

## Two Club Openers and Responses

### 1) Responses to 2C

- a. Many players use the 2D response over 2C (waiting), unless partner can make a bid that shows partner's hand – See below.
- b. Other options for responding 2C are Steps (e.g. 2D = 0-3 HCP, 2H = 4-6 HCP) or Controls (2D = 0/1 control, 2H = 2 controls)
- c. 2H, 2S, 3C, 3D shows 5+ cards in that suit and usually 2 of 3 top honors
- d. 3H, 3S shows 6 card suit, without 2 of the 3 top honors, no As or outside Ks and no void – Best Hand is KJTxxx of your suit.
- e. 3NT shows any 6+ card solid suit (e.g., AKQJxx or AKQxxxx)
- f. It's best to have the strong hand declare notrump contracts, so 2NT and 3NT responses should be avoided if totally possible
- g. 2D shows anything else!

### 2) Rules

- a. If 2C opener rebids 2NT, then all 2NT opening conventions are on.
- b. If you as responder have an A, K or 2Qs, this is typically game forcing as is having 4+HCPs.
- c. If your pair opens 2C and opponents interfere with bids, they NEVER get to play an undoubled contract.

### 3) Opener Rebids 2NT (your bids are the same as in other notrump auctions)

- a. The cheapest bid in clubs is Stayman, asking for a four card major (unless you play Puppet Stayman in this situation).
- b. If you play transfers over 1NT, then you play them here as well.
- c. 4NT is quantitative, asking partner to bid a slam if maximum, and
- d. 4C is Gerber, asking for aces
- e. two balanced hands need 34 points for a small slam and 37 points for a grand slam (in a good suit fit, those numbers can be shaved a little – NOTE: Responders!!! If you know you have the points, GET THERE!!!)

### 4) Opener Rebids a Suit (this is a bit more difficult to bid)

- a. show a double negative first – less than game/bad 4 points
- b. raise your partner with three or more trump
- c. bid your own five card or longer suit
- d. After raising opener, new suits are cuebids

If the auction goes 2C - 2D – 2H, responses are:

- a. 3C - double negative (0-3, can pass a 3S rebid)
- b. 3S shows three or more trump
- c. 4S shows four or more trump (no ace, king, or singleton)
- d. 2NT is four plus points with no five card or longer suit to bid
- e. New suits are natural, five+ cards in bid suit

## 5) Miscellaneous

### a. Smolen Convention

- i. Over a 1NT or 2NT opening bid or 2C/2N, bid Stayman (i.e., 2C/3C)
- ii. If NT opener bids 2D/3D (i.e., he does not have any 4 card majors) AND you have a 5 card major and game forcing points (i.e., 10+ points with distribution), you bid 3 of your other major.
- iii. If NT opener has 3 pieces in that 5 card suit, they can bid 4 of that suit and play in a 5-3 major suit fit. This allows the NT bidder (generally the stronger hand) to stay "closed" (not be the dummy).
- iv. If NT opener does not have 3 pieces in that 5 card suit, they can bid 3NT.
- v. Example
  1. Partner opens 1NT and you respond 2C and they rebid 2D
  2. Holding KQxxx, Qxxx, Ax, xx, you bid 3H, telling partner that you have game forcing points and a 5 card spade suit. Opener will then set the contract.
  3. Holding Qxxx, KJxxx, Ax, xx, you bid 3S, telling partner that you have game forcing points and a 5 card heart suit. Opener will then set the contract.

### b. 2 Hearts

- i. Some partnerships use a 2H bid over the 2C opener as an immediate double negative
- ii. In that case 2NT shows a good 5 card or longer heart suit (2 of top 3)
- iii. Over the 2H double negative bid opener can sign off in two or three notrump or bid three of a suit (non-forcing).
  1. methods exist to differentiate between (non)forcing bid by opener