

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♠ 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 :

W N E S

2♦ 2♥ = promises 4+♠ , short in ♥ with 11 + HCP

2♠ = promises 4+♥ , short in ♠ with 11 + HCP

3♣ = 5+♣ with majors 2-2 o 2-3 and 11 + HCP

3♦ = 5+♦ with majors 2-2 o 2-3 and 11 + HCP

In other words when overcaller 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.