

BIDDING 26 – A MAJOR PROBLEM

In basic bridge, bidding a flat hand with a 5 card major (ie a 5332 shape) is different from bidding a minor oriented flat hand. This is because in basic bridge you don't open 1NT with a 5 card major.

With the minor oriented hand:

1. 1 minor 1 major
 1NT is 12-14
2. 1NT is 15-17
3. 1 minor 1 major
 2NT is 18-19

With the 5332 hand with a 5 card major:

1. 1♥ 1♠
 1NT is 12-15
2. 1♥ 1♠
 2NT is 16-18
3. 1♥ 1♠
 3NT is 19 (or 19-20 if you prefer)

To avoid the difficulties associated with this difference, some players prefer to open 1NT with 5 of a major. They will then only use the first bidding structure associated with minor oriented hands.

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|---------|---------|--|---------|
| | ♠ KJ95 | | |
| | ♥ 76 | | |
| | ♦ A543 | | |
| | ♣ J84 | | |
| ♠ Q32 | | | ♠ 1086 |
| ♥ KQ9 | | | ♥ J105 |
| ♦ J1087 | | | ♦ 62 |
| ♣ Q52 | | | ♣ A9763 |
| | ♠ A74 | | |
| | ♥ A8432 | | |
| | ♦ KQ9 | | |
| | ♣ K10 | | |

| | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| S | W | N | E |
| 1♥ | P | 1♠ | P |
| 2NT | P | 3NT | P |
| P | P | | |

With a combined 25 points, NS should be in game. With 16 points, South jumps to 2NT on their second bid. North, with a 9 count, knows there is enough for game and bids 3NT.

There are 6 tricks on top (♠AK, ♥A, ♦AKQ). The successful spade finesse followed by the spades breaking 3-3 will give another 2. And now either a trick in clubs or the benign heart break will get the contract home.