

# Practise Lebensohl

NG34Bridge

When the opponents interfere over partner's 1NT

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| <p>1. <b>Dlr:</b> North <b>Vul:</b> None</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>1NT 2♠ ?</p>                | <p><b>South</b></p> <p>♠ 4 3</p> <p>♥ A J 9 6 5</p> <p>♦ K Q 10 4 2</p> <p>♣ A</p>  | <p><b>Answer:</b> 3♥</p> <p>Playing Lebensohl, a new suit at the three level is unconditionally forcing. We can therefore bid our five card major, while retaining options to play in 4♥, 3NT or possibly 5♦.</p>   |
| <p>2. <b>Dlr:</b> North <b>Vul:</b> None</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>1NT 2♠ ?</p>                | <p><b>South</b></p> <p>♠ 2</p> <p>♥ A 6 3</p> <p>♦ K 10 7 5 3 2</p> <p>♣ J 9 4</p>  | <p><b>Answer:</b> 2NT</p> <p>With fair values and a six card suit, we would like to compete with 3♦ but, playing Lebensohl, a new suit at the 3-level is forcing, so we bid a conventional 2NT. Assuming that the next hand passes, partner is forced to bid 3♣, the Lebensohl relay, over which we show our long suit with 3♦. Now partner knows we are not interested in game. If the next hand bids over 2NT, then at least we've forced the opponents to the three level.</p> |
| <p>3. <b>Dlr:</b> North <b>Vul:</b> None</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>1NT 2♥ ?</p>                | <p><b>South</b></p> <p>♠ K 10 6</p> <p>♥ 4</p> <p>♦ A Q J 9 6 4 2</p> <p>♣ A 7</p>  | <p><b>Answer:</b> 3♦</p> <p>Playing Lebensohl, we can make a forcing bid in diamonds by bidding the suit directly.</p>  |
| <p>4. <b>Dlr:</b> South <b>Vul:</b> None</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>2♠ 3♠ Pass ?</p> <p>1NT</p> | <p><b>South</b></p> <p>♠ J 7 3</p> <p>♥ K 2</p> <p>♦ K J 9 2</p> <p>♣ A J 10 8</p>  | <p><b>Answer:</b> 3NT</p> <p>Playing Lebensohl, partner's 3♠ bid (a cue bid of the opponent's suit) is Stayman-like, showing four hearts, together with a spade stopper. Even if this is only ♠Qxx, we might well be able to cash eight tricks in the other suits.</p> <p>Without a spade stopper we would have used the Lebensohl 2NT-3♣ relay and then cue-bid 3♠ (Stayman-like). This would alert partner to our game values but lack of a spade stopper.</p>                  |
| <p>5. <b>Dlr:</b> North <b>Vul:</b> None</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>1NT 2♥ ?</p>                | <p><b>South</b></p> <p>♠ K J 7 4</p> <p>♥ 10 6</p> <p>♦ A Q 10</p> <p>♣ K 9 8 6</p> | <p><b>Answer:</b> 2NT</p> <p>Playing Lebensohl, we show our four spades and no heart stopper by bidding 2NT followed by 3♥.</p>   |

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| <p>6. <b>Dlr:</b> North <b>Vul:</b> None</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>1NT 2♠ ?</p>  | <p><b>South</b></p> <p>♠ K 6</p> <p>♥ Q 10 8 3</p> <p>♦ A J 9 5 2</p> <p>♣ K 9</p>  | <p><b>Answer: 3♠</b></p> <p>Playing Lebensohl, an immediate cue-bid of a major suit shows exactly four cards in the other major (Stayman -like), game values, and a stopper in the opponent's suit. We're likely to make 3NT or 4♥, so there's no need to mention our moderate diamond suit.</p> <p>If we did not have a spade stopper we would have bid 2NT (Lebensohl), and after partner's mandatory 3♣ we would have then cue-bid the opponents' spade suit by bidding 3♠, again with game values. If partner does not have four hearts nor a spade stopper she will be stuck and will have to bid her better minor (see 4 below). This is one of the few situations where Lebensohl does not find a happy ending – c'est la vie!</p> |
| <p>7. <b>Dlr:</b> North <b>Vul:</b> None</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>1NT 2♥ ?</p>  | <p><b>South</b></p> <p>♠ K 6</p> <p>♥ Q J 4</p> <p>♦ A K 10 8 5 4</p> <p>♣ 10 7</p> | <p><b>Answer: 3NT</b></p> <p>The direct 3NT bid shows a heart stopper and denies four spades. There's no need to bid our diamond suit, since with the heart stopper we have no interest in playing in 5♦.</p> <p>With a weaker hand and no interest in 3NT we would have bid 2NT (Lebensohl) and then after partner's mandatory 3♣ we would have bid 3♦.</p>  |
| <p>8. <b>Dlr:</b> North <b>Vul:</b> None</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>1NT 2♠ ?</p>  | <p><b>South</b></p> <p>♠ 5 4 3</p> <p>♥ A 6</p> <p>♦ A Q J 9 4</p> <p>♣ Q 7 3</p>   | <p><b>Answer: 2NT</b></p> <p>Playing Lebensohl, we can show a raise to 3NT without a spade stopper. We start with 2NT and over partner's forced 3♣ rebid, we continue with 3NT. If partner has no spade stopper he'll remove to 4♣ or 4♦.</p>   |
| <p>9. <b>Dlr:</b> North <b>Vul:</b> None</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>1NT 2♥ ?</p>  | <p><b>South</b></p> <p>♠ K 10 8 4 3</p> <p>♥ 4</p> <p>♦ K J 9 6</p> <p>♣ 10 3 2</p> | <p><b>Answer: 2♠</b></p> <p>When our suit is higher ranking than the overcall suit, we have three ways of bidding or spades. We can bid a direct 2♠ (weak), or we can go via the Lebensohl 2NT – 3♣ relay to 3♠ (invitational), or we can jump directly to 3♠ (game values). Here we have no game aspirations so we should complete with 2♠.</p>  |
| <p>10. <b>Dlr:</b> North <b>Vul:</b> None</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>1NT 2♥ ?</p> | <p><b>South</b></p> <p>♠ K J 9 6 4</p> <p>♥ 5</p> <p>♦ A Q 8 2</p> <p>♣ J 4 3</p>   | <p><b>Answer: 2NT</b></p> <p>Playing Lebensohl, we can make an invitational bid in spades by starting with 2NT and bidding 3♠ over partner's forced 3♣ rebid.</p>   |

