Bidding the BIG HANDS

2/1 or Standard American
Saturday August 1, 2015

• What should Responder do?
• How to handle Big Balanced hands
• How to handle opener’s problem hand shapes
• Handling Interference
• Opening 5 of a Major (and how to do it for minors)
• How to ask for specific Aces and Kings
Principles

• Useful Space
• Support with Support
• Strain before Game, Game before Slam
• Big Hand Declares
• Responder’s Cover Cards (A, K, Q) / Shortness Rule
• Points, Schmooints – Long suits and Working Points
• Simple & Integrated - No Bids Conflicts
• Specific Aces ONLY when there is ONE trump suit.
• Pay attention to WHAT MATTERS
What Matters

• Suit Contract: It’s about tricks, not HCP.
• NT: Its about HCP AND Source of Tricks
• Fit before Game, Game before Slam.
• Let the 2♣ bidder get their hand off their chest.
• Responder’s good suit? Bid when 2T3-6+ & an A outside.
• NNS@4L: 2♣-2♦-2♠-3♣-3♥-4♦ = we have a ♥ fit and I have something in ♦ for you.
• Control bids below Game are free. 1st or 2nd round.
• Bid what partner wants to hear. Consider bidding Q’s!!
• Opener will decide when to stop.
How do you plan to bid these?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>♠ AK9</th>
<th>♣ KQJ105</th>
<th>♠ AK109</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♥ KQJ105</td>
<td>♦ AJ</td>
<td>♥ K10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ AJ</td>
<td>♣ AQ</td>
<td>♦ KQJ1054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♣ KJ10</td>
<td>♠ KQ1095</td>
<td>♠ J</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>♠ AK</th>
<th>♣ QJ1098</th>
<th>♠ AK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♥ QJ1098</td>
<td>♦ 7</td>
<td>♥ QJ10987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ 7</td>
<td>♣ Q7</td>
<td>♦ --</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♣ AKQ57</td>
<td>♠ AK5</td>
<td>♣ AKQ7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Useful Tools: Kokish 2♥, Grue Switch, WS 3-Bids, Opening 5-Bids, GF Reverses & Jump Shifts, Specific Aces.
Open 2♣

Open 2♣ with:
• Any 22+ HCP
• Any 4(or fewer) Losers with 4(+) Quick Tricks or 6(+) Controls.
• Any hand making 12 tricks with 1 Cover Card and Useful Shortness from partner (0/1).
• Not a hand you open 5 ♥ or 5 ♠ (or 2♣ then 5m).
• At least one Ace if Suit Oriented hand

ACBL grants much leeway – Unethical if hand is a preempt (x, x, x, KQJ10987654)
Some Approaches

Response Styles

2♦ Negative

2♦ Waits

2♥ IMMEDIATE Neg.

Steps – HCP

Controls (A=2, K=1)

Others ...

Implications

Wrong-side contract

Best

+’s/-’s

0-4, 5-8, 9-12, etc.

0, 1-2, 3, 3 K, 4, 5, 6 etc.

Let Opener Describe their hand – Be Patient

Decide ahead of time how to handle BIG 4441 shapes and 55+ shapes.
A Better Way!

Responder rebids 2♦ with most all hands

- 2♥/♣ 3♣/♦ by responder = 6+ Cards, 2T3 Honors (+1 or more Aces) No side suit – only way to describe this hand!

Opener’s Rebids

- 2♥ - ♥s or GF NT (Kokish). Responder always bids 2♠, then
  2N = 24 - 25 or 29+ (GF)
  3♣ = ♥ 1-suiter (Grue Switch)
  3♦ by responder = no A or K, nor ♥ support with 0/1, so 3♥ rebid NF
  3♦, 3♣ = natural, ♥s + this suit
  3♥ = ♥ + ♢
  3N = 26-28 NF – Systems ON. (Recommend 1NT systems)
Opener’s Rebids (Continued)

- **2♣ = ♣s.**
  - 3♣ by responder is a weak bid as above

- **2N = 22 - 24 NF** (2N opening bid is 20-21 HCP)

- **3♠ = ♠s** May or may not have a 4-card Major
  - 3♦ responder asks for a 4-card major (Resp. has 1 or BOTH).
  - 3 ♥/♠ shows 5(+) cards

- **3♦ = ♦s**, denies a 4-card major. May have ♣s

- **3♥ - 4(+) ♥s**, longer ♦s GF

- **3♠ - 4(+) ♠s**, longer ♦s GF

- **3N – Solid Minor and 3 or 4 Hand (A, K, Q) Losers.**

Any opener new suit 3rd bid past 2N is 100% GF.
**Responder’s Duties**

- Find reasons to Respond 2♦. Give opener the right of way.
- Respond 2♥, 2♠, 3♣ or 3♦ if Slam is certain. 2T3-6 + Side A
- Never bid NT FIRST. NEVER.* Tell partner all about it later.
- Rebid 2♠ after opener’s 2♥ **KOKISH** (2N Lebensohl)
- Never pass Opener’s 1st suit bid (may pass 2N/Rebid Suit)
  - 2 ♥ (Kokish), 2♠ or 3 ♣/♦,
  - Opener’s rebid of 2N or 3 ♣(=♥) after 2♥ (Kokish), or 3♣ or 3♦ (consider passing only if 0-1 HCP and 4333 shape). Even 4432 shape can bring a game!
  - Consider the **next step** as a desire to sign off.
- Just a King? Look for Fit and Shape. You have an entry!
- 0 HCP? Look for Fit and Shape - only 4333 is an issue.
- JUMPS by responder = Splinter for Opener’s Suit.

