

BARBARA'S BRIDGE TIP

RESPONDING TO A 2 CLUB OPENER BY PARTNER

When partner opens with 2C, she does not have just any hand with 20 or more points. She has a big hand that is either balanced or unbalanced. You will only know which type of hand she has when she bids the second time.

If she is unbalanced (her hand that is!) then she should have:

21 or more points (including distribution) and a 7 card suit

or

23 or more points (including distribution) and a 6 card suit

or

23 or more points (including distribution) and two 5 card suits

If she has one of the above hands, then she really doesn't need a partner in order to make game. It is merely a question of whether there is JUST game in the hand or is there slam (small or grand).

You, as responder to 2C, will most often bid 2D, which we call a waiting bid, **unless** you have 8 or more HCP and a good quality 5 card suit, headed by 2 of the top 3 honours.

With
S AQxxx
H Kx
D xx
C xxxx

You respond 2S to a 2C opener.(to show 8+ HCP and a good 5 card or longer Spade suit)

With
S xx
H xx
D Kxx
C KQJxxx

You respond 3C to a 2C opener (to show 8+ HCP and a good 5 card or longer Club suit)

With
S x
H Qxx
D AKxxx
C xxxx

You respond 3D to a 2C opener (to show 8+ HCP and a good 5 card or longer Diamond suit)

Some people use the response of 2H as a "bust" hand but that is not our preference. Using this method, too often the weak hand will now end up being declarer. 2D usually prevents that from happening, most of the time.

If she is balanced, her rebids will be as follows:

2C - 2D

2NT shows 22-23 HCP and a balanced hand. If she had 20-21 HCP balanced, she would have opened 2NT.

2C - 2D

3NT shows 24-25 HCP and a balanced hand.

If she opens with 3NT, she should have 26-27 HCP and a balanced hand.

Note that you and your partner have to agree on these ranges. It is fine to modify them, but you do have to agree. The No Trump structure is so very precise. It is easier to bid in these (No Trump) scenarios as you have EXACT information about partner's points and shape.

In the following auctions, partner has opened 2C and you have responded 2D. Partner has now bid 2NT as her rebid.

Your turn: (Answers immediately below) We are assuming you do not play Puppet Stayman.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
S K1087	S 63	S Q105	S A642	S 543
H Q432	H A10952	H A987	H A98	H 52
D J108	D K643	D 9874	D 8765	D 76532
C 54	C 42	C 65	C 43	C J43

ANSWERS:

1. 3C. Stayman. If partner now bids either 3H or 3S, you now raise to game in that major. If she bids 3D instead, you now bid 3NT.

2. 3D. Transfer. Partner will bid 3H. What will you now bid?

Answer: 3NT. Opener will now bid 4H if she has three Hearts and pass with only two Hearts.

3. 3C. Stayman. Opener bids 3D. You now bid 3NT.

4. 3C. Stayman. Opener now bids 3H. You must now bid 3NT. Responder to a NT opener may NEVER bid a four card suit.

NEVER!

If opener has this hand:

S KQ98
H KJ65
D A92
C K5

He now stops to think. "Responder showed a 4 card major by bidding Stayman and yet he did not like it when I bid Hearts. Aha, he must have a four card Spade suit." Opener now bids 4S.

5. Pass. Responder does not have to bid when partner opens 2NT or opens 2C and then bids 2NT. Let partner struggle in 2NT. It will be ugly, yes, but you cannot compound this further by bidding on.

On these next hands, partner has opened with 2C, you have responded 2D and she has now bid 2H. Your turn:

6.
S K8754
H A43
D K32
C 32

7.
S 6543
H 95
D 987
C 965

8.
S Q532
H 953
D 9865
C 96

ANSWERS:

6. 3H. This shows that you have some good stuff. At least an Ace or a King. These are BIG cards in the world of slam bidding. In the world of modern bridge, if you bid slowly, then you have some treasures. If you bid quickly, you have nothing. It is called "The Principle of Fast Arrival."

7. 3C. This says: "I have bad news. The waiting is now over. I have the worst possible hand. No Ace, no King **and no fit with your suit**. This is called the second negative. We believe it is best to only make this bid with NO FIT. If opener now bids 3H only, this is the only time you are entitled to pass.

