

Improvers Lessons

Franklin Bridge Club

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Lesson 1 and 2 Update

Tips for Stayman, transfers and alerting

Simple Stayman – Alerting

- Basic Rules of Simple Stayman
 - You open 1NT and your partner bids 2C (Simple Stayman). You DO NOT alert this.
 - You then bid 2D (no 4 card major). Your partner DOES NOT alert this.
- WHY NOT?
 - In New Zealand 2C Simple Stayman and 2D response are deemed to be self alerting

Simple Stayman – Alerting

- However
 - Opposition opened a suit and you bid 1NT (showing 15-17 points and stop in opener's suit). Your partner bids 2C (Stayman), you MUST alerted this.
 - You open 2NT and your partner bids 3C (Stayman). You MUST alert this.
- WHY?
 - These are not deemed to be self-alerting

Transfers - Alerting

- Basic Rules of Simple Transfers
 - You open 1NT and your partner bids 2D (transfer to hearts). You MUST alert this.
 - You then bid 2H (doing what you are told). Your partner MUST alert this.

WHY alert the 2H if the 2D has already been alerted (and even maybe explained)?

- You may only have two hearts and you are only responding to your partner's transfer. Your bid has nothing to do with hearts.

Transfers – Huh?

- I notice others in the club do not alert the 2H
 - It is technically correct to alert the 2H but it does seem to be self explanatory so many people don't. I'd suggest get into the habit. May as well do it right even if others are not.

How to alert

- Pull out the black alert card and place it next to the bid and say “alert”.
- Do not say anything else or give any further explanation unless asked by the opposition (the next person to bid or pass).

What to say if asked about the alert

- **The Laws of Bridge state: you must divulge “As much as you can and as comprehensively as you can; simply to state a convention is not acceptable”.**
- It's simpler than it sounds. Remember the opposition may ask further questions to clarify the finer points so you don't have to rattle off screeds of details.
 - 2C Stayman after an overcall: Partners has 8 or more points and at least one four card major
 - 2D response from opener - Partner does not have a four card major
 - 2D transfer – Partner is transferring me to hearts, any point count.

What about when I forget our system

- Your partner bids and you have a Brain Fart. Did we agree to play transfers or not? Gosh, I know I should know this...
- You should alert the bid anyway.
- Holy, Moly: The opposition asks "What does that mean?"

You can say something like:

- Undiscussed OR
- I know it's systematic but I cannot remember what it means

Don't say

- I'm not sure but I guess...
- Be as honest as possible but these things happen. The director can always be called. They will know what to do next.

How to alert – Oops 1

- Oh dear, partner has forgotten to alert.
 - Poker face, no comment – you are not allowed to say or do anything. Continue to bid as if your partner has alerted and stick to your system.

How to alert – Oops 2

- So, partner forgot to alert during the bidding and now you (or they) have won the contract.
 - Before the lead card is exposed, either you or your partner should pull out the black alert card and place it next to the bid that was not alerted. Remember the opposition may not want to know so again do not say anything else unless asked.

How to alert – Oops 3

- Or, partner forgot to alert during the bidding and now you are on defence.
 - Poker face – you are still not allowed to say or do anything.
 - If during or after the play the opposition feel they have been adversely affected they may call the director.

When to ask about the opposition's alerts

- **As keen as you guys and gals are to learn...**
 - ASK if you have a reason.
 - e.g. 1NT, 2D (alert). you have 5 hearts and were thinking about overcalling. ASK. now you know opposition also has five hearts so you will opt to pass instead.
 - DO NOT ask if you simply want to learn more about their system. You are inadvertently helping them to get it right.
- **Remember**
 - You have the right to ask after the bidding has been completed.
 - *If you are on lead you can ask straight away*
 - *If your partner is on lead you must wait until they have selected their lead and placed it face down on the table and then you may ask*

Interference = System Off

- **Interference = SYSTEM OFF (no exceptions).**
- Partner opened 1NT and you were planning to bid 2H transfer to spades but opposition have just overcalled 2H.
- **SYSTEM OFF!!!**
- You may now call 2S naturally if you have enough points or pass with a big sigh of relief.