



Captain of the Hand

By Marcia West

Once one hand shows it's hand by making a limit bid; his partner is now the captain of the hand. Only the captain can only force the limited hand to bid by making a forcing bid. Once the captain is established he/she must make a forcing bid or bids to keep the auction open. Here is an interesting bidding question.

s you are in first seat and open 1c

h jx your partner bids 1s, what is your rebid?

d KQxxx

c KQJ109x Here are the possibilities...

a. pass (you don't have any spades so why go on.)

b. 2d show your distribution

c. 1nt partner has spades covered and your long minors will most likely run with a little help and maybe the ops won't lead hearts.

d. 2c (well I have a lot of them)

e. 3d let partner know how really suited you are in the minors

f. 3nt you realllllllyyyyyyyy love your hand and hope partner will appreciate your skillful bidding.

g. 4nt Gee if partner has all 4 aces you are cold for 6 clubs.

First, when you open this hand you should have thought of what your rebid will be before you make your first bid.

You expect partner to bid a major, so when you make your opening bid, clarify in your mind what you will rebid.

If your partner bids a spade, which should be what you expect, what are you going to do? You shouldn't have to hesitate at all.

With distributional hands anticipate your partner will bid your short suit, and prepare your rebid. Hesitation at the table is frowned upon. The fact that you took a long time to bid conveys information to partner. It is unfair to the opponents and really unfair to partner. If my partner makes a long hesitation, indicating problem on the hand, I personally feel ethically bound not just to ignore it but if there is an inference I can draw, I will ignore the inference. It really compromises your partner.

BE GOOD SCOUTS AND BE PREPARED! When you open your hand, before you open, decide what your rebid will be, expecting the worst possible bid from partner.

The correct answer to the above hand is 2c.

A 2d bid is a reverse and shows a much bigger hand, and is a game forcing bid showing at least 17 or 18 hcp.

The auction should go: 1c p 1s p

2c p 2h p

3d p 3h passed out

Why are we stopping in 3h? The 2c bid limits the opener's hand; the partner is captain. 2h is NOT completely forcing, but passing 2h might take some explaining. I wouldn't fault the opener for passing the 2h bid with Jx.

This hand is a misfit and a bid of 3d clearly states that and denies more than 2 cards in either major, it is not a forward going bid since 2h is semi forcing, therefore 3d shows at least 6 c and most likely 4 or 5 diamonds, if 4 diamonds it would show that the hand is 1-2 in majors because with 3 in either you would correct to that suit, so really the diamond bid is more likely 5 cards and tells partner, serious misfit please pick a minor.

Partner's bid of spades and bid and rebid of hearts shows 5s and 5h, because with 2-4 card majors you bid them up the line. With 2-5 card majors you bid spades first ~ this is not a reverse it shows 5 spades and 5 hearts; 5 h and 4 s you would bid hearts first. If partner has 4 s she will then bid them.

On this auction the 2c bid is passable therefore partner should not bid 2h unless they have enough points to force bidding to the three level or they have the extra length.

What is your opening bid on the following hands:

a Kxx b A c QJxx d xxx e x f J109x

A QJx x AKxx 107532 AKQx

AJx Kxxx AKxx Kx AKJxxx QJ

xxxxxx KJxxx KJxx QJ10x A xxx

Partner's response is below, make proper rebid on each of the above hands:

Resp 1 Heart 1 Spade 1 Heart 1 Spade 1 Spade 1 Diamond

Now think about whether this next bid by partner is forcing or not?

2 Spades 2 Hearts 2 Clubs 2 Diam 3 Clubs 2 Hrts

Anytime partner of opening bidder changes suits it's 95 % forcing. If you, as responder think that partner might pass your second response, make a jump response if you bid a lower ranking suit...1C 1S 2C 2H is not totally forcing...bid 3 hearts, partner cannot pass. Or, if you are responder, the bidding proceeds: 1C 1D

2C 2D...partner can pass, shows no

extras. If the bidding proceeds: 1C 1H

2C 2S - partner must not pass.

1C 1H

1S bid 2d, to force, not 2H.