

November 2020 ACBL Bulletin Notes

Jeff Kroll
Sam Khayatt

Page 42, Robert S. Todd, Reasoning with Robert – Advancing partner’s overcall

Before we begin, a bit of terminology: the partner of the player who bids first is the responder; the partner of the overcaller is the advancer. We raise an opening bid; we advance an overcall. In this column, Todd presents an auction and discusses what to do with several different hands. In the auction shown below, partner’s two-level overcall shows an opening hand.

<i>LHO</i>	<i>Partner</i>	<i>RHO</i>	<i>You</i>
1♠	2♦	2♠	?

What’s your call with the following hands?

Example 1

♠93 ♥A943 ♦Q4 ♣K9832

We don’t have a fit with partner, but we do have nine HCP and the other two suits, so we make a **responsive double**. We would like partner to bid either hearts or clubs, but if partner rebids diamonds, we will pass. A **responsive double** is similar to a negative double. It shows the two unbid suits when the opponents have bid and raised a suit and partner has overcalled.

Example 2

♠9832 ♥AJ43 ♦K104 ♣32

Even though we don’t have both of the unbid suits, like we did in Example 1, we have eight HCP, and are well-positioned for our next bid no matter what partner bids following our **responsive double**. If partner bids hearts, we will have found our 4-4-fit. If partner rebids diamonds, we will pass, and if partner bids clubs, we will correct to diamonds. Partner has at most one spade on this auction (the opponents have shown at least eight spades and we have four) so we don’t expect to hear notrump.

Example 3

♠KJ106 ♥Q1083 ♦AJ ♣932

Double. We have 11 HCP and two useful Ts. We are going to game. So, we **double**, looking for the 4-4 heart fit. If partner does not bid hearts, we will bid 3NT. 3NT does not promise a club stop, but it does promise a spade stop – and more likely two spade stops. This is another **responsive double**, showing two places to play.

Example 4

♠10 ♥A983 ♦J86 ♣A9832

Again, we use a **responsive double**, similar to Example 1. The difference is that now we have a singleton spade so we need to be prepared for partner to convert our responsive double into a penalty double. We are prepared; we expect to take our two aces on defense.

Example 5

♠— ♥Q10543 ♦Q5 ♣QJ6532

This is similar to Example 4, but now we have close to no defense if partner should choose to convert our responsive double to a penalty double. Unsupported queens and long suits headed by the QJ are not usually useful in defending a suit contract. So, we must **pass**.

Page 55, Karen Walker, Bidding Matters – The imperfect rebid

Matchpoints, both vulnerable, you hold: ♠AKQ ♥A43 ♦Q97543 ♣A

You open 1D, the opponents are silent and partner responds 1H. What do you bid now? No bid perfectly describes your hand, so you need to tell the smallest lie.

3D shows fewer HCP and a stronger diamond suit – two lies.

3NT shows a long solid minor that will take at least seven tricks. It usually ends the bidding. It doesn't describe this hand at all.

3H shows four hearts and sets the trump suit. The correct strain could be spades, hearts, diamonds or notrump and your 3H bid will shut the door on finding the right contract if it's spades, diamonds or notrump.

1S. This is a new suit by opener, not by responder. It is not forcing and shows at most 17 points. You can easily miss a makeable game with this bid.

2NT is probably the best possible bid. It shows the correct strength of the hand. If the D3 were the C3, 2NT would be the book bid. A one-card lie.

The second choice is a jump shift to **3S**. It also shows the correct strength. If the D2 were the S3, that would be the book bid. Another one-card lie.

We prefer the 2NT bid as we would prefer to lie about an extra minor-suit card rather than an extra major-suit card.

Page 56, Mike Lawrence, Mike's Advice – Weak two-bid, then double?

North's 2S bid is weak, and now North is doubling East's 3D bid. The 2S bid shows 5-10 HCP and a good six-card spade suit, so the double can't possibly be for penalty.

West	North	East	South
	2♠	3♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	?

North knows that EW were willing to stop in 3D so they probably don't have enough for game.

North is telling South that North is on the top of the 2S range, has either a singleton or a void in diamonds and has at least three-card support for the both unbid suits.

It's a takeout double, asking South to do something intelligent.