

Bidding the BIG HANDS

2/1 or Standard American

Saturday August 1, 2015

- What should Responder do?
- How to handle Big Balanced hands
- How to handle opener's problem hand shapes
- Handling Interference
- Opening 5 of a Major (and how to do it for minors)
- How to ask for specific Aces and Kings

Principles

- Useful Space
- Support with Support
- Strain before Game, Game before Slam
- Big Hand Declares
- Responder's Cover Cards (A, K, Q) / Shortness Rule
- Points, Schmoints – Long suits and Working Points
- Simple & Integrated - No Bids Conflicts
- Specific Aces ONLY when there is ONE trump suit.
- Pay attention to WHAT MATTERS

What Matters

- Suit Contract: It's about tricks, not HCP.
- NT: Its about HCP **AND** Source of Tricks
- Fit before Game, Game before Slam.
- Let the 2♣ bidder get their hand off their chest.
- Responder's good suit? Bid when 2T3-6+ & an A outside.
- NNS@4L: 2♣-2♦-2♠-3♣-3♥-4♦ = we have a ♥ fit and I have something in ♦ for you.
- Control bids below Game are free. 1st or 2nd round.
- Bid what partner wants to hear. Consider bidding Q's!!
- Opener will decide when to stop.

How do you plan to bid these?

♠ AK9 1

♥ KQJ105

♦ AJ

♣ KJ10

♠ AKJ10 2

♥ AJ

♦ AQ

♣ KQ1095

♠ AK109 3

♥ K10

♦ KQJ1054

♣ J

♠ AKQ9 4

♥ AKJ9

♦ AKJ9

♣ 2

♠ AK 5

♥ QJ1098

♦ 7

♣ AKQ57

♠ AK 6

♥ QJ10987

♦ Q7

♣ AK5

♠ AK 7

♥ QJ109875

♦ --

♣ AKQ7

♠ AK7 8

♥ --

♦ AKQ

♣ QJ109875

Useful Tools: Kokish 2♥, Grue Switch, WS 3-Bids, Opening 5-Bids, GF Reverses & Jump Shifts, Specific Aces.

Open 2♣

Open 2♣ with:

- Any 22+ HCP
- Any 4(or fewer) Losers **with 4(+) Quick Tricks or 6(+) Controls.**
- *Any hand making 12 tricks with 1 Cover Card and Useful Shortness from partner (0/1).*
- Not a hand you open 5♥ or 5♠ (or 2♣ then 5m).
- At least one Ace if Suit Oriented hand

ACBL grants much leeway – **Unethical** if hand is a preempt (x, x, x, KQJ10987654)

Some Approaches

Response Styles

2♦ Negative

2♦ Waits

2♥ IMMEDIATE Neg.

Steps – HCP

Controls (A=2, K=1)

Others ...

Implications

Wrong-side contract

Best

+’s/-’s

0-4, 5-8, 9-12, etc.

0, 1-2, 3, 3 K, 4, 5, 6 etc.

Let Opener Describe their hand – Be Patient

Decide ahead of time how to handle BIG 4441 shapes and 55+ shapes.

A Better Way!

Responder rebids 2♦ **with most all hands**

- 2♥/♠ 3♣/♦ by responder = **6+** Cards, 2T3 Honors (**+1 or more Aces**) **No side suit** – only way to describe this hand!

Opener's Rebids

- 2♥ - ♥s or GF NT (**Kokish**). Responder always bids 2♠, then
 - 2N = **24 - 25 or 29+ (GF)** ①
 - 3♣ = ♥ 1-suiter (**Grue Switch**) ⑥
 - 3♦ by responder = no A or K, nor ♥ support with 0/1, so 3♥ rebid NF
 - 3♦, 3♠ = natural, ♥s + this suit
 - 3♥ = ♥ + ♣ ⑤
 - 3N = 26-28 NF – Systems ON. (Recommend 1NT systems)

A Better Way - 2

Opener's Rebids (Continued)

- $2\spadesuit = \spadesuit s$.
 - $3\clubsuit$ by responder is weak bid as above
- $2N = 22 - 24$ **NF** (2N opening bid is 20-21 HCP)
- $3\clubsuit = \clubsuit s$ May or may not have a 4-card Major 2
 - $3\diamond$ responder asks for a 4-card major (Resp. has 1 or BOTH).
 - $3\heartsuit/\spadesuit$ shows 5(+) cards
- $3\diamond = \diamond s$, **denies** a 4-card major. May have $\clubsuit s$
- $3\heartsuit - 4(+)$ $\heartsuit s$, longer $\diamond s$ **GF**
- $3\spadesuit - 4(+)$ $\spadesuit s$, longer $\diamond s$ **GF** 3
- $3N$ – Solid Minor and 3 or 4 Hand (A, K, Q) Losers.

Any opener new suit 3rd bid past 2N is 100% GF.

