2010 Fall Lecture Series – November 9th

Subject: "Responding to a 2NT Opener with major suit holdings."

(Reference to BILLY MILLER'S article in September 2010 ACBL Bulletin)

The following bidding methods apply when the auction has gone:

- (1) 2NT -?
- (2) 2C 2D; 2NT ?

Holding 4-4 in the majors – use Stayman.

2NT - 3C; 3D - 3NT = no interest in slam

2NT - 3C; 3D - 4NT = invitational to slam.

(Opener should bid 6NT with extras or a maximum – could bid 6 of a minor with a good five card suit to offer a choice of slams)

2NT - 3C; 3H or 3S - 3NT = 4 cards in other major, no interest in slam

2NT - 3C; 3H - 4NT = 4 spades and invitational to slam

2NT - 3C; 3H - 4C = RKCG with hearts as trump.

These two sequences are optional but very effective:

(1) 2NT - 3C; 3H - 3S = slam try in hearts with a singleton somewhere.

If opener wants to try for slam, he can bid 3NT asking where singleton is.

(2) 2NT - 3C; 3H - 4D = balanced slam try (ie no shortness)

Holding 5-4 in the majors – use Stayman and then bid 5 card suit. Optional – use Stayman and then bid 4 card suit. This is called SMOLEN

Example -- holding 4 hearts and 5 spades:

2NT - 3C; 3D - 3S - this is Standard; 2NT - 3C; 3D - 3H = Smolen

Smolen has the advantage because the strong hand will generally be declarer.

Note: in these auctions, the 3S and 3H bids are forcing to game and offers a choice of games – either 3NT or four of responders 5 card major.

Holding 5-5 in the majors – use "THE BUZZARD"

2NT - 3H (transfer); 3S - 4H = 5-5 with no interest in slam.

If opener has equal length in the majors, bid 4S -- the lead comes into the strong hand.

With slam interest in the majors, the bidding should go:

2NT - 3D (transfer); 3H - 3S. Opener now has three options:

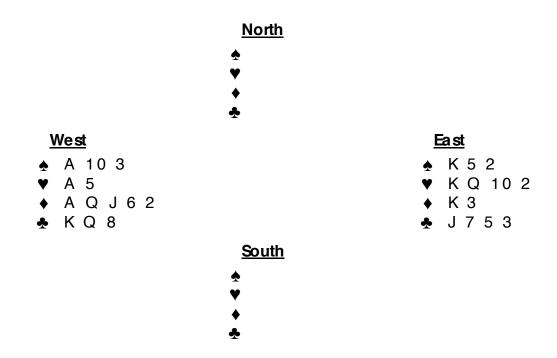
- (1) Bid 3NT = no major support; could be 2-2 in the majors.
- (2) Bid 4H or 4S = three card support. Note: with 3-3 in the majors, bid 4H.
- (3) Bid the BUZZARD. That is 4C = "I like hearts" or 4D = "I like spades" Each of these bids sets the trump suit they are accepting that slam is possible.

Rilly's example of a "super-accept" is: AKy KO Ayyy AQyy

Billy's example of a "super-accept" is: AKx, KQ, Axxx, A9xx

At this point, responder can bid Blackwood, Q-bid or sign-off if he has bid his values.

Memory jogger – lower minor (clubs) = lower major (hearts); higher = higher.



Hand 1: (?) is vulnerable. The bidding:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>We st</u>
			2NT
Pass	3C	Pass	3D
Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Notes:

2NT= 20-21 high card points.

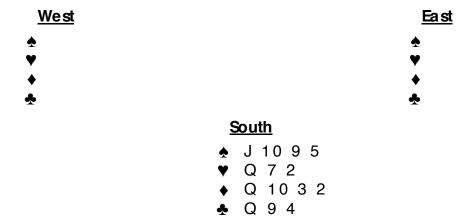
3C = Stayman; 3D = no four card major.

4NT = invitational to slam having 12 hcps.

6NT = Iaccept with only 20 but I have three aces and a good five card suit.

North

- ♠ A Q 6 4
- ♥ A K 4 3
- ♦ K 7
- ♣ A 10 8



Hand 2: (?) is vulnerable. The bidding:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>We st</u>
2NT	Pass	3C	Pass
3H	Pass	3NT	Pass
4S	All Pass		

Notes:

2NT = 20-21 hcps; 3C = Stayman

3H = 4 cards or more in hearts

3NT = enough points for game, but I have 4 spades.

4Ssays "let us play in our 4-4 spade fit."

