

## When they sacrifice over our freely bid game, pass in the immediate seat is forcing.

This chestnut is widely adopted.

Often, the bidder immediately following the sacrifice will not have a clear course of action. e.g. Should we be doubling or bidding one more?

1H – (2NT!) – 4H – 5C

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There may be doubts about the meaning of partner's 4H bid. Perhaps he has a good hand or perhaps he has a "weak freak". Opener, with an ordinary opening hand, no more and no less, can pass knowing that his partner is obliged to act. Responder will be obliged to double or bid 5H. Should responder decide to double, opener must respect that decision. There is no point passing the bid around to partner if you are going to pull his double. In that case, you should have bid 5H immediately.

1H – (1S) – 3H – (P)

4H – (P) – P – (4S)

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Clearly, the 4S bidder was always going to make that bid. He did not bid 3S initially because he didn't want to push us into 4H if we weren't going to bid it.

Sometimes, it is unclear whether they are sacrificing or bidding to make. In that case, either partner is free to act:-

1H – (1S) – 3H – (3S)

4H – (4S) - ??

As a follow up to this chestnut, at the Barrier Reef Congress one of the guest speakers reiterated these sentiments by saying – if you and your partner have shown enough points for game and the opponents sacrifice you must never pass!

By partnership agreement, a pass in the immediate seat is a **forcing pass** and leaves it up to partner to bid if they hold a good offensive hand or double if they are more suited to defence.