Responder's Duties

- Find reasons to Respond 2♦. Give opener the right of way.
- Respond 2♥, 2♠, 3♣ or 3♦ if Slam is certain. 2T3-6 + Side A
- **Never bid NT FIRST. NEVER.*** Tell partner all about it later.
- Rebid 2♠ after opener's 2♥ **KOKISH** (2N Lebensohl)
- Never pass Opener's 1st **suit** bid (may pass 2N/Rebid Suit)
 - 2♥ (Kokish), 2♠ or 3♣/♦,
 - Opener's rebid of 2N or 3♣(=♥) after 2♥ (Kokish), or 3♣ or 3♦ (**consider passing only if 0-1 HCP and 4333 shape**). Even 4432 shape can bring a game!
 - Consider the **next step** as a desire to sign off.
- Just a King? Look for Fit and Shape. You have an entry!
- 0 HCP? Look for Fit and Shape - only 4333 is an issue.
- JUMPS by responder = Splinter for Opener's Suit.

*If you must respond 2N, show a **solid** 7+ Card suit – partner will KNOW which it is.

Opening Big 4441's 4

- Open as a 1 Bid and J/S (GF)
- Treat as 4M=5m GF
- Treat as Balanced (Single A/K)
- Treat as 5CM
- Use 2♦ opening bid for all 22+ 4441's

Opening 5-5 Hands

- Consider 2♣ if Suits missing cover cards.
- Consider 1 Bid then J/S if suits are solid

Opening 5 of a Major

- Opening 5♥/♠ shows a 2-loser hand with both losers in the trump suit. 7
- Opening 5♣/♦ is to play. Show the big hand by opening 2♣ then jumping to 5♣/♦. 8
- Responder bids one level higher for each trump A or K they hold.

Handling Interference

- **2♣ – Noise – ??**
 - Pass = Forcing (Positive Response)
 - Double = Game Negative, any shape
 - Suit = Positive, as if Noise did not exist

Problems

- The higher the Noise the more uncertain opener's actions are.
- A raise by advancer puts pressure on opener.
- We will wrong-side the contract more.

New Ideas - When They Interfere

- Ignore unknown suits (Crash, Wonder bids, etc)
- Use Transfers (**GF**) over their 2-level interference
 - 2♣-(2♠)-2N transfers to ♣.
 - 2♣ -(2♦ Crash)-3♦ Transfer to ♥. (3♣ transfers to ♦).
- Double shows values, likely shortness in their shown suit(s), and no clear direction (a **negative** double).
- Pass is either negative or trapping.

- Opener reopens with Double on balanced hands or 4441
- Opener will bid a new suit with a “minimum”
- Opener’s double then New Suit is GF.

Specific Aces or Kings

♠ AKQ9 ♥ KQJ1095 ♦ -- ♣ AKQ

♠ AKQ ♥ KQJ106543 ♦ K ♣ 3

♠ AK9 ♥ KQJ1095 ♦ 10 ♣ AKQ

♠ AK ♥ AQJ10985 ♦ 7 ♣ AKQ

♠ AK ♥ QJ109875 ♦ -- ♣ AKQ7 → Open 5♥ not 2♣

ADVANCED

1. Control bid after a fit is confirmed (space can be an issue)
2. Aces Scientific:

After: 2♣ - 2♦				
Opener Sets Trumps:	4♣	4♦	4♥	4♠
Trump A/K, or No A w/Ks*	4♦	4♥	4♠	4N
One A	4♥	4♠	4N	5♣
One A	4♠	4N	5♣	5♦
One A	4N	5♣	5♦	5♥
No A's nor K's	5♣	5♦	5♥	5♠
2 Aces Same COLOR	5♦	5♥	5♠	5N
2 Aces Same RANK	5♥	5♠	5N	6♣
2 Aces Same SHAPE	5♠	5N	6♣	6♦
3 Aces	5N	6♣	6♦	6♥

4N shows the ace of the suit Responder could not show – the suit immediately above the trump suit.

5 of Opener's Suit shows No A nor K's.

Follow-up to Step 1 Response:

After Step 1 (Trump Ace, or No Aces but Has 1 or more Kings),

Trump Suit:	4♣	4♦	4♥	4♠
Trump A/K, or Only Side Ks	4♦	4♥	4♠	4N
Opener Asks	4♥	4♠	4N	5♣
Trump Ace/King	4♠	4N	5♣	5♦
Only One Side K	4N	5♣	5♦	5♥
Only 2 Side Ks	5♣	5♦	5♥	5♠
Only 3 Side Ks	5♦	5♥	5♠	5N

Instead of Number of Kings you can use specific kings or 2nd round control asks. In those cases, 5N shows the K of the suit used for the ask. Step 1 always shows the Trump A/K, or only side Kings.

CRAZY IDEAS

- After Suit fit below game, use step 1 to ask controls (0, 1, 2, 3...) A=2, K-1. (Alt: Control Bidding)
- After Kokish 2N
 - use 2N Tools.
 - Consider 4♠ to ask opener's HCP (24-25, 26, 27, 28, etc.) –or– to show hand with 4-4 minors and interest in m or NT slam.
- After Kokish 2♥, perhaps 2N = Lebensohl - long weak minor & no cover cards.

Contact Information

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- Copies of this talk –
<http://www.cincybridge.com/Lessons/20150801-Bidding-the-BIG-HANDS.pdf>