

Pre-emptive Styles

Patrick, April 2018

Storyboard for tonight

- Why have pre-empts ?
- Good and bad points of each
- Calibration exercise
- Defending against pre-empts

<play some hands and discuss>

<break>

- Next topic - squeezes

<play some hands and discuss>

<any questions>

PART 1

Some theory around pre-empts

Which bids are pre-empts?

- Principle of forcing bids
 - makes other bids spare bids
- Best use of spare bids is pre-emptive
 - jump openings
 - jump overcalls
 - jump responses

Why Pre-empt ?

- Constructive purposes
 - describes the hand, leaves partner to decide
- Obstructive purposes
 - makes life difficult for others
 - just opening the bidding does this at any level

The balance between these ...

How well does pre-empting work?

- Rule of 500 ?
- Bidding has improved
 - when given a free run
 - so we pre-empt more
- Defending pre-empts also better understood

What's good for constructive?

- The description being honest
 - single suited
 - HCP suitable for suit play
 - commensurate with the level of the bidding
 - length and suit quality
- Being able to run tricks in NT
 - entries to the long suit
- Extra shape if to play in a suit

What's good for obstructive?

- Being in first or third seat
- Being non-vulnerable
- Lead-directing value
- Difficult suit to penalise
- Short in their target suit (often majors)
- The SPADE suit
- Lack of defensive values





Debate over ranges

- How wide a range can you handle ?
- If there ever a hand which is
 - too good to pre-empt, but
 - not good enough for a 1-level opener ?

PART 2

Calibrating our Pre-empts

Example 1

N	North
	KQJ10432
	2
	43
	432

first
seat at
white

Vanilla 3♠ for many
but being so pure
many today would
open 4♠

Example 2

E	East
♠	2
♥	KQ95432
♦	KJ3
♣	54

second
seat
vulnerable

Maximum constructive position, so this is just as expected for 3♥.





Example 3

E	East
♠	10976543
♥	A4
♦	765
♣	9

second seat
non-
vulnerable

Semi-constructive position and not good enough for 3♠ but the extra trump compensates for lesser values and justifies 2♠.

Example 4

N	North
	QJ10987
	6
	5
	J10954

first
seat at
green

Maximum obstruction
needed here and most
would stretch this to 3♠
and some to 4♠

Example 5

N	North
♠	74
♥	94
♦	AJ6
♣	AJ9632

first
seat at
green

Good time to be obstructive
but too many defensive
values and lead might not
be helpful. Best to pass.





PART 3

Pre-empting in International Events

PRE EMPTS

- Take a sheet and run through the examples, individually.
 - it is about calibration, not about excess!
- Then I'll tell you what happened when the hand occurred
- Then we will talk general principles.

B1.9

S	South
	K98432
	Q95
	109
	Q6

third
seat at
green

Of the 5 we know,
four opened weak 2-
bid, one opened
weak-3.

B1.16

W	West
♠	1092
♥	KJ7543
♦	K
♣	872

first
seat at
red

Of the five we know,
three passed – suit
quality not right at
this vulnerability.

B1.19

S	South
♠	92
♥	86
♦	QJ9632
♣	742

first
seat at
green

Three passed, two
opened 2♦ and one
opened 3♦

B1.21

N	North
♠	85
♥	AQ10965
♦	8
♣	Q763

first
seat at
red

Five opened weak-2
and one opened
weak-3.

B2.4

W	West
♠	KQ9854
♥	1095
♦	10
♣	A108

first
seat at
amber

Four opened weak 2♠ but one deemed it too strong and opened 1♠ and they got to game in hearts!

B2.14

E	East
♠	K8
♥	QJ10962
♦	Q4
♣	Q63

second
seat at
white

Four opened weak-2 but
one deemed it too strong
and opened 1♥

B2.22

S	South
♠	AJ108543
♥	75
♦	92
♣	A9

first
seat at
red

Very close call and three
opened 3♥ and three
opened 1♥.

B2.24

W	West
♠	9
♥	98
♦	J74
♣	AKQ9432

first
seat at
white

Three of six opened
a gambling 3N – a
mix of obstructive
and constructive.





B2.26

E	East
♠	7
♥	K103
♦	KQ8763
♣	765

first
seat at
amber

Three of six opened a weak two bid in diamonds (but not all six had this available – numbers uncertain)

B2.31

W	West
	AQJ64
	954
	983
	103

second
seat at
green

Only one chose a weak
two bid in spades.

Samples from the rest

- 12 hands you will not see
- 32 hands of 160 => 20%
- Only 1/32 was a pre-emptive overcall





B3.18

W	West
♠	94
♥	875
♦	KJ1065
♣	K85

third
seat at
green

Four opened 2♦, the
others 1♦ and 3♦.
The 1♦ opener had
the best effect.

B3.24

W	West
	82
	KQ109752
	2
	QJ9

first
seat at
white

Three opened 3♥,
three opened 4♥.

B5.3

N	North
♠	432
♥	7
♦	AQ1095
♣	QJ76

third
seat at
green

Three passed but two
opened 3♦, and one
opened 1♦.

