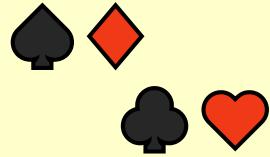


Bridge on Sundays



Announcements

For some time now, we are required to announce, rather than alert, the following bids:

- The range of an opening 1NT bid
- Common responses to 1NT
- Some opening bids at the two level

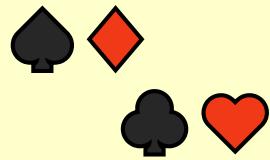
Opening 1NT bid

- You simply announce the range, e.g. 12-14, and say if it may contain a singleton

Responses to a 1NT opening bid

- Most players in the world use 2♣ as an asking bid instead of a natural bid of clubs. Many inexperienced players seem to forget this convention even though they have been taught it. A response of 2♣ over 1NT goes by the name *Stayman*. Provided the responses are simple, the responder will now announce the bid by saying *Stayman*. The 2♦ reply to Stayman (no 4-card major suit) will neither be announced nor alerted, nor will responses of 2♥ or 2♠. **Any other responses such as a bid to show both major suits will have to be alerted and for such bids you would not announce Stayman as a responder.**
- The use of transfer bids over an opening bid of 1NT has become widespread. The simple red suit transfer bids, whereby the responder bids 2♦, meaning a 5 card ♥ suit and 2♥ meaning a 5-card ♠ suit, is very common amongst club players. These bids will now be announced. Partner opens 1 NT and you would bid 2♦ and the opener will say *hearts* and likewise if you hold a 5-card ♠ suit you would bid 2♥ and opener says *spades*. If the bid is not announced or alerted, it is a natural bid in the suit (usually a weakness take-out). Any follow -up bids after the completion of the transfer do not need to be alerted or announced if they are natural.

Continued on following page



Bridge on Sundays

Continued from previous page

Announcements

Minor suit openings at the 1-level

- In simple systems you do not alert or announce suits which are at least 3 cards in length. If the suit may contain only 1 or 2 cards we say, for example, *may be a two card suit*. Strong club systems are still alerted.

Opening bids at the two level

- Instead of alerts we can make announcements for the *simple* weak two opening bids in the major suits, where the suit bid guarantees that suit
- The game forcing $2\clubsuit$ opening will be alerted because it is a conventional bid, not promising four cards in the \clubsuit suit
- If you play Precision Club or a Strong club system where $2\clubsuit$ is a club suit of at least 5 cards and 11-15pts partner will announce *intermediate*. If $2\clubsuit$ is a natural bid showing clubs and no specific holding in another suit you do likewise
- If you play the other suit bids at the two level as 8 playing tricks, partner will announce *strong forcing* or *strong non-forcing* depending on whether partner must reply to the bid.
- If you play a weak two bid in the majors with a 6 card major suit, then partner will announce *weak*. If the bid shows another suit of more than 4 cards you may not announce and the bid must be alerted by partner.
- 2NT, if it is natural, is not announced but if the $3\clubsuit$ response is simple *Stayman* we announce it and neither announce or alert responses. If $3\spadesuit/\heartsuit$ are transfers to hearts and spades respectively, they are announced like over a 1NT opening