

Responding to 2N Openers

Discussion

2N openers ought to include 5c majors.

If your system requires you to start with 1M, too many of your auctions will go 1M-pass-pass-pass when game is cold.

If your system allows you to open 2N with a 5c major, Puppet Stayman is mandatory.

When playing Puppet Stayman over 2N openers, be sure to use it when holding a 3c major and a ruffing value.

Jacoby Transfers are a gimme. Everybody uses 'em. Over a 2N opener, superaccepts should be commonplace.

Game can sometimes be made when responder has little more than a 5c major.

Opener should jump to game with good 3c support, a ruffing value, and a handful of aces, kings, and queens in combination with aces and kings.

Jacoby Transfers are off in competition in favor of negative doubles or point-showing doubles.

Texas Transfers have a dual role.

Sign off in a major suit game, or

Establish trumps and then make a key card asking bid.

Texas Transfers are on over three-level competition but off over four-level competition.

Discussion (continued)

Gerber is available for slam-going auctions.

Its usefulness can be increased by playing 1430 RKC Gerber.

Gerber should not be used in 2N auctions except directly over the opening bid.

When a Puppet inquiry has failed, or a Jacoby Transfer accepted, a bid of 4♣ or 4♦ should be natural.

After Puppet, 4m shows a 5c suit.

After a Jacoby Transfer, 4m shows a 4c suit.

The natural meaning of 4♣ in these auctions is more valuable than Gerber.

The use of 3♠, asking for opener's better minor, ushers in an elaborate system for handling minor suits.

With a long minor suit and weak hand, responder can pass 4♣ or bid 4♦ to play.

The majors become keycard asking bids, 4♥ for clubs and 4♠ for diamonds.

When the keycard ask is in opener's best minor, responses are the same as a RKC asking bid.

When not in opener's best minor, a response of 4N shows a worthless doubleton in responder's minor and is not counted in the ladder of keycard responses.