BRIDGE – INTERMEDIATE LESSONS I – 39

Bidding When You Are a "*Previously-Passed*" Hand

1. **A new suit response to an opening bid by a "*previously-passed*" Partner is *not* forcing. 3rd or 4th position Opener knows that you had previously "*passed*," and that you, therefore, hold fewer than 12-13 HCP's. He/she can, therefore, make an informed decision as to whether or not any furtherance to the bidding is necessary.**

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Example:     East (You)    West (3rd Position Opener) AKXXX QXX QXXX X
             Pass           1S
              2H            ??     (With fewer than 14 HCP's, West
                                  can "pass" since Game is unlikely.)
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2. **Unless a Partnership is utilizing weak jump-responses, a jump-shift by a "*previously-passed*" Partner evidences the point count just short of an opening bid.**

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Examples:    South (You)   North
              Pass          1C
               ??

You Hold:   (a) AKXX XXX JXX XXX (Bid 1S, a Jump to 2S would show
                                 11-12 HCP's)
            (b) AKXX XX JXX KXXX (Bid 2S, evidencing 11-12 HCP's.)
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3. **In competition, with you having "*previously-passed*" with almost opening count, and with primary support for Partner, who has overcalled in 3rd position, make a *cue-bid* of the Opponent's suit in response to Partner's overcall. It shows 11-12 support points for Partner.**

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Example:    South (You)   West    North    East
               Pass       1H      2C       Pass
               ????

You Hold:   KQT XX QXX ATXXX (Bid "2H" to show Club support and just
short of opening count.)
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4. **With a 4-4-4-1 or a 5-4-4-0 shape, a "*previously-passed*" hand should "*double*" for Take-Out even with as few as 9 HCP's, if the Opponent's suit is your singleton or void.**

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Examples:    South (You)   West    North    East
              Pass         Pass    Pass      1H
              ??

You Hold:   (a) KJXX X KXXX KXXX ("Double" for Take-Out.)
            (b) KJXX - KXXXX QXX ("Double" for Take-Out.)
            (c) KXXX X KXXX QXXX ("Double" for Take-Out – It is close
           enough.)
            (d) KXX JXXX AXXX QX ("Pass" - You have 4 Cards in the
               Opponent's suit; i.e., the wrong shape.)
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5. **A *direct* overcall of "1-NT", by a "*previously-passed*" hand, after a Major suit opening by the Opponent's, is "Unusual" for the Minors. It is the same as a direct "2-NT" overcall by a hand that had *not* previously "*passed*."**

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You Hold:   X X QJXXXX AJXXX

Examples:    South    West(You)   North    East

(a)           1S       ??        (Bid "2-NT" – "Unusual" for the
   Minors. A 1-NT bid would have been natural; i.e., 15-18 HCP's.)
(b) (alternatively)    Pass        Pass    Pass
              1S       ??  (Bid "1-NT" – "Unusual" for the Minors.)
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Do not confuse (b) above with a "*Pass-out*" (4th-seat),"Balancing" 1-NT which evidences a balanced, or semi-balanced, hand (because, oft times, it might contain two doubletons), with as few as 9-14 HCP's, (a stopper in the Opponent's bid suit is not mandatory), usually denying the distributional requirements for a Take-Out Double, and done in desperation so as not to let the hand to be "*passed-out*" at a low-level. You Hold: AXX KJX QXXX QXX

Example:	South	West	North	East
				P
(a)	1H	P	P	??

(Bid 1-NT - Balancing, and natural. A Balancing "2-NT" would have been "*Unusual*" for the Two Lower-Un-bid suits.)

SUMMARY OF NO-TRUMP OPENINGS AND OVERCALLS:

1B = 1C or 1D or 1H or 1S

(a) Opening Bid:

?? (S.A.) 1-NT = Natural, 15-17 HCP's
(ACOL) 1-NT = Natural, 12-14 HCP's
2-NT = Natural, 21-22 HCP's
3-NT = "Gambling" 9-11 HCP's

(b) Direct(2nd Seat)Overcall:

1B ?? 1-NT = Natural, 15-18 HCP's
"2-NT"= "Unusual" (5-5)
(2-Lower Un-Bid suits)

(c) Balancing (4th Seat) Overcall:

1B P P ?? 1-NT = Natural, 10-14 HCP's
"Double"/1-NT = Natural, 15-17 HCP's
2-NT= Balanced, 19-20 HCP's

(The "Unusual 2-NT" does not exist in the Balancing {4th] seat)

(d) By a "*Previously-Passed*" Hand in the Direct (2nd) Position:

P
P P 1B ???

"1-NT" = "Unusual"
(2-NT = A non-existent bid)

(e) By a "*Previously-Passed*" Hand when Partner has Opened:

P
P 1B P ???

1-NT = Natural, 6-10 HCP's
2-NT = Natural, 11-2 HCP's over a Minor suit opening

(f) Following a weak 2-Bid or 3-Bid By an Opponent:

2B/3B ??? 2-NT = Natural, 15-17 HCP's
3-NT = Natural, to play, game, or near game values

6. **After an intervening overcall over your Partner's opening bid, and assuming you to be a "*previously-passed*" hand, the cue-bid of the Overcaller's suit substitutes for a limit raise showing 11-12 HCP's, the simple raise is natural showing 6-10 HCP's, and the jump-raise becomes pre-emptive.** Examples:

South(You)	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1H	2C
??			

You Hold: (a) XX AQXX KJXX JXX (Bid "3C" - a cue-bid to show a limit raise, 11-12 HCP's in support of Hearts.)
(b) XX AQXX XXXX JXX (Bid 2H, natural.)
(c) QXX QXXX KXX JXX (Bid 3H - Pre-emptive.)