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# Chapter 1

## SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF THE MARTENS SYSTEM

A modern bidding system should be as big as a tree, with its roots deeply established until the seventh layer with the limbs flying out to the sky. It should be organic so its all juices go from the earth to the crown, with the leaves grabbing the light and passing the energy of the sun to the trunk and roots.

Each new bidding system must be learned in stages, even by an experienced pair. First, it has to be trunk and main limbs, then the smaller branches and finally the leaves. The simplified version will allow you to become familiar with the system on your way to a tournament. If you like the general idea of the system, then more improvements can be taken on board. New agreements are presented and described in the book.

# 1.1. 1♣ OPENING

When West opens 1♣, showing either 15+ points and a balanced hand or 17+ points and an unbalanced hand, East has the following options in response:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | ? |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | – 0-8 HCPs; |
| 1♥ | – 7 + HCPs, 4+ hearts; |
| 1♠ | – 7 + HCPs, 4+ spades; |
| 1NT | – 9 -12 HCPs, without a four-card major; |
| 2♣ | – 10+ HCPs, 5+ clubs, without a four-card major; |
| 2♦ | – 10+ HCPs, 5+ diamonds, without a four-card major; |
| 2♥ | – 13+ HCPs– transfer to no-trump; |
| 2♠ | – 9-12 HCPs – transfer to no-trump; |
| 2NT | – 13+ HCPs, without a four-card major; |
| 3♣/3♦ | – 7-card suit – weak one-suited hand; |
| 3♥/3♠ | – 7-card suit – weak one-suited hand. |

**Sequence 1**

After a negative 1♦, the opener with 15-17 HCPs (1NT opening – strong) bids a four card major or a three card major (if he has not got any four card major).

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| ? | |

There are the opener's options:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | – 3+ hearts or artificial GF, forcing; |
| 1♠ | – 3+ spades, NF; |
| 1NT | – 18-21 HCPs; |
| 2♣ | – natural, NF; |
| 2♦ | – natural, NF; |
| 2♥ | – 20-22 HCPs, 5+ hearts; |
| 2♠ | – 20-22 HCPs, 5+ spades; |
| 2NT | – 21-23 HCPs; |
| 3♣/3♦ | – almost GF, one-suited hand; |
| 3♥/3♠ | – almost GF, one-suited hand |
| 3NT | – gambling |

**Sequence 2**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 2♦ | ? |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2♥ | – waiting, nothing special to show; |
| 2♠ | – 5+ spades, with at least one top honour (ace, king or queen); |
| 2NT | – 6-8 HCPs, I want to play a no-trump contract from my hand; |
| 3♣/♦ | – 6+ cards, 6-8 HCPs; |
| 3♥ | – +6 hearts, with at least one major honour. |

Further bidding is natural.

Undoubtedly 1♣ meaning strong in a full version is difficult and requires hard work from a pair so that the profits coming from the modern approach to bidding are not lesser than losses derived from mistakes.

A simplification can be made by eliminating the waiting bids in these sequences:

1) the weak 1NT (12-14 HCPs) should also include a bad 15 HCPs;
2) the negative 1♦ (after 1♣ opening) should also include 7-8 HCPs (bad eight) with a four card major.

This will allow us to use a simplified scheme.

**Sequence 3**

| **W** | **E** |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ |
| ? | |

1NT – 15+ HCPs, balanced hand, game forcing;
2NT – 15-17 HCPs, bad flat hand (low honours).

All other bids are natural and game forcing.

Why is such a strange meaning attributed to the 2NT call?

A bad hand within the 15-17 HCPs power range does not look too promising with hardly any chance for a slam, therefore it does not require much bidding space for the exchange of information. Please note, that the modern bidding is more of a painting the hand then saying things. A hand description provides information, which can never be overestimated

How the bidding develops in the sequence:

| **W** | **E** |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ |
| 1NT | ? |

will depend on your habits and preferences to make your life easier.

However, we should remember that the situation differs from that after 1NT opening. The responder has already been in the auction and conveyed vital information

**Sequence 4**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ |
| 1NT | ? |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2♣ | – waiting 12+ HCPs; |
| 2NT | – balanced shape 10-12 HCPs; |
| 3NT | – balanced shape 8-9 HCPs; |
| Other bids | – natural, within the 8-11 HCPs range. |

**Sequence 5**

The bidding in the sequence below is analogical to 1♣-1♥-1NT sequence.

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 1NT | |

In this simplified version 1NT takes over the role of a waiting bid, which carries the important information that you have a balanced hand

# 1.2. 1♦ OPENING

The meaning of a 1♦ opening is dictated by the strong club-based system and the 1NT opening of 12-14 HCPs . It shows one of these hands:

1) 12-17 HCPs, 5+ diamonds, balanced distribution;
2) 12-17 HCPs, three-suited hand with 4 diamonds and any shortage;
3) 12-17 HCPs, 4 diamonds and 5 clubs.

With five diamonds, 5-3-3-2 shape and 12-14 HCPs we open 1NT. With 15-17 HCPs we open 1♣. This implies that a 1♦ opening at white always promises an unbalanced hand.

Non-standard sequences arise when the opener bids 1NT after a one-over-one response. He shows in this way an unbalanced hand that is not fit for a no-trump contract.

**Sequence 1**

| **W** | **E** |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| ? | |

1NT – 12-14 HCPs, shape 3-1-5-4, 3-1-4-5, 2-2-5-4, 2-2-4-5 – flattish hand.

Examples of hands:

♠ Q J 7 ♥ J ♦K Q 8 7 3 ♣ K J 9 6

or

♠ A Q 10 ♥ 10 ♦ Q J 9 6 ♣ K 5 4 3 2

**Sequence 2**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♠ |
| ? | |

1NT – 12-14 HCPs – a no-trump oriented hand – 1-4-4-4, 5 diamonds – 4 clubs, 4 diamonds – 5 clubs or 5 diamonds – 4 hearts are permissible. When the responder is strong enough to advance, he can ask for more information about the opener's hand.

**Sequence 3**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 1NT | ? |

2♣ – waiting;
2♦ – to play;
2♥ – to play;
2♠ – waiting bid, showing the location of honours, it often shows concern about clubs suggesting club shortage;
2NT – invitational;
3♣ – to play;
3♦ – invitational.

**Sequence 4**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| ? | |

2♦ – 5 diamonds -4 clubs;
2♠ – 3-1-4-5 shape;
2NT – 2-2-4-5 shape.

**Sequence 5**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 2♠* |
| ? | |

| | |
|---|---|
| * | – waiting; |
| 2NT | – 2-2-5-4 shape; |
| 3♣ | – 3-1-5-4 shape – strong club suit; |
| 3♦ | – 3-1-5-4 shape – strong diamond suit. |

**Sequence 6**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♠ |
| 1NT | ? |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2♣ | – waiting; |
| 2♦ | – to play; |
| 2♥ | – to play; |
| 2♠ | – to play; |
| 2NT | – invitational; |
| 3♣ | – to play; |
| 3♦ | – invitational; |
| 3♥ | – 5 spades – 5 hearts, invitational. |

**Sequence 7**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♠ |
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| ? | |

2♦ – 5 diamonds;
2♥ – 1-4-4-4 shape;
2NT – 2-2-4-5 shape;
3♣ – 1-3-4-5 shape.

All other agreements can be easily transferred from your own system. You have to remember, however, the peculiar character of a 1♦ opening at Love All. It promises an unbalanced hand.

# 1.3. 1♥ OPENING

## IF NON-VULNERABLE – 9-16 HCPs, 5+ hearts

Many pairs reduce the opening strength for 1♥ and 1♠, being more aggressive and more active in their bidding. Undoubtedly at favourable vulnerability this is very effective and produces substantial profits. In a situation when both sides are non-vulnerable, good judgement requires a lot of common sense. You do not have to open the bidding with every major five-carder and 9-11 HCPs. You also need a mechanism that will allow you to stop in a part score when responder has 13-14 HCPs and the opener 9-11 HCPs.

**Sequence 1**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 1♠ |
| ? | |

1NT – 9-11 HCPs (with 12-14 HCPs and 5-3-3-2 shape we open 1NT);
2♣ – 9-16 HCPs;
2♦ – 9-16 HCPs;
2♥ – 9-13 HCPs;
2♠ – 9-13 HCPs;
2NT – 15-16 HCPs;
3♣ – 14-16 HCPs, 5+ hearts – 5+ clubs;
3♦ – 14-16 HCPs, 5+ hearts - 5+ diamonds;
3♥ – 14-16 HCPs, 6+ hearts;
3♠ – 14-16 HCPs, 5 hearts - 4 spades.

There is a lot of confusion after a 1♠ response. After some of the rebids there is still a problem with establishing the opener's strength. How can we solve our problems?

**Sequence 2**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♥ | 1♠ | |
| 2♣ | 2♦ | – waiting |
| ? | | |

2♥ – 9-11 HCPs;
other bids – 12+ HCPs.

A 2♦ waiting bid allows you to discover the opener's strength more precisely and stop in 2♥ contract.

**Sequence 3**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 1♠ |
| 2♦ | ? |

2♥ – has to be treated as non-forcing if the opener's range is 9-13 HCPs.

With 14-16 HCPs the opener will bid again.

**Sequence 4**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 2♣ |
| ? | |

2♦ – 9-12 HCPs.

2♣ call is a classical waiting bid, which allows us to check the opening power.

**Sequence 5**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | ? |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2♥ | – NF; |
| 2♠ | – waiting GF; |
| 2NT | – non-forcing; |
| 3♣ | – natural, non-forcing; |
| 3♥ | – slam bid. |

When the opener has shown 9-11 HCPs, we may stop in 2♥, 2NT or 3♣. We also have a mechanism that allows us to force partner to game, such as a 2♠ waiting bid.

**Sequence 6**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 2♦ |
| ? | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2♥ | – 9-12 HCPs; |
| Other bids | – 13-16 HCPs. |

All other agreements can be adopted from the system in use before, remembering the peculiarity of 1♥ opening at favourable vulnerability. Splinters and other responder's bids should be stronger than usual.

# 1.4. 1♠ OPENING

## NON VULNERABLE – 9-16 HCPs, 5+ SPADES

**Sequence 1**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| ? | |

2♦ – 9-12 HCPs, any distribution;
2♥ – 12 –16 HCPs, natural;
2♠ – 12-14 HCPs.

Other rebids by the opener are natural and show 14-16 HCPs.

**Sequence 2**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | ? |

2♥ – artificial GF;
2♠ – NF;
2NT – NF;
3♣ – NF;
3♠ – slam invitational if partner has an exceptional hand (containing a void).

**Sequence 3**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2♥ | ? |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2♠ | – NF; |
| 2NT | – waiting GF; |
| 3♣ | – fourth suit GF; |
| 3♦ | – NF; |
| 3♥ | – NF; |
| 3♠ | – GF. |

In this sequence 2♥ is natural and does not specify the strength within the 9-16 HCPs range.

In this situation agreeing hearts or spades is not forcing but invitational.

**Sequence 4**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♥ |
| ? | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2♠ | – 9-12 HCPs; |
| Other bids | – 13-16 HCPs. |

## 1.5. 1NT OPENING

In a strong club-based system it is recommended to adopt the agreement that 1NT opening promises a balanced hand (including 5-3-3-2 with any five-carder) and 12-14 (15) HCPs.

In the course of further bidding you can use your previous conventions over a 1NT opening within the 15-17 HCPs range.

# 1.6. 2♣ PRECISION OPENING

The 2♣ opening with 12-16 HCPs, 5+ clubs and a major four-carder or with 6+ clubs has probably more shortcomings than benefits. In the part score zone it does not work too well. We start the auction at too high a level, which creates problems in reaching the right contract at the right level. Its preemptive value can be considered as an advantage. In a strong club-based system it is definitely needed and we must do our best to reduce these shortcomings to a minimum.

I recommend a 1NT opening with 12-14 HCPs and 5♣ with 4 in a major - 2 -2 distribution if the hand character is suit oriented. Many authors have described further bidding after a natural 2♣ opening. I have nothing innovative to offer.

# 1.7. 2♦ OPENING - NON VULNERABLE

The opening has a destructive character and indicates 4-8 HCPs with at least 4-4 in the major suits. With the minimum distribution of 4-4, we tend not to open within the 4-5 HCPs range.

You will find a detailed description of further bidding in chapter 3 “Martens System – Full Version” on page …

# 1.8. 2♥ OPENING - NON VULNERABLE

In the Martens strong club-based system we open 1♥/♠ on 9 HCPs. The 2♦ opening bid indicates both majors.

2♥ opening, non vulnerable, shows 4-8 HCPs, 5 hearts – 4 in a minor.

I reduced the requirements for the shape to increase the frequency of the opening.

You will find a detailed description of further bidding in chapter 3 “Martens System – Full Version” on page …

# 1.9. 2♠ OPENING AT WHITE

A non-vulnerable 2♠ opening promises 4-8 HCPs, five spades and four in a minor suit.

You will find a detailed description of further bidding in chapter 3 “Martens System – Full Version” on page 53.

# 1.10. OTHER OPENINGS

OTHER OPENINGS ARE THE SAME AS THOSE YOU WILL USE AT RED. An interesting concept of preemptive opening is in chapter 3 “Martens System – Full Version” on page 53 (a destructive opening with a minor suit or a constructive with a major one).

# 1.11. SYSTEM UPGRADING CONVENTIONS

We have already learned the trunk and main tree limbs. The question arises, which conventions we should add to our simplified version. I suggest here the sequence in which additional branches should appear on the limbs.

## 1♣ OPENING

**Sequence 1**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| ? | |

1♥ – waiting, 3+ hearts or any GF is very useful. Introducing such a bid will considerably improve the bidding quality.

## 1♥/♠ OPENING

Remember that after 2♣ waiting, 2♦ response indicates 9-11 HCPs. This complicates further bidding and the development of these sequences is strongly recommended. Further branches or even leaves will contribute to the precision of your bidding.

## 1NT OPENING

The most important task is to prepare a pair to land safely if the opponents double. Below follows the simplest scheme to serve such purpose.

**Sequence 1**

| W | N | E | S |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1NT | dble | ? | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2♣ | – natural or a two-suited hand without clubs; |
| 2♦/♥/♠ | – natural; |
| rdble | – strong; |
| pass | – does not promise anything. |

**Sequence 2**

| W | N | E | S |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1NT | dble | pass | pass |
| ? | | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| rdble | – two-suited hand with clubs; |
| 2♣ | – natural or a two-suited hand without clubs; |
| 2♦/♥/♠ | – natural. |

**Sequence 3**

| W | N | E | S |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1NT | dble | 2♣ | dble |
| pass | pass | ? | |

| | |
|---|---|
| rdble | – two-suited hand without clubs, the higher suit is longer; |
| 2♦ | – diamonds are longer or equal + a major suit; |
| 2♥ | – hearts are longer than (or equal to) the spades. |

The next stage should be introducing to the system a “Stayman + transfer” convention.

## 1♦ OPENING

**Sequence 1**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | ? |

1♥ – a) 7 HCPs+, 4+ hearts;
b) 13+ HCPs, without four card major.

## 1♣ OPENING

**Sequence 1**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ |
| ? | |

1♠ – waiting, natural or GF.

**Sequence 2**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| ? | |

2♣ – natural or waiting, balanced hand, GF.

These sequences are very difficult and complicated. I suggest that they be incorporated in the system at the very end when you have properly acquired all other sequences. Have fun!

# Chapter 2

## BID WITH YOUR PARTNER

## 2.1. SEQUENCE 1♣ - 1♦ (WEST HANDS)

Below follow the West hands (East hands are on page 42).
West opens the bidding from 1-5 examples and East from 6-10.
For bidding suggested by the author, see chapter 4 page 162.

1)
♠ A J 6
♥ K 10 5 3
♦ A K Q 5
♣ A K

2)
♠ A
♥ Q 8 7
♦ A K Q 8 7
♣ A K Q 4

3)
♠ A 10 7
♥ K 8 5 2
♦ K Q
♣ A 10 5 4

4)
♠ A J
♥ A J 4
♦ A K Q 8 6
♣ K Q 5

5)
♠ A K 10 7 5
♥ A K J 7
♦ A Q
♣ K 7

6)
♠ Q 10 6 5 4
♥ J 8 7 3
♦ 5 4 3
♣ 2

7)
♠ 7 5
♥ J 8
♦ K 8 7 3
♣ Q 10 9 3 2

8)
♠ J 2
♥ J 5 3
♦ K Q 10 4 2
♣ 10 9 7

9)
♠ Q 10 4 3
♥ 9 7 2
♦ J 8 7 4
♣ K 6

10)
♠ J 10 8 7 5
♥ 8 5
♦ K 10 3 2
♣ Q 7

## 2.2. SEQUENCE 1♣ - 1♥ (WEST HANDS)

Below follow the West hands (East hands are on page 43).
West opens the bidding from 1-5 examples and East from 6-10.
For bidding suggested by the author, see chapter 4 page 170.

11)
♠ A K 6
♥ A Q 8 7
♦ K 4
♣ A 9 7 2

12)
♠ A 10 8 7
♥ K 4 2
♦ K 6
♣ A Q 10 8

13)
♠ K Q 6 5
♥ Q 9
♦ A K 6 4
♣ J 10 6

14)
♠ A J
♥ A K 6 5
♦ A 8 7 4
♥ K Q 6

15)
♠ K Q J 8
♥ J 4
♦ K J 8 3
♣ A J 10

16)
♠ J 6
♥ A K 9 7 4 2
♦ J 6
♣ K 4 3

17)
♠ K 9 6
♥ Q 10 9 5 3
♦ K 3
♣ K 10 9

18)
♠ 9
♥ K Q 5 4
♦ Q 10 4 2
♣ J 9 6 4

19)
♠ 10 2
♥ K J 10 8 5
♦ K 4
♣ J 6 4 2

20)
♠ Q 9 4
♥ A 10 8 6 4 2
♦ J 5 3
♣ 5

## 2.3. SEQUENCE 1♣ - 1♠ (WEST HANDS)

Below follow the West hands (East hands are on page 44).
West opens the bidding from 1-5 examples and East from 6-10.
For bidding suggested by the author, see chapter 4 page 176.

21)
♠ A Q
♥ K J 6
♦ A K Q 4
♣ J 10 9 7

22)
♠ Q
♥ K J 6
♦ A 10 8
♣ A K J 10 4 2

23)
♠ A K
♥ A Q 4 3
♦ A Q 7 6
♣ Q 8 7

24)
♠ A 5
♥ A J 6 4
♦ A K J 4 3
♣ K 9

25)
♠ A J 6
♥ K 8 7
♦ D 5
♣ A K D 4 2

26)
♠ Q 10 8 6
♥ K 8
♦ A J 9 3 2
♣ 9 2

27)
♠ K J 5 4
♥ J 4 2
♦ K 10 9 8
♣ 8 7

28)
♠ Q 10 4 2
♥ 4
♦ 8 7 4 2
♣ K Q 10 9

29)
♠ K 10 8 6
♥ 7 5
♦ A 2
♣ K 10 7 5 3

30)
♠ J 9 6 5
♥ 5
♦ A D J 4 2
♣ 10 9 7

## 2.4. SEQUENCE 1♦ - 1♥ (WEST HANDS)

Below follow the West hands (East hands are on page 45).
West opens the bidding from 1-5 examples and East from 6-10.
For bidding suggested by the author, see chapter 4 page 184.

31)
♠ A K J 3
♥ —
♦ A 10 5 4 3 2
♣ 8 6 4

32)
♠ Q 8 7 6
♥ 5
♦ A K J 9 7 5
♣ K Q

33)
♠ K J 6 5
♥ 7
♥ K Q J 2
♣ Q 6 4 2

34)
♠ 4
♥ Q 8 7
♦ A Q 4 3 2
♣ A J 10 6

35)
♠ 8 7 4
♥ K 10 8
♦ A K J 7 5 3
♣ 3

36)
♠ K 8 4
♥ A 5 4
♦ K 8 7 2
♣ A K 2

37)
♠ K 5
♥ K 8 7
♦ A 10 5 2
♣ A Q 9 6

38)
♠ A Q 10
♥ K Q 3
♦ Q 8 2
♣ J 6 3 2

39)
♠ A K 9
♥ K 6 5
♦ K J 6 3
♣ J 5 4

40)
♠ A J 7
♥ Q 8 6
♦ K 5 3
♣ K 10 3 2

## 2.5. OPENING 1♥ (WEST HANDS)

Below follow the West hands (East hands are on page 46).
West opens the bidding from 1-5 examples and East from 6-10.
For bidding suggested by the author, see chapter 4 page 193.

41)
♠ A 10
♥ K 9 5 3 2
♦ J 6 3
♣ Q 7 2

42)
♠ 7
♥ A Q 9 4 2
♦ K 6 5
♣ A J 10 8

43)
♠ A 6 5
♥ A J 10 4 3
♦ 10 6 4 2
♣ 4

44)
♠ 6
♥ A J 7 4 2
♦ K J
♣ K J 10 6 3

45)
♠ 8 7 5
♥ A K 6 5 4
♦ A K 8 7 2
♣ —

46)
♠ A Q 2
♥ J 8 7
♦ A Q J
♣ Q 10 6 5

47)
♠ Q 8 7
♥ J
♦ A K J 10 5 4
♣ K Q 6

48)
♠ J 9 4 2
♥ A J
♦ A J 10 4 3
♣ A Q

49)
♠ K Q
♥ A K 9 8
♦ A 6 5
♣ Q 10 9 7

50)
♠ K Q 10
♥ 6
♦ Q 9 7 3
♣ A Q J 4 2

## 2.6. OPENING 1♠ (WEST HANDS)

Below follow the West hands (East hands are on page 47).
West opens the bidding from 1-5 examples and East from 6-10.
For bidding suggested by the author, see chapter 4 page 201.

51)
♠ A J 10 6 4
♥ 7 2
♦ K J 4 3
♣ 10 8

52)
♠ A K 10 8 5 4
♥ 3
♦ 6 5 4
♣ Q 8 7

53)
♠ A 9 6 4 3
♥ A 8 7 4
♦ 3
♣ Q 8 7

54)
♠ A K 9 5 3
♥ K J 6 5
♦ Q 9 6
♣ 3

55)
♠ K Q 10 5 4 3
♥ K Q 6
♦ 5
♣ 7 4 2

56)
♠ Q 4
♥ A Q 9 4 2
♦ J 8 7
♣ A 6 4

57)
♠ Q J 7
♥ A K 4 2
♦ Q 9 4 2
♣ Q 3

58)
♠ 10 4
♥ A 3
♦ A Q J 5 3 2
♣ K Q 3

59)
♠ 2
♥ Q 8 7
♦ A K 10 2
♣ A J 4 3 2

60)
♠ A Q 10 9
♥ A K 6
♦ 2
♣ Q J 6 5 3

## 2.7. OPENING 1NT – SET 1 (WEST HANDS)

Below follow the West hands (East hands are on page 48).
West opens the bidding from 1-5 examples and East from 6-10.
For bidding suggested by the author, see chapter 4 page 208.

61)
♠ A Q 10
♥ 7 6 4
♦ K 8 7 6
♣ K 3 2

62)
♠ A 6
♥ 7 6 4
♦ K Q 9 2
♣ K Q 7 6

63)
♠ K 7
♥ Q J 4
♦ A K 10 2
♣ 10 9 8 2

64)
♠ A 6
♥ K 3 2
♦ K Q 6 5
♣ J 10 9 7

65)
♠ K 8 7
♥ Q J 6
♦ K 10 4 2
♣ K 8 4

66)
♠ J 10 4 2
♥ K Q 5
♦ A K Q J 8
♣ J

67)
♠ A K J 9
♥ —
♦ A 10 5
♣ Q 10 9 8 3 2

68)
♠ 8 7
♥ A K J 6
♦ A J
♣ K Q 4 3 2

69)
♠ 3
♥ Q J 9 8
♦ A K J 10 9
♣ A Q 10

70)
♠ A J 6 5
♥ A K 9 3 2
♦ Q J 9
♣ 3

## 2.8. OPENING 1NT – SET 2 (WEST HANDS)

Below follow the West hands (East hands are on page 49).
West opens the bidding from 1-5 examples and East from 6-10.
For bidding suggested by the author, see chapter 4 page 213.

