

INTERMEDIATE LESSON 4: STUDENT NOTES

Combating interference over our 1NT

Lebensohl

Lebensohl is a bidding convention used when the opponents interfere over 1NT. After partner opens 1NT and the next opponent bids a suit up to 2♠, a 2NT bid is an artificial relay bid asking partner to bid 3♣. Responder then clarifies his hand with his second bid.

The suggestions below are a simplified version to introduce you to this convention.

1NT - (2 of a suit overcall) - now what ?

Pass	= No 5+ card suit to show and/or few HCP
X	= Take-out with accent on the majors (<i>subsequent doubles are penalties</i>)
2-level bid	= 6-9 HCP, 5+ suit, non forcing = Lebensohl transfer to 3♣
2NT	After 3♣ by Opener, pass or bid your suit (see examples 2, 3, 4). If your suit is a lower rank suit to the opposition's it is not forcing. If your suit is a higher rank suit to the opposition's it is invitational.
3-level bid	= GF with a 5+ suit (see example 1)
3 of the opposition's suit	= Game values and looking for a hold in their suit
3NT	= Game values, with a stop in their suit

1NT - (artificial 2 of a suit overcall) - now what ?

All as per above	except the X
X	= either that suit or intending to penalise one of their suits

Example hands and bidding

1. South	Bidding			
	North	East	South	West
♠ KQ742	1NT	2♥	3♠ *	Pass
♥ A6	4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
♦ AQ5				
♣ 743				
	* 3♠ = GF showing 5 spades			

2. South	Bidding			
	North	East	South	West
♠ 74	1NT	2♦	2NT *	Pass
♥ K62	3♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
♦ 83				
♣ KQ8752				
	* 2NT = Lebensohl. Pass of 3♣ = to play			

3. South	Bidding			
♠ 74	North	East	South	West
♥ KJ8752	1NT	2♦	2NT *	Pass
♦ 83	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
♣ AQ6	Pass	Pass		
* 2NT = Lebensohl. Bid of 3♥ = invitational. Opener passes with a minimum hand and bids to 4♥ with a maximum				

4. South	Bidding			
♠ 74	North	East	South	West
♥ KJ8752	1NT	2♠	2NT *	Pass
♦ 83	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
♣ AQ6	Pass	Pass		
* 2NT = Lebensohl. This hand is the same as Hand 3, but the bidding is slightly different. 3♥ by South is a lower rank to the opposition's suit so they are only competing. It is not invitational or forcing				

5. North	South	Bidding			
♠ KQ96	♠ 742	North	East	South	West
♥ 97	♥ KQ86	1NT	2♥	Pass	Pass
♦ K83	♦ AJT7	X	Pass	Pass	Pass
♣ AQ64	♣ 95				
Opener's reopening double is showing shortage in hearts, a maximum hand and has tolerance of the unbid suits. South chooses to convert this to a penalty.					

1NT - (2 of an artificial suit overcall) - now what ?

Pass = No 5+ card suit to show and/or few HCP

X = Either clubs or intending to penalise a major.
Subsequent doubles are penalties

2-level bid = 6-9 HCP, 5+ suit, non forcing

2NT = Lebensohl transfer to 3♣
Subsequent bids the same as per above.

3-level bid = GF with a 5+ suit

3NT = Game values, with a stop in their implied suit/s

6. North	South	Bidding			
♠ KQ96	♠ 74	North	East	South	West
♥ J74	♥ KQ86	1NT	2♣ *	X	2♠
♦ AQ64	♦ 952	X	Pass	Pass	Pass
♣ 83	♣ AJT7				
* 2♣ = both majors. Subsequent doubles by you or your partner = penalty					

7. South	Bidding			
♠ 74	North	East	South	West
♥ 83	1NT	2♥	2NT *	Pass
♦ KJ8752	3♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass
♣ K76	* 2NT = <i>Lebensohl</i> 3♦ = To play			

8. North	South	Bidding			
♠ K6	♠ A9754	North	East	South	West
♥ AQ84	♥ 73	1NT	2♥	3♠	Pass
♦ K73	♦ AQJ5	3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
♣ Q987	♣ A6	3♠ = <i>GF with 5 spades</i>			