## 8 – Higher-level openings and jump-suit overcalls – Teachers' notes

### Objectives

Introducing opening bids at the two-and three-levels;
Emphasise the difference between unlimited opening suit bids at the one-level and limited weak opening bids at higher levels - a one-level opening is stronger than a two-level opening.
The system of two-level opening bids being taught is 'three weak and one strong'.
Jump suit overcalls are also played as weak.

### Weak two opening bids

Opening bids of 2♦, 2♥ and 2♠ are played as weak on a six-card suit usually headed by KT or better, and 5 to 10 points.
Partner should not get over-excited when holding a smattering of points, although with a six-card suit game might make on a little less than 25 points.

### Weak three opening bids

Much as above but they apply in all four suits and are based on a seven-card suit.
Typically, the strength will be from about 5 to 7 points, and the suit should be headed by some sort of honour holding.

### The 2♣ opening bid

2♣ is artificial, says nothing about clubs, and is almost game-forcing.
It should be based on 23+ points balanced or 9+ playing tricks (or 22+ points) unbalanced – note that the 9 playing trick hand should contain at least 16 points to be legal.
Bear in mind that:-

- the concept of 8 playing tricks is irrelevant in this system. Facing just 8 playing tricks partner will need to have a response facing a one of a suit opening if a game is to be made.
- Some unbalanced hands of 20 or 21 points will be opened with one of a suit if they do not look like 9 playing tricks – it will be extremely rare that a game is missed because of this.

### Responding to 2♣

In the first place responder should always bid 2♦ – a relay bid – artificial, saying nothing about Diamonds, and giving opener the opportunity to describe his hand.
It is forcing – opener must bid again. You will then have the opportunity to show shape or additional strength.

- Note that if RHO overcalls you will pass – partner will get to bid again anyway.
- If partner rebids in a suit at the two-level this should be played as forcing. This gives him the chance to show a powerful two-suited hand.
- If partner rebids 2NT he is showing 23 or 24 points after which you will take control of the auction much as if partner had opened 2NT.

### Jump suit Overcalls

These are played much as the weak opening bids – always weak – typically 5 to 9.
In general, they will be made on a 6-card suit at the two-level or a 7-card suit at the three-level.