Defending against the Multi 2♦

Now that a number of the less experienced members of the club are developing their bidding systems and want to include the “Multi 2♦” among their conventional bids, the Management Committee has agreed to permit this convention on Mondays. It may be helpful for other Monday players to have some guidance on the best way of entering the auction if an opponent opens 2♦*

The Multi 2♦ is so called because it can be used on a variety of hands unrelated to the diamond suit. The 2♦ opening is most commonly made with a Weak 2 in one of the majors, but it is more difficult to bid against than a Weak 2, as initially you do not know which is the opponent’s suit.

Defending against a Weak 2 is usually along the following lines. **Double** is take-out, showing at least opening values, shortage in the suit bid, 4 cards in the unbid major and at least three cards in each of the minors. 2N is about 16-19, semi-balanced with a stop in the bid suit. (Stayman and Transfers are then available if you use them in response to an opening 1N and 2N.) **A new suit** shows a good 6card suit or a very good 5card suit, with better than opening values.

The simplest defence against the Multi 2♦ is similar. A new suit (including 3♦) and 2N are as above (2N will usually have stops against both majors) but Double cannot be for take out, as you do not know which suit opener holds. It usually shows a fairly balanced hand with 13-15 points. If you want to make a take out double of one of the majors (e.g. a hand like 3 KQ54 KJ8 A8654, where you would double if RHO opened 2♣ - weak), pass 2♦, then if 2♣ comes round to you, double on the second round for take out. If 2♥ is passed round to you, you obviously want to defend, so you pass.

In 4th position (After 2♦ * P 2♥/♠) Double is take-out (of the suit bid) and the other bids are as above.

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* A Multi 2♦ opening usually shows one of these three possibilities:
  (a) A weak hand with 6+ hearts
  (b) A weak hand with 6+ spades
  (c) A strong hand with about 20+ points
The subsequent bidding will identify which type it is.