

The Balancing Seat (part 2)

Mike@Wavada.org

1 Review of Balancing:

- 1.1 Take stock of the situation. If you pass, the opponents win the auction.
- 1.2 Add three points when evaluating your hand.
- 1.3 Partner of balancer must subtract three points before advancing.

17	♠ K1074	Dir: N																														
	♥ AK2	Vul: None																														
	♦ A63																															
	♣ AJ2																															
♠ AJ		♠ 962																														
♥ J976		♥ 10543																														
♦ K42		♦ QJ108																														
♣ Q753		♣ K4																														
19	♠ Q853																															
11 6	♥ Q8																															
4	♦ 975																															
	♣ 10986																															
		<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	1	-	3	2	S	3	1	-	3	2	E	-	-	1	-	-	W	-	-	1	-	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																											
N	3	1	-	3	2																											
S	3	1	-	3	2																											
E	-	-	1	-	-																											
W	-	-	1	-	-																											

2 New situation: Opponents bid and raise; partner passes. Example: (1♠)-P-(2♠)-P-P-?

- 2.1 Take stock of the situation. What do you know?
 - 2.1.1 LHO has an opening bid. 11-20 hcp?
 - 2.1.2 Partner could have almost anything.
 - 2.1.3 RHO has support. 6-9 hcp?
 - 2.1.4 Opponents have a fit and at least 17 hcp. The corollary to the LAW implies that this is a **dangerous situation**, especially in pairs.
- 2.2 General principle: Add a king (3 hcp) and stretch to bid, especially over 1M-2M.
- 2.3 The partner of the balancer must be very careful about advancing.

3 OBAR BIDS: Pre-balancing when opponents bid and raise: (1♠)-P-(2♠)-?

- 3.1 Often one partner has the points; the other has distribution.
- 3.2 OBAR BIDS (opponents bid and raise; balance in the direct seat) recommends that the **player in the direct seat should bid as if he were in the balancing seat**.
 - 3.2.1 Bid almost any suit with five pieces.
 - 3.2.2 Double with ten points and a balanced hand.
- 3.3 If you do this, the player in the real balancing seat must:
 - 3.3.1 Subtract 3 before advancing a double;
 - 3.3.2 Almost never advance an overcall.
- 3.4 This works best when the opponents have bid a major, and you are not vulnerable.
- 3.5 It is astounding how often the opponents continue to the three-level.

Next week: Responding to strong 1NT opening