

Responding to No Trump Openers – Part 1

The official sports drink
when I was a kid ...



Tom Snow
(805) 305-5035
coinerbop@gmail.com

Time for a Joke

A guy walks into a bar and tells the bartender to set 'em up for the house and to pour one for himself as well.

When the bartender presents the bill, the guy says, "I ain't got no money." The bartender rushes the guy out the door and throws him into the street.

Next night, the same guy walks in and says to the bartender, "I just hit the lottery! Set up doubles for the house, just to show I ain't got no hard feelings about last night, pour yourself a double too."

The bartender pours for everyone and presents the guy with the bill. The guy says, "I only won \$2 on a scratchy ticket."

"You bastard," yells the bartender, as he once again tosses the guy out.

Next night, the guy's back. "Set up triples", he says, "but not for you."

"Why not me," says the bartender.

The guy replies, "Because, you get mean when you drink!!"

***Tip: Some 15 HCP hands should be treated as 14 HCPs.**



Weak No Trumps



Weak No Trumps (11-14 HCPs) went out of vogue 50 years ago.

Suppose you (North) hold this hand:

North

♠AQ72 ♥K985 ♦A62 ♣64

And your partner holds:

South

♠KJ6 ♥QJ73 ♦J832 ♣87

Playing WNT, the auction would proceed:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

At the other tables, the auction would go:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1D	Pass	1H	Pass
2H	Pass	Pass	Pass

You make 2H but go down in 1NT.

You also miss minor suit fits:

North

♠A2 ♥Q853 ♦A62 ♣K986

Auction at most tables:

South

♠8763 ♥62 ♦K83 ♣QJ742

**You make 2C but go down in 1NT.
The opponents have no 8-card fit.**

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1C	Pass	1S	Pass
1NT	Pass	2C	Pass
Pass	Pass		

What is all this junk?

After Partner Opens 1NT or 2NT

Let's start with the basics: no voids, no singletons and NO 5-card major. Range: 15-17 HCPs (there's a reason why Weak No Trumps (11-14 HCPs) went out of vogue 50 years ago). It's too easy to miss your 8-card fits in both the majors and the minors.

20-21 HCPs and a flat hand. Can have a 5-card major.

Opening 1NT = NO 5-card major.

Play Stolen Bid

Play Jacoby Transfers

NOTRUMP OPENING BIDS

1NT

15 HCPs to 17 HCPs 3♣ _____

to 3♦ _____

5 Card Major common: 3♥ _____

System on over Dbl, 2C, 2D 3♠ _____

2♣ Stayman Puppet

2♦ Transfer to ♥ 4♦/4♥ Transfer

Forcing Stayman Smolen

2♥ Transfer to ♠ Lebensohl (_____ denies)

2♠ _____ Neg. Double

2NT _____ Other: _____

2NT 20 to 21

2NT Minors _____ to _____

Puppet Stayman

Transfer Responses

Jacoby Texas

Other _____

3♠ _____

3NT _____ to _____

Gambling ACOL

Vantar

And Texas Transfers

But What About the Other Stuff?



Let's start with the basics: no voids, no singletons and **NO** 5-card major. Range: 15-17 HCPs (there's a reason why Weak No Trumps (11-14 HCPs) went out of vogue 50 years ago). It's too easy to miss your 8-card fits in both the majors and the minors.

20-21 HCPs and a flat hand. Can have a 5-card major.

Opening 1NT = **NO** 5-card major.

Play **Stolen Bid**

Play **Jacoby Transfers**

NOTRUMP OPENING BIDS

1NT 15 HCPs to 17 HCPs

3♣

3♦

3♥

3♠

5 Card Major common:

System on over Dbl, 2C, 2D 3♠

2♣ Stayman Puppet

2♦ Transfer to ♥ 4♣/4♥ Transfer

Forcing Stayman Smolen

2♥ Transfer to ♠ Lebensohl (denies)

2♠ Neg. Double

2NT Other:

2NT 20 to 21

2NT Minors to Puppet Stayman

Transfer Responses Jacoby Texas Other

3♠

3NT to

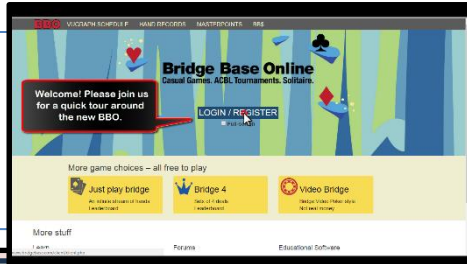
Gambling ACOL

Mantar

And Texas Transfers

Here's what the BBO Robots do:

First, Let's Talk About Stayman



Suppose you (North) hold this hand:

North

♠AQ72 ♥KJ85 ♦A2 ♣J64

And the auction proceeds:

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2C*	Pass
???			

