

Twoonie Talk #8

Preempts-Responding to Weak Two's

Warren Watson

Last Revised March 25, 2015

KJBC & KDBC

Questions

A. Partner opens 2♥ in first seat at favourable vulnerability and RHO passes. What do you bid with the following hands (Ogust is being used)?

1.	♠---	♥65432	♦J109872	♣65
2.	♠A	♥5432	♦J109872	♣A5
3.	♠AK4	♥5432	♦J109	♣A65
4.	♠AK42	♥543	♦J10987	♣A
5.	♠AKJ42	♥54	♦J109	♣A65
6.	♠AKJ42	♥4	♦J109876	♣A
7.	♠AKJ42	♥K4	♦J10987	♣A
8.	♠AQ6432	♥54	♦AK2	♣Q5
9.	♠AQ6432	♥---	♦AK2	♣Q543
10.	♠KJ43	♥54	♦KJ3	♣AJ92
11.	♠KJ4	♥542	♦KJ3	♣AJ92
12.	♠KJ4	♥54	♦KJ32	♣AJ92
13.	♠QJ10	♥QJ	♦QJ10	♣QJ1098
14.	♠KQJ	♥QJ	♦QJ10	♣QJ1098
15.	♠KJ10	♥QJ98	♦QJ10	♣QJ10
16.	♠AK2	♥Q1098	♦A876	♣43
17.	♠K4	♥Q43	♦KQ43	♣10987
18.	♠K43	♥Q4	♦KQ43	♣10987
19.	♠KQJ10	♥QJ	♦QJ10	♣K1098
20.	♠AK3	♥K2	♦KQ102	♣9876
21.	♠AK3	♥2	♦KQ102	♣K8762
22.	♠AK3	♥2	♦KQ102	♣AK762
23.	♠AK3	♥---	♦KQ102	♣AK8762
24.	♠AKJ	♥---	♦KQ102	♣AK8762
25.	♠AK3	♥---	♦KQ102	♣K76432
26.	♠AK3	♥---	♦KQ102	♣AKQ762
27.	♠A	♥AK43	♦A3	♣AKQJ53
28.	♠K2	♥Q5432	♦K2	♣A543
29.	♠A2	♥Q5432	♦K2	♣A543

B. Partner opens 2♥ in first seat at favourable vulnerability and RHO passes. What do you bid with the following hands (Feature is being used)?

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| 30. | ♠K4 | ♥K2 | ♦KQ872 | ♣A865 |
| 31. | ♠KQJ | ♥QJ | ♦QJ10 | ♣QJ1098 |
| 32. | ♠KJ10 | ♥QJ98 | ♦QJ10 | ♣QJ10 |
| 33. | ♠AK2 | ♥Q1098 | ♦A876 | ♣43 |
| 34. | ♠AK2 | ♥Q109 | ♦A876 | ♣Q43 |
| 35. | ♠AK2 | ♥Q109 | ♦A876 | ♣K43 |

C. Partner opens 2♥ in first seat at unfavourable vulnerability and RHO doubles. What do you bid with the following hands (Feature is being used)?

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| 36. | ♠K4 | ♥K2 | ♦KQ872 | ♣A865 |
| 37. | ♠KQJ | ♥QJ | ♦QJ10 | ♣QJ1098 |
| 38. | ♠KJ10 | ♥QJ98 | ♦QJ10 | ♣QJ10 |
| 39. | ♠AK2 | ♥Q1098 | ♦A876 | ♣43 |
| 40. | ♠AK2 | ♥Q109 | ♦A876 | ♣Q43 |
| 41. | ♠AK2 | ♥Q109 | ♦A876 | ♣K43 |

D. Partner opens 2♥ in third seat at favourable vulnerability and RHO doubles. What do you bid with the following hands (Feature is being used)?

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 42. | ♠4 | ♥K32 | ♦Q8732 | ♣A865 |
| 43. | ♠4 | ♥5432 | ♦87532 | ♣865 |
| 44. | ♠KQ42 | ♥32 | ♦A54 | ♣9876 |
| 45. | ♠KQ42 | ♥432 | ♦A5 | ♣9876 |

E. Partner opens 2♥ in first seat at unfavourable vulnerability and RHO passes. You bid 2♠. Fill in the blanks:

- Partner will ____ have a minimum
- Partner has a ____ suit with ____ intermediates
- Partner ____ Pass
- If Partner has ____ Spades:
 - With a minimum, he bids ____
 - With a maximum, he bids ____
- If Partner has less than ____ Spades
 - With a minimum, he bids ____
 - With a maximum, he bids ____
 - With AKQxxx, he bids ____

Twoonie Talk #8-Answers

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Underlying Principles:

Defend or Declare:

Whenever partner makes a pre-empt, one immediately categorizes one's hand as willing to defend or declare.