8. 4H. You have a lousy hand but you do have a fit with partner. Remember, she has a big enough hand for game without you. You are telling partner you have a crummy hand with a fit. With some good stuff and a fit, you would have bid 3H only.

ALEX'S BRIDGE TIP

This is your hand:

S AQJ76
H 76
D AK1087
C 6

Your partner opens 1NT and I trust you now bid 2H (Transfer to Spades).

Your partner bids 3S. This is super-accept, showing 4 Spades (at least) and 17 HCP. What will you now bid?

You should not use Blackwood (of any sort) even though you have now agreed on a trump suit. Reason: you have two little Hearts. The opponents could possibly take two tricks quickly in Hearts. Opener is in the same category, he cannot use Blackwood either. You should not use Blackwood if you have two quick losers in one suit OR if you have a void.

Since you have now agreed that Spades are to be trump, you can now show interest in slam by showing your first round control of Diamonds. 4D. You have interest in slam because your hand revalues to 17 and opener has 17 HCP and four Spades.

1NT - 2H
3S - 4D (1st round control of Diamonds)
5C - 5D (2nd round control of Diamonds and denies 1st round control of Hearts)
5S - Pass

If opener had 1st round control of Hearts, he would have shown it after 5D.

This is Opener's hand.

S K1082
H QJ10
D QJ9
C AKJ

Good job. You stayed out of slam! The opponents could have taken the first two Heart tricks.

You have the same hand (repeated here for convenience)

S AQJ76
H 76
D AK1087
C 6

Your partner opens 1NT and you now bid 2H (Transfer to Spades).

This time, this is Opener's hand:

S K1082
H KQJ
D QJ10
C AJ5

1NT - 2H
3S - 4D (1st round control of Diamonds)
4N - 5S (2 Key Cards with Q of Spades)
6S

This time Opener was able to use Key Card Blackwood as he did not have two quick losers in any suit.

And now for another situation. Your partner opens 1NT and this is your hand:

S K852
H AQJ876
D 65
C 7

So, you have four Spades and six Hearts, what will you bid?

The correct bid is 2C which is Stayman. If you Transfer to Hearts instead, you may end up missing a 4-4- Spade fit. 4-4 fits are best of all.

If Opener is a good partner, they will bid either 2H or 2S and you will roar into game. Often, partner will not be so cooperative!! If Opener bids 2D, now you can use a Texas Transfer (yes, even part way through the auction)

1NT - 2C
2D - 4D *
4H - Pass

* 4D says you have six or more Hearts. So why did you not just Transfer to start with? You must have had six Hearts and also four Spades.

Here is another example of that so you get it down pat. If you don't play Texas Transfers yet, you should. A Texas Transfer insists that your suit will be trump because you have six of them and you know that Opener has at least two.

You hold this hand:

S KJ10763
H Q986
D A7
C 7

Partner opens 1NT

1NT - 2C
2D - 4H
4S - Pass

These auctions must be discussed with partner so that you do not have bidding misunderstandings.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT BRIDGE HANDS YOU HAVE PLAYED, email Alex at AKORNEL@SYMPATICO.CA

REVOKES from Bonita Bridge (Florida club near Naples)

Commonly called "reneges", however, that term can be derogatory, the proper term is **Revoke**.

What do you do when a such a faux pas occurs at your table? It depends... **if it your partner, or even you, who is the perpetrator**, the word is **MUM!** You are under no obligation to unveil the mistaken play - it is your opponents job to spot it and if they miss it it's on them.

When you detect the possibility that an opponent might have revoked, save it till the end of the hand. It does no good to call the Director for in most cases the Director can not rule on the matter until the hand is over. Make a mental note as to what trick the revoke occurred on and call the Director when the hand is completed.

The rule is:

(1) a revoke is not an infraction until it has been established.

(2) To be established, either player from the offending side must have played to the next trick. So... if a player fails to follow suit and neither she nor her partner have not played to

the next trick the revoke is correctable with no trick penalty assessment (the misplayed card becomes a penalty card).

The best way to avoid revokes is to ask partner, the first time they fail 'to follow' in playing a suit, "NO (name the suit), Partner? This is one situation when the Dummy is allowed to speak during the play - the Dummy is allowed to keep the declarer from revoking.

Remember: Unless you are asked a specific question, No lessons at the table during a game!