

DISTRICT 16 LECTURE SERIES



Lebensohl over 1 NT

Nicola Beninger
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Lebensohl is a complex convention
used after an opponent overcalls
your partner's 1NT

This is a very simplified version
to get you started





PRINCIPLE 1: Key Phrase

✓ Slow shows (a stopper in the opposition's anchor suit)

✓ Fast denies a stopper



Choices:



In this auction:

Partner. RHO. **You.** LHO

INT. 2H. ?

1. Double is for penalty (a good 8+ and tricks in opposition's suit)

2. 2NT is a relay that demands that opener

bid 3♣



Choices when you have game going values

You can still get to 3NT if you have 10+ points

- ✓ If you bid it directly (fast) this denies a stopper in opposition's suit

1NT	2♥	3NT
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- ✓ If you relay through 2NT you are showing a stopper

1NT	2♥	2NT	pass
3♣	pass	3NT	pass



Choice 1



- YOUR HAND:

- ♠ KQx

- ♥ XXX

- ♦ Axx

- ♣ Qxxx

- Auction: INT

2♥ ? (what do you bid?)





YOUR HAND:

♠ KQx

♥ xxx

♦ Axx

♣ Qxxx

With 10 or more points, no stopper and **less than**
4♠, bid 3NT directly

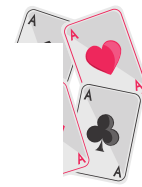
1NT

2♥

3NT



Choice 2



YOUR HAND:

♠ KQxx

♥ xx

♦ KJx

♣ Qxxx





♠ KQxx
♥ XX
♦ KJx
♣ Qxxx

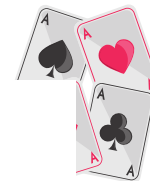
Your hand: Four♠ and no ♥ stopper

Cue bidding the opponent's suit promises 4♠ or at least one major if opposition bid a minor

The auction would now be:

1NT 2♥ 3♥ (Stayman in unbid major)





Choice 3

YOUR HAND:

♠ KQxx

♥ AJx

♦ xxx

♣ xxx





♠ KQxx

♥ AJx

♦ XXX

♣ XXX

What is the difference in this hand?



This time you have a stopper and four ♠



- ♠ KQxx
- ♥ AJx
- ♦ xxx
- ♣ xxx
- So the auction would go:
1NT 2♥ 2NT Pass
3♣ Pass 3♥ Pass

Partner now knows you have 1.Game going values, 4♠ and a stopper in ♥

Partner can set the contract



Choice 4: fewer than 4 ♠ but a ♥ stopper

- YOUR HAND:

- ♠ Kxx
 - ♥ AJx
 - ♦ Qxxx
 - ♣ xxx
- Following the principles, you have game going values , fewer than four ♠ BUT a ♥ stopper
 - Initiate by bidding 2NT and after partner bids 3♣ , bid 3NT



Points to remember when initiating Stayman:



- ✓ A cue bid of the opponent's suit is stayman
- ✓ Directly after the overcall denies a stopper : 1NT 2♠ 3♠
- ✓ Using the 2NT relay (slow) then cuebidding shows a stopper as well as 4 of the unbid major

1NT 2♠ 2NT pass
3♣ pass 3♠ pass

- ✓ If the overcall is 2♣, Lebensohl is off. X for stayman or bid as you would without interference



Other options over 1NT - 2♥?



YOUR HAND:

♠ KQxxx

♥ xx

♦ KJxx

♣ Qx

- What would you do? 5 card major and game going values?



♠ KQxxx

♥ XX

♦ KJxxx

♣ Qx



♥ BBO DUPLICATE GAME
0-50 POINTS

With a 5+ card major and a game forcing hand, bid your suit at the 3 level immediately. So bid 3♠ over 2♥



Game going values:



YOUR HAND:

♠ Kxx

♥ AJx

♦ Qxxx

♣ xxx

What are the characteristics of this hand?



Game going values, no 4 card major, but a stopper in ♥



- ♠ Kxx
- ♥ AJx
- ♦ Qxxx
- ♣ xxx

With this hand you would relay through 2NT to show your heart stopper and game going values

1NT	2♥	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3Nt.	Pass



What if your hand has a good minor?



YOUR HAND:

♠ KQx

♥ xx

♦ AQxxxx

♣ xx

What do you think you should do?





6+ cards in a minor

- With a 6+ card minor and a game forcing hand, bid your suit at the 3 level directly
- Note: you have game going values. Any time you pass 2NT you have game going values
- So the auction would be:

1NT 2♥ 3♦ Pass

Now partner can place the contract



Not game going values



YOUR HAND:

♠ KQxxx

♥ xx

♦ Qxxx

♣ Jx

Here you have room to bid your suit at the 2 level , so you can compete without going past 2NT





What if they interfere in ♠ and ♥ is your suit?

YOUR HAND:

♠ XX

♥ AQXXX

♦ QXXX

♣ XX



No room to bid at the 2 level



♠ XX

♥ AQxxx

♦ Qxxx

♣ XX

You want to compete but do not have a game going hand

You must relay through 2NT

1NT 2♠ 2NT Pass

3♣ Pass 3♥ Pass

Partner must pass in this auction



6 card minor not game going



YOUR HAND:

♠ Kx

♥ xxx

♦ Jx

♣ Kxxxxx

You must relay through 2Nt

1NT 2♥ 2NT Pass

3♣ Pass Pass Pass



If your minor is



♠ Kx
♥ xxx
♦ Kxxxxxx
♣ Jx

Again, relay through 2NT, and then correct to 

Again partner must pass

1NT	2♥	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	pass



You have room to bid at the 2 level but your hand is invitational not game going



♠ KQxxx

♥ xx

♦ Kxx

♣ Jxx

What can you do to describe
this hand?



♠ KQxxx

♥ XX

♦ Kxx

♣ Jxx



- You have invitational values so bid 2NT and your suit
- Because you had room to bid at the 2 level and chose to proceed to the 3 level you show an invitational hand

1NT 2♥ 2NT Pass

3♣ Pass 3♠ Pass

Now partner can set the contract



Downsides:

You give up bidding a natural 2NT. Therefore, if that's what you wanted to do, you have to either double to show values and a stopper or bid 3NT

You give up transfers. Remember that Lebensohl does not apply over 2♠



What if the interference is somewhat artificial?

You can still use Lebensohl. If the system has one known suit, base slow shows: direct denies on that known suit.

For example, if 2♦ shows ♦ or some two suited hand, base slow shows; direct denies on ♦

If there is no known suit, the single suit option is the base suit

For example, if 2♦ shows ♥ or some two suited hand, base slow shows; direct denies on



Nicola Beninger
niccimjb@gmail.com

THANK YOU ♥

