## How the bidding works, Opening 1NT

## - New terms met in this lesson



Practice Beginning Bridge Set 1 - page 6 can be used after this lesson

## Responses to 1NT

## - New terms met in this lesson

| ethics jump bid | game force jump shift |  | game try forcing <br> maximum three-level |  | invitational two-level | Yarborough |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\bigcirc$ | Lesson | Pla |  |  |  |  |
| Activity | Method Time |  | Notes on activities |  |  |  |
| Revision P31 | Q\&A | 10 | Go through homework |  |  |  |
| Opening and responding to 1 NT TR12 (T39) | CHAT or CDL | 15 | - Reminder to open 1NT on all 12-14 balanced hands <br> - Responses on balanced hands, worked out from 25+ points for game <br> - Bidding game in a major <br> - Jump shift to offer choice of games <br> - Weakness takeout |  |  |  |
| Bidding practice TR13 (T40) | QUIZ | 15 | Exercise on responding to 1NT |  |  |  |
| Go over quiz | DISC | 15 |  |  |  |  |
| Break | 10 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1NT openings TR14 ((T42),(B2H1)) | PLAY | 50 | Use Hands 1-4, to bid, play and score These can be made up at the table if not done in advance |  |  |  |
| Review | RECAP | 5 | Summarise the types of bid responder can make: <br> Pass, weakness takeout, three-level, four-level Make sure students understand when to use each reply. |  |  |  |
| Try This P31 | QUIZ |  | Same quiz as last week, but can you do this on your own at home after this week's lesson? |  |  |  |
| Next time |  |  | Playing in a suit to get a less worse score. |  |  |  |
| Book pages |  |  | P25-29. Point out P30, the summary sheet, which could usefully be learned by heart! |  |  |  |

[^0]
## - New terms met in this lesson

weakness take out

## - Lesson Plan

| Activity | Method | Time | Notes on activities |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Revision P31 | Q\&A | 10 | Go through homework |
|  | PLAY | :90 | Play hands TR14 <br> 8 hands to practice opening 1 NT and responses |
| Break |  | 10 |  |
| Review |  | 10 | Just go through some of the main points, if not covered as you go along. |
| Next time |  |  | Bidding when we cannot open 1NT. |
| Book pages |  |  | Re-read P25 to 30 on opening 1NT and responses |

## An Introduction to Bidding - How to teach this topic

| Difference between MiniBridge and Bridge | Describe these, pointing out that the main difference is how the contract is decided - we are not allowed to look at partner's hand before deciding what trumps are or NT and whether to go for game. Emphasise that the play is identical and the scoring very similar so all they have already learned will be useful. |
| :---: | :---: |
| What is bidding? | Show how bidding works using a bidding box. Just one on the table stops people making an insufficient bid. Put more formally: <br> - a 'bid' is a number from 1 to 7 followed by a 'denomination' <br> - to be legal the bid must outrank all previous bids <br> - a 'call' is any bid or a 'pass' <br> - bidding starts with the dealer <br> The auction finishes when three consecutive passes follow a bid OR if all four players pass at their first turn to bid. <br> Point out the vocabulary is limited to just 13 or 14 words. Don't even think of mentioning double or redouble yet. These are: <br> One; Two; Three; Four; Five; Six; Seven; No Trumps; Spades; Hearts; Diamonds; Clubs; Pass (or No Bid). |
| Take it slowly | Don't talk for too long; this is a topic we will revisit often so there is no need to say everything in the first or second lesson on bidding. No trump bidding is easier learnt in practice than in theory. This material is still very early in the students' learning. Don't do more than they can cope with, cut some parts or spread the material over more time. Hands 1 to 8 on TR14 are there for further practice. We cannot afford to lose people early on. Watch their faces to see how it's going. |
| Bidding boxes | Try to use bidding boxes from the very start, if available. It helps the deaf, the dumb, the foreign students as well as everybody with poor memories. Show bidding boxes with the bids displayed on the cards (bidding boxes are one reason we prefer pass to No Bid, it is what the green card says). It reminds all players of the auction to date. Teachers can see at a glance what has happened. Tell students that they can get the score from the back of the bidding card. Only one bidding box is actually needed per table if you don't have enough. Students remove all the bids up to and including the one they are making, so the box should not get in a muddle. This prevents insufficient bids and emphasises that each bid is greater than the previous one. <br> A bidding box nicely illustrates the bidding ladder. <br> For the early lessons remove the double ( X ), redouble ( XX ) and alert cards. Leave the 'Stop' card in and use it properly from the first instance of its occurring. |
| Language of bridge | Because of limited vocabulary, we code our messages. The first message to be learned is 1 NT, which says 'I have a balanced hand with 12,13 or 14 points and no 5 -card major'. Balanced means - no void, singleton, at most one doubleton. So it includes 5 -card suits but we usually only open 1NT with minors. |
| After 1NT opened | Do not give rules for responder. Let the students work it out. Don't rush the first hand, take it slowly, and make every student think. |


