

20) Defence over 2♦ multicolour opening

I am not a great fan of 2♦ Multi opening, for quite a few reasons.

Normally it includes a weak 2♥ or 2♠ plus 2 strong hands to be chosen among a strong 6 minor, a strong balanced hand or a strong 3 suiter 4441.

It became quite popular at the beginning for opponents were afraid to overcall fearing the possession from opener of a strong hand.

It was soon found out that in 90% of cases, the 2♦ Multi opener had only a weak 2 in his hand and this caused its steady decrease in popularity.

The reasons for my disliking of the 2♦ Multi are the following:

- 1) 2♦ pre-emptive value is certainly inferior to 2♥ or 2♠, therefore in more than 90% of cases we are giving up a higher pre-emptive power with nothing in return.
- 2) When we open 2♦, our major 6 carder is unknown to partner and opponents overcall can in fact make it quite difficult to identify it.
- 3) The 2♦ Multi is freeing the weak 2♥ and 2♠ bids that are used, by the majority of 2♦ Multi players, to show a major 6 carder with 17+ HCP. That means that these two opening bids will have a very low frequency of use and this represents a severe loss of opportunity.

Due to the above 3 reasons I believe that we can live well without such convention. Nevertheless it is appropriate to have a defence against it, in case someone is still using it, although a famous bridge player has stated that a defence against 2 Multi is useless because such treatment is self-destructive.

W N E S

- 2♦ 2♥ = promises 4+♠, short in ♥ with 11 + HCP
2♦ 2♠ = promises 4+♥, short in ♠ with 11 + HCP
2♦ 3♣ = 5+♣ with majors 2-2 o 2-3 and 11 + HCP
2♦ 3♦ = 5+♦ with majors 2-2 o 2-3 and 11 + HCP.

In other words when over-caller has majors 1-4, 1-5, 2-4 o 2-5, he bids his short major that is probably the opener 6 carder, promising 4+ cards in the other major with 11+ HCP. If instead North is 2-2 or 2-3 in majors, and would not be able to guess the identity of opener major 6 carder, but

at the same time he has a 5+cards minor, he would bid his minor at 3 level showing 11+ HCP and a 5+ cards minor.

In such circumstances, it is clear that East would have a tough choice for his bid and North major 6 carder would, most of the time, remain unknown to East.

In case North has 11+ HCP but no possibility to bid a major or a minor , he would then pass, maintaining the option of a punitive double, depending on auction development of the EW side.