

## ALEX'S BRIDGE TIP: WHEN TO BE FRISKY!

The best time to be frisky is when partner is already a passed hand.

Pass- Pass - to you

Open 2S with

S QJ1087

H Q875

D 54

C 84

You only have 5 HCP. Partner has less than 13. RHO has less than 13. You can see your LHO counting his points on his fingers and toes. Now is the ideal time to wreak havoc.

Note that in 3rd seat, it is okay to open with a weak 2 when you also have a 4 card major on the side.

Very infrequently will you be doubled in 2S as a double by opponents is for takeout and is rarely left in.

Not vulnerable versus vulnerable is optimal but just do it anyway: Rain or shine.

Here's another:

Partner opens 1S and your RHO makes a takeout double.

You have

S 8743

H 943

D A7543

C 7

Bid 3S

Take them out of their comfort zone. If you raise just to the 2 level, they still have room to bid at the 3 level. Make them guess at the 4-level!

Take away that Diamond Ace and trade it for the Diamond Queen. Still raise to 3S.

Remember the Law of Total Tricks. When competing, compete to the level of the number of trumps that your side holds.

**BARBARA'S BRIDGE TIP:** So many of you ask about Two Over One. So here is a mini-synopsis in a nutshell.

The 10-12 point range by responder is always a challenge when partner has opened the bidding.

Do we go to game?

Do we invite game?

Do we stay in a part-score?

If you and partner agree to play Two Over One, this means that if you have any of the following six auctions:

1D - 2C

1H - 2C

1H - 2D

1S - 2C

1S - 2D

1S - 2H

Then responder must have 13 or more points including distribution.

In Standard, any of these responses would merely promise 10 or more points.

NOTE that even though you agree to play this system, it does not come up often at all.

Let's say you have:

S AK87

H A76

D 52

C Q952

Partner opens 1D. You will still just respond 1S. Bidding a new suit by responder at the one level does NOT deny having an opening bid. NEVER bid 2C with the above hand when partner has opened 1D.

The beauty of the system lies in an auction such as this:

1S - 2H

2NT - 3H This bid, even though it is NOT a new suit, is FORCING.

Because a new suit at the two-level by responder to the opener (without jumping) means "We are going to game at least." Everything from then on is forcing.

So what is the big change that you must make in order to play this system?

If 1S -2C shows a full opening bid, then what will you bid with this hand?

S 54  
H K65  
D 543  
C AQJ87

You cannot bid 2C as that says : "We are going to game".

Enter the all-purpose 1NT Forcing Bid. When you want to make a Two Over One bid but may not do so, you bid 1NT which will show 6-12 points instead of 6-9 in Standard. Opener must bid again.

## TIPS TO MAKE YOU A BETTER BRIDGE PLAYER

by Barbara

1. Count your losers in a suit contract and your winners in a NT contract. Take 1 ½ mins or 2 mins at the start of every hand to do this when you become declarer. I still do it after 46 years of playing. You simply cannot become a good bridge player without completing this task. It is like brushing your teeth: Do it or lose it!
2. Go over two or three hands at completion of each duplicate bridge game you play. Keep a private score and get a summary of your scores so you see the ones you got a zero or near zero on. Take the time to go over these or you have not learned from your mistakes. It is a game of mistakes, you have to learn from them or you will repeat the mistakes over and over. There is always someone you can seek out for advice at the end of the game. Make a note during the game of which boards were particularly troubling. Try to note what the bidding was or you will have trouble recalling that later.
3. Use the rule of 40 as declarer and as an opponent...ALWAYS...on EVERY hand.

There are 40 HCP in every hand. As a defender, calculate how many high card points opponents (declarer and dummy) have between them and now add on your high card points. Then subtract that total from 40. That will tell you how many high card points partner has. If partner shows up with an Ace and you know that she can only have 4 HCP, then expect nothing more from her.

From now on, you must use passive defence, not giving anything away, not helping opponents. Remember the physician's creed: First: Do no harm.

If you have

S AQ62

H KJ73

D KJ

C 952

Bidding has gone 1NT on your right and 3NT on your left. You are on lead. What will you lead?

How many points does partner have? The declarer and dummy together have approximately 26 HCP, you have 14. You have a pointless partner. Lead a Club, NOT a S, H or D. IF you lead a S, H or D, you will be giving them an easy trick every time.

4. Rule of 40 as declarer. Your LHO (Left Hand Opponent) opens with 1H, partner says double and you jump to 4S. You and dummy together have 26 points including distribution. LHO opened the bidding so she has 13 points or so. There is hardly anything left for your RHO to have so you know who has all the missing high cards. This makes it easier to play a hand. You do not have to even peek, you know who has the missing cards.

5. Do not play a convention if you only know page 1 of the convention. You need to know page 2 also. Study the full convention. Jacoby 2NT is a good example. Everyone knows the first part but not the rest of it. Read up on it in 25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know or ask Barbara to send you a summary of it.