

# QUESTIONNAIRE

## VS. ARTIFICIAL OPENING BIDS AND INTERFERENCE

1) How do you intervene after a strong ♣ and a response? Does it make a difference if the response is artificial (negative, control-showing, etc.)? Specifically, what do these sequences mean?:

South	West	North	East
1♣ <sub>(strong)</sub>	Pass	1♦ <sub>(negative)</sub>	Double?

South	West	North	East
1♣ <sub>(strong)</sub>	Pass	1♦ <sub>(negative)</sub>	2♦?

South	West	North	East
1♣ <sub>(strong)</sub>	Pass	1♥ <sub>(natural,GF)</sub>	Double?

South	West	North	East
1♣ <sub>(strong)</sub>	Pass	1♥ <sub>(natural,GF)</sub>	2♥?

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♥ <sub>(6+ hcp, &lt;3 controls, F2N)</sub>	Double?

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♥ <sub>(6+ hcp, &lt;3 controls, F2N)</sub>	2♥?

Similar considerations apply to sequences such as

2♦<sub>(any GF)</sub>-P-2♥<sub>(negative)</sub>.

2) How do you bid ♣'s when the opponents have opened a 2+-card (or 3+-card) suit? Specifically, what do these sequences mean?:

South	West	North	East
		1♣ <sub>(2+ cards)</sub>	2♣?

South	West	North	East
1♣ <sub>(2+ cards)</sub>	Pass	1♥	2♣?

South	West	North	East
1♣ <sub>(2+ cards)</sub>	Pass	1♥	3♣?

South	West	North	East
1♣ <sub>(2+ cards)</sub>	Pass	2♥ <sub>(weak)</sub>	3♣?

South	West	North	East
1♣ <sub>(2+ cards)</sub>	Double	1♥	2♣?

South	West	North	East
1♣ <sub>(2+ cards)</sub>	Double	1♥	3♣?

South	West	North	East
1♣ <sub>(2+ cards)</sub>	1♥	1♠	2♣?

South	West	North	East
Pass	1♠	1♣ <sub>(2+ cards)</sub>	Pass
		Pass	2♣?

NOTE: even if you don't ever bid ♣'s naturally in this kind of auction, there is a strong case for playing 2♣ here as natural with 2♦ as the cue-bid (since you did not overcall 1♦).

South	West	North	East
1♠	Double	1♣ <sub>(2+ cards)</sub>	Pass
		Pass	2♣?

South	West	North	East
1♣ <sub>(2+ cards)</sub>	Pass	1♥	Double
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣?

3) You should also check how you bid ♦'s when the opponents have opened a Precision 1♦ (0+ cards in some cases). Do the same methods apply when 1♦ can be 3 cards only if 4-4-3-2?

4) What do doubles of Bergen raises and the like show? Are they lead-directing (save-directing, perhaps) in the artificially bid suit, or are they takeout doubles of the opened major? Does the strength shown by the raise make a difference? What does a cue-bid of the opened major imply? If double of the raise suit is lead-directing, what does a bid of the raise suit show? Example sequences:

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	3♣ <sub>(9-11, 4+♥)</sub>	Double

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	3♣ <sub>(9-11, 4+♥)</sub>	3♥

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	3♣ <sub>(9-11, 4+♥)</sub>	4♣

5) Check your defence to Flannery. Does a 2♠ overcall show ♠'s? Or minors? Other? Suppose the bidding goes:

South	West	North	East
2♥ <sub>(Flannery)</sub>	3♣	Pass	3♠

Is this: (a) natural; (b) showing a ♠ stop and asking for a ♥ stop; (c) asking for a ♠ stop; (d) other (specify)?

6) What does a 3♣ overcall of a Roman 2♠ (11-15, 5♠'s and 4+♣'s) show? What about (2♠) Pass (Pass) 3♣?

The same considerations apply to a 2♦ opening that shows 5+♦'s and 4+♣'s.

7) How will you defend against a 2♥ opening that can be 0 hcp with 4-4 in the majors? What will your double show? What will your 2♠ overcall show? What about an overcall of 3♥/♠? Will your 2NT overcall be natural? Will you continue to play Stayman over it?

8) How will you defend against a 3N opening that is weak with both minors?

9) Check your defences to various forms of Ghestem. Example sequences:

South	West	North	East
	1♣	2♣ <sub>(majors, may be 5-4)</sub>	?

