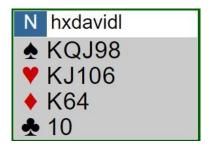
Its Christmas time, can your 3 wise men help partner find a big contract?



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

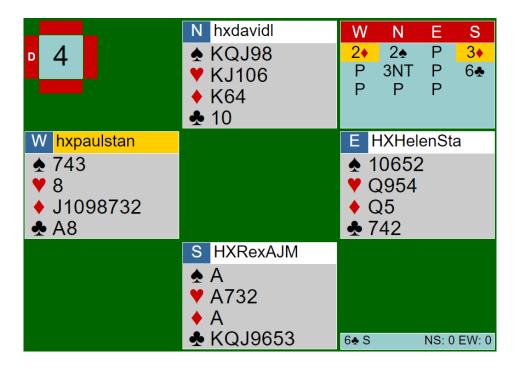
**2NT** – 16-19 points semi balanced with a stop in the weak two suit. Stayman/transfers after this based on your partnerships agreement

**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 cure bis so the option are double or 2 \( \bigs - \) I think 2 \( \bigs \) is probably the preferred option as you might get too high if partner comes back 3 \( \bigs \) after a double.



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