Hand 3: (?) is vulnerable. The bidding:

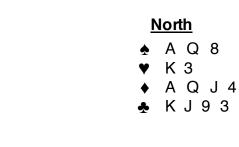
<u>North</u>	<u>Ea st</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>We st</u>
			2NT
Pass	3C	Pass	3H
Pass	4C	Pass	4NT
Pass	6H	All Pass	

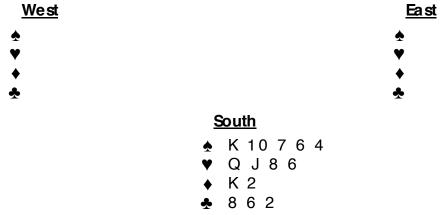
Notes:

2NT-3C; 3H=4 or more hearts.

4C = Key Card Blackwood; 4NT = 2 key cards + the queen of trump.

6H -- East's hand is very good - two aces and a king, all primary cards.





Hand 4: (?) is vulnerable. The bidding:

<u>North</u>	<u>Ea st</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>We st</u>
2NT	Pass	3C	Pass
3D	Pass	3S	Pass
4S	All Pass		
Using Smolen:	Then	3H	Pass
4S			

Notes:

2NT-3C; 3D-3S=5 spades and four hearts.

North bidsgame in spades but the weak hand plays the contract.

Using the convention called SMOLEN, South bids 3H over 3D. This shows a hand with only four hearts but 5 spades. This lets the strong hand play either 4S (if North has 3 spades) or 3NT (if North has only 2 spades).

<u>North</u> ♠ A K 4 ♥ K Q ♠ A 8 7 5 ♠ A 10 8 2 <u>West</u>

Hand 5: (?) is vulnerable. The bidding:

<u>North</u>	<u>Ea st</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>We st</u>
2NT	Pass	3D	Pass
3H	Pass	3S	Pass
4D *	Pass	4H	Pass
4NT	Pass	5D	Pass
5H	Pass	6S	All Pass

Notes:

2NT-3D = transfer; 3S = 5-5 in majors with slam interest.

*4D = The Buzzard = slam interest in spades; 4H = Q-bid but not good enough to bid 4NT and for key cards. 5H = Q asking bid.

North(D)

PLAY HAND

★ K 8 4 3

♥ 76

♦ 852

♣ A 8 7 4

We st

♠ A 10

♥ KJ

♦ A Q J 9 3

♣ KQ62

East

Q J 9 6 5

♥ A 9 8 4 2

♦ 6

♣ 10 3

<u>South</u>

↑ 7 2

♥ Q 10 5 3

♦ K 10 7 4

♣ J95

Hand 1: No one is vulnerable. The bidding:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>We st</u>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3H	Pass	3S
Pass	4H	Pass	4S*
All Pass			

Notes:

2NT = 20 - 21 hcps; 3H = transfer to spades.

4H = at least 5-5 in the majors with no slam interest.

* 4S = with equal length in the majors, the strong hand decides to be declarer

North

PLAY HAND

A 9 5 2

↑ 7 6 5 4

9 9 7 4

<u>\</u>	<u>Vest</u>	<u> </u>	<u>=ast</u>
\spadesuit	K Q 7 4 2	♦	A 5
•	J 10 7 4 3	~	K Q 8 6
♦	8	♦	AKJ2
*	K 5	*	A J 3

<u>South</u>

- ♠ 10 9 8 3
- ♥ void
- ♦ Q 10 9 3
- Q 10 8 6 2

Hand 2: North-South is vulnerable. The bidding:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>We st</u>
	2C	Pass	2D
Pass	2NT	Pass	3D
Pass	3H	Pass	3S*
Pass	4C **	Pass	4D
Pass	4NT	Pass	5C
Pass	6H	All Pass	

Notes:

 $2C = strong \ and \ forcing; 2D = waiting; 2NT = 22-24 \ hcps; 3D = transfer.$

*3S = 5-5 with slam interest, ** 4C = THE BUZZARD = I like hearts (lower = lower)

4NT = ace or key card asking in hearts; 5C = none. In 6H, play carefully.

North PLAY HAND ♠ K J

★ KJ852

♥ KJ1083

♦ 4

4 10 7

<u>West</u>

♠ A 10 9 4

♥ 5

♦ A 10 7 3

9652

Ea st

7 3

♥ 9 7 6 4 2

♦ 8 6 2

♣ A 8 4

South(D)

♠ Q 6

♥ A Q

♦ KQJ95

♣ KQJ3

Hand 3: East-West is vulnerable. The bidding:

<u>North</u>	<u>Ea st</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>We st</u>
		2NT	Pass
3D	Pass	3H	Pass
3S	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Notes:

2NT = 20-21 balanced points; North shows 5-5 in majors with slam interest.

3NT = to play; no interest in the majors, good minors and only one Ace.

*** = respect partner's decision – North minimum hand has been described.