

Twoonie Talk #16

The Five-Level is For the Opponents

By Warren Watson

KJBC and KDBC

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North and South are Vulnerable versus Not Vulnerable.

1. South:

W N E S
1♦ 2♣ ???

♠Kxx ♥Qxx ♦AKJx ♣xxx

2. North:

W N E S
1♦ 2♣ 3♣
P 3♦ P 4♦
5♣ ??

♠AQ542 ♥AKx ♦xx ♣xxx

3. South:

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

♠Kxx ♥Qxx ♦AKJx ♣xxx

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

4. South:

W N E S
1♦ 2♣ 3♣
P 3♦ P 4♦
5♣ P P ???

♠Kxx ♥Qxx ♦AKJx ♣Axx

5. South:

W N E S
1♦ 2♣ 3♣
P 3♦ P 4♦
5♣ P P ???

♠Kxx ♥Qxx ♦Axx ♣KQJx

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.