



Introductory Remarks - 2 over 1 System by Spike Lay

The first article on the 2/1 system was written several years ago, but still seems like a good starting point.

Candy Griffey remarked the other day that too many of the beginning classes teach bridge that must be discarded as soon as you graduate from tadpole to minnow. At tournaments these days almost everyone plays some form of a 2/1 system and a forcing (or semi-forcing notrump). It isn't that difficult; in fact, I think it is easier than trying to bid playing "Goren" or whatever people call non 2/1 methods.

2/1 means many things. Some like to say "we play 2/1 with gadgets." That just means they play a relatively modern system which includes a game-forcing 2/1 bid, a forcing or semi-forcing notrump and any number of other conventions, e.g. 4-suit transfers over 1NT; Bergen raises; Drury; Inverted Minors, etc. etc.

For the next few months I will be writing on this subject. My first objective is to cover the actual 2/1 bid itself along with a forcing notrump. The one thing you must play if adapting a 2/1 system is forcing or semi-forcing notrump. Most of the other stuff (like Bergen, Drury, etc.) really has nothing to do with 2/1 per se and is optional.

I have asked Larry Griffey and Candy Griffey to contribute and may ask others. The purpose is to encourage interested developing players to adopt a 2/1 structure and to give more experienced players something to think about as well.

There is quite a bit to cover. Also, it will do more harm than good if you don't really understand what you are playing or try to do too much too soon. On the other hand, an effective, active bidding style can cover a lot of errors in play and defense. I will also be glad to refer you to some other material.

And I think our web site has ways that you can ask questions via email. That might be helpful.

[E-mail Spike](#)

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