| The first bidding lesson is intuitive | - Put the hand that has to make a bid on the table, so that all can share in the problem solving. Pick it up after making the bid. When playing the hand, only the dummy should be visible <br> - Students should discover how to respond to a 1 NT opening using the definition of a 1NT opener. Encourage discussion about each bid. Ask others what the auction has shown so far when it is their turn to bid <br> - After the hand is played, write down the auction on the board. It is the first time the notation is used. Explain it. Review the auction <br> a You needn't play the hand; just count the tricks available together <br> - We don't want students to learn a set of rules, we want them to be able to work out what to bid (they forget the rules) |
| :---: | :---: |
| The auction after partner opens 1NT <br> The second/third bidding lesson is a more formal presentation | KEEP THIS SIMPLE; DON'T SAY MORE THAN YOU HAVE TO. <br> The choices open to responder are to: <br> - pass when balanced and less than 11 HCP <br> - bid game in a major with 6 or more and enough points <br> - bid 3NT with $13+$ HCP or try for game with 2NT and 11-12 HCP <br> - investigate alternative games by bidding $3 \vee$ or $3 \wedge$ with five <br> - weak takeout to a suit - students find it hard to see why they should bid with nothing. Call it 'damage limitation' <br> - With long minors and values, bid 3NT and hope it makes! <br> We revisit bidding over 1NT later in the course, this is enough for now. |
| More to come | You can say that there is more to bidding over 1NT than we have learned. It comes later in the course. This may come up as a question because some students have played a bit before and have heard of Stayman. Don't be drawn further unless you are totally confident in the ability of all students (not just the noisy ones). |
| Ethics | - Don't pull faces (act out happy and cross expressions to show what you mean) <br> - Try to bid in an even tempo, again acting fast and slow passes to show hands with values and hands with nothing |
| Provide lots of reassurance and support | Remind the students, who may be rather daunted at this stage, <br> a Everybody was a beginner once, so we all understand it's hard to do things quickly <br> - You don't have to get the answers right! <br> - Make sure you understand what has happened <br> - Ask for help if you haven't a clue what they should do <br> You are trying to ensure that students know what they are aiming for even if they are not yet able to achieve it! If you have very slow students, it is probably true that the appearance of thought actually shows they haven't a clue what to do! Help them to talk through the problem with the rest of the table. If students are stuck, try to elicit the options rather than telling. Get the rest of the table to help them. |

Summary of Resource Materials

| Activity | Resource Materials | Book <br> Page |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Responses to 1NT | Quiz | 31 |
| 1NT opening | B2H1 Hands 1 to 4 | 33 |

## Summary of Teacher's Materials

| Activity | Resource Materials | Ref | Teacher's <br> page |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Hands suitable to open 1NT | Quiz for OHP or board | TR10 | T38 |
| Hands not suitable for 1NT | Quiz for OHP or board | TR11 | T39 |
| Responses to a 1NT opening <br> bid | CDL | TR12 | T39 |
| Hands to bid with partner | 8 hands that start with 1NT | TR13 | T40 |
| Opening 1NT practice hands | B2H2 Hands 1 to 8 | TR14 | T42 |

