

Neapolitan Club

online bridge magazine – Double first!

<http://neapolitanclub.altervista.org/>

Walsh No Trump Notes, by Rhoda Walsh.

Chapter IV: Jacoby Transfer and Walsh Relay. Part II

The Walsh Notrump Notes is the Rhoda Walsh's study on No Trump openings with their developments either in uncontested and contested auctions. We have parted it in ten chapters. In the first chapter there is a concise terminology.

Chapters already published:

- I. 1NT opening. Stayman and Smolen (with Terminology). Published on 26th January 2014
- II. FITS after Stayman. Published on. Published on 25th March 2014
- III. Opponents' interference over Stayman. Published on 7th June 2014
- IV. Jacoby Transfer and Walsh Relay.
Part I: Opener initial responses and Responder's initial rebids. Published on

IV (Jacoby Transfer and Walsh Relay) Part II: Opener's further rebids. The Walsh Relay

To be published in future:

- IV *(Jacoby Transfer and Walsh Relay)*
Part III: Opener's further rebids but The Walsh Relay
Part IV: Opponents' interference over Jacoby Transfer
- V. *1NT-2♠ and 1NT-2NT. Minor suit Stayman and Club Bust, or 4-4-4-1 game force*
- VI. *1NT-Natural suit jump 3♣/♦/♥/♠. Game invitational*
- VII. *1NT-Four level responses. Texas, quantitative, key card asking*
- VIII. *Opponents' interference over 1NT*
- IX. *20-21 2NT and artificial 3NT openings*

Chapter IV. Jacoby Transfer and Walsh Relay.

Part II. OPENER'S FURTHER REBIDS. THE WALSH RELAY

a) responder rebids 2♠ after transferring to 2♥: the Walsh Relay.

In general: The sole purpose of the Walsh Relay is to provide a means for responder to partner's 1NT opening bid or overcall to make either a game try or a slam try when holding a six+ card minor.

The standard sequence:

1NT 2♦: Transfer to hearts.

2♥ 2♠: Relay to 2NT. Cancels Transfer.

2NT: Forced.

3♣/3♦: Six+ card club/diamond suit with one of the top three honors. 7 to 8 HCP. Game invitational.

3♥/3♠: Six+ card club/diamond suit with one or two of the top three honors. 14+ HCP. Slam invitational+. Game forcing.

3NT: Any six+ card suit. i.e., minor or major, with all three top honors. Approximately 14 to 15 HCP. Slam invitational. Nonforcing.

Note: Holding 9 to 13 HCP (i.e. game forcing with no slam interest) and a six+ card minor, responder does not use the Walsh Relay. He bids 3NT or five or his minor directly, his choice depending on his distribution.

Notrump bidder's rebids after

1NT 2♦

2♥ 2♠

2NT 3♣/3♦ **rebid by responder** (one of the top three trump honors. 7 to 8 HCP. Game invitational):

Holding a poor fit for responder's minor as Ax, Kx, Qxx, Jxxx or worse, notrump bidder passes responder's three of a minor rebid, regardless of strength. Notrump bidder's rebids after

1NT 2♦

2♥ 2♠

2NT 3♣/3♦

Pass: No game interest. Signoff. Rationale: Lacking Kxx or better, the notrump bidder will typically be unable to utilize the length in responder's minor. Thus, 3NT is unlikely to make.

Holding a fair fit for responder's minor (Axx, Kxx, Qxxx):

a) If notrump bidder lacks 1½ stoppers in any of the unbid suits: He passes responder's three of a minor rebid, regardless of strength

1NT 2♦

2♥ 2♠

2NT 3♣/3♦:

Pass: no game interest. Signoff. Rationale: Responder's minor is most likely to be at least a one loser suit in notrump. Thus, declarer must be prepared to cope with repeated leads in the opponents' longest suit.

b) If notrump bidder holds 1½ stoppers+ or better in all the unbid suits (AQx, AJx, A10xx, KQx, KJx, K10xx, QJ9x, Q109x): He rebids 3NT, regardless of strength.

1NT 2♦

2♥ 2♠

2NT 3♣/3♦:

3NT: Signoff. Rationale: Even if responder's minor doesn't run immediately, the outside stoppers should permit it to run thereafter.

Holding an excellent fit for responder's minor (AKx, AQx, KQx I.e. responder's suit is expected to run):

a) If notrump bidder lacks a full stopper in any of the unbid suits; holding less than a partial stopper in one of the unbid suits or holding only partial stoppers in two of the unbid suits: Notrump bidder passes responder's three of a minor rebid, regardless of strength.

