Bridge
Hand Evaluation

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How good is my hand?

- Mechanical evaluation tools
- Hands in isolation
- Short and long suit holdings
- Defensive values and competitive bidding
Law of Total Tricks

N E S
1♥ 2♦ ?

S: Qxx        S: x
H: Jxxx       H: KJxx
D: Qxx        D: xx
C: Kxx        C: KQJxxx
Losing Trick Count

S: Axx  S: Axx
H: KJxx  H: KJxx
D: Kxxx  D: Kxxx
C: Qx  C: Qx

S: KQx  S: KQx
H: Q10xxx  H: Q10xxx
D: Ax  D: xxx
C: xxx  C: Ax
Hands in Isolation

- Use point count and shape to evaluate your hand before the auction starts.

- You CANNOT add PLUS or MINUS values before the auction starts.

- Once the auction starts, be prepared to constantly re-evaluate the strength of your hand.
Short and Long Suit Holdings

S: xx
H: xxx
D: xxxx
C: AKxx

S: Qx
H: Qxx
D: Qxxx
C: Qx

S: xx
H: xxx
D: xxxx
C: AQxx

S: Kx
H: Kxx
D: Kxxx
C: Kx
Short and Long Suit Holdings

S: xx  S: xx
H: xxx  H: xxx
D: xxxx  D: xxxx
C: Axxx  C: Kxxx

S: KQ  S: AQ
H: KQx  H: AQx
D: KQxx  D: AQxx
C: KQ  C: AQ
The presence of 10s

S: AJxxx
H: AJxxx
D: KJxx
C: KJ10x

S: Qxx
H: Q10x
D: Qxx
C: Qxx
Short and Long Suit Holdings

- The more cards you have in a suit between the two hands, the more valuable your minor honour cards
- Queens and jacks in short suits are MINUS offensive values unless…
- Queens and jacks in partner’s suit are PLUS offensive values
- Tens in long suits are PLUS offensive values
Upgrade or Downgrade?

S: xxx  S: xxx
H: Kx   H: Kx
D: AJxxx D: AJxxx
C: Qxx   C: Qxx

S: Ax    S: AQ
H: AQJ10xx H: AQJ10xx
D: Q10x   D: 10xx
C: xx     C: xx
Upgrade or Downgrade?

S: A10xxx
H: Qx
D: Jxxx
C: xx

S: Qxxx
H: x
D: AKJxx
C: Axx

S: QJxx
H: AKxxx
D: x
C: Kxx

S: AKJxx
H: Kxx
D: Qx
C: Qxx
Defensive values

- Queens and Jacks in the opponents’ suits are PLUS defensive values.
- Aces and Kings in short suits are PLUS defensive values.
- Aces and Kings in our suit; Queens and Jacks in short suits are NEUTRAL.
- Queens and Jacks in our suit are MINUS defensive values.
Competitive Bidding

N  E  S
1♥  2♦  ?

S: Qxx  S: x
H: Jxxx  H: KJxx
D: Qxx  D: xx
C: Kxx  C: KQJxxx
Summary

If you think the correct bid is obvious, make that bid!

When unsure:
- Offensive Plus Values: Honour cards and supported 10s in partner’s suit
- Offensive Minus Values: Queens and Jacks in short suits
- Defensive Plus Values: Honour cards in the opponents’ suit and Aces and Kings in short suits
- Defensive Minus Values: Queens and Jacks in your long suits

Don’t rely totally on laws and axioms: develop and use your judgement!