

WEAK TWO OPENING BIDS – Part Two

By Dirt Man Baloney Bill

Last time we noted that weak two bids *typically* require exactly six cards. Actually, some players will open a weak two with just five cards in their chosen trump suit. Those five cards are usually strong, e.g.:

- A K Q 9 7 or
- A Q J 10 2 or
- A Q 10 9 8 or some other combination with good playing strength.

Consider the following two hands (spades first, hearts next, etc.):

Hand "A"	5	A Q J 10 8	10 6 4	K 9 8 7
Hand "B"	10 7	A J 7 6 3 2	K 8 5	10 4

Hand A has just five hearts and 11 points. Hand A's LTC is _____

Hand B has six hearts and 11 points. Hand B's LTC is _____

Most players don't consider LTC. They would open Hand "B" two hearts. But they would likely pass Hand "A". Does this make any sense? Dr. James Sternberg, a noted Bridge Bulletin author, suggests that when you have a very good five-card suit and too few points to open at the one level, think about opening a weak two-bid.

****If you decide to add this to your repertoire, then note it on your *convention card*. Your partner must *alert* it when you make a weak two bid.

DO NOT open a 7-card suit as a weak two bid. Save that for weak three bids, and be careful when you open a weak three. Probably not a good idea when your side is vulnerable. More on this some other time...

Okey dokey, then, let's practice some hands...