

AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH

By Steven Gaynor

I will bet you dollars to doughnut holes that there will be many times that in the bidding the hand you hold will force you to tell a lie to your partner. Experience (and perhaps this article) will help you learn to recognize when these situations may arise and deal with them accordingly. Also, by acting smoothly you will be able to avoid ethical problems caused by 'breaks in tempo'.

Here are hands that illustrate some of these problems:

1. Dealer N, none vul.

	5	
	AT74	
	KQ652	
	A73	
J973		A84
K953		Q86
A9		J8
Q96		KT542
	KQT62	
	J2	
	T743	
	J8	

N opens 1D and S can bid 1S. Now let's see how fast N handles the re-bid and what it is. 2H is out of the question, most people like to play 1N shows 2 or 3 spades, and 2D is best when it shows 6+ or a real good suit, but may be the least heinous of all actions. If N re-bids 1N, S should consider 2S because N theoretically shows 2 or 3 spades and just like transferring over a NT opener, it is usually right for a weak hand to play in their 5 bagger. NT should go down on a club lead, 3D makes. E-W makes 2C most of the time but they will have a hard time entering this auction. The issue will be a slow 1N by N, and S passing now, using unauthorized info that N may be making one of those 'lying' bids.

2. Dealer E, N/S vul.

	KQT7	
	8	
	J932	
	KT92	
J94		A83
KQT743		AT95
T4		AQ865
75		3
	652	
	J2	
	K7	
	AQJ864	

E has an easy 1D opener and S overcalls 2C. Now what does W do with his fine 6 bagger, but only 6 HCP? 2H is a big overbid on strength, a negative X is indicated. Later on W can bid hearts to show a weak hand with long hearts. If W does bid 2H, E with 14 good hcp, 4-card support and a stiff in the opps suit, better raise right to game, no invitational 3H, or else he will have some 'splainin' to do, Lucy.

3. Dealer S, E/W vul.

	AJ65	
	KQ8743	
	52	
	8	
83		T72
5		AT92
KJ83		T96
AT9742		Q53
	KQ94	
	J6	
	AQ74	
	KJ6	

How do you bid over partners NT opening when you have 6-4 distribution? 4S makes, 4H goes down. Most get this hand right by starting with Stayman. However, the appeal of a decent 6 bagger may entice a transfer. We can talk about the TASMANT convention here (Texas after Stayman). Bid 2C, if pard bids 2D, jump to 4D, still a transfer to hearts.

4. Dealer W, all vul

	JT4	
	92	
	KJT7	
	T943	
KQ93		A85
AJ853		K764
4		A963
QJ7		K2
	762	
	QT	
	Q852	
	A865	

Can E/W get to this good slam? The bigger question is if someone uses Blackwood how long do they take to bid over the response (which should show one missing key-card)? Before you bid 4N, review your responses to whatever partner bids so you can make your call in tempo. An ethical partner will pass over ANY 'hesitation' Blackwood. If they pull that on you, call the director and they (or the committee) will most likely roll it back to the 5-level.