## Summary of hands to play

| Hand | Bidding | Play points | Dec. | Other points |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| P33 | Opening 1NT | Hands for first bidding lesson |  |  |
| 1 | Raise of 1NT to 3NT | 9 tricks on top | N | 25 points for game |
| 2 | Jump to 4• directly | 11 tricks if ruffed | W | 1NT has 2+vs |
| 3 | Raise to 2NT | Drive out * A | S |  |
| 4 | Weak takeout | 8 tricks can be made | E |  |
| TR14 (T42) | Responding to 1NT | Second lesson on bidding after 1NT |  |  |
| 1 | Jump to 3^ |  | E |  |
| 2 | Weak takeout to vs | Drive out * A | W |  |
| 3 | Jump to 3- | Drawing trumps | N |  |
| 4 | Jump to game in a s | Drawing trumps | S |  |
| TR14 (T43) | Responding to 1NT | Extra hands, for third lesson on 1NT or revision. |  |  |
| 5 | Pass 1NT | 7 tricks on top | S |  |
| 6 | Weak takeout | Opening lead | N |  |
| 7 | 2NT response | Drive out \&A first | E |  |
| 8 | Bidding a slam | 13 top tricks! | W |  |

## TR10

 Hands that open 1NT - Why?| ^A 753 | - Q J | - A Q 85 | - Q J 54 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - J 76 | - A 72 | - A 75 | - Q 1062 |
| - K 43 | -KQ986 | - J 9 | - A 4 |
| * A J 2 | - Q 109 | - K 1084 | * K 96 |

Answers (1)13 - average
(2) 14 - max
(3)14-max
(4) 12 - min
^A 8753

- J 6
- K 43
- A J 2

ค Q J

- A 7
- KQ986
- Q 1092

ค A Q 85

- A 765
- J
* K 1084
- Q J 54
- Q 1062
- K 4
- AK 9

Answers (1) 5-card major (2) two doubletons (3) singleton diamond (4) 15 points

## TR12

## Responses to a 1NT opening bid

- Ask the questions in columns 2-4 to get the facts
- Get suggestions as to what the response should be
- Agree the best answer
- Make the changes shown in the last column
- Repeat the above with the new hand

|  | New Hand | How many points? | Is hand balanced? | What are our side's points? | What bid over 1NT? | Make changes |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | A J 1063 <br> - KQ 7 <br> - 9852 <br> - J 10 | 7 | Yes | 19-21 | Pass | Change $\text { - } 52 \text { to } \mathrm{AK}$ |
| 2 | - J 1063 <br> - KQ 7 <br> - AK 98 <br> * J 10 | 14 | Yes | 26-28 | 3NT | Change $\text { a } 3 \text { to } * K$ |
| 3 |  | 17 | Yes | 29-31 | 3NT not enough to try for slam | Change <br> * $K$ to * 9 <br> - $K$ to ${ }^{-7}$ |
| 4 | ค J 106 <br> - K Q 7 <br> - A 987 <br> * J 109 | 11 | Yes | 23-25 | 2NT just worth a game try | - J to -2 |
| 5 | - J 106 <br> - KQ 7 <br> -A 987 <br> - 1092 | 10 | Yes | 22-24 | Pass maximum for a pass | Change <br> -KQ to 65 |
| 6 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { \& J } 106 \\ & \text { ト } 7 \\ & \text { A } 98765 \\ & +1092 \end{aligned}$ | 5 | No | 17-19 | 2 . Weak takeout | Change <br> - 9876 and 42 to <br> $\bullet A K Q J 9$ |
| 7 | - J 106 <br> - AKQJ97 <br> - A 5 <br> + 109 | 15 | No | 27-29 | Just bid game | Change <br> $\checkmark$ Q to $\leqslant 6$ |
| 8 | ค J 106 <br> - AKJ 97 <br> - A 65 <br> * 109 | 13 | Yes but it has a 5 -card major | 25-27 | 3 ask partner to choose | Change <br> $\rightarrow$ J10 to $\vee$ Q10 <br> *109 to \#AK |
| 9 | - 6 <br> - AKQJ1097 <br> -A 65 <br> *AK | 21 | No | 33-35 | 6 | Bid your first slam! |

Practice opening 1NT and responding to a 1NT opening.
Cover up partner's hand - just look at your own cards.

