

# One No Trump Semi-Forcing

F.E.F.M.O

Forcing Except Flat Minimum  
Openings

# If You Play 2/1 Game Force

- A non-jump 2-level bid shows 13 points.
- So the system makes 1 no trump a catchall bid for hands with 6 to 12 points that do not have a 1-level bid available.
- With certain hand, a forcing 1 no trump bid can be a problem.
- Some partnerships play the 1 no trump bid as strongly encouraging, but not absolutely forcing.

# One No Trump Semi-Forcing

- Forcing, except with a flat minimum opening hand. (F.E.F.M.O.)
- I will discuss the problems and issues that arise with a semi-forcing 1 no trump response.
- But first, let's look at the normal rebids over a 1 no trump response to a major-suit opening bid.

# Rebids With 2-Suited Hands

- 1 ♠ / 1 ♥ ... 1nt,,,
- Rebids with 2 suited hands
  - 2 ♣ / 2 ♦. Shows 5 of the major and usually 4 of the minor. 12-14 points. Somewhat unbalanced hand.
  - 3 ♣ / 3 ♦. Shows 5 of the major and usually 4 of the minor. 19-21 points. Somewhat unbalanced hand. Game-forcing jump shift.

# A Couple of Examples

Hand1

opener's hand

♠ A Q 9 4 2

♥ 2

♦ J 10 5

♣ K Q 8 4

Hand 2

opener's hand

♠ A K Q 9 4

♥ 2

♦ A J 10

♣ K Q 8 4

Opener

1 ♠

2 ♣

Responder

1nt

Opener

1 ♠

3 ♣

Responder

1nt

# Problem Hand

Hand 3  
opener's hand  
♠ A K 9 4 2  
♥ 2  
♦ Q 10 5  
♣ A K J 4

Opener	Responder
1 ♠	1nt
??	

- What would you do with this hand as opener?
- My point here is:
- The two-level minor suit rebid is often ambiguous.
- Responder should try to find a descriptive bid with more than a minimum.

# Rebids With a 1-Suited Hand

- Opener normally rebids the opening suit.
- 1 ♥ ... 1nt.
- 2 ♥ Usually shows a minimum hand with 11-15 points and a six-card suit.
- 3 ♥ Usually shows a medium hand with 16-18 points and a six-card suit.
- 4 ♥ Usually shows a minimum hand with 11-15 points and a seven-card suit.

# A Couple of Examples

Hand 4

opener's hand

♠ A Q 9 7 4 2

♥ 2

♦ J 10

♣ K Q 8 4

Hand 5

opener's hand

♠ A K J 9 6 4

♥ 2

♦ K J 10

♣ K J 8

Opener

1 ♠

2 ♠

Responder

1nt

Opener

1 ♠

3 ♠

Responder

1nt



# One More Example

Hand 6 opener's  
hand

♠ A K 9 7 5 4 2

♥ 2

♦ Q 10

♣ A Q 10

- Extra length in the opening major suit
- A bit more than a minimum high-card strength.

Opener

1 ♠

4 ♠

Responder

1nt

# Problem Hand

Hand 7  
opener's hand  
♠ A K J 9 4 2  
♥ 5 2  
♦ A 10  
♣ A K J

Opener	Responder
1 ♠	1nt
??	

- What would you do with this hand as opener?
- You need to create a game-forcing auction.
- Treat this 1-suited hand like a 2-suited hand and make a jump shift.
- Bid 3♣,

# 6-4 Distribution

Hand 8  
opener's hand

♠ K Q J 9 4 2



♦ 9 6 4

♣ A Q 10 9

Opener

1 ♠

??

Responder

1nt

- Normally with 6-4 distribution and a good 4-card suit, you rebid the 4-card suit.
- Rebid your 4-card suit rather than rebid your 6-card suit
- Rebid 2 ♣.

# One More Problem Hand

Hand 8  
opener's hand  
♠ K Q J 9 4 2  
♥  
♦ J 6 4 2  
♣ A Q 7

Opener	Responder
1 ♠	1nt
??	

- Normally with 6-4 distribution and a good 4-card suit, you rebid the 4-card suit.
- When you have a weak 4-card suit, it is better to treat that hand like a one suited hand.
- Rebid 2 ♠.

# Flat Hands (F.E.F.M.O.)

- How does F.E.F.M.O. work?
  - You open 1 of a major suit,
    - You have 5-3-3-2
    - You have 5-4 2-3, with a weak 4-card suit
    - You have 4-5-2-2, so bidding 2 ♠ would be a reverse.
  - 12 to 14 points.
  - You may pass partner's 1 nt response.

# Some Example Hands

Hand 8

opener's hand

♠ K Q 9 7 4

♥ J 3

♦ J 6 4

♣ A Q 7

Hand 9

opener's hand

♠ K Q J 9 4

♥ J 3

♦ 10 6 5 3

♣ A Q

Hand 10

opener's hand

♠ K J 9 7

♥ K Q J 3 2

♦ J 6

♣ Q 7

Playing a 1 nt response as semi-forcing , you could pass with any of these hands.

# What Are Disadvantages of Playing 1nt Semi-Forcing F.E.F.M.O.

- Partner might have a 3-card limit raise.
- You will miss your 8-card major-suit fit.
- Larry Cohen argues:
  - Sometimes 1nt scores better.
  - Sometimes 3 of the major will go down.

Hand 11 responder's hand  
1 ♠... 1nt...Pass  
♠ K J 9  
♥ 3 2  
♦ A J 6 4  
♣ Q 7 6 3

# More Disadvantages

- Partner might have a 6-card suit she wants to sign off in.
- This does not happen often, but when it does, it will probably turn out badly for you.
- No system is perfect.

Hand 11 responder's hand  
1 ♠... 1nt...Pas

♠ 9

♥ K J 9 6 3 2

♦ K J 6 4

♣ 6 3



# One More Disadvantage

- Partner may have a weak hand, 6-or 7 points with 3-card support.
- Intending to sign off at two of your major.
- You're left in 1 no trump which won't make.

Hand 11 responder's hand

1 ♠... 1nt...Pass

♠ 9 7 2

♥ 6 3 2

♦ K J 6 4

♣ K 7 3

# Advantages

- You no longer have to make awkward 3-card suit rebids, with a weak opening hand.
- When you do make a second bid, you have:
  - 6 card suit
  - 5-4 distribution with a good 4-card suit.
  - 15 or more points.
- 1 no trump may be the best place to play the hand, at matchpoints.

# Final Point

- I'm not necessarily recommending this method.
- I want to show you a way some players are handling the 1 no trump response to a major suit opening.
- If you choose to play it this way, talk it over fully with your partner.
- Stay disciplined within the guidelines I have given you here.
- Perhaps include Bergen raises in your bidding.