71)
♠ A 10 5
♥ Q 6 3
♦ K Q 7 6
♣ K 3 2

72)
♠ A J 4
♥ Q 6 4
♦ K J 9 4 2
♣ Q 6

73)
♠ J 10
♥ Q 4
♦ A K 10 8
♣ Q J 9 8 2

74)
♠ A 6 5
♥ K 3
♦ K Q J 6 5
♣ J 9 7

75)
♠ A 10
♥ K J 6
♦ 10 4 2
♣ K Q 8 4 3

76)
♠ K Q 9 8 3
♥ A K Q 5 2
♦ K 5
♣ J

77)
♠ 4 2
♥ A 8 7 6 4
♦ A J 10 5
♣ Q J

78)
♠ 9
♥ K Q 6 3 2
♦ A Q J 9
♣ Q 4 2

79)
♠ —
♥ Q J 9 8 4 3
♦ A Q J 9
♣ K J 8

80)
♠ Q J 6 5
♥ A K J 9 3 2
♦ K 9 3
♣ —

# 2.9. OPENING 2♦ (WEST HANDS)

Below follow the West hands (East hands are on page 50).
West opens the bidding from 1-5 examples and East from 6-10.
For bidding suggested by the author, see chapter 4 page 219.

81)
♠ A 9 6 4
♥ K 10 9 5 4
♦ 5
♣ 9 6 2

82)
♠ K 9 6 4 2
♥ Q 7 3 2
♦ 10 9 7
♣ 3

83)
♠ K 9 7 5
♥ Q 7 5 4
♦ Q 4 3
♣ 10 8

84)
♠ Q J 9 6 4
♥ Q 10 6 5
♦ 5 3
♣ 9 7

85)
♠ K J 8 7 3
♥ Q J 5 4 3
♦ 9 8 6
♣ —

86)
♠ A 6 5
♥ A Q 5 3
♦ A 5
♣ A K 6 4

87)
♠ A 8 3
♥ A K 10
♦ A J 10 8
♣ K 10 2

88)
♠ 3
♥ A 8
♦ A K Q 10 6 4 3
♣ A J 8

89)
♠ J 3
♥ A K 9 5 3
♦ A Q 6 5
♣ A K

90)
♠ A 3
♥ A J 9 8
♦ A 9 5
♣ K J 6 2

## 2.10. OPENING 2♥ AND 2♠ (WEST HANDS)

Below follow the West hands (East hands are on page 51).
West opens the bidding from 1-5 examples and East from 6-10.
For bidding suggested by the author, see chapter 4 page 226.

91)
♠ D 9 6
♥ K W 9 5 4
♦ 5
♣ D 10 6 2

92)
♠ 4 2
♥ D 10 6 3 2
♦ D 10 9 7
♣ 3 2

93)
♠ 5 3
♥ K W 10 7 4
♦ 3
♣ D W 10 8 2

94)
♠ 6
♥ W 10 6 5 4
♦ K 5 3
♣ K 10 7 5

95)
♠ —
♥ D W 5 4 3
♦ 9 8 6
♣ K 10 6 4 2

96)
♠ A 5
♥ A K D 5 3
♦ A 5
♣ A K 6 4

97)
♠ A K 8 3
♥ A K
♦ A 10 8
♣ A 10 4 2

98)
♠ 3
♥ A 8
♦ A K D 10 6 4 2
♣ A K 8

99)
♠ D 3
♥ A K W 9
♦ A 10 6 5
♣ A 4 2

100)
♠ A D
♥ A K D 9 8 3
♦ A W 5
♣ 10 6

## 2.1. SEQUENCE 1♣ - 1♦ (EAST HANDS)

Below follow the East hands (West hands are on page 32).
West opens the bidding from 1-5 examples and East from 6-10.
For bidding suggested by the author, see chapter 4 page 162.

1)
♠ 3
♥ Q J 8 7 6
♦ 7 4 2
♣ 10 8 4 3

2)
♠ J 8 7 5
♥ 2
♦ 5 4
♣ 9 8 6 5 3 2

3)
♠ J 9 4 3
♥ Q 6 4 3
♦ 8 7 4 2
♣ 3

4)
♠ Q 9 6 4 3 2
♥ 6 2
♦ 5 2
♣ 10 8 6

5)
♠ 4
♥ 10 8 4 3
♦ J 10 8 7 5
♣ 9 5 2

6)
♠ A K 7
♥ A K Q
♦ A J 10 8
♣ K Q 5

7)
♠ A K 6
♥ A 7 6 5
♦ A Q
♣ A K 6 5

8)
♠ A 7 5
♥ A K Q 7 4
♦ 4
♣ A K Q 6

9)
♠ A K 8 7
♥ 6
♦ A K Q 10 6
♣ A Q 7

10)
♠ A 2
♥ A K 4
♦ A Q J 9
♣ A K 10 8

## 2.2. SEQUENCE 1♣ - 1♥ (EAST HANDS)

Below follow the East hands (West hands are on page 33).
West opens the bidding from 1-5 examples and East from 6-10.
For bidding suggested by the author, see chapter 4 page 170.

11)
♠ Q 5 2
♥ J 10 5 4 2
♦ A J 8 7
♣ 8

12)
♠ K 5
♥ A Q 8 7
♦ Q J 7
♣ K J 3 2

13)
♠ A J 10 6
♥ J 8 7 3
♦ Q 5
♣ 9 5 3

14)
♠ K 7 6
♥ Q 10 9 8 2
♦ J
♣ A J 3 2

15)
♠ A 7
♥ A Q 10 8
♦ A Q 10 4
♣ 9 6 3

16)
♠ A 9 8 7 4
♥ 3
♦ A K Q 2
♣ A J 9

17)
♠ A 8 7
♥ A K J
♦ Q 8 7 2
♣ A Q 5

18)
♠ A K 10 6 4
♥ 8
♦ A J 7 3
♣ A Q 10

19)
♠ A K 8 6
♥ A 4 2
♦ A 10 9 5
♣ A K

20)
♠ A K J 8 7
♥ 3
♦ A K Q 4
♣ A 10 4

## 2.3. SEQUENCE 1♣ - 1♠ (EAST HANDS)

Below follow the East hands (West hands are on page 34).
West opens the bidding from 1-5 examples and East from 6-10.
For bidding suggested by the author, see chapter 4 page 176.

21)
♠ K 10 6 3 2
♥ A 10 7 5 2
♦ 9 7 5
♣ —

22)
♠ K J 4 2
♥ 10 5 3
♦ K Q 9 6
♣ Q 7

23)
♠ Q 8 7 4 2
♥ K J 10
♦ K J 4 3
♣ 5

24)
♠ K 10 6 4 2
♥ 8
♦ Q 8 7
♣ A J 8 5

25)
♠ K 9 8 3 2
♥ A 10 6 5
♦ 4 2
♣ J 6

26)
♠ A
♥ A Q 7 6
♦ K Q 5 4
♣ A Q J 4

27)
♠ A Q 10 6
♥ K 5
♦ A J 4 3
♣ K J 2

28)
♠ A K J 9
♥ A J 8 7
♦ K Q
♣ A 4 2

29)
♠ A 5
♥ A K 4 2
♦ K J 8
♣ A Q J 2

30)
♠ K 7
♥ A K J 8
♦ K 6
♣ A Q J 4 3

## 2.4. SEQUENCE 1♦ - 1♥ (EAST HANDS)

Below follow the East hands (West hands are on page 35).
West opens the bidding from 1-5 examples and East from 6-10.
For bidding suggested by the author, see chapter 4 page 184.

31)
♠ Q 10 6
♥ Q 10 9
♦ K Q 6
♣ A K Q 7

32)
♠ A K 5
♥ J 8
♦ Q 10 4 2
♣ A 10 6 3

33)
♠ A 8 7
♥ A Q J
♦ 8 7 3
♣ A J 5 3

34)
♠ A K J
♥ J 9 2
♥ K J 10 9
♥ K 9 8

35)
♠ A K Q
♥ A 9
♦ Q 10 8
♣ J 10 9 8 5

36)
♠ A 9
♥ K 10 9 6
♦ A Q 10 5 3
♣ 8 7

37)
♠ A 8 7 2
♥ —
♦ K Q 9 8 4 3
♣ K 6 4

38)
♠ 6
♥ A J 7 5
♦ A K J 7 5
♣ Q 5 4

39)
♠ Q 5 3
♥ A Q 10 7
♦ A Q 10 4 3
♣ 6

40)
♠ K 8 3
♥ —
♦ A Q 10 6 4
♣ A Q 8 7 5

## 2.5. OPENING 1♥ (EAST HANDS)

Below follow the East hands (West hands are on page 36).
West opens the bidding from 1-5 examples and East from 6-10.
For bidding suggested by the author, see chapter 4 page 193.

41)
♠ K 8 7 2
♥ A 4
♦ A D 4 2
♣ 8 6 4

42)
♠ 8 4 3
♥ K 5
♦ Q 10 9 8
♣ K Q 3 2

43)
♠ K 8
♥ K Q 8 6
♦ A K
♣ A 8 7 3 2

44)
♠ J 10 8
♥ 6
♦ A Q 10 9
♣ A Q 9 8 7

45)
♠ A K
♥ Q 3
♦ Q 10 9 4
♣ K 10 8 4 3

46)
♠ K 6 5
♥ A K Q 10 4 3
♦ K 8 7
♣ 4

47)
♠ 6
♥ A 8 7 4 2
♦ Q 8 7
♣ A 10 7 5

48)
♠ A 8
♥ K Q 10 6 5
♦ K Q 9
♣ J 10 6

49)
♠ A 8 7
♥ Q J 7 4 3 2
♦ K 4 2
♣ 6

50)
♠ A 8 7 6
♥ A K 9 4 2
♦ 5
♣ K 10 9

## 2.6. OPENING 1♠ (EAST HANDS)

Below follow the East hands (West hands are on page 37).
West opens the bidding from 1-5 examples and East from 6-10.
For bidding suggested by the author, see chapter 4 page. 201.

51)
♠ K 8
♥ A 6
♦ A 10 5 2
♣ Q J 6 5 4

52)
♠ Q J 7 3
♥ J 10 9 7
♦ A K J
♣ A K

53)
♠ 8
♥ K Q 5
♦ A Q 7
♣ A K J 9 4 2

54)
♠ Q J 10 8
♥ A 4 2
♦ A 10 8 2
♣ K Q

55)
♠ A J 9
♥ A J 10
♦ K Q 10 6 4
♣ A 8

56)
♠ A K 7 6 3
♥ K 8
♦ Q 6
♣ Q 10 9 5

57)
♠ A K 10 9 5
♥ 7 5 3
♦ 8
♣ K J 10 9

58)
♠ A K J 5 3
♥ 9 8
♦ K 9 6 4
♣ 9 7

59)
♠ Q J 10 9 4
♥ A K 6
♦ 6 5 4
♣ 10 8

60)
♠ K 8 7 4 2
♥ 10 8 3
♦ 9 6 5
♣ A K

# 2.7. OPENING 1NT – SET 1 (EAST HANDS)

Below follow the East hands (West hands are on page 38).
West opens the bidding from 1-5 examples and East from 6-10.
For bidding suggested by the author, see chapter 4 page 208.

61)
♠ 6
♥ A K 9 8
♦ A 9 2
♣ A J 10 8 7

62)
♠ K Q 8 7
♥ 5
♦ A 10 5
♣ A J 5 3 2

63)
♠ A J 10
♥ A K 6 3
♦ Q 9 8 7 4
♣ 3

64)
♠ Q 9 8 7
♥ A J 5 4
♦ 3
♣ A K Q 8

65)
♠ 10 5
♥ A 10 5 2
♦ 7
♣ Q J 10 9 6 2

66)
♠ A K 6
♥ J 9 8 2
♦ 9 6 3
♣ K Q 2

67)
♠ 7 5
♥ J 9 4 2
♦ K Q 3
♣ A K J 5

68)
♠ A K 3 2
♥ 6 4
♦ 4 3 2
♣ A J 9 8

69)
♠ A K J 8
♥ 7 6 3
♦ 4 3 2
♣ K J 7

70)
♠ K 6
♥ Q J 10
♦ A K 4 2
♣ 10 8 6 4

## 2.8. OPENING 1NT – SET 2 (EAST HANDS)

Below follow the East hands (West hands are on page 39).
West opens the bidding from 1-5 examples and East from 6-10.
For bidding suggested by the author, see chapter 4 page 213.

71)
♠ J 9 6
♥ A K 4 2
♦ J 9 3 2
♣ Q J

72)
♠ K Q 8 7 5
♥ K J 9 7 3 2
♦ 5
♣ 2

73)
♠ A K 5 4 2
♥ A 9 6 3 2
♦ Q
♣ 10 4

74)
♠ K Q J 9 8 7
♥ A J 5 4
♦ —
♣ K 8 6

75)
♠ K J 5 4
♥ A Q 10 8 4
♦ 7
♣ A J 5

76)
♠ A 2
♥ J 9 8
♦ A J 9 6
♣ A 10 4 3

77)
♠ J 8 6 3
♥ K 2
♦ K Q 3 2
♣ K 3 2

78)
♠ 8 7 3 2
♥ A 4
♦ K 4 3 2
♣ A J 9 8

79)
♠ J 10 4 3
♥ A K
♦ K 4 3
♣ Q 10 7 2

80)
♠ A K 10
♥ Q 5
♦ A 9 4 2
♣ 10 8 6 4

## 2.9. OPENING 2♦ (EAST HANDS)

Below follow the East hands (West hands are on page 40).
West opens the bidding from 1-5 examples and East from 6-10.
For bidding suggested by the author, see chapter 4 page 219.

81)
♠ K 8
♥ A Q J 2
♦ Q 8 7 4
♣ A K Q

82)
♠ A Q J 10
♥ A K
♦ A 8 3
♣ K Q J 2

83)
♠ A Q J 8
♥ K 9 3
♦ K 10 6 2
♣ A 5

84)
♠ A K 2
♥ A 8 7
♦ K 9 4 2
♣ A 6 5

85)
♠ A 5
♥ A K 10 6
♦ A K J 5
♣ J 10 6

86)
♠ K 8 7 3
♥ 9 6 4 2
♦ K J 10
♣ 7 5

87)
♠ Q 10 9 5
♥ Q 9 6 4 3
♦ 6 5 4
♣ 6

88)
♠ A Q 6 5 2
♥ 10 9 4 3
♦ J 7 5
♣ 7

89)
♠ A 9 8 4 2
♥ Q J 6 4
♦ 4
♣ 9 8 3

90)
♠ J 10 8 4 2
♥ K Q 10 3 2
♦ 4 3
♣ 7

## 2.10. Opening 2♥ and 2♠ (East hands)

Below follow the East hands (West hands are on page 41).
West opens the bidding from 1-5 examples and East from 6-10.
For bidding suggested by the author, see chapter 4 page 226.

91)
♠ A K J 10 8
♥ A 2
♦ J 8 7
♣ A K J

92)
♠ A Q
♥ A K 9 8
♦ A 8 3
♣ K Q 10 2

93)
♠ A K 8 4
♥ A 3
♦ J 6 5 4
♣ A K 5

94)
♠ Q 8 2
♥ A
♦ A Q J 9 4 2
♣ A Q 5

95)
♠ A K Q 5
♥ A 6
♦ J 10 5
♣ A Q 9 3

96)
♠ K J 8 7 3
♥ 2
♦ J 10 9 8
♣ 7 5 3

97)
♠ Q J 10 9 5
♥ 9 3 2
♦ K Q 6 5
♣ 6

98)
♠ A 10 6 5 2
♥ 4 3
♦ J 7 5 3
♣ Q 2

99)
♠ J 10 9 8 2
♥ 4
♦ J 4
♣ K J 9 8 3

100)
♠ J 10 8 4 2
♥ 10 2
♦ K Q 10 4 3
♣ 7

# Chapter 3

## THE MARTENS SYSTEM – FULL VERSION

# 3.1. INTRODUCTION

The British Museum collection has a book which clearly indicates that the game of bridge originated in Russia. The book is entitled "British or Russian Whist". At the beginning of the 20th century, Englishmen made bridge popular. However, the turning point came in 1925, when the American, Harold Vanderbilt, developed a new scoring "Contract bridge" method that has been in use until now. At the beginning of 1930s Ely Culbertson created and published the first cohesive bidding system — "Approach Forcing".

At that time natural bidding prevailed, but over the course of time new conventions, introducing artificial agreements have emerged. A fashion for artificial relay systems came in the 1950s. One-way approach-based bidding had a lot of followers. After opening the bidding, the responder took control of the auction and with a number of consecutive questions established the power and shape of partner's hand. The captain of a ship sets the course and gives the necessary orders. A crew member does not query where the ship is heading, he merely follows orders. If a bridge player at the helm does not know how to use the compass, sextant and other navigational tools, the partnership is doomed to fail pretty soon. The captain is the master of the deal and everything follows his wishes.

The precision of such relay bidding is nonetheless superficial. It does not take into account many vital elements of hand evaluation, such as the location of honours and the quality of the trump suit. There is no opportunity for intellectual conversation between the partners. The one-way approach, favoured by relay bidding, can work well on occasional deals and should not be disregarded or rejected. Natural bidding, however, has many advantages. Both players can show their intentions with the calls they make and they can indicate whether or not they would be happy to play a no-trump contract. Since they are not tied to a table of relay responses, they can decide whether to give accurate information on their hand or to avoid giving away such information. And finally, the most important thing is a considerable resilience to intervention by the opponents.

In the 21st century, bidding systems look for a symbiosis between relay bidding and a two-way exchange of information. Specific consideration must be given to camouflage, wherever this is possible without obstructing the quality of the final contract.

# 3.2 SYSTEM BASE

Nowadays, there is no such thing as one single applicable system. Modern bidding is full of variation: the majority of Polish pairs until recently have been using the old simple Polish Club or 'Our System'. There is, however a large group seeking new ways. And this is what is needed. Maybe this is a decisive feature of modern times — searching for emotions and intellect. It is beyond any doubt that a pair should use different systems, depending on the vulnerability. I have a feeling that this is just the time for a publication, in which the reader will make the next step up in his expertise, which is the key on the way to the bidding land. In my opinion, the right approach is a system based on a number of pillars.

**At white (non-vulnerable against vulnerable),** I suggest a strong club-based bidding system.

- 1♣ opening - strong 15+ HCPs when balanced or any 17+ HCPs;
- 1♦ opening - 12-14 HCPs, 5+ diamonds, 4-4-4-1 shape with four diamonds and any singleton or 4 diamonds and 5 clubs;
- 1♥ and 1♠ openings should be aggressive within the 9-16 HCPs range;
- 1 NT opening– weak 12-14 HCPs;
- 2♣ opening - natural 12-16 HCPs (Precision);
- 2♦ opening - 4+ hearts - 4+ spades, within the 4-8 HCPs range;
- 2♥/♠ openings - five in major and 4+ in minor, within the 4-8 HCPs range.

Active bidding, or even being destructive, has been demonstrated by the world leading pairs to be very effect at favourable vulnerability. The Polish systems, from this point of view, are very conservative, not to say outdated. A 1♣ strong opening allows you to bid slowly when there is a chance of a slam contract, which is one of the basic bidding postulates. It

is also important for choosing a better part score. A big disadvantage of natural systems is the need to jump to show the strength.

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 1♠ |
| 3♦ | |

We are wasting one level of bidding in a situation when there is still a lot to discuss about the proper game contract or slam options. There is not enough room for bidding because we have wasted it ourselves.

1) A disadvantage of the 1♣ strong opening is the lack of resilience to destructive bidding. Favourable vulnerability practically eliminates the problem. Opponents at red do not usually expose themselves by being too active. They know that a lack of good sense may be too costly. One certainly cannot use four systems. Not only because this would be against the regulations but also because the human memory is fallible. Two bidding systems are permitted and possible to master. My suggestion is that the strong club-based system be used only when **non vulnerable**.

2) When **vulnerable** the bidding will rely on natural openings within the 11-21 HCPs range.

An opening 2♣ is game forcing.

A strong 2NT opening, as played in "Our System".

3) Bridge players who are attached to the "Polish Club" can use a slightly modified version of this system when **vulnerable**.

"Polish Club" – with the openings:

1♦ – 11-21 HCPs, 5+ diamonds (and 4-4-4-1 shapes or 4 diamonds - 5 clubs, 11-15 HCPs);
2♣ – game forcing;
2NT – 20-22 HCPs, balanced hand.

This is a scheme for bridge players who have already encountered the theory of bidding and are willing to continue. I assume that the traditional

classification into a theory for amateurs and professionals has no reason for its existence anymore. A professor introducing beginners into the world of bridge should know that whether some bidding convention is accepted or not to a large extent depends on whether it has been properly mastered. And the degree of popularity should not be confused with its value or the absence of such value.

Nowadays we are forced to answer the question how to shape bridge youth when simplifications and easy solutions are in vogue. In my opinion, aesthetical needs are deeply linked to human nature. Bridge society is just a set of individuals of diversified intelligence, sensitivity and needs. I think that an intellectual approach to bidding, for many players, may be an attractive form of finding sense and beauty in bridge. Too often we are dealing with the destruction of imagination, the wasting of passion and enthusiasm and just being content with mediocrity. Rigid habits in our imagination and stereotypes obstruct our contact with the diversified and complicated world of bidding. Bad habits make a bridge player insensitive to subtle arguments. His sphere of perception becomes more limited. A remedy to this is plurality, abundance and variety and a vast panorama of possibilities. Popular and commonly recognised bridge bidding theory makes us intolerant opposite other more developed forms. Submission to such pressure would put an end to a colourful and multi-level bidding and lead to the adoption of a simple mechanically operating model. I recognise the plurality of contents and forms and I acknowledge the need to make bridge players aware of richness in intellectual bidding. Only this can be the basis for informed, well-thought-out choice of a concept or bidding idea. One of the most important missions of bridge education, in my opinion, is shaping the skill of interpersonal communication, dialogue, also about what is different, strange, and separate in our habits. Tolerance enriched by the willingness to understand a partner is very helpful in building bridge partnership.

# 3.3. 1♣ OPENING

A modern bidding system should be as big as a tree with its roots deeply established until the seventh layer with the limbs flying out to the sky. It should be organic so all its juices go from the earth to the crown, with leaves grabbing the light and passing the energy of the sun to the trunk and roots.

I have constructed the system based on a big tree metaphor. The idea of two bidding spaces has also proved useful. I have taken care to provide the waiting mechanism that will allow one player to take control over the auction. It leads to one-way exchange of information. Apart from the waiting scheme, both, the opener and the responder can use a wide range of natural bids, which sets a two-way exchange of information in motion.

| **W** | **E** | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♣ | ? | |
| | 1♦ | – 0-8 HCPs; |
| | 1♥ | – 7 + HCPs, 4+ hearts; |
| | 1♠ | – 7 + HCPs, 4+ spades; |
| | 1NT | – 9 -12 HCPs, without a four-card major; |
| | 2♣ | – 10+ HCPs, 5+ clubs, without a four-card major; |
| | 2♦ | – 10+ HCPs, 5+ diamonds, without a four-card major; |
| | 2♥ | – 13+ HCPs– transfer to no-trump; |
| | 2♠ | – 9-12 HCPs – transfer to no-trump; |
| | 2NT | – 13+ HCPs, without a four-card major; |
| | 3♣/3♦/3♥/3♠ | – 7-card suit – weak one-suited hand. |

I would like to point out that the 2♥ and 2♠ bids are used to assign a no-trump contract to from the right hand. My experience tells me that this is a key task. Playing a no-trump contract the right way round often brings an additional trick and precious tempo.

I admit that the sense of beauty would not let me respond 1NT to a 1♣ opening on:

♠ 4 3 2 ♥ 4 3 2 ♦ 5 4 3 2 ♣ A K Q

or 2NT with the following hand:

♠ 4 3 2 ♥ 4 3 2 ♦ A K 3 2 ♣ A K 2

## *3.3.1. SEQUENCE 1♣ - 1♦*

When the auction begins like this:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| ? | |

the opener has these options:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | – 3+ hearts or artificial GF, forcing; |
| 1♠ | – 3+ spades, NF; |
| 1NT | – 18-21 HCPs; |
| 2♣ | – natural, NF; |
| 2♦ | – natural, NF; |
| 2♥ | – 20-22 HCPs, 5+ hearts; |
| 2♠ | – 20-22 HCPs, 5+ spades; |
| 2NT | – 21-23 HCPs; |
| 3♣/3♦/3♥/3♠ | – almost GF, one-suited hand; |
| 3NT | – gambling. |

After a negative 1♦ we can use the 1♥ rebid as a waiting move. Other opening bids are natural.

