

Rationale

This lesson extends our handling of interference by the opponents when we open 1NT. In *Lesson 6*, we developed the idea of playing “system off” i.e Suit bids are “to play”, etc. This only works *reasonably* well. There are times when we would like to make more ongoing bids. e.g.

♠AJT54 1NT (2H) ?
 ♥KJ9 How do we best continue?
 ♦Q73 Under *Lesson 6*, we would bid 3S
 ♣54 forcing with a 5 card suit. The down side is that opener will be unaware that we have a good heart holding. He might be obliged to bid 4S with just a doubleton because of an unsatisfactory heart holding. *Lebensohl* (LEB) handles many of these problems.

After 1NT – (2H) – ? it works like this:-

- X is always penalties
- New suit at the 2 level is “to play”. 1NT – (2H) – 2S.
- An immediate bid of a new suit at the 3 level *below* the intervening suit is natural and forcing, stopper status unknown. e.g. 1NT – (2H) – 3D!
- An immediate bid at the 3 level of a suit ABOVE the intervening bid denies a stopper and is a 5 card suit and is forcing. e.g. 1NT – (2H) – 3S!
- An immediate cue bid of their suit is Stayman-without-a-stopper. 1NT – (2H) – 3H
- An immediate bid of 3NT denies a stopper. Responder needs to have somewhere to go if opener has to pull it. 1NT – (2H) – 3NT!

All other sequences commence with a response of 2NT!. This obliges opener to bid 3C!. After 3C:-

- responder will pass or correct to a suit *lower* than the overcalled suit if responder wants to play there:-
 1NT (2H) 2NT! (P)
 3C! (P) 3D! This is how we play in 3D
- responder cue bids the opposition suit. We play “slow shows” i.e a slow auction to a forcing bid shows a stopper. So, this delayed cue bid will be stayman with a stopper. e.g.

1NT (2H) 2NT! (P)
 3C! (P) 3H (P)
 ?

- To go via 2NT to a suit above the intervening suit, promises a stopper and shows a 5 card suit and is forcing. The slow auction. e.g.

1NT (2H) 2NT! (P)
 3C! (P) 3S (P)
 ?

- Going via 2NT to 3NT shows a stopper.

Again with the “slow shows” auction. e.g.

1NT (2H) 2NT! (P)
 3C! (P) 3NT! (P)

- Notice that we are robbed of all our invitational bids – quite a price, but please don’t try to find a way around it☺

- When the opponents play Pottage (*See Lesson 30*), 2C by them shows any one-suited hand. We play:-

- 1..any suit bid by responder is to play
- 2..X shows clubs

- 3..Otherwise responder and opener pass. When the suit is exposed, commence the Leb sequence again.
- 4..When the opponents are showing two suits, our bids pivot around the known suit. If both suits are known, our bids pivot around the lower suit.

If the opponents play DONT (*see lesson 30*), double by them shows any one suited hand. It is suggested that we play the same treatment as when they double us for penalties. System off or pass and then resume when clarified. Leb would then be available. REDoubles is for REscue in the REopening seat only.

We play “system off” after we overcall 1NT. No Leb.

Lebensohl after their weak twos

Our immediate double of their weak two is strong takeout.

Many writers regard this as a more useful than Leb after our 1NT. It works like this:-

(2H) – X – (P) - ?

- 2S – to play
 - 3m! – 9+HCP, may be 4 card suit forcing
 - 3H – 9+HCP, “Stayman” without a stopper
 - 3S – 9+HCP, 5 card suit
 - 3NT! – values for game, half a stopper
- As before, (2H) – X – (P) – 2NT! – forces 3C from the doubler (*unless the doubler is v.strong with his own suit, in which case he bids it*). After the 3C bid partner:-

- Passes to play in 3C
 - Converts it to a suit lower than the opener’s suit which is WEAK and to play
- Bids 3H which is “stayman” with a stopper
 Bids 3S which is 9+HCP, 5 card suit and shows a stopper
 Bids 3NT which is to play with a stopper
 Again, the theory is “**Slow Shows**”

In each of the following, west opens 1NT and north overcalls 2H. Complete the auctions:-

♠A93 ♠KQ54 1NT (2H) 2NT! (P)
 ♥A75 ♥QT2 3C! (P) 3H (P)
 ♦AT62 ♦K7 3NT
 ♣A54 ♣Q862

With 4 spades & a stopper, responder goes via 2NT.

♠A9 ♠KQ632 1NT (2H) 3S! (P)
 ♥JT6 ♥9 4C (P) 4D (P)
 ♦AQ94 ♦KT32 5D
 ♣AJ32 ♣Q65

Responder is forcing with 5 spades and no stopper. If opener had hated diamonds, he would return to 4S.

In the following auction South opens a weak 2H:-

♠AQ95 ♠K62 (2H) X (P) 2NT!
 ♥43 ♥KJ9 (P) 3C (P) 3NT!
 ♦AK43 ♦765
 ♣A62 ♣K984

The slow auction to 3NT shows the stopper.