

# Opening 2C plus responses

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# PART 1

Why do we open 2C ?

# CHOICE OF ANY OPENING BID

- TARGET = bid to the best contract
- QUESTION = what makes it easier to explore ?
- ANSWER = maximum bidding space
- WHY EVER OPEN 2C ?

# WHY I OPEN 2C ?

1. Too much danger of being passed out at 1-level and embarrassed by making too many tricks.
2. <There is no other reason>

# WHEN IS DANGER GREATEST ?

- When nobody else has an easy 1-level bid
  - I have the boss suit(s)
  - I have too many HCP across all the suits
- Any hand with a void spade is not a danger
- Any hand with a void is subject to opposition bidding

# SOME 2C HANDS

- These were all real life disasters from recent games
- Worth noting
  - Opening at 1L can enable better description
  - Relying on pure point count is dangerous

# HAND 1

W	N	E	S
		1♥	P
1NT	P	2♠	P
3NT	P	6♥	P
P	P		

**W** West

♠ 1097

♥ 94

♦ KJ1098

♣ KQ4

**E** East

♠ AKQJ5

♥ AKJ1052

♦

♣ A8

# HAND 2

W	N	E	S
2♣	P	2♦	P
2NT	P	6NT	P
7NT	P	P	P

**W** West

♠ J7  
♥ AKJ  
♦ KQ  
♣ AKQ732

**E** East

♠ AK4  
♥ 987  
♦ J109  
♣ J654



# HAND 3

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

**W** West

♠ 64  
♥ AKQ72  
♦ AK10962  
♣

**E** East

♠ AJ5  
♥ J86  
♦ 853  
♣ AQ103

# HAND 4

W	N	E	S
2♣	P	2♦	P
3♣	P	3♦	P
3NT	P	P	P

**W** West

♠ K  
♥ AK2  
♦ QJ  
♣ AKQ7543

**E** East

♠ AQ74  
♥ Q875  
♦ 10983  
♣ J

Three tables  
bid slam on  
this hand

## PART 2

# Bidding Strong Balanced Hands

# Opening Balanced Hands

- With 1N opener or 1N rebid
  - 11 to 14, and 15-17
- With 1L-opener and jump to 2N rebid
  - 18-19
- With 1L-opener and jump to 3N rebid
  - best avoided on balanced hands

# Opening 20+ Balanced Hands

- 2L-opener => no room to invite
  - so definition must be tight
- Two point ranges could be 20-21, 22-23 but then 24 joins the game forcing hands.

# How many HCP for 3N ?

- Simulations show that
  - The more balanced the split of HCP, the better the chance of making game
- The hands hold 23 hcp : peaks at 25% (worst 9%)
  - don't bid game
- The hands hold 24 hcp : peaks at 42% (worst 17%)
  - bid vulnerable game if even spread (at teams)
- The hands hold 25 hcp : peak at 62% (worst 31%)
  - bid game unless very uneven spread

# When do we raise a 2N opener?

ALL THESE AT MATCHPOINTS (and on average)

- Partner has 20 hcp : with 5 hcp, makes 51%
- Partner has 21 hcp : with 4 hcp, makes 47%
- Partner has 22 hcp : with 3 hcp, makes 42%
- Partner has 23 hcp : with 2 hcp, makes 38%
- Partner has 24 hcp : with 1 hcp, makes 33%
- Partner has 25 hcp : with 0 hcp, makes 31%

# Conclusion

- We raise a 2N+ opener when
  - when I have 4-5 hcp : fine with 25 together
  - when I have 3 hcp or less : needs 26 between us
- How often do I care ?
  - we get 20+ hcp, 1 in 70 (NS get 2 in 3 sessions)
  - we get 24+ hcp, 1 in 1200 (NS get 1 in 24 sessions)



# To show GF balanced and ....

have space to explore

- Opening 2N : with 20-21 (bad 22) hcp : raise on 5 hcp
- Opening 2C rebid 2N : with 22-24 hcp (max invite) : raise on 3 hcp
- Opening 2C rebid 2H(two way) then 2N : with 25+ hcp : game force

# Game Forcing balanced hands

## THE PROBLEM HAND

♠ J T 9 2

♥ J T 4 3 2

♦ 5

♣ J 5 2

## THE BIDDING

2♣ - 2♦

3N - ??

# Game Forcing balanced hands

- Solution (aka KOKISH)

- 2♣ - 2♦ - 2N is 22-24 balanced

- 2♣ - 2♦ - 2♥ is ambiguous

- is either natural or a GF balanced

- 2♠ asks which and 2N is GF balanced

- » 2♣ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 2♠ - 2N is 25+ balanced

- » 2♣ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 2♠ - 3♣ is hearts and clubs

- » 2♣ - 2♦ - 2♥ - 2♠ - 3♦ is hearts and diamonds, etc

## PART 4

# 2C with UNBALANCED HANDS RESPONSES

# Rationale for opening 2C

- It makes the bidding easier
- The following are the most awkward for 2C
  - Two suiters than I cannot show below 3N
  - Three suited hands
- The greatest confusion comes from
  - playing strength differs from high card strength

# Choice of opening ?

S

South



KQJ107654



AKQ10



A

Better  
handled via  
4N or 6H  
opener

# Choice of opening ?

S

South



AKQ9854



AQ10982



Best  
handled by  
opening 1H  
and  
rebidding  
6D; partner  
will know  
to raise  
with DK

# Choice of opening ?

S South

♠ 54

♥ A6

♦ A5

♣ AKQ5432

Best  
handled by  
opening 1C  
and  
rebidding  
3N unless  
oppo bid  
spades



# Rationale for responding to 2C

- Whatever makes the bidding easier
  - not getting in the way of partner
  - so a bit of anticipation worthwhile
  - plan your next bid
- Specific requirements can impede ...
- Remember – partner is most often balanced

# Examples of responding to 2C

**N** North

♠ 43

♥ 65

♦ AJ10873

♣ K32

Cannot bid  
3D as I lack  
a bid over  
partner's  
3H

# Examples of responding to 2C

N

North



K3



654



QJ10543



K8

Happier  
with 3D  
here

# Examples of responding to 2C

**N** North

♠ Q10932

♥ K7654

♦ 2

♣ Q3

Stretch to bid 2S here, to avoid the problem of 2D-3D?

# Examples of responding to 2C

N

North



K832



Q652



A10



1065

Bidding 2N describes it well; partner's 3C now is "Baron" asking for suits