What hand types can be included in the 1♥ waiting bid?

1) no-trump shape, 15-17 HCPs, 3-4 hearts;
2) 5+ hearts, 17-20 HCPs;
3) any GF hand;
4) 4 hearts - 5+ clubs – although we may bid 2♣ with this hand (depending on the hand type).

According to Polish bidding habits after 1♦ negative, an artificial game-forcing 2♦ plays the role of a waiting bid. What kind of arguments do we have for changing the 2♦ waiting bid to 1♥? There are plenty.

It complies with the rule that the stronger we are the more slowly we bid.

The old convention created problems with the diamond suit in the following sequence:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| ? | |

with the following types of hands:

♠ 8 ♥ 5 2 ♦ A K Q 10 7 ♣ A K Q 4

♠ 7 5 3 ♥ 4 ♦ A K J 8 4 3 ♣ A K Q 4

♠ 6 ♥ A Q 5 ♦ A Q J 10 9 6 5 ♣ A 4

♠ K Q ♥ A 4 3 ♦ A K J 8 7 3 2 ♣ 8

- In all other sequences the waiting mechanism is created in the most economic way. It should also be like that in this situation.
- There is no exposure to painful undertricks as in the "Polish Club", in which 1♣ opening includes a variant with 12-14 HCPs with the flat hand. We can quite safely stop in a slightly higher contract, like 1NT.
- The truth is that to gain some comfort with the diamond suit we have to pay with a discomfort with the heart suit.
- More room will provide more precision.

**Sequence 1**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | ? |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | – waiting (in principle 0-4 HCPs); |
| 1NT | – 5-8 HCPs, can be 4 spades within the 5-6 HCPs range; |
| 2♣ | – 5-8 HCPs, 5+ clubs; |
| 2♦ | – 5-8 HCPs, 5+ diamonds; |
| 2♥ | – 4-6 HCPs, 4+ hearts; |
| 2♠ | – 4-6 HCPs, 5+ spades; |
| 3♣ | – 6-8 HCPs, 5 diamonds – 4 clubs; |
| 3♦ | – 6-8 PC, 6+ diamonds. |

All responses are natural except 1♠ waiting, which is a second negative response.

For the first time, we are encountering a concept that I call – "Two spaces".

Two limbs are growing out of the tree trunk. One already has branches – natural bids conveying information about the shape and power. The second limb (1♠ waiting) is somewhat mysterious (we know something about the power range).

**Sequence 2**

After the second negative:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | 1♠ |
| ? | |

1NT – 15–17 HCPs;
2♣ – artificial GF;
2♦ – diamonds and hearts, NF;
2♥ – 5+ hearts, NF;
2♠ – 5+ spades, GF;
2NT – 22 – 23 HCPs, NF;
3♣ – natural, GF;
3♦ – natural, GF;
3♥ – natural, GF.

All the bids are natural except 2♣, which is an artificial forcing to game. We have a similar scheme, economic waiting mechanism and an entire range of natural bids. Problems with club-heart hands are negative effects of such an agreement.

**Sequence 3**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| ? | |

2♣ – 5+ clubs, can be four hearts. This condition is a must.

When can we bid 1♥ after 1♦ negative with 4 hearts – 5 clubs shape?

When after the second negative 1♠ response we may easily bid 1NT. It should be 2-4-2-5 shape with honours in short suits.

**Sequence 4**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | 1♠ |
| ? | |

2♥ – 5+ hearts, club suit permissible.

The price does not seem too high.

Let's sum up – in a sequence 1♣ - 1♦ we use 1♥ waiting, which is forcing for one round. After each responder's call we have a waiting mechanism, forcing to game, and a range of natural bids.

**Sequence 5**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | ? |

2♦ – nothing special to show;
2♥ – natural, 5 hearts with a major honour, or 6+ hearts;
2♠ – natural, 5 spades with a major honour, or 6+ spades;
3♣ – natural, 6+ clubs;
3♦ – natural, 6+ diamonds.

This is a special version of "Two Spaces". One of them comprises natural bids hedged with several conditions. The second space is a "dustbin" – a set of hands with nothing to boast about.

Specifically recommendable is a sequence with a record number of waiting bids.

**Sequence 6**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ | |
| 1♥ | 1♠ | |
| 2♣ | 2♦ | – waiting (dustbin) |

Until now we have managed to make 5 waiting bids:

1♦ – waiting (negative);
1♥ – waiting;
1♠ – waiting (0-4 HCPs);
2♣ – waiting – forcing to game;
2♦ – waiting, within the 0-4 HCPs power range I have nothing to say.

We are at the level of 2♦ and have the following information: opener has a strong hand forcing to game and a responder has a weak hand – 0-4 HCPs – without a suit that is worth showing.

**Example**

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 2♥ |
| 2NT | 3♦ |
| 6♥ | pass |

1♥ – waiting;
1♠ – 0-4 HCPs;
2♣ – GF;
2♥ – 5 hearts with a major honour or 6+ hearts;
2NT – waiting;
3♦ – natural.

Such information is enough to bid a heart or a diamond slam. There is no point even thinking about a grand opposite 0-4 HCPs.

You have finished reading about the first sequence.

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | – waiting |

Check the proposed mechanisms in practice. I suggest a bidding planning test with the use of the concepts that I have presented, knowing both hands. If your partner does a similar job you will have an excellent reference material to compare. You will learn a lot about your approach to bidding. For bidding suggested by the author, see page 162.

West opens the bidding in all examples.

1.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A J 6<br>♥ K 10 5 3<br>♦ A K Q 5<br>♣ A K | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 3<br>♥ Q J 8 7 6<br>♦ 7 4 2<br>♣ 10 8 4 3 |

2.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A<br>♥ Q 8 7<br>♦ A K Q 8 7<br>♣ A K Q 4 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ J 8 7 5<br>♥ 2<br>♦ 5 4<br>♣ 9 8 6 5 3 2 |

3.

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

4.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A J<br>♥ A J 4<br>♦ A K Q 8 6<br>♣ K Q 5 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q 9 6 4 3 2<br>♥ 6 2<br>♦ 5 2<br>♣ 10 8 6 |

5.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 10 7 5<br>♥ A K J 7<br>♦ A Q<br>♣ K 7 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 4<br>♥ 10 8 4 3<br>♦ J 10 8 7 5<br>♣ 9 5 2 |

6.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 7<br>♥ A K Q<br>♦ A J 10 8<br>♣ K Q 5 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q 10 6 5 4<br>♥ J 8 7 3<br>♦ 5 4 3<br>♣ 2 |

7.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 6<br>♥ A 7 6 5<br>♦ A Q<br>♣ A K 6 5 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 7 5<br>♥ J 8<br>♦ K 8 7 3<br>♣ Q 10 9 3 2 |

8.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 7 5<br>♥ A K Q 7 4<br>♦ 4<br>♣ A K Q 6 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ J 2<br>♥ J 5 3<br>♦ K Q 10 4 2<br>♣ 10 9 7 |

9.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 8 7<br>♥ 6<br>♦ A K Q 10 6<br>♣ A Q 7 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q 10 4 3<br>♥ 9 7 2<br>♦ J 8 7 4<br>♣ K 6 |

10.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 2<br>♥ A K 4<br>♦ A Q J 9<br>♣ A K 10 8 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ J 10 8 7 5<br>♥ 8 5<br>♦ K 10 3 2<br>♣ Q 7 |

## *3.3.2. SEQUENCE 1♣ - 1♥*

Following the postulate of natural bidding with a big disproportion of power, the player with the stronger hand should be at the helm and waiting bids should be as economic as possible. As in the 1♣ - 1♦ sequence, 1♥ and 1♠ responses are followed by waiting bids.

| **W** | **E** |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ |
| ? | |

1♠ – natural, 4+ spades or a game-forcing waiting bid.

1NT – 15 –17 HCPs, four spades possible if we badly want to play a no-trump contract from our hand.

2NT – nothing special within the 17 – 19 HCPs range definitely flattish shape - (low honours). It follows the rule: the higher the worse. With a better hand we should make a 1♠ waiting bid.

Other bids are natural.

What hands should be included in a 1♠ waiting bid?

1) no-trump 15-17 HCPs with 4 spades;
2) no-trump 18+ HCPs;
3) 17+ HCPs, 5+ spades;
4) 4 spades - 5 in minor;
5) any game-forcing hand.

**Sequence 1**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | ? |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1NT | – 7 – 9 HCPs non-forcing; |
| 2♣ | – waiting bid, 10+ HCPs; |
| 2♦ | – 4 hearts- 4+ diamonds, 7-9 HCPs – note: 1-4-4-4 shape is a possibility; |
| 2♥ | – 5+ hearts, 7-9 HCPs; |
| 2♠ | – 4 spades, 7-9 HCPs; |
| 2NT | – 10-12 HCPs, I want to play a no-trump contract from my hand; |
| 3♣ | – 4 hearts - 5+ clubs, 7-9 HCPs; |
| 3♦ | – 5+ hearts - 5+ diamonds, 7-9 HCPs. |

This is a typical example of creating "Two Spaces". This time they are used to specify the power.

The 2♣ waiting bid indicates extra values within the 10+ HCPs range.

Other bids show shape within the 7-9 HCPs power range.

**Sequence 2**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 1NT |
| ? | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2♣ | – natural or waiting; |
| 2♦ | – natural, GF spades + diamonds; |
| 2♥ | – natural, NF (three hearts); |
| 2♠ | – natural, GF; |
| 2NT | – invitational 16–17 HCPs. |

Two bids need to be explained:

2♣ – waiting, I need more info;

2♥ – the 1NT response often includes five hearts, which were too weak to repeat. The opener with 15 – 16 HCPs and a balanced hand but honours more useful for a suit contract and a reasonable three-card heart suit should bid 2♥.

Note that we can use a variety of natural bids, which puts an end to the one-way flow of information.

**Sequence 3**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 1NT |
| 2♣ | ? |

2♦ – four diamonds;
2♥ – five hearts;
2♠ – three spades;
2NT – I do not want to show anything;
3♣ – four clubs.

Further bidding is practically natural.

**Sequence 4**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ | |
| 1♠ | 2♣* | * – waiting 10+ HCPs |
| ? | | |

2♦ – third kind of a waiting bid, I want to be the captain;
2♥ – three hearts, 15-17 HCPs;
2♠ – natural 5 spades, 17-19 HCPs;
2NT – natural, 15 – 17 HCPs, 4 spades without three hearts;
3♣ – 4 spades- 5+ clubs, 17-19 HCPs;
3♦ – 5 spades – 5 diamonds;
3♥ – 17-19 HCPs with 4 hearts.

We are facing again the idea of "Two Spaces".

2♦ – waiting 18+ HCPs with a balanced hand or 20+ HCPs, 4+ spades.

Other bids promise 15-17 HCPs with a balanced hand or 17-19 HCPs, 4+ spades.

**Sequence 5**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ | |
| 1♠ | 2♣* | * – waiting 10+ HCPs |
| 2♦ | ? | |

2♥ – 5+ hearts;
2♠ – 4 spades;
2NT – natural;
3♣ – 4 hearts – 4 clubs (1-4-4-4 shape is possible);
3♦ – 4 hearts – 5 diamonds;

Also in this sequence further auction has a natural character. We may argue whether the 2♠ call should be more flexible and show three spades

**Sequence 6**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ |
| 1NT | ? |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2♣ | – waiting; |
| 2♦ | – natural, NF; |
| 2♥ | – natural, NF; |
| 2♠ | – waiting, showing the location of honours; |
| 2NT | – invitational; |
| 3♣ | – 4 hearts – 5 clubs, NF; |
| 3♦ | – 5 hearts – 5 diamonds, GF; |
| 3♥ | – 6+ hearts, GF; |
| 3♠ | – autosplinter; |
| 4♣/♦ | – autosplinter. |

In this sequence each pair can keep their system agreements.

A concept of two checkbacks (2♣ and 2♦) can work well.

**Sequence 7**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ | |
| 1NT | 2♣* | * – waiting |
| ? | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2♦ | – without three hearts (15 –16 HCPs); |
| 2♥ | – three hearts (15-16 HCPs); |
| 2♠ | – three hearts (16-17 HCPs); |
| 2NT | – without three hearts (16-17 HCPs). |

This is an example of the old version of inquiry about a heart fit.

Below follows another portion of training material. For the bidding suggested by the author see page 170.

West opens the bidding in all hands below:

11.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 6<br>♥ A Q 8 7<br>♦ K 4<br>♣ A 9 7 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q 5 2<br>♥ J 10 5 4 2<br>♦ A J 8 7<br>♣ 8 |

12.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 10 8 7<br>♥ K 4 2<br>♦ K 6<br>♣ A Q 10 8 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K 5<br>♥ A Q 8 7<br>♦ Q J 7<br>♣ K J 3 2 |

13.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ K Q 7 5<br>♥ Q 9<br>♦ A K 6 4<br>♣ J 10 6 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A J 10 6<br>♥ J 8 7 3<br>♦ Q 5<br>♣ 9 5 3 |

14.

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

15.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ K Q J 8<br>♥ J 4<br>♦ K J 8 3<br>♣ A J 10 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A 7<br>♥ A Q 10 8<br>♦ A Q 10 4<br>♣ 9 6 3 |

16.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 9 8 7 4<br>♥ 3<br>♦ A K Q 2<br>♣ A J 9 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ J 6<br>♥ A K 9 7 4 2<br>♦ J 6<br>♣ K 4 3 |

17.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 8 7<br>♥ A K J<br>♦ Q 8 7 2<br>♣ A Q 5 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K 9 6<br>♥ Q 10 9 5 3<br>♦ K 3<br>♣ K 10 9 |

18.

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

19.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 8 6<br>♥ A 4 2<br>♦ A 10 9 5<br>♣ A K | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 10<br>♥ K J 9 8 5<br>♦ K 4<br>♣ J 6 4 2 |

20.

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

## *3.3.3. SEQUENCE 1♣ - 1♠*

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| ? | |

1NT – 15-17 HCPs, NF without 4 spades;
2♣ – natural or waiting GF;
2♦ – natural GF;
2♥ – natural GF;
2♠ – four spades, NF;
2NT – 17 – 19 HCPs poor, no-trump oriented hand;
3♣/3♦/3♥ – natural, slam inviting.

What hands can be included in 2♣ waiting?

1) 5+ clubs, 17+ HCPs;
2) forcing to game in a balanced hand (practically without 5 cards in diamonds or hearts, unless the suit is of poor quality).

**Sequence 1**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 1NT | ? |

Further bidding is analogical to 1♣-1♥-1NT sequence.

**Sequence 2**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | ? |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2♦ | – waiting; |
| 2♥ | – 5 spades – 4 hearts, 7+ HCPs; |
| 2♠ | – 5 spades, 7+ HCPs; |
| NT | – natural 7-9 HCPs, I want to play no-trump from my hand; |
| 3♣ | – 4 spades – 5 clubs, 7-9 HCPs; |
| 3♦ | – 4 spades – 5 diamonds, 7-9 HCPs; |
| 3♥ | – transfer to 6+ spades, 7-9 HCPs. |

2♦ waiting bid precludes five spades and thus four hearts as well. It is kind of a "dustbin". It comprises all hands that do not fit other bids.

What will you bid with the following cards?

| A) | B) | C) | D) |
|---|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 10 9 | ♠ 8 7 4 3 2 | ♠ A Q 7 5 | ♠ 8 7 5 2 |
| ♥ 8 7 3 | ♥ 6 5 | ♥ 8 6 | ♥ A K Q |
| ♦ 5 4 3 | ♦ A K 8 4 | ♦ 4 3 2 | ♦ 9 7 |
| ♣ 9 6 2 | ♣ K 6 | ♣ K 10 8 3 | ♣ 10 6 3 2 |

A) 2NT? – old style natural bid is out of the question;
B) 2♠? – this is a very ugly bid;
C) 2NT? – not the right hand;
D) 2NT? – not the right hand.

All these problematic types of hands require information from the partner.

**Sequence 3**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 2♦ |
| ? | |

2♥ – waiting with clubs;
2♠ – four spades, 19+ HCPs;
2NT – balanced hand, 19+ HCPs;
3♣ – natural, 17+ HCPs;
3♦ – 5+ clubs – 4 diamonds, 17+ HCPs;
3♥ – 6 clubs – 4 hearts, 17+ HCPs;
3♠ – natural, 4 spades, 17-19 HCPs.

2♣ waiting precludes a 5-card diamond or heart suit.

Next 2♥ waiting explains that 2♣ was natural and forces partner to supply more information about what was behind the 2♦ waiting bid.

Note that we still have three other bids with clubs (3♣, 3♦, 3♥).

A waiting bid comes across another waiting bid. “Two spaces” respond to “two spaces”. Bidding like music.

Complex bidding schemes must be clear – this is what we long for. We long for the auction as a contemplation of some kind of intellectual satisfaction.

**Sequence 4**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 2♦ |
| 2♥ | ? |

2♠ – four cards (poor five-carder) with an intention to assign no-trump to partner;
2NT – natural, 10+ PC;
3♣ – 4 spades – 4+ clubs (four clubs if 4-1-4-4 shape), 10+ HCPs;
3♦ – 4 spades – 5+ diamonds, 10+ HCPs.

**Sequence 5**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 2♦ |
| 2NT | ? |

3♣ – 4 spades – 4+ clubs (four clubs in 4-1-4-4 shape), 10+ HCPs;
3♦ – 4 spades – 5+ diamonds, 10+ HCPs;
3♥ – transfer 6+ spades.

With a balanced hand and a four-card spade fit the opener has three bidding options depending on the power:

**Sequence 6**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| ? | |

2♠* – natural, 15-17 HCPs (17 – bad hand).

**Sequence 6a**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 2♦ |
| ? | |

2♠ – four spades 19+ HCPs. The power of the combined hands suggests thinking about a slam possibility. We agree a suit economically leaving enough room for the exchange of information.

3♠ – four spades, good 17 HCPs to bad 19 HCPs - We use the bidding space but we supply precise information about the power range and the balanced nature of the hand.

**Sequence 7**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 2♦ |
| 2♥ | ? |

2♠ – five spades precluded, I do not want to play a no-trump contract;

2NT – natural, 10+ HCPs;

3♣ – fit;

3♦ – 4 spades – 5+ diamonds, 10+ HCPs;

3♥ – heart values, I want my partner to be in no-trump, 10+ HCPs;

3♠ – diamond values, I want my partner to play no-trump, 10+ HCPs.

**Sequence 8**

After agreeing spades in a sequence:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 2♥ |
| 2♠ | ? |

the bidding follows as in a typical sequence:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2♥ | 2♠ |
| ? | |

so we show shortages.

**Sequence 9**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 2♥ |
| 2♠ | ? |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2NT | – shape 5-4-2-2; |
| 3♣ | – shortage in clubs; |
| 3♦ | – shortage in diamonds; |
| 3♥ | – two shortages; |
| 3♠ | – 5-4-2-2 shape, minimum. |

Here comes still another portion of training material. For the auctions suggested by the author see page 176.

West opens the bidding in all examples.

21.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A Q<br>♥ K J 6<br>♦ A K Q 4<br>♣ J 10 9 7 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K 10 6 3 2<br>♥ A 10 7 5 2<br>♦ 9 7 5<br>♣ — |

22.

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

23.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K<br>♥ A Q 4 3<br>♦ A Q 7 6<br>♣ Q 8 7 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q 8 7 4 2<br>♥ K J 10<br>♦ K J 4 3<br>♣ 5 |

24.

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

25.

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

26.

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

27.

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

28.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K J 9<br>♥ A J 8 7<br>♦ K Q<br>♣ A 4 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q 10 4 2<br>♥ 4<br>♦ 8 7 4 2<br>♣ K Q 10 9 |

29.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 5<br>♥ A K 4 2<br>♦ K J 8<br>♣ A Q J 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K 10 8 6<br>♥ 7 5<br>♦ A 2<br>♣ K 10 7 5 3 |

30.

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

## *3.3.4. SEQUENCE 1♣ - 1NT*

**Sequence 1**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1NT* | * – 9-11 HCPs, game forcing, without four card major |
| 2♣ | ? | |
| | 2♦ | – 5 diamonds; |
| | 2♥ | – 2-3-4-4 shape; |
| | 2♠ | – 3-2-4-4 shape; |
| | 2NT | – I do not want to disclose my hand; |
| | 3♣ | – 5 clubs. |

The bidding is natural except 2♣ waiting, which in most of the cases will be natural.

## 3.3.5. SEQUENCE 1♣ - 2♣

**Sequence 1**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♣ | 2♣* | * – 9+HCPs, 5+ clubs, game forcing, four card majors precluded. |
| ? | | |

2♦ – waiting, can be natural;
2♥ – 5+ hearts;
2♠ – 5+ spades;
2NT – waiting, but I want to play a no-trump contract from my hand.

**Sequence 2**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♣ | 2♣ | |
| 2♦ | ? | |
| | 2♥ | – values, I want partner to play a no-trump contract; |
| | 2♠ | – values, I want partner to play a no-trump contract; |
| | 2NT | – I can play no-trump from my hand; |
| | 3♣ | – 6+ clubs; |
| | 3♦ | – 2-2-4-5 shape; |
| | 3♥ | – splinter, model distribution 3-1-4-5; |
| | 3♠ | – splinter, model distribution 1-3-4-5. |

**Sequence 3**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♣ | 2♣ | |
| 2NT | ? | |
| | 3♣ | – 6+ clubs; |
| | 3♦ | – 5+ clubs – 4 diamonds; |
| | 3♥ | – shortage, model distribution 3-1-3-6; |
| | 3♠ | – shortage, model distribution 1-3-3-6. |

## *3.3.6. SEQUENCE 1♣ - 2♦*

**Sequence 1**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♣ | 2♦* | * – 10+ HCPs, 5+ diamonds, without a four-card major |
| ? | | |

2♥ – natural or waiting;
2♠ – 5+ spades;
2NT – waiting, but I want to be a declarer in a no-trump contract;
3♣ – natural;
3♦ – natural;

**Sequence 2**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 2♦ |
| 2♥ | ? |

2♠ – reluctance to bid no-trump;
2NT – natural;
3♣ – 5+ diamonds – 4+ clubs;
3♦ – 6+ diamonds;
3♥ – three hearts, reluctance to bid no-trump.

## *3.3.7. SEQUENCES 1♣ - 2♥/2♠ - TRANSFERS TO NO-TRUMP*

Why do I suggest that two transfers to no-trump need to be in the system?

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♣ | ? | |
| | 2♥ | – 13+ HCPs– transfer to no-trump; |
| | 2♠ | – 9-12 HCPs – transfer to no-trump. |

In my opinion, an option to transfer a no-trump contract to the right hand is specifically important in a pairs tournament. This agreement has another advantage, which is even more valuable. It conveys information about the character of the hand – suit oriented (high honours) or no-trump oriented – if we bid no-trump (low honours), which helps to make the right decision in a slam zone.

**Sequence 1**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♣ | 2♥* | * – 13+ HCPs– transfer to no-trump |
| ? | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2♠ | – natural, 5+ spades; |
| 2NT | – waiting; |
| 3♣ | – natural, 5+ clubs; |
| 3♦ | – natural, 5+ diamonds; |
| 3♥ | – natural, 5+ hearts; |
| 3NT | – bad hand, 15-16 HCPs. |

**Sequence 2**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♣ | 2♥* | * – 13+ HCPs– transfer to no-trump |
| 2NT | ? | |
| | 3♣ | – 5 poor clubs; |
| | 3♦ | – 5 poor diamonds; |
| | 3♥ | – 2-3-4-4 shape; |
| | 3♠ | – 3-2-4-4 shape; |
| | 3NT | – I do not want to show anything. |

The auction is identical in 1♣ – 2♠ sequence

**Sequence 3**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♣ | 2♠* | * – 9-12 HCPs – transfer to no-trump |
| 2NT | ? | |

After showing the distribution and partner has bid 3NT we may bid an invitational 4NT with extra power.

