

Stamford Bridge Club

Wednesday, 9th December 2015

Jacoby 2 No Trump Convention

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Introduction

You pick up

♠ K Q 7 5 4 2

♥ A 6 3

♦ 7

♣ A 8 5

and open the bidding with 1♠.

Partner responds 2♦.

You have a good minimum (two aces and a king) but partner showing diamonds certainly doesn't improve your hand.

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You bid a quiet 2♠.

Partner raises to 4♠. You put partner with about 13-15 points, a minimum for a game force. Partner has no slam ambition (else a bid different from 4♠).

Everything should be all right.

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Partner puts down his expected minimum hand:

♠ A 8 6 3

♥ K Q 5

♦ J 8 6 2

♣ K 3

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We have 13 high card points (hcps)
opposite 13 hcps

... but we've missed the boat. Putting the
two hands together makes this clear:

[Talk Hand 1]

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A Short Review of Major Suit Raises

We have the ability to show these direct
raises

1♥/♠	2♥/♠	5-9, (3)4trumps
1♥/♠	3♥/♠	10-12, 4trumps
1♥	3♠/4♣/4♦	10+, 4trumps, shortage in bid suit (splinter raise)
1♠	4♣/4♦/4♥	10+, 4trumps, shortage in bid suit (splinter raise)

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A game forcing ("balanced") raise

How about having a raise that tells
opener, **on the first round**, that
responder has a game forcing raise of
the opened suit **without a shortage***?

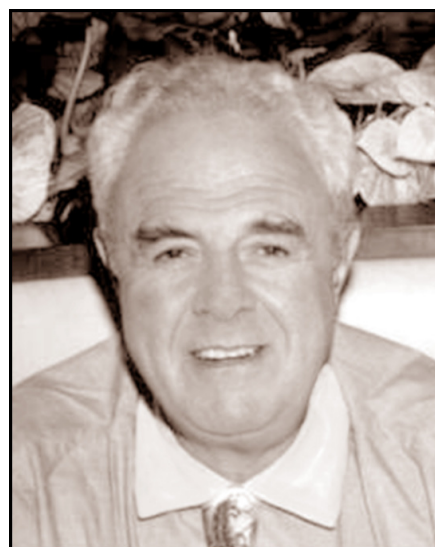
*or one you don't want to show (e.g. singleton A or K)

That bid is the

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Invented by **Oswald Jacoby**, who also
invented the concept of **transfer**
responses over 1 no trump



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The Jacoby 2 no trump bid, over an opening 1-of-a-major, shows:

- 13+ points (so game forcing, may include distributional points for doubletons)
- 4+card trump support
- No shortage in a side suit (or a flawed shortage – see above)

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Importance of Jacoby 2N

Why?

Because it sets the trump suit **at an early stage** and at a level that allows for **plenty of exchanges of information**

We give ourselves space to develop a meaningful auction

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How does opener respond to 2N?

After 1♥ – 2N, opener continues as follows:

- 3♣/♦/♠ Good 13+, 4+suits, promising 5+hearts (trial bids for possible slam)
- 3♥ Good 13+, usually 6+suit (6322 or 7222 shape)
- 3N Balanced hand with extras (15-18), 4333, 4432 or 5332 shapes
- 4♣/4♦* Splinters, good 13+ with shortage in bid suit
(*4♠ is also a splinter but takes up so much bidding space it's hardly worth bidding)
- 4♥ 11 to a bad 13, a minimum opening bid

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After 1♠ – 2N we have a similar scheme:

- 3♣/♦/♥ Good 13+, 4+suits, promising 5+spades (trial bids for possible slam)
- 3♠ Good 13+, usually 6+suit (6322 or 7222 shape)
- 3N Balanced hand with extras (15-18), 4333 or 5332 shapes
- 4♣/4♦* Splinters, good 13+ with shortage in bid suit
(*4♥ is also a splinter but takes up so much bidding space it's hardly worth bidding)
- 4♠ 11 to a bad 13, a minimum opening bid

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Some additional points

- Opener's rebids assume that 1N is opened with 12-14, 5major332 shape (these hands don't feature here)
- You may have a choice between making a trial bid (new suit at 3level) and showing a shortage (e.g. 5major431 shape). Prefer the splinter unless the side suit is very good
- Showing a game forcing raise after an opening 1level **minor suit** bid is more difficult. You could bid 2N as above but you may now want opener's 3level bids to show stoppers as 3N is still a possible contract. We can look at an alternative, and effective, solution, another time.