1NT 2♦

2♥ 2♠

2NT 3♣/3♦:

Pass: No game interest. Signoff. Rationale: Even though responder's minor is expected to run, the opponents are likely to defeat 3NT before declarer can run the minor.

b) If notrump bidder holds a full stopper in all of the unbid suits (Ax, Kx, Qxx, Jxxx): He rebids 3NT, regardless of strength.

1NT 2♦

2♥ 2♠

2NT 3♣/3♦:

3NT: Signoff. Rationale: With responder's minor suit running, and the opening lead controlled, declarer should have a fine play for 3NT.

Notrump bidder's rebids after

1NT 2♦

2♥ 2♠

2NT 3♥/3♠ rebid by responder (Six+ card club/diamond suit with one or two of the top three honors. 14+ HCP. Slam invitational+. Game forcing).

With slam interest: Notrump bidder has several choices, depending on his strength and controls. Holding an acceptance of responder's slam invitation, i.e. extra values and a fit:

a) With 1st or 2nd round control, i.e. A or K of all side suits: Notrump bidder bids responder's minor at the four level, 1430 RKC Minorwood.

1NT 2♦

2♥ 2♠

2NT 3♥/3♠

4♣/4♦: 1430 RKCB in clubs/diamonds.

b) Lacking 1st or 2nd round control of a side suit: Notrump bidder control-bids up-the-line.

1NT 2♦

2♥ 2♠

2NT 3♥/3♠

3♠/4♦ [4♣/4♥]: Control-Bid up-the-line. Shows the values for slam, lacking a side control.

Responder's rebids:

1NT 2♦

2♥ 2♠

2NT 3♥/3♠

3♠/4♦ [4♣/4♥] 3NT/4♣ [4♦/5♦]: Denies any controls outside of responder's own minor and/or the suit control-bid by the notrump bidder. To play, i.e. responder rebids 3NT, if available, and his minor at the cheapest available level otherwise.

4♦/4♥: Control-Bid up-the-line. Does not promise more than a minimum slam interest hand. Denies control of the 4th suit.

4NT: 1430 RKCB in clubs. Shows 1st or 2nd round control of all unbid suits.

With no slam interest:

1NT 2♦

2♥ 2♠

2NT 3♥/♠

3NT: Typical rebid. Shows no slam interest. To play. However:

5♣: Choosing to jump to game in responder's minor with the appropriate hand (e.g. four+ card length in responder's minor, minimum high card points, and Jx or worse in a side suit). Signoff.

a) Responder's rebids if notrump bidder rebids 3NT:

1NT 2♦

2♥ 2♠

2NT 3♥

3NT Pass: Minimum slam try. Signoff.

4♣: Extra values with an excellent trump suit. Game forcing. Slam invitational.

4♦/4♥/4♠: A Control-Bid up-the line. Denies an excellent trump suit. Shows extra values. Game forcing. Slam invitational.

4NT: Quantitative. Shows a balanced hand, i.e. 6-3-2-2, and extra values. Nonforcing. Slam invitational.

5♣: 1430 RKCSG in responder's minor. Slam-going hand.

b) Responder's rebids if notrump bidder rebids game in responder's minor:

1NT 2♦

2♥ 2♠

2NT 3♥

5♣ Pass: Minimum slam try. Signoff.

5♦/5♥/5♠: Control Bid up-the line. Shows grand slam interest. Forcing to a small slam.

6♣: Shows extra values. Signoff.

3NT Rebid by Responder (solid suit slam try. 14 to 15 HCP):

1NT 2♦

2♥ 2♠

2NT 3NT: Any six or more card solid suit, i.e. AKQxxx+. Approximately 14 to 15 HCP. Nonforcing. Slam invitational.

Pass: Denies slam interest. Shows preference for notrump vs. suit contract. To play.

4♣/4♦: Sets trump. Denies slam interest. Game forcing.

4♥/4♠: Sets trump. Denies slam interest. To play.

4NT: 1430 RKCB in responder's suit.

Note: Typically, responder's suit is *obvious* because the notrump bidder seldom has more than one suit lacking the top three honors. On the rare occasion when the notrump bidder has two suits lacking the top three honors, he sets trump by bidding the cheaper of the two suits. If that suit is not responder's suit, responder corrects to his own suit.

1NT 2♦

2♥ 2♠

2NT 3NT

4♦: Setting trump if this is responder's suit.

4♠: Setting trump. This is responder's suit. Nonforcing.

