

## 12) Response to 1 major opening with 3 cards support and competitive, inviting or G.F. hand

When partner opens 1 in a major (5+ cards), and we have a 3 cards support with 5-11 HCP, it is absolutely necessary to diversify our response depending on our handstrength. In order to do so it is necessary to:

**a)** Split the ample HCP range into two segments 5-8 and 9-11.

**b)** In case we have a limit point range of 9-11, we ought to give partner, in case his hand has a 12-13 point range, the possibility to make a further check in order to decide whether to stop at 3 level or to conclude at 4 in the major.

Over partner 1♥ opening bid, we shall respond 2♦ with 5-8 HCP and 3 cards support or 6♦ and 6-11 HCP. Opener with 11-15 HCP, would bid 2♥ over which we shall pass. Opener with a reverse hand (16-18) will bid 3♥ over which we will decide final contract

With 3 cards support and 9-11 HCP we will instead bid 2♥, over which opener will go to 4♥ with adequate HCP and/or shape, or will make additional enquiry with a limit hand of 12-13 HCP.

With a limit hand (12- 13 HCP) opener over 2♥, will bid 3♣, 3♦, 2NT to show a singleton / void ( S/V ) respectively in ♣, ♦ or ♠: if the S/V would turn out to be useful to responder, for instance in front of a bare doubleton, the latter will conclude at 4♥. If instead the North S/V would be useless to responder, the latter will conclude at 3♥.

When opener over 2♥, bids 2♠, this bid forces responder to bid a 2NT relay over which opener will bid 3♣, 3♦, 3♥ showing a 4 carder, respectively ♣, ♦ and ♠ where he needs some honours from responder in order to eliminate losers.

Responder with a couple of honours in the required suit will conclude at 4♥ while without honours will settle for 3♥.

In this way we try to make a viable decision when opener has 12-13 HCP, responder got 10-11 and an 8 trumps fit, where to stop at 3 or to bid game can really make a difference.

Let us see 3 examples:

**W    N    E    S**

p    1♥    p    2♦ = 5-8 HCP with 3 cards fit or 6+♦ and 6-11HCP.

p    2♥    p    p = 3 cards fit with 5-8 HCP

3♦ = 6+♦ with 6-11 HCP

**W N E S**

p 1♥ p 2♥ = 9-11 HCP and 3 cards fit

p 2NT = I have S/V in ♠ does it suits you to go to 4♥?

3♣ = I have S/V in ♣ does it suits you to go to 4♥?

3♦ = I have S/V in ♦ does it suits you to go to 4♥?

**W N E S**

p 1♥ p 2♥ = 9-11 HCP with 3 cards fit.

p 2♠ p 2NT= forced relay

p 3♣ = if you have a couple of honours in ♣ go to 4♥

p 3♦ = if you have a couple of honours in ♦ go to 4♥

3♥ = if you have a couple of honours in ♠ go to 4♥

The above bidding sequence is certainly useful in deciding the bidding level for all of those limit hands where it is easy to over or under-bid. In case responder would have a 3 cards support and a G.F. hand , response will simply be 2♣ = G.F. hand with or without ♣ over which opener has got only the following 3 re-bids:

**N S**

1♥ 2♣

2♥ = I have 6♥.

2NT= 5♥ with 332

2♠ , 3♣ , 2♦ = 5♥ with 4+♠, ♣ or ♦ on the side.

Opener, in his re-bids over 2♣ response, does not make any difference between 11-15 and 16-18 HCP.

NB: All bidding sequences seen over 1♥ opening, are perfectly similar to those over 1♠ opening.