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Examples of opener's rebids opposite a Jacoby 2N response

Responder holds:

♠ A 8 7
♥ K J 7 6 2
♦ K 4 3
♣ K J

All auctions begin 1♥ – 2N;

♠ A 8 7	♠ K 3
♥ K J 7 6 2	♥ A Q 10 9 8 4
♦ K 4 3	♦ Q J 5
♣ K J	♣ 10 6

*Bid 4♥. Minimum hand.
Play in 4♥.*

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♠ A 8 7
♥ K J 7 6 2
♦ K 4 3
♣ K J

♠ K Q 2
♥ A Q 10 9 8
♦ Q 5
♣ A 8 6

Bid 3N. Balanced with extras. Reach 6♥.

♠ A 8 7
♥ K J 7 6 2
♦ Q 4 3
♣ K 2

♠ K 3 2
♥ A Q 10 9 8
♦ 2
♣ A 10 6 4

Bid 4♦. Splinter bid with a non-minimum – bad diamond holding opposite. Play 4♥.

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♠ A 8 7
♥ K J 7 6 2
♦ K 4 3
♣ K J

♠ K 3
♥ A Q 10 9 8 4
♦ Q J 5
♣ A 4

Bid 3♥. Non-minimum, single suited without a shortage. Reach 6♥.

♠ A 8 7
♥ K J 7 6 2
♦ K 4 3
♣ K J

♠ K 3
♥ A Q 10 9 8
♦ 6 2
♣ A Q 6 4

Bid 3♣. Non-minimum hand, 4card side suit. May reach 6♥ (diamond lead would be unwelcome).

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The opening example revisited

Let us look at our opening example and see how the bidding will develop using Jacoby

[Talk Hand 1]

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The Cost of Conventional Bidding

When we replace a natural bid with a conventional bid we give up something

To date 2N has showed 11-12, balanced.

We can now show this hand type by bidding a 4card minor:

♠ A 8 7 6	♠ K 3 2
♥ K J 7 6 2	♥ Q 9
♦ K 4	♦ Q J 7 5
♣ Q J	♣ A 10 6 4

1♥ - 2♣; 2♥ - 2N; 3N is perfectly OK

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There's one time when we'll bid a 3card minor:

♠ A 8 7 6	♠ K 3 2
♥ K J 7	♥ Q 9 8 5
♦ K 10 4	♦ Q J 8
♣ K J 2	♣ A 10 6

1♠ - 2♣; 2N (15-18) - 3N.

2♥ by responder always promises 5+hearts (opener can freely raise with 3card support - 8card fit reached). That precludes responding 2♥.

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Dealing with Intervention

Without partnership discussion it's better not to play conventional bids when the opponents intervene.

In these circumstances we can keep 2N as a natural 11-12 balanced hand bid.

e.g. after 1♥ (1♠), 2N nicely describes the values and honour location of:

♠ A Q J
♥ 4 2
♦ Q 10 7 5
♣ Q 9 8 4

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Tools for Slam Bidding

We now have a good armoury. One way or another we reach

Suit agreement

And we may use one or more of the following to help us make good decisions:

Cue (control-showing) bids

Roman Key Card Blackwood

Splinter bids

Jacoby 2N

... and so to work. Here's a summary:

After 1major – 2N, opener rebids:

4major	11 to bad 13
3major	Good 13+, usually 6/7card major (6322 or 7222)
3new	Good 13+, natural (trial bid for slam) promising 5+major too
3N	15-18, balanced
4new	Good 13+, splinter bid (shortage in bid suit)