

Newsletter

of the

Little Rock Duplicate Bridge Club

April 2003

A Different View on Opening 1 NT with a 5-card Major

Gerald Koonce

I read with interest the article by David Siebert in last month's *Newsletter* advocating opening 1NT with a 5-card major.

You certainly cannot argue with David's success, ability, and knowledge as a bridge player. He is a Grand Life Master and has more titles than I can count, but I must respectfully disagree with him on this matter.

Opening 1NT with a 5-card major is a strategy that has never worked for me except with 5 ♥s under the guidelines I will present below. Not only has it not worked as a general practice, it has led to one disaster after another. So for me, the negatives have far outweighed the positives.

A few years ago, the well-known professional player Grant Baze, a three-time winner of the Barry Crane Top 500 race, wrote some bridge articles on the internet. One of these was on opening 1NT. Without asking permission, here are his views on opening 1NT

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OPEN GAMES

MONDAY	11:00 A.M.
TUESDAY	7:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY 0-50	7:00 P.M.
THURSDAY	11:00 A.M.
THURSDAY 0-300	7:00 P.M.
FRIDAY	7:30 P.M.
SATURDAY	12:30 P.M.
SUNDAY	1:30 P.M.

All games are stratified when possible.

All games are non-smoking. ↔

Little Rock Tournament of Roses Coming Soon

David Siebert

Don't forget to mark your calendar for our Memorial Day Weekend sectional tournament May 23-26.

We need volunteers so please call me at 312-9538 to help. (If you don't call me I might call you and it's so much better to volunteer than to have me have to beg you.) ♥

Responsive Doubles

David Siebert

Responsive doubles are a very good weapon to have in your bidding arsenal.

When our side comes in with a double or an overall and responder raises the opening bid to the two or three level the most descriptive bid you as the partner of the doubler or overcaller can make is a double to show certain hands (these doubles are never penalty).

Here are some examples.

1.	Opp	Partner	Opp	You
	1♠	X	2♠	X
	♠	♥	♦	♣
	x	x	K	A
	x	x	J	x
		x	x	x
			x	x

You want to bid one of the minors but which one? So you double to let partner pick.

2.	Opp	Partner	Opp	You
	1♦	X	2♦	X

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with a 5-card major, with some comments of my own.

When do you open 1NT with a 5-card ♠ suit?

Never. Here are some general reasons why you should not open 1NT with 5 ♠s:

- Because 4♠ in a 5–3 fit is usually a superior contract to 3NT. (I will address Puppet Stayman at the end of this article.)
- Because partner might raise 1♠ to 2♠ and accept a game try with a hand that might pass 1NT, such as ♠Kxxx ♥xx ♦xxx ♣Axxx.
- Uncontested part score situations. You open 1NT, it goes all pass, and you go down or get a bad result because you make fewer tricks in notrump than in ♠s with your 5–3 or 5–4 ♠ fit.
- Competitive auctions. If you open 1NT, and the opponents compete, are you going to bid 2♠ no matter what?
- Defending. Partner will not know which suit to lead, and declarer will have a good idea of how to play the hand.

After you open 1♥ with 5 ♠s and 15–17 points, the most recurrent problem is what to do when partner bids 1NT. With 15–16 points, rebid your 3-card minor. If partner preferences you back to 2♠, bid 2NT. If he bids something else, do the right thing (easy for Baze to say!). In response to 1NT when you have 17 points, raise 1NT to 2NT. Baze thinks it is more important to identify your ♠ length, even if you overbid by a point when you raise to 2NT (and who says you overbid?).

When do you open 1NT with a 5-card ♥ suit?

Never, for the reasons listed above, except in **some** cases when your distribution is 5–3–3–2. Not then, if all your high cards are in two suits. If your hand is a non-concentrated 5–3–3–2, then Baze suggests that you:

1. Open 1NT with most good 15's, any 16 count, or any bad 17 count.
2. Open 1♥ with a bad 15 and treat the hand as if it were 14.
3. Open 1♥ with a good 17 and treat the hand as if it were 18.
4. Open 1♥ with a good 15 that has only 2 ♠s.

It is right to open 1NT on some hands that contain 5 ♥s because the rebid problems are too severe. With these hands, it is better to bulldoze your way through the auction than to get too scientific.

The reason that a good 15 count is a function of the number of ♠s in your hand is: With 2 ♠s you are willing to rebid your 3-card minor and, if it goes all pass, you are in a reasonable contract; with 3 ♠s, you are forced to rebid your 3-card minor, and now if it goes all pass you could easily belong in ♠s. Not only that, you might belong in a ♠ game. Also, if you open 1NT with only 2 ♠s, you might end up in 2♠ on a 5–2 fit instead of 2♥ in your 5–3 fit.

