

## Weak Two Bids in Benji Acol & Ogust Responses

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <div><div><div>♠AQ8754</div><div>♥2</div><div>♦Q987</div><div>♣75</div></div><div><div>♠K9</div><div>♥J1097</div><div>♦KJ10</div><div>♣10982</div></div><div><div>♠J1032</div><div>♥AQ5</div><div>♦654</div><div>♣KJ6</div></div><div><div>♠6</div><div>♥K8643</div><div>♦A32</div><div>♣AQ43</div></div></div> | <div>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</div> <div><div><div><i>West</i></div><div><i>North</i></div><div><i>East</i></div><div><i>South</i></div></div><div><div></div><div>2♠</div><div>All Pass</div><div></div></div></div> <div>2♠ shows 5-9 high card points (HCPs) and a reasonable (or better) 6card suit. Here North holds two of the top three spade honours so has a good trump holding. With 13 HCPs and a misfit South has no reason to bid on. The general principle, when there are insufficient values for game, is to stop digging once a misfit comes to light. Seeking to improve the contract tends to lead to further misery.</div> <div>With ♠K, ♦K and ♣K well placed declarer should make an overtrick losing two trumps, a heart and a diamond.</div>  |
| <div><div><div>♠97</div><div>♥J973</div><div>♦1073</div><div>♣8742</div></div><div><div>♠K</div><div>♥AK65</div><div>♦AK54</div><div>♣K965</div></div><div><div>♠AQ10654</div><div>♥42</div><div>♦62</div><div>♣J103</div></div><div><div>♠J832</div><div>♥Q108</div><div>♦QJ98</div><div>♣AQ</div></div></div> | <div>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</div> <div><div><div><i>West</i></div><div><i>North</i></div><div><i>East</i></div><div><i>South</i></div></div><div><div>4♠</div><div>All Pass</div><div>2♠</div><div>Pass</div></div></div> <div>Again 2♠ shows 5-9 HCPs and an OK+ 6card suit. West jumps to 4♠, expecting to make. Note that 3N would be misguided because there are no entries to make spade tricks in the East hand if played in no-trumps. West follows the principle, when holding game-going values without a long, solid suit of his own, of raising to the suit game after partner has shown a preemptive opening.</div> <div>With the clubs well place declarer should make eleven tricks losing to just ♣A and the knave of trumps. As it is 3N will probably roll in though it won't score as well as the spade game.</div> |

| <div>♠ 2</div> <div>♥ AJ10</div> <div>♦ AKQJ76</div> <div>♣ KQJ</div> <div>♠ KJ1084</div> <div>♥ 865</div> <div>♦ 984</div> <div>♣ 82</div> <div>♠ 3</div> <div>♥ KQ973</div> <div>♦ 105</div> <div>♣ A10954</div> <div>♠ AQ9765</div> <div>♥ 42</div> <div>♦ 32</div> <div>♣ 763</div> | <div>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3N</td><td>All Pass</td><td>2♠</td></tr></table> <div>South has the, by now, familiar opening and has quite a pure pre-empt, with all the high card points in the trump suit. North has no interest in playing in a 6-1fit spade game but, with a massive hand including a solid suit, can insist on game. He makes the practical leap to 3N. There's no point going through 2N first when the final destination can be underwritten on the first round of bidding.</div> <div>No lead from East can hurt declarer and North can always build a couple of club tricks to bring the trick total to ten. A heart lead could see declarer scoring a second overtrick.</div>   | West     | North    | East | South | Pass | 3N   | All Pass | 2♠       |
|---|---|----------|----------|------|-------|------|------|----------|----------|
| West  | North   | East     | South    |      |       |      |      |          |          |
| Pass  | 3N  | All Pass | 2♠       |      |       |      |      |          |          |
| <div>♠ A94</div> <div>♥ K32</div> <div>♦ 10963</div> <div>♣ AQJ</div> <div>♠ KQ10765</div> <div>♥ 86</div> <div>♦ A74</div> <div>♣ 74</div> <div>♠ J32</div> <div>♥ A97</div> <div>♦ KQ52</div> <div>♣ 865</div> <div>♠ 8</div> <div>♥ QJ1054</div> <div>♦ J8</div> <div>♣ K10932</div> | <div>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <div>West has what we might call a heavy hand – maximum in terms of high card points and a very good suit to boot. East has no interest in game but, knowing of the nine card fit, is happy to raise to 3♠. This is preemptive and is designed to disrupt the opponents' ability to have a useful bidding conversation at a low level.</div> <div>South has no realistic route into the auction and that also applies to North, whose hand is too flat for action. Note that both the opening bid and the preemptive raise have prevented North South from reaching their contract of 4♥.</div> <div>3♠ will make, losing a trump, a heart and two clubs.</div> | West     | North    | East | South | 2♠   | Pass | 3♠       | All pass |
| West  | North   | East     | South    |      |       |      |      |          |          |
| 2♠  | Pass  | 3♠       | All pass |      |       |      |      |          |          |

