



Hello.....today's talk deals with partnerships and understandings.

I have had several partners in the last 25 years, and I been fortunate enough to find partners who have similar philosophies and styles.

The understandings I will be discussing today are the simple agreements..... In bridge there are scientists and naturalists ..... There are aggressive styles and there are conservative styles... As we evolve, you will find that the agreements that you and your partner play will be as simple or complex as the styles of your bridge, so..... In future, you will have to find a partner who complements/compliments you and your bridge... But for now, today's talk will be relevant irrespective of the partner.

For the sake of defining what I mean by understandings..... I don't mean conventions or gadgets... I am talking about auctions and defense that occurs routinely and will cause slip ups.....they are things that every partnership should discuss. And while you are thinking about the answer to the examples given, remember...

What your bid or play means in theory is of no use if your partner doesn't accept the theory

## Cue Bid of Opponents Suit

You	Opponent	Partner	Opponent
	1♦	1♥	PASS
2♦ ???			

Remember that an overcall is different from an opening bid. Depending on your style, an overcall can be as little as 6 or 7 HCPs so you need to give partner some leeway.

Some play that it guarantees a fit, usually a Limit Raise or better ..... In the case above that means 10+HCP and 3+ hearts.

Some play that the cue bid is ambiguous.

Overcaller with a weak hand should rebid his or her suit. With a better hand, overcaller should bid naturally.

PARTNER might have

AQJx  
KQxxx  
xx  
xx

AJxx  
AKxxx  
xxx  
x

you might have

xxx  
Axx  
KQx  
Axxx

Kx  
xxx  
Jxxx  
AQJx



## Interference over 2♣ Openers

You	Opponent	Partner	Opponent
2♣	2♦	Double?	
You	Opponent	Partner	Opponent
2♣	2♦	2♥???	

What happens when opponents interfere over your 2C opener? The answer can sometimes depend on what you play over 2C.

If you play controls, then you need to agree on what happens and at what level . For example, with Susan I would play that redouble is the first step over the double Over an overcall, double is penalty and then we answer controls with a bid up the line but that is only until 2NT.

The popular method today is that double is negative.....

Similarly, a bid of a suit is natural, and systemically if it guaranteed 2 of the top 3 honours without the interference, then you should discuss with partner to make sure that this is still the case.

## #1 on the top-10 chart of disaster prone sequences

You	Opponent	Partner	Opponent
1♥	PASS	4NT???	

You	Opponent	Partner	Opponent
1♦	PASS	4NT???	

Do you play roman key card?

Suggestion: If you can raise the suit first and then blackwood, the immediate 4NT shouldn't be key card. But this is only theoretical. You and your partner must agree.

Is this key card or straight Blackwood???

Partner's potential

AKQxxxxxxx

x  
x  
x

KQJ109x  
KQJx  
AK

or

KQJ109x  
KQJx  
Ax  
x

(now you want keycard)



## Doubles at the One Level

You	Opponent	Partner	Opponent
	1♦	DOUBLE	1♥
DOUBLE ???			

What is the meaning of the second double??? Is it penalty saying "that's what I was going to bid" or is it a good hand?

Suggestions:

Double=good hand with 4+ hearts

2H=bad hand with 4+ hearts

2D=cuebid with a good hand

Responsive

Qxx

Kxx

xxx

AQxx

"would have bid"

xx

Axxxx

Qxxx

Jx

# A Jump in the 4<sup>th</sup> Suit

You	Opponent	Partner	Opponent
1♦	PASS	1♥	PASS
1♠	PASS	3♣	

Today, most people play fourth suit as forcing either to game or at least one round.....

3C therefore can be a weak 5/5 in hearts and clubs; an intermediate 5/5; a slam try 5/5.....

Or it could be a splinter in support of spades.....

You and your partner must decide

Splinter?