One wants to declare with:

- Three or more of partner's pre-empt suit
- Aces and kings and Queen of trump (cover cards) and singletons (one cover card) and voids (two cover cards) in side suits
 - Whenever partner pre-empts side suit quacks (Queens and Jacks) tend to be useless.

While One wants to defend with:

- Two or fewer cards in partner's pre-empt suit
 - A hand full of Quacks (queens and jacks)
-
- If one has a hand wanting to defend, one does not raise partner at all and take the risk of declaring (especially) doubled.
 - If one has the hand wanting to declare, one bids to the limit (see the law) of their fit right away or forever hold your peace.
 - The exception is that if one is willing to sacrifice, sometimes one will wait to see if the opponents get to game first.

Law of Total Tricks:

Although Mike Lawrence wrote a book which I read cover to cover, "I fought the Law," I believe the law has considerable merits when to compete and to sacrifice.

The Law has a lot to it, but the essential concept is:

In competitive auctions, bid to the limit of your fit. It will either make or be a good sacrifice.

With an eight-card fit, the two-level is the limit.

With a nine-card fit, the three-level is the limit.

With a ten-card fit, the four-level is the limit.

With an eleven-card fit, the five-level is the limit.

Watson's Principle

A singleton (which is an effective cover card) increases the length of the pre-empt suit or pre-empt suit support (support must be three or more) by one.

A void (which is two effective cover cards) increases the length of the pre-empt suit or pre-empt suit support (support must be three or more) by two.

RONF

RONF stands for Raise of partner's pre-empt suit is Only Non-Forcing and partner cannot make any future bid except pass. This includes raises to game which may be made on strength to make or just to further the pre-empt. The pre-empter cannot possibly know which so his only bid is pass.

New Suits are therefore forcing one round except by a passed hand and even in competition except at game level or higher.

N	E	S	W
3♥	3♠	4♦	4♦ is to play

Bid Now or Forever Hold Your Peace

The pre-empter is not allowed to raise his own pre-empt unless partner bids a new suit. If pre-empter has a feature in his hand wanting him to raise his pre-empt later, he then should pre-empt higher the first time he bids (see the Watson Principle).

Exception:

If one has a long suit, but does not wish to pre-empt for various reasons {void, four-card major, vulnerability, flat hand (7222 or 6322) strength of suit or lack of intermediates}, one may pass and later introduce it as a simple overcall. One should never unilaterally decide to sacrifice at the five-level. Always introduce the suit at a lower level and let partner decide.

Rule of 123

One never wants to give the opponents more than they can get for their game if doubled unless they freely bid to slam then pre-empter is welcome to raise his pre-empt and one does not want to give them more than what their slam is worth.

Unfavourable Vulnerability Down 1 (Deficit is One)

They can get 400, 420, 430, etc. Down 2 is -500

Equal Vulnerability Down 2 (Deficit is Two)

Both not vul: They can get 400, 420, 430, etc. Down 3 is -500

Both vul: They can get 600, 620, 630, etc. Down 3 is -800

Favourable Vulnerability Down 3 (Deficit is Three)

They can get 600, 620, 630, etc. Down 4 is -800

Cover Cards

When partner pre-empts, the strength of one's hand is in terms of cover cards and tricks not total High Card Points. Students will often ask me "how many HCP's do I need for that." I will often pause because now I have to explain that HCP's do not have anything to do with a lot of situations.

A cover card is:

- Ace, King and Queen in the pre-empt suit
- Aces and Kings in the three side suits
- Singleton = One cover card
- Void = two Cover cards with reasonable trump support of course.

Count your cover cards:

For each cover card you can further the pre-empt one-level for every single cover card.

To make the contract, you need to fill in partner's cover card deficit and then raise one-level for each cover card above the deficit.

Rule of 17

I love this rule. Mel Colchamiro mentions the rule in his book, "How you can play like an expert without having to be one" on page 59.

If partner opens a weak two, one adds one's high card points to one's number of cards in support. If the number is 17 or more, than bid to the four-level expecting to make.

My Modified Rule:

Use the rule of 18 for quacky hands and less than two cards in support.

Bidding 3NT with 0 cards in support, one must have nine developable tricks without partner's suit. With one card support, playing in partner's suit, if a good quality suit is better than playing in 3NT unless you can count to nine in one's own hand.

If the Rules of 17 and 18 tell one to bid game, it is still wise to use the 2NT asking bid first.

