

Gazzilli

In the year 2005 when I wanted to play Gazzilli in my partnership with Amod Rele, not much information was available on the possible bidding sequences. Therefore, I decided to write about it. The result was an article (in three parts) in Newsletters of Delhi Bridge Association. The article is still available in the internet and has also appeared in the book – “*The Two-Over-One Game Force System by Dr. Neil H. Timm*”.

• What is Gazzilli?

Gazzilli is an artificial rebid of 2♣ by opener after Opening bid of 1♥/1♠ and response of 1♠ or 1NT. The 2♣ response is forcing and you can no longer play there. The 2♣ bid can be used for various kinds of hands:

- 5-3-3-2 hands of 12-14, 15-17 and 18-20 HCP.
- 5 Major and 4+ Club with 11-15 HCP.
- Generally all other hands of 16+ HCP (single suiter, two suiter etc.)

Gazzilli is more of a “concept” rather than a well defined convention. Now a days, you can notice mention of Gazzilli in convention cards of many expert bridge players but everyone has a customized version of Gazzilli suited to their bidding methods.

• Why do we need Gazzilli?

Certainly it is not necessary to adopt Gazzilli in your bidding arsenal. But it definitely helps in bidding certain kinds of hands in a better way than traditional Standard American methods.

Playing Standard system, you open One of a Major and partner responds One No trump. Now if you have a single suiter major GF hand, there is no convenient bid. You might jump to 3 of a minor to force the bidding that means responder will not know whether the new suit is of 3 or 4 or 5 cards. The jump has taken away the space which is of paramount importance for exploring and finding the right contract.

Let us look at couple of hands:

West	East
♠ A Q 9 7 6 5	♠ -
♥ A Q J	♥ K 10 6 4 3
♦ A 9 2	♦ K J 7 4 3
♣ 3	♣ 9 8 5

After 1♠ – 1NT (Forcing or Semi Forcing), how do you expect to find the heart fit. With ♦Q with North, there are 12 tricks in a heart contract whereas in Spade contract opponents collected 4 tricks. With Gazzilli it would be much easier.

Let us have a look at a hand where two expert partnerships had a problem:

West	East
♠ 10 9 8 6	♠ A J 5
♥	♥ A K J 10 9 6 5
♦ 8 7 6 2	♦ K Q 5
♣ K Q 10 9 2	♣ -

The biddings were (opponents silent):

- (1) 1♥ – 1♠ – 3♦ – 5♦ – P
- (2) 1♥ – 1♠ – 3♦ – 3NT – 4♥ – 5♦ – 5♥ – P

5♦ had no chance and declarer went 3 down. With ♠Q lead (from KQ doubleton) and North having ♥Q doubleton, declarer had no trouble making 11 tricks in 5♥ contract. With Gazzilli you would just play in 4♥.

• Which hands require Gazzilli?

Gazzilli is definitely a great idea for hands with which are difficult to handle like:

- Hands too weak for 3-level GF jump but too strong for a minimum rebid at 2-level: 16-17 HCP hands two suiter
- Single suiter with 3-cards in other major with 16+ HCP
- Single suiter GF hands
- Balanced hands with 5-card major and 16-17 HCP

Every partnership who would like to add Gazzilli in their bidding structure need to discuss in detail the various sequences. You can play it simple or very complicated. One playable structure is available in my article from 2005. However I would recommend slightly different structure for ease of memory.

Gazzilli also has disadvantages as you can no longer play in 2♣ or 2♦. This means you may have to play a level higher in minors in misfit hands. In spite of its drawbacks, many partnership are adopting Gazzilli and I would also recommend Gazzilli for serious tournament players.

My recommendation on the possible structure is detailed below.

● Gazzilli 2♣:

My suggestion is not to include all strong hands in 2♣ rebids. With the latest trend in mind, I suggest 2♣ rebid shows any one of the following hand:

1. 6 cards in the major 11-15 HCP
2. 16+ HCP with 5M+4m or 5+M & 4OM or any single suiter

● Rebids after 1H Opening:

1♥ – 1♠ – ? . Opener's rebids are:

1N – shows a balanced hand of 12-14 HCP

2♣ – Gazzilli

2♦ – Natural 4+ cards, 11-15 HCP

2♥ – 5♥ & 4+♣ 11-15 HCP

2♠ – 3/4 card support, 11-15 HCP

2NT – 6♥ and 4m, 16+ HCP

3♣/♦ – Natural 5♥ and 5♣/♦, 16+ ORF

3♥ – Natural 6-cards, 14-15 HCP

3♠ – 4 card Spade support, 14-15 HCP

3NT – 6♥ and 4/5♠, no void

4♣/♦ – 6♥ and 4/5♠, void ♣/♦

1♥ – 1♠ – 2♣ (Gazzilli) – ?

