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Response to 1NT with minors 5-5 and competitive or G.F. hand

Aldo in this case we ought to be able to diversify the bidding according to our hand strength.

Let us see how to handle a **competitive** hand :

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♠ 5
♥ 4 2
♦ K 10 9 7 3
♣ Q 8 7 6 5

It is intuitive that if South passes over partner 1NT, his contribution in terms of tricks, could be close to zero. In case of a trump contract denominated in a minor suit, South hand could contribute with quite a few tricks and there

would not be any entry problem . South will jump bid 3♣ = minors 5-5 in a competitive hand over which North will pass or correct to 3♦ .

The question we have to ask ourselves is the following : with South hand, do we stand more chances in playing in 1NT or rather at 3 level in a minor ?

As we all know , bridge probabilities have been studied throughout by analysts mainly after it has been possible to analyse thousands of hands in few minutes thanks to computer generated hands .

The answer to our legitimate question is therefore available : in the great majority of cases a contract at 3 level in a minor has more chances to give a better result than a contract of 1NT. This statement does not exclude that in some rare cases it would be possible to maintain a 1NT contract while a 3 in a minor contract would fail.

Bridge is a game of probabilities and whenever we decide to play in a given contract we make a bet. When we make a bet we certainly want to have the odds in our favour so , with hands like the one shown above, we shall play a 3 minor contract and , on the long run , we will be ahead of those playing in 1NT.

In case of having 5-5 in minors and **G.F.** hand things would go :

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♠ K 7
♥ 8
♦ K Q 9 7 3
♣ A J 10 6 5

In this case it is out of question to pass over 1NT . We have instead to describe our hand as accurately as possible, in order to reach the best contract without discarding a slam possibility.

We shall then jump bid 3♦ = minors 5-5 with G.F. hand , over which opener will re-bid as follows :

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1NT 3♦ = minors 5-5 G.F.
3NT = conclusive with stoppers in both majors.
4♣ = chooses ♣ as trump
4♦ = chooses ♦ as trump