

Sunday 28th July 2024

I spotted four very common beginners' errors.

ERROR 1

One of the most common beginners' errors is to not open 1NT with a balanced 12 to 14 points.

Opening 1 No Trump is the bid of 1st resort, and it simplifies the bidding. Look at lesson 5 for the responses. <https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/user/inline/4203/NZB%20Beginner%2005A%20-%20Student%20Notes.pdf>

ERROR 2

Another error is responding 1 No Trump when it is correct to bid 1 of a suit, or passing instead of correctly bidding 1 No Trump. **Responding 1 No Trump** is the bid of last resort.

ERROR 3

Supporting partner's minor instead of bidding a Major.

ERROR 4

Jumping to show 10+ points.

In 1974 this bidding would have shown a very strong hand.
Not in 2024.

1♥ response shows 6 to 20+ Points and 4 to 8+ Hearts.

2♥ jump response commonly shows 0 to 5 points and 6+ Hearts.

W	N	E	S
1♦	P	2♥	P

Let's look at a few examples from Sunday afternoon.

BOARD 2

What do you open this hand?

Answer 1NT

About 50% of people opened 1♣.

What will you rebid if partner bids 1♠?

♠	109
♥	K872
♦	KQ10
♣	KQ93

BOARD 3

What do you respond when partner opens 1♥?

Answer 1♠

1NT says "I am unable to bid a minor because I have less than 10 points"

I DON'T have 4 or more Spades.

♠	K1076
♥	J103
♦	Q5
♣	Q1096

BOARD 4

If partner opens 1♠ what do you respond with this hand?

Answer 1NT. The bid of LAST resort.

You have 6 points which might be enough for game if partner has 19 points or even less if they have say 5 Hearts. You do not have enough points to bid 2♦.

♠ 6
♥ K732
♦ K7654
♣ 952

BOARD 6

Partner open 1♦, what do you bid with

Answer 1♠

Yes you have a Diamond fit but it is much easier to make game in Spades than in Diamonds. If you don't get to game Spades score better than Diamonds. You can always support partner's Diamonds later.

♠ K6532
♥ 104
♦ KQ96
♣ J3

BOARD 9

Partner opens 1♠. What do you bid?

Answer 1 No Trump. The bid of LAST resort.

♠ 1052
♥ Q7
♦ J97
♣ QJ852

BOARD 12

Partner opens 1♦. What do you bid?

Answer: 1♥

♠ Q6
♥ AK10953
♦ KQ7
♣ 83

BOARD 1 - The problem 4-4-4-1 Opening Hand

4 4 4 1 Shapes - 4 cards in 3 suits and a singleton can be very awkward to bid.
 If the singleton is a Spade or a Club (like this) they are impossible to bid correctly.

Some books will recommend opening 1 Heart on this hand but these are from the UK where they bid slightly differently to us. If you open 1♥ and rebid 2♦ that will show 5 Hearts and 4 Diamonds in New Zealand.

♠ AQ42
 ♥ A762
 ♦ A1073
 ♣ K

I recommend that you stick to the basic rules of opening your lowest 4 card suit. You may have to rebid a 4 card minor if partner bids bids your singleton.

On this hand when you open 1♦, if partner bids 2♣ or 1NT (which shows Clubs)
 I recommend that you should treat hand it as a balanced hand with 15 to 17 points. No it is not balanced, but when partner shows clubs this will be the best description.

The screenshot shows a bridge hand simulation interface with the following elements:

- Hand 1 (Top Left):** ♠ J3, ♥ K5, ♦ 982, ♣ AJ7542. Player: Will Murphy (W).
- Hand 2 (Middle Left):** ♠ K65, ♥ QJ1094, ♦ K65, ♣ 103. Player: Janice Rollinson (S).
- Hand 3 (Bottom Left):** ♠ AQ42, ♥ A762, ♦ A1073, ♣ K. Player: Janice Rollinson (S).
- Hand 4 (Top Right):** ♠ 10987, ♥ 83, ♦ QJ4, ♣ Q986. Player: dave skinner (E).
- Hand 5 (Bottom Right):** ♠ 10987, ♥ 83, ♦ QJ4, ♣ Q986. Player: dave skinner (E).
- Bidding Table (Bottom Right):**

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1♦
P	1NT	P	2NT
P	3NT	P	P
P			
- Hand Information (Top Left):** Bd 1, Dir N, 3NT = N.
- Hand Names:** Will Murphy (W), Jo Murphy (N), dave skinner (E), Janice Rollinson (S).

BOARD 2

Did you remember to open 1NT with this hand?

♠ 109
♥ K872
♦ KQ10
♣ KQ93

If you have a strong hand with (15) 16+ points, you should Double when the opposition open 1NT. This is not a take-out double as there is no suit to take out of. This is known as a Penalty or Positive Double.

The screenshot shows a bridge game interface. At the top, the hand for North (Lisa Pritchard) is displayed: ♠ AK654, ♥ AQ4, ♦ 953, ♣ J7. The bidding sequence is shown as 2♠ = N. The hand for South (Annette Hill) is displayed: ♠ 109, ♥ K872, ♦ KQ10, ♣ KQ93. The hand for West (Jude Lipanovic) is displayed: ♠ 83, ♥ 1065, ♦ J872, ♣ A854. The hand for East (Lynne Field) is displayed: ♠ QJ72, ♥ J93, ♦ A64, ♣ 1062. A score display shows 0-0. A bidding table at the bottom right shows: W 1NT, N 2♠, E P, S P.

