

MORRIS TRANSFER BIDS - From Bridge Guys

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Following a Precision 1 Club opening bid the responder employs *conditional transfer bids* when playing Morris Transfer Bids. The requirements for employing such *conditional transfer bids* is that the responder meet the parameters stating that a response can only be made if the responder holds 8 plus points and a 5-card plus suit.

Note: It is only with the understanding that such *conditional transfer bids* will not be accepted if the opener does not meet the requirements for the transfer, and therefore the designation *conditional*.

The transfer bid requests that the opener accept the transfer bid when holding three to an honor (normally Jack or higher) or any four cards in the suit, to which the responder transfers. If the opener does not meet these requirements, then the opener must bid his own suit or No Trump, as the holding suggests.

Outline of Morris Transfer Bids

| Opener | Responder | Meaning |
|--------|-----------|--|
| 1 ♣ | 1 ♥ | Morris transfer bid showing 8 plus points and transfers to Spades. This response is artificial. |
| 1 ♠ | | The opener accepts the transfer bid when holding three to an honor (normally Jack or higher) or any four cards in Spades. Otherwise the opener finds another informative bid. |
| 1 ♣ | 1 ♠ | Morris transfer bid showing 8 plus points and transfers to No Trump. This response is artificial. |
| 1 NT | | The opener generally accepts the transfer bid since the first response is not a transfer bid to a suit. This is more a waiting bid (<i>position</i>) in order that the responder communicate additional information. |
| 1 ♣ | 1 NT | Morris transfer bid showing 8 plus points and transfers to Clubs. This response is artificial. |
| 2 ♣ | | The opener accepts the transfer bid when holding three to an honor (normally Jack or higher) or any four cards in Clubs. Otherwise the opener finds another informative bid. |
| 1 ♣ | 2 ♣ | Morris transfer bid showing 8 plus points and transfers to Diamonds. This response is artificial. |
| 2 ♦ | | The opener accepts the transfer bid when holding three to an honor (normally Jack or higher) or any four cards in Diamonds. Otherwise the opener finds another informative bid. |
| 1 ♣ | 2 ♦ | Morris transfer bid showing 8 plus points and transfers to Hearts. This response is artificial. |
| 2 ♥ | | The opener accepts the transfer bid when holding three to an honor (normally Jack or higher) or any four cards in Diamonds. Otherwise the opener finds another informative bid. |

All continuations are per partnership agreement since all continuations are based on individual agreements. Some agreements include bids to ascertain the exact distribution of the holding. If the transfer bid, for example, is not accepted since it is *conditional*, then the partnership agreement must include continuations based upon additional Precision-style conventions and conventional methods.

Morris Asking No Trump Sequence

In the bidding sequence, in which the responder transfers partner to 1 No Trump, then the responder can initiate the Morris Asking No Trump

| Opener | Responder | Meaning |
|--------|-----------|---|
| 1 ♣ | | Precision Club |
| | 1 ♠ | This first response transfers the opener to 1 No Trump |
| 1 NT | | The opener accepts the transfer bid when holding three to an honor (normally Jack or higher) or any four cards in Spades. |
| | 2 ♣ | The responder then employs a Stayman-style bid to ask for the number of held Aces. |
| 2 ♦ | | Shows 0 or 4 Aces. |
| 2 ♥ | | Shows 1 Ace. |
| 2 ♠ | | Shows 2 Aces. |
| 2 NT | | Shows 3 Aces. |

In order to **ask for Kings**, and **subsequently for Queens**, the opener rebids the cheapest possible suit, and the information is communicated by steps. An illustrative example follows, but only the bidding sequence is shown.

