

## **Opening Weak 2 Bids**

Opening bids at the 2 level in Diamonds, Hearts and Spades are made with hands that contain six-card suits and 6-12 HCPs. The purpose of this bid is twofold. First to describe a hand that has some playing strength in the bid suit without a lot of strength in terms of high cards. Second, to make it more difficult for the opponents to bid to their best contract.

Requirements for a weak 2 bid:

- a) exactly six cards in the bid suit
- b) a good quality suit (as opposed to opening with a one bid which can be made on any five-card major)
- c) 6-12 HCP counting length points

Just because you have a six-card suit does not mean that you must open with a weak two. You should consider several factors including the following:

- a) vulnerability- be careful when you are vulnerable because if you get the bid and go down you could lose a lot.
- b) suit quality- suit quality is important, especially intermediate cards because you have no idea if partner has any support for your suit. For example: Which is a better suit? QJT987 or A65432. Even though the suit headed by the ace counts for more in terms of HCP that suit has probably 4 losers if partner has a singleton, whereas the other has only 2.
- c) position in the bidding- If you are third hand then you know partner has less than an opening bid and since you also have less than an opening bid the chances that the opponents have a

game are increased. If you are the first or second hand to bid you have no idea where the majority of the other points are.

Since partner has opened with a bid of 2 in a suit he is saying that he is not really interested in playing in another suit and has less than an opening bid. Therefore, in order to change suits you need a very good suit of your own and also at least a very sound opening bid. You may, however, raise anytime you have support (remember partner has a six-card suit) or bid 3NT if you have a good hand with stoppers in the other suits. A response of 2NT is artificial and asks partner to bid a feature (an outside ace or king) with a good hand or rebid his suit with a minimum.

What would you open the following with?

- a) Q86432 Q65 87 Q7
- b) QJT965 8 K876 87
- c) AQJ765 87 876 76
- d) 76 A2 KJT6542 76
- e) 65 AQ6 KQT654 76

What would you respond if partner opens 2S and RHO passes?

- a) 8 K6543 AK76 Q87
- b) K76 87 A7652 765
- c) K6 AQ6 AQ76 A652
- d) Q76 K87 A76 AQ87