



Bridge on Sundays

Strong Two Openings via a 2 Diamond Bid

With so many players opening weak two bids in the major suits, you need bids for the game force hand and the 8 trick type of hand.

The Suggested Scheme

- $2\clubsuit$ = a game force hand, 23+ points if balanced but may be less if unbalanced
- $2\heartsuit$ = 8 playing tricks in an undisclosed suit
- $2\spadesuit$ = weak two in \spadesuit s
- $2\clubsuit$ = weak two in \clubsuit s

Some players play weak two bids in \diamond s as well as the major suits. This is not recommended because you then have all the strong suit opening bids in $2\clubsuit$ and it is fairly easy to overcall a weak $2\heartsuit$ opening.

Responding to a $2\heartsuit$ Opening Bid

With 8 playing trick openings, the responder needs definite tricks.

Bid $2\heartsuit$, a relay bid to get partner to show his suit (alert)

Alternately some players like to show aces

- $2\heartsuit$ = no aces
- $2\clubsuit$ = ace of \clubsuit
- $3\clubsuit$ = ace of \clubsuit
- $3\heartsuit$ = ace of \heartsuit
- $3\spadesuit$ = ace of \spadesuit
- $3NT$ = 2 aces
- $2NT$ = no aces but 8+ working points

Openers Responses

The opening bidder then shows the suit or bids 3 no trumps.

With a minor suit and 8 playing tricks you should be looking for 3NT as a contract.

The EBU has introduced rules about strong opening bids to stop players claiming a strong hand which is really pre-emptive. If you are opening $2\heartsuit$ with 8 playing tricks in a minor suit, check that you do have the 8 tricks because the bidding may go beyond 3NT and you may have to play in 5 of a minor

Alert both strong opening bids above and their responses. Announce the weak opening bids.