2♦ – Relay, 8+ HCP (creates GF if opener has 16+)

2♥ – Preference, weak hand, (1-2 hearts), opener will have 6-hearts in a weak hand

2♠ – 5/6 Spades, short ♥, to play

2NT – singleton or void ♥ and both minors

3♣/♦ – Natural, sign-off 6-cards

3♥ – 3+ card heart support, GF

3♠ – Invitational with 6+ spades

1♥ – 1♠ – 2♣ – 2♦ (shows 8 + hcp) – ?

2♥ – 6-hearts 11-15 HCP

2♠ – 16+ HCP, 3+ Spades, Forcing

2NT – 18+ HCP, one or two card in Spade

3♣/♦ – Natural, 5♥ & 4♣/♦ 16-17 HCP

3♥ – Single suiter, 16-17, without 3 spades

3♠ – Natural, 5♥ & 4♠ 16-17 HCP

3NT – Balanced, 16-17

1♥ – 1♠ – 2♣ – 2♦ – 2♥ (6♥ 11-15) – ?

2♠ – 5+ Spades, one round force

2NT – Invitational

3♣/♦ – Natural, GF

3♥ – Invitational

1♥ – 1♠ – 2♣ – 2♦ – 2♠ (3+♠ 16+) – ?

2NT – Relay

3♣/♦ – Natural, 5♥ & 4♣/♦ 16+ HCP

3♥ – Single suiter (6+♥) with 3 spades

3♠ – 4 card Spade support, 18+ HCP

3NT – 16-17 balanced with 3♠

4♣/♦ – Splinter (with 4 spades)

3♣/♦ – Natural, 6+ ♣/♦ and 4♠

3♥ – 3 hearts, looking for slam

3♠ – 6+ Spades, asks for cue bidding

3NT – To play 4♠ and 2 hearts, balanced hand

4♣/♦ – Self splinter with ♠ agreed

1♥ – 1♠ – 2♣ – 2♦ – 2NT (<3♠ 18+) – ?

3♣ – Relay

3♦ – 5♥ & 4♦, (3♥ further relay)

3♥ – Single suiter heart

3♠ – 5♥ & 4♣,

3NT – 18-19 balanced (2533 hand)

3♦ – Natural, 5+♦ and 4♠

3♥ – 3 hearts, looking for slam

3♠ – 6+ Spades

1♥ – 1♠ – 2♣ – 2♥ (sign-off) – ?

Pass – Generally with 12-17 HCPs

2♠ – 18+ HCP, 3+ Spades, Forcing

2NT – 6-7 HCP, 4-card Spade

3♣/♦ – Natural, sign off

3♥ – sign off

3♠ – 5♠ to play

2NT – 18-19 HCP, two card in Spade

3♣/♦ – Natural, 5♥ & 4♣/♦ 18+ HCP

3♥ – Single suiter, 18+

3♠ – Natural Inv, 5♥ & 4♠ 16-17 HCP

1♥ – 1♠ – 2♥ (5♥ & 3+♣ 11-15) – ?

2♠ – To play

2NT – Invitational

3♣ – Sign-off

3♦ – Forcing

3♥ – 3-card support, limit raise

3♠ – 6+ ♠, Invitational

1♥ – 1♠ – 2NT (6♥ & 4m 16+) – ?

3♣ – Relay

3♦ – 6♥ & 4♦, 16-17

3♥ – 6♥ & 4♣, 16-17

3♠ – 6♥ & 4♦, 18+

3NT – 6♥ & 4♣, 18+

3♦ – Natural, 6+♦

3♥ – 3+ card heart support, GF

3♠ – 6+ Spades GF

1♥ – 1♠ – 2♣ – 2NT (sign-off both minors) – ?

3♣/♦ – sign-off

3♥/♠ – Natural, NF

4♥/♠ – To play

• Rebids after 1♥ Opening:

1♥ – 1NT – ? Opener's rebids are:

2♣ – Gazzilli

- 2♦ – Natural 3+ cards, 11-15 HCP
- 2♥ – 5♥ & 3+♣ 11-15 HCP
- 2♠ – Art., 5♥+5m 18+ or 6♥+5♠ 12-17
- 2NT – 6♥ and 4+m, 16+ HCP
- 3♣/♦ – Natural 5♥ and 5♣/♦, 16-17
- 3♥ – Natural 6-cards, 14-15 HCP
- 3♠ – 6♥ and 5♠, 14-15 HCP
- 3NT – You can decide
- 4♣/♦ – 6♥ and 5♣/♦, 14-15 HCP

1♥ – 1NT – 2♣ (Gazzilli) – ?