## *3.3.8. SEQUENCE 1♣ - 2NT*

**Sequence 1**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♣ | 2NT* | * – 13+ HCPs, without four card major |
| ? | | |
| 3♣ | | – natural or waiting; |
| 3♦/3♥/3♠ | | – natural, a 5+ suit. |

**Sequence 2**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♣ | 2NT* | * – 13+ HCPs, without a four card major |
| 3♣ | ? | |
| | 3♦ | – natural; |
| | 3♥ | – Let's talk, 4+ clubs, heart values; |
| | 3♠ | – Let's talk, 4+ clubs, spade values; |
| | 3NT | – I want to close the bidding. |

# 3.4. 1♦ OPENING

A 1♦ opening corresponds with the strong club-based system and 1NT opening within the 12-14 HCPs power range. It shows one of these hands:

1) 12-17 HCPs, 5+ diamonds, balanced distribution;
2) 12-17 HCPs, three-suited hand with 4 diamonds and any shortage;
3) 12-17 HCPs, 4 diamonds – 5 clubs.

With five diamonds and 5-3-3-2 shape with 12-14 HCPs we open 1NT, and with 15-17 HCPs we open 1♣.

Conclusion – a 1♦ opening at white always promises an unbalanced hand. After a 1♦ opening responder **should bid a four-card major**. A 2♣ response therefore denies a major suit.

*"To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle requires creative imagination and marks real advances in science."*
***Albert Einstein***

I am deeply convinced that the above motto also applies to bridge.

Below follows a scheme to be used after 1♦ opening.

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | ? |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | – natural or waiting; |
| 1♠ | – natural; |
| 1NT | – natural; |
| 2♣ | – 5+ clubs, without a four-card major suit, game forcing except when repeating clubs; |
| 2♦ | – 10+ HCPs, 4+ diamonds, forcing for one round; |
| 2♥ | – 7-9 HCPs, 5 spades – 4+ hearts; |
| 2♠ | – 9-11 HCPs, 5 spades – 4+ hearts; |
| 2NT | – 11-12 HCPs; |
| 3♣ | – 7-9 HCPs, 4+ diamonds or strong splinter (13+ HCPs); |
| 3♦ | – pre-emptive; |
| 3♥ | – splinter 10-12 HCPs – 4♦ response is not forcing; |
| 3♠ | – splinter 10-12 HCPs. |

It is very useful agreement that, after a 1♦ opening, 2♥ and 2♠ responses are attributed to two-suited hands with 5 spades and 4 hearts. It takes some of the load from another sequence:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♠ |
| 2♦ | 2♥ |

This allows 2♥ to play a role of a waiting bid, with, for instance, the following types of hands:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| E1: | ♠ A 10 9 7 | ♥ A K 6 | ♦ Q J 8 | ♣ 6 3 2 |
| E2: | ♠ A Q 10 2 | ♥ A Q | ♦ Q 8 7 4 | ♣ 9 5 3 |

or a natural bid but **game forcing**.

In this sequence:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♠ |
| 2♦ | 3♥ |

is **invitational** with 5-5 shape.

## *3.4.1. 1♥ WAITING AFTER 1♦ OPENING*

Each bridge partnership has its own agreements after 1♦ opening. Of course I could suggest full scheme of further bidding after each opening but then this book would be several times longer than it is now. I intend to focus on ideas and bidding concepts that have been unknown until now. The use of 1♥ as a waiting response after a 1♦ opening is one of them. Following the rule that the waiting bid should be placed in the most economic way, I suggest two meanings of 1♥ response after a 1♦ opening.

1) natural, 4+ hearts;
2) 13+ HCPs without a four-card major suit.

This is another example of the metaphor of a tree and the concept of "Two Spaces".

According to Polish methods, 2♣ is a waiting bid after a 1♦ opening. The bidding after a 2♣ waiting bid is not at all clear and precise. An advantage of 1♥ waiting is obvious. After each opener's possible responses the continuation is easy and nice.

| **W** | **E** |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| ? | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | – 5 diamonds – 4 spades or a three-suiter; |
| 1NT | – 12-14 HCPs, shapes: 3-1-5-4, 3-1-4-5, 2-2-5-4, 2-2-4-5 – **a no-trump oriented hand;** |
| 2♣ | – 5+ diamonds – 4+ clubs shape or 4 diamonds – 5 clubs; |
| 2♦ | – indicates 6+ suit; |
| 2♥ | – 5 diamonds – 4 hearts or a three-suiter; |
| 2♠ | – 2♠ - 14 – 16 HCPs with 4 hearts; |
| 2NT | – 15-16 HCPs, although the hand is unbalanced it is still no-trump oriented; |
| 3♣ | – 5-5 distribution, 14-16 HCPs; |
| 3♦ | – 6+ diamonds, 14-16 HCPs. |

In a sequence:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | ? |

2♣ – is another waiting bid, which allows precise information to be exchanged.

After a 1NT rebid:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 1NT | ? |

further bidding is easy.

After 2♣ rebid I suggest making use of two waiting bids:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 2♣ | ? |

2♠ – waiting;
2NT – waiting.

I am aware that NT forcing in this sequence is not a standard in natural bidding. In my opinion however, there is a need for two waiting bids:

2♠ – is a waiting bid intended for assigning a no-trump contract to the right hand;
2NT – means: I need more information but I want to play a possible no-trump contract from my hand.

The opener has to respond in a different way to each of the following waiting bids.

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 2♦ | |

2♦ shows a 6+ suit.

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | |

2♦ – is enigmatic

In a sequence:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 2♥ | |

further bidding is easy and nice.

Let's discuss these sequences:

**Sequence 1**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| ? | |

2♦ – 12-16 HCPs, waiting, no convenient bid;
2♥ – 4-3-5-1 distribution, minimum;
2♠ – 12-16 HCPs, 4-1-4-4 or 4-0-5-4 – transfer to clubs;
2NT – 12-16 HCPs, with a stopper in clubs;
3♣ – transfer to diamonds, 15-16 HCPs, 4 spades – 6 diamonds;
3♦ – 14-16 HCPs, 4-3-5-1 distribution, transfer to hearts;
3♥ – 14-16 HCPs – transfer to spades, 6 diamonds – 5 spades;
3NT – low honours – 12-14 HCPs.

We also have to take care of sequences that will enter the slam zone. The following transfers serve this purpose:

2♠ – is a kind of transfer to clubs;
3♣ – transfer to diamonds;
3♦ – transfer to hearts;
3♥ – transfer to spades.

Below are some examples of West hands corresponding to specific calls after the 2♣ waiting bid:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| ? | |

A)
♠ K Q 7 5 ♥ 5 4 ♦ A 10 7 6 4 ♣ A 8 – 2 ♦
♠ J 10 7 6 ♥ 6 ♦ A K J 8 2 ♣ A 6 5 – **2** ♦

B)
♠ K J 10 8 ♥ A 7 5 ♦ K 10 8 3 2 ♣ 8 – **2** ♥
♠ A 10 9 7 ♥ J 8 2 ♦ K Q J 8 2 ♣ 10 – **2** ♥

C)
♠ A 10 8 5 ♥ 6 ♦ K Q 6 5 ♣ K J 9 8 – **2** ♠
♠ J 9 8 3 ♥ — ♦ A 8 7 4 3 ♣ A K 10 9 – **2** ♠

D)
♠ K J 9 4 ♥ Q 6 ♦ A 10 8 3 2 ♣ K 8 – **2NT**
♠ Q 9 8 4 ♥ J 9 ♦ K Q 10 3 2 ♣ A 10 – **2NT**

E)
♠ A Q 8 2 ♥ 3 ♦ A K J 8 3 2 ♣ Q 5 – **3** ♣
♠ K J 7 3 ♥ 9 ♦ K Q 10 3 2 ♣ J 10 – **3** ♣

F)
♠ A Q 10 7 ♥ K Q 8 ♦ A 10 6 5 4 ♣ 3 – **3** ♦
♠ K Q J 5 ♥ J 10 8 ♦ A K Q 7 2 ♣ 6 – **3** ♦

G)
♠ K 8 7 5 4 ♥ A ♦ A K Q 10 8 2 ♣ 6 – **3** ♥
♠ J 10 8 3 2 ♥ — ♦ A K Q J 10 5 ♣ A 10 – **3** ♥

**Sequence 2**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 2♣ | ? |

2♠ – waiting bid intended to assign a no-trump contract to partner;
2NT – waiting, but a potential no-trump contract I want to play from my hand.

**Sequence 3**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 2♣ | 2♠ |
| ? | |

2NT – natural, promises a stopper in spades;
3♣ – 4+ diamonds, 5+ clubs, without a stopper in spades;
3♦ – 5+ diamonds, 4 clubs - 2-2-5-4 shape possible, without a stopper in spades;
3♥ – 5+ diamonds, 4 clubs, 3 hearts;
3♠ – 5+ diamonds, 4 clubs, 3 spades, without a stopper in spades (no wasted honours);
3NT – low honours, a stopper in spades.

It is a complicated sequence because of the ambiguity of 2♣ response. It may comprise 5+ diamonds, 4+ clubs or 4 diamonds – 5 clubs shape. It is quite a challenge to explain the situation. Extra length transfer bid cannot be applied here. Why is the difference between 2-2-5-4 and 3-1-5-4 shape so important? In both cases an opener has no stopper in spades. However, if both partners have three spades each, 3NT should be the final contract! We may count on a 4-3 distribution of the spade suit with the opponents or a possible blockage.

Lack of a 1♠ overcall by either of the opponents makes such a distribution more likely. Below follow the examples of different hand types and suggested bidding after the 2♠ waiting bid:

| **W** | **E** |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 2♣ | 2♠ |
| ? | |

A)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ♠K 10 3 | ♥ 6 | ♦ A K J 7 6 | ♣ Q 10 8 5 | – **2NT** |
| ♠A J | ♥ 6 5 | ♦ A J 10 8 6 4 | ♣ J 10 9 7 | – **2NT** |

B)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ♠ 7 5 | ♥ Q | ♦ A K 8 3 2 | ♣ K Q 8 7 6 | – **3 ♣** |
| ♠ J 6 2 | ♥ 8 | ♦ K Q J 8 | ♣ A K 10 9 6 | – **3 ♣** |

C)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ♠ 7 | ♥ 7 4 | ♦ A K 8 6 5 3 | ♣ K Q 8 2 | – **3 ♦** |
| ♠ 8 4 | ♥ 6 2 | ♦ K Q 10 9 8 | ♣ A Q 10 8 | – **3 ♦** |

D)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ♠ 7 | ♥A K 6 | ♦ K Q 10 7 6 | ♣ K 10 6 2 | – **3 ♥** |
| ♠ Q | ♥ Q J 8 | ♦ A J 7 6 5 | ♣ Q J 10 5 | – **3 ♥** |

E)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ♠ 7 5 4 | ♥ 8 | ♦ A Q 10 9 5 | ♣ A K 7 4 | – **3 ♠** |
| ♠ 10 6 2 | ♥ J | ♦ A J 10 8 2 | ♣ A K Q 10 | – **3 ♠** |

**Sequence 4**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ | |
| 2♣ | 2♠ | |
| 3♣ | 3♦* | * – waiting |
| ? | | |

3♥ – 1-3-4-5 shape;
3♠ – 2-2-4-5 shape;
3NT – 3-1-4-5 shape – proposal of the final contract;
4♣ – 5 diamonds – 5 clubs.

We can bid no-trump from our hand without any concern for a stopper. Our 3♣ precluded a stopper. Bypassing 3NT contract with 5-5 shape is not risky. Partner's hand is suit-oriented.

**Sequence 5**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ | |
| 2♣ | 2NT* | * – waiting |
| ? | | |

3♣ – 4+ diamonds, 5+ clubs;
3♦ – 6+ diamonds, 4 clubs;
3♥ – 5+ diamonds, 4 clubs, 3 hearts;
3♠ – 5+ diamonds, 4 clubs, 3 spades;
3NT – 2-2-5-4 shape.

As we can see, in response to 2NT waiting, partner shows his distribution. Honour location is not an issue at that stage.

**Sequence 6**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ | |
| 2♣ | 2NT | |
| 3♣ | 3♦* | * – waiting |
| ? | | |

3♥ – distribution 1-3-4-5;
3♠ – distribution 3-1-4-5;
3NT – distribution 2-2-4-5;
4♣ – distribution 5-5.

In the first instance, we assume that the indicated shortage is a singleton. In course of the bidding the responder may bid the short suit showing the void.

**Sequence 7**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 2♦ | ? |

2♠ – waiting bid showing the location of honours; in most cases its purpose is to assign a no-trump contract to the other hand, shows concern for clubs;
2NT – waiting;
3♣ – natural or an attempt to assign a no-trump contract to the other hand, shows concern for spades.

**Sequence 8**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ | |
| 2♦ | 2♠* | * – honour location waiting bid |
| ? | | |

2NT – natural;
3♣ – waiting, not a bad hand without a stopper in clubs;
3♦ – without a stopper in clubs, maximum two hearts, bad hand;
3♥ – three hearts (3♠ asking for a club stopper;
3♠ – spade values, very good hand without a stopper in clubs;
4♣ – singleton club – model shape 3-3-6-1.

3♥ is an interesting bid. My first impression is that showing the heart fit precludes a club stopper. A natural reflection is to bid 2NT with a no-trump oriented hand, which does not preclude three hearts, and 3♥ with a suit-oriented hand, which does not preclude a stopper in clubs. It will allow a partner to choose the best possible contract. However, it enforces somewhat complicated agreements: it may happen that partner would rather be in 3NT, considering the shape of our hand. He prefers to play a no-trump contract than to obtain information about a heart fit. In the classical version it is a heart agreeing cue bid. Is it worthwhile to adopt such solutions?

Bidding is a message about the hand; it shows emotions, paints images, and triggers imagination. Information about the hand is an attempt to paint a picture, to illustrate rather then to say things.

**Sequence 9**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ | |
| 2♦ | 2NT* | * – waiting, I want to play a no-trump from my hand |
| ? | | |

3♣ – 6+ diamonds and a singleton club;
3♦ – 6+ diamonds and a singleton hearts;
3♥ – 6+ diamonds and three hearts without a shortage;
3♠ – 6+ diamonds and a singleton spade;
3NT – 6+ diamonds without 3 hearts and without shortage.

In this sequence we are encountering a bidding model, in which a one-suited hand with a 6+ carder precisely shows the distribution, specifically stressing a shortage.

**Sequence 10**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 2♥ | ? |

2♠ – Waiting bid with hearts agreed;
2NT – natural waiting bid;
3♣ – waiting bid intended to assign a no-trump to the partner;
3♦ – natural.

Other three bids inform about a **strong version of a 1♥ waiting**, that is, 13+ HCPs, without a four-card major and are of a natural character.

**Sequence 11**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ | |
| 2♥ | 2♠* | * – waiting |
| ? | | |

2NT – shortage in spades;
3♣ – shortage in clubs;
3♦ – 2-4-5-2, positive extras in power;
3♥ – 2-4-5-2, minimum.

After agreeing a suit we show a shortage. In this case, it is essential to show the difference between 1-4-5-3 and 1-4-4-4 shape, since the heart suit has been agreed. It is true that 5 diamonds may guarantee extra tricks. Partner, when evaluating the prospects, will take this argument into consideration.

**Sequence 12**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ | |
| 2♥ | 2NT* | * – waiting |
| ? | | |

3♣ – transfer to diamonds, showing 6 diamonds and 4 hearts;
3♦ – there is no point in a transfer to hearts; there is room to show a three-suited hand;
3♥ – 3-4-5-1 distribution – transfer to a spade fragment;
3♠ – 1-4-5-3 distribution – transfer to a club fragment;
3NT – 2-4-5-2 shape.

Since a two-suited hand has been presented we can apply an extra length transfer bid scheme after a 2NT waiting bid.

**Sequence 13**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ | |
| 2♥ | 2NT* | * – waiting |
| 3♦ | 3♥** | ** – waiting – what three-suiter? |
| ? | | |

3♠ – 4-4-4-1 distribution;
3NT – 1-4-4-4 distribution.

You may say that there is too much to remember. It is sort of a thinking approach, which is possible to adopt when bridge training, as in other sport disciplines, takes place two hours a day and not two hours a month.

**Sequence 14**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| ? | |

2♠ – 14 – 16 HCPs with four hearts.

Further bidding:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 2♠ | ? |

2NT – no-trump waiting bid, 13+ HCPs without a four-card major;
3♣ – A waiting bid with hearts agreed;
3♦ – 13+ HCPs with a fit in diamonds.

**Sequence 15**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 2♠ | 2NT |
| ? | |

The next bid follows the same lines as in the 1♦ - 1♥ - 2♥ - 2NT sequence.

**Sequence 16**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 2♠ | 3♣* |
| ? | |

* – waiting with hearts agreed

3♦ – singleton club;
3♥ – minimum, 2-4-5-2 shape;
3♠ – shortage in spades;
3NT – maximum, 2-4-5-2 shape;
4♣ – void in clubs.

Sequences in which an opener bids 1NT after a one over one response are not typical. They show an unbalanced hand but fit for a no-trump contract.

Dear Reader,

Sequences:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥/1♠ |
| 1NT | ? |

have been presented in chapter 1 as part of a simplified version of the Martens System. You can find it on pages 8 – 11.

Here is another example of a one-way auction by a Norwegian pair. The setting is Paris – the 2001 Bermuda Bowl — a qualifying session match

between Norway and Brazil. It is an interesting match because a Norwegian pair uses 1♥ waiting after a 1♦ opening. In our case, a 1♦ opening would follow with 1♠. Groetheim – a bid 1♥ after a 1♦ opening on every balanced game-forcing hand.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ K 10 8<br>♥ 2<br>♦ A 10 9 2<br>♣ K Q J 6 2 | **N**<br>**W** **E**<br>**S** | ♠ A Q 7 4<br>♥ A Q 3<br>♦ K Q J 8<br>♣ A 8 |

| **W** | **E** |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 2♣ | 2♦ |
| 2♥ | 2♠ |
| 3♥ | 3♠ |
| 3NT | 4♣ |
| 4♠ | 4NT |
| 5♦ | 5♥ |
| 5♠ | 5NT |
| 6♦ | 6♥ |
| 6♠ | 7NT |

1♦ – Precision opening;
1♥ – natural or game forcing (waiting);
2♣ – natural – 9 cards in minor suits;
2♦ – waiting (how do they stop in case of misfitted hands?);
2♥ – 5 diamonds – 4 clubs;
2♠ – waiting;
3♥ – 3-1-5-4 shape;
3♠ – asking for aces;
3NT – one ace;
4♣ – asking for kings;
4♠ – two kings of the same colour;
4NT – asking for queens;
5♦ – one queen;
5♥ – what colour?
5♠ – club;
5NT – asking for jacks;
6♦ – one jack;
6♥ – what colour?
6♠ – club;
7NT – phew!

In this deal the responder's hand is very strong and from the beginning the responder takes control over the auction and practically squeezes all possible information out of the opener. Note that waiting bids were used in a very economical way. We may ask how they can stop in a 2♦ contracts should both hands be misfitted, but this is another story.

Below follows another portion of training materials. See page 184 for the bidding suggested by the author.

West opens the bidding in all examples.

31.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K J 3<br>♥ —<br>♦ A 10 5 4 3 2<br>♣ 8 6 4 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q 10 6<br>♥ Q 10 9<br>♦ K Q 6<br>♣ A K Q 7 |

32.

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

33.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ K J 6 5<br>♥ 7<br>♥ K Q J 2<br>♣ Q 6 4 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A 8 7<br>♥ A Q J<br>♦ 8 7 3<br>♣ A J 5 3 |

34.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ 4<br>♥ Q 8 7<br>♦ A Q 4 3 2<br>♣ A J 10 6 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A K J<br>♥ J 9 2<br>♥ K J 10 9<br>♥ K 9 8 |

35.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ 8 7 4<br>♥ K 10 8<br>♦ A K J 7 5 3<br>♣ 3 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A K Q<br>♥ A 9<br>♦ Q 10 8<br>♣ J 10 9 8 5 |

36.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 9<br>♥ K 10 9 6<br>♦ A Q 10 5 3<br>♣ 8 7 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K 8 4<br>♥ A 5 4<br>♦ K 8 7 2<br>♣ A K 2 |

37.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 8 7 2<br>♥ —<br>♦ K Q 9 8 4 3<br>♣ K 6 4 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K 5<br>♥ K 8 7<br>♦ A 10 5 2<br>♣ A Q 9 6 |

38.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ 6<br>♥ A J 7 5<br>♦ A K J 7 5<br>♣ Q 5 4 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A Q 10<br>♥ K Q 3<br>♦ Q 8 2<br>♣ J 6 3 2 |

39.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ Q 5 3<br>♥ A Q 10 7<br>♦ A Q 10 4 3<br>♣ 6 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A K 9<br>♥ K 6 5<br>♦ K J 6 3<br>♣ J 5 4 |

40.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ K 8 3<br>♥ —<br>♦ A Q 10 6 4<br>♣ A Q 8 7 5 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A J 7<br>♥ Q 8 6<br>♦ K 5 3<br>♣ K 10 3 2 |

# 3.5. 1♥ OPENING

1♥ – 9-16 HCPs, 5+ hearts

Many pairs reduced the opening strength for 1♥ and 1♠, being more aggressive and more active in their bidding. Undoubtedly at favourable vulnerability this is pretty obvious and produces substantial profits. In a situation when both sides are non-vulnerable it requires a lot of common sense. We do not have to open the bidding with every major five-carder and 9-11 HCPs. We need a mechanism that will allow us to stop in a part score when a responder has 13-14 HCPs.

Below follows the responding scheme after a 1♥ opening.

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♥ | ? | |
| | 1♠ | – natural, since I propose a preference of major suits, a minor suit may be longer; |
| | 1NT | – non-forcing; |
| | 2♣ | – waiting; |
| | 2♦ | – 5+ diamonds, forcing for one round; |
| | 2♥ | – 8-10 HCPs, 3+ hearts; |
| | 2♠ | – 6+♠, slightly stronger game forcing; |
| | 2NT | – invitational with a fit; |
| | 3♣ | – 7-10 HCPs, 4+ hearts; |
| | 3♦ | – weak splinter in any suit; |
| | 3♥ | – preemptive; |
| | 3♠ | – strong spade splinter; |
| | 3NT | – strong diamond splinter; |
| | 4♣ | – strong club splinter; |
| | 4♦ | – two tricks more than a direct jump to 4♥. |

Of course every pair may use their own agreements. The 2♣ waiting bid should be the only adopted convention.

The sequences below have been presented in chapter 1 as part of a simplified version of the Martens System. You can find them on pages 16 – 18:

**Sequence 1**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 1♠ |
| ? | |

**Sequence 2**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♥ | 1♠ | |
| 2♣ | 2♦* | * – waiting |
| ? | | |

**Sequence 3**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 1♠ |
| 2♦ | ? |

**Sequence 4**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 2♣ |
| ? | |

**Sequence 5**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | ? |

**Sequence 6**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 2♠ |
| ? | |

We shall now come to the sequences, in which West has extra values.

**Sequence 7**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♥ | 2♣ | |
| 2♠* | ? | * – 4+ clubs - transfer, extras in power |
| | 2NT | – waiting – I need more information, a no-trump will be played from my hand; |
| | 3♣ | – suit agreeing; |
| | 3♦ | – a third suit shows the values; |
| | 3♥ | – what do you think about a heart slam? |
| | 3♠ | – a third suit shows values; |
| | 3NT | – low honours. |

**Sequence 8**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♥ | 2♣ | |
| 2♠* | 2NT | * – 4+ clubs – transfer |
| ? | | |

3♣ – 5 hearts – 5 clubs;
3♦ – 6 hearts – 4 clubs, transfer to hearts – extra length;
3♥ – 3-5-1-4 distribution, transfer to three spades;
3♠ – 1-5-3-4 distribution, transfer to three diamonds.

In a situation when both fragments from the point of view of a responder are immaterial (we do not agree either diamonds or spades), we are trying to stick to transfers.

**Sequence 9**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♥ | 2♣ | |
| 3♣* | 3 ♦ | * – transfer, 5 hearts- 5+ diamonds |
| ? | | |

3♥ – two shortages;
3♠ – spade shortage;
3NT – to play, the bidding indicated shortage in clubs and a stopper in spades;
4♣ – shortage, in most cases without a spade stopper.

**Sequence 10**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♥ | 2♣ | |
| 3♦* | 3 ♥ | * – transfer, 6+ hearts |
| ? | | |

3NT – no shortage;
3♠/4♣/4♦ – shortage.