| WEST HANDS |  | EAST HANDS |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| คA 75 <br> - Q 98 <br> - K 63 <br> - AJ 62 | 1 West dealer | 1 West dealer | - 964 <br> - J54 <br> - Q J 109 <br> * K Q 3 |
| ค A 75 <br> - Q 98 <br> - K 63 <br> - AJ 62 | 2 East dealer | 2 East dealer | - K 96 <br> - J 54 <br> - Q J 109 <br> * K Q 3 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { \& K Q J } 7 \\ & \bullet 986 \\ & \bullet \text { A } 76 \\ & * Q 94 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | 3 West dealer | 3 West dealer | - A 52 <br> - J 1053 <br> -K 32 <br> - A 107 |
| - KQJ7 <br> - AQ 2 <br> - A 76 <br> $\because K Q J$ | 4 East dealer | 4 East dealer | A A 52 <br> -K 1053 <br> -K32 <br> - A 107 |
| - A 52 <br> - J 1053 <br> - K Q 2 <br> *A 107 | 5 West dealer | 5 West dealer | - KQJ7 <br> - 986 <br> - A 76 <br> * Q 94 |
| ^K QJ753 <br> - A 62 <br> - 87 <br> -K 5 | 6 East dealer | 6 East dealer | - 102 <br> - K 53 <br> - A 962 <br> * A Q 97 |
| - K Q J 7 <br> - A 62 <br> - 87 <br> -K 953 | 7 West dealer | 7 West dealer | -A 52 <br> -K 10953 <br> -K2 <br> - A 107 |
| ヘ 75 <br> - J 9865 <br> -432 <br> + 1092 | 8 East dealer | 8 East dealer | - J J 6 <br> - Q 42 <br> - AK 75 <br> -K J 87 |
| - 86 <br> - A Q J 3 <br> - AJ5 4 <br> * Q 107 | 9 West dealer | 9 West dealer | - K 10432 <br> $\bullet 86$ <br> - K Q 3 <br> - AK 2 |


| TR13 |  |  | Exercise on Beginning Bidding - answers |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | WEST | EAST |  |
| 1 | 1NT | pass | East has nothing to bid with nine points and a balanced hand. |
| 2 | 3NT | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 1NT } \\ & \text { pass } \end{aligned}$ | West can raise straight to 3NT with fourteen points, knowing that the partnership has at least 26 points between the two hands. |
| 3 | 1NT pass | 2NT | East has twelve points, game is possible. 2NT asks partner to bid 3NT with a maximum. West has only 12 points, so passes 2 NT . Even eight tricks are not entirely certain on this deal. |
| 4 | 6NT | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 1NT } \\ & \text { pass } \end{aligned}$ | West has 22 points. He knows East must have 12-14 points, so that there must be 34-36 points between the two hands. East/West must be able to make twelve tricks and West should say 6NT. |
|  |  |  | Bidding a contract at the six level is called a small slam. If game in 3NT, taking twelve tricks, is worth a score of +490 , then a small slam of 6NT scores +990, an extra bonus of 500. |
|  |  |  | If West held 25 or more points, then West would know the partnership held at least 37 points between them. He would then have said 7NT - a grand slam. |
| 5 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 1NT } \\ & \text { 3NT } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 2NT } \\ & \text { pass } \end{aligned}$ | This time it is East who asks partner the question, but with 14 points West is able to bid 3NT. Nine tricks should make, either by the defence helping you in establishing a second club trick, or if the defence do not lead clubs, declarer can play hearts every time he gains the lead and eventually a winner gets set up. |
| 6 | 4* | 1NT pass | West has six spades and thirteen points. Quite enough to jump straight to game. |
| 7 | $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathrm{NT} \\ & 4 \vee \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3 \downarrow \\ & \text { pass } \end{aligned}$ | East is not sure whether to play in hearts or no trumps. With fourteen points the partnership must choose one game or the other. $3 v$ asks partner which game to play in. With three hearts West chooses to play in $4 \boldsymbol{v}$. |
| 8 | 2 | 1NT <br> pass | West has an awful hand but it might take a few tricks if hearts are trumps. Limit the possible damage on the hand and bid $2 v$. |
| 9 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 1NT } \\ & \text { 3NT } \end{aligned}$ | 3n pass | West is not sure whether to play in spades or no trumps $3 \boldsymbol{n}$ asks partner to choose. With only two spades West chooses 3NT. |

