



Bidding Basics

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Responding to 2♣

Partner has opened 2♣, showing either 22-plus high-card points balanced or some distributional (shapely), powerful hand. Most of the time, your side will reach game, but there are rare exceptions.

There are several methods you might come across (such as step- or control-showing responses or using 2♥ to show a “bust”), but I recommend the most common – and I think best – response: 2♦ “waiting.”

This means that on most hands, your response to 2♣ will be 2♦. Before we get to that, let me discuss the rare exceptions.

When would you *not* respond 2♦ waiting?

You must have both a good five-card or longer suit (three of the top five honors) and 8 or more HCP. Each hand below would qualify:

♠K Q 10 8 7 ♥A 4 3 ♦4 ♣8 7 6 5

Respond 2♠.

♠6 4 ♥3 2 ♦K 7 6 ♣A Q J 10 5 2

Respond 3♣.

If you don't meet that “5 and 8” requirement, always (and I mean *always*) respond 2♦ waiting. And don't even consider an initial response in notrump. Pretend that the 2NT and 3NT cards are not in your bid box.

♠J 8 7 3 2 ♥A 4 3 ♦4 ♣A 7 6 5

Respond 2♦. The spades aren't good enough for 2♠.

♠6 4 ♥3 2 ♦J 7 6 2 ♣K J 10 8 6

Respond 2♦. Not enough high cards for 3♣.

♠K J 7 ♥Q J 6 ♦Q 8 7 6 ♣9 3 2

Respond 2♦. Don't get in opener's way by bidding notrump.

2♦ waiting

Probably more than 90 percent of the time, your response to 2♣ will be 2♦. If you don't meet the standards above, you will “wait” with 2♦. This allows opener to further describe his hand, and it leaves him the most room to do so.

Each hand below would start with a 2♦ response:

♠A 4 3 2 ♥A Q 7 6 ♦4 ♣J 7 6 5

♠4 3 2 ♥4 3 2 ♦5 4 3 2 ♣4 3 2

Sorry about that one.

♠K Q ♥10 8 7 6 5 ♦A 6 5 4 3 ♣2

No suit is good enough to show directly.

♠K Q 5 ♥A J 4 ♦J 3 ♣Q 7 6 5 4

Yes, slam is likely, but can wait for now.

After the 2♦ response

In this series, we generally discuss

West hands for the May Bidding Box

Bid these hands with a partner. The East hands are on pg. 51. The North-South players are silent unless otherwise noted. Scores on pgs. 37-39.

Problem 1. North deals. None vul. North deals and passes, then bids 1♠ if possible.

♠A 7 5 ♥A J 9 8 7 6 3 ♦K 6 ♣10

Problem 2. East deals. N-S vul.

♠A 10 2 ♥K 9 5 3 2 ♦J 7 ♣K 6 4

Problem 3. South deals. E-W vul. South opens 1NT (12-14 HCP). North bids 2♠ (transfer to clubs) over pass or double.

♠K J 10 ♥K Q 6 4 3 ♦K Q 10 ♣8 7

Problem 4. West deals. Both vul.

♠A 9 6 5 2 ♥J 8 5 3 ♦A 4 ♣A 6

Problem 5. North deals. N-S vul. South bids spades at the one or two level.

♠10 6 2 ♥J 10 9 4 ♦A K Q J 10 3 ♣—

Problem 6. East deals. E-W vul.

♠Q 6 ♥Q 10 8 ♦K Q J 4 ♣Q J 9 5

Problem 7. South deals. Both vul.

♠9 5 4 ♥Q J 10 3 ♦A Q J ♣K 9 7

Problem 8. West deals. None vul.

♠K J 10 ♥A 10 ♦Q J 7 ♣Q J 7 4 3

only the topic in the title. Future articles will deal with the follow-ups. But, if you can't wait, here are a few notes to consider.

After a 2♦ response, game doesn't have to be reached. If opener rebids 2NT (22–24 HCP), responder can pass. If the opener bids a suit (2♥, 2♠, 3♣ or 3♦), it is forcing. Responder must bid again (yes, even with that lovely 4–3–3–3 zero-count above). There are ways to stop in a partscore, to be discussed in the (distant) future, but they are so rare, they're not worth worrying about now.

