Improvers 1 – Raising partner's opener - Summary Sheet

Partner has opened one of a suit

As a general rule:-

if partner has opened one of a major you should raise that suit whenever you have 4-card support, and make a lowest-level change of suit otherwise;

if partner has opened one of a minor you should make a lowest-level change of suit as you search for a contract in a major or in no trumps.

Raising partner's major with 4-card support

The simple rule is, raise to the –

two-level with 6 to 9 points

three-level with 10 to 12 points

four-level with 13+ points.

With 3-card support

You may raise partner's one of a major to the two-level with just 3-card support and 6 to 9 points if the only alternative is 1NT and your hand is not 4-3-3-3, but a change of suit is always to be preferred if available.

Revaluing the hand

Once you know of at least an 8-card fit in a prospective trump suit you should revalue your hand as the possibility of ruffing tricks (and therefore fewer losers) now exists.
A typical scheme would be to add

1 for a doubleton;

3 for a singleton;

5 for a void.

You might choose to subtract a point with 4-3-3-3 shape.
Make these adjustments before making the bid indicated above.

Alternative methods

The range of 6 to 9 for a raise to the two-level is consistent with the range for a limited response of 1NT, but with 4-card support for a major a range of **5** to 9 (after re-evaluation) is recommended.

Raises of a minor suit when no change of suit is available are based on a similar scale, but hesitate to add on shortage points if a contract of 3NT is still a possibility.

Other forms of raise on game-going hands (with the possibility of a slam in mind) will be introduced during this improvers' course.

An alternative means of hand assessment once a fit has been established is 'The Losing Trick Count' - see separate sheet.