### **Responding to 1NT**

## By Neil H. Timm

Playing 2/1 with 5-card majors, many partnerships open 1NT with 15-17HCP and use Stayman and Jacoby Transfers.

With Stayman how do you define the bids  $2 \lor$ ,  $2 \diamondsuit$ ,  $2 \aleph$ , 2NT and  $3 \clubsuit$ ? With Jacoby transfers, what is the meaning of the bids  $2 \lor$ ,  $2 \bigstar$ , and 2NT after the sequence 1NT- $2 \diamondsuit$ ?

### Weak Hand less than 9HCP and a 4-card major

Responder employs Stayman with a weak hand and holds:

(1) 4-4/5-5 in the majors (2) 4 agent major with a 5 agent mine

(2) 4-card major with a 5-card minor(3) a hand with short clubs (e.g., 3-4-5-1)

# (a) After 1NT-2\* opener bids:

2 No 4-card major
2 ♥/2 ▲ 4/5 card major
2NT 4-4 in majors and 15HCP
3 ▲ 4-4 in the majors with 16-17HCP

If opener bids  $2 \blacklozenge$ 

Responder bids:

Pass to play

2♥\* Pick your best major (crawling Stayman)
 With 3-hearts opener passes with a minimum and with 3-spades bids 2▲.
 With a maximum and 3-3 in the major's bid 2NT
 Responder passes or bids 3♣/3 ♦ with 4441 or a 5-card minor
 After 2▲ and 4=5 in the majors bid 2NT (invitational)

2NT Transfer to 3♣

3. Transfer to  $3 \blacklozenge$ 

After 1NT - 2+; 2NT shows both majors

Opener bids:

3. transfer to diamonds

- $3 \blacklozenge$  transfer to hearts
- $3 \checkmark$  transfer to spades

#### (b) After 1NT -2♦^= transfer to hearts

Opener bids:

- 2♥ Minimum or two hearts
- 2NT\* Maximum with three hearts (Bell Convention)
- $3 \checkmark$  Maximum with 4/5 hearts

#### (c) After 1NT -2♥^= transfer to spades

- 2. Minimum or two hearts
- 2NT\* Maximum with three hearts (Bell Convention)
- $3 \bigstar$  Maximum with 4/5 spades

#### (d) After 1NT -2 A^= transfer to minor

Opener rebids 2NT with all minimum hands if he prefers diamonds and bids his long minor at the 3-level with a maximum.

^=an announcement
\*=aleert

#### Invitational hand 8/9HCP balanced hand

#### (a) After 1NT-2\*

Responder has

(1) 4 hearts and 5 spades (4=5)(2) 5 spades and a distributional hand

#### (b) After 1NT-2♦^

Responder has

#### (1) 4-4 in the majors

(2) 4-hearts, balanced or a longer minor

(3) 5+hearts

#### Strong hand 10+HCP balanced hand or a distributional 8-loser hand

(a) 1NT -2♣

- (1) Any balance hand with or without a 4-card major
- (2) At least 5-4 or 4-5 in the majors
- (3) One 5/4-card major or longer minor, but less than 4-cards in the other minor

If opener denes a major or opener bids 2M and responder does not have support, jump to 3NT.

If opener shows both majors by bidding 2NT, transfer to 3M and then bid game.

#### Minor suit Stayman

If opener has no 4-card major, or if opener bids 2M and responder does not have 4-card support Respond  $3 \blacklozenge$  to explore for a minor suit fit.

- (a) 1NT 2 + ; 2 + 3 + ; ?
  - $3 \bullet$  4/5 clubs, less than 4 diamonds
  - $3 \bigstar$  4/5 diamonds. less than 4-clubs
  - 3NT 4-cards in the minors
  - 4m 5-2 in minors with maximum
- (b) 1NT 2♣; 2M 3♦; ?
  - $3 \bullet 4 \text{ clubs}$
  - 3▲ 4 diamonds
  - 3NT no 4-card minor
- (c) 1NT 2; 2  $\bullet$  with 5-hearts
  - 3♣ GF 5+M

Opener may next bid 3M or 4m with a fit and slam interest With 2M bids 3NT or 3oM with 5 or bids  $3 \blacklozenge$  to ask for shortness

- 3♥ shortness other M
- $3 \bigstar$  shortness in clubs
- 3NT shortness in diamonds with game strength
- $3 \bullet$  5-5 with clubs
- $3 \bigstar$  5-5 with diamonds
- 3NT 5-3-3-2 opener bids 3NT/4M
- (d) 1NT 2♣; 2♦- 3♥
   5♠ and 4♥ smolen GF
   3♠ 5♥ and 4♠ smolen GF
   3NT no 4-card minor
- (e)  $1NT 2 \bigstar^* = both minors$

2NT = minimum hand

3 = pick a minor

3**♣**/3♦ weak

- (f) 1NT 2NT = balanced or semi-balanced (5422/6322)
  - $3 \bullet$  with hearts and too weak for NT
  - $3 \bigstar$  4-card suit
  - 5m to play
  - 4NT both minor

(g) 4441/5440 hands then  $1NT - 3 \blacklozenge = minor suit shortness and <math>3 \checkmark/3 \blacklozenge$  shortness

#### After 3♦-?

- 3♥ relay to 4-card major
- $3 \bigstar$  4-card suit
- 3NT strong minors
- 4m 4-hearts cue bid with maximum
- 4M 4-card support minimum

#### After 3♥ - ?

- 3▲ 4-card suit slam interest
- 3NT to play
- 4m 4-card support
- 4♠/5m to play minimum

#### After 3♠ - ?

- 3NT to play
- 4♣ 4-clubs/4-hearts
- $4 \mathbf{v} / 5 \mathbf{m}$  to play minimum
- (h) 1NT-4NT 16-17 with 4-card minor and 333 Opener responds aces and a rebid of 5NT= 2 aces missing Open er may pass, bid 6NT or 6 of a suit

The bidding sequences is a review of some bidding sequences in the book "Notrump Bidding - the Scanian Way", a book printed in Sweden (1990) Swedish Expert Methods Volume Two by Magnun Lindkvist, Mats Nisland and Anders Wirgren who live in the province of Scania.

Coping with interreference, artificial overcalls, high level overcalls; slam tries, and much more are covered in the book.

Playing 2/1: Opener ▲AK62 ♥Q873 ♦K96 ♣K Responder ▲93 ♥AK2♦A8754 ♣A94

Many may play in 3NT/4NT; however, using the Swedish methods the contract of  $6 \blacklozenge$  is easily achieved: 1NT - 2 $\clubsuit$ ; 2NT=both majors -3 $\clubsuit$ \*; 3 $\blacklozenge$ -3NT; 4 $\clubsuit$ - 4 $\blacktriangledown$ =0/3 aces; 4 $\bigstar$  =cue bid-6 $\blacklozenge$ ; Pass