Thus, when North bids 2♠ that should show a maximum of 15 points. South with a very balanced 8 points should pass.

Question - Would you describe this as a balanced hand?

Answer: Yes

Would you open it 1NT - Yes

It is unlikely you will want to play this hand in 5♣ instead of the easier to make, better scoring, 3 No Trumps.

♠ 97
♥ J65
♦ AK8
♣ A9843

Question - Would you describe this as a balanced hand?

Answer: Actually the Answer is Yes. It is the same shape as the hand above.

Would you open it 1NT? - NO. Open 1♥

You will want to play in 4♥ if partner has 3+ Hearts and 13+ points..

♠ 97
♥ KJ1065
♦ AK8
♣ J43

BOARD 3

Partner opens 1♥. What do you bid with this hand?

Answer: 1♠

If you bid 1NT that says you don't have 4 Hearts or 4 Spades

♠ K1076
♥ J103
♦ Q5
♣ Q1096

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <div style="background-color: white; width: 20px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <div style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">3</div> <div style="font-size: 12pt; margin: 0 auto;">D</div> </div>	N North ♠ K1076 ♥ J103 ♦ Q5 ♣ Q1096	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th style="background-color: red; color: white;">W</th><th style="background-color: red; color: white;">N</th><th style="background-color: red; color: white;">E</th><th style="background-color: red; color: white;">S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1♥</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>1♠</td><td>P</td><td>1NT</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>2NT</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S				1♥	P	1♠	P	1NT	P	2NT	P	P	P			
	W	N	E	S																		
			1♥																			
P	1♠	P	1NT																			
P	2NT	P	P																			
P																						
W West ♠ 94 ♥ 864 ♦ KJ10763 ♣ J8		E East ♠ AQJ85 ♥ 52 ♦ 98 ♣ A752																				
	S South ♠ 32 ♥ AKQ97 ♦ A42 ♣ K43																					
		2NT S NS: 0 EW: 0																				




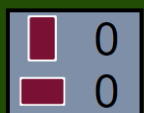

With 5 Hearts and 12 to 14 points we open 1♥ as it is important to get the Majors in before 1NT.
 With a balanced hand with 4 or 5 Hearts and 15 to 17 points it is correct to rebid 1NT

South has a difficult decision whether to pass 2NT or bid on.
 If South decides to bid on he can now bid 3♥ to show an extra Heart.




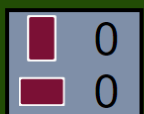

W	N	E	S
			1♥
P	1♠	P	1NT
P	2NT	P	3♥
P	4♥	P	P

BOARD 4

West opened 2♠
Showing 6 to 10 points and a good 6 card suit. Nobody can argue about it not being good.

  	♠ A83 ♥ Q1054 ♦ J3 ♣ K763	N Liz Jeffery Wayne Froggatt E								
	Bd 4, Dlr W 2♠-1 W									
W Sue Ranger	♠ KQJ1042 ♥ 9 ♦ Q82 ♣ Q84	♠ 6 ♥ K732 ♦ K7654 ♣ 952								
  Jo Rosier S	♠ 975 ♥ AJ86 ♦ A109 ♣ AJ10	<table border="1"> <tr><th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>2♠</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	2♠	P	P	P
W	N	E	S							
2♠	P	P	P							

BOARD 9

  	♠ AK764 ♥ 108 ♦ K854 ♣ A3	N Piergiorgio Allegra Sarah Borrelli E																
	Bd 9, Dlr N 2♠+1 N																	
W Cathy Andrews	♠ Q98 ♥ AJ5 ♦ Q103 ♣ K1096	♠ J3 ♥ K96432 ♦ A62 ♣ 74																
  Suzanne Jansen S	♠ 1052 ♥ Q7 ♦ J97 ♣ QJ852	<table border="1"> <tr><th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1♠</td><td>P</td><td>1NT</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>2♦</td><td>P</td><td>2♠</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S		1♠	P	1NT	P	2♦	P	2♠	P	P	P	
W	N	E	S															
	1♠	P	1NT															
P	2♦	P	2♠															
P	P	P																

North has an easy 1♠ opener. Should East overcall on the East hand? I wouldn't. It can work out OK as it happens on this hand but against good players you will be taken to the cleaners when partner does not have such a good hand.

South bid 1NT the response of LAST Resort.
North bid 2♦ to show 5+ Spades and 4+ Diamonds
South bids 2♠. Very happy to have found an 8+ fit.

BOARD 10

<div style="text-align: right;"> ✕ pas 🗑️ </div> <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px;"> Bd 10, Dlr E 2NT+2 W </div>	♠ J82 ♥ 32 ♦ AQ965 ♣ 876	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">N John Holden</div>												
<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">W Bobbie Fluker</div>		<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">Clare Hamer E</div>												
♠ AK3 ♥ Q98 ♦ J2 ♣ AKJ53		♠ Q965 ♥ K10 ♦ K843 ♣ 942												
<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 0 0 </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-bottom: 5px;"> < > ↺ </div> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">Linley Caudwell S</div>	♠ 1074 ♥ AJ7654 ♦ 107 ♣ Q10	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S			P	2♥	2NT	P	P	P
W	N	E	S											
		P	2♥											
2NT	P	P	P											

2♥ showed a 6 card suit with two+ honours.

2NT showed a balanced (15) 16 to 18 points.

This leaves a tricky decision for Clare. To PASS or bid 3NT. Pass is quite reasonable.