**Sequence 11**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 2♦ |
| ? | |

2♥ – 9-12 HCPs;
2♠ – transfer to clubs, 5 hearts – 4+ clubs, extra values within the 13-16 HCPs power range;
2NT – a wish to play no-trump, 13-16 HCPs;
3♣ – transfer, fit in diamonds, 13-16 HCPs;
3♦ – transfer, 6+ hearts 13-16 HCPs;
3♥ – transfer, 5 hearts – 4 spades (reverse bid), 13-16 HCPs;
3♠ – 4-5-3-1 shape, 13-16 HCPs;
3NT – 14-15 HCPs, low honours.

Here comes another portion of training materials. To see the bidding suggested by the author, go to page 193.

West opens the bidding

41.

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

42.

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

43.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 6 5<br>♥ A J 10 4 3<br>♦ 10 6 4 2<br>♣ 4 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K 8<br>♥ K Q 8 6<br>♦ A K<br>♣ A 8 7 3 2 |

44.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ 6<br>♥ A J 7 4 2<br>♦ K J<br>♣ K J 10 6 3 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ J 10 8<br>♥ 6<br>♦ A Q 10 9<br>♣ A Q 9 8 7 |

45.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ 8 7 5<br>♥ A K 6 5 4<br>♦ A K 8 7 2<br>♣ — | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A K<br>♥ Q 3<br>♦ Q 10 9 4<br>♣ K 10 8 4 3 |

46.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ K 6 5<br>♥ A K Q 10 4 3<br>♦ K 8 7<br>♣ 4 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A Q 2<br>♥ J 8 7<br>♦ A Q J<br>♣ Q 10 6 5 |

47.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ 6<br>♥ A 8 7 4 2<br>♦ Q 8 7<br>♣ A 10 7 5 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q 8 7<br>♥ J<br>♦ A K J 10 5 4<br>♣ K Q 6 |

48.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 8<br>♥ K Q 10 6 5<br>♦ K Q<br>♣ J 10 6 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ J 9 4 2<br>♥ A J<br>♦ A J 10 4 3<br>♣ A Q |

49.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 8 7<br>♥ Q J 10 4 3<br>♦ K Q<br>♣ 6 5 2 | **N**<br>**W** **E**<br>**S** | ♠ K Q<br>♥ A K 9 8<br>♦ A 6 5<br>♣ Q 10 9 7 |

50.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 8 7 6<br>♥ A K 9 4 2<br>♦ 5<br>♣ K 10 9 | **N**<br>**W** **E**<br>**S** | ♠ K Q 10<br>♥ 6<br>♦ Q 9 7 3<br>♣ A Q J 4 2 |

# 3.6. 1♠ OPENING

1♠ – 9-16 HCPs, 5+ spades

Aggressive bidding with spades is specifically recommended. Practice clearly shows that bidding spades give a hard time to the opponents.

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | ? |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1NT | – to play; |
| 2♣ | – waiting; |
| 2♦ | – natural, 5+ diamonds; |
| 2♥ | – natural, 5+ hearts; |
| 2♠ | – 8-11 HCPs; |
| 2NT | – invitational with a fit; |
| 3♣ | – 7-10 HCPs, 4+ spades; |
| 3♦ | – weak splinter in any suit; |
| 3♥ | – strong splinter in hearts; |
| 3♠ | – preemptive; |
| 3NT | – strong splinter in diamonds; |
| 4♣ | – strong splinter in clubs; |
| 4♦ | – good hand to play a game in spades; |
| 4♥ | – to play. |

Every pair may use their own agreements in this sequence.

The sequences below have been presented in chapter 1 as part of a simplified version of the Martens System. You can find them on pages 19 – 20:

**Sequence 1**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| ? | |

**Sequence 2**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♣ | |
| 2♦* | ? | * – 9-12 HCPs, any distribution |

**Sequence 3**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♣ | |
| 2♦ | 2♥* | * – artificial game forcing |
| ? | | |

**Sequence 4**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♣ | |
| 2♦ | 2♥* | * – artificial game forcing |
| 2♠ | 2NT** | ** – waiting |
| ? | | |

We shall now come to the sequences, in which West has extra values.

**Sequence 5**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♦ | |
| 2♥* | ? | * – natural, 9-16 HCPs |
| | 2♠ | – non-forcing; |
| | 2NT | – waiting, game forcing; |
| | 3♣ | – fourth suit, game forcing; |
| | 3♦ | – non-forcing; |
| | 3♥ | – non-forcing; |
| | 3♠ | – game forcing. |

In this sequence 2♥ is natural and does not state the power range 9-16 HCPs, so agreeing hearts (3♥) is not forcing, but invitational.

**Sequence 6**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♥ |
| ? | |

2♠ – 9-12 HCPs;
Higher bids – 13-16 HCPs.

Below follows further portion of training materials. For the bidding suggested by the author see page 201.

West opens in all the following hands.

51.

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

52.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 10 8 5 4<br>♥ 3<br>♦ 6 5 4<br>♣ Q 8 7 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q J 7 3<br>♥ J 10 9 7<br>♦ A K J<br>♣ A K |

53.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 9 6 4 3<br>♥ A 8 7 4<br>♦ 3<br>♣ Q 8 7 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 8<br>♥ K Q 5<br>♦ A Q 7<br>♣ A K J 9 4 2 |

54.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 9 5 3<br>♥ K J 6 5<br>♦ Q 9 6<br>♣ 3 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q J 10 8<br>♥ A 4 2<br>♦ A 10 8 2<br>♣ K Q |

55.

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

56.

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

57.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 10 9 5<br>♥ 7 5 3<br>♦ 8<br>♣ K J 10 9 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q J 7<br>♥ A K 4 2<br>♦ Q 9 4 2<br>♣ Q 3 |

58.

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

59.

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

60.

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

# 3.7. 1NT OPENING

In a strong club-based system it is recommended to adopt the agreement that a 1NT opening promises a balanced hand and 12-14 HCPs.

Below follows the scheme after a 1NT opening.

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | ? | |
| | 2♣ | – Stayman; |
| | 2♦ | – transfer to hearts, **can be a four-carder**; |
| | 2♥ | – transfer to spades; |
| | 2♠ | – transfer to clubs; |
| | 2NT | – invitational; |
| | 3♣ | – transfer to diamonds – either strong or weak; |
| | 3♦ | – 6+ diamonds, invitational; |
| | 3♥ | – 5 – 4 in the minor suits with the spade shortage; |
| | 3♠ | – 5 – 4 in the minor suits with the heart shortage; |
| | 4♣ | – 5+ spades and 5+ hearts, no aspirations (6-5); |
| | 4♦ | – transfer to hearts; |
| | 4♥ | – transfer to spades. |

Every pair may, of course, adopt their own agreements, the same as after 1NT – 15-17 HCPs opening. I encourage you to adopt a concept that has been unknown in Poland so far. This new idea involves a new, somewhat troublesome, convention:

2♦ – a transfer to 4+ hearts.

Why do we make our life difficult?

Transfer to 4+ hearts is an element of a bidding concept, which I call, according to its construction, ”Stayman + transfer”. Therefore, I admit 1NT opening with two doubletons in both majors (2-2-4-5, 2-2-5-4, 2-2-6-3, 2-2-3-6), jump to 4♣ - promises 6-5 distribution! What do we do in case of equal fits?

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 4♣ |
| ? | |

4♦ – bid your longer suit

### 3.7.1 SEQUENCE 1NT - 2♣

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| ? | |

2♦ – without a four-card major;
2♥ – 4+ hearts, without 4 spades;
2♠ – 4+ spades, without 4 hearts;
2NT – 4 hearts and 4 spades, minimum;
3♣ – 4 hearts and 4 spades, maximum.

"Stayman + transfers" is an interesting innovative concept presented in the following sequences. We gain more room so that the responder may show his distribution with a special stress put on a shortage. Outdated methods focusing on finding out the opener's distribution have not solved the problems relating to honour location.

I remember a number of hands when a choice between Stayman or a transfer to a minor suit seemed only a matter of an accurate decision.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 10 6 4 | ♠ 6 | ♠ 8 7 | ♠ K Q 5 4 |
| ♥ 5 | ♥ Q 10 9 6 | ♥ K 9 6 4 | ♥ 3 2 |
| ♦ Q 9 8 5 4 3 | ♦ 7 2 | ♦ K 8 6 5 4 3 | ♦ 9 |
| ♣ 6 2 | ♣ A 8 7 4 3 2 | ♣ 4 | ♣ Q 10 8 4 3 2 |

A Stayman + Transfer scheme has solved this dilemma.

**Sequence 1**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | ? |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2♥ | – pass or correct (4+ hearts, 4+ spades, weak); |
| 2♠ | – transfer to clubs; |
| 2NT | – invitational; |
| 3♣ | – transfer to diamonds; |
| 3♦ | – transfer to hearts; |
| 3♥ | – transfer to spades; |
| 3♠ | – 5 spades and 5 hearts, how about 3NT? |

Why are 3♦ and 3♥ transfers preceded by Stayman useful? It is usually +5-4 distribution with both majors. Of course we bid a transfer to a longer suit.

**Sequence 2**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2♦ | 2♠* | * – transfer to clubs |
| ? | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2NT | – no-trump oriented hand; |
| 3♣ | – suit-oriented hand, more encouraging. |

We have to use every opportunity to give a picture of our hand.

**Sequence 3**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2♦ | 2♠* | * – transfer to clubs |
| 2NT | ? | |
| | 3♣ | – to play; |
| | 3♦ | – three-suited hand with a shortage in a major; |
| | 3♥ | – shortage – 4 spades – 5+ clubs; |
| | 3♠ | – shortage – 4 hearts – 5+ clubs; |
| | 3NT | – shortage in diamonds and 4+ clubs, 4-4-1-4 shape admitted; |
| | 4♣ | – shortage in diamonds, a substantial surplus in power; |
| | 4♦ | – void in diamonds, after possible cue bid – 4NT is an inquiry for the number of aces precluding the diamond ace; |
| | 4♥ | – 4-2-5 shape, invitational, 4NT negative; |
| | 4♠ | – 4-2-2-5 shape, invitational, 4NT negative. |

This sequence is complicated since I consider it vital to differentiate between a three-suiter and a hand including 5+ clubs. The hand with a 5+ card suit is definitely more powerful. The 4♥ and 4♠ calls play the role of 4NT invitational bid, showing also the distribution.

A version for lazy players:

**Sequence 3a**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2♦ | 2♠* | * – transfer to clubs |
| 2NT | ? | |
| | 3♣ | – to play; |
| | 3♦ | – shortage; |
| | 3♥ | – shortage; |
| | 3♠ | – shortage; |
| | 3NT | – slam inviting bid without a shortage. |

This is an easy and friendly solution. However, we do not know the full shape of the responder's hand.

A problem comes with the following hand:

♠ J 8 7 ♥ A 9 4 ♦ A Q 10 8 ♣ K 10 6

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 2♠ |
| 2NT | 3♠ |
| ? | |

1) if a partner has a three-suiter then we have to agree diamonds;
2) if a partner has 1-4-3-5 shape, then we have to agree clubs.

We should answer the question whether we can afford to be lazy at the expense of an obvious degradation of the bidding level? A version for lazy players is still better than the standard agreement used by Polish pairs:

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2♦ | ? | |
| | 3♥/3♠ | – shortage |

This solution not only differentiates 4-4-4-1 shape from 5-4-3-1, shape but it does not even specify a minor suit.

**Sequence 4**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2♦ | 2♠* | * – transfer to clubs; |
| 2NT | 3♦** | ** – three-suiter with a shortage in a minor /major suit |
| 3♥ | ? | |
| | 3♠ | – shortage in spades; |
| | 3NT | – shortage in hearts; |
| | 4♣ | – singleton hearts and a substantial surplus in power; |
| | 4♥ | – void in hearts – 4-0-4-5 shape and extra values in power. |

The opener may pass 3NT, so with a slam-inviting hand the bidding has to continue. With a spade shortage we will have an opportunity to bid further on.

**Sequence 5**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2♦ | 2♠ | |
| 3♣* | ? | * – suit oriented hand, encouraging. |

The bidding proceeds in a similar way as in Sequence 2, when partner by bidding 2NT informed us about a no-trump oriented hand.

**Sequence 6**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2♦ | 3♣* | * – transfer to diamonds. |
| 3♦ | ? | |
| | 3♥ | – shortage, 4 spades – 5 diamonds (we bid three-suited hands by a transfer to clubs); |
| | 3♠ | – shortage, 4 hearts – 5 diamonds; |
| | 3NT | – shortage in clubs, 4-4-4-1 shape is possible; |
| | 4♣ | – void in clubs + extra values in power; |
| | 4♦ | – singleton clubs + substantial surplus in power; |
| | 4♥ | – 2-4-5-2 distribution, invitational, 4NT – negative; |
| | 4♠ | – 4-2-5-2 distribution, invitational, 4NT – negative. |

After 4 ♣ or 4♦, a 4NT call is negative. After showing a void and possibly a cue bid, asking for aces does not preclude an ace in the void suit.

In the scheme 'Stayman + transfers' on a two-suited hand with hearts and spades we can apply various solutions. Let's begin with a hand holding more hearts:

1) 5 hearts – 4 spades distribution;
2) 6 hearts - 4 spades, distribution;
3) 6 hearts - 5 spades distribution.

In the above examples the Stayman bid is used and after 2♦ response – a transfer to hearts (3♦).

**Sequence 7**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2♦ | 3♦* | * – transfer to hearts (5+ hearts – 4+ spades). |
| ? | | |

3♥ – fit;
3♠ – three spades, no fit in hearts, concern about a no-trump contract;
3NT – choice;
4♥ – bad values – poor fit, bad location of honours and so on.

**Sequence 8**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2♦ | 3♦* | * – transfer to hearts (5+ hearts – 4+ spades). |
| 3♥ | ? | |

3♠ – two shortages;
3NT – invitation to slam, 4-5-2-2 shape;
4♣ – shortage;
4♦ – shortage;
4♥ – to play.

We can easily see the advantage of such a convention over the popular Smolen convention.

**Sequence 9**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2♦ | 3♦* | * – transfer to hearts (5+ hearts – 4+ spades). |
| 3NT | ? | |

4♣ – shortage, 6 hearts – 4 spades;
4♦ – shortage, 6 hearts – 4 spades;
4♥ – to play.

With two-suited spade-heart hands holding more spades: 5 spades - 4 hearts or 6 spades – 4 hearts:

– we bid Stayman and after a 2♦ response we transfer to spades (3♥).

**Sequence 10**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2♦ | 3♥* | * – transfer to spades, 5+ spades – 4 hearts. |
| ? | | |

3♠ – fit;
3NT – choice;
4♠ – to play with bad values.

**Sequence 11**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2♦ | 3♥* | * – transfer to hearts (5+ hearts – 4+ spades). |
| 3♠ | ? | |

3NT – slam inviting, 5-4-2-2 distribution;
4♣ – shortage;
4♦ – shortage;
4♥ – two shortages.

4♥ – a solid six-card spade suit and five poor hearts. A 7-4-1-1 shape with a poor spade suit and a solid heart suit is also possible. Why six good spades or seven poor ones?

We concealed five hearts by bidding a transfer to five spades. Why? Holding six solid spades and five poor hearts we prefer to play spades 6-2 than hearts 5-3.

With 7-4 distribution we have decided to bid Stayman, considering a heart contract with four hearts opposite four hearts distribution. Why? Because we have a solid four-card heart suit and a poor seven-spade suit, which will be easy to establish.

**Sequence 12**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2♦ | 3♥* | * – transfer to spades (5+ spades – 4+ hearts). |
| 3NT | ? | |
| | 4♣ | – shortage, +6 spades – 4 hearts; |
| | 4♦ | – shortage, +6 spades – 4 hearts. |

We undoubtedly have slam aspirations.

**Sequence 13**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2♥ | ? | |
| | 2♠ | – transfer to clubs + four spades; |
| | 2NT | – invitational; |
| | 3♣ | – transfer to diamonds + four spades; |
| | 3♦ | – transfer to hearts, slam inviting without a shortage; |
| | 3♥ | – invitational; |
| | 3♠/4♣/4♦ | – splinters. |

Answers 2♥ and 2♠ to the Stayman convention make further bidding simpler because they identify a major suit also in the responder's hand.

**Sequence 14**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2♥ | 2♠* | * – transfer to clubs. |
| ? | | |

2NT – a no-trump oriented hand;
3♣ – more encouraging.

**Sequence 15**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| 2♥ | 2♠ |
| 3♣ | ? |

Pass – poor hand with clubs and spades;
3♦ – shortage, 4 spades – 5+ clubs;
3♥ – shortage, 4 spades – 5+ clubs;
3♠ – 4-1-4-4, 4-0-4-5 distributions, substantial extra strength;
3NT – 4-2-2-5 distribution, slightly invitational;
4NT – 4-2-2-5 distribution, strong invitation.

**Sequence 16**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2♥ | 3♣* | * – transfer to diamonds. |
| 3♦ | ? | |
| | 3♥ | – shortage in hearts; |
| | 3♠ | – shortage in clubs; |
| | 3NT | – 4-2-2-5, distribution, slightly invitational; |
| | 4NT | – 4-2-5-2, distribution, strong invitation. |

After a 2♠ response we need a 2NT call as a transfer to clubs. What do we bid with 11-12 HCPs and four hearts? Transfer to hearts (2♦) directly after the 1NT opening!

**Sequence 17**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2♠ | ? | |
| | 2NT | – transfer to clubs + four hearts; |
| | 3♣ | – transfer to diamonds + four hearts; |
| | 3♦ | – three-suited hand with 1-4-4-4 distribution, slam inviting; |
| | 3♥ | – transfer to spades, meaning invitation to slam without a shortage; |
| | 3♠ | – invitational; |
| | 4♣/4♦/4♥ | – splinters. |

Why should a three-suited hand with a spade shortage be slam inviting? For tactical reasons, with an average hand we will not often want to disclose a spade shortage.

**Sequence 18**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2♠ | 2NT* | * – transfer to clubs. |
| 3♣ | ? | |
| | 3♦ | – shortage, 5+ clubs – 4 hearts; |
| | 3♥ | – three-suited hand with 1-4-4-4, 0-4-4-5 – without aspirations; |
| | 3♠ | – shortage, 5+ clubs – 4 hearts; |
| | 3NT | – 2-4-2-5 distribution, slightly inviting; |
| | 4NT | – 2-4-2-5 distribution, strongly inviting. |

**Sequence 19**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2♠ | 3♣* | * – transfer to diamonds. |
| 3♦ | ? | |
| | 3♥ | – shortage in clubs, 5+ diamonds – 4 hearts; |
| | 3♠ | – shortage, 5+ diamonds – 4 hearts; |
| | 3NT | – 2-4-5-2, distribution, slightly inviting; |
| | 4NT | – 2-4-5-2, distribution, solid invitation. |

**Sequence 20**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2NT | ? | |
| | 3♣ | – waiting; |
| | 3♦ | – transfer to hearts; |
| | 3♥ | – transfer to spades; |
| | 4♥ | – to play; |
| | 4♠ | – to play. |

We can choose from which hand we want to play the contract.

**Sequence 21**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2NT | 3♦* | * – transfer to hearts. |
| 3♥ | ? | |
| | 3♠/4♣/4♦ | – shortage; |
| | 3NT | – invitation to slam without a shortage. |

This mechanism allows you to differentiate honour cue bids from shortages.

We shall discuss a peculiar 2♦ transfer to four hearts.

2♦ transfer promises 4+ hearts, so the opener should bid more carefully. The responder may, of course, have four hearts only when having a game invitational hand. Why?

We have assumed that bidding 2NT in a sequence:

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ | |
| 2♠ | 2NT | – is a transfer to clubs and not a natural invitation. |

Perforce, a hand with 11-12 HCPs with exactly four hearts has to be included in a 2♦ bid.

Note that with 5+ hearts – 4+ spades with the game forcing power range we launch Stayman. Therefore we more often than not play the contract from the stronger hand and therefore camouflage may be quite useful.

Below follows an example of camouflage.

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| 2♥ | 4♥ |
| Pass | |

In this sequence a spade suit in the responder's hand will be quite a surprise for the defenders.

## 3.7.2 1NT - 2♦ SEQUENCE

**Sequence 1**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♦ |
| ? | |

2♥ – 2+ hearts;
2NT – good hand with a three-card fit, oriented to no-trump;
3♥ – 4+ hearts, not a bad hand.

**Sequence 2**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♦ |
| 2♥ | ? |

2♠ – 4 hearts with invitational power or 5+ hearts – 4 diamonds, forcing to game;
2NT – invitational – 5 hearts with 5-3-3-2 distribution;
3♣ – 5+ hearts and 4+ clubs, game forcing;
3♦ – 5+ hearts – 5+ diamonds;
3♥ – invitational, 6 hearts;
3♠ – spade splinter;
3NT – natural;
4♣ – club splinter;
4♦ – diamond splinter;
4♥ – invitation without a shortage.

At the same time we solve problems with two-suited hands containing hearts and diamonds. The classical system has to put up with a major problem.

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♦ | |
| 2♥ | 3♦* | * – 5 hearts – 4+ diamonds. |
| ? | | |

3♥ – good hand with the fit;
3♠ – values, concern about clubs;
3NT – nothing to fear.

Not enough room to show concern about spades. In the transfer version we do not have to make a guess.

**Sequence 3**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♦ | |
| 2♥ | 2♠* | * – 4 hearts – within the invitational range or 5+ hearts – 4 diamonds, game forcing. |
| ? | | |

2NT – minimum;
3♣ – extra values in power;
3♥ – bad hand with 4 hearts.

**Sequence 4**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♦ |
| 2♥ | 2♠ |
| 2NT | ? |

| | |
|---|---|
| Pass | – 11-12 HCPs with 4 hearts; |
| 3♣ | – transfer to diamonds, 5 hearts – 4 diamonds; |
| 3♦ | – transfer to hearts, 6 hearts - 4 diamonds; |
| 3♥ | – transfer to spades, 3-5-4-1 distribution; |
| 3♠ | – transfer to clubs, 1-5-4-3 distribution; |
| 3NT | – 2-5-4-2 distribution. |

We have come up with a sequence where we can use extra length transfer bid.

3♣ – can be an attempt to stop in a part score since we know that the opener has a bad hand, and we dared to force with 11-12 HCPs and 5 hearts – 4 diamonds distribution.

**Sequence 5**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♦ | |
| 2♥ | 2♠ | |
| 2NT | 3♣* | * – transfer to diamonds, 5 hearts – 4 diamonds. |
| ? | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 3♦ | – I can play this contract; |
| 3♥ | – I can play this contract. |

The situation gets complicated after a 3♣ response meaning surplus in the power:

**Sequence 6**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♦ | |
| 2♥ | 2♠ | |
| 3♣* | ? | * – positive extras in power. |
| | 3♦ | – transfer to hearts, 6 hearts – 4 diamonds; |
| | 3♥ | – transfer to spades, 3-5-4-1 distribution; |
| | 3♠ | – transfer to clubs, 1-5-4-3 distribution; |
| | 3NT | – 4 hearts, 11-12 HCPs; |
| | 4NT | – slam invitational. |

In similar sequences 3NT meant 2-5-4-2 distribution. In this case we have additionally 11-12 HCPs with four hearts.

**Sequence 7**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♦ | |
| 2♥ | 2♠ | |
| 3♣ | 3♦* | * – transfer to hearts, 6 hearts – 4 diamonds. |
| 3♥ | ? | |
| | 3♠ | – spade shortage; |
| | 3NT | – singleton in clubs; |
| | 4♣ | – void in clubs; |
| | 4♦ | – two shortages (1-7-4-1 or 1-6-5-1 distribution with a poor diamond suit). |

## *3.7.3 SEQUENCES AFTER 1NT AND RESPONSES ABOVE THE LEVEL OF 2♦*

**Sequence 1**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♥ |
| 2♠ | ? |
| | 3♥ |

– 5+ spades - 5+ hearts, slam aspirations.

Note that without slam aspirations we can bid via one of the two sequences:

**Sequence 2**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 4♣* |
| 4♦ | 4♥/4♠ |
| Pass | |

* – 6-5 (5-6) distribution, without any aspiration.

4♦ means: bid your longer suit.

**Sequence 3**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 3♠ |
| ? | |

3♠ indicates 5 hearts – 5 spades without any aspiration.

