

Comments on Improve Your Bidding Judgement

By Neil H. Timm

Marty Bergen in his article Improve your bidding judgement - part 11 in the April 2022 "Bridge Bulletin" page 59 considers the following hand:

♠K2 ♥AK52 ♦AJ103 ♣A42

and asks, "What would you open?". You are in the fourth seat and your side is vulnerable, but the opponents are not.

He claims that many, playing 2/1, would open the hand by bidding 1♦ with 19HCP.

With 3 aces and a quality diamond suit – He recommends bidding 2NT! He states that "With three aces and a quality diamond suit, this is a *very* upgraded hand" – expert judgement.

Playing the Optimal Modified 2/1-Club system, Timm (2022) you would open 1♣ = 18+HLD points since the hand has 22.5HLD points (21.5H points and 1D point).

Partner has the following hand ♠65 ♥943 ♦Q96 ♣KJ753 or 5.5H points + 1L point = 6.5HLD points and bids 1♦* (artificial 0-7 or 13+HLD). Opener bids 2NT.

Since a slam requires 33–35HLDF points, responder next bids 3NT with no slam interest. If responder had a 13+ HLD point hand, he would next bid 4♣ as Expert Gerber.

The purpose of this bridge tip is to show that playing the OPC system that "expert" bidding judgement is not required to bid the hand playing 2/1!

See the Bridge Bulletin for the layout and play of the hand.

Bergen does a very nice job on how to play the hand when the opponents lead the ♠7. He notes that if you had opened 1♦, partner would have responded 1NT. And when a spade is led though your ♠K in 3NT that you would lose the first five diamond tricks.

Because correct bidding accounts for about 80% of bridge hands, you must employ the best hand evaluation methodology.

Timm, Neil (2022), The Optimal Modified 2/1-Club System, Trafford Press.