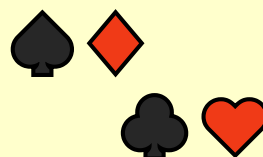


Bridge on Sundays



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♣ = a game force hand, 23+ points if balanced but may be less if unbalanced
- 2♦ = 8 playing tricks in an undisclosed suit
- 2♥ = weak two in ♥ s
- 2♠ = weak two in ♠ s

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

Responding to a 2♦ Opening Bid

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

Bid 2♥, a relay bid to get partner to show his suit (alert)

Alternately some players like to show aces

- 2♥ = no aces
- 2♠ = ace of ♠
- 3♣ = ace of ♣
- 3♦ = ace of ♦
- 3♥ = ace of ♥
- 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♦ 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.