

Bidding Difficult Hands, In 2/1

What Should You Be
Thinking About?

Bidding Systems

- We all play a bidding system.
- If you know and follow the rules and guidelines of your system, you will usually find the best contract and make most of the contracts you get into.
- But no system handles every hand you are dealt perfectly well.
- Good bidding requires thoughtful judgement, sometimes good guesses, and even a bit of luck.
- I will show you some hands, and auctions that do require a bit of thought, judgment, and even a little luck.
- What I will talk about is not just what you should bid, but what you should be thinking about.

Responder – Weak Hand – Long Suit

Responder's hand

♠ 2
♥ K J 10 7 3 2
♦ 10 5 5
♣ Q 4 3

- Playing Standard, this is an extremely difficult hand to handle.
- If partner opens 1 ♠, and the next player passes, you have no bid.
- What should you be thinking?
- 1nt might be passed.
- 2 ♥ is totally bad.
- 3 ♥ as a preempt is too high.

Responder – Weak Hand – Long Suit

Responder's hand

♠ 2
♥ K J 10 7 3 2
♦ 10 5 5
♣ Q 4 3

- Playing 2/1 the hand is a bit easier, but still a problem.
- If partner opens 1 ♠, and the next player passes, you can bid 1nt.
- It is forcing for one round, so partner won't pass.
- Then 2 ♥ is a demand pass.

Responder – Weak Hand – Long Suit

Responder's hand

♠ 2

♥ K J 10 7 3 2

♦ 10 5 5

♣ Q 4 3

- If partner open one of a minor, 2 ♥ describes this hand.

Here's Another Misfit Hand

Opener's hand

♠ 5 2

♥ A Q 3 2

♦ A K 6 5

♣ 4 3 2

Responder's hand

♠ A Q 7 3

♥ K 9 6

♦ J 10 4 2

♣ 8 6

- You open 1 ♦ and partner bids 1 ♠.
- 1nt seems a bad idea with wide open clubs.
- 2 ♥ is a reverse and will be forcing on partner.
- 1nt is certainly dangerous but probably the best compromise.

When Partner Supports Your Suit

Opener's hand

♠ A K

♥ J 10 9 6 3 2

♦ 5

♣ A J 9 3

Responder's hand

♠ Q 5 3

♥ K 8 4

♦ Q 10 4 2

♣ K 10 2

- You open 1 ♥ and partner bids 2 ♥.
- This is a much better hand after partner supports your suit.
- You can invite by bidding 3 ♣.

When Partner Supports Your Suit

Opener's hand

♠ A K 9 8 7 2

♥ 3 2

♦ A 5

♣ K 3 2

Responder's hand

♠ J 5 3

♥ K J 8 4

♦ Q J 10

♣ Q 7 5

- You open 1 ♠ and partner bids 2 ♠.
- You can bid 3 ♠ to invite partner.
- But partner could have 10 points and even 3 might be difficult.

When Partner Supports Your Suit

Opener's hand

♠ K 10 7 6 4 2

♥ 3

♦ A K Q 9 5

♣ A

- You open 1 ♠ and partner bids 4 ♠.
- Partner's bid is a preempt.
- It is usually a bad idea to try for slam over a preempt from partner.
- This hand is an exception.
- Bid 4nt.

When Partner Supports Your Suit

Opener's hand

♠ K Q 10 7 6

♥ A K Q 3

♦ 5

♣ K Q 7

- You open 1 ♠ and partner bids 4 ♠.
- Partner's bid is a preempt.
- Here you have more points than on the last hand I showed you.
- But you need two aces from partner to have a shot at six.

One More Case of Partner's Preempts

Opener's hand

♠ A 6 2

♥ 3

♦ K J 10 9 4 2

♣ A K 8

- You open 1 ♦ and partner bids 3 ♥.
- Partner's bid is a preempt.
- Partner has 7 hearts.
- You can expect his hand to take 6 tricks if he names hearts.
- If hearts are not trump, partner's hand may be totally useless.
- You must pass.