- 2♦ – Relay, 8+ HCP (creates GF if opener has 16+)
- 2♥ – Preference, weak hand, (1-2 hearts), opener will have 6-hearts in a weak hand
- 2♠ – 6 card minor, Inv hand
- 2NT – both minors
- 3♣/♦ – Natural, sign-off 6-cards
- 3♥ – 3-card heart support, limit raise

1♥ – 1NT – 2♣ – 2♦ (shows 8 + hcp) – ?

- 2♥ – 6-hearts 11-15 HCP
- 2♠ – 16+ HCP, 4 Spades, Forcing
- 2NT – 18+ HCP, without 4-card Spade
- 3♣/♦ – Natural, 5♥ & 4♣/♦ 16-17 HCP
- 3♥ – Single suiter, 6+ hearts, 16-17
- 3♠ – Natural, 6♥ & 5♠ 18+ HCP
- 3NT – Balanced, 16-17

1♥ – 1NT – 2♣ – 2♦ – 2♥ (6♥ 11-15) – ?

- 2♠ – Inv with spade values
- 2NT – Invitational with both minors
- 3♣/♦ – Inv with values in ♣/♦
- 3♥ – Invitational

1♥ – 1NT – 2♣ – 2♦ – 2♠ (4♠ 16+) – ?

- 2NT – Relay
 - 3♣ – 5♥ & 4♠ 16-17 HCP (3♦ Relay for further distribution)
 - 3♦ – 5♥ & 4♠ 18+ HCP
 - 3♥ – 6♥ & 4♠ 16-17 HCP
 - 3♠ – 6♥ & 4♠ 18+ HCP
- 3NT – 18+ 4522 distribution
- 4♣/♦ – Splinter (with 4 spades)
- 3♣/♦ – Natural, 5+ ♣/♦

1♥ – 1NT – 2♣ – 2♦ – 2NT (<4♠ 18+) – ?

- 3♣ – Relay

3♦ – 5♥ & 4♦, (3♥ further relay)

3♥ – Single suiter heart

3♠ – 5♥ & 4♣,

3NT – 18-19 balanced

3♦ – Natural, 5+♦

1♥ – 1NT – 2♣ – 2♥ (sign-off) – ?

- Pass – Generally with 12-17 HCPs
- 2♠ – 18+ HCP, 4 Spades, Forcing
- 2NT – 18-19, balanced
- 3♣/♦ – Natural, 5♥ & 4♣/♦ 18+
- 3♥ – Single suiter, 18+
- 3♠ – Natural, 6♥ & 5♠ 18+

1♥ – 1NT – 2♣ – 2♠ (Inv with a minor) – ?

- 2NT – Sign-off
- 3♣ – Pass or correct
- 3♦ – To play with ♦ suit, GF if clubs
- 3♥ – To play

1♥ – 1NT – 2♣ – 2NT – ?

- 3♣/♦ – sign-off
- 3♥/♠ – Natural, NF
- 4♥ – To play

1♥ – 1NT – 2♥ (5♥ & 3+♣ 11-15) – ?

- Pass – weak hand
- 2♠ – Inv with 6+ minor
- 2NT – Invitational
- 3♣/♦ – Sign-off
- 3♥ – 3-card support, limit raise
- 3♠ – 6+ clubs and singleton ♠

1♥ – 1NT – 2♠ (5♥+5m 18+ or 6♥+5♠) – ?

- 2NT – Relay
 - 3♣/♦ – Natural, 5♥ & 5♣/♦ 18+ HCP
 - 3♥ – 6♥ & 5♠ 12-15 HCP
 - 3♠ – Natural, 6♥ & 5♠ 16-17 HCP
- 3♣/♦ – Constructive 6+♣/♦
- 3♥ – sign-off (better hand use 2NT relay)

1♥ – 1NT – 2NT (6♥ & 4m 16+) – ?

- 3♣ – Relay
 - 3♦ – 6♥ & 4♦, 16-17
 - 3♥ – 6♥ & 4♣, 16-17
 - 3♠ – 6♥ & 4♦, 18+
 - 3NT – 6♥ & 4♣, 18+
 - 4♣/♦ – 6♥ and 5♣/♦, 16-17 HCP
- 3♦ – Natural, 6+♦
- 3♥ – 3+ card heart support, GF

● **Rebids after 1♠ Opening:**

1♠ – 1NT – ? Opener's rebids are:

2♣ – Gazzilli

- 2♦ – 5♠ and 3♦, 11-15
- 2♥ – 5♠ & 4♥ 11-15 HCP
- 2♠ – 5♠ and 3♣, 11-15
- 2NT – 6♠ and 4m, 16+ HCP
- 3♣ – Art., 5+♠ and 5any 18+
- 3♦/♥ – Natural 5♠ and 5♦/♥, 16-17
- 3♠ – Natural 6+ cards, 14-15 HCP
- 3NT – You can decide
- 4♣/♦/♥ – 6♠ & 5♣/♦/♥, 14-15 HCP

1♠ – 1NT – 2♣ (Gazzilli) – ?