In addition to Baze's arguments above, another reason I don't like opening 1NT with a 5-card major is now you have to play Puppet Stayman to uncover your 5–3 fit, which means you have two Stayman bids, 2♣ and 3♣. I would rather use 3♣ for some other purpose rather than having two different bids serving the same essential function. Another negative consideration is that against good opponents, if you bid 2♣ Stayman when you are also playing Puppet Stayman, they are more likely to come into the auction because they know that responder does not have a game-forcing hand. ♦

MAKE TRAVEL PLANS

Check *The Bridge Bulletin* published by the ACBL or the ACBL web site at www.acbl.org for details on these and other upcoming tournaments.

NATIONALS (NABC)

July 17–27, Long Beach, CA
November 20–30, New Orleans, LA

REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS TO CONSIDER

April 7–13, Gatlinburg, TN
May 12–18, Oklahoma City, OK
June 9–15, Tulsa, OK
June 16–22, Jackson, MS
June 23–29, Las Vegas, NV

NEARBY SECTIONAL TOURNAMENTS

April 25–27, Laurel, MS
May 23–26, **Little Rock, AR (SEE PAGE 4)**
May 29–June 1, Gulfport, MS
May 29–June 1, Nashville, TN
June 6–8, Fort Worth, TX

♠	♥	♦	♣
Q	K	x	Q
10	J	x	x
x	x		x
x	x		

You want to bid one of the majors but which one? So you double to let partner pick. Your hand is not strong enough to bid 3♦—that would show a bigger hand.

3.	Opp	Partner	Opp	You
	1♠	X	2♠	X
	♠	♥	♦	♣
	x	K	Q	x
	x	Q	x	x
		x	x	x
		x	x	

You want to bid ♥s but you don't have enough values to bid at the 3 level so you double. If partner bids one of the minors you can then bid 3♥. A bid of 3♥ directly would show a limit raise type hand with at least 10 HCP.

After an overall responsive doubles convey a different meaning.

Here is an example.

	Opp	Partner	Opp	You
	1♦	1♠	2♦	X
	♠	♥	♦	♣
	x	x	A	K
	x		J	Q
			10	x
			x	x
			x	x

You want to compete in one of the minors but which one? You double to show at least 5–5 in the unbid suits (I have done it with 5–4 if my 4-card suit is good).

Remember responsive doubles are only used when opponents have found a fit by supporting the opening suit bid.

Examples:

	Opp	Partner	Opp
	1♠	X	2♠
or	1♥	1♠	2♥

Try this convention you will like it. Have a good month.

♠

PB & HSV Sectional Tournament Results

Pine Bluff

- Ben Allen & Al Childs—3rd in A in Open Pairs (49 pairs); 2nd in A in Open Pairs (18 pairs)
- David Blanchard & Jo Blanchard—2nd in 99er Pairs (8 pairs)
- Norma Campbell & Bonnie Fincher—4th in B&C in Open Pairs (48 pairs)
- Norma Campbell & Lou Morris—5th in B in Open Pairs (49 pairs)
- Norma Campbell, Jane Dickey, Robert Downie & Bonnie Fincher—**1st in B in Swiss Teams** (24 teams)
- Sam Cheesman & Margaret Watson—5/6 in A in Open Pairs (36 pairs)
- Sam Cheesman & partner—3rd in A in Open Pairs (18 pairs)
- Sam Cheesman, Walter Ely, D.J. Jones & Kathy Miller—4th in A in Swiss Teams (24 teams)
- Ann Clay & Dane Clay—2nd in A in Open Pairs (48 pairs)
- Bodie Cobb & Marilyn Watt—4th in A in Open Pairs (48 pairs)
- Bodie Cobb & partner—6th in A in Open Pairs (49 pairs)
- Bodie Cobb, Marilyn Watt, & teammates—6th in A in Swiss Teams (24 teams)
- David Cockcroft & Ann Ferrill—5/6 in B in Open Pairs (48 pairs); 3rd in B in Open Pairs (49 pairs)
- David Cockcroft, Ann Ferrill, Jeanne Lloyd & Edna Savoy—3rd in A in Swiss Teams (24 teams)
- Tommye Davis & Peggy Jett—2nd in A in Open Pairs (49 pairs)
- Jane Dickey & Margaret Mathews—5th in C in Open Pairs (36 pairs)
- Walter Ely & Kathy Miller—5th in A in Open Pairs (48 pairs); 2nd in A in Open Pairs (36 pairs)

