

Twos and Transfers

Chapter 5: Transfers and More

There is really no limit to what can be dreamt up to go with transfers. New ideas often pop up, and anyone can make any additions they wish as to how they will make the best of their bidding when using transfers and other 'non transfer' bids that may become available as a result of using transfers. For instance, a jump to the three or four level when partner opens 1NT. A 'range finder' of 2S that might have a multiple meaning; a bid of 2NT that is not a transfer but something else that is more useful; a transfer bid that is ignored by opener. Let's have a look at some of the possibilities.

Firstly, the "Super accept". This is a very simple concept to understand and execute. When you make a transfer bid, partner does not follow your precise request, but jumps one level in the suit you are transferring to. One example:

♠ 84

♥ AQ102

♦ A94

♣ A1043

You open 1NT and partner bids 2D as a transfer to 2H. Your heart support is so great, and you have an absolute maximum 1NT opening, that you think you might miss a game if partner has a reasonable hand but not one good enough to make a move towards game. So you bid 3H to tell partner just that. Let's give partner a fairly normal hand that he might have to bid 2D:

♠ A73

♥ K9872

♦ K85

♣ 72

Despite the fact that this is not good enough to want to play in anything other than 2H, it is good enough to result in 4H being pretty much laydown. There will be other similar hands where 4H will make. After the super accept, a partner holding such a hand can confidently bid to game. This can be crucial in a teams game. Of course, partner might have a very poor hand with five hearts and few points, but then, even if you are down in 3H, you may have talked opponents out of a contract of their own. Generally, I do not recommend making super accepts at match points even with very good hands, but they can also be extremely useful in bidding slams when partner has been transferring with something like:

♠ AQ4

♥ A9872

♦ K8

♣ A543

An even better use of the super accept is after the 2NT opening. Take the hand that I showed you earlier, where Jeremy Flint had the Yarborough with six hearts and wanted to play in 3H.

Take another look:

.♠ 84

♥ 876432

♦ 95

♣ 872

and now put it against an opening 2NT with:

.♠ AQ4

♥ AK109

♦ K8

♣ AQ43

If the 2NT opener makes a super accept to 4H, it will have every chance of making, because a) the cards may be favourable and b) the opening lead may also be favourable, with the lead coming round to declarer. Unless the opening lead is a trump, I would back declarer in a 4H contract.

And there is another upside to the super accept over a 2NT opening (or 2NT rebid with 23-24 HCP). You might be bidding 3D with little intention of looking for a slam, e.g. with

♠ K92

♥ Q7643

♦ A743

♣ 8

but put the two hands together and 6H is certain, with a grand slam cold if trumps break 2-2!