

A Guide to Successful Pre-empts.

A pre-empt is where you bid to a high level with very few points in the hope that you will disrupt the oppositions bidding and they will not find their best contract. For example, if you open the bidding 3S it is very hard for the opposition to find their optimum contract of 4H. They may guess incorrectly and play in 3NT or 5D. Consequently, when you make a pre-empt do it at the highest level possible and **don't** bid again. You are not expecting to make your contract but you are hoping to go off only one trick VUL or two tricks N.Vul

What do you need to pre-empt?

1. A long suit. This determines the level of the pre-empt.
 - A 6 card suit is opened at the 2 level.
 - A 7 card suit is opened at the 3 level and
 - An 8 card suit is opened at the 4 level.
2. A Weak hand. Usually 6-9 pts I don't mind weaker but I hate stronger.
3. Reasonable suit quality.
 - 3 of the top 5 honours Vul.
 - 2 of the top 5 honours N Vul.

What are the dangers of a pre-empt?

1. You may go down too many.
2. Your partner may have a good hand and you maybe pre-empting them.
3. The opposition may not have a viable contract.

Examples

If S is dealer then 3D makes it very hard for E/W find slam in C or H		AQT642 J4 Q53 T7	
	K985 K852 9 A954	N W E S	- AQT96 T6 KQJ863
Similarly if N is dealer then opening 2S makes it hard for E/W		J73 73 AKJ7842 2	
NB in this hand N/S can make 2D or 3S			

E is dealer not Vul		95 J AQT98 KQ863	
	QT3 T32 KJ2 AJ94	N W E S	842 KQ98765 64 7
E should open 3H. W should bid 4H		AKJ76 A4 753 T52	
NB in this hand N/S can make 5C/D or 4S E/W and only make 1 H - Off 3 for 150 OK if not doubled			

E is Dealer All Vul		AKQT9 J6 J9 Q873	
	J853 7 AK85 AJT6	N W E S	72 AQT984 T4 K52
E should open 2H		64 K532 Q7632 94	
NB in this hand N/S can't make anything and neither can E/W Your pre-empt failed expect a few disasters!			

Some useful rules.

1. Do not bid if the Opp has pre-empted if you are weak.
2. Once you have pre-empted you have limited your hand partner now sets the contract. Do NOT bid AGAIN unless partner requires you to.
3. Do NOT pre-empt in 4th seat. Both Opp have nothing or they would have bid.
4. Be bold if Partner has passed.
5. Be cautious if you have a 4 card major as well as a six card suit you may o your self out of a major game.