- Jeanne Harlan & Carol Jackman—4th in C in Open Pairs (49 pairs)
- Cal Heseman, Monica Heseman, Margaret Mathews & Mike Porta—3rd in B in Swiss Teams (24 teams)
- Margaret Kelly & Liz Parry—4th in **A/1st in B in Open Pairs** (49 pairs)
- Ann Lewis & Diane Lord—4th in C in Open Pairs (36 pairs)
- Ann Lewis, Diane Lord, Barbara Miles & Jan Trotter—2nd in **B/1st in C in Swiss Teams** (24 teams)
- Wen-he Lu & partner—5/6 in C in Open Pairs (48 pairs); 4th in B/3rd in C in Open Pairs (36 pairs); 2nd in **B/1st in C in Open Pairs** (18 pairs)
- Kathy Miller & Marilyn Watt—4th in A in Open Pairs (18 pairs)
- Deb Phillips & Burla Sims—5th in A/2nd in B in Open Pairs (49 pairs)
- Bodie Cobb & partner—2nd in **A/1st in B in Open Pairs** (18 pairs)
- Bodie Cobb, Marilyn Watt, & teammates—9/10 in A/4th in X in A/X Swiss (30 teams)
- Mike Compton & Jane Dickey—4th in C in Two Session Open Pairs (60 pairs)
- Robert Downie & Bonnie Melchior—6th in A in Two Session Open Pairs (68 pairs)
- Ann Ferrill & Edna Savoy—5th in **A/1st in B in Two Session Open Pairs** (68 pairs)
- Dick Heil, Mike Martin, Art Pfeifer & Ralph Vogel—2nd in Bracket E Knockouts (9 teams)
- Cal Heseman & Monica Heseman—5th in B/2nd in C in Two Session Open Pairs (68 pairs); 4th in **A/3rd in B/1st in C in Open Pairs** (34 pairs)
- Gerald Koonce, Bonnie Melchior, David Siebert & teammate—**1st in A in A/X Swiss** (30 teams)
- Gerald Koonce, David Siebert, Suzanne Siebert & teammates—**1st in Bracket A Knockouts** (6 teams)
- Kay Loss, Deb Phillips, Burla Sims & Joyce Thornton—3/4 in Bracket C Knockouts (10 teams)
- Deb Phillips & Burla Sims—5/6 in A/3rd in B in Open Pairs (30 pairs)
- David Siebert & partner—**1st in A in Two Session Open Pairs** (60 pairs) ♣

Hot Springs Village

- David Blanchard & Jo Blanchard—4th in B in 299er Pairs (16 pairs)
- Norma Campbell, Mike Compton, Jane Dickey & Bonnie Fincher—2nd in Bracket D Knockouts (11 teams)
- Al Childs & Kathy Childs—**1st in A in Open Pairs** (18 pairs)

Little Rock Tournament of Roses

**Memorial Day Weekend—May 23–26, 2003
Expo Center, 13000 Interstate 30, Exit 128**

Friday & Saturday, May 23 & 24
10 a.m., 3 p.m. & 8 p.m. Bracketed Knockouts
10 a.m. & 3 p.m. Two Session Stratified Pairs
3 p.m. Continuous Pairs Stratified
8 p.m. Continuous Pairs Stratified
Sunday, May 25
10 a.m. & 3 p.m. Board-a-Match
10 a.m. Continuous Pairs Stratified
3 p.m. Continuous Pairs Stratified
8 p.m. Continuous Pairs Stratified
Monday, May 26
10 a.m. & TBA Stratified Swiss Teams

Tournament Chairman: David Siebert
(501) 312-9538
email d.siebert@sbcglobal.net

Partnership Chairman: Bobby Morgan
(501) 666-2435
email bobbymorgan@arkansas.net

La Quinta Inn
11701 Interstate 30, Exit 128
(501) 455-2300
\$45 single/double occupancy

Great Hospitality!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SWISS TEAM GAME

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 1:30 P.M.

CLUB TOURNAMENT GAMES

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 7:00 P.M., 0-300

MONDAY, APRIL 14, 11:00 A.M.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 7:00 P.M., 0-50

SECOND FRIDAY PARTY NIGHT

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, PARTY 7:00, GAME 7:30 P.M.

Bring snacks

BOARD MEETING

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 12:15 P.M.

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 1:30 P.M.

LRDBC members with birthdays in April play free

MASTER/NOVICE GAME

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 7:00 P.M.

LITTLE ROCK DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

BRIDGE HOUSE

2320 DURWOOD ROAD, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72207

(501) 666-9841

Officers

Ann Ferrill 664-7941 (H)	President ferrill38@aol.com
Margaret Kelly	Vice President
Jo Blanchard	Secretary
Rick Lowens	Treasurer
Don Gattinger	Past President

Board of Directors

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Dick Heil	Lou Morris
Mike Porta	Burla Sims
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED