

Bridge **L**esson

LEBENSOHL PART 2 **CONVENTIONAL WISDOM**

STANDARD METHODS

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

1N 2♦ ??

YOU

 **AJ975**

 **982**

 **82**

 **J73**

STANDARD METHODS

SUIT BIDS AT THE **2 LEVEL** ARE

NATURAL

&

NON-FORCING

STANDARD METHODS

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

1N 2♦ ??

YOU

 **AQJ75**

 **982**

 **K2**

 **J73**

STANDARD METHODS

NEW SUITS AT THE **3 LEVEL** ARE

NATURAL

&

GAME FORCING

STANDARD METHODS

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

1N 2♦ ??

YOU

 **AJ97**

 **982**

 **82**

 **AQ73**

STANDARD METHODS

CUE BID

is

GAME FORCING

STAYMAN

LEBENSOHL

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
| | 1N | 2♥ | 2N |

YOU

♠ AQ97
♥ A82
♦ T842
♣ J6

LEBENSOHL

This convention is used in competitive auctions, after 1NT, **only when our systems are NOT ON!**

The 2NT bid begins a sequence designed to give us maximum flexibility in competitive auctions.

2NT IS A RELAY BID ONLY

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
| | 1N | 2♥ | 2N |

P **3♣**

YOU

♠ AQ97
♥ A82
♦ T842
♣ J6

THE 2NT BID IS A RELAY

This is always the same.

2NT RELAYS TO 3 CLUBS

OPENER MUST BID 3 CLUBS

(NOT A TRANSFER**)**

SLOW SHOWS

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
| | 1N | 2♥ | 2N |
| P | 3♣ | P | ?? |

YOU

♠ AQ97
♥ A82
♦ T842
♣ J6

AFTER THE RELAY TO 3 CLUBS

3NT

Game forcing natural **with a stopper** in the opponent's suit.

CUE BID

Game forcing Stayman **with a stopper** in the opponent's suit.

SLOW APPROACH SHOWS STOPPER.

OTHER OPTIONS

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
| | 1N | 2♥ | 2N |
| P | 3♣ | P | ?? |

YOU

♠ 972

♥ 2

♦ 842

♣ KQ9763

AFTER THE RELAY TO 3 CLUBS

PASS

SIGN OFF IN CLUBS

OTHER OPTIONS

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
| | 1N | 2♥ | 2N |
| P | 3♣ | P | ?? |

YOU

♠ 972

♥ 2

♦ AJT642

♣ 863

AFTER THE RELAY TO 3 CLUBS

PASS

SIGN OFF IN CLUBS

3 OF A NEW SUIT

NATURAL

*VALUES DEPEND ON WHAT BIDS WERE
AVAILABLE AT THE 2 LEVEL.*

OTHER OPTIONS

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

1N 2♥ ??

YOU

 QJ972

 52

 QJ42

 86

SIGN OFFS

ANY NEW SUIT AT THE TWO
LEVEL DIRECTLY

OTHER OPTIONS

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
| | 1N | 2♥ | 2N |
| P | 3♣ | P | ?? |

YOU

♠ 972

♥ 2

♦ QJT842

♣ K92

SIGN OFFS

ANY **NEW SUIT**, AFTER RELAY,
THAT WAS **NOT** AVAILABLE AT
THE 2 LEVEL ORIGINALLY

OTHER OPTIONS

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
| | 1N | 2♥ | 2N |
| P | 3♣ | P | ?? |

YOU

♠ AJT97

♥ 82

♦ KT3

♣ 972

INVITE SEQUENCES

ANY NEW SUIT, AFTER RELAY,
THAT **WAS** AVAILABLE AT THE 2
LEVEL IS

NATURAL
&
INVITATIONAL

SIGN OFF or INVITATIONAL

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | 1N | 2♥ | 2N |
| P | 3♣ | P | 3♦ SO |

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|--------|
| | 1N | 2♦ | 2N |
| P | 3♣ | P | 3♥ INV |

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | 1N | 2♠ | 2N |
| P | 3♣ | P | 3♥ SO |

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-------------|
| | 1N | 2♣ | 2♥ TRANSFER |

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | 1N | 2♥ | 2♠ SO |

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|--------|
| P | 1N | 2♥ | 2N |
| | 3♣ | P | 3♠ INV |

SYSTEMIC OVERCALLS

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|---|------|-----|
| | 1N | 2♣ | ?? |
| |  | | |

YOU

♠ AT9
♥ KJT2
♦ JT82
♣ 73

ALERT!

These days, many partnerships are playing some form of system when they overcall our 1NT. The most common situations that concern us are below;

- **Single suited hands**
 - Suit is known
 - Suit is unknown
- **Two suited hands**
 - One suit is known
 - Both suits are known

SYSTEMIC OVERCALLS

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
| | 1N | 2♠ | ?? |

YOU

♠ AT9
♥ KJT2
♦ JT82
♣ 73

OUR SYSTEMS ARE STILL ON IN THE SITUATIONS BELOW

- **Single suited hands**
 - **Suit is known**
 - JUST LIKE NORMAL LEBENSOHL.
 - **Suit is unknown** (usually X or 2C)
 - JUST LIKE NORMAL
- **Two suited hands**
 - **One suit is known**
 - HERE WE CAN USE LEBENSOHL WITH THE KNOWN SUIT AS OUR TARGET.

TWO SUITED OVERCALLS

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
| | 1N | 2N | ?? |

BOTH MINORS

YOU

♠ AT92
♥ KQT92
♦ JT8
♣ 7

TWO SUITED HANDS WHEN BOTH SUITS ARE KNOWN

SYSTEMS ON

- 3♣ – STAYMAN
- 3♦ – TRANSFER TO ♥
- 3♥ – TRANSFER TO ♠

X = DESIRE TO PENALIZE AT LEAST
ONE OF THE KNOWN SUITS

TWO SUITED OVERCALLS

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

1N

2♣

??

BOTH MAJORS

YOU

♠ AT92

♥ KT9

♦ QT98

♣ 74

AFTER 2C = BOTH MAJORS

NO NEED FOR TRADITIONAL SYSTEMS

- 2♦ – NATURAL SIGNOFF
- 2♥ – INVITATIONAL+ WITH ♣
- 2♠ – INVITATIONAL+ WITH ♦
- 2N – INVITATIONAL
- 3♣ – NATURAL SIGNOFF

X = DESIRE TO PENALIZE AT LEAST ONE OF THE KNOWN SUITS

TWO SUITED OVERCALLS

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

1N

2♦

??

BOTH MAJORS

YOU



82



92



JT8



AJ9872

AFTER 2 D = BOTH MAJORS

NO NEED FOR TRADITIONAL SYSTEMS

2♥ – INVITATIONAL+ WITH ♣

2♠ – INVITATIONAL+ WITH ♦

2N – INVITATIONAL

3♣ – NATURAL SIGNOFF

3♦ – NATURAL SIGNOFF

X = DESIRE TO PENALIZE AT LEAST ONE OF THE KNOWN SUITS

TWO SUITED OVERCALLS

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

1N

2♥

??

BOTH MAJORS

YOU



82



92



JT8



AJ9872

AFTER 2H = BOTH MAJORS

NO NEED FOR TRADITIONAL SYSTEMS

2♠ – INVITATIONAL OR ♣

2N – BOTH MINORS

3♣ – INVITATIONAL+ WITH ♦

3♦ – NATURAL SIGNOFF

X = DESIRE TO PENALIZE AT LEAST ONE OF THE KNOWN SUITS

PRACTICE SESSION

1

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

1N

2♣

??

ONE SUIT

YOU

♠ Q9872

♥ 983

♦ A3

♣ T82

2

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

1N

2♥

??

YOU

♠ K952

♥ KJ98

♦ A93

♣ T2

3

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

| | | | |
|---|----|----|----|
| | 1N | 2♥ | 2N |
| P | 3♣ | P | ?? |

YOU

♠ K952

♥ KJ98

♦ A93

♣ T2

4

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

| | | | |
|--|----|----|----|
| | 1N | 2♠ | ?? |
|--|----|----|----|

YOU

♠ 4

♥ QT98643

♦ 64

♣ QT4

5

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

1N 2♠ 2N

P 3♣ P ??

YOU

♠ 4

♥ QT98643

♦ 64

♣ QT4

6

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

1N

2♦ 2N P ??

YOU

♠ AQ82

♥ AQ

♦ 982

♣ K742

7

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

| | | | |
|----|----|---|----|
| | | | 1N |
| 2♦ | 2N | P | 3♣ |
| P | 3♥ | P | ?? |

YOU

♠ AQ82

♥ AQ

♦ 982

♣ K742

8

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

| | | | |
|----|----|---|----|
| | | | 1N |
| 2♥ | 2N | P | 3♣ |
| P | 3♦ | P | ?? |

YOU

♠ KT

♥ AJ4

♦ K962

♣ KQ42

9

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

1N 2♦ ??

YOU

 84

 **AQ982**

 **QT82**

 64

10

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

1N 2♦ 2N
P 3♣ P ??

YOU

 84

 **AQ982**

 **QT82**

 64

11

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1N

2♠

??

YOU

♠ 82

♥ 9

♦ JT6

♣ KJT9642

12

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1N

2♣

??

MAJORS

YOU

♠ AJ5

♥ 2

♦ AQT873

♣ J52

13

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

| | | | |
|---|----|----|----|
| | 1N | 2♣ | 2♠ |
| P | 2N | P | ?? |

YOU

♠ AJ5
 ♥ 2
 ♦ AQT873
 ♣ J52

14

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

| | | | |
|----|----|---|----|
| | | | 1N |
| 2♠ | 3N | P | ?? |

YOU

♠ 74
 ♥ KQ65
 ♦ AQ82
 ♣ AJ5

15

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU
★

1N

2♦

2N

P

MAJORS

YOU

♠ K7

♥ Q65

♦ AQ82

♣ AQT5

16

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU
★

1N

2♦

2♥

P

??

