

## Tip of the Month

March 2005

There is a very simple principle to keep in mind when you are in the pass-out (balancing) seat when LHO has opened 1N. Regardless of your strength, you should go out of your way to bid (balance) if your hand has a singleton. It is this principle that encouraged North to bid 2♥ even though he did not have the required 6-card suit in this month's Hand-of-the-Month. At least he did have a singleton diamond. You should be playing conventions that enable you to show one suit or two suits both in direct or balancing seat versus the opponent's opening 1N. Keep in mind that the overriding principle involved when deciding whether or not to enter the bidding after an opponent's NT is:

Be aggressive with a singleton  
Be conservative without a singleton