

When Partner Opens 1NT (15-17) by Steve Moese

East
♠ K 8 2
♥ 8 6 5 4 3
♦ 4 2
♣ 6 4 3

What to do with a weak hand when partner opens 1NT? With no shape it is often good to pass. Perhaps the opponents will intervene. With a weak hand and great shape it's easy to transfer to your suit to play. How would

you approach this East hand?

You have 3 HCP and a ♥ suit that looks more like a 4-card suit than a 5-card suit. With 3 HCP the odds are strong that the opponents own half or more of the strength. EW has 17-20 HCP, no more.

The difficulty? 1NT only requires partner take 7 tricks. 2♥ requires partner to take 8 tricks. Importantly the odds favor finding an 8-card ♥ fit. (The 8 remaining ♥s are split 3 ways – 2 2/3 per hand). So the plan is to transfer to ♥s and pass. Can anything go wrong? Yes, partner might have a maximum 17 HCP hand with 4 ♥ cards – with that hand partner will jump to 3♥ opposite your transfer –

a super accept bid. Making 9 tricks on 20 HCP with 2 balanced hands is nigh impossible.

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
1NT	Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass
2♥	All Pass		
	1=Jacoby Transfer		

As the bidding shows, the auction stopped in 2♥.

The Opening Lead: ♠4 (4th best)

♠ A Q J 9
♥ 10 7
♦ A J 9 3
♣ Q 10 9

N
W
E
S

♠ K 8 2
♥ 8 6 5 4 3
♦ 4 2
♣ 6 4 3

♥s look bleak. Time to count tricks. 4♠, 1♦, and 1 or 2 ♥s totals 6 or 7. We need to find 1 or 2

more. One obstacle is to take away the opponent's high trumps, hoping for a 3-3 or 4-2 split.

The Play: Win the ♠K and lead a trump immediately. South wins the ♥J and returns a ♠. They are angling for a ♠ ruff. Continue your plan. Lead a 2nd ♥. Now North wins the ♥Q and switches to a low ♦! This error gives us daylight. You win the ♦Q with your ♦A and immediately return a ♦ - this will allow you to ruff the 3rd ♦ in dummy so you can lead 1 more trump. North winds the ♦ 10 and plays the ♦ K, allowing you to ruff a ♦ and lead a trump. The 4th trump crashes the ♥ A & K. Now you can ruff your last ♦ in dummy and lead a ♣ toward your ♣ 10. Since the ♣J is inside, you make 2♥.

99er Future Master Leaders

will resume Tuesday Evening December 3, 2013.

Congratulations to all who played in the Team Game Tuesday Evening November 26, 2013.



CBA Newcomer Games – Play Often!

Mon 7 PM	Tue 11 AM	Tue 7 PM	Fri 11 AM	Sat 10-12 AM
		Let's Talk BRIDGE 6:30 PM	Free Lesson 10:30 AM	Supervised Play

Celebrations at the Cincinnati Bridge Center

Dec 11 Holiday Party

Wed. Eve. Drinks 6 PM, Food 6:30 PM, Game 7:15 PM. \$22 per person in advance. See directors or Diane Thaller and Melanie Onen. Details at www.cincybridge.com.

Area Tournaments

Dec 26-Jan1 Cincinnati OH STaC Silver Points!!

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Jan 25-26 Lexington KY D11 GNT Finals

ACBL Tournaments <http://tournaments.acbl.org/display.php>



by Steve & Mike

Tues Eve

6:30 PM Sharp!

NS hands are balanced. Competing to the 2 level is difficult. Your 2♦ response shut out a comfortable 2♣ bid by South. Partner upgraded his 14 HCP hand here based on the 9's and 10's. As a result NS never got to bid their 23 HCP.

Board 8 ♠ 10 7 5 4
West Deals ♥ A Q 2
None Vul ♦ K 10 8 5
♣ A 5

♠ A Q J 9
♥ 10 7
♦ A J 9 3
♣ Q 10 9

N
W
E
S

♠ K 8 2
♥ 8 6 5 4 3
♦ 4 2
♣ 6 4 3

♠ 6 3
NS 2N; 3♦; ♥ K J 9
3♣; 1♠; 1♥ ♦ Q 7 6
♣ K J 8 7 2

Post Mortem: Making 2♥ was worth all the matchpoints – North should never switch to a ♦ when partner continues ♠s. South did play ♠6 then ♠3 to show a doubleton. Down 1 for -50 NS was a 50% board. That 1 added trick was worth a lot of matchpoints. Note EW can make only 5 tricks in NT. Transferring to a 5-card suit has several ways to win!

