

Monday notes

Today we covered the basic lessons found in chapters 1 2 and 3.

Counting points...when opening only count HCP and length 5 cards=1 additional point 6=1 more etc

When responding...(raising pards suit) count Dummy pts 5=void 3=x 2=xx

When bidding your own suit only count distribution pts...(length)

Opening the bidding...1 of a suit 12---21 pts...HCP and length

WHich suit to open???

First choice...always 1 NT if balanced hand w/15=16=17 HCP

Can contain a 5 crd Major if...xxx in other Major...if only xx Open with the Major suit...
2nd Choice 5 card Major...even with no honor cards 9 8 7 6 5 4 of Spades is good 5 card suit...It doesn't matter where the points happen to be...As long as you have 12 points we don't care where the points are...

3rd Choice...Bid your longest Minor suit...if choice is between Three clubs or three diamonds always bid the clubs..Otherwise if the choices between four & four or fiv & five bid the higher ranking first...

Worst choice scenario... xxx in D and xx in C...bid the D...we don't ever bid a 2 card suit...

Responses to Pards Major Opening bid...Anytime you are supporting pards major...Use Dummy pts

- 1..Raise the bid suit 1 level with Min han...6-10 using Dummy pts...5=void 3=x 2=xx
- 2..Raise the bid suit two levels with a medium hand...11-12
- 3..With a Maximum hand (12 HCP...opening or better) Bid a new suit even with support...Partner must bid... then after you get more information you can decide if you have **more than game or just game**

Responses to Parts minor suit opening bid

- 1.. Bid a new suit of four cards or longer with Minimum hand 6-10
2. Raise Partners diamonds with four cards...Raise Partners clubs with five cards... whenever you raise your partner's opening bid you promise an eight card fit.
3. Without support or the ability to bid a new suit... you have six -10 points bid one No Trump if you have 11 or 12 points bid 2 NT Trump... if you have 12 or 13 points bid 3 NT...You might notice that 12 points gives you an option to bid either two or three that depends on who your partner is who you're playing and if you have tenaces in your hand.....AQxxx KJxxxxx Q 10xxxxxx Finesses work 50% of the time so 12 might be OK or not so much???

When your partner opens the bidding one no Trump you have the most information you will ever get on an opening bid partner has a balanced hand no Singletons no voids only one doubleton and they have high card points that total either 15 16 or 17 that is a lot of information

When you have a nice Five Card major suit and 10 points it's pretty easy to see that's where the hand belongs in a game in a major if you have eight or nine points and a good major suit that might be the place to play the hand too but if you have the five card major and no points whatsoever that is still the safest place to play the hand if you have five hearts and the opponents have the ace the king and the Queen those last two hearts that you have even if they're the two and the three will be good if you were in no Trump you would get no points from hearts so it's always better when you're weak to be in a suit contract not a no Trump contract it is preferable that the responder have an unbalanced hand hopefully with one or two long suits and some points if both the responder and the opener have flat balanced hands it makes a no truck bid very difficult to achieve

In Standard American the responder bids two of their major to tell partner to stop or three of their major to say they have five cards and 10 points there is no bid in standard American that says I have eight or nine points a medium hand partner but I also have a five card Spade suit there's just no way to show that bid that's why the experts decided they would invent a convention whereby the responder was able to make the opener bid their suit and then after the opener has actually bid the major then they come back and show their points and they show their points by bidding some number of no Trump unless they have a six or a seven card suit then they would rebid their suit either at the three level or the four level depending upon their points

Those of you that are playing transfers know that after your partner opens one no Trump and you have a five card heart suit you bid the suit directly beneath the one you want your partner to bid so you would bid diamonds to indicate hearts you would bid Hearts to indicate Spades after partner has accepted the transfer and they must accept the transfer now you come back and you tell your partner how many points you had if you have eight or nine you bid to no trip if you have 10 or more you bid through no trouble that lets the opener decide if they want to play it in a suit contract or in a no Trump contract and that would depend upon whether the opener held two or three of the suit you have indicated obviously once the opener knows you have five and they look in their hand and see they have three that's what they would choose If you hold a long minor suit and partner has opened one no Trump that is a situation you need to discuss with your partner because there is no bid in Standard America that says I have a long minor suit and eight or nine points...2NT only says I have eight or nine points

If you want to tell your partner about your long minor suit you can only do it by bidding three of that minor and I suggest that should be a stop bid... partner should never bid again the only way your diamonds or clubs will be useful is if they are the Trump suit so if you have six diamonds and three points standard American bidders would bid two diamonds... people that are playing transfers will have to bid three diamonds and the strong hand will go down on the

board so everybody will see all of the high card points your side holds...but that may be much better than passing 1 NT

We also discussed Opening leads.....

We never ever lead away from an ace on the opening lead... you give the opponents a chance to take their Singleton King and you have given away way too much information...

The opening lead is not necessarily meant to take the trick it is to give your partner information and hopefully set up some winners later on in the hand...

If you lead an A...you're promising the K...If you lead a J you're promising the 10!
If you have Partners A you must lead it...if you don't lead it they will know you don't have it!!

Partner's bid suit should be your best best lead most of the time...

Top of a sequence...AKQ need 3 in NT.....AK...or QJ... only need 2 card sequence in a suit contract...

Singleton

Low from an honor...K952...Lead the 2...

Top of nothing...852...lead the 8...

A doubleton is one of the worst leads you can choose... because it's probably your opponent's suit and all you're doing is making it easier for them to set it up!!

Against Opponent's NT contract...lead 4th best from your best suit...

In later play with no info...when Dummy is on your right...lead Dummy's weakest suit...

In later play with no info...when Dummy is on your left...lead Dummy's strongest suit...