

Twoonie Talk #16

The Five-Level is For the Opponents

By Warren Watson

KJBC and KDBC

Last Revised May 31st, 2015

North and South are Vulnerable versus Not Vulnerable.

1. South: ♠ Kxx ♥ Qxx ♦ AKJx ♣ xxx

W	N	E	S
	1 ♠	2 ♣	???

2. North: ♠ AQ542 ♥ AKx ♦ xx ♣ xxx

W	N	E	S
	1 ♠	2 ♣	3 ♣
P	3 ♠	P	4 ♠
5 ♣	??		

3. South: ♠ Kxx ♥ Qxx ♦ AKJx ♣ xxx
 - a.

W	N	E	S
	1 ♠	2 ♣	3 ♣
P	3 ♠	P	4 ♠
5 ♣	P	P	???

 - b.

W	N	E	S
	1 ♠	2 ♣	3 ♣
P	3 ♠	P	4 ♠
5 ♣	Dbl	P	???

4. South: ♠ Kxx ♥ Qxx ♦ AKJx ♣ Axx

W	N	E	S
	1 ♠	2 ♣	3 ♣
P	3 ♠	P	4 ♠
5 ♣	P	P	???

5. South: ♠ Kxx ♥ Qxx ♦ Axx ♣ KQJx

W	N	E	S
	1 ♠	2 ♣	3 ♣
P	3 ♠	P	4 ♠
5 ♣	P	P	???

Twoonie Talk #16-Answers

The Five-Level is For the Opponents

Principles:

- Minimum Opener opposite partner's minimum opener is usually enough for the four-level or 3NT. You need a King or Ace extra to make five.
- If the opponents have taken you out of a game that you bid with all expectations of making, they must play doubled if they play at all.
- You only allow the opponents to force you to the five-level if you have the 28 or 29 points total required to make a five level bid. Otherwise, with nothing extra, they play doubled and you get whatever positive points you get.
- One never tells the same story twice. If you have a minimum opener then bid like someone with a minimum opener. Bidding to the five-level whether forced or not, shows extra values.

1. South: ♠Kxx ♥Qxx ♦AKJx ♣xxx

W	N	E	S
	1♠	2♣	???
			3♣

Do not fall into the common trap of bidding 4♠ here. Partner will think you have 0-8 HCP and 4 or 5 ♠'s and won't compete properly. Cuebid shows LR+.

2. North: ♠AQ542 ♥AKx ♦xx ♣xxx

W	N	E	S
	1♠	2♣	3♣
P	3♠	P	4♠
5♣	??		

Pass, do not tell the same story twice. You have already told partner you have a minimum opener, let him decide.

3. South: ♠Kxx ♥Qxx ♦AKJx ♣xxx

a. W	N	E	S
	1♠	2♣	3♣
P	3♠	P	4♠
5♣	P	P	???

Dbl. You have nothing extra to bid and make five and you absolutely cannot pass partner's forcing pass.

b. W	N	E	S
	1♠	2♣	3♣
P	3♠	P	4♠
5♣	Dbl	P	???

Pass, You have nothing extra to bid and make five and partner's double shows a very minimum opener and probably wasted club values. Well they are only wasted in a 5♠ contract not a 5♣x contract.

4. South:

♠Kxx ♥Qxx ♦AKJx ♣Axx

W	N	E	S
	1♠	2♣	3♣
P	3♠	P	4♠
5♣	P	P	???

5♠. You have extra values and you want the vulnerable game bonus. Getting 650 is much better than 500. Hoping for 800 is too risky here.

5. South:

♠Kxx ♥Qxx ♦Axx ♣KQJx

W	N	E	S
	1♠	2♣	3♣
P	3♠	P	4♠
5♣	P	P	???

Dbl, You have extra values, but, unless the opponents lead a club, you may not get the timing to pitch losers on the clubs before the opponents take their winners against a 5♠ contract. The clubs are wasted in a 5♠ contract but not a 5♣x contract.