B5.5

E	East
♠	AKQ987
♥	1093
♦	72
♣	J9

second
seat at
green

Four opened 1♠ and one opened a very heavy 2♠; and the only one to pass found the heart fit when partner was 0517 shape.

KEY POINTS ON PREMPTS

- First seat is where it pays to stretch
 - particularly when no defensive values
- Extra shape (7411, 7420, 7510) bids higher
 - and the hand is not always so weak
- Ideal weak two (suit quality or 6421) often upgraded
- In third seat anything goes
 - second seat is constructive as well as obstructive

PART 4

Over their pre-empt

Points to remember

- Points to remember

- you want to be able to bid 2-suiters

- Leaping Michaels over weak2 (and jump 4 ♦)
 - Cue bids over weak2 and weak3
 - 4N as 2-suiter with any lower suits

My preference : over their weak 3m,
4L bids Multi-Landy

Points to remember

- Points to remember
 - you want to be able to bid 2-suiters (Michaels)
 - cue bid when partner overcalls : multi-purpose
 - only choice with good raise
 - can be only choice to find another suit

Dlr: North
Vul: E/W

♠ 10 7 4 2
♥ A Q 4 3
♦ 10 9 2
♣ 4 2

Optimum
EW 4N

♠ A K J
♥ 10 8
♦ A Q 7
♣ K Q 9 5 3

W NORTH E
S 25 A
T SOUTH T

♠ Q 9 6 5 3
♥ K 9 7 5
♦ --
♣ J 10 7 6

6

19

6

9

♠ 8
♥ J 6 2
♦ K J 8 6 5 4 3
♣ A 8

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	2	7	4	2	2
S	2	7	4	2	2
E	10	5	8	10	10
W	10	5	8	10	10

Board No 25 E/W Vul Dealer North									
Deal: 170904GCBA									
NS	EW	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	-
1	7	4♠	E	♠A	11		650	-1	1
2	11	3NT	W	♦10	11		660		
3	4	3NT	W	♦10	11		660		
4	3	3NT	W	♦10	11		660		
6	10	4♥	E	♦2	9	100		13	-13
7	1	3NT	W	♦J	10		630	1	-1
8	9	3NT	W	♦9	11		660	-13	13
9	8	5♥	E	♠8	9	200		13	-13
10	6	4♠	E	♦5	11		650	-13	13
11	2	4♠	E	♦3	11		650		

N	E	S	W
P	P	4♦	?

West tried a natural 4N but East thought it was a 2-suiter !

Points to remember

- Points to remember
 - you want to be able to bid 2-suiters (Michaels)
 - cue bid when partner overcalls : multi-purpose
 - after partner overcalls 3N you want a system

PART 5

Looking at Squeezes

Key Points to Note

- Many squeezes are just about being careful
- You need to envisage the opponent's difficulty

Today just some simple squeezes

Squeeze 1

W West	E East
♠ AKQ	♠ 432
♥ 432	♥ AKQ
♦ AKQ2	♦ 543
♣ 543	♣ AKQ2

Squeeze 1

W West

♠ AKQ

♥ 432

♦ AKQ2

♣ 543

E East

♠ 432

♥ AKQ

♦ 543

♣ AKQ2

S South

♠ 765

♥ 65

♦ 9876

♣ 9876

Squeeze 2

W West	E East
♠ KQJ	♠ 432
♥ 432	♥ AKQ
♦ AKQ2	♦ 543
♣ 543	♣ AKQ2

Squeeze 2

W West

♠ KQJ
♥ 432
♦ AKQ2
♣ 543

E East

♠ 432
♥ AKQ
♦ 543
♣ AKQ2

S South

♠ 765
♥ 65
♦ 9876
♣ 9876

Squeeze 3

W West	E East
♠ AKQJ10	♠ 432
♥ AKQ	♥ 432
♦ A2	♦ J43
♣ 543	♣ AKQ2

Squeeze 3

N North

♠ 65

♥ 765

♦ KQ109

♣ 9876

W West

♠ AKQJ10

♥ AKQ

♦ A2

♣ 543

E East

♠ 432

♥ 432

♦ J43

♣ AKQ2

Squeeze 4

W West	E East
♠ AKQJ10	♠ 5432
♥ AKQ	♥ 432
♦ J5	♦ A2
♣ 543	♣ AKQ2

Squeeze 4

W West

♠ AKQJ10

♥ AKQ

♦ J5

♣ 543

E East

♠ 5432

♥ 432

♦ A2

♣ AKQ2

S South

♠ 76

♥ 765

♦ KQ109

♣ 9876

Squeeze 5

W West	E East
♠ AKQJ10	♠ 432
♥ KQ2	♥ A43
♦ AJ4	♦ 532
♣ 43	♣ AK52

Squeeze 5

N North

♠ 65
♥ 765
♦ KQ109
♣ 9876

W West

♠ AKQJ10
♥ KQ2
♦ AJ4
♣ 43

E East

♠ 432
♥ A43
♦ 532
♣ AK52

Key Points to Note

- Many squeezes are just about being careful
- You need to envisage the opponent's difficulty
- Works best if you have all but one of the tricks
- You might need to unblocks suits first

Today just some simple squeezes

HAPPY TO TAKE QUESTIONS

On what we have done, or what we
have not done