# 10 – Balanced Continuations - Summary Sheet

## Opener has shown a balanced hand with a closely defined points range in one or two bids

You are in charge – what do you do next?

## How strong?

Experience has shown that a combined 25 points is usually sufficient to make 9 tricks on 2 balanced hands or 10 tricks in a suit with an eight-card fit.

## Partner opened 1NT

**So:-**
**With a balanced hand** raise to 3NT with 13 to 18 points;
Raise to 2NT with 12 points (good chance of combined 25 points).
11 points could come to a total of 25 but it is against the odds – pass.
0 – 10 points - pass.
**With a 5-card suit** and 0 – 10 points bid 2 of your suit (weak take-out).
**With a 5-card suit** and 12 or more points bid 3 of your suit - game-force.
**With 6 cards in a major** and 12 or more points bid 4 of your suit.
**With 6 cards in a minor** and 12 or more points bid 3 of your suit - game-force.

## Partner opened 2NT

A new suit at the three-level is game-forcing based on at least a 5-card suit - partner can choose between game in your suit or 3NT;
3NT is to play;
there are no weak or invitational options at this point.

## Partner opened one of a suit

Your first response was usually a simple forcing change of suit as you waited for partner to complete the description of his hand.

Following his rebid in no trumps you now know that his hand is balanced within a specified points range.

Your continuations are more or less the same as if opener had started with that bid in no trumps at his first opportunity but with the point-count suitable adjusted.

## Big hands

Very occasionally you might have hopes of a slam contract (12 or 13 tricks bid and made).

With two balanced hands this is best judged on total points: -
33+ for a small slam;
or 37+ for a grand slam.

In particular a raise of 1NT to 4NT (typically 19 or 20 points) asks partner to bid 6NT if maximum – pass otherwise.