

Micro Bridge Lesson 35

Rationale

Let's review our bidding structures after minor suit openings. There are two major styles :-

- *Up-the-line*. Under this style, players 1C-1D tend to open 1C, even with 4-4 in the 1H-1S minors. Responder is expected to bid 1D 1NT with 4 diamonds and a major. After 1C-1D, opener will rebid a 4 card major if held.

- *Major preferred responses*. Under this style, responder prefers to show a 4 card major rather than diamonds. The response of 1D! denies a major unless strong enough to bid the major on the next round of the bidding. After 1m-1H, opener will bid 1S if that suit is held. This bidding style is consistent with the *Better Minor* system (Lesson 15). Under lesson 15, the 1C opener will rarely hold diamonds unless he intends to show them on the next round (Lesson 7). So, there is little lost.

The *walsh* style further enhances the latter style. Under walsh, responder shows their majors but opener does not. This means opener will commonly rebid NT. This limits his hand and commonly keeps the stronger hand off the table. Responder's continuations needs to bear in mind that there could be an undisclosed major in opener's hand.

FAQ: What does it mean if opener *does* rebid 1M after 1C-1D?

ANS: It means that opener is 5-4 in his bid suits or 4-4 with extreme concentration of HCP.

- Here are some typical auctions :-

1C	1H	Make sure that you alert 1NT. Your opponents can't be expected to know that a 4 card major is possible
1NT!		

1C	1D!	Responder is showing 5-4 in the reds and 10-11 HCP. Opener has spades and 12-14 HCP
1NT!	2H	
2S	2NT	
P		

1D	1H	Responder decides to show spades too. To opener, it looks like 5-4 in the major. So, west shows 3 card support. East reverts to 3NT
1NT!	2S	
3H	3NT	

confirming only 4-4 in majors. If responder is not strong enough to stand this sequence, he needs to suppress the spade suit.

1C	1H	Opener shows 18-19 HCP. 3D is NMF (Lesson 18). Opener doesn't have 3 hearts but has 4 spades.
2NT!	3D!	
3S	3NT	
P		

Under walsh, 3D could be used to show 5 hearts OR just 4 hearts with 4 spades. Here, responder must have 5 hearts since he wasn't interested in spades.

1C	1H	Usually, opener doesn't show a major here. Alert 1S because it confirms that west's club suit is genuine.
1S!	2C	

Walsh

Try bidding the following hands if you have agreed to play walsh:-

♠KT65	♠QJ3	1D ¹	1H ²
♥8	♥QT943	1S! ³	P ⁴
♦AQ64	♦7	¹ Open 4144 below singleton	
♣AQ86	♣7542		

²Only responded because of poor diamond position

³confirms diamond genuine. Usually 5-4

⁴better contract than 1D. OK, our best fit is in the only suit we didn't bid!

♠AQ43	♠972	1C	1H
♥76	♥AKT832	1NT! ¹	2H ²
♦K62	♦43	P	
♣AT64	♣85		

¹Not enough reason to show spades.

²This bid "begs to be dropped"

♠AQ93	♠42	1C	1H
♥76	♥AKT84	1NT!	2D! ¹
♦K62	♦AQ4	2S ²	3NT ³
♣AJ86	♣432	¹ new minor forcing	

²4 card spades and 2 hearts only

³Responder clearly didn't want spades. He must have a 5 card heart suit.

♠AQ93	♠42	1C	1H
♥76	♥AKT842	1NT!	4H ¹
♦K62	♦AQ4		
♣AJ86	♣43		

¹Opener won't rebid 1NT with a singleton.

♠AQ93	♠K42	1C	1H
♥7	♥AKT84	2S	3D! ¹
♦K62	♦AQ4	3NT	6NT ²
♣AKJ86	♣43	¹ 4 th suit forcing	

²17+ opposite 16. Too strong for two aces to be missing. Hope we don't make 13.

♠AQ953	♠K42	1C	1H
♥--	♥AKT84	2S	3D! ¹
♦K6	♦AQ4	3S ²	4NT ³
♣AKJ862	♣43	5S ⁴	6S

¹4th suit forcing ²confirms 5 spades. Hence 6 clubs

³rkc in spades – last natural bid suit.

⁴Tempting to write down 6S because of the void.

However, partner may be intending to play 6C...

♠AQJ2	♠3	1C	1H
♥62	♥AKT54	1S! ¹	2C ²
♦32	♦864	¹ confirms black hand	
♣AJT94	♣Q872	² simple preference. Easy.	

♠KQ98	♠2	1D	3S! ¹
♥QJ63	♥A42	3NT ²	P
♦AT6	♦KQ843	¹ splinter	
♣QT	♣A832		

²Not a pretty contract. A friendly lead would be nice. 5D is probably worse. Responder passes 3NT with some comfort. West knows *exactly* what is going to hit the table as dummy.