

Stamford Bridge Club

22nd July 2015

Weak Two Bids in Benji Acol & Ogust Responses

First a restatement of all 1 and 2 level opening bids we've already covered

1♣/♦/♥/♠	4+suit, 11-17 (possibly 18, balanced)
1N	12-14, balanced, may contain a 5card major
2♣	Two hand types 21-22, balanced 18-21, 8 playing tricks (any suit)
2♦	Two hand types 23+, balanced 22+,any game force
2N	19-20, balanced

That leaves bids of 2♥ and 2♠. We don't need these to show "opening points" (included in bids above) so we can play them as

WEAK

Let's define them a little further ...

5-9 high card points

6card suit of “reasonable” quality

(e.g. Q 10 9 x x x **OK**
 J 8 5 6 4 3 **Not OK**)

HCPs in the longer suits, particularly the bid suit, an asset

Not 4cards in the other major

**Be careful if holding a void or two aces
(makes hand more/too powerful)**

Usual shapes (which partner will mentally place you with) 6331 or 6322 or 6421 (last with a 4card minor)

Why are these bids useful?

Frequent

(e.g. hands in the range 5-9 are 10 times more likely than 18-21 hands)

Closely defined

Partner can quickly assess where we are going (may assist greatly in reaching game)

Preemptive

We force the opponents to start bidding at a level higher than they would like. That increases the possibility of their being at the wrong level or in the wrong suit. We might find a profitable sacrifice.

What responses do we make?

After a 2♥ opening (*italics = not common*)

- 2♠ *5+suit, constructive but not forcing*
- 2N A good 14+, enquiry, interest in game
usually based on a heart fit
- 3♣/♦ *6+suit, forcing*
- 3♥ Preemptive
- 3♠ *6+suit, game forcing*
- 3N To play
- 4♥ Either preemptive or to make – let
the opponents guess
- 4♠ *To play, long suit, good hand*

... and after a 2♠ opening things are similar

2N **A good 14+, enquiry, interest in game usually based on a spade fit**

3♣/♦ ***6+suit, forcing***

3♥ ***6+suit, game forcing***

3♠ **Preemptive**

3N **To play**

4♥ ***To play, long hearts, good hand***

4♠ **Either preemptive or to make – let the opponents guess**

The important (and most frequent) sequences are:

2major – 3major and

2major – 2 no trumps

So ...

2major – 3major

As this is preemptive opener **should not** raise to game

Generally 3-4card support (occasionally 2)

Fewer than invitational values (so lighter than a good 14 count)

Stretch to make this bid but be wary of the vulnerability

e.g.

♠ K Q 10 9 4 2

♥ 6 3

♦ A 6 4

♣ 7 5

♠ A 8 7

♥ 9 4

♦ K 10 7 5 3 2

♣ 9 6

2♠ (P) 3♠ makes it more difficult for South.

Note – if both spades and diamonds break 2-2, declarer makes nine tricks. *That also means the opposition would have made nine tricks in hearts.*

If those suits break any other way (barring ruffs) the opposition always make at least game in hearts

Support with support – a crucial competitive mantra

2major – 2N

The responses were invented by an American player, Harold Ogust, hence the description “Ogust Responses” in the title

We break our HCPs down to two sub-ranges
5-7 (**minimum**) and 8-9 (**maximum**)

We break the quality of our major suit down to:

Poor – not two of the top three honours

Good – two of the top three honours (so A K, A Q or K Q)

That leads to these responses to 2N:

3♣ Min. HCPs (5-7) & poor quality suit

3♦ Min. HCPs (5-7) & good quality suit

3♥ Max. HCPs (8-9) & poor quality suit

3♠ Max. HCPs (8-9) & good quality suit

3N A K Q x x x in the major (rare as hen's teeth)

Here are some examples where the 2N bidder holds the following hand:

♠ A 7 6
♥ A K Q 5
♦ K 9
♣ 8 5 3 2

and partner opens 2♠

Partner opens 2♠ and we bid 2N, invitational or better

♠ A 7 6
♥ A K Q 5
♦ K 9
♣ 8 5 3 2

♠ K Q 8 4 3 2
♥ 4 3
♦ A 6 4
♣ 7 4

**Bid 3♠. This shows 8-9
with two of the top
three spade honours**

♠ A 7 6
♥ A K Q 5
♦ K 9
♣ 8 5 3 2

♠ K J 9 8 4 3
♥ 9 6
♦ A 5
♣ 9 6 4

**Bid 3♥. This shows 8-9
HCPs and a poor suit**

♠ A 7 6
♥ A K Q 5
♦ K 9
♣ 8 5 3 2

♠ K Q 10 9 5 3
♥ 8 4
♦ 7 4
♣ 10 6 4

Bid 3♦. *This shows 5-7 HCPs and a suit with two of the top three honours*

♠ A 7 6
♥ A K Q 5
♦ K 9
♣ 8 5 3 2

♠ J 10 9 8 3 2
♥ 8 3
♦ 10 3
♣ A 7 4

Bid 3♣. *This shows minimum points and a poor suit*

... and here's a hand of some fantasy:

♠ A K Q 4 3 2

♥ 3 2

♦ 3 2

♣ 4 3 2

♠ J 5

♥ A K Q 4

♦ A K 6 5 4

♣ A K

and it provides a quick route to the highest scoring grand slam:

2♠ 2N *(invite, or better)*

3N* 7N *(responder can count thirteen tricks)*

**solid spades*

... and so to work