

## BIDDING AFTER AN OVERCALL

### GAUTAM'S QUESTION :

Both NV. Dealer South.

I hold as West

♠ 10xx  
♥ AK8xx  
♦ x  
♣ A10xx

Bidding was 1D -1H- P- 1NT  
P- ?

What should I bid in IMP and MP situations.

### Sridhar's views :--

Partner's 1N over our 1H shows lack of heart support and about 9-12 HCP. With that we expect that 1N will make. Since he did not bid 1S – usually partners bid 1S with a decent 4 card also over 1H – I expect him to have length in minors, even a 5-4 fit in clubs is possible and bidding 2C over 1N is safe and will not lead to a minus score.

**At MATCHPOINTS**, I will PASS 1NT, expecting to make either 8 or 9 tricks outscoring the club partial which rates to make 9 or 10 tricks depending on the strength of club fit. If my LHO balances with 2D and that is passed to me, I will balance with a DOUBLE, I play this as take out; partner may pass or bid 2N or 3C, all bids suit me. The key feature of my hand is the 5 controls which offer both offensive and defensive potential. If partner chooses to defend 2D, he will not be disappointed with the 3 fast tricks that I provide, in addition to a possible H ruff. Typical hand that I expect from partner is ♠AXX ♥XX ♦QJXX ♣QJXX.

**AT IMPS**, I will bid 2C, to provide for the remote possibility of reaching a game in clubs; if partner holds ♠AX ♥XX ♦QJXX ♣QJXXX, or ♠XX ♥QX ♦AJXX ♣QJXXX -5C makes on the club finesse through the opener. At IMPS even such small chances of game cannot be sacrificed and there is no premium for declaring 1N at IMPs.