Newcomer News – Mike “Pass the Pumpkin Pie” Purcell 513 702 4007

Belated Happy Thanksgiving Everyone! Saturday (11/30) Bob Fisk and Pat Hoffman helped run our Informal Supervised Play session 10-12. Take a well-deserved sanity break from family and marathon shopping to join us next Saturday December 7.

Also we have several copies of “Bridge for Dummies” by Eddie Kantar available for people to borrow (or purchase for \$7). This is a great book for learning the basics of bridge.

This week we look at a hand from the special game last Sunday celebrating the Granovetters and their Grand Life Master Achievement. Enjoy!

Board 9 ♠ A J
 North Deals ♥ 10 8 5
 E-W Vul ♦ 9 7 5 3
 ♣ K Q 8 2

♠ K Q 9 7 6 5	N	♠ 10 8 4 3
♥ J 3	W	♥ Q 4
♦ J 4	E	♦ A 10 2
♣ J 6 5	S	♣ A 10 9 7

NS 5♥; 4♦;
 1N; 1♣;
 EW 2♣

♠ 2
 ♥ A K 9 7 6 2
 ♦ K Q 8 6
 ♣ 4 3

Board 9 (Sun 11/24)

Bidding – South has 12 HCP, 6 ♥s and an easy 1♥ open (12+ HCP, 5+ ♥s). Most West’s with 8 HCP and 6 spades will gleefully put in a 2♣ preempt (5-10 HCP, 6 spades). North has 3 hearts for partner and 10 HCP. Even though the 10 HCP are not ideal North should compete to 3♥. East has 10 HCP with two Aces and 4 ♠s. On many deals I would raise to 4♠ for a sacrifice. Unfortunately on this deal E-W is Vulnerable and N-S is not so you can only afford to go down one doubled. That being the case a 3♠ bid is the safer path. What should South bid after 3♠? They know they have a ♥ fit so counting distribution, they have 15-16 support points: 12 HCP, 2 for the singleton, 1 for the doubleton and possibly one more for the extra heart. 4♥ is tempting but what if partner has a

minimum hand? What do we really need from partner to make game? South only has 4 immediate losers (1♠, 1♦, 2♣). If partner has as little as the ♦A we have play to make game. Many other minimum holdings work as well. Knowing this, 4♥ can be bid with confidence.

Play of the Hand – On a ♠K lead, declarer (South) has 3 losers (2♦, 1♣) and maybe one more in ♥s if they do not break 2-2. At trick one, your plan should be to draw trump and work on your ♦ suit. The best way to work on ♦s is to finesse for the ♦A so you will need to plan your play to lead ♦s from dummy twice. Best play is to win the ♠A, play two rounds of trump and lead a ♣ up to your ♣KQ. East will win their ♣A and return a ♠ which you can ruff and lead ♣s again. Now that you are on the board you can return a ♦ to finesse the ♦A. This works and you can repeat by getting to the dummy again with a ♥. With this plan you only lose the ♦A and ♣A, making 5 or +450.

Post Mortem – When deciding on the going to game use both support points and a common sense assessment of what you can lose (Counting losers). If partner’s bidding promises enough strength to cover enough of your losers, bidding game makes sense. On play of the hand, make sure to plan your play to take all the finesses you need to achieve the best result for your side.

	Scores		MPs	
Bd 9	NS	EW	NS	EW
4♥ S	450		4.5	2.5
4♥ S	450		4.5	2.5
4♥ S	450		4.5	2.5
4♥ S	450		4.5	2.5
4♥ S	450		4.5	2.5
4♥ S	450		4.5	2.5
3♥ S	170		1	6
4♥ S		50	0	7
4♥ S	450		5.5	1.5
4♥ S	450		5.5	1.5
4♥ S	450		5.5	1.5
4♥ S	450		5.5	1.5
3♠ W	100		3	4
2♠ W		140	1	6
3♠ W		140	1	6
3♠ W		140	1	6

Looking to improve your game? If you have an Intel Computer we highly recommend the free software offered by the ACBL and developed by Mr. Fred Gitelman. Check it out at: <https://web.acbl.org/LearnToPlayBridge/>