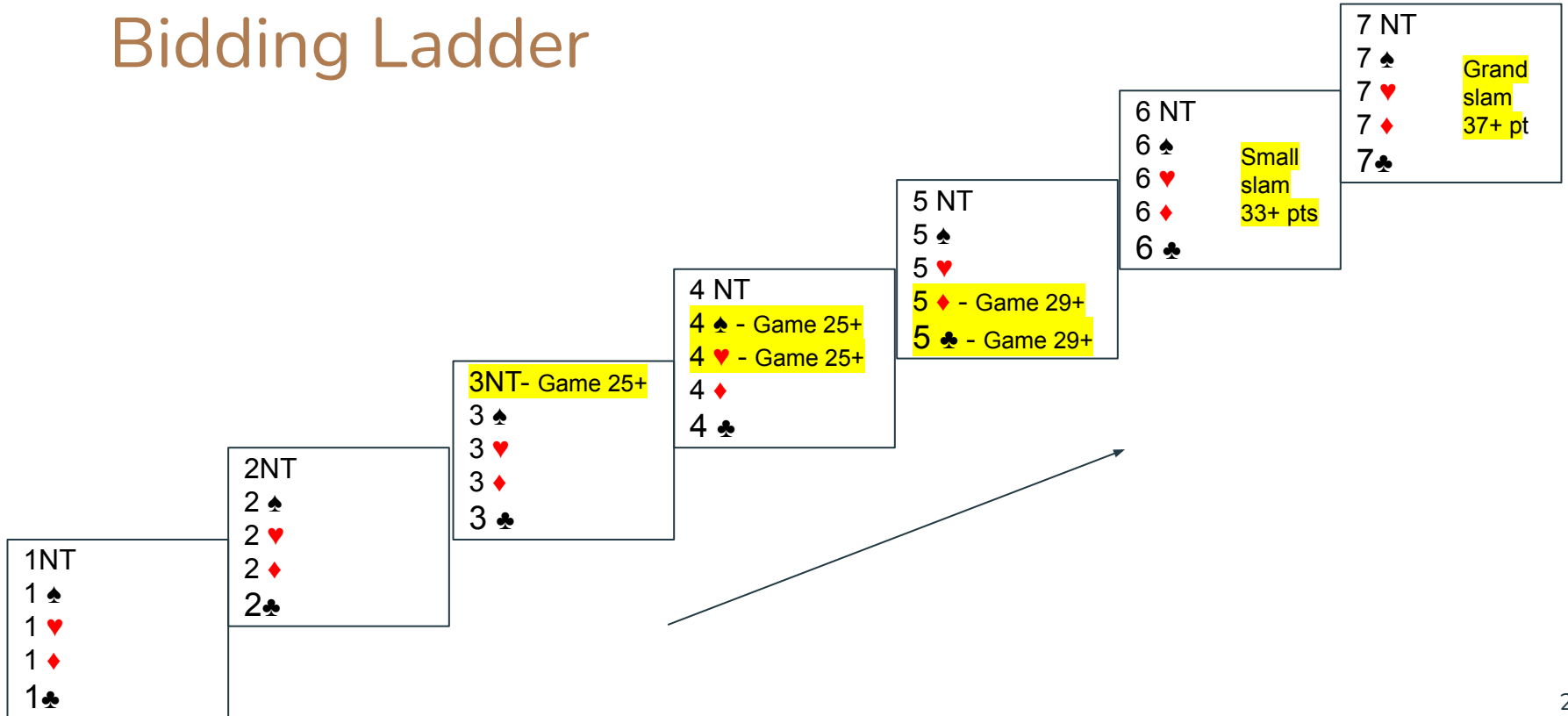


Opening Majors

Beginning Bridge Lab
Jan. 19, 2022
Tony Schlegel - Instructor
Wendy Schlegel - Assistant/Mentor

Bidding Ladder



Opening a Major (♠ or ♥)

- Requirements to Open a Major
 - HCP - 12 - 19 HCPs (sometimes you may need to open with 20 or 21 if not balanced)
 - At least 5♠ or 5♥

Sample opening hands

**West is
Dealer**

West - 13 HCP

♠ A K J 8 6
♥ K 10 9
♦ Q 4
♣ 10 8 2

What should W bid?

1 ♠

North - 10 HCP

♠ 10 7
♥ J 4 2
♦ 10 8 7 3
♣ A K Q 6

South - 10 HCP

♠ Q 4 2
♥ 8 7 5
♦ A K 2
♣ J 9 5 4

East - 7 HCP

♠ 9 5 3
♥ A Q 6 3
♦ J 9 6 5
♣ 7 3

How do we respond to an Opener's 1 ♠ or 1 ♥?

(Primary objective: Find an 8+ card fit in the Majors)

- PASS - with less than 6 HCP
- Bid 2 of partner's suit - 6 - 9 HCP and 3+ cards in the suit partner opened
- Bid 3 of partner's suit - 10+ HCP and 4+ cards in the suit partner opened
- If partner bids 1 ♠, respond 1 ♠ with 6+ HCP and 4 or more spades and 2 or less ♥
- Bid 1 NT (you do not have 3 or more of partner's major suit and 6+ HCPs_
- If partner opens 1 ♠, bid 2 ♥ if you have 10+ HCP and at least 5 ♥

Sample Responder hands when Opener bids 1 ♠ or 1 ♥

Opener bids 1 ♥

Responder's hand - 9 HCP

♠ 10 6 5
♥ K 9 8 2
♦ K 9 7
♣ QJ 10

Bid 2 ♥

Opener bids 1 ♥


Responder's hand - 8 HCP

♠ 10 9 7 3
♥ QJ
♦ A 7 3
♣ J 10 6 3

Bid 1 ♠

Sample Responder hands when Opener bids 1 or 1




Opener bids 1 

Responder's hand - 7 HCP


 K 3 2
 J 10
 Q J 9 6
 5 4 3 2

Bid 1 NT

Opener bids 1 

Responder's hand - 11 HCP

 A J 8 3
 K 5
 Q J 10 6
 7 6 4

Bid 3 

Opener's 2nd bid

- Bid 2 of Partner's new suit with 4 card support
- Bid 2 of Opener's original suit with 6+ cards
- Bid 1 NT if no 4 card support for Partner's suit and no 6 cards in suit originally opened

Opener's 2nd bid after bidding 1 or 1




Opener bids 1  & Responder bids 1 NT


Opener's hand - 15 HCP

 A Q J 7 4 2

 A 9


 7 4 2


 A 6


Bid 2 

Opener bids 1  & Responder bids 1 

Opener's hand - 13 HCP

 K 9 5

 K J 7 5 3

 K 8 2

 K 7

Bid 1 NT