


Friday, September 13, 2024

BFP BJ L03 Strong Hands Playing Weak 2s

Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

<p>♠ Q 3 2</p> <p>♥ Q 6 3</p> <p>♦ Q J 3</p> <p>♣ A Q J 10</p>	<p>♠ 9 6 5 4</p> <p>♥ 8 7 2</p> <p>♦ 10 9 5 4</p> <p>♣ 9 8</p>	<p>♠ K 8 7</p> <p>♥ A K 4</p> <p>♦ A K 7</p> <p>♣ K 5 3 2</p>	<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>♠ A J 10</p> <p>♥ J 10 9 5</p> <p>♦ 8 6 2</p> <p>♣ 7 6 4</p>
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<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>N</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr></table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	N	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	5	4	5	4	5	W	5	4	5	4	5	<p>0</p> <p>14 20</p> <p>6</p>		
	♣	♦	♥	♠	N																												
N	-	-	-	-	-																												
S	-	-	-	-	-																												
E	5	4	5	4	5																												
W	5	4	5	4	5																												

West	North	East	South
		2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 NT	Pass
6 NT	All pass		

Playing Benji, most partnerships agree opening 2 NT shows balanced 21-22 HCPs. Opening 2 ♣ and following a "Relay" 2 ♦ shows balanced 19-20 HCPs. In a "Three Weak Two's" system, 2 NT opening shows 20-22 HCPs. 2 NT via 2 ♣ shows 23-24 HCPs.

Either way East ends up bidding 2 NT. With a balanced 14 HCPs the partnership has at least 33 points and West bids slam.

Declarer is unlucky: it is going to be hard to avoid two spade losers. There are various tests for South.

If declarer leads ♠ 7 from his hand South must play low (Second hand plays low). If declarer leads ♠ K from his hand, South must play ♠ A (Cover an honour with an honour). If South plays correctly his side will come to two spade tricks.

If South cashes ♠ A at trick 1 that is the last trick for the defence. South's ♠ A has a role: to kill East's ♠ Q.

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Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

♠ 6	♠ 10 4 3	♠ 9 8 5
♥ J 10 5 3	♥ Q 2	♥ 9 7 6 4
♦ A 9 4 3	♦ K Q 8 7 6	♦ J 10
♣ A K 6 4	♣ J 7 5	♣ 10 9 8 3

	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ N	♠ A K Q J 7 2	
N	- 3 1 4 4	♥ A K 8	8
S	- 3 1 4 4	♦ 5 2	12 1
E	- - - - -	♣ Q 2	19
W	- - - - -		

West	North	East	South
			2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	

Benji 2 ♣-2 ♦-2 ♠ shows a hand with lots of shape and high cards able to win 8 tricks in spades. It is not quite strong enough to open with a game-forcing 2 ♦. It is too good to open 1 ♠, even though there's only 19 HCPs.

In a "Three Weak Two's" system, there are fewer options. 1 ♠ opening should find the game, will a 2 ♣ opening end up going too far?

North's hand has a sure trick in diamonds and good support for partner's spades. 4 ♠ shows a few values and some support but no aces or voids and no interest in a slam.

There are ten easy tricks but if West had unwisely gone beyond 4 ♠ in the quest for a slam he would have failed.

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Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ 8 7	♠ 10 9 6 5 4	♠ K 3 2
♥ K 4 2	♥ A 10	♥ Q J 6 5 3
♦ A K J 3	♦ Q 9 8 6	♦ 5 4
♣ A K Q 3	♣ 6 4	♣ 10 5 2

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	-	1	-
S	-	-	-	1	-
E	3	1	4	-	4
W	3	1	4	-	2

♠ A Q J	♠ 10 9 6 5 4
♥ 9 8 7	♥ A 10
♦ 10 7 2	♦ Q 9 8 6
♣ J 9 8 7	♣ 6 4

	♠	♥	♦	♣
6				
20				
6				
8				

West	North	East	South
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	All pass		

Playing Benji, most partnerships opening 2 NT show balanced 21-22 HCPs. Opening 2 ♣ and following a "Relay" 2 ♦ shows balanced 19-20 HCPs.

In a "Three Weak Two's" system, 2 NT opening shows 20-22 HCPs. 2 NT via 2 ♣ shows 23-24 HCPs.

Either way East ends up bidding 2 NT.

