

Practise Pre-emptive Bids & Responses

Choose your next bid

Hand: 1 Dealer: South West North East South ?	South ♠ 3 ♥ K Q 9 8 7 2 ♦ 9 8 7 3 ♣ 4 2
Hand: 2 Dealer: North West North East South P P ?	South ♠ Q J 9 8 4 2 ♥ 9 ♦ Q 9 5 2 ♣ 9 2
Hand: 3 Dealer: South West North East South ?	South ♠ Q J 9 7 4 2 ♥ K J 10 3 ♦ 10 5 ♣ 9
Hand: 4 Dealer: South West North East South ?	South ♠ ♥ 8 4 3 ♦ K J 9 6 5 2 ♣ A Q J 5
Hand: 5 Dealer: South West North East South ?	South ♠ 10 7 ♥ K 9 6 4 3 2 ♦ A Q 10 2 ♣ 9
Hand: 6 Dealer: West West North East South P P P ?	South ♠ 8 4 ♥ 8 6 2 ♦ K Q 10 5 4 3 ♣ Q 4
Hand: 7 Dealer: North West North East South 2♥ X ?	South ♠ Q 9 7 6 ♥ 9 8 6 ♦ K 6 2 ♣ J 4 2

Answer: 2♥

Our suit is absolutely minimum for a Weak Two. The SQT is 8 but the heart honours could be a lot worse and our 1-6-4-2 shape is good.

Answer: 2♠

This hand is absolutely minimum for a Weak 2 but partner has passed so does not have opening points. West is bound to bid and our opponents will almost certainly bid and make 4♥, and maybe a slam. West will now have to enter the bidding at the 3-level and our pre-empt will make it more difficult for our opponents to find the best contract.

Answer: Pass/ 2♣

It would not be unreasonable to open with 2♠, but partner has not bid yet and may have a very good hand with 4 hearts and slam potential. If so then our bid would obstruct/pre-empt partner rather than our opponents and we might not find the best contract. In first or second seat (when partner has not had a chance to bid) and when holding a decent side suit 4 card major, it is generally better to pass. Someone is sure to bid and if it is not partner then you may well be able to re-enter the auction by overcalling in your spade suit.

Answer: 1♦

With 11 points and 6-4 in our longest two suits, this hand easily passes the Rule of 20. The void in spades makes us even more keen to open 1♦.

Answer: Pass

Our suit isn't quite good enough for a Weak Two (SQT is just 7). We need two honours to bid 2♥

Answer: Pass

We are in the pass-out seat. There is no opponent to pre-empt!! Our opponents have more points than us and have probably missed a making part contract. We will score an 'average' which is likely to be a good result.

Answer: 3♥

Extending the pre-empt. After the double West must bid. With a combined 9 hearts South 'bids to the level of the fit'. West will not know whether South has 0 points or 12+ points and will have to guess.

Hand: 8 Dealer: North					South
West	North	East	South		♠ A Q 10 8 7
	2♥	2♠	?		♥ 6
					♦ K Q 4 3
					♣ Q 8 3

Answer: Double

Partner has shown her best suit (hearts) so your double is for penalties, (not takeout – you know partner's best suit!). You have 13 HCP. Assuming partner has (say) 8 HCP the opponents have less than half the points and you are sitting over East's spades with an excellent spade suit.

Choose your next bid

Hand: 9 Dealer: South					South
West	North	East	South		♠ J
			?		♥ Q J 9 6 5 3 2
					♦ Q J 8
					♣ 4 2

Answer: 3♥

Our suit is absolutely minimum for a Weak three, but with attractive shape it's generally OK to open 3♥. If the opponents have spades then we will have taken away a lot of their bidding space and they may not find their best contract.

Hand: 10 Dealer: South					South
West	North	East	South		♠ A Q J 9 7 4 2
			?		♥ 6 3
					♦ 10 5
					♣ 9 8

Answer: 3♠

This is an ideal hand for a Weak Three in spades. With all of our high cards in our long suit, our defensive prospects are limited.

Hand: 11 Dealer: North					South
West	North	East	South		♠ 10
	P	P	?		♥ K Q 10 6 5 4 3 2
					♦ Q 10 3
					♣ 9

Answer: 4♥

With seven hearts we would open 3♥. The 8th heart is worth an extra trick. Our singleton spade suggests EW might well bid and make a spade contract. 3♥ may not be sufficient deterrent to prevent West from bidding and finding their fit.

Hand: 12 Dealer: South					South
West	North	East	South		♠ 8
			?		♥ K 9 6
					♦ Q 9 6 5 4 3 2
					♣ Q 4

Answer: 2♦

Our suit isn't quite good enough for a Weak Three, but we have a SQOT of 8 so can open a Weak Two. Our 6th and 7th diamond are together as good as a diamond honour

Hand: 13 Dealer: North					South
West	North	East	South		♠ K J
	3♦	Pass	?		♥ K Q J 5
					♦ 8
					♣ K Q J 7 3 2

Answer: Pass

16 HCP, but only 9 HCP in aces and Kings. Don't even think about 3NT. Partner's diamonds may be worthless unless he has outside entries to his hand. If the opponents enter the bidding your hand will be powerful in defence.

And don't think about rescuing into 4♣ either. If partner is void in clubs you will have pushed the bidding one level higher with one fewer combined cards in clubs than in diamonds.

Hand: 14 Dealer: North					South
West	North	East	South		♠ A 3
	3♦	Pass	?		♥ A J 3
					♦ Q 7 2
					♣ K Q 8 4 3

Answer: 3NT.

16 HCP and very good diamond support. You can bank on at least six tricks in diamonds and three tricks and stoppers in the other suits. You also have good entry cards (♦72) to partner's long diamond suit.