

6)Response to 1NT with minors 5-5 and competitive or G.F. hand

Also in this case we ought to be able to diversify the bidding according to our hand strength.

Let us see how to handle a competitive hand:

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♠ 5	It is intuitive that if South passes over partner 1NT, his contribution in terms of tricks, could be close to zero. In
♥ 4 2	case of a trump contract denominated in a minor suit,
♦ K 10 9 7 3	South hand could contribute with quite a few tricks and there would not be any entry problem . South will jump
♣ Q 8 7 6 5	bid 3♣ = minors 5-5 in a competitive

hand over which North will pass or correct to 3♦.

The question we have to ask ourselves is the following: with South hand, do we stand more chances in playing in 1NT or rather at 3 level in a minor? As we all know, bridge probabilities have been studied throughout by analysts mainly after it has been possible to analyse thousands of hands in few minutes thanks to computer generated hands. The answer to our legitimate question is therefore available: in the great majority of cases a contract at 3 level in a minor has more chances to give a better result than a contract of 1NT. This statement does not exclude that in some rare cases it would be possible to maintain a 1NT contract while a 3 in a minor contract would fail.

Bridge is a game of probabilities and whenever we decide to play in a given contract we make a bet. When we make a bet we certainly want to have the odds in our favour so, with hands like the one shown above, we shall play a 3 minor contract and, on the long run, we will be ahead of those playing in 1NT.

In case of having 5-5 in minors and GF hand things would go:

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♠ K 7	In this case it is out of question to pass over 1NT.
♥ 8	We have instead to describe our hand as accurately as possible, in order to reach the best contract without
♦ K Q 9 7 3	discarding a slam possibility. We shall then jump bid 3♦
♣ A J 10 6 5	= minors 5-5 with G.F. hand, over which opener will re-

bid as follows :

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1NT 3♦ = minors 5-5 G.F.

3NT= conclusive with stoppers in both majors.

4♣ = chooses ♣ as trump

4♦ = chooses ♦ as trump