Would you respond 2H or 2S?

Asks partner for a 4-card major.

NOTRUMP OPENING BIDS

1NT

15 HCPs to 17 HCPs 3♣

to 3♦

5 Card Major common: 3♥

System on over Dbl, 2C, 2D 3♠

2♣ Stayman Puppet

2♦ Transfer to ♥ 4♦/4♥ Transfer

Forcing Stayman Smolen

2♥ Transfer to ♠ Lebensohl (_____ denies)

2♠ _____ Neg. Double _____

2NT _____ Other: _____

2 NT 20 to 21

2 NT Minors _____ to _____

Puppet Stayman

Transfer Responses

Jacoby Texas

Other _____

3♠ _____

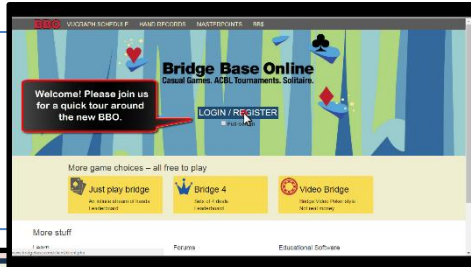
3NT _____ to _____

Gambling ACOL

Kantar

Here's what the BBO Robots do:

Responding to Stayman



Suppose you (North) hold this hand:

North ♠AQ72 ♥KJ85 ♦A2 ♣J64

And the auction proceeds:

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2C*	Pass
2H			

The answer: Bid 2H. Here's why:

Partner bids: And you'd pass.

Suppose your partner holds:

South ♠K94 ♥Q763 ♦54 ♣K752

3H

He bids:

Suppose your partner holds:

South ♠J842 ♥Q7 ♦Q43 ♣K752

2S

And you'd pass.

Idea: What if partner went through Stayman with all invitational hands:

Showing 4 ♠'s and 8-9 HCPs.

Nice and safe.

Even without a 4-card major.

South ♠Q82 ♥Q74 ♦Q43 ♣K752

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2C*	Pass
2H	Pass	2NT	

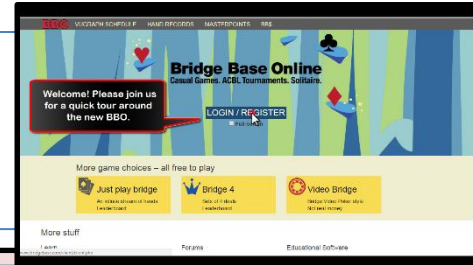
This would free up his 2NT response to have another meaning!

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2NT*	Pass



Here's what the BBO Robots do:

Quiz Time



1) North ♠AQ72 ♥KJ85 ♦A2 ♣J64

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2C*	Pass
2H	Pass	2S	Pass
???			

Pass

Partner has 4 ♠'s, 3 ♥'s and 8-9 HCPs.

2) North ♠AQ2 ♥KQ8 ♦AQ2 ♣8642

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2C*	Pass
2D	Pass	2S	Pass
???			

4S

Partner has 5 ♠'s, 4 ♥'s and 8-9 HCPs.

3) North ♠AQ72 ♥KJ85 ♦A2 ♣K64

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2C*	Pass
2H	Pass	3C	Pass
???			

3S

Since you're in a game-forcing auction, 3S shows a better hand than 4S.

Partner has 4 ♠'s and 10+ HCPs.

Another Joke

A blonde stormed up to the front desk of the library and with a screaming voice said, "I have a complaint!"

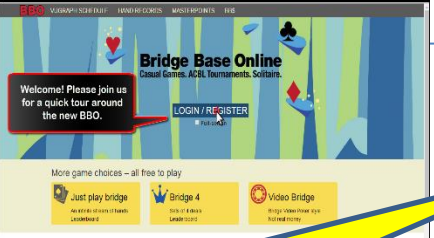
"How can I help you?" said the librarian looking up at her.

"I borrowed a book last week and it was horrible!"

Puzzled by her complaint the librarian asked, "What was wrong with it?"

"It had way too many characters and there was no plot!" said the blonde.

The librarian nodded and said, "Ahhh. So, YOU must be the person who took our phone book."



BBO Robots play this



Minor Suit Transfers



1NT – Pass – 2NT* can now be used to transfer to ♣'s, just like 2D is a transfer to 2H, and 2H is a transfer to 2S.

Suppose you hold: **♠2 ♥43 ♦Q5 ♣Q1098432** and your partner opens 1NT.

You can now bid 2NT* to transfer him to 3C (to play).

Showing shortness in ♥'s and at least game-going values.

And with: **♠K2 ♥3 ♦Q52 ♣KQJ9842** you can transfer to 3C, then bid 3H*.

