

# Competitive bidding





#### Competitive bidding. When to continue bidding

The main decision criteria :

- Your hand distribution is a crucial factor :
  - Holding a strong balanced hand, give preference to a punitive double
  - With an interesting distribution, reassess your hand and continue bidding accordingly...
- The Law of Total Tricks (LoTT), written by Jean-René Vernes : the number of tricks a pair can make matches the number of trump cards both partners hold
- Vulnerability : undertricks are very costy when you are vulnerable....
- Your low honors are not worth the same if you are playing or defending :
  - When you are the declarer, your low honors will be more fruitful in long suits
  - When you are defending, they have a greater value in short suits



Problem 27275 Advantageous vulnerability... the perfect hand to continue bidding !

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#### The vulnerability criterion

Pay attention to the vulnerability when you choose to either pass, continue bidding or double.

- Green vs Red
  - If they make a game, your opponents will score 600 or 620
  - 1 trick down gives them 100, 2 down 300, and 3... 500
  - It is worth a try, but don't get 4 tricks down.. you would give your opponents 800, more than a successful game
- Red vs Green, different situation!
  - $\circ~$  One trick down is 200, 2 are 500 , which is more than a successful game
  - $\circ\,$  When Red vs Green, be careful and wise in your bidding



Exercise  $4 \checkmark$  is not enough ! Be agressive, shoot :  $5 \checkmark$ ...10 trump cards in your line, and you have an Ace and a void. Don't be shy... It's going to be tough for your opponents. Difficult to bid  $5 \clubsuit$  with so little information.



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#### The Law of Total Tricks (LoTT) written by jean-René Vernes :

When both pairs have approximately the same HCP count, the number of tricks one can make matches the number of trump cards both partners hold. It's a statistical law...which one can verify most of the time... but not at all times !



Exercise 27264 : A good example for the LoTT : each pair has approximately 20 HCP. NS may safely bid 3 (9 tricks contract).

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#### Penalty double

When you have more HCP than your opponents, but can't be sure of a game, give preference to a penalty double, overall if you are Green vs Red.

In conclusion

In case of reasonable doubt, continue bidding :

- your opponents may make bidding mistakes, too
- When a game is possible in both lines, you'll avoid big score gaps



Problem 20261 With this hand, no Ace, no support, no information on another possible fit, give preference to a penalty double.2 undertricks will be worth more than a game...which may actually fail, in this case.