If the Notrump Bidder has a Super Acceptance in Support of Hearts:

Inasmuch as the three level is needed for responder to make a Walsh Relay bid, the only bid available to the notrump bidder to show a Super Acceptance in hearts is 2♠. This does not apply to showing a Super Acceptance in support of spades.

a) If Responder has Hearts:

1NT 2♦

2♠: Maximum in support of hearts. Side doubleton. Three hearts: 17 HCP. Four+ hearts: 16+ HCP.

2NT: Confirms hearts and forces opener to rebid 3♥.

3♥: Forced.

Pass: No game interest. Signoff.

3♠/4♣/4♦: Control-Bid up-the-line. Slam invitational in hearts.

4♥: Signoff.

b) If Responder has a Walsh Relay:

1NT 2♦

2♠: Maximum in support of hearts.

3♣/3♦/3♥/3♠/3NT: Direct Walsh Relay bids, as though the partnership had gone through the standard Walsh Relay

OPENER'S FURTHER REBIDS. The Walsh Relay when responder has a passed hand.

A Game Invitational Walsh Relay (i.e., 7 to 8 HCP). The Walsh Relay remains on.

Pass 1NT

2♦ 2♥

2♠: Walsh Relay.

2NT: Forced.

3♣/3♦: Six clubs/diamonds with one of the top three honors. Game invitational.

Note: The sequence is unaffected by virtue of responder being a passed hand.

A Slam Invitational Walsh Relay (i.e., 14+ HCP: The Walsh Relay is off).

The sequence is affected by virtue of responder being a passed hand. He could not have the requisite 14+ HCP as a passed hand.

OPENER'S FURTHER REBIDS. The Walsh Relay in Competition.

In general: The Walsh Relay remains on in competition if the System (i.e., the entire responding system to partner's opening 1NT bid) is on. Otherwise, the Walsh Relay is off.

The System is on over an opponent's One-Suited Double or 2♣ Overcall of partner's 1NT opening bid.

ME **OPP** **YOU**

1NT *Dbf*/2♣ 2♦: Transfer to hearts. May be start of Walsh Relay.

Exception: If the opponent's 2♣ overcall shows specifically the majors, the System is off and thus the Walsh Relay is off.

ME **OPP** **YOU**

1NT 2♣: *Landy* (i.e., takeout for majors).

2♦: Natural. Non invitational.

If the "System" is off (and thus the Walsh Relay is off): Lebensohl is on.

If responder has a game invitational Walsh Relay (i.e., 7 to 8 HCP with a six card minor):

If a 2NT bid (i.e., Lebensohl) *is available* to responder:

<u>ME</u>	<u>OPP</u>	<u>YOU</u>
1NT	2♠	3♣/3♦: Natural. Six clubs/diamonds. 7 to 8 HCP. Game invitational.

Note: The three of a minor call does not distinguish the number of honors in trump. Responder may have one or two of the top three honors. Nor does it show or deny a stopper in the opponent's suit(s).

<u>ME</u>	<u>OPP</u>	<u>YOU</u>	<u>OPP</u>
1NT	2♠	2NT: Lebensohl. Forces 3♣.	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass/3♦: Six clubs/diamonds. Approximately 5 to 6 HCP. Non invitational, competitive bid. Signoff.	

If a 2NT bid (i.e., Lebensohl) is *unavailable* to responder:

<u>ME</u>	<u>OPP</u>	<u>YOU</u>	<u>OPP</u>
1NT	3♣	3♦: Six diamonds. Approximately 5 to 7 HCP. Non invitational, competitive bid. Signoff.	

Note: Holding 8 to 13 HCP and a six card minor, responder bids 3NT. The 3NT bid neither shows nor denies a stopper in the opponent's suit(s)].

If responder has a slam invitational Walsh Relay [i.e., 14+ HCP with a six card minor]

There is currently no systemic method to invite a minor suit slam when the Walsh Relay is unavailable. The best responder can do is discover whether or not his partnership has the opponent's suit(s) stopped for notrump purposes; otherwise, he'll place the contract in five of his minor.

If Lebensohl is available to responder:

- With the opponent's suit stopped:

<u>ME</u>	<u>OPP</u>	<u>YOU</u>	<u>OPP</u>
1NT	2♥: Natural	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT: Shows a heart stopper [slow shows, direct denies]. May have a six card minor. Signoff.	

- Lacking a stopper in the opponent's suit:

<u>ME</u>	<u>OPP</u>	<u>YOU</u>
1NT	2♥: Natural	3NT: Denies a heart stopper (slow shows, direct denies). May have a six card minor. Pass or correct.

