

High-Level Bidding

Lesson Content

- This lesson includes sacrificing over an opponent's game bid and discusses the scoring for doubled contracts.
- It also includes whether to bid on, pass or double when they compete over our game bid, with reasons for all these options.

Main Points to Emphasise

1. When we sacrifice over opponent's known game bid
 - Only bid at the 4/5-level with a known fit
 - Always check the vulnerability and know how many down you can afford to go if doubled
 - If you are in doubt about their game making, it is risky to bid on
 - It is usually right to bid 4♠ over 4♥ with a fit
 - Once you push them to the 5-level you usually don't bid again unless you have extreme shape
2. When opponents compete over our game bid
 - Usually the hand that bids game makes the decision
 - If in doubt, pass and let partner decide what to do – pass is forcing for partner to either double or bid again if you are vulnerable and they are not. If not vulnerable, partner may pass.
 - Reasons to bid on – extra length/fit, good controls (aces, void) double fits
 - Reasons to double – poor quality in our fit, balanced shape, misfits, honours in their suit.

Sometimes you are not sure whose contract it is and there may be game both ways. Take into account the vulnerability as well as the factors in the list above.

After a 4♥ or 4♠ opener you may compete as described – this is covered in more detail in INTERMEDIATE LESSON 10

Lesson Progression

- Discuss the general principles of sacrificing
- Go through the scoring for doubled contracts going down
- Discuss the different actions available when we have the balance of the points – if we have bid a vulnerable game then pass is forcing for partner to take some action.
- Give hand examples showing bidding to the 5-level with extra length, with a void and with a double fit (you can use some hands from the play or Quiz)
- Give hand examples of passing and letting partner decide
- Give examples when you should double and tell partner your hand is not suitable for the 5-level and you want to “take the money”
- Play the hands