



Weak Bids and Lots of Points

Illawarra Bridge Association

Lesson 1 – Weak Twos

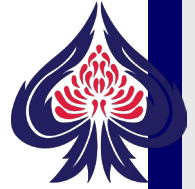
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Supervised Bridge Lesson Outline



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2	Weak Bids and Lots of Points (4)
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4	Suit Declarer Play (4)
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Acknowledgement



- This lesson is based on Paul Marston's *The Language of Bidding* (6th Edition, Strong No Trump) – Chapter 13



We encourage participants to buy (or borrow) a copy of this book



bridgegear.com.au



01

Context



Bidding with strong hands



- In basic Five Card Majors $1\clubsuit$, $1\diamondsuit$, $1\heartsuit$ and $1\spadesuit$ are limited to hands with 12-19 HCP
- Hands with 20+ or more were opened at the two level...
- However
- The Demand $2\clubsuit$ replaces all these bids (in a fortnight)
- So, we can do something more with $2\diamondsuit$, $2\heartsuit$ and $2\spadesuit$ openings



The Weak Two

- Beware
There are many different approaches to the use of two-level openings among advanced players
- You will know these because, unlike the weak two, they have to be alerted



02

Opening a Weak Two



The basics

- An opening bid of 2♦, 2♥ or 2♠ shows
 - 6-9 HCPs (note Ron Klinger teaches 6-10)
 - Suit length of six
- The suit should be of reasonable quality
 - Majority of your points are in the suit
 - You have three of the top five honours or two of the top three
- It should not
 - contain a void or two singletons
 - be strong enough to open using the rule of 20 (HCP+lengths of longest two suits ≥ 20)
 - Contain a four-card major outside the six-card suit

Hand Example 1



♠ KJT854

♥ 4

♦ A93

♣ 982

A classic 2♠ opening.

- 8 HCP
- Six card suit
- Majority of points in spades – 3 of top five honours

Hand Example 2



♠ 65

♥ Q76432

♦ K64

♣ J3

Pass

- The heart suit does not meet the suit quality test

Hand Example 3



♠ AT7542

♥ Q76

♦ 53

♣ 63

Use judgement

- Open 2♠ if you are not vulnerable
- The suit is very weak and you have no outside winners
- Pass if vulnerable

Hand Example 4



♠ AQT973

♥ AT2

♦ 974

♣ 3

Open 1♠

- A “decent” 10 HCP is too many for a weak two
- Just fails on rule of twenty – but the T9 is almost worth another HCP

Hand Example 5



♠ AJT642

♥ -

♦ A9532

♣ 62

Open 1♠

- This hand is too strong for a weak two
- May miss a good diamond contract

Weak twos in third seat



- There is a real balance between being honest to your partner and using your judgement in bidding
- You can loosen up in third seat as there is little prospect of game
- There is a slightly higher likelihood that your Left Hand Opponent (LHO) has an opening bid
- So you can open 2 with some 11 and 12 point hands

Hand Example – 3rd Seat 1



♠ AQT954

♥ 65

♦ KQ2

♣ 87

Open 2♠

- There is little prospect of game
- It makes it hard for LHO to bid

Hand Example – 3rd seat 2



♠ 4

♥ AQJT5

♦ K82

♣ 8743

Open 2♥ (with 5-card suit)

- Your strength makes up for heart length
- Avoids problems if partner responds 1♠
- Preempts the fourth player



Quiz 1

- You are dealer. What do you open?

(a)

♠ 65

♥ KQT863

♦ K5

♣ 983

2♥

Good suit

Right shape

Right points

(b)

♠ T97632

♥ K62

♦ 7

♣ AQ5

Pass

Spade suit is not
good enough for
2♠ opening

(c)

♠ KJT754

♥ AQ98

♦ 73

♣ 5

1♠

Rule of twenty
Hearts are too
good to miss
opportunity



03

Responding to a Weak Two Opening



Obstructive Raise

- Clearly if you can see game, bid it (see later)
- If you have good support but not enough for game, make an obstructive bid
- If your RHO has passed, bid to the number of tricks of your combined trump length
 - With three-card support raise to the 3 level
This is NOT invitational
 - With four-card support raise to the 4 level
You are obstructing not expecting to make game

Hand Example 1



♠ J63

♥ T85

♦ AQ843

♣ 96

Partner opened 2♠

- Bid 3♠ to take away opponent's bidding space
- Not expecting to make, but reduces opposition's options

Hand Example 2



♠ KJ74

♥ 8

♦ QJ75

♣ 8543

Partner opened 2♠

- Bid 4♠ which you won't make
- Opponents almost certainly can make 4♥ but will they have courage for 5♥?



