

NT BIDDING - THE LADDER

A BALANCED HAND has:

No voids

No singletons

No more than one doubleton

It can have a 5-card suit! (4333, 4432, 5332)

OPENING with a balanced hand:

12-14 HCP - Open 1NT

15-16 HCP - Open 1x and rebid NT at the lowest level

17-18 HCP - Open 1x and jump to NT ie 2NT or 3NT

19-19 HCP - Open 1x and jump to 3NT

20-22 HCP - Open 2NT

23-24 HCP - Open 2C and rebid NT at the lowest level ie 2NT or 3NT

25-27 HCP - Open 2C and rebid 3NT

28-30 HCP - Open 2C and rebid 4NT - this is NOT Blackwood!

OVERCALLING with a balanced hand:

16-18 with a stopper in opponent suit - 1NT

19+ with a stopper in opponent suit - X then rebid NT at lowest level

RESPONDING with a balanced hand

If you have a 4-card major, bid it unless it's Hearts and partner opened 1 Spade. If you have a 5-card suit and 10-16 points, bid your suit.

Support partner's Major (1H/S) if you have 8 trumps (4-4 or 5-3):

6-9: 2H/S

10-12: 3H/S

13+: 4H/S

Ignore support for partner's Minor, bid NT.

With no support for partner's Major, bid NT:

6-9: 1NT

10-11: 2NT

12-13: 3NT