| <p>♠86<br/>♥QJ9876<br/>♦K32<br/>♣54</p> <p>♠Q1053      ♠KJ92<br/>♥A4            ♥K5<br/>♦J1098        ♦654<br/>♣J93          ♣KQ108</p> <p>♠A74<br/>♥1032<br/>♦AQ7<br/>♣A762</p>         | <p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>2N</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">All pass</td></tr></table> <p>North is at the bottom of the range for a weak two bid but the 9 8 7 6 add some texture to the heart suit. South, holding a fourteen count and three card trump support, has a mild interest in game so makes the artificial enquiry of 2N. With minimum points (5-7 range) and a poor suit (i.e. not holding two of the top three honours) North makes the conventional response of 3♣.</p> <p>That's more than enough to thwart South's ambitions and he retreats to 3♥, crossing fingers that there's enough play for nine tricks. Never fear. There are but four losers – a spade, two trumps and a club.</p>                    | West | North | East | South |  | 2♥ | Pass | 2N   | Pass | 3♣       | Pass | 3♥ | All pass |  |  |  |
|--|--|------|-------|------|-------|--|----|------|------|------|----------|------|----|----------|--|--|--|
| West   | North  | East | South |      |       |  |    |      |      |      |          |      |    |          |  |  |  |
|  | 2♥   | Pass | 2N    |      |       |  |    |      |      |      |          |      |    |          |  |  |  |
| Pass   | 3♣   | Pass | 3♥    |      |       |  |    |      |      |      |          |      |    |          |  |  |  |
| All pass   |  |      |       |      |       |  |    |      |      |      |          |      |    |          |  |  |  |
| <p>♠KJ6<br/>♥Q1098<br/>♦J105<br/>♣J102</p> <p>♠AQ10742      ♠5<br/>♥2                ♥AK7654<br/>♦K62            ♦873<br/>♣AQ4          ♣986</p> <p>♠983<br/>♥J3<br/>♦AQ94<br/>♣K753</p> | <p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>These auctions are not very common but after a 2♥ opening West can bid his spades as an invitational bid. It isn't forcing so, with no fit for spades, East passes.</p> <p>This won't be easy to play as declarer has options as to which of three suits to play from the dummy (i.e. spade finesse? Club finesse? Diamond towards the king?). One possibility is to cash the two hearts, pitching a club, take a winning club finesse and play ace and another spade. In the fullness of time the defence may play a diamond and declarer will have managed to scramble four spades, two hearts, two clubs and a diamond. Making +140 would be a good score for East West.</p> | West | North | East | South |  |    | 2♥   | Pass | 2♠   | All Pass |      |    |          |  |  |  |
| West   | North  | East | South |      |       |  |    |      |      |      |          |      |    |          |  |  |  |
|  |  | 2♥   | Pass  |      |       |  |    |      |      |      |          |      |    |          |  |  |  |
| 2♠   | All Pass   |      |       |      |       |  |    |      |      |      |          |      |    |          |  |  |  |

