

WEAK TWO OPENING BIDS – Part One

By Dr. Baloney Dirt Bill

Weak two bids are opened often, so let's take a few weeks to learn more about them. There are three weak opening two bids: 2D, 2H and 2S. Each requires fewer than the typical 12+ points required for a "normal" opening bid. Each typically requires exactly six cards. Weak two bids DO NOT REQUIRE:

- Two of the top three honors;
- The absence of a four-card major in addition to the six-card suit;
- The absence of a void in another suit;

Let's talk about the first bullet. The requirement for two of the top three honors for a weak two bid opening went out with the Beatles. I'm not sure who the Beatles are; could one of you tell me about the olden days?

Here are a couple of hands *Dr. James Sternberg* presented in his March 2021 Bridge Bulletin article (spades first, etc.):

A) Q 10 9 8 6 4 A 5 Q 10 9 8 4
B) A Q 5 4 3 2 Q 4 6 5 4 J 5

He asks which hand would you rather hold? _____ Why? _____

OK, let's make this easy. Note the LTC for hand A: _____ for hand B: _____ Easier now?

BUT, hand A doesn't have 2 of the top 3 honors!! Ok, whatever...

BUT, hand A only has 8 HCP and hand B has nine!! Ok, whatever...

Sternberg notes the prevalence of "soldiers" in hand A. We use some of those soldiers to edit our LTC. We like them too, just like Sternberg. Sternberg said "Two of the top three honors" went out with black-and-white TV sets. He isn't familiar with the Beatles either.

Here's a hand for you to evaluate: 3 2 Q J 10 5 3 2 10 9 3 A J

You are the dealer, so your turn to bid first, if you dare. Do you? Are you vulnerable? Non-vulnerable? Do you care? _____

One last thought. When you open a weak two bid, your major goal is to make life difficult for your:

- A) Opponents
- B) Partner
- C) Both

Your answer? _____