

The Mckendrick Convention

A) McKendrick is a combined invite/minor suit transfer system over the weak 1NT opening bid...It is an enquiring bid, saying; "Partner please describe your hand"...This is extremely useful when responder holds strong, intermediate or weak hands.

Opener describes his /her hand by rebidding as follows;

2NT when having a balanced hand of either 12 points or bad 13 points (with no 5 cards minor and lacking in the ten and nine pips).

3C when having a hand with 14 points or a good 13 points (a hand containing a 5 cards minor and/or a few tens and nines.)

1. All responses to the weak 1NT, like stay-man, Red Suit transfers or whatever are unchanged.
2. A direct 2NT response shows a 12-point invite to game and a balanced hand. If opener holds 13/14 points, he/she should bid 3NT.
3. The McKendrick bid is a 2S response to 1NT that could show any one of the following hands;
 - a. A balanced hand with 11 points,
 - b. A strong hand 19+ points (and aiming for a slam game, if the opener shows 14 points)
 - c. A weak hand with a long minor suit (with the intention to bid and play at 3C or 3D).
4. After 2S response, Opener rebids as follows:
 - a. 2NT with 12 or a bad 13 points hands, whereupon responder passes with 11pts, bids 3NT with 19 points or less or bids 3 of the minor as a signoff to play.
 - b. 3C with 14 points or a good 13 points hand, whereupon responder can bid up to 3NT with 11pts, attempt a slam (with 19+ points) or pass with weak hand and clubs holding or correct to 3 diamonds to play
5. This convention gives a way to accurately:
 - a. Escape to 3-minor in the case of a weak hand with a long minor suit
 - b. It also gives more definition to the invitational and critical balanced hands of 11 and 12 points.
 - c. It allows players to judge if a slam is biddable without having to bid too high through Blackwood or Gerber.

B) Responses to the opening bid of 2NT, when equals 19/20 points;

1. With 4 points or less and a balanced hands, responder should pass.
2. With a 5 card major and 5 points or less, respond with a transfer then pass.
3. With 5 points and a five card minor suit responder bids 3NT.
4. With a five card major suit, and 5+ points, respond with a transfer to that suit, and then bid 3NT after opener response. If opener has 3cards or more of that suit, he/she may bid 4 of the major suit.
5. With 6 points +, responder should respond to game or slam in the usual agreed system between the partnership.