Great Lakes Bridge Club

Topic 4: Bidding with High Points

It is very exciting to sort your hand and find an abundance of Honour Cards or a Void! *Now, what to do...*calmly start counting and thinking of possibilities about yours and partner's hands! *Remember Slams occur only 5% of games, not much chance of practice!*

Opening with 20 + HCP or 4 Losers:

Balanced Hand: 20 - 21 HCP: Open 2NT

22 – 23 HCP: Open 2♣ then rebid 2NT 24 – 26 HCP: Open 2♣ then rebid 3NT

Unbalanced Hand: 20 + HCP: Open 2♣

4 Losers: Open 2♣

2* opening is <u>forcing to Game</u>; partner MUST continue to bid until at least Game has been reached, you may be looking towards Slam

Bidding with a Balanced Hand:

Points	Opener	Points	Responder
20 - 21	2NT	0 - 4	Pass
			3♦ or 3♥ for transfer / then pass
		5 - 11	3♣ for stayman
			3♦ or 3♥ for transfer / then 3NT
			3NT for balanced hand
		Bidding	to Slam needs 32 HCP
		12 +	3♣ for stayman / with fit Ace asking
			3♦ or 3♥ for transfer / then 4NT invite for Slam
			4NT for balanced hand invite for Slam
22 - 23	2 then 2NT to show higher points		Responder must answer a 2.4 opening, even with 0-4 points. After 2NT response answer as for 5-11 points. Consider your points in relation to Slam values
24 – 26	2 then 3NT to show higher points		As immediately above.

Bidding with an Unbalanced Hand:

Points	Opener	Points	Responder
20 +	2*	0 - 7	2♦ (only telling about points,
			gives partner another bid)
	2 x (5 card suit)		With fit count your
			distribution, is your new total
			8 + points, if YES bid 3 x suit,
			you may have an Ace partner
			may want to know about! If
			NO, bid game in suit -shut off
			the bidding
			No fit, show a 5 card suit;
			else 2NT, let partner decide
	2*	8 -10	bid 2NT, partner will play 3 ♣
	2 **	Balanced	(Stayman) or show 5 card suits
		Daianeeu	with $3 \spadesuit$, $3 \heartsuit$ or $3 \spadesuit$
	Ask for Aces (4.		With 5 V, 5 V Or 5 W
	Gerber) or		
	Bid 6 of Suit		
	Bid o of Suit	11-13	bid 3NT, partner will play 4.
		Balanced	(Stayman) or show 5 card suits
			with 4♦, 4♥ or 4♠
	Ask for Aces (4NT)		,
	or Bid 6 of Suit		
	2*	8 +	Show a 5 card suit (use 3 ♦ for
		Unbalanced	diamonds). Once a fit is found
			count distribution (slow
			bidding shows better points!).
			Your hand may warrant Ace
			asking if you have high points.
			You know partner has 20 +
			points, but partner does not
			know how strong you are!!
4 Loser	2*		As the shove 2. hidding
T LUSCI	∠ •••		As the above 2♣ bidding. Partner will usually have an
			interesting shape. You should
			have less than 8 losers for a
			slam contract.
		Didding 4s Cl	
		Bluding to Si	am needs 32 HCP

Bidding Examples:

1 Give your Opening:

2 Give your response to a 2♣ opening:

- The bidding goes: 2 4 / 2 4, what is your next bid?
- 4 The bidding goes: $2 \div / 2 \lor / 2NT$, what is your next bid?

5 The bidding goes: $2 - \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{2} = \frac{1}{2}$, what is your next bid?

Opening Leads if Playing Slam:

- a) an Ace
- b) a singleton
- c) top of a 2 or 3 card honour sequence
- d) the contract suit, *but not a singleton trump*, this may upset a holding like Qxx in partner's hand (allows you to keep your honours and support for better things!)

Bidding Practice Not all 2♣ openings make a slam – some take loads of thinking!:

West is Dealer for each question.

