

For New and Improving Players

Here is our quarterly selection of articles you may choose to investigate – just follow the link to the on-line article.



1. Forcing Bids

It's important to understand the concept of a forcing bid -particularly if you want to keep your partner happy! (or keep your partner!!)

Imagine the situation where you meet a friend in the street and start up a conversation but your friend refuses to answer you. (of course, being the lovely person that you are, no friend would do this to you - but just bear with this line of reasoning for a moment). You try various changes of topic but still no answer!! Hmm - not behaviour conducive to a meaningful conversation, is it?

Now, equate this to Bridge. Bidding in bridge is the same as having a two-way conversation to reach the best outcome for your partnership. But if your partner won't speak then it's very hard to achieve a successful outcome. (ie contract)

That's why we have the concept of FORCING BIDS.

"A forcing bid is any call that obliges partner to bid over a PASS by the opposition."

"It is a bid that, by partnership understanding, requires the bidder's partner to make another bid. A forcing bid is not necessarily a strong bid. It is legal to pass partner's forcing bid, and players occasionally do so if they believe it advantageous on a given hand, but it is damaging to partnership confidence." (thank you Wikipedia)

A web search will find lots online about forcing bids - here's a start

[Forcing Bids 1](#)

[Forcing Bids 2](#)

2. The Reverse (a special type of forcing bid)

Imagine you opened your cards to see 16 -18 points but without the shape to bid 1NT!

How do you show partner that you have a strong hand without the need to jump bid? Recently I witnessed a player who opened 1 Club. Partner (with 8 points) responded 1NT, then opener rebid 2C.

Of course partner passed! 1C-2C is just about the weakest call in the game. A lament was then heard *"but I had lots of points"*.

This is where a **reverse bid** could have been used to show this strong hand.

You reverse when you **bid a suit of higher rank than the first suit you bid**. e.g., **1 C 1NT 2D**

So, in the 1C-2C scenario above- if opener had bid 2D (instead of 2C) partner would immediately have recognised that opener had 16+ points and wouldn't have passed.

Responder also can reverse bid - usually this shows at least an opening hand.

Read up on it all here. [Reverse Bidding](#) and [Bidding Barriers](#)