

Lecture Notes

Logical inference demands that you listen to what the opponents **don't** say. When your partner is attempting to determine where the real values are, partner will infer that opening bidder doesn't have 15-17 HCPs and balanced distribution or he would have opened 1NT. He didn't open 2NT (20 or 21 with balanced distribution). He didn't open one of a major, so unless he is 6/5 in diamonds and either major, he only has, at maximum, 4 of a major. He didn't open 2C, so he probably has more than 4 losers. Using logical inference, we should proceed assuming that opener probably has 12-14 points with balanced distribution. He could have 12-20 points with a void, a singleton, or two doubletons, so that he couldn't open 1 or 2NT. All of these inferences are weighed when trying to be competitive without being suicidal. If opening bidder persists in bidding, he most likely has the hand with freakier distribution (voids and singletons).

Processing all of this data needs to be an automatic action without lengthy hesitations. This comes with experience. Hesitations poison auctions for all sides of the table. (A subject for another day.)