Answers:

A. Partner opens 2♥ in first seat at favourable vulnerability and RHO passes. What do you bid with the following hands (Ogust is being used)?

1.	♠---	♥65432	♦J109872	♣65	5♥
2.	♠A	♥5432	♦J109872	♣A5	4♥
3.	♠AK4	♥5432	♦J109	♣A65	4♥
4.	♠AK42	♥543	♦J10987	♣A	3♥
5.	♠AKJ42	♥54	♦J109	♣A65	P
6.	♠AKJ42	♥4	♦J109876	♣A	3♦
7.	♠AKJ42	♥K4	♦J10987	♣A	2♠
8.	♠AQ6432	♥54	♦AK2	♣Q5	2♠
9.	♠AQ6432	♥---	♦AK2	♣Q543	P
10.	♠KJ43	♥54	♦KJ3	♣AJ92	P
11.	♠KJ4	♥542	♦KJ3	♣AJ92	3♥
12.	♠KJ4	♥54	♦KJ32	♣AJ92	P
13.	♠QJ10	♥QJ	♦QJ10	♣QJ1098	P
14.	♠KQJ	♥QJ	♦QJ10	♣QJ1098	P
15.	♠KJ10	♥QJ98	♦QJ10	♣QJ10	3♥
16.	♠AK2	♥Q1098	♦A876	♣43	2NT on way to 4♥
17.	♠K4	♥Q43	♦KQ43	♣10987	3♥
18.	♠K43	♥Q4	♦KQ43	♣10987	P
19.	♠KQJ10	♥QJ	♦QJ10	♣K1098	2NT
20.	♠AK3	♥K2	♦KQ102	♣9876	2NT then 3 or 4♥
21.	♠AK3	♥2	♦KQ102	♣K8762	P
22.	♠AK3	♥2	♦KQ102	♣AK762	2NT, if good suit, 4♥ otherwise 3♥
23.	♠AK3	♥---	♦KQ102	♣AK8762	P
24.	♠AKJ	♥---	♦KQ102	♣AK8762	3NT
25.	♠AK3	♥---	♦KQ102	♣K76432	P
26.	♠AK3	♥---	♦KQ102	♣AKQ762	3NT
27.	♠A	♥AK43	♦A3	♣AKQJ53	2NT on way to 7♥
28.	♠K2	♥Q5432	♦K2	♣A543	2NT on way to 4♥
29.	♠A2	♥Q5432	♦K2	♣A543	4♥

B. Partner opens 2♥ in first seat at favourable vulnerability and RHO passes. What do you bid with the following hands (Feature is being used)?

30.	♠K4	♥K2	♦KQ872	♣A865	2NT
31.	♠KQJ	♥QJ	♦QJ10	♣QJ1098	P
32.	♠KJ10	♥QJ98	♦QJ10	♣QJ10	P
33.	♠AK2	♥Q1098	♦A876	♣43	2NT
34.	♠AK2	♥Q109	♦A876	♣Q43	2NT
35.	♠AK2	♥Q109	♦A876	♣K43	4♥

C. Partner opens 2♥ in first seat at unfavourable vulnerability and RHO doubles. What do you bid with the following hands (Feature is being used)?

36.	♠K4	♥K2	♦KQ872	♣A865	Rdbl
37.	♠KQJ	♥QJ	♦QJ10	♣QJ1098	Rdbl
38.	♠KJ10	♥QJ98	♦QJ10	♣QJ10	P (3♥)
39.	♠AK2	♥Q1098	♦A876	♣43	4♥
40.	♠AK2	♥Q109	♦A876	♣Q43	2NT
41.	♠AK2	♥Q109	♦A876	♣K43	2NT

D. Partner opens 2♥ in third seat at favourable vulnerability and RHO doubles. What do you bid with the following hands (Feature is being used)?

42.	♠4	♥K32	♦Q8732	♣A865	3♥
43.	♠4	♥5432	♦87532	♣865	4♥
44.	♠KQ42	♥32	♦A54	♣9876	P
45.	♠KQ42	♥432	♦A5	♣9876	P

E. Partner opens 2♥ in first seat at unfavourable vulnerability and RHO passes. You bid 2♠. Fill in the blanks:

- Partner will Not have a minimum
- Partner has a good suit with some intermediates
- Partner cannot Pass
- If Partner has 3 Spades:
 - With a minimum, he bids 3♠
 - With a maximum, he bids 4♠
- If Partner has less than 3 Spades
 - With a minimum, he bids 3♥
 - With a maximum, he bids a feature
 - With AKQxxx, he bids 3NT. Partner will pull 3NT with an unstopped side suit.