*If you must respond 2N, show a **solid** 7+ Card suit – partner will KNOW which it is.
Opening Big 4441’s

• Open as a 1 Bid and J/S (GF)
• Treat as 4M=5m GF
• Treat as Balanced (Single A/K)
• Treat as 5CM
• Use 2♦ opening bid for all 22+ 4441’s

Opening 5-5 Hands
• Consider 2♣ if Suits missing cover cards.
• Consider 1 Bid then J/S if suits are solid

Opening 5 of a Major

• Opening 5♥/♠ shows a 2-loser hand with both losers in the trump suit.
• Opening 5♣/♦ is to play. Show the big hand by opening 2♣ then jumping to 5♣/♦.
• Responder bids one level higher for each trump A or K they hold.
Handling Interference

• **2♣ – Noise – ??**
  – Pass = Forcing (Positive Response)
  – Double = Game Negative, any shape
  – Suit = Positive, as if Noise did not exist

Problems
• The higher the Noise the more uncertain opener’s actions are.
• A raise by advancer puts pressure on opener.
• We will wrong-side the contract more.
New Ideas - When They Interfere

• Ignore unknown suits (Crash, Wonder bids, etc)
• Use Transfers (GF) over their 2-level interference
  – 2♦-(2♠)-2N transfers to ♠.
  – 2♣ -(2♦ Crash)-3♦ Transfer to ♥. (3♣ transfers to ♦).
• Double shows values, likely shortness in their shown suit(s), and no clear direction (a negative double).
• Pass is either negative or trapping.

• Opener reopens with Double on balanced hands or 4441
• Opener will bid a new suit with a “minimum”
• Opener’s double then New Suit is GF.
Specific Aces or Kings

♠ AKQ9 ♥KQJ1095 ♦ -- ♣AKQ
♠ AKQ ♥KQJ106543 ♦K ♣3
♠ AK9 ♥KQJ1095 ♦10 ♣AKQ
♠ AK ♥AQJ10985 ♦7 ♣AKQ
♠ AK ♥QJ109875 ♦ -- ♣AKQ7 → Open 5♥ not 2♣

1. Control bid after a fit is confirmed (space can be an issue)
2. Aces Scientific:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>After: 2♣ - 2♦</th>
<th>4♣</th>
<th>4♦</th>
<th>4♥</th>
<th>4♠</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opener Sets Trumps:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trump A/K, or No A w/Ks*</td>
<td>4♦</td>
<td>4♥</td>
<td>4♠</td>
<td>4N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One A</td>
<td>4♥</td>
<td>4♠</td>
<td>4N</td>
<td>5♣</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One A</td>
<td>4♠</td>
<td>4N</td>
<td>5♣</td>
<td>5♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One A</td>
<td>4N</td>
<td>5♣</td>
<td>5♦</td>
<td>5♥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No A’s nor K’s</td>
<td>5♣</td>
<td>5♦</td>
<td>5♥</td>
<td>5♠</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Aces Same COLOR</td>
<td>5♦</td>
<td>5♥</td>
<td>5♠</td>
<td>5N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Aces Same RANK</td>
<td>5♥</td>
<td>5♠</td>
<td>5N</td>
<td>6♣</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Aces Same SHAPE</td>
<td>5♠</td>
<td>5N</td>
<td>6♣</td>
<td>6♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Aces</td>
<td>5N</td>
<td>6♣</td>
<td>6♦</td>
<td>6♥</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4N shows the ace of the suit Responder could not show – the suit immediately above the trump suit.

5 of Opener’s Suit shows No A nor K’s.
Follow-up to Step 1 Response:

After Step 1 (Trump Ace, or No Aces but Has 1 or more Kings),

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trump Suit:</th>
<th>4♦</th>
<th>4♥</th>
<th>4♠</th>
<th>4♣</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trump A/K, or Only Side Ks</td>
<td>4♦</td>
<td>4♥</td>
<td>4♠</td>
<td>4N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opener Asks</td>
<td>4♥</td>
<td>4♠</td>
<td>4N</td>
<td>5♠</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trump Ace/King</td>
<td>4♠</td>
<td>4N</td>
<td>5♠</td>
<td>5♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only One Side K</td>
<td>4N</td>
<td>5♠</td>
<td>5♦</td>
<td>5♥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only 2 Side Ks</td>
<td>5♠</td>
<td>5♦</td>
<td>5♥</td>
<td>5♠</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only 3 Side Ks</td>
<td>5♥</td>
<td>5♥</td>
<td>5♠</td>
<td>5N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Instead of Number of Kings you can use specific kings or 2nd round control asks. In those cases, 5N shows the K of the suit used for the ask. Step 1 always shows the Trump A/K, or only side Kings.
CRAZY IDEAS

• After Suit fit below game, use step 1 to ask controls (0, 1, 2, 3…) A=2, K-1. (Alt: Control Bidding)

• After Kokish 2N
  – use 2N Tools.
  – Consider 4♣ to ask opener’s HCP (24-25, 26, 27, 28, etc.) –or– to show hand with 4-4 minors and interest in m or NT slam.

• After Kokish 2 ♥, perhaps 2N = Lebensohl - long weak minor & no cover cards.
Contact Information

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• Copies of this talk –