

# Michael Teaches: Game Forcing Calls

# What is a Game Forcing Bid?

- Auction can't stop until we reach game OR double the opponents
- What if I opened light?
  - Don't Pass!
- What if I hate my hand?
  - Don't Pass!
- What if my hand got worse because of fit?
  - Don't Pass!
- What if...
  - Don't Pass... UNLESS partner will get another chance to bid

# General Principle: Captaincy

- After partner makes a LIMITED bid, they can not typically game force
- Exceptions are when partner shows extra values (like after a 2C opener)

# Opening Bids: Getting to Game vs Game Forcing

- Opening bids that get you to games: 3NT\*, 4H, 4S, 5C and 5D  
\*Gambling
- These are all PREEMPTIVE, NOT “GAME FORCING”
- Know whether your bid is showing a good hand or just a lot of distribution

# Opening Bids

West	North	East	South
			?

West	North	East	South
			4♠



# Opening Bids

West	North	East	South
			?

West	North	East	South
			2♣



# Responder's First Bid

- There are some conventions that are game forcing: Splinters, Jacoby 2NT, 2/1 GF
- In competition, a new suit on the 3-Level is game forcing (some conventional exceptions exist)
- Jumping to game in a suit is preemptive
- Jumping to 3NT is descriptive

# Game Forcing?

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	?

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	2♦





# Game Forcing?

West	North	East	South
	1♥	1♠	?

West	North	East	South
	1♥	1♠	2♦



# Game Forcing?

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	?

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	2NT



# Game Forcing?

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	?

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	4♥



# Game Forcing?

West	North	East	South
	1♥	2♠	?

West	North	East	South
	1♥	2♠	3♦



# Opener's Rebid

- Jump-Shifts are game forcing
- Jumps to game show a particular type of hand
- Opener's jumps are NEVER weak

# Jump Shift

- When opener jumps one level in a new suit, that is game forcing
- If a reverse is available, a Jump-Shift does not exist
  - GENERAL BIDDING RULE: IF A BID OF A SUIT IS NATURAL AND FORCING AT THE LOWEST LEVEL, JUMPING MUST HAVE SOME SPECIFIC OTHER MEANING
- Jump Shifts to 3C do not need to be long club suits

Is this a Jump Shift?

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣
			?

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣
			2♠



Is this a Jump Shift?

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣
			?

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣
			1♠





Is this a Jump Shift?

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
			?

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
			3♣



Is this a Jump Shift?

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
			?

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
			4♥



# Responder's Rebid

- Game Forcing Convention: Fourth Suit Forcing
- Other game forcing calls:
  - New suit on 3-level after Stayman/Transfer
  - Any bid after partner's jump to 3 of their suit.
- Needs agreement: bids after partner's 2NT rebid

# Fourth Suit Forcing

- Fourth Suit Forcing is a great way to get into a game forcing auction
- Use Fourth Suit Forcing to find a fit OR with a hand that is too good to place the contract

# What is Your Call?

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	?

