



Basic Bidding 13

By Kitty & Steve Cooper

Responding when Partner Intervenes

Last month we discussed the five ways to intervene when the opponents open: the notrump overcall, the simple suit overcall, the takeout double, the jump overcall, and various two-suited bids. This month we will discuss how to respond when partner uses one of those bids. When the opponents open in front of partner and he makes a call, he is referred to as *intervenor* rather than opener, and you are referred to as *advancer* rather than responder.

Responding to partner's 1NT overcall

It is simplest and best to use the same system after a notrump overcall that you use when partner opens a notrump. It certainly helps prevent memory strain to play the same way. So if you play Stayman and transfers, that is what you still play. We actually play these always apply no matter how high partner overcalls in notrump. For example, when the opponents open three of something and partner overcalls 3NT, we still play transfers and Stayman. What, you may ask, does it mean to transfer to the opponents' suit? Treat it as natural and don't worry about it.

Responder to Partner's Suit Overcall

When partner overcalls, you do not have to respond with less than eight points since he is limited by his failure to double. However, with three plus card support, raise on any excuse. When the next player passes, it is easiest to play that all your bids mean the same as they would have meant if partner had opened the bidding. The exception is that a response of 1NT is now played as real, balanced, eight to a poor eleven points, with a stopper in the opponents' suit. Thus new suits are forcing for one round and show ten or more points if bid at the two level. Jump bids are preemptive. The cuebid of the opponents' suit is used to show a limit raise or better and jump raises are preemptive.

Here is a chart of the responses to overcalls:

Response to an Overcall	Shows	Forcing?
Raise to two level	6-10 points, 3+ trumps	no
One of a suit	8+ points, 4+ cards	yes
1NT	8-11 points, balanced	no
Two of a new suit, non-jump	10+ points, 5+ cards	yes
Jump in new suit	4-7 points, 6+ cards	no
2NT	12-13 points balanced with a stopper	no
Raise to three level	4-7 points, 4+ trumps	no
Cuebid	11+ support points, 3+ trumps	yes
3NT	to play	no

Old-fashioned players may prefer to play that new suits at the two level can be bid with as little as nine points and are not forcing on a minimum overcall. To force in a new suit they jump. Other forcing hands must cuebid, so that cannot promise support. Be sure you and your partner play the same way!

How do these bids change when your RHO bids as well? It is less urgent for you to respond unless your reasons for competing come into play. These are:

Is there an eight card fit?

Might it be your side's hand?

Do you need to indicate a lead?

Are the opponents in two of an eight or longer card major suit fit?

Sometimes partner's overcall is at the two level, so that a simple raise takes you to the three level. This raise shows about 8-10 points. With more you cuebid the opponent's suit to show a game invitational hand or better, and with less you pass. The problem comes when the opponents take away your low level cuebid. For example, (1♠) - 2♥ - (2♠). Now you can either bid game or make a responsive double followed by 3♥ with your limit raise strength hand. A real game force can cuebid at the three level, here 3♠.

Responding to a Takeout Double

When partner makes a takeout double, he is requesting that you pick a suit no matter how bad your hand is. With zero points you must bid if right hand opponent (RHO) passes. The only time you pass is with length and strength in the suit the opposition opened, thus converting the takeout double into a penalty double.

Since you must bid with zero points, a hand of eight or more points is good news for partner, so jump in your longest suit or bid notrump with a stopper. A cuebid is used to show a hand of game forcing strength or better. Here is your table of responses:

Response to a Takeout Double	Shows	Forcing?
Non-jump suit bid	0-7 points, 3+ cards	no
Jump to two of a suit	8-10 points, 4+ cards	no
1NT	6-10 points, stopper	no
Cuebid	13+ points	yes
Jump to three of a suit	11+ points, 4+ cards	no
2NT	11+-13- points with a stopper	no
3NT	to play	

Some people play that the cuebid is slightly weaker, only 11+, then the auction is forcing only until suit agreement (when someone raises the other partner's bid suit). Intervenor must act conservatively over advancer's possible zero point response. Raising a non-jump response when the opponents don't bid shows 16+ points, while a double raise shows a hand that would have bid game over a non-forced response ... thus 19-21 points.

