

RAISES IN COMPETITION

Question :

In competitive bidding situations (between spade&heart)we have heard from our friends (who play tournament Bridge),that direct raises are preemptive, destructive &weak in nature while indirect raises are strong, constructive &informative.

Can you please let us know the Scheme through which this philosophy can be implemented in actual Auctions?.

Sridhar's views :

It is not correct to state that all direct raises are weak ; for example direct non-jump raises are standard and not weak, as in 1S-2H-2S – this 2S does show a hand with which the responder would have raised 1S to 2S even in the absence of the 2H overcall , in most partnerships of tournament bridge.

The only different treatment of raises, as practiced by many pairs in tournament bridge, that may interest you is the JUMP RAISE as PREEMPTIVE and using the CUE BID raise as constructive and invitational as in following example :

1S-2H-3S - here the jump raise is weak, pre-emptive and based on distribution showing a hand like ♠QJ10X ♥JXX ♦Q109XX ♣X - the purpose is that many players play a wide range overcall and the pre-emptive effect of the jump raise is deadly on the overcaller's partner , especially when he does not have fit for his partner .

Now you may ask what will the responder (partner of opening bidder) do with a good, invitational hand in the same auction 1S-2H-? - here holding a hand like ♠AXX ♥AX ♦QJXX ♣XXXX , the responder bids 3H – the cue bid raise- which shows this type of hand , inviting partner to bid game with a maximum , suitable hand. Pl note the cue-bid raise always assures support for partner's suit