

Right on cue *by Derrick Browne*

In a contested auction, the immediate jump raise by responder is used by top players as a weak, pre-emptive raise (good fit but under 10 points). The same principle applies for advancer to an overcall. How, then, does responder (or advancer) show a fit for partner and a good hand?

The bid of the enemy suit is used in this situation as a "cue raise" showing a limit raise or better (over 10 points). Here is an example from the finals of this year's world championships:

Dealer West, nil vul.

	NORTH		
	S JT		
	H AKQT3		
	D J62		
	C AQ9		
WEST		EAST	
S AK9872		S 643	
H 9		H 86	
D Q9853		D AK	
C 2		C KJ8643	
	SOUTH		
	S Q5		
	H J7542		
	D T74		
	C T75		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1S	2H	3H	Pass
4S	All pass		

With the two top teams in Open, the Seniors and the Women's battling out for the top spot, there were six tables total in play. A typical auction is shown.

All Wests opened, with only 9 HCP but 6-5 shape and points in the long suits.

The next point of note is that although overcall strength is usually at most 16 HCP, three Norths bid 2H with this unspectacular hand of 17 HCP, while the other three started with a double, planning to bid hearts later (power double). At one table, North followed through with this plan even though she had to then bid 5H, and paid 800 points for her folly when this was doubled.

If North does overcall 2H, East then bids 3H, cue raise, to show a fit with spades and over 10 points, and West adds for shortage and bids game. The spades break evenly and 11 tricks are made.

Dealer South, EW vul.

	NORTH		
	S 82		
	H A92		
	D K7432		
	C KQ9		
WEST		EAST	
S QJT94		S 65	
H KQJ		H T84	
D AT		D J98	
C 862		C JT543	
	SOUTH		
	S AK73		
	H 7532		
	D Q65		
	C A7		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1S	2S	Pass	1D
Pass	3NT	All pass	2NT

After North made a cue raise, South bid notrumps to show the stopper, and North had enough to try for game.

Declarer wants to make both the king and queen of diamonds. To attempt this, lead a low diamond from South "through" the player who (on the bidding) has the ace of diamonds.

Second hand plays low, so the king wins. Next lead a low diamond, and duck. West is marked with the DA and long spades (and will therefore tend towards shortage in the other suits) so it is unsurprising, although gratifying, to see the ace fall doubleton, and ten tricks are made.