

NAMYATS and Reverse NAMYATS

Presented by Mike Savage

Namyats is a convention that shows a hand with a long, strong major that is just too good to open a preemptive 4H or 4S bid but not *quite* good enough to open 2C. If you play Namyats, an opening bid of **4C** is artificial showing a long, strong **heart** suit and opening **4D** shows a long strong **spade** suit. To replace 4C & 4D, opening 3NT is artificial and shows a broken-suit preempt in *one* of the two minors.

Namyats

3NT = Shows a seven, eight or nine-card broken (non-running) minor suit. Could be either minor suit.

Responses: *Pass or correct* (generally)

4C = Shows no game interest and asks opener to pass with clubs and bid 4D with diamonds.

4D = Shows no game interest in diamonds but wants to be in 5C if that is opener's minor.

4H & 4S = Natural and to play with a very long, stand-alone suit. Opener should pass.

4NT = Shows a hand that wants to play in game in whichever minor partner has.

5C = Willing to play 5C if opener has clubs—has strong slam interest if partner has diamonds.

5D = Willing to play just game in diamonds—but wants to be in slam if opener's suit is clubs.

4C & 4D = Show a one or *no-loser* (depending on partnership agreement) seven, eight or nine-card major suit (**4C** shows **hearts** and **4D** shows **spades**), with either eight to nine winners or *eight and a half to nine and a half* winners (also depending upon partnership agreement).

Responses:

Method #1. **Step Response** (**4D** over 4C and **4H** over 4D): Asks opener to bid his suit, trying to right-side the play (should deny having a guarded king or an AQ in a side suit).

Four of Opener's Major = To play, presumably with at least one tenace in a side suit.

Method #2. **Step Response:** Shows slam interest w/controls; opener can sign off or make asking bids.

Four of Opener's Major = To play with no slam interest (the usual response).

Reverse Namyats

Grant Baze told me of a newer way to play Namyats (a version was published in *Bridge World* in 2005). In this "better" version, opening 3NT shows the big major one-suited hand and responder can navigate to the appropriate major while having more room to explore for slam. This allows an opening 4C or 4D bid to be natural. The primary advantage of pre-empting 4C or 4D is lost when you open 3NT instead (almost *never* passed) and your LHO doubles—since if he passes thereafter, nothing bad happens. Whereas if you open 4C or 4D and LHO doubles, when that is wrong, he will pay a *heavy* price.

3NT = Shows a solid suit (if it can be a 1-loser suit, not a General Chart convention) at least seven cards in length with either eight to nine winners or $8\frac{1}{2}$ to $9\frac{1}{2}$ winners (also a partnership choice).

Responses: (when 3NT shows a running, solid major, partner can *pass* with the right hand)

Method #1. **4C** = Asks opener to bid his suit.

4D = Shows two aces and opener can sign-off or make asking bids.

4H = Shows AK-A and opener can pass or correct to 4S—*or* make asking bids.

4S = Shows even more controls and almost demands RKC Blackwood or asking bids.

Method #2. **4C** = Asks opener to bid the suit just below his (transfer) when responder has tenaces.

4D = Asks opener to bid his major—*denies* having any side suit tenaces (A-Q, Kx, etc.).

4H = Shows two aces. Opener can pass with hearts, correct to 4S or make asking bids.

4S = More controls. Opener makes asking bids or 4NT for # of controls (5C=3, 5D=4, etc.).

4th Seat Opening 3NT Bids

Regardless of whether you play Namyats, *Reverse* Namyats or another kind of opening 3NT bid, a 4th chair 3NT opening bid should probably show a hand with a 7-card (+/-) running minor and some stoppers.