

LESSON TWO

Bidding To Slam with Two Balanced Hands

First we will do a little revision.

When we are bidding we are always trying to tell partner the shape and value of our hand. With a balanced hand we can tell both with one or at most two bids. If you have a balanced hand (no voids, no singletons, and at most one doubleton) you must bid no trump either as opener or responder or opener's rebid at the earliest opportunity.

These NT bids are limit bids and except for 1NT response they are balanced with a 3 point range at most. Do not tell porkies. Bridge is a partnership game and if you tell porkies your partner will not trust you.

Once you have bid No Trump at any level you have said all that you have to say unless partner invites or forces you to say something else.

An opening bid of 1 No Trump shows precisely 12-14 High Card Points (HCPs) in balanced hand. Opening 2NT shows 20-22 HCPs in balanced hand.

Now a reminder about opening a balanced hand with 15-19 HCPs With these hands we open a suit then show partner that we have a balanced hand by bidding No Trumps.

It is important that we show which end of the range we hold. Partners next decision will depend on whether you have shown 15/16 HCP, 17/18 or 19.

If you have a five card suit in your balanced hand 15-19 open with that suit. If you have 2 four card suits which is more likely then bid the lower ranking suit. (I will be discussing this again in lesson 5).

If your partner then bids a suit at the 1 level you bid 1NT to show 15/16 HCP, 2NT to show 17/18 HCP or 3NT to show 19HCPs.

If your partner bids a suit at the 2 level then bid 2NT to show 15/16HCP or 3NT to show 17/19 HCPs.

Remember that if partner has bid a suit at the 1 level they have MINIMUM of 6 points if they bid at 2level they have MINIMUM Of 10 points. They may only have minimum but they may have 15 or even 20 so it is your job to tell them WHAT YOU HAVE.

Opener's rebid is the most important bid in any auction.

Boards 5

The bidding here is fairly straight forward.

1H by North followed by 2C from South. Then North shows points and distribution by bidding 3NT.

South is not interested in going further so will pass

The lead will be a diamond let them take 2 so that west cannot lead them again if he takes a trick.

When you take third diamond you can see another 8 tricks but you would like to make more.

You can easily lose a club to west then if split is 3-3 you will win the rest

Board 6

Now to go somewhere more exciting and look at bidding two balanced hands to a slam.

Getting to a slam in two balanced hands is purely arithmetical. You do not need any conventions to identify Aces and Kings.

All you need to know is that to make 6NT you need 33 HCPs and to make 7NT you need 37 HCPs.

Opener will define their points on either 1st or 2nd bid. Responder then adds his HCPs to partners minimum. If total comes to 33/34 then bid 6NT. If total comes to 37(+) then bid 7NT.

However if total comes to 31/32 responder can invite partner to bid 6NT by bidding 4NT. So opener bids 1NT and responder bids 4NT it says if you have max. points please go to 6 otherwise stay in 4.

Likewise if total comes to 35/36 responder invites a grand slam by bidding 5NT. Opener opens 2NT and responder bids 5NT it asks opener to bid 6NT if minimum or 7NT if Maximum.

I must stress that all the above is for Opener & Responder BOTH having BALANCED hands.

Hopefully these two weeks have imprinted on your minds the necessity of recognising balanced hands.

Before opening any suit you should always ask yourself 'what is my sensible re bid?' If you can't see one then you should probably be opening or re-bidding No Trump.

Practice Hands 8-11

There is also a Power Point Presentation on Balanced Hands.