If RHO bids, your bids retain the same meanings except that you may pass with a weak hand. Strain to bid when you hold the missing major and about six points, although you can choose to bid with less when you hold a good five card suit. Double suggests 8+ points with the suit that RHO bid. You do not need a responsive double since partner promised support for all suits. Don't let them steal your suit!

Responding to the jump overcall

The jump overcall is a form of preempt. We covered preempting in Basic Bidding 8. To summarize, when your partner preempts you usually raise to the level that is equal to the number of trumps you expect your side to hold. Vulnerability and too balanced a hand can be reasons not to do this. With a strong hand of 16+ points you make a forcing bid to explore for game. See <http://d17acbl.org/index.php?page=preempting-and-weak-tuos> for more details.

Responding to various two suited bids

When you know partner's two suits you look at your fit for each suit when deciding how high to bid. Usually your objective is to further the preempt, but with a great fit and aces you may have a game. So with four trumps in one suit and shortness in the other, you typically bid to the four level.

For example, you would bid 4♥ if you held ♠x ♥AQxx ♦Axxxx ♣xxx and your partner made a Michaels bid showing the majors. He might have something like ♠Axxxxx ♥KJxxx ♦x ♣xx, in which case you expect your game to make.

When partner cuebids the opponent's major, showing the other major and an unknown minor, you don't know both of his suits. If you have three or more cards in his major you just bid that suit at the appropriate level. But when you hate the major, you use 2NT to ask for his minor. Once you know it, you can decide how high to bid. Warning: some players prefer to always have invitational values to bid 2NT and just bid 3♣ asking partner to pass with clubs, or correct to 3♦ with diamonds. In fact, many players play all minor suits bids, even jumps are "pass or correct" bids. Best to know your partner's style. Without discussion, always use 2NT to ask. A certain Denver expert who sometimes sleeps on the couch trotted out 3♣ with a new expert partner expecting it to be "pass or correct," and found himself going down six tricks vulnerable in his 3-2 fit!

NABC -Continued from page 1

It is home to a preeminent art and design school, an Ivy League university, a top culinary program and world-class theater.

Fewer D17 players attended, but those who did took home more than their share of masterpoints ... at least some did. Peggy Ware of Denver was fifth in the Smith Life Master Women's Pairs. Her partner was Theri Andino, Niceville, Florida, a familiar sight at D17 tournaments. Jill Levin, Henderson, Nevada, playing with Hansa Narasimahan, Los Altos Hills, California, was eighth in the same event.

The finals of the Baze Senior Knockout was a repeat from the 2013 Phoenix NABC, the Vinita Gupta team, consisting of Vinita, Woodside, California, Billy Miller, Las Vegas, Bart Bramley, Lew Stansby, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell playing the Carolyn Lynch team: Carolyn of Scottsdale, Arizona, Marc Jacobus, Las Vegas, Garey Hayden, Tucson, Arizona, Mike Passell, Adam Zmudzinski, and Cezary Balicki. The outcome was a repeat as well ... two in a row for the Gupta Team!

Linda Lewis, Las Vegas, was fourth in the Senior Mixed Pairs playing with Mark Itabashi, Murrieta, California.

Carolyn Lynch persevered, winning the North American Swiss Teams with teammates Garey Hayden, Tucson, Arizona, Mike Passell, Adam Zmudzinski, and Cezary Balicki. Curtis Cheek, Las

Vegas, was on the third place in the same event and Vinita Gupta playing with Billy Miller, Las Vegas, and Scandinavian teammates were seventh.



