

STRONG 2 CLUB OPENING BIDS AND RESPONSES

By Baloney Bill

With any point count, you may open one of a suit. But some bids are more descriptive, such as 1 NT, which tells partner that you have 15-17 points and “balanced” distribution (no singletons or voids or six-card suits), or 2NT, which implies 20-21 points and “balanced” distribution.

With 22+ points, you may open TWO CLUBS, which may have nothing to do with your club holding; it is an artificial bid, simply telling partner that you have a powerful hand, and it forces partner to bid. So, as partner, what should you bid?

There are many partner response systems, which you may find on-line, but let’s keep it simple. My partner and I play a TWO DIAMOND “WAITING” response, which has nothing to do with the diamond suit, but asks partner to describe her hand (*e.g. bid her suit or bid no-trump if her suit distribution is balanced*). E.g. (spades noted first, then hearts, then diamonds, then clubs):

Opener: A K J 9 K Q 10 K J A Q 7 6 Responder: 10 7 6 J 5 4 Q 4 3 K 5 4 3

Opener’s bid? _____ Responder’s bid? _____ Opener’s second bid? _____

My partner and I also play a TWO NO TRUMP “WAITING” response, which also asks partner to describe her hand, but this response promises 10+ points. Partner and I may wish to explore a slam (6 or 7 bid), which rewards us with many, many points if we make a slam contract. E.g.:

Opener: A K J 9 6 4 K Q 10 K J A 10 Responder: Q 8 5 A J 5 3 Q 2 Q 9 7 6

Opener’s bids? _____ Responder’s bid? _____ Opener’s second bid? _____

Responder’s second bid? _____

Our last example for today:

Opener: A K J 9 6 4 K Q 10 K Q 5 A Responder: 8 7 5 5 3 2 10 2 9 7 6 4

Opener bids? _____ Responder bids? _____ Opener’s second bid? _____

Responder’s second bid? _____ (Ugh! Do I really have to bid??)

When you, as responder, have fewer than 4 pts, let opener know this by your second bid of _____ .

Well, there is much, much more to learn on this topic, but this will give you a good start. Opening TWO CLUBS doesn’t happen that often, so you might wish to spend more time studying good leads, play of the hand or defense as you become more comfortable with duplicate bridge.