

## **8) 1NT opening, transfer to minors and super-acceptance .**

The same concepts used in the transfer to majors are used in the transfer to minors. Super-acceptance of transfer to minors is even more useful because it could allow to reach a 3NT contract instead of an idle partial contract in a minor.

Requirement needed for minor suit transfer is 6+ cards minor and 0+ HCP. There are various techniques to ask for minor suits transfer.

Some players would bid 2♠ to ask for transfer on either minor. Opener re-bid is forced to 3♣ over which responder passes with ♣ or corrects to 3♦.

Such a technique has the advantage of being very simple but carries 2 big drawbacks. In 50% of cases, responder will be declarer and opener hand will go on the table, moreover opener has no way to communicate his possible fit in the minor.

A better way consists in bidding 2♠ as a specific transfer to ♣ and 3♣ as a specific transfer to ♦. In this case opener will always become declarer. Nevertheless, even with this technique, opener will not be able to inform partner about his possible fit in the minor suit.

The best technique, however, consists in bidding 2♠ as a specific transfer to ♣ and 2NT as a specific transfer to ♦. In this way, opener will always be declarer and will also have the possibility to inform responder about his fit in the minor suit. Let us see how it works:

**N            S**

1NT        2♠ = transfer to ♣ with 6+♣ and 0+ HCP.

2NT = 3+ cards support

3♣ = 2 cards support.

Conversely :

**N            S**

1NT        2NT = transfer to ♦ with 6+♦ and 0+ HCP.

3♣ = 3+ cards support

3♦ = 2 cards support.

In case responder has a competitive hand, contract will always be 3 in a minor. When responder has G.F. hand, he does not want to tell the story of his life to opponents and will jump to 3NT directly.

Things are quite different, when responder has got an inviting hand. In

such a case opener fit for responder minor can turn final contract into 3NT instead of languishing into a minor part score contract.

Let us see the following example:

**S**

♠ 8 6  
♥ 9 4  
♦ Q 10 8  
♣ A J 10 9 6 5

In case North has a fit in ♣, this suit alone, could easily generate 5 or 6 tricks thus making perfectly viable a 3NT contract instead of a poor 3♣ .

If the bidding goes:

**N            S**

1NT        2♠ = transfer to ♣ with 6+♣ and 0+ HCP.

3♣ = 2 cards support.

South can do nothing else but pass over 3♣. But if bidding would instead go:

**N            S**

1NT        2♠ = transfer to ♣ with 6+♣ and 0+ HCP.

2NT = 3+ cards support

South , with a 9+ cards fit in ♣, can have a solid expectation to generate at least 5 tricks in this suit and can reasonably conclude at 3NT.

The same considerations can be made in case South has a slam going hand, either in ♣ or in NT. Knowing North fit for his 6+cards minor, becomes an encouraging factor about slam possibility.

We have now to define what we mean by a 3+ cards fit. This obviously depends on the player “style “. Some people, requiring belt and suspenders, would like to have either 3 cards with 2 honours or 4 cards with 1 honour. My own requirements are less stringent and I would be happy with 1 honour 3<sup>rd</sup> or with 4 cards support with or without an honour.