South	West	North	East
	1♣	2♦ <sub>(majors, may be 5-4)</sub>	?

South	West	North	East
	1♦	2♦ <sub>(majors, may be 5-4)</sub>	?

South	West	North	East
	1♥	2♥ <sub>(spades and clubs)</sub>	?

South	West	North	East
	1♥	3♣ <sub>(spades and diamonds)</sub>	?

South	West	North	East
	1♥	3♣ <sub>(spades and clubs)</sub>	?

Check also what you do over the unusual 2N overcall.

10) How will you cope with the following interventions over 1NT?

- o Double showing any single-suited hand
- o Double showing ♥'s and a minor
- o Double showing ♠'s, 11+ hcp
- o Double showing one major and one minor
- o Double showing one minor or both majors
- o 2♣ showing both majors, 4-4 possible
- o 2♣ showing any single-suited hand
- o 2♦ showing one major
- o Transfer overcalls (2♦=♥, 2♥=♠, 2♠=♣, 3♣=♦)
- o 2♠ showing four ♠'s and a six-card minor
- o 2♥ showing both majors (what will your 2♠ show?)
- o 3♣ showing six ♣'s and four ♥'s

11) How will you defend against 1♣ (3+ cards) Pass 2♦ (weak, both majors)? What about 1♦ (3+ cards) Pass 2♥ (weak, both majors)?

12) How will you defend against:

- a 1♦ opening that shows 4+ ♥'s, denies four ♠'s, may have a longer minor?
- a 1♥ opening that shows 4+ ♠'s, denies four ♥'s, may have a longer minor?
- a 1♠ opening that shows at least 4-4 in the majors?

Specifically, what do these sequences show?

NOTE: blanket agreements are possible, e.g. "if we bid the suit opener has shown, it's (a) natural; (b) not natural and what we would do in the equivalent auction; (c) it depends...". Or: "if we double a transfer opening it shows the suit doubled; if we have a takeout double we cue-bid their real suit"; etc.

But there is a bit more to it than that if mix-ups are to be avoided.

For example, if they open 1♦ (♥'s) and we double (showing ♦'s), what does it mean if instead we overcall 2♦? Or, if they open 1♦ (♥'s) and we double (showing balanced values), how does this affect (a) our 1NT overcall? (b) our 2NT overcall? And so on, and so forth.

Remember that these openings are canapé and are limited to about 9-14, so you are more likely to want to bid their suit naturally than you would be normally.

South	West	North	East
		1♦ <sub>(4+♥'s)</sub>	Double?

South	West	North	East
		1♦ <sub>(4+♥'s)</sub>	1♥?

South	West	North	East
		1♦ <sub>(4+♥'s)</sub>	2♥?

South	West	North	East
		1♦ <sub>(4+♥'s)</sub>	2NT?

South	West	North	East
		1♥ <sub>(4+♥'s)</sub>	3♠?

South	West	North	East
		1♥ <sub>(4+♥'s)</sub>	4♠?

South	West	North	East
		1♠ <sub>(majors)</sub>	2♥?

South	West	North	East
		1♠ <sub>(majors)</sub>	2♠?

South	West	North	East
		1♠ <sub>(majors)</sub>	3♥?

South	West	North	East
		1♠ <sub>(majors)</sub>	3♠?

South	West	North	East
		1♠ <sub>(majors)</sub>	4♥?

South	West	North	East
		1♠ <sub>(majors)</sub>	4♠?

South	West	North	East
		1♠ <sub>(majors)</sub>	2NT?

South	West	North	East
	1♦(♥'s)	Pass	Pass(♦'s or best guess)
1♥?			

South	West	North	East
	1♥(♠'s)	Pass	Pass(♥'s or best guess)
2♠?			

South	West	North	East
	1♥(♠'s)	Pass	Pass(♥'s or best guess)
2♥?			

South	West	North	East
	1♥(spades)	Pass	2♣(non-forcing)
2♠?			

et cetera, et cetera

DISCUSS THESE SORTS OF PROBLEMS WITH YOUR PARTNER...  
 TRY TO COME UP WITH SOME GENERAL AGREEMENTS THAT WILL  
 COVER A MULTITUDE OF SITUATIONS.

Courtesy of David Burn (edited and modified by Karen McCallum)