MAJORS

YOU

♠ A84

♥ 92

♦ AKJ64

♣ K82

17

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

1N 2♠ ??

YOU

♠ 73

♥ K84

♦ QT8652

♣ 84

18

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

1N 2♠ 2N
 P 3♣ P ??

YOU

♠ 73

♥ K84

♦ QT8652

♣ 84

19

| | | | |
|------|------------|------|-----|
| WEST | NORTH ★ | EAST | YOU |
|------|------------|------|-----|

1N 2♠ ??

YOU

♠ 85
♥ AQ854
♦ AT85
♣ 98

20

| | | | |
|------|------------|------|-----|
| WEST | NORTH ★ | EAST | YOU |
|------|------------|------|-----|

1N 2♠ ??

2♠
SPADES
& MINOR

YOU

♠ K85
♥ KQ84
♦ KT85
♣ 98

21

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU |
|------|-------|------|-----|
|------|-------|------|-----|

| | | | |
|---|----|----|----|
| | 1N | 2♠ | 2N |
| P | 3♣ | P | ?? |

YOU

♠ K85
 ♥ KQ84
 ♦ KT85
 ♣ 98

22

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU ★ |
|------|-------|------|----------|
|------|-------|------|----------|

| | | | |
|--|----|--------|----|
| | 1N | 2♦ | ?? |
| | | MAJORS | |

YOU

♠ KQT6
 ♥ AQT83
 ♦ 84
 ♣ 64

23

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU ★ |
|------|-------|------|----------|
|------|-------|------|----------|

| | | | |
|----|----|---|----|
| | | | 1N |
| 2♦ | 2N | P | 3♣ |
| P | 3♠ | P | ?? |

YOU



KT4



A4



AJ92



A732

24

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU ★ |
|------|-------|------|----------|
|------|-------|------|----------|

| | | | |
|--|----|----|----|
| | 1N | 2♠ | ?? |
|--|----|----|----|

YOU



76



AT9853



J84



64

25

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU ★ |
|------|-------|------|----------|
|------|-------|------|----------|

| | | | |
|---|----|----|----|
| | 1N | 2♠ | 2N |
| P | 3♣ | P | ?? |

YOU

♠ 76
♥ AT9853
♦ J84
♣ 64

26

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU ★ |
|------|-------|------|----------|
|------|-------|------|----------|

| | | | |
|--|----|----|----|
| | 1N | 2♣ | ?? |
|--|----|----|----|

YOU

♠ KQ76
♥ AQT83
♦ 84
♣ 64

27

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU ★ |
|------|-------|------|----------|
|------|-------|------|----------|

1N

2♥

3♥

P

??

YOU



KT4



94



AJ9



AK732

28

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU ★ |
|------|-------|------|----------|
|------|-------|------|----------|

1N

2♣

??

MAJORS

YOU



762



3



KJT854



J64

29

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU ★ |
|------|-------|------|----------|
|------|-------|------|----------|

| | | | |
|----|----|---|----|
| | | | 1N |
| 2♥ | 2♠ | P | ?? |

YOU

♠ KT42

♥ 94

♦ AJ9

♣ AK73

30

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | YOU ★ |
|------|-------|------|----------|
|------|-------|------|----------|

| | | | |
|--|----|----|----|
| | 1N | 2♠ | ?? |
|--|----|----|----|

YOU

♠ AJ2

♥ KQ

♦ JT95

♣ J642

ANSWERS TO NUMBERED HANDS

1. 2H – TRANSFER
2. 2N – SLOW SHOWS
3. 3H – STAYMAN
4. 2N
5. 3H – SIGNOFF
6. 3C – FORCED
7. PASS – PARTNER IS INVITING
8. PASS – PARTNER IS SIGNING OFF
9. 2N
10. 3H – INVITE
11. 2N
12. 2S – DIAMONDS AND INVITATIONAL+
13. 3N
14. 4D – NO STOPPER ☹️
15. 3N – PARTNER'S 2N = INVITATIONAL
16. 3C – PARTNER'S 2H = CLUBS
17. 2N
18. 3D – SIGNOFF
19. 3H – NATURAL GAME FORCING
20. 2N
21. 3S – STAYMAN WITH A STOPPER
22. X – PENALTY FOR 1 OR BOTH SUITS
23. 4S – PARTNER'S 3S = NAT & INVITATIONAL
24. 2N – 2N
25. 3H – SIGNOFF
26. X – STAYMAN
27. 4C – PARTNER'S 3H = STAYMAN WITHOUT STOPPER
28. 2D – SIGNOFF
29. PASS – PARTNER IS SIGNING OFF
30. 2N – **SLOW APPROACH SHOWS STOPPER**