The last sequence enables to stop in a 3NT contract.

Below comes another portion of training materials. For the bidding suggested by the author go to page 208.

West opens the bidding in all examples below:

61.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A Q 10<br>♥ 7 6 4<br>♦ K 8 7 6<br>♣ K 3 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 6<br>♥ A K 9 8<br>♦ A 9 2<br>♣ A J 10 8 7 |

62.

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

63.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ K 7<br>♥ Q J 4<br>♦ A K 10 2<br>♣ 10 9 8 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A J 10<br>♥ A K 6 3<br>♦ Q 9 8 7 4<br>♣ 3 |

64.

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

65.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ K 8 7<br>♥ Q J 6<br>♦ K 10 4 2<br>♣ K 8 4 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 10 5<br>♥ A 10 5 2<br>♦ 7<br>♣ Q J 10 9 6 2 |

66.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 6<br>♥ J 9 8 2<br>♦ 9 6 3<br>♣ K Q 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ J 10 4 2<br>♥ K Q 5<br>♦ A K Q J 8<br>♣ J |

67.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ 7 5<br>♥ J 9 4 2<br>♦ K Q 3<br>♣ A K J 5 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A K J 9<br>♥ —<br>♦ A 10 5<br>♣ Q 10 9 8 3 2 |

68.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 3 2<br>♥ 6 4<br>♦ 4 3 2<br>♣ A J 9 8 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 8 7<br>♥ A K J 6<br>♦ A J<br>♣ K Q 4 3 2 |

69.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K J 8<br>♥ 7 6 3<br>♦ 4 3 2<br>♣ K J 7 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 3<br>♥ Q J 9 8<br>♦ A K J 10 9<br>♣ A Q 10 |

70.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ K 6<br>♥ Q J 10<br>♦ A K 4 2<br>♣ 10 8 6 4 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A J 6 5<br>♥ A K 9 3 2<br>♦ Q J 9<br>♣ 3 |

West opens the bidding in all hands below:

71.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 10 5<br>♥ Q 6 3<br>♦ K Q 7 6<br>♣ K 3 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ J 9 6<br>♥ A K 4 2<br>♦ J 9 3 2<br>♣ Q J |

72.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A J 4<br>♥ Q 6 4<br>♦ K J 9 4 2<br>♣ Q 6 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K Q 8 7 5<br>♥ K J 9 7 3 2<br>♦ 5<br>♣ 2 |

73.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ J 10<br>♥ Q 4<br>♦ A K 10 8<br>♣ Q J 9 8 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A K 5 4 2<br>♥ A 9 6 3 2<br>♦ Q<br>♣ 10 4 |

74.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 6 5<br>♥ K 3<br>♦ K Q J 6 5<br>♣ J 9 7 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K Q J 9 8 7<br>♥ A J 5 4<br>♦ —<br>♣ K 8 6 |

75.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 10<br>♥ K J 6<br>♦ 10 4 2<br>♣ K Q 8 4 3 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K J 5 4<br>♥ A Q 10 8 4<br>♦ 7<br>♣ A J 5 |

76.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 2<br>♥ J 9 8<br>♦ A J 9 6<br>♣ A 10 4 3 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K Q 9 8 3<br>♥ A K Q 5 2<br>♦ K 5<br>♣ J |

77.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ J 8 6 3<br>♥ K 2<br>♦ K Q 3 2<br>♣ K 3 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 4 2<br>♥ A 8 7 6 4<br>♦ A J 10 5<br>♣ Q J |

78.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ 8 7 3 2<br>♥ A 4<br>♦ K 4 3 2<br>♣ A J 9 8 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 9<br>♥ K Q 6 3 2<br>♦ A Q J 9<br>♣ Q 4 2 |

79.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ J 10 4 3<br>♥ A K<br>♦ K 4 3<br>♣ Q 10 7 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ —<br>♥ Q J 9 8 4 3<br>♦ A Q J 9<br>♣ K J 8 |

80.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 10<br>♥ Q 5<br>♦ A 9 4 2<br>♣ 10 8 6 4 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q J 6 5<br>♥ A K J 9 3 2<br>♦ K 9 3<br>♣ — |

## 3.8. 2♣ PRECISION OPENING

The 2♣ opening with 12-16 HCPs, 5+ clubs and a major four-carder or with 6+ clubs has probably more shortcomings than pros. In the part score zone it does not work too well. We start the auction at too high a level, which creates problems in reaching the right contract at the right level. Its preemptive value can be considered as a pro. In a strong club-based system it is definitely needed and we should do our best to reduce these shortcomings to a minimum. I recommend a 1NT opening within 12-14 HCPs and 5♣ with 4 in a major -2 -2 distribution if the hand character is suit oriented. Many authors have described further bidding after a natural 2♣ opening. I have nothing innovative to offer.

# 3.9. 2♦ OPENING

2♦ – at least 4-4 in the major suits – destructive by nature (4-8 HCPs). In a minimal distribution 4-4 and the power of 4-5 HCPs we do not open the bidding.

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♦ | ? |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2♥ | – to play; |
| 2♠ | – to play; |
| 2NT | – asking for the major suits and the quality of the opening; |
| 3♣ | – bid 3♦, invitational with a four-card fit in one of the major suits or natural; |
| 3♦ | – natural, forcing; |
| 3♥/3♠ | – preemptive; |
| 3NT | – to play; |
| 4♥/4♠ | – to play. |

As in a number of other schemes the club suit is badly treated.

**Sequence 1**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♦ | 2NT |
| ? | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 3♣ | – minimum, without 4-4 distribution; |
| 3♦ | – transfer to hearts, 5 hearts – 4 spades, maximum; |
| 3♥ | – transfer to spades, 5 spades – 4 hearts, maximum; |
| 3♠ | – 5 spades – 5 hearts, maximum; |
| 3NT | – 4-4 distribution (by definition, upper opening limit and then 4♣ agrees hearts, and 4♦ – spades). |

Transfers allow the final contract to be played from the strong hand.

**Sequence 2**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 2♦ | 2NT | |
| 3♣ | 3♦* | * – game-forcing waiting bid. |
| ? | | |

3♥ – 4 hearts – 5 spades;
3♠ – 4 spades – 5 hearts;
3NT – 5-5 distribution (then 4♣ agrees hearts, and 4♦ – spades).

The purpose of showing a shorter suit is to assign the contract to the stronger hand. This is not a universal concept – the partner may agree a four-card suit. If such agreement creates some problems then we may easily show the distribution in a natural way.

**Sequence 3**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 2♦ | 2NT | |
| 3♣ | ? | |
| | 3♥ | – a hand with a three-card fit within the strong invitational power range. |

**Sequence 4**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 2♦ | 2NT | |
| 3♣ | 4♣* | * – bid your five-carder by transfer. |
| ? | | |

4♦ – 5 hearts – 4+ spades (may be 5-5 distribution);
4♥ – 5 spades – 4 hearts.

This is the right way if we want to play from the stronger hand.

**Sequence 5**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 2♦ | 2NT | |
| 3♦* | 3♥ | * – transfer to hearts. |
| ? | | |

3♠ – singleton in diamonds;
3NT – 4-5-2-2 distribution;
4♣ – shortage in clubs;
4♦ – void in diamonds.

In this case two shortages are out of question. We can then use a 3♠ call to economically indicate a singleton in diamonds.

**Sequence 6**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 2♦ | 2NT | |
| 3♦* | 3♠ | * – agrees spades. |
| ? | | |

3NT – 4-5-2-2 shape;
4♣/4♦ – shortage.

In both cases (sequence 6 and 7) we may comfortably enter the slam zone after earlier agreeing a trump suit.

**Sequence 7**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 2♦ | 2NT | |
| 3♥* | ? | * – transfer to spades. |
| | 3♠ | – agrees spades; |
| | 4♣ | – agrees hearts. |

This time we shall be in an awkward position while agreeing hearts.

**Sequence 8**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 2♦ | 2NT | |
| 3♠* | ? | * – 5 spades – 5 hearts, maximum. |
| | 3NT | – agrees hearts; |
| | 4♣ | – agrees spades. |

Of course it is not possible that 3NT will be a final contract after getting good news about maximum with at least 5 hearts and 5 spades. If this is what we want to play then after the 2♦ opening we should go straight to 3NT.

**Sequence 9**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 2♦ | 2NT | |
| 3♠ | 3NT* | * – agrees hearts. |
| ? | | |
| 4♣ | – shortage; | |
| 4♦ | – shortage; | |
| 4♥ | – two shortages. | |

**Sequence 10**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 2♦ | 2NT | |
| 3♠ | 4♣* | * – agrees spades. |
| ? | | |
| 4♦ | – shortage in diamonds; | |
| 4♥ | – shortage in clubs; | |
| 4♠ | – two shortages. | |

The following principles are applicable when indicating shortages:

a) if we can do it in a natural way – then we do it this way;

b) if the first two levels are artificial then we start with a minor shortage.

**Sequence 11**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♦ | 3♣ |
| 3♦ | ? |

| | |
|---|---|
| 3♥ | – pass or bid a game in this suit; |
| 3♠ | – pass or bid a game in this suit; |
| 3NT | – club suit, inviting a club slam. |

Below comes another portion of training materials. For the bidding suggested by the author, go to page 219.

West opens the bidding on all hands.

81.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 9 6 4<br>♥ K 10 9 5 4<br>♦ 5<br>♣ 9 6 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K 8<br>♥ A Q J 2<br>♦ Q 8 7 4<br>♣ A K Q |

82.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ K 9 6 4 2<br>♥ Q 7 3 2<br>♦ 10 9 7<br>♣ 3 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A Q J 10<br>♥ A K<br>♦ A 8 3<br>♣ K Q J 2 |

83.

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

84.

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

85.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ K J 8 7 3<br>♥ Q J 5 4 3<br>♦ 9 8 6<br>♣ — | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A 5<br>♥ A K 10 6<br>♦ A K J 5<br>♣ J 10 6 |

86.

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

87.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ Q 10 9 5<br>♥ Q 9 6 4 3<br>♦ 6 5 4<br>♣ 6 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A 8 3<br>♥ A K 10<br>♦ A J 10 8<br>♣ K 10 2 |

88.

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

89.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 9 8 4 2<br>♥ Q J 6 4<br>♦ 4<br>♣ 9 8 3 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ J 3<br>♥ A K 9 5 3<br>♦ A Q 6 5<br>♣ A K |

90.

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

# 3.10. 2♥ OPENING

In the Martens strong club-based system we open 1♥/♠ with 9 HCPs. Hands with both major suits are covered by the 2♦ opening. 2♥ opening at white is incorporated in the system structure and promises 4-8 HCPs power range with 5 hearts – and 4 in one of the minors. I reduced the requirements regarding the distribution to increase the opening frequency.

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 2♥ | ? | |
| | 2♠ | – non-forcing, 5+ spades; |
| | 2NT | – game forcing; |
| | 3♣ | – pass or correct; |
| | 3♦ | – invitational to 4♥; |
| | 3♥ | – preemptive; |
| | 3♠ | – invitational with 6+ spades. |

This is a typical scheme for this type of opening.

**Sequence 1**

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 2♥ | 2NT | |
| ? | | |
| 3♣ | | – 4+ clubs; |
| 3♦ | | – 4+ diamonds, without 3 spades; |
| 3♥ | | – 3-5-4-1 distribution; |
| 3♠ | | – 5 hearts – 5+ clubs, 7-8 HCPs; |
| 3NT | | – 5 hearts – 5+ diamonds, 7-8 HCPs. |

**Sequence 2**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♥ | 2NT |
| 3♣ | ? |

3♦ – waiting, natural or with a club fit;
3♥ – strong suit agreeing;
3♠ – game forcing, 5+ spades.

**Sequence 3**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♥ | 2NT |
| 3♣ | 3♦ |
| ? | |

3♥ – shortage in diamonds;
3♠ – shortage in spades;
3NT – 2-5-2-4 distribution.

**Sequence 4**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♥ | 2NT |
| 3♦ | ? |

3♥ – agrees hearts, forcing;
3♠ – forcing, 6+ spades.

In this case, the opener precluded three spades so the suit is agreed with a doubleton. A waiting bid with a diamond fit is missing. We have to bypass a 3NT contract. A version for the ambitious ones provides for the ambiguity of a 3♥ waiting (a fit in hearts or in diamonds).

# 3.11. 2♠ OPENING

2♠ opening at the white means 4-8 HCPs, 5 spades – 4 in a minor suit.

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♠ | ? |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2NT | – waiting; |
| 3♣ | – pass or correct; |
| 3♦ | – invitational to 4♠; |
| 3♥ | – invitational, 6+ hearts; |
| 3♠ | – preemptive. |

**Sequence 1**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♠ | 2NT |
| ? | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 3♣ | – 4+ clubs; |
| 3♦ | – 4+ diamonds, without three hearts; |
| 3♥ | – 5 spades – 5 clubs, maximum; |
| 3♠ | – 5-3-4-1 distribution; |
| 3NT | – 5 spades – 5 diamonds, maximum. |

Repeating the opening suit indicates three hearts and four diamonds. A similar scheme prevails after the 2♥ opening.

**Sequence 2**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♠ | 2NT |
| 3♣ | ? |

| | |
|---|---|
| 3♦ | – natural or waiting; |
| 3♥ | – forcing, 5+ hearts; |
| 3♠ | – agrees spades, game forcing. |

**Sequence 3**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♠ | 2NT |
| 3♣ | 3♦ |
| ? | |

3♥ – shortage in hearts;
3♠ – shortage in diamonds;
3NT – 5-2-2-4 distribution.

**Sequence 4**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♠ | 2NT |
| 3♦ | ? |

3♥ – waiting, a substantial suggestion of 5+ hearts;
3♠ – strong agreement of a spade suit.

Note that 3♦ precluded three hearts.

**Sequence 5**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♠ | 2NT |
| 3♦ | 3♥ |
| ? | |

3♠ – 5-2-4-2, doubts;
3NT – 5-1-4-3 or 5-1-5-2 – misfit in hearts;
4♣ – shortage – 5-2-5-1;
4♥ – 5-2-4-2 suit-oriented.

Below follows another portion of training materials. To see the bidding suggested by the author, go to page 226.

West opens on all hands W.

91.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ Q 9 6<br>♥ K J 9 5 4<br>♦ 5<br>♣ Q 10 6 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A K J 10 8<br>♥ A 2<br>♦ J 8 7<br>♣ A K J |

92.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ 4 2<br>♥ Q 10 6 3 2<br>♦ Q 10 9 7<br>♣ 3 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A Q<br>♥ A K 9 8<br>♦ A 8 3<br>♣ K Q 10 2 |

93.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ 5 3<br>♥ K J 10 7 4<br>♦ 3<br>♣ Q J 10 8 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A K 8 4<br>♥ A 3<br>♦ J 6 5 4<br>♣ A K 5 |

94.

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

95.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ —<br>♥ Q J 5 4 3<br>♦ 9 8 6<br>♣ K 10 6 4 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A K Q 5<br>♥ A 6<br>♦ J 10 5<br>♣ A Q 9 3 |

96.

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

97.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ Q J 10 9 5<br>♥ 9 3 2<br>♦ K Q 6 5<br>♣ 6 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A K 8 3<br>♥ A K<br>♦ A 10 8<br>♣ A 10 4 2 |

98.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 10 6 5 2<br>♥ 4 3<br>♦ J 7 5 3<br>♣ Q 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 3<br>♥ A 8<br>♦ A K Q 10 6 4 2<br>♣ A K 8 |

99.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ J 10 9 8 2<br>♥ 4<br>♦ J 4<br>♣ K J 9 8 3 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q 3<br>♥ A K J 9<br>♦ A 10 6 5<br>♣ A 4 2 |

100.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ J 10 8 4 2<br>♥ 10 2<br>♦ K Q 10 4 3<br>♣ 7 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A Q<br>♥ A K Q J 8 3<br>♦ A J 5<br>♣ 10 6 2 |

# 3.12. 2NT OPENING

2NT – a destructive opening with a minor suit or a constructive with a major one.

System limitations are the basic disadvantage of this opening. Following the applicable regulations this type of opening can be used in the matches of at least 16 – boards.

Below follow the examples of hands suggested for the 2NT opening:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ♠ 7 5 | ♠ 5 | ♠ K Q 10 8 6 4 2 | ♠ 7 5 |
| ♥ 8 4 | ♥ 9 7 | ♥ K J 7 | ♥ A K J 10 8 6 4 |
| ♦ Q 10 9 6 5 3 2 | ♦ Q 4 2 | ♦ 8 2 | ♦ J 10 3 |
| ♣ J 7 | ♣ J 10 8 7 6 5 3 | ♣ 3 | ♣ 8 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2NT | ? |

3♣ – the most frequent sign off – pass or correct;
3♦ – waiting with a truly powerful hand.

**Sequence 1**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2NT | 3♦ |
| ? | |

3♥ – transfer to spades;
3♠ – hearts with a spade shortage;
3NT – clubs or diamonds;
4♣ – hearts with a club shortage;
4♦ – hearts with a diamond shortage;
4♥ – hearts without a shortage.

**Sequence 2**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2NT | 3♦ |
| 3♥* | 3 ♠ |
| ? | |

* – transfer to spades.

3NT – without a shortage;
4♣ – shortage in clubs;
4♦ – shortage in diamonds;
4♥ – shortage in hearts.

After a 3♦ waiting we may put pressure on differentiating clubs and diamonds. Then we launch the following scheme:

**Sequence 1a**

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2NT | 3♦ |
| ? | |

3♥ – clubs;
3♠ – diamonds:
3NT – hearts;
4♣ – spades with a club shortage;
4♦ – spades with a diamond shortage;
4♥ – spades with a heart shortage;
4♠ – spades without a shortage.

# 3.13. 3♣ - 3♦ - 3♥ - 3♠ OPENINGS

These opening correspond to a 2NT opening:

3♣ – constructive;
3♦ – constructive;
3♥ – destructive;
3♠ – destructive.

# Chapter 4

## TRAINING MATERIALS – SOLUTIONS

# 4.1 SEQUENCE 1♣ -1♦ (SOLUTIONS OF THE BIDDING QUIZ FROM PAGE 32/42)

1.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠ A J 6<br>♥ K 10 5 3<br>♦ A K Q 5<br>♣ A K | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 3<br>♥ Q J 8 7 6<br>♦ 7 4 2<br>♣ 10 8 4 3 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 2♥ |
| 2NT | 3♣ |
| 3♥ | 3♠ |
| 4♣ | 6♥ |
| Pass | |

After three waiting bids 1♥, 1♠, and 2♣, the responder (forced to game) shows 5+ hearts – 4 clubs distribution within the 0-4 HCPs power range and a spade shortage. The jump to 6♥ is hand evaluation-based. If a partner is interested after finding out the shape and 0-4 HCPs distribution then one can hardly imagine a better hand.

2.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A<br>♥ Q 8 7<br>♦ A K Q 8 7<br>♣ A K Q 4 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ J 8 7 5<br>♥ 2<br>♦ 5 4<br>♣ 9 8 6 5 3 2 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 3♣ |
| 3♦ | 3♠ |
| 4♣ | 4♥ |
| 6♣ | pass |

Three waiting bids follow in a succession and then comes a natural auction. A 4♥ cue bid is comfortable within the 0-4 HCPs range.

3.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | 1♠ |
| 1NT | 2♥ |
| Pass | |

The responder holds 0-4 HCPs and 4 hearts. The opener has 15-17 HCPs and 3-4 hearts.

4.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A J<br>♥ A J 4<br>♦ A K Q 8 6<br>♣ K Q 5 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q 9 6 4 3 2<br>♥ 6 2<br>♦ 5 2<br>♣ 10 8 6 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 2♠ |
| 2NT | 3♠ |
| 4♠ | Pass |

5.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 10 7 5<br>♥ A K J 7<br>♦ A Q<br>♣ K 7 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 4<br>♥ 10 8 4 3<br>♦ J 10 8 7 5<br>♣ 9 5 2 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | 1♠ |
| 2♠ | 3♦ |
| 3♥ | 4♥ |
| Pass | |

2♠ is game-forcing with 5+ spades. Further bidding is natural.

6.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 7<br>♥ A K Q<br>♦ A J 10 8<br>♣ K Q 5 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q 10 6 5 4<br>♥ J 8 7 3<br>♦ 5 4 3<br>♣ 2 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | 1♠ |
| 2NT | 3♣ |
| 3♦ | 3♥ |
| 3♠ | 4♣ |
| 4♠ | pass |

Game forcing with a no-trump oriented hand – 2NT, Stayman, and then 3♥ indicates 5 spades and 4+ hearts. The opener invited partner to play a slam but the shortage opposite such values as shown above is discouraging.

7.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 6<br>♥ A 7 6 5<br>♦ A Q<br>♣ A K 6 5 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 7 5<br>♥ J 8<br>♦ K 8 7 3<br>♣ Q 10 9 3 2 |

Let's recall the full sequence:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | 2♣* |
| ? | |

2♦ – waiting;
2♥ – forcing, 5+ hearts;
2♠ – game forcing, 5+ spades;
2NT – invitational;
3♣ – invitational.

* – 5-8 HCPs, 5+ clubs

In this specific deal:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 3♦ |
| 4♣ | 4♦ |
| 4♥ | 5♣ |
| 6♣ | pass |

The 2♦ waiting bid has proved indispensable for getting more information. 5 clubs and 4 diamonds is what we need. How would the bidding go if the East held the spade queen instead of a jack of hearts. 4♥ followed by 4NT would be the right call. In a situation when declarer is the captain the responder has no right to ask about the aces.

4NT promises something more than has been promised so far.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 6<br>♥ A 7 6 5<br>♦ A Q<br>♣ A K 6 5 | **N**<br>**W** **E**<br>**S** | ♠ Q 5<br>♥ 9 8<br>♦ K 8 7 3<br>♣ Q 10 9 3 2 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 3♦ |
| 4♣ | 4♦ |
| 4♥ | 4NT |
| 5♦ | 5♠ |
| 7♣ | pass |

4NT – positive extras in power, no spade cue bid;
5♦ – **cue bid; where are your extras?**
5♠ – **spade queen.**

8.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 7 5<br>♥ A K Q 7 4<br>♦ 4<br>♣ A K Q 6 | **N**<br>**W** **E**<br>**S** | ♠ J 2<br>♥ J 5 3<br>♦ K Q 10 5 2<br>♣ 10 9 7 |

Below follows the complete sequence:

| **W** | **E** |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | 2♦ |
| ? | |

2♥ – forcing for one round, 5+ hearts;
2♠ – game forcing, 5+ spades;
2NT – waiting;
3♣ – game forcing, 5+ clubs;
3♦ – invitational;
3♥ – game forcing, 5+ hearts.

In this specific case:

| **W** | **E** |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | 2♦ |
| 2♥ | 3♥ |
| 4♥ | pass |

9.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 8 7<br>♥ 6<br>♦ A K Q 10 6<br>♣ A Q 7 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q 10 4 3<br>♥ 9 7 2<br>♦ J 8 7 4<br>♣ K 6 |

Below comes the full sequence:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | 1NT* |
| ? | |

* – 5-8 HCPs, with 5-6 HCPs 4 spades are admissible.

2♣ – waiting;
2♦ – non-forcing, diamonds and hearts;
2♥ – non-forcing, 5+ hearts;
2♠ – game forcing, 5+ spades;
2NT – invitational.

The auction in a specific deal:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | 1NT |
| 2♣ | 2♠ |
| 4♥ | 5♣ |
| 5♦ | 6♠ |
| Pass | |

Here comes a risky splinter case, which could cause a misunderstanding. The basic logic says that the opener could bid 4♥ after a 1NT call if he wanted to play such a contract.

5♣ – cue bid;
6♠ – holding a club king and a trump queen within 5-6 HCPs practically determines a slam.

10.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 2<br>♥ A K 4<br>♦ A Q J 9<br>♣ A K 10 8 | **N**<br>**W** **E**<br>**S** | ♠ J 10 8 7 5<br>♥ 8 5<br>♦ K 10 3 2<br>♣ Q 7 |

Let's recall the full auction:

| **W** | **E** | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ | |
| 1♥ | 2♠ | ** – 5-6 HCPs, 5+ spades |
| ? | | |

2NT – waiting;
3♣/3♦/3♥ – natural;
3♠ – invitational to a game.

