

## - Goals of bidding structure layout

- 1) Limit strong opening bids to only one. We do not need a lot of strong opening bids. The number of strong opening bids should, more or less, be in line with the probability of having hands with high point count.. Hands having 19+ HCP, with any shape, represent only about 2% of all possible hands. To devote more than one opening bid to such hands would be a waste .
- 2) Narrow down as much as possible, the HCP bracket limiting the one in a suit opening bids. The narrower the range the easier it becomes for the opener to describe his hand strength.
- 3) Increase the number of weak opening bids. Hands having a point count of 6-11 with any shape, represent more than 50% of all possible hands. It make sense to devote to such hands 4 opening bids out of 10.
- 4) Instead of having two opening bids with a cloudy meaning , such as using “ better minor “ where 1♣ and 1♦ could mean a 3 carder , we prefer opening 1♦ with 5 + cards. The 1♣ opening denies then any 5 carder except ♣, thus making such opening rather crowded with balanced hands with 11-14 point count and therefore easy to read.
- 5) Over any one in a suit opening, over any 2 level weak opening and over any overcall , responder is equipped with a forcing relay that unleashes a standardised bidding scheme . This has the effect of making life easier for opener / overcaller and responder as well because any response other than the forcing relay is passable by definition.

**NB** : to identify hand strength we are using point count. This is obviously done in order to simplify the concepts mentioned. . Distributional values, fit values and points quality could drastically modify a simple HCP evaluation. As somebody said , you should count points when you play billiard not when you play bridge.