

Lesson 25 - 2C auctions

In the good old days, USA played all strong 2's. Acol refined it to "2C BIG hand, virtually a game force, and other 2's were 8-trick hands if that suit becomes trumps." Acol was more popular in S.A. during the 50's, 60's and 70's. The Italians started their Neopolitan Club, and Blue Club later. This was the talking point of the world as the Italians were the world champions in bridge for 10 consecutive years in the 60's. Then C.C. Wei in China changed the Blue Club system somewhat – instead of control responses to a strong opening of 1♣, he made it simpler – respond naturally he said, so 1♥ response to a strong 1♣ showed a hand with 8+ points and a 5-card heart suit. Easier!

The Americans, meanwhile, became hungry for the main prize to be brought to the states. A certain Ira Corn, multi-millionaire based in Texas, recruited the Dallas Aces group of 6 and they trained full-time at a remote farm outside Dallas. A computer specialist was also recruited, and he churned out hands and more hands. The players learned how to cope with weak 2's (new) negative doubles (new) Michael cue-bids (new) the new 2♣ opening and the sequences thereafter, etc.

The boys knew what they were playing. And they successfully usurped the world title 3 years later, in 1970.

Play this version of 2♣ - it is a proven success.

Preamble: Since strong bids come up infrequently, we will make 2♦, 2♥ and 2♠ weak (6-carder and 5-10 points) and reserve 2♣ as the only strong 2! We will retain 2NT to show 20-22 and 23+ balanced hands will be opened 2♣ followed by a certain number of NT, depending on the hand. It follows then that **2♣ followed by a suit bid will show an unbalanced hand.**

Since an 8-trick hand (AKQJxxx, AQJ, xx, x) and a huge game-force (AKQJx, AKxx, AKQ, x) are both opened 2♣, how is responder going to know how far to bid with his barren balanced 4-count?

Rules for responder:

1. Make a **positive response in a suit** if you have 8+ points, 5+ suit and 2 of the top 3 honours. (respond 2♠ if you have AQxxxx, xxx, xx, Ax)
2. With all other hands, bid 2♦ - waiting or negative, whether you have 1 point or 21 points!
3. If you went 2♦, then the cheaper minor shows a bust, e.g. xxx, 9xxx, Jxx, xxx first bid 2♦ then bid 3♣ (alertable) over 2M to show the double-negative. Some play an immediate 2♥ response to 2♣ shows the dble-negative, but if the big hand has a huge 2-suiter what must he do over 2♥? AKQxx, AQJ10x, AK, x.

The bidding can die short of game only if –

1. after opener rebids 2NT (23-24) after your 2♦ waiting bid;
2. 3-major if opener rebids 2M then repeats 3M to show an 8-trick hand in Major
3. 4-minor (as above, the 8-trick hand)

Look at these 2 sequences now –

2♣	-	2♦		2♣	-	2♦
2♠	-	3♣*		2♠	-	3♣*
3♠				3♥		

The first sequence (2♠ then 3♠) shows an 8-trick hand: AQJ10xxx, AKx, Kx, x and can be passed.

The second sequence (2♠ then 3H) is forcing!

You may not pass. AKJxxx, AQJx, AKx, -