The transfer to D's is 3C*: **♠62 ♥54 ♦QJ98542 ♣42**

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	3C*	Pass
3D			To show shortness.

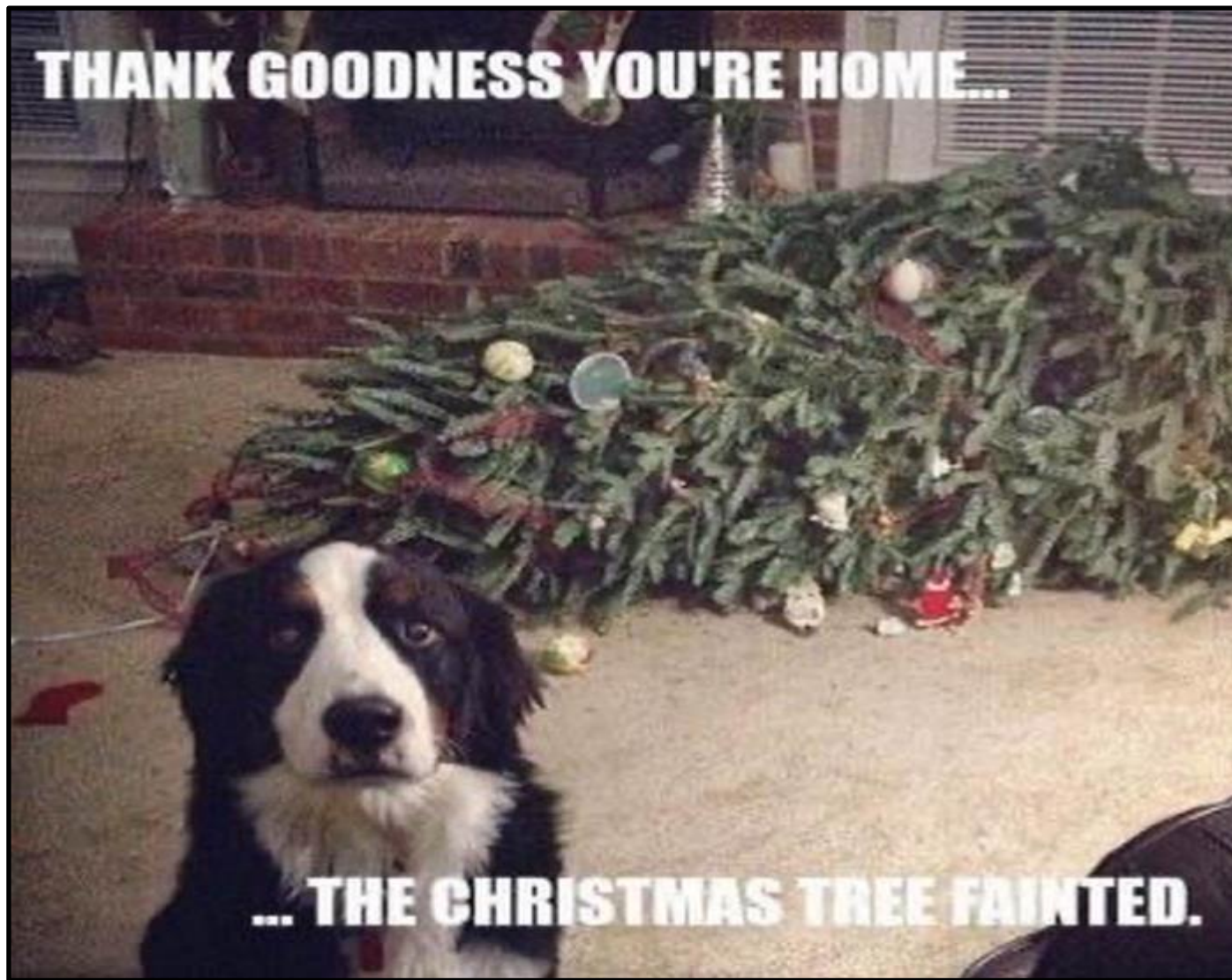
And with: **♠2 ♥QJ4 ♦AQJ9542 ♣K2** you can transfer to 3D, then bid 3S*.

Therefore, with: **♠KJ42 ♥4 ♦QJ9542 ♣K2** you must use **Stayman 1st (2C)**.

So, what is 1NT – Pass – 3D*: **4 ♠'s, 4 ♥'s, 4 ♣'s and 1 ♦, forcing to Game**

1NT – Pass – 3H*: **4 ♠'s, 1 ♥, 4 ♣'s and 4 ♦'s, forcing to Game**

1NT – Pass – 3S*: **1 ♠, 4 ♥'s, 4 ♣'s and 4 ♦'s, forcing to Game**



Time for the Game