

Seminar on opening and responding to 2c or benji 2d

No correct answers to responding , its about agreeing with partner

Opener is going to play in game, its just what game

To find slam its important to find out about partners hand

If you are balanced (any strength) then by showing that it allows partner to find out about any major suit contracts

Seminar on Opening and responding to 2c & 2d strong hands

points to consider

Try and rebid 2nt if possible which is forcing to game , allows partner to bid 3c asking for majors or to transfer to 5 card majors

On this point need to play 3c as asking for 5 card majors

Opener will bid 3d with a 4 card major (most people then play puppet over this)

As reponder use 3c even with a 3 card major

xx xxx QJxxx xxx

opener may have a 5 card heart suit - then 4H probably better

4-4-4-1 hands are always tricky to bid and there is a strong case for opening 1 of a suit

Example

after opening 2c or Benji 2d

respond 2nt with following

1) AQx AKQxx xx AKQ

2) KQXX AKJxx A KQJ

3) Kx AKx AKQxxx AJ

Responding to Benji 2d

So what do people play at present ?

Partner opens 2d you hold

1) AQxxxx xxx xx xx

2) Axxxxx xxx xx xx

3) Qxxxxx xxx xx xx

4) xxxxxx Axx xx Kx

So what is the criteria to make any bid other than 2H – relay??

The difficulty is how do you tell partner you have some key cards (A or K) somewhere

A New Idea

- over 2d — 2H shows at least 1 control in your hand (A or K)
- 2S shows no controls (no A or K)
- 2nt - suggest you do not use this at present
(if we have time I will tell you how I play it)
- 3 of a suit - A or K to 6 card suit

This system can tell partner a slam is not on (2S bid)

It also means after bidding 2S then bidding later partner KNOWS you have no Ace or King)

A few hands to bid using this idea

1) AQx AQx AK AKQxx 2d - 2S - ?

2) AKxxx Axx AKQ KQ 2d - 3c - ?

3) KQxx AKJxx AQx AQ 2d - 2H - ?

4) AKQJxxx QJ109 A A 2d- 2S — ?

5) AKQx Axx AKQJx A 2d -2H- ?

What if you get a bid over 2d ?

My suggestion is

Double shows a hand with NO A or K

Pass shows a hand with 1 or more A or K's

Bid shows a 5+ card suit with an A or K in it

Example

Partner opens 2d (benji) next hand bids 2S

1) xxx Axx xxx xxxx

2) xxx Qxx xxxx Jxx

3) xx xxx Axxxx xxx

Partner opens 2d (Benji) next hand bids 4d

1) Kxxxx xx xxx xxx

2) xxx xxxx xxx xxx

3) Axxxxx xxx x xxx

Opening and responding to Benji 2c

If its a close decision between opening 2c or 2d I always go for 2d
especially if its a major suit

2 suited hands normally work better to open 1 of a suit

there is often opposition bidding on the hands so it becomes easier to get both suits in if open one of them.

AKQxx AKJxx Ax x open 1S

Responding to Benji 2c

bid 2d on most hands

Any other suit shows 5+ cards with an A or K in it

Prefer opening 2NT (20 -22) to 2c with minor suit length

Kxx Kx AKQJXX Ax

Acol 2c opener

Opening follows same logic as Benji 2d opener

Responding to 2c opener

The same idea as over Benji 2d EXCEPT
we have an extra bid available

2d = 1 control(A or K)

2H = 2 controls (A or K)

2S = No controls

2nt = leave out for now

3 bids = A or K + 6 card suit

Suggestion

Consider playing reverse Benji

to allow for more bidding space with the 2c opener

So 2d becomes 8 playing tricks and 2c -game hand

That 2nt response over Benji 2d or Acol 2c

To use this as a balanced hand with some points
can wrong side the contract and stops constructive bidding

I use it to show 6 card suit with 2 of top 3 honours

3c from partner asks which suit and now bid suit with 3nt = clubs

xx AQxxxx xxx xx

2c - 2nt (6 card + 2 of 3 honours)

3c asking - 3H (hearts)

If partner does not want to know then bids their own suit

Example : - Ax AKQxx Axx AKx

2c (or 2d) - 2nt - 3c - if 3d (bid 7d) if 3S (bid 7s)