



GREEN CARD BLUES

(When you really want to bid but shouldn't.)



Any hand you pick up with 13 high card points is exciting and naturally you plan to bid. Here are some situations where you should THINK AGAIN and get out the green PASS card.

SITUATION 1

Your hand
♠ AK65
♥ KQ72
♦ 3
♣ K1084

As South you pick up this nice hand but Dealer East opens the bidding 1♠. "Oh rats. But since I have 4 nice hearts I think I'll make a takeout double." No no no. Get out the **GREEN CARD**.

Partner's likely hand
♠ 92
♥ J54
♦ K10742
♣ Q75

Reasoning: You and Opener have at least 28 HCP, leaving 12 for Responder and Partner. Suppose partner has 6. Here's a likely hand for partner, who, naturally is going to bid 2♦ if responder passes.



Consoling thought: "THEY ARE ALREADY IN TROUBLE. I have their suit and my hand looks terrific for defense. Let's wait and see what happens."

**A takeout double promises SHAPE as well as STRENGTH.
Have at least 3-card support for all the unbid suits.**

SITUATION 2

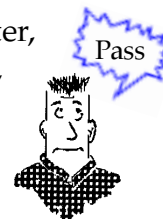
Your hand
♠ A32
♥ Q10
♦ AK3
♣ 108643

You were planning on opening the bidding 1♣ but your RHO, who is the dealer, beats you to the punch by bidding 1♠. What now? "Well, I have 13 points, 14 with length. I can't possibly pass. I'm going to overcall 2♣." No no no. Get out the **GREEN CARD**.

Reasoning: Just as the server in tennis is more likely to win the game, the side that opens the bidding is more likely to win the contract. If your partner is on lead, guess what suit she will choose. Do you want to see her lead ♣K from ♣Kx?

Consoling thought: "THE AUCTION IS NOT OVER. I may be able to bid clubs later, maybe to balance, and partner will work out that I have "stuff" but a bad suit, since I didn't overcall clubs when I had a chance earlier."

An overcall should show a GOOD 5-card or longer suit.



SITUATION 3

Your hand
♠ 8643
♥ -
♦ KJ1032
♣ AQ72

The Dealer opens 1♠ and Partner overcalls 2♥. "Yikes, I don't have any hearts. I had better bid 3♦ and get us out of this mess." No no no. Get out the **GREEN CARD**.

Consoling thought: "THE AUCTION IS NOT OVER. Maybe they will bid on. Maybe Partner has a wonderful suit like ♥AKQ10xx, or will rebid a minor." (Dream on.)

If Partner overcalls and you have a misfit, DON'T try to "RESCUE" him.

SITUATION 4

Your hand

♠ 1093
♥ AKQJ
♦ 3
♣ KQJ632

Pass



You are salivating over this lovely hand when, somewhat to your dismay, Partner, in first seat, opens the bidding 3♦ and the next hand passes. "Well, I have 16 HCP and 2 length points. Of course I'm going to respond to my partner's opening bid with 18! I'm going to bid . . . well, let's see, 4♣ is forcing - hmm; 3NT is dodgy with those spade losers; raise diamonds? But I *have* to bid with all these points, so 3NT it is." No no no. Get out the **GREEN CARD**.

Partner's likely hand

♠ Q2
♥ 632
♦ KQJ9542
♣ 7

Consoling thought: "WE MAY HAVE DODGED A BULLET.
3♦ may be the only makeable contract."

**Opposite preempts, fits are more important than points.
Try to visualize partner's hand when considering responding.**

SITUATION 5

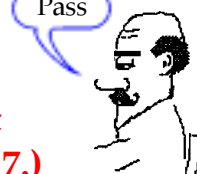
Your hand

♠ AQ105
♥ A103
♦ 93
♣ KQ76

You're in 4th seat with another nice opening hand but unfortunately this is what you hear. 1♣ - Pass - 1♠ to you. Well, *darn*, they've bid your suits, so pass for now - smoothly, no hesitations please. Get out the GREEN CARD. Now LHO bids 1NT and the auction is passed around to you. "Heck, I've got 15 points! I can't pass. I'm going to balance with a takeout double." No no no. This hand is all wrong for it. Pard will probably bid diamonds. Get out the **GREEN CARD** again.

Consoling thought: "THEY MAY BE IN TROUBLE. This could be a juicy defense. I'm sitting over the spades and I have some promising clubs. Let *them* play in a misfit rather than us. "

Pass



Only make a balancing double over a part score contract with length in the unbid suits. (But points be can as few as 7.)

SITUATION 6

Your hand

♠ 103
♥ J65
♦ QJ1032
♣ A97

Pass



Partner opens 1♣ and the next hand overcalls 1♥. "Well, I have 9 points as Responder so of course I have to bid. I'll just bid as though that overcall never happened. 2♦." No no no. You just made a forcing bid showing 10 or more points. Get out the **GREEN CARD**. It is so important for partnerships to be able to handle this common situation. Just agree that the Opener will either (a) bid again to describe her hand or (b) reopen the bidding with a double. If Partner reopens the bidding with a double you can safely bid 2♦ and partner will know to pass.

Consoling thought: "THE AUCTION IS NOT OVER.
I trust Partner to reopen the bidding."

**Don't let overcalls bamboozle you.
With no good bid, pass and trust Partner to reopen the bidding with another bid or a reopening double.**

Sue Kroning, Oregon Coast Regional 2011.