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| <b>11. Dlr:</b> North <b>Vul:</b> None<br><b>West North East South</b><br><br>1NT    2♦    ?                   | <b>South</b><br>♠ Q 6<br>♥ K J 9 8 7<br>♦ A 4<br>♣ A 8 3 2   | <b>Answer:</b> 3♥<br>With or without Lebensohl as part of our system, we can force to game and show our heart suit by jumping in the suit straightaway.<br>Going via 2NT-3♣ (Lebensohl relay) would have shown an invitational hand   |
| <b>12. Dlr:</b> North <b>Vul:</b> None<br><b>West North East South</b><br><br>1NT    2♠    ?                   | <b>South</b><br>♠ 2<br>♥ K 6<br>♦ K Q 10 3<br>♣ A Q 9 6 4 2  | <b>Answer:</b> 3♣<br>Playing Lebensohl, we can make a forcing bid of 3♣. Even if partner has a spade stopper, 5♣ or 5♦ could be a better contract than 3NT.<br>With a weaker hand and no game interest we would get to 3♣ via the Lebensohl 2NT-3♣ relay, passing partner's 3♣.   |
| <b>13. Dlr:</b> North <b>Vul:</b> None<br><b>West North East South</b><br><br>1NT    2♥    ?                   | <b>South</b><br>♠ 2<br>♥ 9 6 3<br>♦ A 6<br>♣ Q 9 7 5 4 3 2   | <b>Answer:</b> 2NT<br>Playing Lebensohl, partner must bid 3♣ and we'll then pass.<br>Without the interference and with this weak hand and at least 6 clubs, we would have bid a conventional 2♠ (transfer to 3♣) and passed partner's rebid.  |
| <b>14. Dlr:</b> South <b>Vul:</b> None<br><b>West North East South</b><br><br><br><br><br>2♥    2NT    3♥    ? | <b>South</b><br>♠ A Q 10 4<br>♥ K J 8<br>♦ K 10 9 7<br>♣ 9 3 | <b>Answer:</b> Pass<br>Playing Lebensohl, partner's 2NT bid asks us to bid 3♣. When we're prevented from doing this by our right-hand opponent, Lebensohl is OFF, we simply pass. Partner might well have a weakish hand with long clubs, in which case defending 3♥ (even if it makes) could be our best option.   |
| <b>15. Dlr:</b> North <b>Vul:</b> None<br><b>West North East South</b><br><br>1NT    2♦    ?                   | <b>South</b><br>♠ A J 9 7 2<br>♥ K 5 3<br>♦ 2<br>♣ K 8 6 3   | <b>Answer:</b> 2NT<br>Playing Lebensohl, when our long suit ranks HIGHER than that of the overcall, we can make weak competitive bid by bidding our suit at the two level, an invitational bid by starting with a 2NT-3♣ relay and then bidding 3♠, and a game forcing bid by jumping to 3♠.  |
| <b>16. Dlr:</b> North <b>Vul:</b> None<br><b>West North East South</b><br><br>1NT    2♠    ?                   | <b>South</b><br>♠ K 4 3<br>♥ A J 9 5 2<br>♦ 2<br>♣ K 8 6 3   | <b>Answer:</b> 2NT<br>Playing Lebensohl, when our long suit ranks LOWER than that of the overcall, we can make weak competitive bid by starting with a 2NT-3♣ relay and then bidding 3♥, and a game forcing bid by a direct bid of 3♥. Note that in this situation there is no invitational option – the opponents' overcall has denied us the two level bid available in the previous example. |