

Passing or Pre-empting

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Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club

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Picture the bidding if you have a weak hand and pass and partner has 15-17 and then picture what happens if you open a weak two and partner has 15-17. Can you get to the same spot?

In first seat you, North, have: ♠Q108642 ♥Q1087 ♦K2 ♣3

Partner has: ♠J4 ♥AKJ2 ♦AJ3 ♣J54

Bidding A: With a very ugly 15 count and only a doubleton in partner's suit, most people will pass 2♠ or make a RONF bid of 3♠.

W	N	E	S
	2♠	All Pass	

Bidding B: An aggressive person will recall the rule of 17 and bid on to 4♠.

W	N	E	S
	2♠	P	2NT
P	3♥	P	4♠
All Pass			

Bidding C: Can you find 3 reasons not to open this a weak two?

W	N	E	S
	P!	P	1NT
P	4♥	P	4♠
All Pass			

Answer:

- In first seat, there is a 33% chance you are pre-empting partner, in second seat, it is 50% and in third, it is 0%(low).
- Poor Suit:
 - Broken honours.
 - not 2 of top three honours.
 - hard to draw trump quickly.
- Not lead directive. A lead will find the queen for the declarer.
- In defense against 3NT, setting up spades may be difficult with lack of suit quality and the presence of what may be finesseable entries. Partner's suit is likely better so don't bid.
- Hearts may be a better trump suit especially if partner has five hearts.
- A very strong hand.
 - evaluates to 10 points or more if partner opens 1♥ or 1NT.
 - An outside four card major;
 - 6-4 distribution can be very powerful.

Lesson Notes:

- In first or second seat, I refuse to open a weak two with a hand that may re-evaluate to 10 or more points if partner has a chance to open.
- The importance of the control of the trump suit becomes really apparent when you are doubled in it.
- A 6-4 distribution is a powerful distribution and often is not done justice by a weak two. Two suiters (6-5 or better especially and usually 6-4) are never opened with a weak two.
- **Rule of 17:**
 - It should be called a guideline.
 - If partner opens a weak two in first or second seat and the number of trump support plus your high card points is 17 or more than raise partner to game.
 - This guideline does not work with a hand full of queens and jacks.
 - If using Ogust, use it if a 3♣ answer would stop you from game.

Exercises:

In first seat would you open the following with 2♥, 1♥ or pass?

1. ♠--- ♥QJ10983 ♦AK3 ♣10987
2. ♠98 ♥QJ10983 ♦AK3 ♣87
3. ♠--- ♥QJ10983 ♦K53 ♣10987
4. ♠98 ♥QJ10983 ♦K53 ♣87
5. ♠--- ♥QJ1098 ♦AK3 ♣109872
6. ♠--- ♥AK8764 ♦987 ♣9876
7. ♠98 ♥AK8764 ♦987 ♣96
8. ♠9 ♥AK8764 ♦9876 ♣96
9. ♠9 ♥AK8764 ♦987 ♣965
10. ♠A8 ♥J108764 ♦987 ♣A6

1. 1♥; 2. Pass; 3. 2♥ but 3♥ is okay-you are worried THEY have spades; 4. 2♥; 5. Pass; 6. Pass;
7. 2♥; 8. Pass; 9. 2♥; 10. Pass-if you decide to open this 2♥, keep bidding so that you never have to show it as dummy. With two bullets (aces), the word weak should not enter your mind.

Partner opens 2♥ and RHO passes, what do you do with the following?

1. ♠9876 ♥9876 ♦--- ♣J10987
2. ♠AK76 ♥9876 ♦--- ♣AQ1098
3. ♠QJ87 ♥9876 ♦QJ ♣QJ9
4. ♠87 ♥9876 ♦QJ2 ♣QJ96
5. ♠AQ87 ♥98 ♦QJ2 ♣A654
6. ♠A87 ♥982 ♦QJ2 ♣8654
7. ♠A8 ♥98 ♦KQJ2 ♣8654
8. ♠A987 ♥9 ♦AQJ2 ♣A654
9. ♠A987 ♥9 ♦AQJ2 ♣AK54
10. ♠A987 ♥--- ♦AQJ2 ♣AK542

1. 4♥ or 5♥ depending on vulnerability; 2. 4♥; 3. Pass; 4. 3♥, RONE; 5. Pass; 6. 3♥; 7. 3♥;
8. Pass; 9. 2NT, Ogust; 10. Pass!