

## REVISION EXERCISE 5

### QUIZ ANSWERS AND COMMENTARY

1. Partner opens 1NT and you bid 2♣ Stayman. Partner rebids 2♥. What is your rebid?



Partner has bid the suit you wanted – hearts. We know our rebid is in hearts but will it be 3♥ or 4♥?

The 3♥ bid in support of opener would normally show 10–12 total points, whereas 4♥ would show 13+ TPs. To calculate total points, we add 11 HCPs to one ruffing point for the diamond singleton making 12 TPs in all. Our rebid is therefore 3♥, leaving it up to our partner to go further if holding additional strength.

2. Partner opens 1NT and you bid 2♣ Stayman. Partner rebids 2♥. What is your rebid?



You wanted to hear 2♠ from opener but that was not to be. Remembering the Stayman bidder never bids a new suit, only a no-trumps bid is left. 2NT shows 11–12 HCPs so that is what we rebid.

It is up to opener to correct to a spade contract should four spades be held as well as the four hearts already shown.

3. Partner opens 1NT and you bid 2♣ Stayman. Partner rebids 2♠. What is your rebid?



Good news, opener has rebid the suit you wanted, so all we need to do is determine if our rebid is 3♠ or 4♠. Calculating our total points again, we have 11 HCPs plus three for the heart singleton giving 14 TPs – enough for game. So we bid game in 4♠.

4. Partner opens 1NT and you bid 2♣ Stayman. Partner rebids 2♦. What is your rebid?



Opener's 2♦ rebid shows that no 4-card major is held so we can't have a fit. We fall back to a no-trumps bid where 11 HCPs is shown as 2NT. (3NT would be 13+ HCPs.) Again we remember that the Stayman bidder never bids a new suit and avoid any heart or spade bid.

# **ANALYSIS OF ANSWERS RECEIVED**

## **Common mishaps**

By far the most common bidding error was calculating the correct level of bid when supporting opener's major. These relate to questions 1 and 3 where either a 3-level or 4-level supporting rebid is required. About half the answers were in error.

The following section reprises the rules for raising opener's major suit to the correct level.

# NOTE ON LEVEL OF SUPPORT AND RUFFING POINTS

## Level of support for opener

If partner has opened with a suit bid and you (as responder) wish to support that suit, the level at which you bid gives a reasonably good indication of the strength of your hand:

- 2-of the suit shows 6–9 total points
- 3-of the suit shows 10–12 total points
- 4-of the suit shows 13+ total points

When using Stayman as responder, we are already telling partner (opener) that we have 11+ HCPs as our use of Stayman is based on the assumption that the minimum final contract will be 2NT if there is no major suit fit. When opener rebids a major suit in replying to Stayman, opener is showing nothing more than a minimum opening strength hand, so our normal raises still apply. Clearly we cannot bid opener's major at the 2-level as opener has already bid at the 2-level. Our supporting rebids are therefore at the 3- or 4-level with exactly the same point ranges as if partner had opened that suit at the 1-level.

It is key to correct suit bidding by responder is to make sure the above list is thoroughly understood and consistently applied.

## Calculating ruffing points

Ruffing points are a reasonable estimation of the extra strength a hand has by virtue of its ability to gain tricks by ruffing – over and above the hand's basic high card strength. RPs are added for short suits:

- Doubleton – one ruffing point
- Singleton – three ruffing points
- Void – five ruffing points

To put this into context, a singleton is worth the same as a king and a void is better than an ace. Some examples of similar hands having 11 HCPs where responder is supporting opener's hearts after a 1♥ opening or a 2♥ reply to Stayman (and other situations):



11 HCPs + 0 RPs = 11 TPs  
Support with 3♥



11 HCPs + 1 RPs = 12 TPs  
Support with 3♥



11 HCPs + 3 RPs = 14 TPs  
Support with 4♥



11 HCPs + 5 RPs = 16 TPs  
Support with 4♥