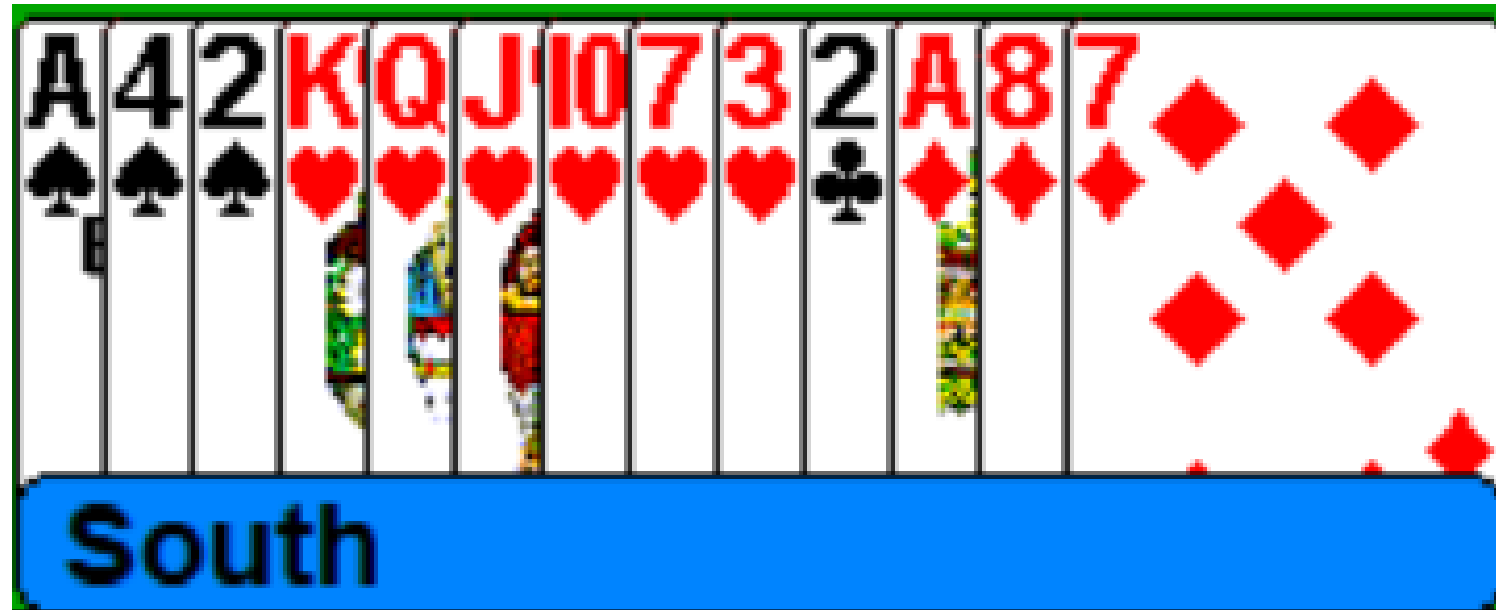
West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣



# What is Your Call?

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	?

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦



# What is Your Call?

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	?

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	3NT



Is it Game Forcing?

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	?

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦

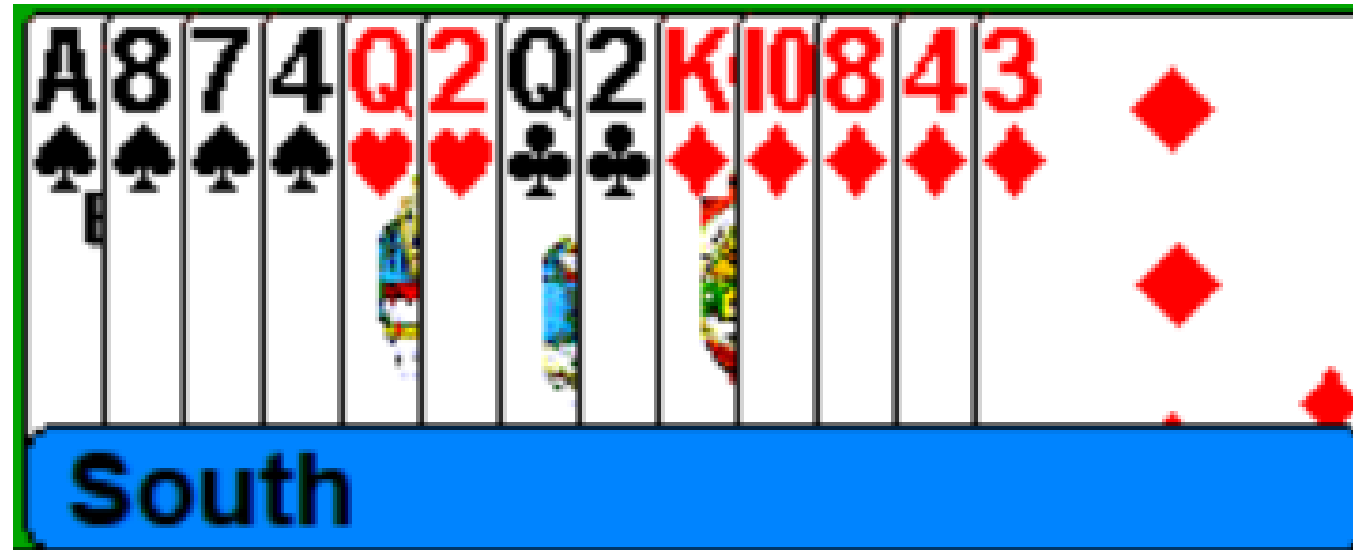




Is it Game Forcing?

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	?

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT



Is it Game Forcing?

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	?

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠



# Game Forcing by Default

- Once we have agreement in a major-suit, bidding past 3-of-our-major is game forcing
- Splinter bids (double jumps) are game-forcing