

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.

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.

	<u>North</u>	
	♠	
	♥	
	♦	
	♣	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
♠ A 10 3		♠ K 5 2
♥ A 5		♥ K Q 10 2
♦ A Q J 6 2		♦ K 3
♣ K Q 8		♣ J 7 5 3
	<u>South</u>	
	♠	
	♥	
	♦	
	♣	

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

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</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= I accept 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

West

♠
♥
♦
♣

East

♠
♥
♦
♣

South

♠ J 10 9 5
♥ Q 7 2
♦ Q 10 3 2
♣ Q 9 4

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

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</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.

4S says "let us play in our 4-4 spade fit."

	<u>North</u>	
	♠	
	♥	
	♦	
	♣	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
♠ A J		♠ K 9 5 4
♥ K Q J 6		♥ 10 9 7 4
♦ K J 4		♦ A 6 2
♣ K Q 8 7		♣ A 3
	<u>South</u>	
	♠	
	♥	
	♦	
	♣	

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

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</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.

North

♠ A Q 8
♥ K 3
♦ A Q J 4
♣ K J 9 3

West

♠
♥
♦
♣

East

♠
♥
♦
♣

South

♠ K 10 7 6 4
♥ Q J 8 6
♦ K 2
♣ 8 6 2

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

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</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 bids game 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).

North

♠ A K 4
♥ K Q
♦ A 8 7 5
♣ A 10 8 2

West

♠
♥
♦
♣

East

♠
♥
♦
♣

South

♠ Q 10 9 8 3
♥ A J 7 5 4
♦ 3
♣ Q 9

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

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</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.

PLAY HAND

North(D)

♠ K 8 4 3
♥ 7 6
♦ 8 5 2
♣ A 8 7 4

West

♠ A 10
♥ K J
♦ A Q J 9 3
♣ K Q 6 2

East

♠ Q J 9 6 5
♥ A 9 8 4 2
♦ 6
♣ 10 3

South

♠ 7 2
♥ Q 10 5 3
♦ K 10 7 4
♣ J 9 5

Hand 1: No one is vulnerable. The bidding:

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

Notes:

2NT = 20-21 hcp; 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

PLAY HAND

North

♠ J 6
♥ A 9 5 2
♦ 7 6 5 4
♣ 9 7 4

West

♠ K Q 7 4 2
♥ J 10 7 4 3
♦ 8
♣ K 5

East

♠ A 5
♥ K Q 8 6
♦ A K J 2
♣ A J 3

South

♠ 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>West</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.

PLAY HAND

North

♠ K J 8 5 2
♥ K J 10 8 3
♦ 4
♣ 10 7

West

♠ A 10 9 4
♥ 5
♦ A 10 7 3
♣ 9 6 5 2

East

♠ 7 3
♥ 9 7 6 4 2
♦ 8 6 2
♣ A 8 4

South(D)

♠ Q 6
♥ A Q
♦ K Q J 9 5
♣ K Q J 3

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

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</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.