Dealing with Overcalls After Strong 1NT

Mike@Wavada.org

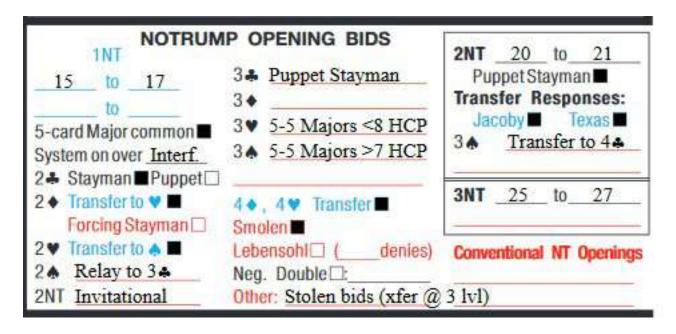
1 Situation: Partner bids 1NT. RHO overcalls 24.

- 1.1 All systems would still be on if RHO had doubled or overcalled 2♣.
- 1.2 You are the captain because 1NT limited your partner's hand.
- 1.3 What has been lost?
 - 1.3.1 Stayman, including garbage Stayman.
 - 1.3.2 Major-suit transfers.
 - 1.3.3 Three-level bids?
- 1.4 What has been gained?
 - 1.4.1 The knowledge that RHO has some strength.
 - 1.4.2 The knowledge that RHO has whatever the bid required (spades, spades and hearts, spades and a minor or something else).



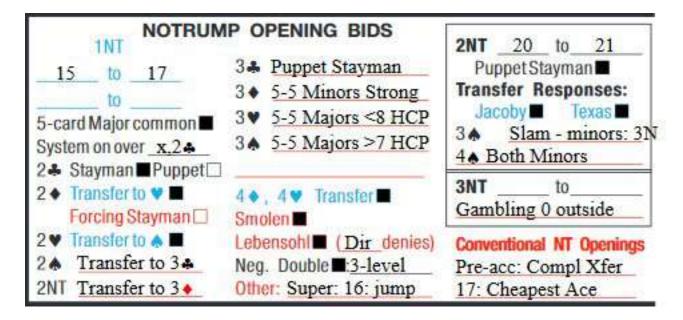
2 Case #1: You are playing Stolen Bids without 3♣ Puppet Stayman

- 2.1 Are all bids game-forcing?
- 2.2 You can show clubs or diamonds by doubling 2♠.
- 2.3 How do you show four hearts?
- 2.4 How do you show five hearts? 3♦ or 3♥?
- 2.5 What if you have a spade stack?



3 Case #2: You are playing Stolen Bids with 3♣ Puppet Stayman

- 3.1 Are all bids game-forcing?
- 3.2 You can show clubs or diamonds by doubling 2♠.
- 3.3 Is 3♣ still Puppet Stayman? If not, how do you show four hearts?
- 3.4 How do you show five hearts? 3♦ or 3♥?
- 3.5 What if you have a spade stack?



4 Case #3: You are playing lebensohl

- 4.1 Are all bids game-forcing? No. 2NT relay allows for non-forcing bids.
- 4.2 Gives up on Jacoby transfers. Retains Texas transfers.
- 4.3 Double can be negative, penalty, or some combination.
- 4.4 Cue bid is Stayman.
- 4.5 Several other complications. Top players think that it is worth the effort.