

Weak Notrump—Basic Defense

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In the first, the kids could make 3NT for +400 or +430; the problem was Papa Bear's direct-seat overcall. **Lesson one:** to overcall a weak 1NT at the two level probably requires at least a full opener since you have no idea where the rest of the points are.



Mama might need to find a good bottle of wine to help convince old aggressive Papa that he shouldn't bid on any old ten point hand after a weak 1NT, even if the vulnerability was favorable.

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|---|------|-------|------|----|
| Both Vul South Deals | ♠9 5 | <table border="1"> <tr><td>Mama</td></tr> <tr><td>BB GL</td></tr> <tr><td>Papa</td></tr> </table> | Mama | BB GL | Papa | ♠8 |
| | Mama | | | | | |
| BB GL | | | | | | |
| Papa | | | | | | |
| ♠K J 10 6 2 | ♥A 10 7 4 | ♥9 6 4 2 | | | | |
| ♥K 8 | ♦A Q 10 9 | ♦K 8 7 3 | | | | |
| ♦J 4 | ♣A K 4 | ♣7 6 3 2 | | | | |
| ♣Q J 10 9 | ♠A Q 7 4 3 | | | | | |
| | ♥Q J 3 | | | | | |
| | ♦6 5 2 | | | | | |
| | ♣8 5 | | | | | |

Second Board

On the second board Mama knew the fault was hers. She had planned on bidding 1NT, but Baby made the bid first. She then froze and couldn't think what to bid.

Mama blinked in surprise when she checked over the hand records. Papa and Baby Bear had the same hands as the first board and she and Goldilocks had almost traded hands, except she had retained the ♣A. What were the chances?

She and Papa could make 3NT, but even better would have been to double Baby's 1NT. That would pay back the pipsqueak and his golden-haired partner with a big -800 drubbing of their own.

The kids may not have stood for the double and eventually found their Moysian club fit or 5-2 spade fit; but if Mama had doubled either of those, darling little Baby would still be down 800 or more. Maybe *that* would teach him a lesson.

Anyway the kids twisted and turned on this board, doubling would have given the parents a top. **Lesson two:** with 15+ points Mama needed to double for penalty. Papa could leave it in or pull it if he didn't have any points himself.

On the third board when Baby opened, Mama had 12 HCPs and no bid, which was fine. Goldilocks bid her six-card heart suit and that was where the kids planned to play the hand.

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|------------------------|------------|---|------|-------|------|----|
| N-S Vul South Deals | ♠9 5 2 | <table border="1"> <tr><td>Mama</td></tr> <tr><td>BB GL</td></tr> <tr><td>Papa</td></tr> </table> | Mama | BB GL | Papa | ♠8 |
| | Mama | | | | | |
| BB GL | | | | | | |
| Papa | | | | | | |
| ♥K J 8 | ♥10 7 4 | ♥A Q 9 6 5 2 | | | | |
| ♦Q 4 | ♦A J 10 9 | ♦8 7 3 | | | | |
| ♣Q 10 9 2 | ♣A K 4 | ♣7 6 3 | | | | |
| | ♠A Q J 7 3 | | | | | |
| | ♥3 | | | | | |
| | ♦K 6 5 2 | | | | | |
| | ♣J 8 5 | | | | | |

Third Board

Papa needed to reopen, just as he would do had the bidding gone 1♥-2♥. **Lesson three:** when the weak notrumpers stop at the two-level, consider reopening. In spades Mama and Papa would have made +140 or +170. Much better than the bottom-making -110 they earned when Golden Girl scored her eight tricks in hearts.

Mama knew as long as she worked it so Papa "convinced" her that what she had decided was right (the true art of marriage) they would be loaded for (Baby) Bear – so to speak.

She and Papa still needed a systematic defense to the weak 1NT, but that would have to wait for another month.

