## LEBENSOHL IN A NUTSHELL

## Mary Alice Seville High Desert Regional May 2014

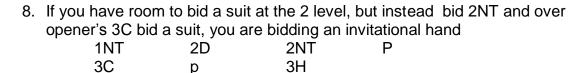
Lebensohl is a complex convention used after an opponent overcalls your partner's 1NT. This is a very simplified version to get you started.

level immediately.

| Reme | mber t  | his phrase <b>slo</b>       | ow shows: di                       | irect den                | ies.     |  |  |  |  |
|------|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|
| When | your p  | artner's 1NT                | opening is ove                     | ercalled a               | at the t | two-level,   |  |  |  |
| 1.   | Double is for penalty   |                             |                                    |                          |          |  |  |  |  |
| 2.   | <ol> <li>2. 2NT is a relay, demands that opener bid 3C</li> </ol> |                             |                                    |                          |          |  |  |  |  |
|      | 1NT<br>3C   | 2H                          | 2NT                                | F                        | ass      |  |  |  |  |
| 3.   | 3. You can still get to 3NT if you have 10+ points,               |                             |                                    |                          |          |  |  |  |  |
|      | a.  | 3NT directly<br>1NT         | after the ove<br>2H                | ercall <b>den</b><br>3NT | ies a    | stopper  |  |  |  |
|      | b.  | 2NT then 3N<br>1NT<br>3C    | IT after partne<br>2H<br>p         | er bids 3C<br>2NT<br>3NT | -        | <b>v) shows</b> a stopper<br>pass                            |  |  |  |
| 4.   | 4. A cuebid of the opponents suit is stayman                      |                             |                                    |                          |          |  |  |  |  |
|      | a.  | <b>Directly</b> afte<br>1NT | r the overcall<br>2S               | <b>denies</b> a          |          | pass   |  |  |  |
|      | b.  | Using the 2N<br>1NT<br>3C   | IT relay, ( <b>slov</b><br>2S<br>p | w) then co<br>2NT<br>3S  |          | ding <b>shows</b> a stopper<br>pass                          |  |  |  |
|      | C.  |                             |                                    |                          |          | Lebensohl is off. Double 2C for ve without the interference. |  |  |  |
| 5.   |   | mmediately.                 | _                                  |                          |          | and, bid your suit at the three                              |  |  |  |
|      |   | 1NT                         | 28                                 | 3H                       |          | P  |  |  |  |
| 6.   | With a  | a 6+ card mind              | or suit and a g                    | game torc                | ing ha   | and, bid your suit at the three                              |  |  |  |

| 7.  | Bidding your s | suit at the 2 leve<br>2D | el is competit<br>2H | ive. |  |  |  |  |
|---|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------|--|--|--|--|
| a. If you have no room to bid your suit at the 2 level, I |                |                          |                      |      |  |  |  |  |
|   | i              | And pass if you          | r suit is clubs      | 3    |  |  |  |  |

| ii. Other | wise bid your sui | t; opener m | ust pass |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------|----------|
| 1NT       | 2H                | 2NT         | Р        |
| 3C        | Р                 | 3D          |          |



You give up bidding a natural 2NT. If that's what you wanted to do, pass, double, or bid 3NT. You give up transfers after interference. (There is transfer Lebensohl when you get ready to learn it.)

This is Lebensohl over natural interference.

If the interference is one of the many artificial systems, you can still use Lebensohl. If the system has one known suit, base **slow shows: direct denies** on that known suit. For example, if 2D shows diamonds or some two suited hand, base **slow shows; direct denies** on diamonds. If there is no known suit, the single suit option is the base suit. For example, if 2C shows diamonds or some two suited hand, base **slow shows; direct denies** on diamonds.

Lebensohl can also be used when the opponents open a weak two.

Have fun exploring the many possibilities.

Adapted from 25 Conventions You Should Know by Barbara Seagram

## References:

25 Conventions You Should Know by Barbara Seagram

The Lebensohl Convention Complete by Ron Anderson