1. ♠:JT97 ♥:J963 ♦:QJ97 ♣:K

			♠ : A Q
	N		♥:AK842
w		E	♦:A85
	S		♣ :A Q 5

ing:		
Ε	S	W
	_	_

2. ♦:AKJ ♥:AK763 ♦:A

		♠ :872
N		♥:QT2
w	E	♦:JT93
S		♣ :T 6 2

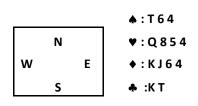
Bidd	ing:		
N	E	S	W

3. ♠:6543 ♥:J65 ♦:87 ♣:JT74



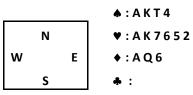
Bidd	ing:		
N	Ε	S	W

4. ♠:AKQ3 ♥:AT6 ♦:AQ3 ♣:AJ8



Bidd	ing:		
N	Ε	S	W
	l	l .	

5. ♦: ♥:T3 ♦:JT854 •:AK9753



Bidd	ing:		
N	E	S	W

Opening with a Standard Bid:

Sometimes you will open with a usual bid, eg 1NT or 1♥ etc. Your partner is amazed because they also have an abundance of HCPs! What to do now?

- 1. Find a Suit fit if possible, or establish you will play in NT.
- 2. Watch for clues from partner to see how strong they are: are they bidding slowly, changing suit at the 2 level Opener needs 15 points to change suit at the 2 level!
- 3. The non-opener partner will proceed to establish if there are adequate A and K's to be able to place a Slam Game. Usually using a Gerber Ace asking bid.
- 4. If the bidding has already reached the 4 level, Ace asking using Blackwood (4NT bid) will need to be used.
- 5. Sometimes a void will be involved to bring extra strength to a suit bid. How to include this information when Ace asking?

Gerber Bidding:

4♣: How many Aces in your hand?

$$4 - 0$$
 or 4; $4 - 1$; $4 - 2$; $4NT = 3$

If you have a suit fit, you may consider to count a Void as an Ace, that is a winner at the top level.

5♣: How many Kings in your hand:

$$5 \spadesuit = 0 \text{ or } 4$$
; $5 \heartsuit = 1$; $5 \spadesuit = 2$; $5NT = 3$

When you bid to Slam you can only lose 1 trick. So you should consider how you stand to hold either 3 Aces and 4 Kings or 4 Aces and 3 Kings.

Blackwood Bidding:

Consider you will reach the 6 level when responding for Kings asking.

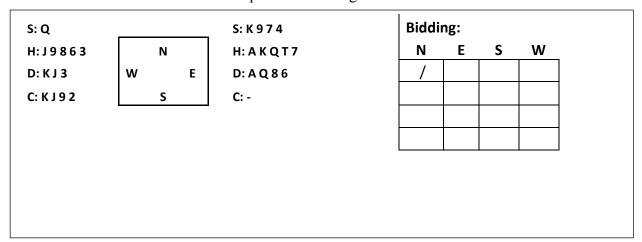
4NT: How many Aces in your hand?

$$5 = 0 \text{ or } 4; \quad 5 = 1; \quad 5 = 2; \quad 5 = 3$$

5NT: How many Kings in your hand:

$$6 = 0 \text{ or } 4$$
; $6 = 1$; $6 = 2$ $6 = 3$

North is the Dealer and Passes: Complete the bidding.



North is the Dealer and Passes: Complete the bidding.

S: AJT765			S: K 4	Biddiı	ng:		
Н: -	r	N	H: A K 8 3	N	E	S	W
D: A Q 6 4	w	E	D: K 5 3 2	/			
C: 9 7 2	9	S	C: K J 4				

It is not always possible to bid a Slam even though you may win 6 or 7 tricks. It is worth trying"!

North is the Dealer and Passes: Complete the bidding.

S: T 7			S: A Q 5	Bidd	ing:		
H: 8		N	H: A K Q J T 4 2	N	E	S	W
D: A Q T 4 3	w	E	D: 8 5	/			
C: J T 8 5 3		S	C: A				

North is the Dealer and Passes: Complete the bidding.