With five hearts and 6 HCPs, East bids to game. 3 ♥ forces a choice of 3 NT or 4 ♥. If the pair have agreed to use transfers, 3 ♦ transfers to hearts, over partner's 3 ♥, 3 NT shows the 5-3-3-2 shape, partner chooses the contract and then plays it.

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Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

♠ Q J 10 9

♥ A 9 5 4

♦ 10 5 2

♣ 7 6

N
W E
S

♠ 3

♥ Q 10 6

♦ Q J 9 6

♣ J 10 9 8 2

♠ K 8 7 6 5 4

♥ 8 7

♦ 4 3

♣ K 4 3

21

7 6

6

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	2	2	2	4	2
S	2	2	2	4	2
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

West

North

East

South

2 NT

Pass

4 ♠

All pass

North holds a balanced hand with 21 HCPs.

Playing Benji, most partnerships will agree that an opening 2 NT shows a balanced hand with 21-22 points.

In a "Three Weak Two's" system, 2 NT opening generally shows 20-22 HCPs.

With 6 HCPs and six spades, the contract is 4 ♠. Even if the pair play transfers, South might choose to bid the 4 ♠ directly to protect his two kings from a lead from the right.

It's a nasty trump split, but declarer must clear them to make sure of the club tricks.

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Board 6

East Deals

E-W Vul

♠ A 7 6
♥ J 9 5 4
♦ 10 6 5 2
♣ 7 6

♠ K Q 10 4 3
♥ 8 7 3
♦ 4 3
♣ 4 3 2



♠ J 2
♥ A K 2
♦ A K 8 7
♣ A K Q 5

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	5	2	3	5	3
W	5	2	3	5	3

♠ 9 8 5
♥ Q 10 6
♦ Q J 9
♣ J 10 9 8

5
5 24
6

West

North

East

South

2 ♥

Pass

2 ♦

Pass

3 ♠

Pass

3 NT

All pass

East holds a balanced hand with 24 HCPs.

Playing Benji, most partnerships will agree that an opening 2 ♣-2 ♦-2 NT shows a balanced hand with 23-24 HCPs.

In a "Three Weak Two's" system, 2 ♣ opening generally shows a strong hand. A rebid of 3 NT will show the strength and balance.

The defence can defeat 3 NT by holding up the A ♠. Declarer is then stuck leading out high cards.

4 ♠ is actually a better contract, but it would be eccentric to bid it!

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Board 7

South Deals

Both Vul

♠ 9 3 2
♥ 8 7
♦ 10 9 5 3 2
♣ 7 5 2

♠ K Q J 10 4
♥ A 10 9
♦ 8 4
♣ 8 6 4



♠ 5
♥ J 6 3 2
♦ K J 7 6
♣ Q 10 9 3

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	1	2	-	-	-
S	1	2	-	-	-
E	-	-	1	-	1
W	-	-	-	-	-

♠ A 8 7 6
♥ K Q 5 4
♦ A Q
♣ A K J

0
10 7
23

West	North	East	South
			2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 NT
All pass			

Benji 2 ♦ is artificial and 100% forcing, indeed it is game forcing unless the auction starts 2 ♦-2 ♥-2 NT.

2 ♥ is a negative response, showing 0-7 points (or maybe up to nine points in queens and jacks). 2 NT shows 23-24 points.

This is a rare non game forcing sequence. With zero, North passes.

West leads ♠ K. Declarer faces a nightmare because he cannot reach dummy to take finesses. The hand is almost unplayable and declarer is likely to go two or three off.

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Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

♠ A K Q 8 5 4

♥ A K 8

♦ A K 9

♣ 2

N
W E
S

♠ 6 3 2

♥ 7 6 5 4

♦ 8 7 3

♣ 9 4 3

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	♣	♦	♥	♠	N																											
N	1	-	-	-	-																											
S	1	-	-	-	-																											
E	-	-	3	5	2																											
W	-	-	3	5	2																											

West	North	East	South
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

2 ♦ is artificial and 100% forcing, (indeed it is game forcing unless the auction starts 2 ♦-2 ♥-2 NT).

2 ♥ is a negative response, showing 0-7 points (or maybe up to nine points in queens and jacks). 2 ♠ is game forcing. 2 NT is a second negative showing 0-2 HCPs.

North leads ♦ Q. Declarer wins ♦ A and draws trumps in two rounds. He then cashes ♥ A K and concedes a heart.

Defenders may persist in diamonds but declarer wins ♦ K and overtakes ♠ 4 with ♠ 6 so he can discard a loser on ♥ 7, which is now a winner. Eleven tricks.