

28/12/2021 Hand of the Week 83: We 3 Kings

Its Christmas time, can your 3 wise men help partner find a big contract?

N	hxdavidl
♠	KQJ98
♥	KJ106
♦	K64
♣	10

West opens a weak 2♦. What is your defence to a weak 2 open?

Generally if you are going to bid you should have opening values and a distributional hand, the exception being a strong balanced hand e.g. 16-18. With a weaker balanced hand e.g. 12-14 you might be better passing and waiting to see what partner has got. So the responses are:

Double – take-out; 12 + shortage in the opponents suit; cover in other three suits

Suit Overcalls – 12+ points and a six card (or good five card) suit

2NT – 16-19 points semi balanced with a stop in the weak two suit. Stayman/transfers after this based on your partnerships agreement

Pass – any other hand including minimum opening values with length/strength in the opponent's suit

What if you have a 2 suited hand? One bid we haven't mentioned is the cue bid- I would use this to show a 2 suiter- either both majors over 2♦ or the other major and an unspecified minor over a weak 2 in a major. You would have to have a good strength hand and be prepared to play in game even if partner is weak. Despite the shape I don't think this hand is strong enough to go down this route.

Some pairs would use 4NT to show a game going hand with min 5-5 in minors after a weak 2 in the majors.

This hand is slightly tricky as you have 3 diamonds and a 5-4 majors. I don't think it is strong enough for a cue bid so the options are double or 2♠- I think 2♠ is probably the preferred option as you might get too high if partner comes back 3♣ after a double.

<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">D</div> <div style="background-color: lightblue; padding: 10px; display: inline-block; font-size: 2em; margin-left: 5px;">4</div>	N hxdavidl ♠ KQJ98 ♥ KJ106 ♦ K64 ♣ 10	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr style="background-color: red; color: white;"> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: yellow;">2♦</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>P</td> <td style="background-color: yellow;">3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>6♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	2♦	2♠	P	3♦	P	3NT	P	6♣	P	P	P	
	W	N	E	S														
2♦	2♠	P	3♦															
P	3NT	P	6♣															
P	P	P																
W hxpaulstan ♠ 743 ♥ 8 ♦ J1098732 ♣ A8	E HXHelenSta ♠ 10652 ♥ Q954 ♦ Q5 ♣ 742																	
	S HXRexAJM ♠ A ♥ A732 ♦ A ♣ KQJ9653	6♣ S NS: 0 EW: 0																

On this night South responded 3♦, and after partner showed a diamond stop then jumped to 6♣- there is some risk here as if West leads a singleton heart and East holds the A♣ then the defence might get a ruff in.

You would have to play the hearts carefully to make 6♥. 6NT is the best contract but it is difficult to find after the weak 2 open