

Guest column from Dexter Perkins

Some bridge teachers do not tell their students about weak 2 bids. They do this in part because, playing weak 2 bids, 2C is the only strong bid—and it often leads to problems.

If they are playing weak 2 bids, when a very good hand comes along, many people automatically start with 2 clubs. Players just seem to like to make that bid! And I am not sure why, because it actually eats up bidding room that can be important and useful. And partner may not easily figure out exactly what you have. You are already at the two level without having even mentioned your suit. So I try not to bid 2C if I can avoid it.

This hand was from a recent game:

S A K Q 5 4 **H** Q 9 **D** K 4 **C** A K 8 4

It does have 21 HCP plus doubletons, but look at all the possible losers, 5 or 6 at least. My opponent opened 2 clubs with that hand and ended up in 6 spades, going down. If they had simply opened 1S, the bidding would have gone 1S – 2S – 4S, making nicely.

Richard Pavlicek says this: An opening bid of 2C requires at least 23 HCP or a hand with a self-sufficient suit that is at least “within one trick of game.” I use his rule and I think most top players do this as well. I know, I know, if you follow that rule you don’t get to bid 2C very often. But that is good, not bad, because it means when you do open 2C your hand is exceptionally good and your partner can count on it. For other hands, opening 1 of a suit gives you an extra level of bidding for communication with partner.

(And I entirely agree! TR)