TR14 1NT opening practice hands - B2H2

|  | Board $1:$ Dealer North   <br> West North East South <br>  Pass 1NT Pass <br> 3A Pass 3NT All Pass <br> North passes, East with 12 points bids 1NT and South passes. West with 14 points knows that East/West should bid game but is not sure whether in spades or NT, so bids 3 ato ask partner. With only two spades, East bids 3NT. South leads $\downarrow$. Win the jack and count your tricks. Playing on clubs sets up two winners with two spades, three hearts and two diamonds. |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Board 2: Dealer EastWest <br> North East$\quad$South <br> PassAll Pass |
|  | Board 3 : Dealer South    <br> West North East South <br>    1 NT <br> Pass $3 \vee$ Pass $4 \downarrow$ <br> All Pass    <br> When partner opens 1NT, North knows North/South should be playing in game. But maybe hearts will be better than no trumps, so North bids $3 \boldsymbol{v}$ to consult partner. South with three hearts bids $4 \vee$. A good decision, as 3NT should not make (look at the diamonds). Even though East has a trump trick, there are only three losers, two diamonds and one heart. Count your tricks to check. |
|  | Board 4 :Dealer West <br> West <br>  <br> North East South  <br> Pass 1NT Pass $4 \uparrow$ <br> All Pass    <br> South has 12 points and a good 6-card spade suit. When partner opens 1NT, showing 12-14 and at least two spades, just bid 4 a . It must be the best game. West probably leads a heart. South ruffs the second heart and plays trumps. Remember to draw all three rounds of trumps (count to 13) and you should make eleven tricks, since you can throw the losing club on the long diamonds. |

TR14 1NT opening practice hands - B2H2

| ^ 986 <br> - AK86 <br> - 2 <br> -J7654 | 3 <br> . 542 <br> - 943 <br> - AKQ94 $\therefore 92$ <br> 7 | A simple auction since North does not have enough points to open the bidding or to bid over 1NT. West should lead $\boldsymbol{\sim} 5$, fourth highest of the longest suit. South plays hearts and sets up a heart trick to go with four spades and three clubs. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - Q6 <br> - A1096 <br> - J874 <br> $\because A Q 10$ | 43 <br> $\rightarrow$ K52 <br> - K742 <br> -A 1093 <br> $\because 52$ | Board 6: Dealer East    <br> West North East South <br>   Pass 1NT <br> Pass $2 \wedge$ All Pass  <br> North will not want to make a bid on only 3 HCP, but it must be better to play the hand in spades. East can lead a doubleton club and get a ruff. But the defence can take only three more tricks: $\mathrm{A}, \mathrm{A}$ and a spade. One off is far better than South could have done in 1NT. |
| ^AJ9 <br> - J95 <br> - 976 <br> -KQ94 | nKQ62 <br> - A 106 <br> - A 10 <br> -J1085 <br> 3 | Board 7: 7 : Dealer South    <br> West North East South <br>    Pass <br> Pass <br> 1NT Pass 2NT  <br> Pass 3NT All Pass  <br> West passes originally but raises 1NT to 2NT. This shows 11 or 12 points and, since East is a maximum, it is right to bid 3NT. Declarer makes at least nine tricks by playing on clubs as soon as he gets the lead. Even if South leads $\downarrow 2$, declarer loses just three diamonds and $\because A$. |
| - Q3 <br> - A984 <br> - QJ65 <br> -AJ10 | ^AKJ2 <br> -KQ3 <br> -AK32 <br> *Q7 | Board 8: 8 : Dealer West    <br> West North East South <br> 1NT Pass 6NT All Pass <br> It will take East a long time to count all those points as 22 is more than usual. Knowing that East/West must have at least 34 points, but not as many as 37, a brave East bids 6NT and a nervous West can take all thirteen tricks when the hearts break 3-3. |


[^0]:    Practice Beginning Bridge Set 2 - page 20 can be used after this lesson

