

Strong Bids in Benji Acol - a recap.

24/2/16

A 2♣ opening bid shows **either** 8 playing tricks in an unspecified suit **or** 21-22 balanced

Partner **always** replies 2♦

Opener then bids his suit at the lowest level or 2NT if balanced

The auction is not forcing and partner **may** pass

However, partner should **try** to keep the bidding open, even with limited values

Over the 2NT bid, play the same as you play over a 2NT opening bid

A 2♦ opening bid shows **either** 23 or more points balanced **or** a hand which can make game on its own, even if partner has nothing

Partner **always** replies 2♥

Opener then bids his suit at the lowest level or 2NT if 23-24 balanced, 3NT if 25-26 balanced

The auction is **only** not forcing (to game level) over 2♦ - 2♥ - 2NT

Over the 2NT bid, play the same as you play over a 2NT opening bid

Otherwise partner **must** keep the bidding open, even with nothing, until at least game is reached

Mistakes you can make

Over the strong opening, partner **always** bids the next suit up as a relay (unless there is an intervening bid, when partner may pass)

There is no need for opener to jump the bidding - he has already shown a strong hand

Over a 2♣ opening bid partner should try to keep the auction going

Over a 2♦ opening bid partner **must** keep the auction open until at least game is reached (unless it goes 2♦ - 2♥ - 2NT)

If partner is forced to bid don't be afraid to bid your suit (even on limited values)

How should these hands be bid?

♠ A K T 9 8 3

♥ J T 6 5

♦ A

♣ A K

2♣

2♠

4♥

♠ A 6

♥ K Q J T

♦ A K J 6

♣ K Q 7

2♦

2NT (23 - 24)

♠ A Q J T 8 6

♥ K Q J 9 3

♦ A

♣ A

2♦

2♠

3♥

4NT (RKCB)

6♠

♠ 4

♥ A 9 8 4 3

♦ 6 5 2

♣ 9 7 3 2

2♦

3♥ (try to keep the bidding open)

♠ Q 7 5 2

♥ 6 2

♦ T 4 3

♣ J 5 4 2

2♥

3NT

♠ K 5

♥ 4 3

♦ T 9 7 2

♣ 8 7 5 4 2

2♥

3♣

3♠

5♣ (1 (or 4) Key Card)