

Weak twos

**Winchester Bridge Club
6 April 2016**

Two sections

- When to bid weak twos and how your partner should respond
- How you and your partner bid when your opponents bid weak twos.

Purpose

- Pre-empt at the two level rather than the normal three-level
- Can make life difficult for opponents
- You will have to show a strong two in a different way (see separate seminar)
- The rest of your system (one-level & three-level) can remain the same.

When do you bid weak two?

- Six cards in either ♥ / ♠
- 6-10 points
- Bid 2♥/2♠
- Reserve 2♣ & 2♦ for other bids
- With 11 points you would open one ♥/♠
- □
- These hands occur far more frequently than strong twos.

Strength of suit

- Must have a certain amount of strength in the suit
- TWO of the TOP FOUR honours, OR
- THREE of the TOP SIX cards
- AK9876, KQJ765, AJ10543, QJ10543 are excellent
- KJ7654, A109432, QJ8765, J109765 just qualify
- Q76543, J107432 do NOT qualify.

Partner's responses to weak twos

- Most common response is PASS
- Bid is a weak pre-empt so need similar strength to respond as for a weak three
- Need at least 16 points to respond other than PASS
- $16+9=25$ points, so 16 points are enough for game if partner is at top of points range (9-10).

Respond 2NT with 16+ points

- Tells partner you are interested in game
- Shows 16 points and asks opener to describe hand according to table on next page.

Bid	Weak two suit	High card points
3♣	Weak	Weak
3♦	Strong	Weak
3♥	Weak	Strong
3♠	Strong	Strong

Not so complicated

- Weakest hand bid 3♣
(weak suit, weak hand)
- Strongest hand bid 3♠ (strong suit, strong hand)
- In between, the higher bid needs more points
- So 3♦ is good suit, weak hand, and 3♥ is weak suit but strong hand.

Strong suit?

- If and only if you hold two of the top three honours
- So KQ6543 is strong
- But AJ10987 is weak
- Allows partner to judge with only 2 card support whether we are likely to get 6 tricks in the suit.

Strong points?

- Strong is 9-10
- Weak is 6-7
- 8 you judge (good luck!)

Part two

- How do you bid when your opponents bid weak twos?.

Defence to weak twos

- Your opponents pre-empt for two reasons - to *Disrupt* & to *Describe*
- They are showing a weak hand with a long suit and little defensive strength
- They are bidding because they think you are likely to make a contract
- ***Be aggressive - try hard to make a bid.***

Defence system

- Basically natural:
- 1. **Double for take-out:** shortage in opponents' suit, opening values
- 2. **Overcalls:** 10-12 points + 6-card (or good 5-card) suit
- 3. **2NT overcall:** 16-19 points semi-balanced + stop in opponents' suit.

Let's look at these three
defence bids.

Take-out double

- Shortage in opponents' suit
- Support (at least 3 cards) in each unbid suit
- Opening points (minimum 13)
- Asks partner to bid his best suit
- NB you cannot do a penalty double with this system.

Responding to partner's take-out double

- 0-8 points respond at lowest level
- 9-10 points jump if you can below game
- 11+ points jump to game in the other major.

Overcall



- **Overcalls:** 10-12 points + 6-card (or good 5-card) suit
- You are effectively bidding pre-emptively yourself, with a slightly stronger hand than your opponent.

2NT overcall

- 16-19 points balanced or semi-balanced + stop in opponents' suit
- Play normal conventions over this (Stayman, Transfers).

In summary

Bidding weak twos

- Open 2 /
- six cards & 6-10 points
- Partner **PASSES** with less than 16 points
- Partner explores game potential with 16+ points, bidding 2NT.

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Let's try some hands.