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This Week in Bridge

Responding without GF Values and Follow-up Bids Notes

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Robert S. Todd

robert@advinbridge.com

Non-Game Forcing Responses to 1-Major Openings

- 1-Level Bids in a suit are natural and show 6+ points.
- Simple Raise – Usually 3-4 card support with constructive values.
- Limit Raise – Jump to 3-level shows 4+card support with a good 10 to bad 12 pts.
- Jump Shift – Usually a weak bid, showing a long suit and a bad hand.

1NT Semi-Forcing (1NT SF)

There are two hand strengths that respond to 1-Major with 1NT Semi-Forcing:

- 6-9 pts – Minimum
- 10-11 pts – Invitational

Hands with 12+ pts either make an artificial raise (*Jacoby, Splinter, etc.*), a natural bid at the 1-Level, or make a 2/1 Game Forcing bid.

The hands that respond 1NT Semi-Forcing do not contain 4-card support for Opener's Major, but they could contain 3-card support (with 4-card support we would have shown our support directly.)

Semi-Forcing means that the Opener will make a rebid most of the time but can pass with some minimum hands. Here are the hands where Opener usually passes the 1NT Semi-Forcing response:

- Any 5332 hand with 12-13 HCP.
- 4-5-2-2 with 12-13 HCP.

Responder's Rebids After 1NT Semi-Forcing

The key to 1NT SF is to be able to effectively describe your hand with your second bid. Since 1NT SF could have hands of two different ranges (minimum or invitational) we need to communicate which of these strengths we have with our second call. Additionally, we want to show our shape if possible. The general rules are the following:

- New Suits are Non-Forcing.
- Cheap new suits and preferences are minimum (6-9 pts)
- Raises, jumps, and 2NT are invitational (10-11 pts)



1NT Semi-Forcing Hands with Support for Opener

When we have 7+ to 10 pts and 3-card support for partner's opener we raise it directly (1M to 2M.)

When we have 3-card support and more (10-11 pts) or less (5-7 pts) we make a "delayed raise."

"Limping Raise"

1♠ 1NT

2♣ 2♠ 6-9 pts with 2-card support (or 5-7 pts with 3-card support)

This could be a hand that has support but not enough strength to make a "constructive raise."

"3-card Limit Raise"

1♠ 1NT

2♣ 3♣ 10-11 pts with 3-card support (3-card limit raise)

3/1 Invitational Bids

There are a few other hands that you would like to be able describe in one call when your partner opens the bidding. These are hands that have a long suit of their own and do not have much interest in playing in another suit. These are 3-over-1 bids as invitational.

List of 3/1 Invitational Bids

- 1♠ - 3♣ 6+c♣, 9-11 pts, invitational (usually short ♠)
- 1♠ - 3♦ 6+c♦, 9-11 pts, invitational (usually short ♠)
- 1♠ - 3♥ 6+c♥, 9-11 pts, invitational (usually short ♠)
- 1♥ - 3♣ 6+c♣, 9-11 pts, invitational (usually short ♥)
- 1♥ - 3♦ 6+c♦, 9-11 pts, invitational (usually short ♥)
- 1♦ - 3♣ 6+c♣, 9-11 pts, invitational

Impossible Spade

1♥ 1NT*

2♦ 2♠*

Since 1NT SF in response to 1♥ denied a 4+card ♠ suit, later bidding 2♠ cannot be natural. This frees up the bid to be used as a conventional call: a strong raise of Opener's second suit.