Qxxx  
Kxxxx  
Qxx  
x

QJxx  
QJxxx  
Axx  
x

Weak 5/5

xx  
KQxxx  
x  
Q10xxx

Inter 5/5

x  
AQJxx  
xx  
KJxxx

## Opening Leads

### Some Options

- Ace from Ace-King thru 4 level
- Ace for Attitude and King for Count
- Attitude Leads
- Rusinow Leads/Coded 9s and 10s

**What do you play against no trump??**

**What do you play in the middle of the hand?**

**What do you lead from xxx against notrump?**

**What do you lead from xxxx against notrump?**

This discussion is required to fill out a convention card but have you explored the depth to which you play these and whether it applies:

1. When it is your suit or partner's suit
2. During the middle of the hand
3. What do you lead from small cards..... Does it apply to partner's suit?
4. If you haven't supported partner's suit, you should probably lead small against no trump.



## Stayman: non-forcing or inv.

You	Opponent	Partner	Opponent
1NT	PASS	2♣	PASS
2♦	PASS	2♥???	

Many play this as very weak (called drop dead stayman) asking opener to choose a major, and probably showing 5 hearts and 4 spades—with a hand that is forcing, partner must bid 3H

Others play this as mildly invitational

## Partner's Potential Hands

Jxxxx  
Q10xxx  
—  
Axx

Jxxx  
Qxxxx  
xx  
x

Axxxx  
Jxxxx  
x  
xx



# 1NT in sandwich position

You	Opponent	Partner	Opponent
	1♦	PASS	1♥
1NT??			

Does this show spades and clubs or does it show a no trump opener?? Many players will play this for a distributional takeout of the other 2 suits, generally 5-5..... With less distribution and more points, double is available.

Expert pairs are starting to move back to playing this as natural 16-19- HCP.

AKxx AQJ Jx Kxxx	AQJ AKxx Kxxx Jx	Qxxxx A xx AKxxx
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## Defensive Carding

### Some Options for Discarding

- Odd/even
- Lavinthal

### Some options for Signalling

- Standard—high encourages
- Upside-down—low encourages
- Smith -echoes

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Half of the hands you play will be on defense. Whatever system of carding you will use, decide if you give attitude or count in a given situation, and work hard at it.

King can ask for count , and ace can ask for attitude. Decide if certain cards prompt attitude...

For example, against no trump, I play that A asks for attitude to the queen, K for attitude to the jack, and Q for attitude to the ten or to drop the jack, as appropriate.

Discarding is TELLING  
partner about your hand  
NOT ordering partner



## Jump Cue Bids

You	Opponent	Partner	Opponent
PASS	1♥	3♥???	
You	Opponent	Partner	Opponent
PASS	1♦	3♦???	

This is a strange cuebid. In the majors, it is commonly played that it asks for a heart stopper for 3NT.

The cuebidder will have a solid minor (usually 7 cards or 6+ cards with outside tricks) and want to play in 3NT. Some discussion should be reached about the extent to which stoppers in other suits are required. Is it simply 8 tricks???

What about the second example...many pairs play it is a natural preempt in clubs and diamonds.

<p>Kx Jx xx AKQJxxx</p>	<p>Kxx xxx AKQJxxx —</p>
<p>Do you need all other suits stopped?</p>	<p>Kx Jx Ax AKQJxxx</p>

# Jacoby 2NT Responses

You	Opponent	Partner	Opponent
1♥	PASS	2NT	PASS
4♣???			

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Many people play conventions without much discussion.....

There are three possible meanings of 4C in this auction:

1. A second suit of 5 or more cards, sometimes a requirement of 2 of the top 3 honours
2. A void
3. Exclusion key card

2nd Suit

```

A
AKJxx
xx
AQ10xxx
    
```

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VOID

```

Axxx
KQxxx
QJxx
    
```

---

Exclusion

```

A
KQxxxxx
KQJxxx
    
```

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# Responsive Double or Penalty?

You	Opponent	Partner	Opponent
	2♥	double	3♥
double?			

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IS this penalty or this is cards?? There is a split among experts, and some want to play it depending on the aggressiveness of opposition. If you have opponents who aggressively preempt, you probably want this to be penalty.....the second double will almost always deny the other major... It will also show values. Some partnerships that like science will change the meaning depending on vulnerability.