If the response to 2♣ is anything but 2♦, then game or slam must be reached – no partscores.

BIDDING BASICS QUIZ

What is your response to partner's 2♣ opening with each of the following hands?

1. ♠K7652 ♥A32 ♦Q54 ♣K2
2. ♠A43 ♥KJ43 ♦K62 ♣Q32
3. ♠7 ♥J87654 ♦A2 ♣K653
4. ♠KQ1087 ♥AQ1087 ♦543 ♣—
5. ♠54 ♥4 ♦10976 ♣AQJ1097
6. ♠AQ10762 ♥65 ♦— ♣Q8765

Answers

1. 2♦. Your suit is not good enough for 2♠.
2. 2♦. Don't respond in notrump. Let opener describe.
3. 2♦. Your hearts aren't good enough for 2♥.
4. 2♠. With 5–5, show the higher-ranking suit first.
5. 3♣. Yes, I said 8 HCP, but live a little.
6. 2♠. Meets all the requirements.

Walt Walvick 1942–2018

By Kathie Walvick



Walt Walvick died peacefully at our home in McLean VA on Feb. 28 from pancreatic cancer. He was 75.

After earning a bachelor of science and economics degree at the Wharton School of Economics, Walt received his law degree from Catholic University School of Law. As a partner at a major law firm, he fought for seven years on a pro bono case, trying to prevent his client's execution for a crime he had committed as an impoverished young man. In 1998, Walt founded an intellectual property software development company, which continues today.

Walt was always gracious and friendly at the bridge table, and many appreciated his sense of humor. When Walt and fellow DC-area expert Steve Robinson qualified for the finals of the Blue Ribbon Pairs in New Orleans in the late 1960s, Walt looked at the recap sheets to see who qualified and remarked, "Stevie, we're the only pair I've never heard of."

Walt had a flair for imaginative plays, such as this one: The opponents were playing with hearts as trumps, and they had a side spade fit, with A–J–x–x–x in dummy, on Walt's left. After drawing trumps, declarer led the ♠Q. Walt had no spades. He covered with the ♣K, and declarer didn't notice the different suit, so he played the ace from dummy, thus promoting two spade tricks for Walt's partner who held K–10–x. Instead of a top, however, this play earned an average result for Walt, because on opening lead, Walt had underled the ♣AKJxxx to try for a spade ruff, and the stiff ♣Q won the trick in dummy.

In international competition, Walt and I won the bronze medal in the World Mixed Pairs in Geneva in 1990, and Walt won the Swiss Plate at the World Bridge Championships in 1986. At the national level, Walt won the Herman Trophy in 1975 and the Nail Life Master Men's Pairs in 1975 and again in 1989 (the last time it was played before becoming an open event), and he placed second in the von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs in 1974 and in the Jacoby Open Swiss Teams in 1988. He had many regional wins and countless sectional victories.

Walt occasionally served as non-playing captain of the Nick Nickell team in international competition. He held several offices at the Washington Bridge League. He wrote a monthly column for the WBL Bulletin called "Crab Bits."

Walt and I married in 1982, and we enjoyed 35 years of love and joy. Our favorite vacation activity was cruising, and we often took our entire family. We shared a love of music and supported several symphony orchestras and opera companies.

Walt Walvick is survived by his wife, Kathie Hovland Cappelletti Walvick, his step-daughter, Sky Cappelletti, his stepson, Mike Cappelletti, his granddaughter, Sierra Cappelletti, and his beloved golden retriever, Annie.

Play in the 2018 World Wide Bridge Contest

The 2018 World Wide Bridge Contest will be held at clubs around the globe on June 1 and June 2. The contest, sponsored by the World Bridge Federation, is scored across the world to produce an overall winner. The Friday and Saturday games are separate events. This year, clubs may hold their game at any time during the day.

The winning pairs in the separate games will qualify to play in the event final to be held Oct. 26–28 in China. Qualifying pairs will receive \$1200 U.S. for travel expenses, free B&B accommodations and a crack at a \$20,000 prize fund.

The contest provides a rare opportunity to play in a major event and compete with players from other countries. Participants receive electronic access to souvenir commentary, and winners ACBL-wide are featured in the Bridge Bulletin.

For more information, please contact specialevents@acbl.org or visit ecatsbridge.com.