



Lesson 27 Teacher's Notes

Two Club Opening Hands

Aims

To cover the Acol Strong Two Club Opener

Content

- 1 Introduce the strong 2♣ opening, the strongest opening bid in the Acol system. It shows a super-strong hand, and it is **conventional**. (says nothing about clubs). The 2♣ opener is either a balanced hand with 23 or more points
or a hand with one or more strong suits and enough playing tricks for game on its own (this type may not have quite so many points)

- 2 Discuss the Responses to a 2♣ opener
Obviously, you cannot pass an opening of 2♣! The opening bid is **forcing** and **conventional**.

Responder **must** bid:

In modern Acol, a response of 2♦ is termed a waiting bid, not necessarily a negative bid but with nothing useful to say for now. It is the most common response to a 2C opening

A response in a suit shows a good suit of your own, at least 5 cards with at least two of the top three honours (ace/king/queen). Normally 8+HCP but may be slightly less with an exceptional suit

A response of 2NT shows a balanced hand of 10+ points and is forcing to slam

- 3 Discuss Opener's Rebid

The 2♣ opener is Forcing to Game, (with one exception) even when partner has a completely worthless hand. It often leads to slam. After opening 2♣ you continue by bidding your suits naturally, knowing that partner cannot pass below game.

West East **This is the one auction that is not forcing to game**

2♣ 2♦ West shows 23-24HCP in a balanced hand - just too strong for a 2NT opener

2NT If East has a really dreadful hand with 0 or 1 points he can pass.

With 2+ points he continues to game using the same bids as over a 2NT opener so Stayman and Transfers may be used