- If the opponent shows two known suits:

a) With both suits stopped:

<u>ME</u>	<u>OPP</u>	<u>YOU</u>	<u>OPP</u>
1NT	2♥: Hearts and spades	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT: Shows both hearts and spades stopped. May have a six card minor. Signoff.	

b) With neither suit stopped:

<u>ME</u>	<u>OPP</u>	<u>YOU</u>
1NT	2♥: Hearts and spades	3NT: Denies stoppers in either of the opponent's suits. May have a six card minor. Pass or correct.

c) With one suit stopped:

ME OPP YOU

1NT 2♥: Hearts and spades 2♠/3♥: Cuebidding the suit responder has stopped. Requests notrump bidder to rebid notrump holding a stopper in the other suit. May have a six card minor. Forcing one round.

If Lebensohl is unavailable to responder

Responder simply bids 3NT or jumps to five of his minor, depending on his distribution.

ME OPP YOU

1NT 3♣ 3NT: Neither shows nor denies a stopper in the opponent's suit(s). May have a six card minor. Signoff.

ME OPP YOU

1NT 3♣ 5♦: Six+ diamonds. Tends to show a singleton or void in the opponent's suit. To play.

OPENER'S FURTHER REBIDS: THE WALSH RELAY

2NT Opening Bid or 2♣-2♦-2NT, 3NT, or 4NT

The Walsh Relay is off in response to partner's 2NT opening bid or 2♣-2♦ [2♥]-2NT [3NT] sequences.

Rationale: The Walsh Relay sequence is unavailable because it is currently being used to show five-five majors with slam interest.

2NT 3♦

3♥ 3♠: Five+ - five+ majors. Slam invitational.

With a slam invitation in a minor: Responder uses a 3♠ response.

2NT 3♠: Forces 3NT.

3NT 4♣/4♦: Six clubs/diamonds. Slam invitational.

With a 3NT invitation with a six card minor: Responder chooses between pass, 3NT and five of his minor, depending on his strength and distribution. We currently have no better methodology.

Rationale: It comes up so rarely that I staunchly resist the effort to spend my time thinking of a solution.

Adjuncts to the Walsh Relay – Notrump Overcalls by Partner

A direct 1NT overcall:

The System (i.e., the entire responding system to partner's 1NT opening bid) is on over partner's direct 1NT overcall. Thus, the Walsh Relay is on, the same as though partner had opened 1NT.

ME OPP YOU OPP

1♠ 1NT Pass

2♦ Pass 2♥ Pass

2♠: Walsh Relay. Forces 2NT.

Pass 2NT Pass

3♣/3♦/3♥/3♠/3NT: Walsh Relay bids.

A direct or balancing 2NT overcall of opponent's Weak Two Bid:

Although the System is on over partner's 2NT overcall (15 to 18 HCP) of an opponent's Weak Two Bid, the Walsh Relay is off. Responder uses the same methodology as is used over an opening 2NT bid by partner.

A direct or balancing 3NT overcall of opponent's Preemptive Three Bid:

Although the System is on over partner's 3NT overcall [16 to 22 HCP] of an opponent's Preemptive Three Bid, the Walsh Relay is off.

A direct or balancing 4NT overcall of opponent's Preemptive Four of a *Minor bid*:
Although the System is on over partner's 4NT overcall (18 to 25 HCP) of an opponent's Preemptive 4♣ or 4♦ bid, the Walsh Relay is off.

A direct or balancing 4NT overcall of opponent's Preemptive Four of a *Major bid*:
The System is off over partner's 4NT overcall of an opponent's Preemptive 4♥ or 4♠ opening bid. Thus, the Walsh Relay is off.

Partner's 4NT bid here is conventional, not natural.

Over an opponent's 4♥ opening bid:

4NT is played as takeout for the minors, showing at least five-five in the minors. Forcing to five of a minor.

Over an opponent's 4♠ opening bid:

4NT is played as a two suit takeout, showing at least five-five in two unknown suits. Responder is expected to bid his best minor in response. The overcaller corrects (bidding up-the-line) if that is not one of his two suits.

Adjuncts to the Walsh Relay – 1NT - Three of a Minor:

What it is: Responder's three of a minor response to partner's 1NT opening bid shows a six+ card minor with precisely two of the top three trump honors and 7 to 8 HCP. Invitational to 3NT.

This bid shows a holding similar to that of a three of a minor rebid after a Walsh Relay sequence.

The distinction is the number of top trump honors held by responder.

Note: Holding three of the top three trump honors (i.e., AKQxxx), responder simply responds 3NT (1NT-3NT: Signoff).