

Review and Application Session – Two Over One

Those of you who missed Tuesday's celebration of the 2 over 1 bidding system missed an opportunity to review the previous week's introduction to 2 over 1. We also refined some of our thinking related to what we learned. In addition we discussed and bid the following hands:

Each hand responded to your partner's bid after partner bid 1 spade with the following hand.

Axxxxx KQx Ax xxx

1. Kxx Qxx Jxxx Jxx

The classic 2 spade response. This bid shows six to nine distributional points and at least three spades. Though you are not happy about the jack patrol and the flatness of the hand your hand is worth one bid so show your support.

Note – If you are using a convention called constructive raises you would bid one no trump forcing with this hand. A constructive raise shows eight or nine distributional points. We will talk more about this convention when we add several gadgets to our basic two over one system. I highly recommend the constructive raise.

2. Kxxx Axxxx Kx xx

The classic 3 spade response. This bid shows ten to a bad twelve distributional points and at least four spades.

Note – Lots of folks use Bergen raises. With normal Bergen raises a bid of 3 clubs after partner's major suit opening shows from seven to nine distributional points and at least four card support. A bid of 3 diamonds shows ten to twelve distributional points and at least four card trump support. Finally, a jump to three of the trump suit is preemptive and shows a very weak hand.

Axxxxx KQx Ax xxx

3. Kxx Axxxx Kxxx xx

This hand looks oddly familiar to hand two, does it not? We can't bid 3 spades because we do not have the four card support requirement. Luckily, we can use our trusty waiting bid one no trump. Do not forget to say the word "forcing" out loud after your partner makes this bid. What does one no trump forcing mean? Partner I have between six and 12 points – period and no other bid I can make at this time. In other words 1. I do not have enough power to force to game (13+ points). 2. I cannot

raise you to two or three spades 3. If my partner opened one heart I do not have four or five spades (when playing flannery).

So we bid one no trump. Partner bids two clubs. He has a minimum hand with only five spades so he bid his best minor. Now you will jump to three spades! This bid means the same as our earlier one spade – three spade auction, just with one less trump. So as a review, in an auction like this – 1S – P -1NT
P - 2C – P – 3S 3spades shows a limit raise with three card trump support.

4. Kx Axxx xxxxx xx

Let's think this through together. We do not have 13 points so we can not bid a game forcing bid such as 2 diamonds (our longest suit). We do not have limit raise points (ten to twelve) or four card support for partner's spades. We have the points to raise in spades but we need at least three trumps for a two spade call. Sounds like a job for our friend one no trump with partner saying forcing. Partner will again bid two clubs. Some will want to bid two diamonds. Resist that impulse and bid 2 spades. Partner will know you have minimum values and two spades. A few others will want to bid two hearts. If partner had four hearts an a minimum hand he would have bid two hearts. Again resist that impulse. You are weak! At least you have found a seven card fit. It could be worse.

5. xxx xxxxx Kxx xx

Pass silly!

Axxxxx KQx Ax xxx

6. Kxx AJx KQxxx xx

The classic 2 diamond bid showing game forcing values. When your partner bids a major suit any immediate bid at the two level in a lower suit shows game forcing values. Once partner bids two diamonds you cannot pass short of game. Partner will bid two no trump to show a balanced minimum without six spades. (Some might argue 2 hearts with a three card suit because of the club weakness. This is a bad idea for two reasons. 1. You identify a possible weakness for the opponents to exploit. 2. You promise a four card suit. Partner may not have support for spades and may jump to game with four hearts). After two no trump you will jump to four spades. Partner will know enough to force game but no extras. With extras you might bid only three.

We will continue our discussions next week. I miss you already!