

LESSON 8

Today we will be looking at responding to opening major with trump support and 13+ points.

Two weeks ago we covered raising Openers Major with trump support.

With 6-9 points & 4 cards in partners Major Responder bids 2 of the suit e.g. 1H - 2H.

With 10-12 points & 4 cards in partners Major Responder should jump to 3 e.g. 1H - 3H.

We did not cover the meaning of responding 4H to Opening bid of 1H

This is a WEAK bid with 6-9 HCPs & 5 cards in hearts.

It is a pre-emptive bid. Very often the 4H will make but even if it doesn't it will stop, or at least make it more difficult for opposition to find their game bid.

Now we will look at responding with 4 (+) card support and 13+ points.

The first thing to remember is that if you have an opening hand opposite an opening hand then you should have at least a game and if you have a 16+ hand opposite a 16+ hand then you should have a slam and if you have a 16+ hand opposite a 19+hand then you probably have a grand slam. It is therefore very important that as Opener or Responder you have a system whereby you can show if you have 13 points or the magic 16+.

The second important point is that opener in first or second hand has promised a re-bid unless partner passes or opposition have taken his bidding space. Therefore as responder you do not need to show your strength on first bid. You can make a bid and allow partner to show you their points. It is important to you to know if opener has a minimum hand or a 16+ hand or a 19+ hand.

Opener will show his hand by making a minimum re-bid (12-15) a jump or reverse bid (16+) or a jump shift bid (19+).

So with 13+ points with support for opening major you bid another suit at the lowest level which gives your partner room to show you his hand. Following openers response you are in a position to know whether to bid a game or look for a slam.

Splinter Bids.

If as responder you have enough points for game (13) and have a singleton or void in a minor suit you may show this with a splinter bid.

A bid of 4C or 4D over an opening Major says to partner 'I have support to game level for your Major but I also have a singleton or void in this suit if you wish to look for a slam.

There are other times in the bidding where you may use a splinter but for the time being we will stick to this one.