

OPENER'S REBID IN COMPETITION

Life Master P.Sridhar offers his views on questions

Mr.Wajahat's question - I opened 1-spade with--♠AQJ98 ♥-KJ76 ♦D ♣-A653, LHO bids 2-Diamond,Partner bids 2Heart,Pass by RHO, playing SAYC what should be my bid now.

Partners hand is- ♠K10 ♥AQ985 ♦743 ♣842.

Will 3-diamond by me will be taken as a cue bid agreeing hearts to be trump suit.Is it obligatory on part of my partner to cue bid his spade king if the bidding proceeds like this? Can this 3 diamond be taken by partner as directional bid for 3 notrump? How to resolve this matter?

Sridhar's views :- Partner's 2H is a 'free-bid' in competition – natural and Forcing one round; partner normally promises a rebid over opener's second bid here, except that he can pass 3H, a simple raise. With fit opener, therefore , has choices of (a) simple raise 3H- announcing fit and no extras (b) 4H- fit and enough to make game opposite the free bid, (c) make a bid that shows fit and slam ambition.

In this particular case opener's hand falls in the category (c) – ie : He has a huge hand with fit and slam potential. The void in diamonds , the opponent suit, makes it suitable for a splinter raise – 4D , showing shortness in diamond and fit for H with slam values; responder can cue bid with slam interest OR sign off in game with a lesser hand. Here partner will accept slam invitation since he has a suitable hand for slam, the Spade King, A Q of H are useful cards. Over partner's cue bid, say 4S, opener can even apply the grand slam force 5NT .

Opener's cue bid 3D will deny this splinter holding ; it will normally show a balanced hand, no stopper in diamond, inability to bid any thing else – say ♠AKXXX ♥XX ♦JXX ♣KQX. 3D can also incorporate any hand with H fit and too strong for either 3H or 4H; ie : A balanced powerhouse with H fit –eg ♠AQJXX ♥KJX ♦AXX ♣KX. Subsequent H bids/cue by opener will show this type of hand.

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