

Musing a Weak Jump Response

♠ 8
♥ T53
♦ J86543
♣ 862

You are East holding these tram tickets with North the dealer and nobody vulnerable.

Your partner, last to speak, opens 2C and you bid 2D and pass your partner's 3NT rebid which shows 25 to around 27 HCPs. Right?

Thoughts:

The full Board shown below was played on Friday October 2nd. Most Wests played in 3NT and made lots of tricks while a few went down in spade contracts. Interestingly, a small slam in diamonds can be made.

BOARD 1					
BD: 1	♠ J4	Dir: N			
	♥ KQ9874	Vul: Nil			
	♦ 72				
	♣ Q94				
♠ AKQ62		♠ 8			
♥ AJ		♥ T53			
♦ AKT		♦ J86543			
♣ AJ5		♣ 862			
	♠ T9753				
	♥ 62				
	♦ Q9				
	♣ KT73				
	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT				
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	2	6	1	2	5
W	3	6	2	2	5

For those who play a game forcing 2C opening, the bidding sequence mentioned above would be pretty standard although opener might choose to show her spades as some did.

The slam in diamonds relies on a 2-2 split in trumps or the QD singleton or the QD on-side. Most declarers will play for the QD to drop, which works but overall a slam in diamonds is a bit adventurous. How would you bid it, in any case?

There is actually a myriad of bidding systems proposed on the internet to cover bidding sequences following a game forcing 2C opening. However, the bid comes up so seldom I believe that most of us just respond 2D as a negative bid or as a waiting bid to discover what opener is basing her 2C opening on.

The decision on the final contract depends on which partner can make use of the bidding information and it isn't always the 2C opener. One more refined bidding system has responder showing the number of the controls she holds in her first response. In most situations, the first response is at the 2 level (or maybe 3C) since there is no need for responder to make a jump bid and use up already compromised bidding space.

Given this, the thought occurs that a jump by the responder to the 3 level could be used to show a weak hand with a long suit headed by a top honour. This thinking of showing a weak hand with a long suit immediately is analogous to weak take-out bids over a 1NT opening and single jump bid responses to partner's one level opening to announce a 6-card suit and very few points. While I am not suggesting that the hand above would qualify for a 3D jump response it does serve to illustrate just how little responder with a long suit needs to have to enable a 2C opening hand to make a slam. Perhaps, six cards to a control (either the A or K) and nothing else to offer would qualify for consideration and make somewhat more frequent use of response spaces currently seldom used?