| <div><div><div>♠AQ10742</div><div>♥2</div><div>♦K62</div><div>♣AQ4</div></div><div><div>♠K</div><div>♥Q1098</div><div>♦AJ1087</div><div>♣J102</div></div><div><div>♠983</div><div>♥J3</div><div>♦Q954</div><div>♣K753</div></div><div><div>♠J65</div><div>♥AK7654</div><div>♦3</div><div>♣986</div></div></div> | <div>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td>4♠</td></tr></table></div> <div>Now this is a more comfortable auction with South having support for North’s spade suit. With three card support, two prime hearts and a shortage, the blast to 4♠ is the right bid.</div> <div>Declarer should make eleven tricks. With the kings of trumps and diamonds well placed, the only losers are a diamond and a club. If East leads a dangerous club declarer can come to twelve tricks.</div>  | West | North    | East | South | Pass | 2♠   | Pass | 2♥   | All Pass |      |    | 4♠       |
|---|--|------|----------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|----------|------|----|----------|
| West  | North  | East | South    |      |       |      |      |      |      |          |      |    |          |
| Pass  | 2♠   | Pass | 2♥       |      |       |      |      |      |      |          |      |    |          |
| All Pass  |  |      | 4♠       |      |       |      |      |      |      |          |      |    |          |
| <div><div><div>♠Q1053</div><div>♥K</div><div>♦J10986</div><div>♣J93</div></div><div><div>♠86</div><div>♥AQ9876</div><div>♦K32</div><div>♣54</div></div><div><div>♠A74</div><div>♥1032</div><div>♦AQ7</div><div>♣A762</div></div><div><div>♠KJ92</div><div>♥J54</div><div>♦54</div><div>♣KQ108</div></div></div> | <div>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table></div> <div>East’s hand is the same as South’s on board 5 above. With similar game interest after a 2♥ opening he enquires with 2N. West has a very good hand, contextually, in that he holds maximum HCPs and has a trump suit containing two of the top three honours. Obviously, with hearts as trumps, the conventional response of 3♠ “forces” the partnership to game. That’s fine as the responses are set so as not to embarrass the enquirer and what West has shown is just what East wants to hear.</div> <div>Declarer will always lose a spade and a club. The only other possible losers are in hearts. Declarer can make a <i>safety play</i> to minimise the chance of losing two trumps. He plays a heart to the ace. Bingo. When ♥K falls, West can cross to dummy and run ♥10. There are now no heart losers and declarer chalks up a rewarding +450.</div> | West | North    | East | South | 2♥   | Pass | 2NT  | Pass | 3♠       | Pass | 4♥ | All Pass |
| West  | North  | East | South    |      |       |      |      |      |      |          |      |    |          |
| 2♥  | Pass   | 2NT  | Pass     |      |       |      |      |      |      |          |      |    |          |
| 3♠  | Pass   | 4♥   | All Pass |      |       |      |      |      |      |          |      |    |          |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <div><div><div>♠AK10</div><div>♥J5</div><div>♦10742</div><div>♣K973</div></div><div><div>♠32</div><div>♥AQ10876</div><div>♦K6</div><div>♣865</div></div><div><div>♠J97654</div><div>♥K9</div><div>♦AJ3</div><div>♣42</div></div><div><div>♠Q8</div><div>♥432</div><div>♦Q985</div><div>♣AQJ10</div></div></div> | <div>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div>2♥</div><div>All Pass</div><div>Pass</div><div>Pass</div></div></div> <div><p>If you play a freewheeling style you might open 2♠ with the East hand. Purists would cringe at such a bid where almost 90% of the hand's strength is outside the trump suit. Pass with the East hand is recommended. That allows West to open with a more classical weak two and East is now happy to have found an eight card fit. 2♥ plays well and may make an overtrick if the defence doesn't start with/switch to trumps – declarer can organise a club ruff in dummy.</p><p>Note that North South can make 2♣/♦. In fairness, with both holding balanced eleven counts, it's not easy for them to be involved in the auction. That said, East West's preemptive bidding makes that task even more difficult.</p></div>                             |
| <div><div><div>♠2</div><div>♥AQ972</div><div>♦AJ9</div><div>♣9875</div></div><div><div>♠K109</div><div>♥J10</div><div>♦KQ42</div><div>♣J1064</div></div><div><div>♠Q87</div><div>♥43</div><div>♦10876</div><div>♣AKQ3</div></div><div><div>♠AJ6543</div><div>♥K865</div><div>♦53</div><div>♣2</div></div></div> | <div>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div>All Pass</div><div>1♥</div><div>Pass</div><div>4♥</div></div></div> <div><p>It's not impossible to open a weak two in a major holding four cards in the other major but this hand shows that such an approach may backfire (further, the codified Ogust responses after 2N make it impossible to find out if partner has a four card major on the side).</p><p>Here if South opens 2♠ North will smell a misfit and the heart game will have eluded North South. Far better for South to pass and see what happens. When North opens 1♥ South, with his seven loser hand, can go the whole hog and jump to game (anything else would be a little spineless).</p><p>That 2♠ would have made an overtrick is little compensation for missing the vulnerable game. 4♥ will make an overtrick if declarer sets up the spade suit.</p></div> |