- 2♦ – Relay, 8+ HCP (creates GF if opener has 16+)
- 2♥ – sign-off, natural, 5+ cards
- 2♠ – Preference, weak hand, (1-2 spades), opener will have 6-spades in a weak hand
- 2NT – both minors, sign-off
- 3♣/♦ – Natural, sign-off 6-cards
- 3♥ – 6-card heart, 9-10 hcp
- 3♠ – 3-card spade support, limit raise

1♠ – 1NT – 2♣ – 2♦ (shows 8+ hcp) – ?

- 2♥ – 16+ HCP, 3+ hearts, Forcing
- 2♠ – 6-spades 11-15 HCP
- 2NT – 18+ HCP, without 3-card heart
- 3♣/♦ – Natural, 5♠ & 4♣/4♦ 16-17 HCP (5♠+5♣ 16-17 hand has to be covered here)
- 3♥ – Natural, 5♠ & 4♥ 16-17 HCP (5422)
- 3♠ – Single suiter, 6+ spades, 16-17
- 3NT – Balanced, 16-17

1♠ – 1NT – 2♣ – 2♦ – 2♥ (3+♥ 16+) – ?

- 2♠ – Relay
 - 2NT – 4 hearts, 16+
 - 3♣ – Relay
 - 3♦ – 5♠ & 4♥, 16-17
 - 3♥ – 6♠ & 4♥, 16-17
 - 3♠ – 5♠ & 4♥, 18+
 - 3NT – 6♠ & 4♥, 18+
 - 3♣ – 5♠ & 4♣, 16+ HCP
 - 3♦ – 5♠ & 4♦, 16+ HCP
 - 3♥ – 3♥ & 6♠, 16-17 HCP
 - 3♠ – 3♥ & 6♠, 18+ HCP
 - 3NT – 16-17 balanced
- 2NT – Both minors, forcing
- 3♣/♦ – 6+ ♣/♦
- 3♥ – 5+ Hearts, GF
- 4♥ – 5+ Hearts, min hand

1♠ – 1NT – 2♣ – 2♦ – 2NT (<3♥ 18+) – ?

- 3♣ – Relay
 - 3♦ – 5♠ & 4♦, (3♥ further relay)

- 3♥ – 5♠ & 4♣
- 3♠ – Single suiter spade
- 3NT – 18-19 balanced
- 3♦ – Natural, 5+♦
- 3♥ – 6+ heart forcing

1♠ – 1NT – 2♣ – 2♥ (5+♥, sign-off) – ?

- 2♠ – 6+ Spades, short heart, to play
- 2NT – 18-19, balanced
- 3♣/♦ – Natural, 5♥ & 4♣/♦ 18+
- 3♥ – Invitational, 3+ heart support
- 3♠ – Natural, 6♠ 18+

1♠ – 1NT – 2♣ – 2NT (both minors) – ?

- 3♣/♦ – sign-off
- 3♥ – Natural, 6♠ & 4♥, NF
- 3♠ – Natural, NF
- 4♠ – To play

1♠ – 1NT – 2♠ (5♠ & 3+♣ 11-15) – ?

- 2NT – Invitational
- 3♣/♦ – Sign-off
- 3♥ – 6-card heart, to play
- 3♠ – 3-card support, limit raise

1♠ – 1NT – 2NT (6♠ & 4m 16+) – ?

- 3♣ – Relay
 - 3♦ – 6♠ & 4♦, 16-17
 - 3♥ – 6♠ & 4♣, 16-17
 - 3♠ – 6♠ & 4♦, 18+
 - 3NT – 6♠ & 4♣, 18+
 - 4♣/♦ – 6♠ and 5♣/♦, 16-17 HCP
- 3♦ – Natural, 6+♦
- 3♥ – Natural, 6+♥
- 3♠ – 3 card spade support, GF

1♠ – 1NT – 3♣ (5+♠ & 5any 18+) – ?

- 3♦ – Relay
 - 3♥ – 5♠ & 5♥
 - 3♠ – 5♠ & 5♦
 - 3NT – 5♠ & 5♣
 - 4♣/♦ – 6♠ and 5♣/♦
 - 4♥ – 6♠ & 5♥
- 3♠ – 3 card spade support, GF

The idea expressed above is playable. Certainly a partnership can modify the structure or make it simple or even more complicated.

You don't have to try to memorize the complete structure if you understand the logic behind it. The structure may seem a little bit difficult but highly recommended for serious partnerships.

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