

MALENY ADVENTURE

Friday 21 February 2020

10 am – 12 pm and 1 pm – 3 pm

Lesson discussion



THE AIM of the lessons in Maleny is to give you a winning strategy when the opponents bid over you. To bid or not to bid, that is the question.

Understanding this strategy will have a significant impact on your game because these situations occur time and again, and players tend to do the wrong thing without training.

Change of thinking

The winning strategy is not difficult or complicated, yet many people still find it hard to grasp. That's because it involves a change of thinking. The purpose of this discussion is to lay the groundwork for this change of thinking.

Rule 1 – bid your games in the normal way

When you have the points, just bid your games in the normal way.

West	North	East	Your hand (East)
1♠	4♥	?	♠ K J 7
			♥ 6 5
			♦ A Q 7 6 4
			♣ Q 7 6

Bid 4♠. With the fit and 25 TP, you bid your normal game.

But don't let them push you any higher. If they bid on over your game, just kiss them goodbye! (Double them.)

Rule 2 – Without the points for game, compete to the level of your trumps

This is where the change of thinking comes in. We are used to making our decisions based on honour card strength but not here. When the opponents hold the bid, you should look to your degree of fit.

- Do not bid on with less than 8 trumps.
- With 8 trumps, go for 8 tricks (aim to play 2 and defend 3).
- With 9 trumps, go for 9 tricks (aim to play 3 and defend 4).
- With 10 trumps, go for game.

You should follow this advice on any hand that does not have the strength for game, even when you are very weak. In this case you expect to be making a profitable sacrifice.

North-South vulnerable

West	North	East	Your hand (East)
3♣	dbl	?	♠ 7
			♥ A 9 6 5 2
			♦ 9 7 6 2
			♣ K 8 7

Bid 5♣. Partner may be showing just 6-9 HCP, but you are sure your side has 10 trumps. You fully expect that the opponents can make four spades. The most you could make in defence is one club, the ace of hearts and some other trick. Meanwhile, you expect to make enough tricks for 5♣ to be a good sacrifice. Typically, you would expect to make seven clubs, the ace of hearts and a spade ruff for a total of nine. Two down in five clubs, no doubt doubled, is only 300, affording a handsome profit compared with defending four spades for -620.

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Try these...

<i>You (West)</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
♠ K Q 8 7 5	1♠	2♣	2♠	3♣
♥ K J 6 5	?			
♦ K 5 4				
♣ 9				

Pass. You don't have the points for game and you expect your side has 8 spades so defend 3.

<i>You (West)</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
♠ A J 5		3♥	3♠	4♥
♥ 9 6 5	?			
♦ K Q 8 5 4 2				
♣ 9				

Bid 4♠. You have a fit and the points for game.

<i>You (West)</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
♠ A K Q 8 7 5	1♠	3♦	4♠	5♦
♥ K 6 5	?			
♦ 5				
♣ Q 7 6				

Pass. Don't bid on when they bid over your game. Just pass or double.

You will get lots of valuable practice at making these decisions at the lessons until they come quite naturally.

There are also a few gaps that need to be plugged. For example,...

<i>You (West)</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
♠ 8 7 5	1♥	1♠	2♥	2♠
♥ K Q 9 6 5	?			
♦ A K 5 4				
♣ 9				

You want to play 2 and defend 3 but you can't - they have the higher-ranking suit, so what do you do?

I will give you a strategy for these situations.

That is the essence of my lessons in Maleny on Friday 21 February 2020.

As you can see, there is nothing unduly complicated about it. Basically, it is a matter of thinking about the right things. But it is not as easy as it looks!

It is my challenge to show you how it is done.