

4th Suit Forcing

(more) non-natural bidding

4th Suit Forcing

Motivation

* Auction: partner 1♦ - you 1♠ - partner 2♣ -

* ♠ Ax xxx ♥ KQxx ♦ Kx ♣ Jx 2♥

* ♠ Ax xxx ♥ Qxxx ♦ xx ♣ Jx 2♦

* ♠ AJ xxx ♥ xx ♦ Kx ♣ AJx 2♥!

* 4th suit forcing

* artificial and forcing

* eliminates space consuming jumps

* OFF in competition and **alertable!**

4th Suit Forcing

opener's rebids

- * Make a natural descriptive rebid:
 - * raise partner's suit with 3
 - * rebid 2nd suit with 5
 - * rebid 1st suit with 6+
 - * raise 4th suit with 4 (rare)
 - * rebid NT with a stopper in 4th suit

4th Suit Forcing

forcing: one round or to game?

- * 4th suit forcing is consistent with 2/1 principles - keeps bidding low
- * Therefore with 2/1, 4th suit forcing is forcing to game
- * With SAYC, 4th suit forcing is only one round

4th Suit Forcing

a necessary corollary

- * Auction: 1♣-1♥-1♠-2♦!
- * SAYC: invitational, tell me more
- * 2/1: game forcing, tell me more
- * Auction: 1♣-1♥-1♠-3(♣♥♠)
- * SAYC: game forcing
- * 2/1: invitational

4th Suit Forcing

in a forcing auction

- * 2/1 Auction: 1♠-2♣-2♦-2♥!
- * What is 2♥?
- * All bids (less than game) are forcing
- * 3♥ shows real ♥ (4th suit is artificial)
- * 2NT shows a ♥ stopper
- * 2♥ must **ask** for a ♥ stopper (Western)
 - * you: ♠AKxxx ♥Kx ♦KJxx ♣xx
 - * partner: ♠xx ♥Jxx ♦AQx ♣AKxxx
 - * Auction: 1♠-2♣-2♦-2♥!-3NT-end

4th Suit Forcing

an exception

* Auction: 1♣-1♦-1♥-1♠

* 1♠ is forcing (one round) and shows 4♠

* ♠xxxx ♥xx ♦AKJxx ♣xx

* ♠Kxxx ♥xx ♦AKJxx ♣Kx

* Auction: 1♣-1♦-1♥-2♠!

* 2♠ is forcing (to game) and **denies** 4♠

* ♠xx ♥Axx ♦AKJxx ♣Qxx

4th Suit Forcing

an example

* you: ♠ AJxxx ♥ AKT ♦ xx ♣ Kxx

* Auction: partner 1♦ - you 1♠ - partner 2♣ -

* partner1: ♠ K ♥ xx ♦ QJTxx ♣ AJTxx

* Auction: you 2♥! - partner 3♣ - you (3NT, 4/5♣)

* partner2: ♠ Kxx ♥ x ♦ KQJxx ♣ AJTx

* Auction: you 2♥! - partner 2♠ - you 4♠

4th Suit Forcing

another example

* you: ♠ KQxx ♥ K ♦ xxxxx ♣ Axx

* Auction: you 1♦ - partner 1♥ - you 1♠ - partner 2♣! -

* partner1: ♠ Ax ♥ ATxxx ♦ AKQxx ♣ J

* Auction: you 2NT - partner 3♦ - you 5♦ - partner 6♦

* partner2: ♠ x ♥ AQJxxx ♦ Kxx ♣ QJx

* Auction: you 2NT - partner 3♥ - you 3NT