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NEW MINOR FORCING

This convention is another attempt to find a fit in a major suit. As the name indicates, it involves the bid of a minor suit that has not already been bid to give information about your major suit. As the name also indicates, when a player uses new minor forcing, it forces his partner to bid something, and not to pass.

Here's how it works:

- 1, Your partner opens in a minor suit, showing opening points and no 5 card major.
2. Opponent passes.
3. You respond either 1 heart or 1 spade. All your partner knows is that you have at least 6 points, and at least 4 cards in a major suit. In actuality, you have 5. How can you let your partner know that? What difference does it make if you have 4 or 5? (Opponent passes)
4. Your partner, the opener makes a rebid of 1 NT (or 2 NT with 18 pts). He is saying that he probably has 12-14 pts (with 15 pts he could have opened 1 NT), and that he does not have 4 cards in your major suit (or he would have answered in your suit, having found a fit).
5. You now bid the unbid minor suit. This shows 11+ points in your hand. It also shows that when you responded with a major suit, you had 5, not 4. IT DOES NOT INDICATE ANY SPECIFIC LENGTH IN THIS NEW MINOR SUIT. What would opener do with 3 in your suit? With 2 in your suit? If you play new minor forcing, and this unbid minor is actually a good second suit for you, what should you bid after opener rebids no trump?

NOTE: Do not use NMF as responder if you have 6 cards in a major suit. After opener rebids 1 NT, simply bid your major suit again. He'll know you have 6 or more, and he'll know there's a fit if he only has 2.

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Remember that you need 11+ points, and at least 5 cards in the major suit in which you have responded to use NMF. Let's bid out the following hand:

OPENER	RESPONDER
S-Q J 2	S- K 10 9 8 6
H-7 5	H- A 6 4
D- A J 9 4 2	D- K Q 8
C- A 10 4	C- J 2

If opener had only 2 spades, he'd bid NT to show no fit with responder's 5 card major:

OPENER	RESPONDER
S - 7 5	S- K 10 9 8 6
H - Q J 2	H - A K 4
D - A 7 4	D - K 10 8
C - A J 6 4 2	C - 5 2

1. Bid out this hand.

2. Imagine Opener had the same spades and clubs as above, but his hearts were A K 2, and his diamonds were A Q 4. What would opener's rebid have been?

RESPONDER AND THE NMF- Imagine Opener has bid 1 C. You, as responder, have bid 1 H. Opener bids 1 NT. What do you do in each of the following hands?

First Hand	Second Hand	Third Hand
S- 7 5	S- A Q 9	S - Q 9 7 3
H - K Q J 9 8	H - A K 4 2	H - Q 10 9 8 7
D - A 7 6	D - J 9 8	D - 3
C - Q 3 2	C - 6 4 3	C - A K 4

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First hand - _____

Second hand - _____

Third hand - _____

OPENER AND THE NMF- You, as opener, have bid 1 D. Your partner has responded 1 S. Your rebid is 1 NT. Partner, using NMF, has bid the unbid minor, 2 C. What does partner have? What do you do in each of the following hands?

First Hand	Second Hand	Third Hand	Fourth Hand
S - Q 8 2	S - K J 10	S - K 2	S - 8 7
H - K 8	H - Q J 10	H - Q 8 7	H - A 9 6
D - A J 8 6 5	D - J 9 6 5	D - A Q 9 8	D - A Q J 5 4
C - Q 3 2	C - A Q 10	C - Q 4 3 2	C - Q J 8

First Hand _____

Second Hand _____

Third Hand _____

Fourth Hand _____

NOTE: As with Jacoby Transfer, and Stayman, the use of NMF is cancelled if the opponents bid. All bidding in competition (meaning opponents have bid) is natural (meaning the suit mentioned in the bid is what the player has in their hand).

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SAMPLE HAND #1- West is the Dealer

NORTH

Spades- 10 8

Hearts- K 10 9 8

Diamonds- A 4

Clubs- 10 8 6 5 3

WEST

Spades- K J 4

Hearts- A 3 2

Diamonds- K Q 5 3 2

Clubs- 9 2

EAST

Spades- A Q 9

Hearts- Q 5

Diamonds- J 9 8

Clubs- A 7 4

SOUTH

Spades- 5 3 2

Hearts- J 7 6 4

Diamonds- 10 7 6

Clubs- K Q J

SAMPLE HAND # 2- South is the Dealer

NORTH

Spades- A K 10 9 8 4

Hearts- Q 10

Diamonds- Q 10 8

Clubs- Q J

WEST

Spades- 7 6

Hearts- 8 7

Diamonds- A 9 6 4

Clubs- A 10 8 6 5

EAST

Spades- 3 2

Hearts- 9 6 4 3

Diamonds - K 5 3

Clubs- K 4 3 2

SOUTH

Spades- Q J 5

Hearts- A K J 5 2

Diamonds- J 7 2

Clubs- 9 7