

General Information

Best time to balance

You are short in opponent's suit.

You have values in your suits, doubleton honors in opponent suit are discounted

You have a 5 card or longer suit.

You have a lead directing suit.

You would like to be non Vul, but be brave especially if you know your opponent

I have observed that the more values opponents have in their suits, the more likely they will bid on. If you have values in their suit, will that value be useful or worthless.

Worst time to balance.

You have fewer than 8 HCP and a weak suit.

You have length in opponents suit. (Why didn't partner make a take out double)

Being Vul can be dangerous. (can you guess why partner did not bid)

Experienced players try to force opponents to a higher level at every safe opportunity.

The point count distribution in a contested auction is each side has 18 – 22 HCP's

REMEMBER, when partner balances he may be bidding your hand, bid gently.

More information

Balancing NTs show 11 – 14 HCP's

Double and then bidding 1NT shows 15 -18 HCPs

Double and then bidding 2NT shows 19+ HCPs

Bidding 2NT in balancing position shows 2 unbid suits.

Balancing with a jump shows a big hand with length in the bid suit IE 1H – P – P – 2S is a strong hand not a “preempt”

Your hand S KQ32 762 A984 32

Opponent 1H – P – 2H – P

P – 2S – P ?

Questions how many H's does your partner have?

Why did partner not bid the first time?

How many S does partner have?

What is your agreement on preemptive action?

To what level can you compete?

Do you know the law of total tricks?

Same hand, 1H – P – 2H – P

P – D – P - ?

How many S's does partner have?

Your hand is S 9876 H KJ 10 4 D A 54 C KJ 9

Auction goes 1H – P – P - ?

Question, do you bid 1 NT? You have 12 HCPs.

Question why didn't partner enter the auction?

Question, if you bid 1NT and take 7 tricks what is your score?

If you pass and take 7 tricks what is your score?

Question, if you bid 1NT are systems on?

Question, how many points do you need to invite?

You hold S J 98765 H 543 D 63 C 43.

Your opponents are Vul and you are not.

Auction goes 1H – D – 4H - ?

Question, do you bid?

Question how many H does partner have?

What does partner's hand look like?

Your bid is ?

You hold S Q1073 H 97 D KQ62 C J65

Auction goes 1H – D -3H - ?

Question how many H does partner have?

Do you have enough values to compete?

Are your values working for you?

You hold S Q84 H KQ7 D KJ 52 C 862

Auction goes 1H – D -3H -?

Are your values working for you?

You hold SQ 52 H 84 D AJ73 C QJ62

Auction goes 1H – D – 3H -?

How many hearts does partner have?

What do you do now?