

## THE STRONG OPENING TWO CLUB BID AND RESPONSES

Partners must make several agreements when using 2C as their strong opening bid:

1. What is opener's promised point count?
2. Is 2C forcing to game?
3. If 2C is not forcing to game, how long must responder keep the bidding open?
4. Do you play 2D as "waiting"? If so, can you pass partner's next bid?
5. Do you play step responses? (2D=0-3 HCP, etc)
6. Do you play controls (Aces and Kings) responses? (2D=0 controls.)
7. Do you play 2H as a "Bust"? How do you define a "bust"?
8. If the bidding goes 2C-P-2H (bust) are you obligated to bid again?
9. Playing 2H as a bust, what if partner opens 2C and you hold AJT842 in hearts?

### A SUGGESTED APPROACH INVOLVING LOSING TRICK COUNT

Remember, Losing Trick Count (LTC) refers to only the first three cards you hold in a suit.

K6	LTC=1
AQJT6	LTC=1
A	LTC=0
KJ862	LTC=2

### THE SUGGESTED APPROACH

1. An opening bid of 2C shows 22+ HCP **OR** a hand containing a LTC of 4 or less.

**ACBL REQUIRES THAT THE BID BE ALERTED BECAUSE THE HAND COULD CONTAIN SEVERAL POINTS LESS THAN 22+**

2. The opening bid of 2C is forcing to 2NT or three of partner's suit.

#### Responses

1. 2D is forcing to game and **MUST BE ALERTED**. It promises a minimum of an Ace, a King or two Queens.
2. 2H=**ALERT!** Responder's hand does not contain an Ace, a King or 2 Queens.
3. 2S=Game forcing with at least 5 spades and 5 HCP in the suit. (KQxxx).
4. 2NT=Game forcing with at least 5 hearts and 5 HCP in the suit. (AJxxx).

#### Opener Rebids

1. After a 2D response, unless opener has a NT rebid (22-24, 25-27, etc.) he bids his suit at the two level.
2. If responder has a fit (at least three cards) he can now apply LTC to gauge if a slam is worth pursuing. (Responder's LTC+opener's known LTC of 4 subtracted from 24)

Example: Opener	Responder
K6	J876
AQJT6	853
A	K42
KJ862	AQ2

So, (4+9=13) (24-13=11) Too risky to explore slam. Bidding: 2C-P-2D(Alert)-P  
2H-P-4H

### Responder's Rebids

1. If responder's first bid was 2D, 2S, or 2N, he must keep the bidding open to 3NT, game in a major, or (rarely) 4 of a minor.
2. If responder's first bid was 2H (no Ace, no King, no two Q) and partner rebids 2S, he must keep the bidding open to 2NT or three of a suit.

EXAMPLE: 2C-P-2H-P  
2S-P-(2N,3C,3D,3H)

**An advantage of this suggested approach is that a game force can be made at the two level (2D). Another advantage is that the LTC can be used by the responder as a guide to the level of the contract. Also, games and slams can be reached with fewer HCP than are normally required.**

Using the suggested approach (22+ or 4 or fewer LTC), what is your response to 2C with:

- A. xx, Jxxx, Jxxx, Qxx \_\_\_\_\_  
B. AQxxx, Jx, xxx, xxx \_\_\_\_\_  
C. Jx, AQxxx, xxx, xxx \_\_\_\_\_  
D. Jx, xxx, xxxxxx, Kxx \_\_\_\_\_

Here are actual hands taken from hand records created at SCLHDBC:

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	Bidding:	Opener	Responder
K6	AQJT72		_____	_____
AQT6	853		_____	_____
A	KT87			
KQ862	VOID			

Opener	Responder	Bidding:	Opener	Responder
KJT4	98653		_____	_____
AKQ832	4		_____	_____
9	T764		_____	_____
AJ	K54			

Opener	Responder	Bidding:	Opener	Responder
KQJT	832		_____	_____
AQJ9642	T7		_____	_____
9	AT6543		_____	_____
7	J4			