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## REEVALUATING YOUR HAND

After you have heard partner's initial bid, and he has heard yours, you may have a good idea if you have a fit in a suit (a total of 8). Sometimes, you know if there is a fit immediately (ex: partner opens 1 spade and you have 3 spades). As soon as you find a fit, you can begin the process of reevaluating your hand.

Look at your short suits (voids, singletons and doubletons). Now these suits are valuable to you because you can possibly trump cards in those suits. If you have these short suits, you can assign points to those suits to make the total value of your hand higher. VOIDS are assigned 5 points, SINGLETONS are assigned 3 points, and DOUBLETONS are assigned 1 point. These points are added to your HCP to give you added strength, and help you decide at what level you can play. Remember you need around 25 combined points to play in a 3 NT contract, and 26 points to play in a complete game of 4 hearts or 4 spades. You would need about 28 or 29 points to play in 5 clubs or 5 diamonds. If you have fewer than these points, even when including points for short suits (called DUMMY POINTS), stop at a partial contract.

NOTES: 1. Remember that it is usually preferable to play in a contract of 3 NT as opposed to 5 Clubs or 5 Diamonds. Try to avoid playing in a contract at level 5.

2. DO NOT GIVE YOURSELF BOTH DISTRIBUTION POINTS FOR LENGTH AND DUMMY POINTS FOR SHORTNESS WHEN REEVALUATING YOUR HAND. DISTRIBUTION POINTS ARE GENERALLY GIVEN FOR OPENING BIDS, AND OVERCALLS. (Except in cases of no trump openings and overcalls, or preempt bids).

Practice Exercises:

1. Partner has opened 1 Diamond. Your response was 1 Spade. Partner has then rebid 2 Spades. How many spades does opener have? \_\_\_\_\_  
Approximately how many points does opener have? \_\_\_\_\_  
Look at each of the following hands. Considering the bidding described above, what would your bid be after partner rebid 2 spades (Don't forget to include any dummy points you may have)?

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Hand A  
Spades- A Q 5 4 2  
Hearts - 5 3 - 1  
Diamonds - 6 3  
Clubs - K Q 6 4

Hand B  
Spades - J 5 4 3  
Hearts - K 10 2  
Diamonds - Q 8 7 6 2  
Clubs- 7

Hand C  
Spades- A K 10 3  
Hearts-J 6 3  
Diamonds- Q 5 4 3  
Clubs- 9 4

2. Partner has opened 1 Heart. How many hearts does opener have?

\_\_\_\_\_

Considering the bidding described above, what is your next bid? Should you include dummy points? \_\_\_\_\_ Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Hand A  
Spades- Q J 7 6  
Hearts- Q J 7 6  
Diamonds- 10 9 4  
Clubs- J 2

Hand B  
Spades- 9 8 3  
Hearts- A J 9 7  
Diamonds- A 10 9  
Clubs- Q 6 3

Hand C  
Spades- Q J 6 2  
Hearts- A Q 10 8  
Diamonds- K 6 5 4  
Clubs - 7

3. Partner has opened 1 Club. You respond \_\_\_\_\_. Partner then rebids 1 Spade. How many spades does opener have? \_\_\_\_\_ Considering the bidding described above, what is your next bid? Include any dummy points, if applicable.

Hand A  
Spades- A K 2  
Hearts- A K J 5 4 3  
Diamonds- 7 5  
Clubs- 7 4

Hand B  
Spades- A J 4 2  
Hearts- A K J 4  
Diamonds- 8 6  
Clubs- 4 3 2

Hand C  
Spades- A 8 4 3  
Hearts- K Q 7 2  
Diamonds- J 6 5  
Clubs- 3 2

*Circle any hand in all of the above scenarios where you were not able to include dummy points to reevaluate your hand.*

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SAMPLE HAND #1- South is the Dealer

NORTH  
Spades- K J 6 5  
Hearts- Q 9 5 4  
Diamonds- 10 4  
Clubs- K J 6

WEST  
Spades- 8 7  
Hearts- 10 6  
Diamonds- K J 8 6 2  
Clubs - Q 8 7 5

EAST  
Spades- Q 10 9 3  
Hearts- J 7  
Diamonds- Q 9 7  
Clubs- A 10 3 2

SOUTH  
Spades- A 4 2  
Hearts- A K 8 3 2  
Diamonds- A 5 3  
Clubs- 9 4

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SAMPLE HAND # 2- North is the Dealer

NORTH  
Spades- K Q 4  
Hearts- A K 6 2  
Diamonds- 9 4  
Clubs- A Q 5 4

WEST  
Spades- 10 6 5  
Hearts- 9  
Diamonds- J 10 8 7 2  
Clubs- K 10 9 6

EAST  
Spades- 9 8 7 2  
Hearts- Q J 5  
Diamonds- Q 6 5 3  
Clubs- 8 7

SOUTH  
Spades- A J 3  
Hearts- 10 8 7 4 3  
Diamonds- A K  
Clubs- J 3 2