

MARTY BERGEN Presents

**“Drury - Anything but Dreary” an excerpt from *More Points Schmoints!*
by Marty Bergen**

♠ A87
♥ K942
♦ 86
♣ K743

You are playing at the local duplicate game where you and your partner are the acknowledged authorities, having won for three consecutive weeks.

West	North	East	South
P	P	1♠	P
?			

With a maximum passed hand in support of spades, you bid 3♠ and are a bit disappointed when partner passes. You are surprised when partner’s usual “thank you” is not forthcoming after your dummy goes down and the contract fails. Partner’s hand is a perfectly normal third-seat opening:

♠ KQJ64 ♥ J85 ♦ A109 ♣ 95.

You conclude that it pays to be conservative after partner opens in third seat. Everything goes smoothly for the next few rounds. Then you pick up:

♠ K864
♥ A873
♦ 92
♣ QJ3

West	North	East	South
P	P	1♠	P
?			

Having learned your lesson earlier, you bid only 2♠. You confidently put down your dummy, but for some reason partner again does not seem pleased. He takes 11 tricks in rapid fashion, and you wonder why he did not invite game, which you would have been happy to accept. Partner chirps: “Do you really think I should have bid on with my hand?” He shows his cards.

♠ AJ1073 ♥ J ♦ A754 ♣ K109

You are forced to admit that his pass cannot be criticized. However, you resolve that opener should be aggressive in these situations.

A few boards later, you pick up:

♠ KQ1095 ♥ Q ♦ A873 ♣ QJ8

West	North	East	South
—	—	P	P
1♠	P	2♠	P
?			

After partner raises to 2♠, and keeping your previous disaster in mind, you try for game with 3♠ which partner passes. Partner’s hand is:

♠ 874 ♥ KJ942 ♦ Q104 ♣ 94

Despite the favorable location of the opponents’ cards, you go down one, losing two clubs and one trick in each of the other suits. Partner, who has become less tolerant after each of your misadventures, bursts out with: “Can’t you do anything right?” Although you can usually hold your own in a post-mortem, this time you find yourself at a loss for words.

The remainder of the session seems to drag on forever, and the spark has definitely left your partnership. You check your score and discover that you are two points below average, which has not happened in more than a year. You leave the club shortly after that, but not soon enough to avoid all the “What happened to the champs? They didn’t win, and would you believe they were below average” remarks. The best of the lot: “Thanks for giving the rest of us a chance.”

In an effort to interrupt the stone silence of the drive home, you say to partner, “Well, we’ll get them next week.” “I don’t think I can make it,” he says. “I’ve got some very important shopping to do.”

Lying awake that night, you think about the three fateful boards. It does not seem that you did anything terrible, yet in each situation your decision led to the wrong contract. Is there any solution to these problems?

All books on bidding advocate opening light in third seat. Many are deficient, however, in describing how responder should proceed after a third- or fourth-seat major-suit opener. Fortunately, one man recognized the problem and saw fit to propose a solution.

Douglas Drury was that man. He appreciated that using standard methods, the auction got too high when responder had a maximum passed hand with support. (Responder would jump to three of the major.) Drury’s solution was for responder to

bid 2♣ instead.

One reason that the Drury convention (named after Mr. Drury) is so desirable is its insignificant price tag. You merely give up a natural 2♣ response as a passed hand—no big deal. In 1982, your author refined Drury by introducing the use of 2♦ as another type of raise. After all, if you held a hand with good diamonds, such as...

♠ J4 ♥ QJ5 ♦ KQJ632 ♣ 85

...you would have opened 2♦.

Now there is a way to distinguish whether responder has three- or four-card support for opener's major. Bergen Two-Way Drury works like this:

Bergen Two-Way Drury

Partner opens a major in third or fourth seat.
Your RHO passes.
You bid 2♣ to show 10 or more distributional points with exactly three cards in partner's major.
or
You bid 2♦ to show 10 or more distributional points with four cards in partner's major.

Both the 2♣ and 2♦ bids are artificial and must be alerted because they say nothing about the suit you have bid. Now let us see how the use of Bergen Two-Way Drury could have saved the day on the three problem hands from the duplicate game. You are West. Alertable bids are designated with an asterisk.

	<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>	
♠ A87	P	1♠	♠ KQJ64
♥ K942	2♣*	2♠	♥ J85
♦ 86	P		♦ A109
♣ K743			♣ 95

West's 2♣ bid promised a good passed hand with exactly three spades. East's 2♠ rebid said that he was not interested in game. West is now delighted to pass, having told his story. Opener's signoff in his trump suit with a minimum hand is called Reverse Drury. In original Drury, opener would have bid 2♦, which is outdated. When filling out your convention card, check the boxes in the major-suit opening section.

Here is the correct auction for our second problem hand:

	<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>	
♠ K864	P	1♠	♠ AJ1073
♥ A873	2♦*	4♠	♥ J
♦ 92	P		♦ A754
♣ QJ3			♣ K109

The 2♦ response shows a good passed hand while guaranteeing a fourth trump. That information is critical to opener with his distributional hand. If you believe that East's 4♠ bid is not warranted, here are a few other hands responder might have held. Game would be an excellent proposition with any one of them:

♠ 8654	♠ Q942	♠ 9854
♥ KQ94	♥ A109	♥ Q1087
♦ J2	♦ 2	♦ Q96
♣ A64	♣ Q8654	♣ AQ

Are you with me? I have no doubt that the ninth trump is analogous to the walk in baseball; it is the most underrated facet of the game.

Now for the last hand:

	<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>	
♠ KQ1095	—	P	♠ 874
♥ Q	1♠	2♠	♥ KJ942
♦ A873	P		♦ Q104
♣ QJ8			♣ 94

When East can only raise to 2♠, West passes, hoping to be able to take eight tricks.

Two-Way Reverse Drury is merely a fancy name for a convention that allows a pair to avoid annoying misguesses. The benefits of using it to clarify passed-hand auctions are important enough to appeal to any partnership.

Armed with Two-Way Reverse Drury, you can now rest assured that your partner will not be out shopping for a new partner.