Here's a Convention Many Players Know, but Often Use Poorly

Opener's hand

♠ A K 9 6 2

♥ 3 2

♦ K J 10 9

♣ A 8

- You open 1♠ and partner bids 2♠. (6-10)
- You bid 3♦ to ask partner if he has help in diamonds.
- This is called a help suit game try.
- It is forcing on partner to bid 4♠ if he has help with diamonds.
- Or 3♠, if he does not have diamond help.

Even a Responder Can Use a Help Suit Game Try

Responder's hand

♠ A 10 6 5 2

♥ 3 2

♦ K J 10 9

♣ 9 8

- Partner opens 1♣, you bid 1♠ and partner rebids 2♠.
- You have only 8 points and partner has a minimum opening hand, but if partner has a diamond honor, you will have a play for game.
- You bid 3♦.

When Opener Rebids Her Suit

Responder's hand

♠ A 10 6 5 2

♥ A K 9 2

♦ 9 5

♣ 8 2

- Partner opens 1♣, you bid 1♠ and partner rebids 2♣.
- You have 11 points and partner has a minimum opening hand, with 6 clubs.
- You bid 2♥.
- It shows partner 5 spades.
- Encourages partner to bid 3nt.
- Your bid is forcing one round.

When Opener Rebids Her Suit

Responder's hand

♠ A 10 6 5 2

♥ A K 9 2

♦ 9 5

♣ 8 2

Opener's hand

♠ K 8

♥ Q J 3

♦ 4 2

♣ A K J 9 7 5

- Partner opens 1♣, you bid 1♠ and partner rebids 2♣.
- You have 11 points and partner has a minimum opening hand, with 6 clubs.
- You bid 2♥.
- This is the worst possible hand for opener in this auction...
- What should she bid?
- 3♦, 4th suit forcing.

When Opener Rebids Her Suit

Responder's hand

♠ Q 10 6 5

♥ K 9 6 2

♦ 9 5

♣ A Q 2

- Partner opens 1♦, you bid 1♥ and partner rebids 2♦.
- You have 11 points and partner has a minimum opening hand, with 6 diamonds.
- You bid 2nt.
- Invitational (11-12 hcps), but not forcing.
- Shows stopper in the unbid suits.

When Opener's Rebid is a New Suit

Responder's hand

♠ Q 10 6 5

♥ A Q 6 2

♦ 9 5 2

♣ 8 2

Opener's hand

♠ A J 9 3

♥ 2

♦ A K J 5 2

♣ A 10 2

- Partner opens 1♦ , you bid 1♥ and partner rebids 1♠.
- Partner probably has between 12 and 14 points.
- But with some distributions, she might have a few more points.
- Bid 2♠ , Give partner a raise in case she has:
- If you had 5 or 6 points, you would just pass 1♠.

When Opener's Rebid is a New Suit

Responder's hand

♠ A 10 6 5 4

♥ 2

♦ Q 5 2

♣ 8 7 5 2

- Partner opens 1♥, you bid 1♠ and partner rebids 2♦.
- I know you want to rebid your 5-card spade suit, but that's a bad idea.
- Your hand is too weak to bid again.
- With a few more points, you might try a new-minor-forcing bid, but that would push partner to the 3 level.
- Your hand is too weak.
- Pass.

When Opener's Rebid is a New Suit

Responder's hand

♠ A 10 6 5

♥ 4 3 2

♦ Q 5 4

♣ 8 7 5

- Partner opens 1♥, you bid 1♠ and partner rebids 3♣.
- Partner's rebid is a jump-shift (19-21 hcps)
- Game forcing.
- Bid 3♦, to show partner a stopper in that suit.
- Perhaps he can bid 3nt.

Final Thoughts

- Before you make any bid, you must think about partner's likely response.
- If you bid asks a question what will you do if partner gives the response you most want? And the one you least want?
- If your bid gives information, what do you expect partner to do with the information?
- If partner gives you information, what are you expected to do with the information?