An auction in a specific deal:

| **W** | **E** |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | 2♠ |
| 2NT | 3♦ |
| 3♥ | 3NT |
| 4♦ | 5♣ |
| 6♦ | pass |

3♥ – waiting;
3NT – 5-2-4-2 shape;
5♣ – positive response, tentative invitation to play a slam.

## 4.2 SEQUENCE 1♣ -1♥ (SOLUTIONS OF THE BIDDING QUIZ FROM PAGE 33/43)

11.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 6<br>♥ A Q 8 7<br>♦ K 4<br>♣ A 9 7 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q 5 2<br>♥ J 10 5 4 2<br>♦ A J 8 7<br>♣ 8 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 2♦ |
| 3♥ | 4♣ |
| 4NT | 5♦ |
| 6♥ | pass |

2♦ – 7-9 HCPs, 4+ hearts – 4+ diamonds;
3♥ – slam inviting;
4♣ – shortage.

12.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 10 8 7<br>♥ K 4 2<br>♦ K 6<br>♣ A Q 10 8 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K 5<br>♥ A Q 8 7<br>♦ Q J 7<br>♣ K J 3 2 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2♥ | 2NT |
| 3♣ | 4♣ |
| 4♦ | 4♥ |
| 4♠ | 5♣ |
| 6♣ | pass |

Within 15-17 HCPs in the opening balanced hand the opener showed:

2♥ – three hearts, with 1♠ being a natural call;
3♣ – four clubs, indicating 4-3-2-4 distribution;
6♣ – such a nice hand within the 15-17 HCPs range undoubtedly invites a slam with two aces, two kings and a queen with the ten of trumps.

13.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ K Q 7 5<br>♥ Q 9<br>♦ A K 6 4<br>♣ J 10 6 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A J 10 6<br>♥ J 8 7 3<br>♦ Q 5<br>♣ 9 5 3 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 2♠ |
| Pass | |

14.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 2♣* |
| 2♦ | 2♥ |
| 2NT | 3♣ |
| 3♥ | 4♦ |
| 4NT | 5♦ |
| 5♠ | 6♦ |
| 7♥ | pass |

* – 10+ HCPs.

First three waiting bids 1♠, 2♣, and 2♦ come in a succession followed by a typical sequence exhibiting a one-way exchange of information.

4♦ – shortage;

5♠ –asking about a trump queen, I recommend an economic version, showing a number of kings with the trump queen;

6♦ – I have a trump queen and one king.

The responder showed 3-5-1-4 shape and positive extras in power (2♣ waiting), one ace, a trump queen + a side king.

15.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ K Q J 8<br>♥ J 4<br>♦ K J 8 3<br>♣ A J 10 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A 7<br>♥ A Q 10 8<br>♦ A Q 10 4<br>♣ 9 6 3 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2NT | 4NT |
| 5♦ | 6♦ |
| Pass | |

This time we have only two waiting bids 1♠ and 2♣ followed by a natural auction. 2NT shows 15-17 HCPs with four spades and a doubleton in hearts.

4NT – invitational, with two tens in key suits, the hand is close to a forcing 5NT. Sequential tricks and a club sequence encourage West to accept a conditional invitation to slam and show four diamonds.

16.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 9 8 7 4<br>♥ 3<br>♦ A K Q 2<br>♣ A J 9 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ J 6<br>♥ A K 9 7 4 2<br>♦ J 6<br>♣ K 4 3 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2♠ | 3♥ |
| 3NT | pass |

17.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 8 7<br>♥ A K J<br>♦ Q 8 7 2<br>♣ A Q 5 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K 9 6<br>♥ Q 10 9 5 3<br>♦ K 3<br>♣ K 10 9 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 2♣* |
| 2♦ | 2♥ |
| 2NT | 3NT |
| ? | |

* – positive extras in power.

A very subtle decision. 3-3-4-3 shape discourages further bidding. The responder showed 5-3-3-2 shape with hearts and 10-11 HCPs. We may need more to drive towards slam.

18.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 2♦ |
| 2♠ | 2NT |
| 3♦ | 3♥* |
| 3NT | pass |

* – concern about clubs.

2♦ – natural within 7-9 HCPs, 1NT was also acceptable.

19.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 8 6<br>♥ A 4 2<br>♦ A 10 9 5<br>♣ A K | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 10 2<br>♥ K J 10 8 5<br>♦ K 4<br>♣ J 6 4 2 |

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ | |
| 1♠ | 2♥ | |
| 2NT | 3♣ | |
| 3♥ | 3NT* | * – 2-5-2-4 shape. |
| 4♣ | 4♦ | |
| 4♥ | 6♥ | |
| Pass | | |

The opener invites a slam, knowing about minimum strength and 2-5-2-4 shape. Positive extras in power from the point of view of honour location (excellent trump suit) allow East to accept the invitation directly.

20.

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

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♥ | |
| 1♠ | 2♥* | * – 7-9 HCPs. |
| 2♠ | 4♣** | ** – splinter, a three-card fit. |
| 4♦ | 4♥ | |
| 4NT | 5♦ | |
| 5♥ | 5NT | |
| 6♠ | pass | |

5♥ – asking about the trump queen;
5NT – I have the queen without a side king.

How can we find out about the diamond jack, which makes this slam a good one?

An optimist will risk a grand.

# 4.3. SEQUENCE 1♣ – 1♠ (SOLUTIONS OF THE BIDDING QUIZ FROM PAGE 34/44)

21.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A Q<br>♥ K J 6<br>♦ A K Q 4<br>♣ J 10 9 7 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K 10 6 3 2<br>♥ A 10 7 5 2<br>♦ 9 7 5<br>♣ — |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 2♥ |
| 2NT | 3♦ |
| 3♥ | 4♣ |
| 4♦ | 5♣ |
| 5♦ | 5♥ |
| 6♥ | pass |

3♦ – transfer to hearts, 5-5 distribution (extra length transfer bid);
4♣ – shortage;
5♣ – void;
5♥ – minimum, but a good hand.

Extra length transfer bid described in the first book of this series allows you to agree hearts at the level of three and show a void in clubs.

22.

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

Let's recall the full auction:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 2♦ |
| ? | |

2♥ – waiting;
2♠ – four spades;
2NT – a no-trump waiting bid;
3♣ – 6+ clubs;

2♣ – natural or waiting;
2♦ – waiting bid precluding five spades and thus four hearts.

An auction in this specific case:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 2♦ |
| 3♣ | 3♦ |
| 3NT | pass |

After 2♣ and 2♦, two waiting bids, further bidding proceeds in a natural way.

23.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K<br>♥ A Q 4 3<br>♦ A Q 7 6<br>♣ Q 8 7 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q 8 7 4 2<br>♥ K J 10<br>♦ K J 4 3<br>♣ 5 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 2♠ |
| 2NT | 3♦ |
| 3♥ | 4♣ |
| 4♦ | 4♥ |
| 4NT | 5♦ |
| 6♦ | pass |

After a 2♣ waiting bid further bidding was natural. The responder could not show the diamond suit at the level of two because 2♦ is a system waiting bid.

3♥ – doubts about a no-trump contract;
4♣ – shortage;
4♦ – agrees diamonds;
4♥ – cue bid;
5♦ – one of five key values.

24.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♦ | 2♠ |
| 2NT | 3♣ |
| 3NT | 4♦ |
| 4♥ | 4♠ |
| 4NT | 5♦ |
| 5♥ | 5NT |
| 6♣ | 6♦ |
| Pass | |

4♦ – I have often taken part in a discussion whether bypassing 3NT should not indicate a doubleton honour and with 5-1-3-4 shape we should bid 4♥ - a shortage.

6♣ – I already know about the 5134 shape, about the club ace, spade king and trump queen. Have you got anything else? An optimist will not fiddle with an invitation but will venture a grand.

25.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 2♥ |
| 2♠ | 2NT |
| 3♣ | 3♠ |
| 4♠ | pass |

2♣ – waiting;
2♠ – fit;
2NT – 5-4-2-2 shapes;
3♠ – power within 7-9 HCPs range; with a better hand we show heart or diamond values.

Definitely the bidding is too explicit. It invites the opponents to lead a diamond. Can we avoid such exposure? Not in this case because both hands are unlimited and therefore the exchange of information is “just in case”.

26.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 2♦ |
| 2NT | 3♦ |
| 3♥ | 3NT |
| 4♦ | 4♥ |
| 4NT | 5♦ |
| 5♠ | 6♣ |
| 6♦ | pass |

2♣ – waiting;
2♦ – waiting;
3♦ – natural, 4 spades – 5+ diamonds, 10+ HCPs;
3♥ – waiting;
3NT – 4-2-5-2 distribution;
4♥ – cue bid;
5♠ – asking for kings;
6♣ – one king.

27.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 2NT |
| 4♠ | pass |

2NT – 7-9 HCPs.

28.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K J 9<br>♥ A J 8 7<br>♦ K Q<br>♣ A 4 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q 10 4 2<br>♥ 4<br>♦ 8 7 4 2<br>♣ K Q 10 9 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 3♣* |
| 3♠ | 4♥ |
| 4NT | 5♣ |
| 6♠ | pass |

* – 7-9 HCPs, 4 spades – 4+ clubs (four clubs if 4-1-4-4 distribution).

4♥ – shortage, minimum, but excellent honour location;
6♠ – it is easy to imagine the location of partner's honours.

29.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 5<br>♥ A K 4 2<br>♦ K J 8<br>♣ A Q J 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K 10 8 6<br>♥ 7 5<br>♦ A 2<br>♣ K 10 7 5 3 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 2♦ |
| 2NT | 3♣ |
| 4♣ | 4♦ |
| 4♥ | 4♠ |
| 4NT | 5♥ |
| 7♣ | pass |

Two waiting bids, 2♣ and 2♦, first.

3♣ indicates 4 spades – 4+ clubs and some useful extras in power (four clubs if 4-1-4-4 shape). With a weaker hand within the 7-9 HCPs power range, after a 2♣ waiting bid we bid 3♣.

We have an alternative sequence:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♣ | 2♦ |
| 2NT | 3♣ |
| 3♦ | 3NT |
| 4♣ | 4♦ |
| 4NT | 5♥ |
| 5♠ | 6♣ |
| 7♣ | pass |

3♦ – waiting;
3NT – 4-2-2-5 distribution;
5♠ – asking for kings.

30.

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

| W | E | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♣ | 1♠ | |
| 2♣ | 3♦ | ** – 7-9 HCPs, 4 spades – 5+ diamonds. |
| 3NT | pass | |

An ideal hand:

♠ Q 6 5 4 ♥ 5 ♦ A 5 4 3 2 ♣ K 6 5

would make a slam possible, but with such good hand for a club contract the responder should bid 2♦ - waiting.

## 4.4. SEQUENCE 1♦ - 1♥ (SOLUTIONS OF THE BIDDING QUIZ FROM PAGE 35/45)

31.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 2NT |
| 3♣ | 3♦ |
| 3♥ | 4♣ |
| 4♥ | 4NT |
| 5♥ | 5NT |
| 6♦ | 7♦ |
| Pass | |

3♣ – transfer to diamonds, 4 spades – 6 diamonds;
3♥ – shortage;
4♥ – void.

The opener conveyed information about a 4-0-6-3 shape, 2 aces and 1 king, which is enough to bid a grand.

Here is the full sequence:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2♥ | 2NT |
| ? | |

3♣ – transfer to diamonds; 4 spades – 6 diamonds;
3♦ – 4-1-5-3 shape, the second interesting shape, 3♥ agrees diamonds and invites a slam;
3♥ – 4-2-5-2 distribution, an interesting hand with honours in hearts;
3♠ – 4-2-5-2 distribution, an interesting hand with diamond and spade honours;
3NT – 4-2-5-2 distribution – poor hand.

32.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 3♣ | 3♦ |
| 3♥ | 3♠ |
| 4♣ | 4NT |
| 5♥ | 6♦ |
| Pass | |

3♣ – transfer to diamonds + positive extras in power;
3♥ – shortage;
4♣ – cue bid, precludes the heart void.

Within the positive extras in power we may expect the trump queen. Not only the spade jack will give fat chances for a slam:

1) dropping jack of clubs;
2) dropping queen of spade;
3) club-spade squeeze on North.

33.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ K J 6 5<br>♥ 7<br>♦ K Q J 2<br>♣ Q 6 4 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A 8 7<br>♥ A Q J<br>♦ 8 7 3<br>♣ A J 5 3 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2♠ | 3♣ |
| 3♥ | 3NT |
| Pass | |

2♠ – transfer to clubs;
3♣ – slam invitational;
3♥ – transfer to no-trump.

At first, it seems that 3♥ indicates a void. However, there must be at least one negative call, which at the same time assigns a no-trump contract to a proper hand, to responder. It contradicts the rule, which says that; "repeating a disclosed shortage indicates a void". We may uphold such rule also in this case provided that either 3♦ or 3♠ call shows discouraging intentions.

34.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ 4<br>♥ Q 8 7<br>♦ A Q 4 3 2<br>♣ A J 10 6 | **N**<br>**W** **E**<br>**S** | ♠ A K J<br>♥ J 9 2<br>♦ K J 10 9<br>♣ K 9 8 |

| **W** | **E** | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ | |
| 2♣ | 2NT | |
| 3♥* | 3NT | 3♥* – 5+ diamonds, 4 clubs, 3 hearts |
| Pass | | |

Why is the extra length transfer bid not useful in this sequence? It results from the 1♦ opening construction.

**Sequence:**

| **W** | **E** |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 2♣ | |

may include distributions with 4 diamonds – 5 clubs and 5+ diamonds – 4+ clubs. The task of 2♠ and 2NT waiting bids is to clarify the shape accurately.

35.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ 8 7 4<br>♥ K 10 8<br>♦ A K J 7 5 3<br>♣ 3 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A K Q<br>♥ A 9<br>♦ Q 10 8<br>♣ J 10 9 8 5 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 2♦ | 2NT |
| 3♣ | 3♦ |
| 3NT | 4♦ |
| 4♥ | 4NT |
| 5♥ | 6♦ |
| Pass | |

2NT – is a game-forcing waiting bid;
3NT – the opener responded in a negative way to a diamond slam invitational bid. When partner repeated the invitation a heart cue bid was pretty obvious.

Let me recall the full sequence.

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 2♦ | 2NT |
| ? | |

3♣ – shortage in clubs;
3♦ – shortage in hearts;
3♥ – 2-3-6-2 distribution;
3♠ – shortage in spades;
3NT – includes 3-2-6-2, 2-2-6-3 shapes.

36.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 9<br>♥ K 10 9 6<br>♦ A Q 10 5 3<br>♣ 8 7 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K 8 4<br>♥ A 5 4<br>♦ K 8 7 2<br>♣ A K 2 |

Intellectually, it is a difficult bidding problem.

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 2♥ | 3♦ |
| 3♥ | 3♠ |
| 4♦ | 4♥ |
| 4♠ | 4NT |
| 5♠ | 6♦ |
| Pass | |

3♦ – 13+ HCPs with a diamond fit, without a four-card major.

The opener, encouraged to drive towards a slam, has appreciated his excellent honours, good location and high cards. The cooperation he had received produced an excellent slam.

Let's try to do it in a different way – via a 2NT waiting bid.

Let's recall the full scheme:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 2♥ | 2NT |
| ? | |

3♣ – transfer to diamonds, that is, 6 diamonds – 4 hearts;
3♦ – there is no point in transferring to hearts since there is enough room to show a three-suited hand;
3♥ – 3-4-5-1 distribution– transfer to a spade fragment;
3♠ – 1-4-5-3 distribution – transfer to a club fragment;
3NT – 2-4-5-2 distribution.

In this particular case:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 2♥ | 2NT |
| 3NT | 4♦ |
| 4♥ | 4♠ |
| 6♦ | pass |

3NT – 2-4-5-2 distribution;
4♦ – still, I invite a slam;
6♦ – two aces + the trump queen + one king + high cards, I cannot have a better hand.

37.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 8 7 2<br>♥ —<br>♦ K Q 9 8 4 3<br>♣ K 6 4 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K 5<br>♥ K 8 7<br>♦ A 10 5 2<br>♣ A Q 9 6 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 2NT |
| 3♣ | 3♦ |
| 3♥ | 3♠ |
| 4♥ | 4NT |
| 5NT | 7♦ |
| Pass | |

3♣ – transfer to diamonds, 4 spades – 6 diamonds;
3♥ – shortage;
3♠ – cue bid;
4♥ – void;
5NT – two aces + the trump queen + one king, economic version, we show the number of kings together with the trump queen.

38.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ 6<br>♥ A J 7 5<br>♦ A K J 7 5<br>♣ Q 5 4 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A Q 10<br>♥ K Q 3<br>♦ Q 8 2<br>♣ J 6 3 2 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 2♠ | 3♦ |
| 3♠ | 3NT |
| Pass | |

2♠ – 14-17 HCPs, 4+ diamonds and 4 hearts;
3♦ – agrees diamonds, not hearts;
3♠ – shortage.

How do we manage with a club shortage? There is an even more economic waiting bid:

| **W** | **E** | |
|---|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ | |
| 2♠ | 3♣* | * – waiting |
| ? | | |

3♦ – shortage in clubs;
3♥ – 2-4-5-2 distribution, reluctance to bid no-trumps;
3♠ – spade shortage;
3NT – 2-4-5-2 distribution, I want to play no-trumps from my hand.

Note that the 2NT waiting bid agrees hearts.

39.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ Q 5 3<br>♥ A Q 10 7<br>♦ A Q 10 4 3<br>♣ 6 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A K 9<br>♥ K 6 5<br>♦ K J 6 2<br>♣ J 5 4 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 2♠ | 3♣ |
| 3♦ | 3♠ |
| 4♥ | 4NT |
| 5♠ | 6♦ |
| Pass | |

3♦ – shortage in clubs;
4♥ – enthusiastic bid, precludes void in clubs, 3NT would be negative.

40.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ K 8 3<br>♥ —<br>♦ A Q 10 6 4<br>♣ A Q 8 7 5 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A J 7<br>♥ Q 8 6<br>♦ K 5 3<br>♣ K 10 3 2 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 3♣ | 4♣ |
| 4♥ | 4♠ |
| 5♥ | 5♠ |
| 7♣ | pass |

4♥ – shortage;
4♠ – cue bid;
5♥ – void;
5♠ – inviting a slam (5NT would be an inquiry about the aces).

# 4.5. OPENING 1♥ (SOLUTIONS OF THE BIDDING QUIZ FROM PAGE 36/46)

41.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 1♠ |
| 1NT | pass |

1NT – 9-11 HCPs.

Note that with 12-14 HCPs, 5 hearts and 5-3-3-2 shape we open 1NT.

42.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 1NT |
| 2♣ | 3♣ |
| 3♦ | 3♥ |
| 5♣ | pass |

A totally natural auction.

43.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠ A 6 5<br>♥ A J 10 4 3<br>♦ 10 6 4 2<br>♣ 4 | |
| ♠ K 8<br>♥ K Q 8 6<br>♦ A K<br>♣ A 8 7 3 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 2♠ |
| 3♦ | 3♥ |
| 4♣ | 4NT |
| 5♥ | 7♥ |
| Pass | |

2♦ – strength 9-11 HCPs;
2♠ – game forcing;
3♦ – natural;
3♥ – agrees the suit;
4♣ – shortage.

44.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ 6<br>♥ A J 7 4 2<br>♦ K J<br>♣ K J 10 6 3 | **N**<br>**W** **E**<br>**S** | ♠ J 10 8<br>♥ 6<br>♦ A Q 10 9<br>♣ A Q 9 8 7 |

| **W** | **E** |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 2♣ |
| 2♠ | 2NT |
| 3♣ | 3♦ |
| 3♠ | 4♣ |
| 4♦ | 4♥ |
| 4NT | 5♠ |
| 6♣ | pass |

2♠ – transfer to clubs, 14-16 HCPs;
2NT – waiting;
3♣ – 5-5 distribution;
3♦ – waiting;
3♠ – shortage;
4♣ – agrees clubs;
4♦ – cue bid, precludes void in spades;
4♥ – cue bid, if *Blackwood* is used in the classical version (0-3, 1-4), the inquiry about the aces is too risky.

Only one of five key values puts us in a no-win slam position. After a 4♥ cue bid our partner with one ace should bid 5♣.

45.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ 8 7 5<br>♥ A K 6 5 4<br>♦ A K 8 7 2<br>♣ — | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A K<br>♥ Q 3<br>♦ Q 10 9 4<br>♣ K 10 8 4 3 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 2♣ |
| 3♣ | 3♦ |
| 4♣ | 4♠ |
| 5♣ | 5♠ |
| 7♦ | pass |

3♣ – transfer to diamonds, 5 hearts – 5+ diamonds, valuable extras in power;
4♣ – shortage clubs;
4♠ – cue bid;
5♣ – void in clubs;
5♠ – cue bid – slam invitational.

46.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ K 6 5<br>♥ A K Q 10 4 3<br>♦ K 8 7<br>♣ 4 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A Q 2<br>♥ J 8 7<br>♦ A Q J<br>♣ Q 10 6 5 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 2♣ |
| 3♦ | 3♥ |
| 4♣ | 4♦ |
| 4♠ | 4NT |
| 6♣ | 6♥ |
| pass | |

3♦ – transfer to hearts;
4♣ – shortage;
4♠ – cue bid, bypassing game, justified by suitable honours, precludes void in clubs;
6♣ – two aces + the trump queen + two kings.

47.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ 6<br>♥ A 8 7 4 2<br>♦ Q 8 7<br>♣ A 10 7 5 | **N**<br>**W** **E**<br>**S** | ♠ Q 8 7<br>♥ J<br>♦ A K J 10 5 4<br>♣ K Q 6 |

| **W** | **E** |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 2♦ |
| 2♥ | 2♠ |
| 3♣ | 3♦ |
| 4♠ | 4NT |
| 5♠ | 6♦ |
| Pass | |

2♥ – 9-11 HCPs;
2♠ – game forcing;
3♣ – natural, hand description;
4♠ – shortage.

48.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 8<br>♥ K Q 10 6 5<br>♦ K Q 9<br>♣ J 10 6 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ J 9 4 2<br>♥ A J<br>♦ A J 10 4 3<br>♣ A Q |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 1♠ |
| 2NT | 3♦ |
| 4♦ | 5♣ |
| 5♠ | 6♦ |
| Pass | |

3♦ – natural, 5+ diamonds;
4♦ – suit agreement;

Here come the problems.

An easy 4♥ cue bid is a trap. Our 3♦ could mean looking for a better game contract. Partner should accept our 4♥ call as a contract proposal. This explains the somewhat risky 5♣ cue bid.

5♠ – indicates the ace and invites to a slam.

49.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 2♠ |
| 3♥ | 3♠ |
| 4♣ | 4♦ |
| 4♠ | 5♣ |
| 5♦ | 6♥ |
| Pass | |

2♦ – 9-11 HCPs;
3♥ – 6+ hearts;
3♠ – waiting, agrees hearts;
4♣ – shortage;
4♠ – cue bid bypassing game conveys information about an excellent hand within 9-11 HCPs;
5♣ – not so common a bidding concept called a controlled cue bid.

It consists in bidding a cue bid by the bidder at the helm. It may be even a false cue bid, below the suit, in which we need a control. Without the diamond king a heart slam has no sense.

50.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♥ | 2♣ |
| 3♠ | 4♣ |
| 4♥ | 4♠ |
| 6♣ | pass |

3♠ – due to the fact that 2♠ is a transfer to clubs as many as two calls are attributed to strong hands with hearts and spades:
3♥ – shows 5 hearts – 4 spades, without three clubs;
3♠ – 4-5-1-3 distribution and positive extras in power;
4♣ and 4♠ – is a timid slam attempt,
6♣ – excellent honours perk up.

# 4.6. OPENING 1♠ (SOLUTIONS OF THE BIDDING QUIZ FROM PAGE 37/47)

51.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A J 10 6 4<br>♥ 7 2<br>♦ K J 4 3<br>♣ 10 8 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K 8<br>♥ A 6<br>♦ A 10 5 2<br>♣ Q J 6 5 4 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 2♠ |
| Pass | |

2♠ – non-forcing.
2♥ is the only game-forcing waiting bid.

52.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 10 8 5 4<br>♥ 3<br>♦ 6 5 4<br>♣ Q 8 7 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q J 7 3<br>♥ J 10 9 7<br>♦ A K J<br>♣ A K |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 2♥ |
| 3♥ | 3♠ |
| 4♥ | 4NT |
| 5♥ | 6♥ |
| 6♠ | pass |

3♥ – transfer to spades (6+ spades), despite holding only 9 HCPs the hand cannot be considered as bad.

