Lebensohl for Dummies

Lebensohl is a complicated but very useful convention that can be used in many situations. Here I describe the use of lebensohl after the opponenents bid at the 2 level over openers 1NT. There are several variants of this convention and the commonest (I think) is described here.

**Trivia** – lebensohl is not named after anyone (it was said to have been invented by Ken Lebensold but he denied this) therefore, if you want to be a smart Alec, tell your partner/opponents that it should start with a lower case letter. They will love you for putting them right!

**Basic lebensohl**

New suit at the 2 level is natural and to play

New suit at the 3 level is natural and forcing to game

Bidding 2nt requires opener to bid 3c. Responder may pass this or bid a new suit below 3 of the overcalled suit, competing for the part score. This should be passed by opener.

Bidding a suit at the 3 level after 2NT (lebensohl) when the suit could have been bid at the 2 level is invitational

**Other bids exploring a NT contract**

**Remember SLOW SHOWS (i.e bidding via NT promises a stopper in the opponents suit)**

Bidding the opponents suit immediately is Stayman and denies a stopper in theopponents suit.

Bidding 2nt and rebidding the opponents suit over the forced 3c is Stayman and promises a stopper.

Bidding 3nt at once shows the values for 3nt and denies a stopper

Bidding 2nt and rebidding 3nt over the forced 3c is the same as bidding 3nt at once but promises a stopper.

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