4 - Responder's first bid- Teacher's notes

Objectives

What should responder bid when partner opens one of a suit?

Subsidiary objectives

As the play progresses:-

revise opener's first 2 bids;
revise planning the play
including leading towards high cards and taking high cards in the short suit first:
revise scoring 'trick points'.

Responder's first bid

This page assumes that partner opened one of a suit and RHO passed.

If partner opened one of a major and you hold four-card support you should raise the major;
if partner opened one of a major and you hold 3-card support you will in general change suit, but very occasionally you might raise partner's major to the 2-level;
if partner opened one of a major and you hold less than three-card support you should change suit if possible;
if partner opened one of a minor you should change suit if possible.

Strength

To bid a new suit at the one-level you should hold a four-card suit and at least five points (some play 6 points).
To bid a new suit **at the two-level** you should hold **'rule of fourteen**' - that is ten points and a four-card suit or nine points and a five-card suit - a new major at the two-level by responder requires a five-card suit (note particularly the sequence 1♠ – 2♥).
Note that there is no upper limit on strength - your initial change of suit is forcing and you can show your strength later.

Which bid

When you have a choice of bids in new suits bid:-
your longest suit if you have one longer than all the others;
the higher-ranking of two five-card suits;
the cheaper of two four-card suits.

If none of the above are possible and you cannot support partner's suit then:-

pass with 0 to 5 points and bid
1NT with 6 to 9 points.

This last bid says nothing about wanting to play in no trumps - it is the 'dustbin bid'' - too good to pass and nothing else to bid - avoid a 1NT response whenever possible.