

Transfers *by Derrick Browne*

This column continues our series on "What you should play".

In response to a 1NT opening, experienced players use 2D as a transfer to hearts, and 2H as a transfer to spades. But what about minors?

The expert standard is:

1NT : 2S = transfer to clubs

1NT : 2NT = transfer to diamonds

This forfeits a natural and invitational 2NT response. So, to invite in notrump, you must start with 2C Stayman, even without a major.

Here is a minor suit transfer from the semi-finals of the 2008 World Championships:

Dealer South, NS vul.

NORTH			
S J3			
H 872			
D K3			
C 985432			
WEST	EAST		
S 987	S AKT652		
H KQJ5	H T6		
D Q972	D 864		
C A6	C T7		
SOUTH			
S Q4			
H A943			
D AJT5			
C KQJ			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1NT
Pass	2S	Dble	Pass
Pass	3C	Pass	Pass
3S	All pass		

North's 2S was a transfer to clubs. East doubled to show spades and West competed to 3S, making nine tricks.

At another table, the Norwegian South, Helgemo, also opened 1NT but his partner, Helness, opted to pass. After an artificial sequence, West again finished as declarer in 3S.

North led the DK and a second diamond to South's ace. South had the J-10 of diamonds remaining and led the D10, the lower card as a suit preference signal for clubs. West ducked, allowing this to win.

South now led his last diamond, ruffed by North with the SJ, an uppercut to force a top trump from dummy. This promoted South's SQ as the setting trick.

Meanwhile on the last board of the finals of the 2008 Under 28 World Championships, another Norwegian found the lead of the DK from a doubleton, but with a less happy outcome:

Dealer South, NS vul.

NORTH			
S K			
H JT42			
D QJ9732			
C 92			
WEST	EAST		
S AQ985	S JT642		
H K53	H Q		
D A54	D T8		
C KT	C QJ763		
SOUTH			
S 73			
H A9876			
D K6			
C A854			

At one table, West opened 1NT, and in an uncontested auction, East bid 2H (transfer to spades), West made a super-accept, and East raised to 4S. This went one off when declarer made the normal play of finessing in spades, losing to the singleton king.

At the other table, West also opened 1NT but the Norwegian North bid 2H, showing hearts and a longer minor. East competed with 2S, South bid 4H, and West was stampeded into 4S.

South doubled and led the DK. Declarer won and played a heart. South won the HA and led a second diamond. North won and played a third diamond. When East ruffed high and South could not over-ruff, it was clear North had the SK, so declarer declined the finesse, dropping the singleton king and making the contract. Only because Norway had brought a small carryover into the final did they still win the event.