Play Better Bridge! – Opening Bids

These are the eight hands in the two deals that were passed out last week. Would you open any of these rather than pass?

1) Dealer: ♠ QJ84 ♥ QJ ♦ 542 ♣ KQ52
2) Dealer: ♠ QT ♥ AJ43 ♦ 763 ♣ K984
3) 2nd Chair: ♠ K72 ♥ K982 ♦ AQ84 ♣ 65
4) 2nd Chair: ♠ T5 ♥ AT932 ♦ 976 ♣ AT6
5) 3rd Chair: ♠ A96 ♥ K5 ♦ JT8 ♣ J9873
6) 3rd Chair: ♠ 9843 ♥ Q ♦ KT5 ♣ AQT73
7) Passout Seat: ♠ AJ65 ♥ T765 ♦ J92 ♣ J2
8) Passout Seat: ♠ K732 ♥ 8764 ♦ AKQ3 ♣ 4

(Answer on next slide….)

Pass Pass Pass Pass (all are different!)

- ♠ Last week there were three “Passed Out” results in the first four rounds. I knew something was up when we were way out of synch timing-wise by halfway through!
- ♥ Requirements for opening the bidding are about the same for first and second chair, but can be quite a bit more liberal for third and fourth. Many open shockingly light third seat hands, especially non-vulnerable, and in fourth seat some play the Rule of 15: open if your spade length added to your highcard point total is 15 or more. This works: spades are important if the points are evenly split between the two sides.
- ♦ In first or second seat, a good rule of thumb for borderline openers is “Do I have at least 2½ quick tricks and no potential rebid problems?” (Quick tricks are counted to a maximum of two per suit: AK is 2, AQ or AJT 1½, A or KQ 1, Kx or KJT ½.)
- ♣ If all players pass, the Laws say that the hand should **not** be redealt, even in the first round. Many clubs these days pre-deal boards and you cannot mess with these by re-dealing. But after a first round passout, all four players have made a decision, and the score will usually be close to average if the decisions are normal. Score it up and don’t hurry the nearby tables who have to get through two boards!

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Here are the hands McBruce would be most likely to open:

8) Passout Seat: ♠ K732 ♥ 8764 ♦ AKQ3 ♣ 4

This 12-count has a singleton and 2½ quick tricks and should be opened in any seat. If partner finds the troublesome 2♣ response, I would rebid 2♥ and hope to find a major suit fit.

3) 2nd Chair: ♠ K72 ♥ K982 ♦ AQ84 ♣ 65

This 12-count has a doubleton and 2½ quick tricks and should be opened in any seat. Over a 2♣ response, 2NT should be fine.

6) 3rd Chair: ♠ 9843 ♥ Q ♦ KT5 ♣ AQT73

This hand in third seat could be a light 1♣ opener. You would pass a 1♠ response and rebid 1♠ otherwise.

5) 3rd Chair: ♠ A96 ♥ K5 ♦ JT8 ♣ J9873

This is an example of how far experts might go to open in third seat when not vulnerable. Whatever partner does, opener will pass and hope to survive!