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# THE 10 MISTAKES

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1. **Failing to open 1NT with 12–14 HCPs and 5–3–3–2 distribution with 5-card minor.**

**Open 1NT with ♠A 10 ♥J 8 6 ♦Q 10 6 ♣K Q J 10 4, not 1♣.**

2. **Failing to make a weak takeout because you are ‘too weak’.**

**After Partner opens 1NT, bid 2♥ with ♠8 3 ♥J 8 7 6 4 ♦9 8 6 ♣8 6 3**

3. **Opener failing to pass after a weak takeout.**

**After opening 1NT and Partner’s 2♠ response (a weak takeout), bidding 3♠ with ♠K 9 6 5 ♥A J 5 ♦Q J 10 6 ♣Q 7. Pass is the correct bid.**

4. **Responding 1NT bypassing a 4+ card suit.**

**After Partner opens 1♣, bidding 1NT with ♠K 9 7 ♥J 8 6 3 ♦A 6 5 ♣10 9 7. The correct bid is 1♥.**

5. **Responding with a new suit at the 2-level with less than 10 total points.**

**With ♠4 3 ♥9 8 6 ♦J 10 ♣K Q J 8 6 4 and Partner has opened 1♠, respond 1NT not 2♣.**

6. **Failing to bid game when there are sufficient total points (including ruffing points).**

**With ♠K 10 3 2 ♥A ♦K Q 4 ♣A J 9 8 7, you have opened 1♣ and Partner has responded 1♠. With 20**

**total points including shortages, you bid 4♠ – nothing less.**

**7. Overcalling in a suit containing less than five cards.**

**You have ♠ A K Q 9 ♥ Q 3 ♦ Q 10 8 4 ♣ 10 9 8 and RHO has opened 1♥. You do not bid 1♠; a takeout double would be correct.**

**8. Overcalling with 1NT but only 12–14 HCPs (requires 16–18 HCPs).**

**You have ♠ A K ♥ 8 7 3 ♦ Q J 7 4 ♣ K 8 7 3 and were about to open 1NT but RHO bids 1♥ first. You must not bid 1NT; in this case, PASS is the only option.**

**9. Failing to lead top of honour sequence, instead leading fourth highest (or something else).**

**Against 3NT you have chosen the suit for the opening lead: ♠ K Q 10 7 3. The correct lead is the king, not the 7.**

**10. When making the opening lead,**

**a) against a suit contract, and**

**b) choosing to lead a suit headed by the ace,**

**then failing to lead the ace. (“Never lead away from an ace”)**

**Against 4♥ you have chosen the unbid suit for the opening lead: ♦ A 6 5 3. You must lead the ace.**

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***20p for each transgression to be donated to charity at Christmas***