

LEBENSOHL PART 2

When Opponents open a Weak 2

You are South with the following hands

East has opened a Weak Two in Spades 6-10 points and a six card suit

Hand 1	Hand 2	Hand 3	Hand 4	Hand 5	Hand 6	Hand 7	Hand 8
♠ 2	♠ KJ9	♠ KQJ87	♠ A32	♠ 2	♠ 32	♠ K2	♠ 2
♥ AK75	♥ A65	♥ A65	♥ 2	♥ A32	♥ AKQ876	♥ AKQJ432	♥ AKQ32
♦ KQ53	♦ A1097	♦ Q2	♦ K2	♦ K2	♦ K108	♦ A2	♦ 98
♣ Q987	♣ AJ2	♣ 1043	♣ AKQJ432	♣ AKQJ432	♣ Q4	♣ J3	♣ AKQ32

So what do you bid with these hands?

Double (T/O)	2NT 16-18	Pass and hope partner can reopen with a double	Take my Chances and Bid 3NT	Bid 3♠ asking partner to bid 3NT with a stop – N.B this is not a Michaels cue bid	Bid 3♥ natural and non forcing partner can pass	Bid 4♥ remember only jump bid with a strong hand over a weak bid from the opposition	4♣ Leaping Michaels showing 5-5 in the bid minor and the other major – you should have a good hand to do this
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In this seminar I am going to concentrate on what you do as responder when partner has made a take out double.

The auction has gone – you are North

East	South	West	North
2♠	X	Pass	?

So what do I bid with the following hands?

Hand 1

♠ 432
♥ 65
♦ J2
♣ K98752

Bid 2NT Lebensohl showing a weak hand asking partner to bid 3♣ over which you pass.

Hand 2

♠ K32
♥ AKQ2
♦ J2
♣ Q432

Bid 3♠ showing 4 of the other Major a spade stop and values for 3NT/4♥.

Hand 3

♠ KQ2
♥ 102
♦ AQJ2
♣ Q432

Bid 3NT showing a spade stop but not 4 cards in the other major and the values for 3NT.

Hand 4

♠ K103
♥ AKJ65
♦ 98
♣ 98

Bid 3♥ constructive partner can pass.

Hand 5

♠ 1098
♥ AKQ2
♦ K32
♣ QJ32

Bid 2NT Lebensohl asking partner to bid 3♣ over which you bid 3♠ showing 4 cards in the other major no spade stop and the values for 3NT.

So what is Lebensohl in this context all about?

- It allows you to distinguish between weak, competitive and strong hands
- It enables you to tell partner whether you have
 - a) A stop in the opponents suit or not
 - b) Four cards in an unbid major
- The only downside is that you give up a natural 2NT bid (a hand which given the auction you are very unlikely to hold and if you do you would probably convert the take out double for penalties.)

LEBENSOHL PART 2

The auction has gone

North	East	South	West
2♠	X	Pass	?

So what do I do with the following hands?

Hand 1

♠ 432
♥ 65
♦ 32
♣ 876543

Hand 5

♠ 432
♥ Q5
♦ K2
♣ KQ8765

Hand 2

♠ K32
♥ AKQ2
♦ J2
♣ Q432

Hand 6

♠ KQ2
♥ AK2
♦ J1098
♣ J432

Hand 3

♠ 432
♥ AKQ2
♦ KJ2
♣ K109

Hand 7

♠ 432
♥ AK2
♦ KJ109
♣ K109

Hand 4

♠ KQJ87
♥ A32
♦ Q3
♣ 1098

Hand 8

♠ KJ2
♥ A32
♦ Q3
♣ 10987

Hand 1 – Bid 2NT (lebensohl) this compels partner to bid 3♣

Hand 2 – Bid 3♠ showing 4 cards in the other major and a spade stop – Game Forcing

Hand 3 – Bid 2NT (lebensohl) this compels partner to bid 3♣

Hand 4 – Pass – Happy days!

Hand 5 – Bid 3♣ constructive showing about 8-11 points

Hand 6 – Bid 3NT showing a spade stop and not 4 cards in the other major

Hand 7 – Bid 2NT (lebensohl) this compels partner to bid 3♣

Hand 8 – Pass – take my chances – **note** I cannot bid 2NT

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To reiterate Lebensohl allows you to distinguishing between hands that have a stop in the opponents and those that do not. Compare and Contrast the responses on these four hands after the Auction.

North East South West
2♠ X Pass ?

Remember the mnemonic

F - FAST
A - ARRIVAL
S - SHOWS
S - STOP

Hand 1

♠ 432
♥ AKQ2
♦ KJ2
♣ QJ3

Bid 2NT
followed by 3♠
showing 4
hearts but no
spade stop

Hand 2

♠ K87
♥ AKJ4
♦ Q2
♣ J432

Bid 3♠
immediately
showing 4
hearts and a
spade stop

Hand 3

♠ 432
♥ AJ2
♦ AQJ2
♣ Q432

Bid 2NT followed
by 3NT showing
not 4♠ and no
spade stop but
values for game

Hand 4

♠ KQ2
♥ AJ4
♦ Q108
♣ Q432

Bid 3NT immediately
showing not 4♥ but I
have a spade stop and
values for game

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It also allows to differentiate between weak, constructive and strong hands

Again the Auction has gone

North	East	South	West
2♠	X	Pass	?

Hand 1

♠ 53
♥ AQ875
♦ 872
♣ 1043

Bid 2NT this forces 3♣ from partner and now you bid 3♥ showing a weak hand with hearts

Hand 2

♠ 876
♥ AKQ32
♦ Q2
♣ 1098

Bid 3♥ constructive but non forcing

Hand 3

♠ 32
♥ KQJ1043
♦ AK2
♣ 98

Bid 4♥

Hand 4

♠ 432
♥ 432
♦ 432
♣ 5432

Bid 2NT and pass the forced 3♣ response from partner

Hand 5

♠ AK8
♥ 53
♦ AKJ1065
♣ K105

Bid 4♦ forcing – you could well have a slam on!

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However what do I do if partner has bid 2NT and I have a really strong hand

Again the Auction has gone

North	East	South	West
2♠	X	Pass	2NT
Pass	?		

Hand 1

♠ AK2
♥ AQ875
♦ AJ2
♣ K2

Partner has asked you bid 3♣ but there is a real danger you could miss game here so break the relay and bid 3♥

Hand 2

♠ AK4
♥ AK10
♦ KQ2
♣ AJ98

Partner has asked you bid 3♣ but there is a real danger you could miss game here so break the relay and bid 3NT

Hand 3

♠ 3
♥ AKQJ1043
♦ AK2
♣ A9

Partner has asked you bid 3♣ but there is a real danger you could miss game, you were too good to bid 4♥ initially, so bid it now! This should be close to an Acol 2♣ opener

Hand 4

♠ AK8
♥ 53
♦ AKJ1065
♣ K105

Partner has asked you bid 3♣ but there is a real danger you could miss game here so break the relay and bid 3♦

LEBENSOHL PART 2

In summary Lebensohl allows you to

- Compete on weak and strong hands
- To tell partner you have or deny a stop in the opponents suit
- To convey whether you have 4 cards in an unbid major
- To convey to partner whether you have the values for game

Generally after partner has doubled for takeout over a weak two from the opponents

- A bid at the two level if available is to play
- A direct bid at the three level is constructive 8-11
- A cue bid of the opponents suit either through 2NT (lebensohl) or directly is game forcing
- Going through 2NT (Lebensohl) forces 3♣ and can show a whole host of hands
- Break the relay with really strong hands