Bidding Balanced Hands With 15 – 19 HCPs

We cannot bid 1NT which shows 12-14 hcps

We cannot bid 2NT which shows 20-22 hcps

 We bid one of our longest suit with the intention of showing that our hand is balanced with our second bid

- Provided partner has responded to the opening bid
- With 15-16 hcps rebid NT at the lowest level
- With 17-18 hcps rebid NT with a jump
- With 19 hcps rebid 3NT
- (See later re 4 card major response)

Balanced Hands with 15-19 HCPs Opener's 2nd Bid

Provided partner responds at the 1 level

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• 1 NT 15 or 16 hcps
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- 2 NT 17 or 18 hcps
- 3 NT 19 hcps

Balanced Hands With 15-19 HCPs Opener's 2nd Bid

• If partner Passes

Pass

If Partner responds with new suit at the 2 Level

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• 15 – 16 2NT (i.e. rebid NT at the lowest level)
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• 17 - 19 3NT (partnership should have at least 25 hcps)

Balanced Hands with 15-19 HCPs Interference From Opposition

- If RH opponent (i.e 4th seat) bids after partner passes in 3rd seat, opener should pass. 25 pts cannot be reached.
- If LH opponent (i.e 2nd seat) bids at the 1 level and partner passes, rebid 1NT with 17+ HCPs. Partner may have 6 points or more but not be able to bid over the overcall.

- Support partner's major if you can rather than rebid no trumps It is usually better to play in an 8 card major fit than in no trumps
- It is usually better to play in no trumps than in a minor

A 2H response to an opening bid of 1S shows 5 hearts