

## Our 1NT is contested by RHO

### Rationale

When we open 1NT, our partner will frequently respond with an artificial bid. It may be stayman or a transfer. This allows our RHO the extra option of double to show that suit. (If the boot was on the other foot, we would do the same, wouldn't we?)

This allows the opening 1NT bidder a few strategies:-

1. If RHO doubles responder's transfer bid, opener doesn't accept the transfer unless he holds at least three card support.
2. If RHO double responder's transfer bid, opener has available a redouble for penalties. i.e. Opener has four cards in the suit written down and only a doubleton in responder's suit.
3. If RHO double responder's transfer bid, opener passes with only a doubleton in responder's suit and no ability to redouble. Responder will be able to choose whether to bid his suit or ask for a stopper or show a second suit.
4. If RHO doubles our Stayman, redouble to show 4+ clubs and no major.
5. If RHO doubles our Stayman, opener shows a major if one is held.
6. If RHO doubles our Stayman, opener bids 2D to show a five card diamond suit.
7. If RHO doubles our Stayman, pass shows 3343 shape exactly.
8. If RHO bids a suit over responder's bid, double is penalties, bid as naturally as possible (but not NT), pass quite commonly. Particularly in the case of transfers, responder may have a bust and be pleased to be out of it. Opener shouldn't drag us back into it.
9. 1NT – (P) – P – (2C)

On rare occasions, opener may be able to make a takeout double of 2C by the opponents. This would show doubleton club and 443 in the remaining suits. Opener will be unable to defeat 2C by himself. So, double for penalties wouldn't make sense. Of course, we play double by *responder* as *always* penalties. Remember, opener will have a doubleton in their suit at worst. This meaning appears to be changing. Responder should not be "pushed" into 2NT when he had no intention of bidding it. The reasoning is:- "If we can make 2NT, they can't make 2B"

A double by responder may help partner defend better. With a strong 1NT opening, he will be on lead a lot. When you remain silent, he will probably play you for nothing. When you double, he should defend naturally but will be looking for your values.

That is why 2NT is commonly used to have unusual or different meanings.. Do not play Lebensohl when the opponent in last seat makes a bid.

1NT	(P)	2H!	(X)
2S	Opener has 3 spades		
XX	Opener has 4 hearts, 2 spades		
P	Opener has 2 spades, 3 hearts		
♠K97		♠Q5432	
♥A42		♥T	
♦KQ5		♦J732	
♣K853		♣964	

Here, responder was looking to escape from 1NT with the first auction. So, he may be unhappy that opener accepted the transfer. Not so. We can't

remain in 2HX anyway! Even when 2S fails, the opponents have missed a heart partial score.

1NT	(P)	2C!	(X)
XX	have 4 or 5 clubs, no major		
2D	have 5 diamonds, no major		
2H	4 hearts, spades unknown		
2S	4 spades, not 4 hearts		
P	no major, 2-3 clubs, not 5 diamonds		

♠AQ7		♠96
♥K42		♥A975
♦KT6		♦A5432
♣KJ42		♣87

Here, we have the first option above. The opposition have 16 HCP between them and 7 clubs. Responder can now bid 2NT invitational. Notice that, if responder held 3 clubs, he may elect to play 2CXX in the 3-4 fit. It makes for a huge score.

1NT	(P)	2C!	(2D)
X	penalties		
2H	4 hearts, spades unknown		
2S	4 spades, not 4 hearts		
P	no major, 2-3 diamonds		

♠K42		♠AQ95
♥A952		♥K73
♦K85		♦73
♣KQ5		♣JT64

1NT	(P)	2C!	(2D)
2H	(P)	3D	(P)
3NT	all pass		

Sometimes, we end in the soup. Here, responder has enough HCP for game. Responder may be worried that opener has both majors and a 4S contract will be missed. This is not the case. When responder bids 3D as a stopper ask, opener knows that responder has spades. Otherwise, the auction would have been 1NT – 3NT without Stayman. That auction would have kept South quiet and North may not find the killing diamond lead. After a diamond lead and south holding CA, 3NT is doomed.

♠A864		♠K732
♥AQ6		♥852
♦AQ32		♦954
♣97		♣T83

1NT	(P)	P	(2C)
X	(P)	2S	

This double by opener must be takeout. Even with a stack, he can't expect to defeat 2C on his own. Here, we have found a spade fit which would have gone undiscovered. Ok, it may not make. In that case, their 2C was certainly making and our 1NT was in even more bother. Either way, we are better off where we are.

♠A86		♠K732
♥AQ6		♥852
♦AQ32		♦954
♣974		♣T83

Here, they are allowed to play in 2C by South. West must defend carefully or a lot of tricks will be conceded. Lead a trump. Don't start new suits.