# Competitive Bidding – Is it too Late to Enter the Bidding?

**“Know when to hold ‘em, Know when to fold ‘em, Know when to walk away, and know when to run”**

**Options in the Balancing Seat:**

Example #1 – N E S W

Bidding - 1 P P ?

* Kxxx, xx, AKxx, xxx – what do you do?

Example #2 – N E S W

Bidding - 1 P P ?

* xx, Qxxx, Kxxx, KQx – what do you do?

Example #3 – N E S W

Bidding – 1 P P ?

* Kxx, Qxx, Kxxx, KQx – what do you do?

**Delayed Takeout Double:**

Example #4 – E S W N

Bidding – 1 P

1 P 2 ?

* x, KQxx, Kxxx, AJxx – what do you do?

Example #5 – E S W N

Bidding – P 1 P

1NT X 2 ?

* Qxx, Jxxxx, KQJ, QJ– what do you do?

Example #6 – E S W N

Bidding – 1 P 1 P

2 X P ?

* Qxx, Jxxxx, KQJ, QJ– what do you do?
* In the Balancing position, a takeout double can be made with up to a king less than in the direct position. Advancer must allow for this when making a call. A Balancing takeout double doesn’t necessarily show less than in the direct position, it *may* show less. Don’t make a balancing bid with a hand unsuitable for doubling or overcalling. Sometimes it is best to simply pass and defend.
* Overcalls in a suit or in notrump can also be made in the balancing position with up to a king less than in the direct position. With a hand too strong for a balancing overcall, start with a takeout double and then bid the suit or notrump.
* The meaning of a delayed double depends on the way the auction has gone and advancer must listen closely. A delayed takeout double can be made by a passed hand, in the balancing position, or by a hand that passed but isn’t a passed hand and isn’t in the balancing position.
* Answers: 1 – X , 2- pass, 3 – 1NT, 4 – X, 5 - 3, 6 - 4