| Opener | Responder | Meaning |
|--------|-----------|---|
| 1 ♣ | | Precision Club |
| | 1 ♠ | This first response transfers the opener to 1 No Trump |
| 1 NT | | The opener accepts the transfer bid when holding three to an honor (normally Jack or higher) or any four cards in Spades. |
| | 2 ♣ | The responder then employs a Stayman-style bid to ask for the number of held Aces. |
| 2 ♥ | | Shows 1 Ace. |
| | 2 ♠ | By bidding the next cheapest possible suit the responder inquires about the number of held Kings. |
| 3 ♦ | | The opener shows 2 Kings. The opener has jumped 3 Steps (2NT, 3 ♣, 3 ♦) showing 3 Kings. |
| | 3 ♥ | By bidding the next cheapest possible suit the responder inquires about the number of held Queens. |
| 4 ♦ | | The opener shows 3 Queens. The opener has jumped 4 Steps (3 ♠, 3NT, 4 ♣, 4 ♦) showing 3 Queens. |

The possible holding of the opener is illustrated below. No competition:

| South | North |
|--------|--------|
| ♠ AQ98 | ♠ K42 |
| ♥ K7 | ♥ AQ10 |
| ♦ KQ3 | ♦ A987 |
| ♣ Q106 | ♣ AK5 |

Note: Employing the Morris Transfer bids the partnership will reach a secure contract of either 7 Hearts or 7 No Trump.

| South | North | Meaning |
|-------|-------|---|
| 1 ♣ | | Precision 1 Club opening showing 16 plus points. |
| | 1 ♠ | A Morris transfer bid to No Trump by the responder. |
| 1 NT | | The opener accepts the transfer and bids 1 No Trump. |
| | 2 ♣ | A Stayman-style bid asking for the number of held Aces. |
| 2 ♥ | | Shows 1 Ace. The suit is unspecified. |
| | 2 ♠ | Inquiry about the number of held Kings. |

The Steps Showing Held Kings

| | |
|-----|--|
| 2NT | Note: this is not possible. The response must be a suit. |
|-----|--|

- 3 ♣ Promises zero Kings.
- 3 ♦ Promises one King.
- 3 ♥ Promises two Kings.
- 3 ♠ Promises three Kings. Rare, but theoretical.

Note: The King Inquiry is dependent upon the response to the Ace-Inquiry. As soon as the bid is made communicating the number of held Aces, then the next possible and cheapest bid is the King Inquiry. However, the parameters of the original concept dictate that this next cheapest bid may not be No Trump.

Queen Inquiry

The Queen-Inquiry is dependent on the response to the number of held Kings, also by step responses. The step responses are identical in definition as the response to the Ace-Inquiry.

| South | North | Meaning |
|-------|-------|--|
| 1 ♣ | | Precision 1 Club opening showing 16 plus points. |
| | 1 ♠ | A Morris transfer bid to No Trump by the responder. |
| 1 NT | | The opener accepts the transfer and bids 1 No Trump. |
| | 2 ♣ | A Stayman-style bid asking for the number of held Aces. |
| 2 ♥ | | Shows 1 Ace. The suit is unspecified. |
| | 2 ♠ | Inquiry about the number of held Kings. |
| 3 ♥ | | The opener shows 2 Kings via steps. |
| | 3 ♠ | <i>Queen-Inquiry</i> . Response is via step responses. |
| 3 NT | | Note: this is not possible. The response must be a suit. |
| 4 ♣ | | Promises zero Queens. |
| 4 ♦ | | Promises one Queen. |
| 4 ♥ | | Promises two Queens. |
| 4 ♠ | | Promises three Queens. Rare, but theoretical. |

If you wish to include this feature, or any other feature, of the game of bridge in your partnership agreement, then please make certain that the concept is understood by both partners. Be aware whether or not the feature is alertable or not and whether an announcement should or must be made. Check with the governing body and/or the bridge district and/or the bridge unit prior to the game to establish the guidelines applied. Please include the particular feature on your convention card in order that your opponents are also aware of this feature during the bidding process, since this information must be made known to them according to the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge. We do not always include the procedure regarding Alerts and/or Announcements, since these regulations are changed and revised during time by the governing body. It is our intention only to present the information as concisely and as accurately as possible.