Jumping to game

- With 17+ TP and moderate support bid straight to game
- This is a genuine bid for game not obstruction
- Opponents have no idea which kind of bid it is

Hand Example 3



♠ AK92

♥ KJ

♦ KQT42

♣ 95

Partner opened 2♥

- Bid 4♥
- Weak 2 bid must be worth at least 8TP with distribution added
- $17TP + 8TP = 25TP$

04

2NT Enquiry





Situation

- With 14-16 TP and a fit you only want to be in game if opener has a maximum
- But raising partner to the three level is NOT invitational
- A 2NT response enquires whether opener has a maximum (8-9 HCP) or minimum (6-7 HCP)

Example the 2NT Enquiry



♠ AK654

♥ Q76

♦ KQ8

♣ 73

Partner opened 2♥

- Bid 2NT
- You have a heart fit but only 15TP
- You only want to be in game if opener has a maximum

Opener rebid after 2NT Enquiry



- Rebid your suit to show a minimum
- Bid a side honour to show a maximum

Example – Rebid after 2NT 1



♠ AQT765

♥ K62

♦ 65

♣ 82

You opened 2♠, partner responded 2NT

- You have a maximum (9 HCP)
- Bid 3♥
- (without the ♥K, 3♠ is the bid)

Example – Rebid after 2NT 2



♠ 8

♥ QJ9865

♦ K85

♣ 432

You opened 2♥, partner responded 2 NT

- You are a minimum (6 HCP)
- Bid 3♥

Example – Rebid after 2NT 3



♠ KJ6
♥ A74
♦ 632
♣ AQ76

Partner opened 2♠ and rebid 3♣ after your 2NT

- You know partner is a maximum with an honour in clubs
- You have a fit and at least 24 TP
- Bid 4♠ – expect to make six spade tricks, 3 clubs and the Ace of hearts



05

Other Cases

Change of suit response



- With a five card alternate suit and 16+ HCP responder can change suit
- The change of suit is a forcing bid – opener must rebid
 - Opener will bid the new suit with at least a three-card holding (there is a fit)
 - Opener will rebid their own suit without a fit

Example – Change of Suit



♠ 3

♥ AK7532

♦ KQ7

♣ A86

Partner opened 2♠

- You respond 3♥
- Game is unlikely but will be a good chance if opener has three-card heart support

Handling Interference



- If they overcall partner's weak two, a double is for penalties
- Other bids retain their meaning
 - Jump to game with 17+ TP and fit
 - 2NT enquiry
 - Change of suit is still forcing
- Obstructive raises are no longer available



Weak jump overcalls

- A weak (single) jump overcall is just like a weak two opening. It shows
 - 6-9 HCP
 - Six card suit
- For example
 - 1♣ and 2♥ overcall
 - 1♠ and 3♦ overcall

Example – Weak Jump Overcall



♠ 74

♥ T95

♦ KQJ963

♣ Q7

Your RHO opened 1♣

- Bid 2♦ to cramp their bidding space
- If opening had been 1♥ or 1♠ still make the weak bid now as 3♦ (even if vulnerable)

06

Summary



Weak Two Opening



- The objective is to take away opponents bidding space
- Requirements
 - Six-card suit
 - 6-9 HCP
 - Good quality suit (three of top five honours)
 - Not too strong (i.e. could open 1 on rule of 20)
 - Not too distributional (no void, no more than one singleton)
- Never “rescue” partner from a Weak Two opening – only respond as follows
- Can open weak two with slightly stronger hands in third seat



Obstructive response

- If RHO has not bid
- With 6+ HCP and less than 14 TP
 - Raise to three-level with three card holding
 - Raise to four-level with four card holding
- Raise to three- level is NOT invitational, opener must Pass

Bid game to make



- With 17 TP and with a fit in the opened suit (major)
- Jump to game with the intention of making it
- Opponents (and partner) won't know if a 4♥ or 4♠ jump raise is obstructionist or genuine game bid



2NT Enquiry

- 2NT response inquires whether partner has a maximum (8-9 HCP) or a minimum (6-7 HCP)
- With 14-16 TP and a fit respond to weak two with 2NT
- Responding to 2NT Enquiry
 - Rebid your suit to show a minimum
 - Bid a side honour to show a maximum

Change of Suit Response



- Change of suit promises a five-card suit and 16+ HCP
- Opener will rebid
 - Responder's suit with a three card holding
 - Own suit without a three card holding

Quiz 2



- Partner opens 2♥ and next hand passes. What do you respond with these hands?

(a)

♠ K87

♥ J7

♦ A873

♣ KJ54

(b)

♠ KQ4

♥ Q3

♦ AK72

♣ Q873

(c)

♠ 87

♥ AK7

♦ AQJ876

♣ K8

Pass

Not enough points for game nor length for obstruction

2NT

Game is possible if partner is maximum

4♥

You have 19TP and fit
Bid straight to game



Quiz 3

- Partner opens 2♠ and the next hand passes. What do you respond with these hands?

(a)

♠ 2

♥ AQ87

♦ AK53

♣ Q973

(b)

♠ K872

♥ 3

♦ A9864

♣ 983

(c)

♠ Q2

♥ KQ62

♦ AKJ52

♣ 43

Pass

No fit no chance
of 25 HCP

4♠

10 trumps – 10
tricks

2NT

Inviting game in
spades

Quiz 4



- Partner opens 2♥. What do you respond with these hands?

(a)

♠ KQ

♥ 2

♦ AKQJT43

♣ AJT

3NT

You have nine tricks in your own hand

(b)

♠ AK97

♥ Q4

♦ 72

♣ AK732

4♥

Fit plus 17 TP makes game

(c)

♠ 8

♥ AJ76

♦ 92

♣ KT9854

4♥

10 trumps, 10 tricks

Quiz 5



- You open 2♥ and partner responds 2NT. What do you do know?

(a)

♠ 32

♥ KQT974

♦ Q32

♣ 87

3♥

Minimum

(b)

♠ 842

♥ AQ9862

♦ K76

♣ 9

3♦

Maximum with
an honour in
diamonds

(c)

♠ 82

♥ KJT952

♦ 87

♣ A42

3♣

Maximum with
an honour in
clubs



End of Lesson

Preempts