# 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 - 1http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/h.gif P P ?

* Kxxx, http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/h.gifxx, http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/d.gifAKxx, http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/c.gifxxx – what do you do?

Example #2 – N E S W

Bidding - 1http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/h.gif P P ?

* xx, http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/h.gifQxxx, http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/d.gifKxxx, http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/c.gifKQx – what do you do?

Example #3 – N E S W

Bidding – 1http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/d.gif P P ?

* Kxx, http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/h.gifQxx, http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/d.gifKxxx, http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/c.gifKQx – what do you do?

**Delayed Takeout Double:**

Example #4 – E S W N

Bidding – 1http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/d.gif P

1http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/s.gif P 2http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/s.gif ?

* x, http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/h.gifKQxx, http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/d.gifKxxx, http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/c.gifAJxx – what do you do?

Example #5 – E S W N

Bidding – P 1http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/s.gif P

1NT X 2http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/s.gif ?

* Qxx, http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/h.gifJxxxx, http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/d.gifKQJ, http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/c.gifQJ– what do you do?

Example #6 – E S W N

Bidding – 1http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/d.gif P 1http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/s.gif P

2http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/s.gif X P ?

* Qxx, http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/h.gifJxxxx, http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/d.gifKQJ, http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/c.gifQJ– 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 - 3http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/h.gif, 6 - 4http://www.bridgeguys.com/graphics/h.gif