With a poor hand the bidding will go as follows:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 2♥ |
| 2♠ | 2NT* * – next waiting. |
| 3♥ | – transfer to spades, 6+ spades. |

Let's go back to other calls from quiz 52.

4♥ – shortage in hearts;
6♥ – if you have a void in hearts, bid a grand.

In this example I present a very handy agreement specifically for the lazy ones.

Instead of struggling with cue bids at the level of five we can launch the *Blackwood* convention and inquire about the void by bidding partner's short suit at the level of six. This concept however, has some limitations. The short suit must be below the agreed suit. The response with one ace will obstruct the possibility of checking the void in hearts. Bidding via a cue bid is, undoubtedly, better although intellectually more difficult.

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 2♥ |
| 3♥ | 3♠ |
| 4♥ | 5♣ |
| 5♥ | 5NT |
| ? | |

5♣ – cue bid;
5♥ – void;
5NT – asking for aces (five aces) will provide an answer to a question: are we getting to a small slam or to a grand?

After partner's 5♣, with one ace and without void in hearts, the response should be negative – 5♠. With two aces - positive – 6♠ (these considerations apply to 9-11 HCPs power range). This is not easy at all and requires imagination and understanding of partner's intentions.

53.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 9 6 4 3<br>♥ A 8 7 4<br>♦ 3<br>♣ Q 8 7 | **N**<br>**W** **E**<br>**S** | ♠ 8<br>♥ K Q 5<br>♦ A Q 7<br>♣ A K J 9 4 2 |

| **W** | **E** |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 2♥ |
| 2♠ | 3♣ |
| 3♥ | 3NT |
| 4♣ | 4♦ |
| 4♥ | 4NT |
| 5♠ | 7♣ |

3♣ – after two waiting bids we come back to a two-way exchange of information;
4♣ – fit in clubs.

54.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 9 5 3<br>♥ K J 6 5<br>♦ Q 9 6<br>♣ 3 | **N**<br>**W** **E**<br>**S** | ♠ Q J 10 8<br>♥ A 4 2<br>♦ A 10 8 2<br>♣ K Q |

| **W** | **E** |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2♥ | 2♠ |
| 3♣ | 4♠ |
| Pass | |

2♠ – after a positive response – forcing with a fit;
3♣ – shortage.

55.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♦ |
| 2♠ | 2NT |
| 3♥ | 3♠ |
| 4♦ | 4♠ |
| Pass | |

3♥ – transfer to spades, 6+ spades;
4♦ – shortage.

The doubts arise about the fact that opener's power has not been totally revealed. He could have the following hand, for instance:

♠ K Q 10 5 4 3 ♥ K 6 5 ♦ 5 ♣ K 7 4

And with such hand the slam is cold.

We may launch a waiting scheme of camouflage, which will supply more information.

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 2♥ |
| 3♥ | 3♠ |
| 4♦ | 4♠ |
| ? | |

Now we know about 9-11 HCPs power range.

56.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♥ |
| 3♣ | 3♦ |
| 3♥ | 3♠ |
| 3NT | pass |

The auction is totally natural. After a possible negative response from the opener, 2♠, we may easily pass. 2NT after 2♠ negative is forcing.

3NT – we have managed to show a half-stopper.

57.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 10 9 5<br>♥ 7 5 3<br>♦ 8<br>♣ K J 10 9 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q J 7<br>♥ A K 4 2<br>♦ Q 9 4 2<br>♣ Q 3 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 2♠ |
| 3♣ | 4♠ |
| Pass | |

2♠ – not forcing;
3♣ – tentative invitation.

58.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♦ |
| 3♦ | 3♥ |
| 3♠ | 4♣ |
| 4♦ | 4♥ |
| 4♠ | 4NT |
| 5♥ | 6♦ |
| Pass | |

3♦ – after all, with only 11 HCPs we should consider that the hand is worth agreeing the diamond suit.

Further bidding - natural.

59.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 2NT |
| 3NT | pass |

2NT – not forcing;
3NT – the spade sequence looks promising.

60.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 4♦ |
| 5♣ | 5♥ |
| 6♠ | pass |

An interesting bidding concept. 2♣ waiting allows us to check the openings and then a delayed splinter sets the opener's hand within the 9-11 HCPs range. Of course two key values out of five and the club king determine a slam.

5♣ cue bid was to check a possible void in diamonds. In such a case the bidding would go as follows:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 4♦ |
| 5♣ | 5♦ |
| 6♣ | ? |

Opposite a void in diamonds we would invite to a grand by bidding 6♣.

# 4.7 OPENING 1NT – SET ONE (SOLUTIONS OF THE BIDDING QUIZ FROM PAGE 38/48)

61.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A Q 10<br>♥ 7 6 4<br>♦ K 8 7 6<br>♣ K 3 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 6<br>♥ A K 9 8<br>♦ A 9 2<br>♣ A J 10 8 7 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 2♠ |
| 2NT | 3♠ |
| 3NT | pass |

2♠ – transfer to clubs;
2NT – no-trump oriented hand;
3♠ – shortage.

62.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 2♠ |
| 3♣ | 3♥ |
| 4♥ | 6♣ |
| pass | |

3♣ – suit oriented hand;
3♥ – shortage;
4♥ – maximum, all valuable honours are outside hearts.

63.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ K 7<br>♥ Q J 4<br>♦ A K 10 2<br>♣ 10 9 8 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A J 10<br>♥ A K 6 3<br>♦ Q 9 8 7 4<br>♣ 3 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 3♣ |
| 3♦ | 3NT |
| 4♣ | 4♥ |
| 4♠ | 4NT |
| 5♥ | 6♦ |
| Pass | |

3♣ – transfer to diamonds;
3NT – shortage in clubs;
4♣ – maximum, all honours are outside clubs.

64.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 2♠ |
| 3♣ | 3NT |
| Pass | |

2♠ – transfer to clubs;
3♣ – good hand;
3NT – shortage in diamonds.

65.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ K 8 7<br>♥ Q J 6<br>♦ K 10 4 2<br>♣ K 8 4 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 10 5<br>♥ A 10 5 2<br>♦ 7<br>♣ Q J 10 9 6 2 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 2♠ |
| 2NT | 3♣ |
| Pass | |

66.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 6<br>♥ J 9 8 2<br>♦ 9 6 3<br>♣ K Q 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ J 10 4 2<br>♥ K Q 5<br>♦ A K Q J 8<br>♣ J |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| 2♥ | 3♣ |
| 3♦ | 3♠ |
| 3NT | pass |

3♣ – transfer to diamonds;
3♠ – shortage in clubs.

67.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ 7 5<br>♥ J 9 4 2<br>♦ K Q 3<br>♣ A K J 5 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A K J 9<br>♥ —<br>♦ A 10 5<br>♣ Q 10 9 8 3 2 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| 2♥ | 2♠ |
| 3♣ | 3♥ |
| 4♣ | 4♥ |
| 4NT | 5NT |
| 7♣ | pass |

2♠ – transfer to clubs;
3♣ – encouraging;
3♥ – shortage;
4♣ – positive shortage, indicating a solid trump suit;
4♥ – void;
5NT – two aces + trump queen + one king.

68.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 3 2<br>♥ 6 4<br>♦ 4 3 2<br>♣ A J 9 8 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 8 7<br>♥ A K J 6<br>♦ A J<br>♣ K Q 4 3 2 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| 2♠ | 2NT |
| 3♣ | 4NT |
| 6♣ | pass |

2NT – transfer to clubs;
4NT – invitational, 2-4-2-5 shape;
6♣ – good quality honours, excellent fit, only two hearts.

69.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K J 8<br>♥ 7 6 3<br>♦ 4 3 2<br>♣ K J 7 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 3<br>♥ Q J 9 8<br>♦ A K J 10 9<br>♣ A Q 10 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| 2♠ | 3♣ |
| 3♦ | 3♠ |
| 3NT | pass |

3♣ – transfer to diamonds;
3♠ – shortage.

70.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ K 6<br>♥ Q J 10<br>♦ A K 4 2<br>♣ 10 8 6 4 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A J 6 5<br>♥ A K 9 3 2<br>♦ Q J 9<br>♣ 3 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 3♦ |
| 3♥ | 4♣ |
| 4♦ | 4♥ |
| 4NT | 5♣ |
| 6♥ | pass |

3♦ – transfer to hearts;
4♣ – shortage;
4♥ – careful invitation;
4NT – I have excellent distribution ( 2 spades, 3 hearts), high trumps for ruffing spades, excellent honour location, all this determines a slam, 4♦ bid – to check possible void in clubs.

# 4.8. OPENING 1NT – SET TWO (SOLUTIONS OF THE BIDDING QUIZ FROM PAGE 39/49)

71.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 10 5<br>♥ Q 6 3<br>♦ K Q 7 6<br>♣ K 3 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ J 9 6<br>♥ A K 4 2<br>♦ J 9 3 2<br>♣ Q J |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♦ |
| 2♥ | 2♠ |
| 3♣ | 3NT |
| Pass | |

2♦ – transfer to hearts (if to a four-card suit then invitational);
2♠ – inquiry about power, four hearts or +5♥- 4♦;
3♣ – maximum.

72.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A J 4<br>♥ Q 6 4<br>♦ K J 9 4 2<br>♣ Q 6 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K Q 8 7 5<br>♥ K J 9 7 3 2<br>♦ 5<br>♣ 2 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 4♣ |
| 4♦ | 4♥ |
| pass | |

4♣ – 6-5 distribution with both majors, no aspirations;
4♦ – bid your longer suit.

73.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ J 10<br>♥ Q 4<br>♦ A K 10 8<br>♣ Q J 9 8 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A K 5 4 2<br>♥ A 9 6 3 2<br>♦ Q<br>♣ 10 4 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 3♠ |
| 3NT | pass |

3♠ – 5-5, distribution with both majors, no aspirations.

74.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 6 5<br>♥ K 3<br>♦ K Q J 6 5<br>♣ J 9 7 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K Q J 9 8 7<br>♥ A J 5 4<br>♦ —<br>♣ K 8 6 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 3♥ |
| 3♠ | 4♦ |
| 4♠ | pass |

3♥ – transfer to spades;
4♦ – shortage.

75.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 10<br>♥ K J 6<br>♦ 10 4 2<br>♣ K Q 8 4 3 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K J 5 4<br>♥ A Q 10 8 4<br>♦ 7<br>♣ A J 5 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 3♦ |
| 3♥ | 4♦ |
| 4♠ | 4NT |
| 5♥ | 6♥ |
| pass | |

3♦ – transfer to hearts;
4♦ – shortage;
4♠ – enthusiastic response, cue bid bypassing the game level.

76.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 2<br>♥ J 9 8<br>♦ A J 9 6<br>♣ A 10 4 3 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K Q 9 8 3<br>♥ A K Q 5 2<br>♦ K 5<br>♣ J |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♥ |
| 2♠ | 3♥ |
| 4♣ | 4NT |
| 5♣ | 7♥ |
| Pass | |

3♥ – 5+ spades – 5 hearts distribution, slam aspirations;
4♣ – hearts agreeing cue bid.

77.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ J 8 6 3<br>♥ K 2<br>♦ K Q 3 2<br>♣ K 3 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 4 2<br>♥ A 8 7 6 4<br>♦ A J 10 5<br>♣ Q J |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♦ |
| 2♥ | 2♠ |
| 2NT | 3♣ |
| 3♦ | pass |

2♠ – inquiry about the opening power;
2NT – minimum;
3♣ – transfer to four diamonds;
3♦ – I can play such contract;
Pass – common sense.

78.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ 8 7 3 2<br>♥ A 4<br>♦ K 4 3 2<br>♣ A J 9 8 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 9<br>♥ K Q 6 3 2<br>♦ A Q J 9<br>♣ Q 4 2 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♦ |
| 2♥ | 2♠ |
| 2NT | 3♠ |
| 4♦ | 5♦ |
| Pass | |

2♠ – asking about strength;
2NT – minimum;
3♠ – shortage;
4♦ – suit agreeing;
5♦ – choice of the contract, disputable.

79.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ J 10 4 3<br>♥ A K<br>♦ K 4 3<br>♣ Q 10 7 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ —<br>♥ Q J 9 8 4 3<br>♦ A Q J 9<br>♣ K J 8 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♦ |
| 2♥ | 2♠ |
| 3♣ | 3♦ |
| 3♥ | 3♠ |
| 4♦ | 4♠ |
| 5♣ | 5♦ |
| 6♥ | pass |

3♣ – maximum;
3♦ – transfer to hearts;
3♠ – shortage;
4♦ – cue bid, precludes cue bid in clubs;
4♠ – void;
5♣ – queen of clubs, if the responder had club ace instead of jack, then an inquiry about the aces - 5NT would lead to the grand;
5♦ – humdrum cue bid exchange expresses concern about the trumps;
6♥ – I can’t have better trumps.

80.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A K 10<br>♥ Q 5<br>♦ A 9 4 2<br>♣ 10 8 6 4 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q J 6 5<br>♥ A K J 9 3 2<br>♦ K 9 3<br>♣ — |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 3♦ |
| 3♠ | 4♣ |
| 4♦ | 5♣ |
| 5♠ | 6♥ |
| pass | |

3♦ – transfer to hearts;
3♠ – no heart fit, reluctance to play a no-trump contract;
4♣ – shortage;
5♣ – void;
5♠ – inviting to slam.

# 4.9. OPENING 2♦ (SOLUTIONS OF THE BIDDING QUIZ FROM PAGE 40/50)

81.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 9 6 4<br>♥ K 10 9 5 4<br>♦ 5<br>♣ 9 6 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K 8<br>♥ A Q J 2<br>♦ Q 8 7 4<br>♣ A K Q |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♦ | 2NT |
| 3♦ | 3♥ |
| 3♠ | 4♣ |
| 4♠ | 4NT |
| 5♥ | 6♥ |
| pass | |

3♦ – transfer to hearts, indicating 5 hearts - 4 spades distribution;

3♠ – singleton in diamonds (4♦ - void);
In this case two shortages are out of the question.

4♠ – within the 6- 8 HCPs range we hold two key-card values out of five. We have to show our enthusiasm by provoking partner to launch *Blackwood*. A cue bid bypassing the game level shows our intentions.

82.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ K 9 6 4 2<br>♥ Q 7 3 2<br>♦ 10 9 7<br>♣ 3 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A Q J 10<br>♥ A K<br>♦ A 8 3<br>♣ K Q J 2 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♦ | 2NT |
| 3♣ | 3♦ |
| 3♥ | 3♠ |
| 4♣ | 4♠ |
| Pass; | |

3♣ – minimum, without 4-4 shape;
3♥ – transfer to spades, that is 5 spades – 4 hearts;
4♣ – shortage;
4♠ – it seems that a hand like the one below:

♠ K 9 6 4 2 ♥ Q J 3 2 ♦ 10 9 7 ♣ 3,

which practically makes a slam cold, partner would consider as a maximum.

83.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♦ | 3♣ |
| 3♦ | 3♠ |
| Pass | |

3♣ – bid 3♦, I shall make an invitational bid with a four-card fit.

84.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♦ | 2NT |
| 3♣ | 3♥ |
| 3♠ | pass |

3♣ – minimum;
3♥ – strongly invitational with a three-card fit;
3♠ – correction.

85.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ K J 8 7 3<br>♥ Q J 5 4 3<br>♦ 9 8 6<br>♣ — | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A 5<br>♥ A K 10 6<br>♦ A K J 5<br>♣ J 10 6 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♦ | 2NT |
| 3♠ | 3NT |
| 4♣ | 4♦ |
| 5♣ | 5♦ |
| 5♠ | 7♥ |
| Pass | |

3♠ – 5-5 shape, maximum;

3NT – agreeing hearts;
After a response indicating a maximum hand with 5-5 distribution, 3NT as a final contract is not possible. If that was the responder's intention he should have jumped to 3NT.

4♣ – shortage;

5♣ – void;

5♠ – slam inviting cue bid;

7♥ – It is hard to imagine that partner is inviting a grand without one major honour in trumps.

86.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♦ | 2NT |
| 3NT | 4♣ |
| 4♦ | 4♥ |
| Pass | |

3NT – maximum, 4 spades – 4 spades;
4♣ – agrees hearts;
Very optimistic hand evaluation. We can easily give up an attempt towards a slam.
4♦ – cue bid;
4♥ – I need a truly beautiful maximum.

87.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ Q 10 9 5<br>♥ Q 9 6 4 3<br>♦ 6 5 4<br>♣ 6 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A 8 3<br>♥ A K 10<br>♦ A J 10 8<br>♣ K 10 2 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♦ | 2NT |
| 3♣ | 4♣ |
| 4♦ | 4♥ |
| Pass | |

3♣ – minimum, without 4-4;
4♣ – bid your five-carder via transfer;
4♦ – as you wish.

88.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A Q 6 5 2<br>♥ 10 9 4 3<br>♦ J 7 5<br>♣ 7 | **N**<br>**W** **E**<br>**S** | ♠ 3<br>♥ A 8<br>♦ A K Q 10 6 4 3<br>♣ A J 8 |

| **W** | **E** |
|---|---|
| 2♦ | 3♦ |
| 3♠ | 3NT |
| 4♣ | 4♦ |
| 4♠ | 4NT |
| 5♦ | 5♠ |
| 5NT | 6♦ |
| Pass | |

3♠ – natural;
4♣ – shortage;
4♠ – cue bid;
5♠ – inquiry about the kings;
5NT – no kings.

89.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 9 8 4 2<br>♥ Q J 6 4<br>♦ 4<br>♣ 9 8 3 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ J 3<br>♥ A K 9 5 3<br>♦ A Q 6 5<br>♣ A K |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♦ | 2NT |
| 3♥ | 4♣ |
| 4♦ | 4♥ |
| 4♠ | 4NT |
| 5♦ | 6♥ |
| Pass | |

3♥ – transfer to spades;
4♣ – agrees hearts;
4♦ – cue bid, this time either an honour or a shortage;
4♥ – I need an excellent hand (within 6-8 HCPs and 5-4 distribution);
4♠ – cue bid, outstanding location.

90.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♦ | 3♣ |
| 3♦ | 3♥ |
| 4♥ | pass |

3♣ – bid 3♦;
3♥ – invitational.

# 4.10. OPENINGS 2♥ AND 2♠ (SOLUTIONS OF THE BIDDING QUIZ FROM PAGE 41/51)

91.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ Q 9 6<br>♥ K J 9 5 4<br>♦ 5<br>♣ Q 10 6 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A K J 10 8<br>♥ A 2<br>♦ J 8 7<br>♣ A K J |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♥ | 2NT |
| 3♣ | 3♠ |
| 4♦ | 4♥ |
| 5♥ | 6♠ |
| Pass | |

4♦ – shortage, a spade fit;

5♥ – cue bid, as soon as partner accepted the shortage, holding a maximum hand we have got to cue-bid at the level of 5. The only reason that prevents us from bidding a slam is a possibility of checking by partner whether we have void in diamonds. On a 0 to 10 scale the hand is ranking 8.

92.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ 4 2<br>♥ Q 10 6 3 2<br>♦ Q 10 9 7<br>♣ 3 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A Q<br>♥ A K 9 8<br>♦ A 8 3<br>♣ K Q 10 2 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♥ | 2NT |
| 3♦ | 3♥ |
| 4♥ | Pass |

3♥ – invitation to slam;
4♥ – super minimum, without a shortage.

93.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ 5 3<br>♥ K J 10 7 4<br>♦ 3<br>♣ Q J 10 8 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A K 8 4<br>♥ A 3<br>♦ J 6 5 4<br>♣ A K 5 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♥ | 2NT |
| 3♠ | 4♣ |
| 4♦ | 4♠ |
| 6♣ | Pass |

3♠ – good hand, 5 hearts – 5 clubs;
4♦ – shortage;
4♠ – cue bid, which requires an explanation.

Let us talk about cue bids. My approach is far from standard. It specifically can be observed in a situation when we deal with one-way flow of information. On this deal the responder with a very good hand has found out a lot about the shape and power of the opener and invited him to a slam by bidding 4♣. This is a bidding position in which the classical agreement concerning the rules of showing first and second round control does not make much sense. The captain of the ship sitting at the helm should have all the options to acquire all necessary information. To this end he may launch a relatively little-known mechanism, called a

controlled cue bid. 4♠ cue bid makes a slam depending on a heart control with the opener. It is not easy to accept the captain's decision.

In the classical system:

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♥ | 2NT |
| 3♠ | 4♣ |
| 4♦ | 4♥ |
| ? | |

Without a spade cue bid the opener bids an automatic 5♣. In this case, we may solve the problem by using 4NT as a cue bid – a missing link. I have not come across a Polish pair using a missing link cue bid. Worship of the *Blackwood* convention is overwhelming.

94.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♥ | 2NT |
| 3♣ | 3♦ |
| 3♠ | 4♦ |
| 5♣ | 6♦ |
| pass | |

3♦ – waiting
3♠ – shortage
4♦ – how about a diamond slam?
5♣ – I am most willing to talk, a club cue bid precluding a heart cue bid.

95.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♥ | 2NT |
| 3♣ | 3♦ |
| 3♠ | 3NT |
| Pass | |

3♦ – waiting;
3♠ – shortage.

96.

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

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♠ | 2NT |
| 3♦ | 3♥ |
| 3NT | pass |

3♦ – natural, precludes three hearts;
3♥ – waiting, often with 5+ hearts;
3NT – misfit.

97.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ Q J 10 9 5<br>♥ 9 3 2<br>♦ K Q 6 5<br>♣ 6 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A K 8 3<br>♥ A K<br>♦ A 10 8<br>♣ A 10 4 2 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♠ | 2NT |
| 3♠ | 4♣ |
| 4♦ | 4NT |
| 5♣ | 6♣ |
| 6♦ | 6♠ |
| 7♠ | Pass |

This is a complicated situation. Problems come from 3♠ response, which shows 5-3-4-1 distribution but deprive us of a comfort to enter the slam zone. We have three slam options. There are no problems with diamonds. This we can easily handle by bidding 4♦. Therefore 4♣ must be a flexible bid and does not determine, which suit is agreed – hearts or spades.

East hand can look as follows:

♠ 6
♥ A K Q 9 5
♦ A J 7
♣ A K 6 4

*Blackwood* is the only safe bid after 4♦ cue bid.

6♣ – invites to a grand;
6♦ – shows additional value;
6♠ – here comes the agreed suit;
7♠ – I gladly accept and invitation to a grand in spades.

However, if it turned out that hearts were an agreed suit I would not accept an invitation due to the poor fit.

98.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ A 10 6 5 2<br>♥ 4 3<br>♦ J 7 5 3<br>♣ Q 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 3<br>♥ A 8<br>♦ A K Q 10 6 4 2<br>♣ A K 8 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♠ | 2NT |
| 3♦ | 4♦ |
| 4♠ | 4NT |
| 5♦ | 5♠ |
| 5NT | 6♣ |
| 7♦ | pass |

4♦ – agreeing diamonds, call for cue bids;
4♠ – cue bid, precluding heart cue bid;
5♠ – asking about kings (5♥ - would be an inquiry about the trump queen);
6♣ – have you got the club queen by any chance?
7♦ – I've got it.

99.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ J 10 9 8 2<br>♥ 4<br>♦ J 4<br>♣ K J 9 8 3 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ Q 3<br>♥ A K J 9<br>♦ A 10 6 5<br>♣ A 4 2 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♠ | 2NT |
| 3♣ | 3♦ |
| 3♥ | 3NT |
| Pass | |

3♦ – waiting;
3♥ – shortage.

100.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ♠ J 10 8 4 2<br>♥ 10 2<br>♦ K Q 10 4 3<br>♣ 7 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ A Q<br>♥ A K Q J 8 3<br>♦ A J 5<br>♣ 10 6 2 |

| W | E |
|---|---|
| 2♠ | 2NT |
| 3♦ | 3♥ |
| 4♣ | 4♦ |
| 5♦ | 6♥ |
| Pass | |

3♥ – waiting;
4♣ – shortage, 5-2-5-1 shape;
4♦ – cue bid, I like this shortage;
5♦ – we showed 4-6 HCPs, five potential diamond tricks inclines us to bid at the level of five.