Bobby Levin

Bobby Levin, Henderson, Nevada, playing with perennial partner Steve Weinstein, was on the Nick Nickell team, which took second place in the Reisinger B-A-M Teams. The 150 MPs Bobby won in the Reisinger boosted his 2014 platinum

point total to 846.01, making Bobby the 2014 Player of the Year. This award goes to the player winning the most platinum points during the three NABCs.

Congratulations to Bobby and all our District 17 winners!

Online Results

Go to <http://web2.acbl.org/tournaments/Results/NABC/NABC143.HTM> for all of the results for the Providence NABC. Go to <http://www.bonnie-bagleyd17.com/> for the District 17 players at the Providence NABC. Make your plans now to attend the 2014 Fall NABC November 26-December 6 in Denver!

Results -Continued from page 12

- Frank Giuffreda, Green Valley - Bud Stein, Mequon WI - Marie Heald, Saddlebrooke
- 2. George Good - Greg West, Tucson - Gene Maki - Arne Maki, Green Valley
- 2X. Leslie Balascoe - Mick Miller - Linda Miller - Kenneth Grafton, Green Valley

- 2E. Bonnie Butler - Lily Poole - Karin Hansen, Sun Lakes - Donna Hofer, Chandler
- 1F. Janet Kelm - Shirley Wicklund, Tucson - Marjorie Simpson - Karlyn Meinert, Green Valley

B/C/D Swiss Teams (28 teams)

- 1B. Raymond Grady - Sunand Bal - Margaret Koenig - Joe Morella, Tucson
- 2B.1C. Jim Coe - Terry Coe - Michelle Werley - Susan Hagerty, Tucson
- 2C. Donna Moore - Claire Genser - Susan Walsh - Roberta Stowers, Green Valley

199er Swiss Teams (7 teams)

- 1E. Maria Davis, Sun Lakes - Anne Newman - Sandy Jennings, Chandler - Howard Maves, Maricopa

New Life Master



Jim Calhoun
Arvada, Colo.

DENVER UNIT 361

WINTER SECTIONAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

January 8-11, 2015
Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Hall
15200 W. 6th Ave., Golden, CO
www.denverbridge.com

THURSDAY JANUARY 8, 2015	7:00 pm	Swiss Teams (single session)
FRIDAY JANUARY 9, 2015	10:00 am	Stratified Pairs (single session) Stratified 299er Pairs (single session) Friday Knockouts (Round 1)
	2:00 pm	Stratified Pairs (single session) Stratified 299er Pairs (single session) Friday Knockouts (Round 2)
	7:00 pm	Stratified Pairs (single session) Stratified 299er Pairs (single session) Friday Knockouts (Finals)
SATURDAY JANUARY 10, 2015	10:00 am	Stratified Open Pairs (1 st of two sessions) Stratified Pairs (single session) Stratified 299er Pairs (single session)
	2:00 pm	Stratified Open Pairs (2 nd of two sessions) Stratified Pairs (single session) Stratified 299er Pairs (single session)
SUNDAY JANUARY 11, 2015	10:00 and TBA	Strati-Flighted Swiss Teams A and Ax play together; B/C/D play together 299er Teams (if enough teams)

Pairs: ACBL members \$10; Non-members and un-paid members \$14
Special pricing for youth AND junior (under 25) ACBL members
Sunday Swiss teams: \$104 per team, includes lunch

Director in Charge	Bill Michael	
Tournament Chair	Allen Kane	303-694-6478
Partnerships	Shirley Heinsohn	303-475-6630
Stratifications	Pairs	A=2000+; B=750-2000; C=0-750
	Teams	A=3500+; Ax=0-3500; B=1250-2000; C=750-1250; D=0-750
Stratified Games	Stratified by average masterpoints	
Strati-Flighted Games	Any player over 2000 MPs must play in A or AX, Strats by average MPs	

KO events may be handicapped Scent-free event
Sanction No. S 1501031 Please be considerate of your fellow players