

Jeff Kroll  
Sam Khayatt

**Page, 45, Parrish the Thought** – *Evaluating the hand throughout the auction*

This column discusses static hand evaluation, which takes place before the first call, and dynamic hand evaluation, which takes place as the auction progresses and you learn more about your partner's hand.

- An unsupported king (Kx or K) increases in value when partner bids the King's suit. It's a fitting honor that is likely to set up partner's suit. Its value also goes up slightly when your righthand opponent bids the suit. It's likely the king is behind the ace and will catch a trick. It decreases in value if your lefthand opponent bids the suit as it's likely your King will be taken by the ace.
- When you have four-card support or more for partner's major your hand goes up in value. With two or fewer cards in partner's suit, proceed with caution; you may not have a fit.
- When the opponents find a fit, your hand is worth a lot more if:
  1. You have at least three- (and preferably four-) card support for partner AND
  2. You have a singleton or void in the opponents' suit OR
  3. You have four small cards in the opponents' suit (and four-card support for partner)

Either your hand or partner's will be ruffing the opponents' suit after one round. If you are the one who is short, the ruffs will occur on the short side of the trump suit, thus extending its value. If partner is short, the ruff will occur on the long side, thus shortening the trump suit. In the second case, it's better to have a nine-card fit so the opponents cannot be too long.

- A fit with both of partner's suits increases the value of your hand.

**Page, 48, Ask Jerry** – *When there is nothing you can say that says what you have*

The question presented to Jerry involved a direct-seat 1N overcall. RHO opened 1H and the writer overcalled 1N.

Once RHO has opened the bidding, there might not be a bid available that describes your hand, even if you, too, have an opening bid. If you do choose to overcall:

- A suit bid should show a good five- (or longer) card suit
- A 1 N bid should show 15-17 hcp with opener's suit stopped. It's worth noting that many players will overcall 1N without a stop in opener's suit if that suit is a minor. Minor suits are rarely shown any respect, especially in match points.
- A double shows one of two hands:
  - Support (at least three cards) in the unbid suits and opening hand strength as evaluated with support points.
  - A 17+ point hand; with that you can double and bid a new suit

Jerry's final point is a good one. Bridge is about doing what's right most of the time. Sometimes a poor bid or play works out, but in the long run, that's losing bridge.

**Page, 51, Mike's Bridge Lesson – Does 4N ask for key cards or for aces?**

Mike Lawrence suggests that when you bid 4N in response to partner's one-bid, you are asking for aces, not for key cards. If you do want to ask for key cards in his suit, make a forcing raise of partner's suit first and then ask for keycards. For example (bottom of second column):

1S – 2D (forcing to game in 2 over 1)

2S – 3S (forcing raise in partner's suit; a game auction is already established)

4S – 4 NT (Roman Key Card)

**Page, 54, Boehm on Bridge – How good can your hand be?**

Boehm uses examples from *Why You Lose at Bridge* by SJ Simon to illustrate how good a hand can become once partner shows a big hand.

**Example, Column 1**

You hold: ♠Q 8 5 4 3 ♥K 7 ♦8 7 4 ♣6 5 3

This is a pretty bad hand: 5 HCP, maybe a sixth valuation point for the fifth spade. We are not fans of adding points for a fifth card in a bad suit.

The auction:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1D	X	P	1S
3D	4S	5D	??

Now what?

- The 1S showed 0-8 points and four spades (the weaker you are, the more important it is to take out partner's takeout double).
- Partner's 4S bid indicates that he expects you to make 4S even with 0 points. He could have bid 3S to see if you were on the top or the bottom of your 0-8.

You bid 5S, expecting it to make:

- You hold a five-card suit, headed by the Q (You could have made the same bid with a four-card suit headed by the 5.).
- You have the HK, which is likely to be useful opposite partner's big hand.
- You have two or three tricks for partner; he was willing to commit to ten tricks when he thought you might have only one trick.

Doubling diamonds is unlikely to be worthwhile as it looks like you have only one defensive trick.

### Example, Column 3

You hold: ♠A 5 2 ♥7 5 3 ♦T 7 6 3 2 ♣T 6

Pretty bad again: 4 HCP, we definitely wouldn't add a point for the fifth diamond in that anemic suit.

The auction:

RHO	You	LHO	Partner
1H	P	4H	5H
P	??		

Now what?

- The 4H bid pre-emptive, showing a weak hand with long (probably five) hearts.
- Partner's 5H is obviously forcing. He clearly does not want to play in hearts with his void (assuming each opponent has five, you have three, leaving none for partner). 5H is a Michaels cue bid, suggesting at least 5-5 in spades and a minor. Looking at your five diamonds, you can pretty much guess that partner's minor is clubs. Partner must have a huge hand if he is willing to play 5S or at the six-level in a minor (if you bid 5N to ask about his minor, he is forced to name it at the six-level).

You bid 6S.

- You have three-card support, including the A!
- Partner is unlikely to bid after 5S.