

2 Suited ♣ advantages

Opening 1 ♣ all hands having 16+ HCP , allows us to have the maximum amount of bidding space available to investigate partner's hand.

Furthermore , thanks to opener bidding space economy, achieved through bidding only and always the first available step over partner response, controls request can be made at very low level. Therefore when we have a 16+ HCP hand , the amount of information that we can get from partner, at low level, is far greater than what is obtainable with traditional bidding sequences.

Such advantages are recognised even by players who openly dislike strong club based systems . The usual objection is that the advantages tend to disappear in case of opponents overcalls.

It is certainly true that it is much easier to overcall a 1♣ opening bid than overcalling a 2♣ or 2♦ openings. It is also equally true that when you are well equipped to manage overcalls , opponents action makes it even easier to transmit necessary information from the weak hand to the strong one . Therefore do not be shy and do overcall our bids : we are ready.

One advantage that is never disputed is the fact that partners roles are clearly defined : strong hands ask questions , weak hands reply and finally the strong hand has the responsibility to choose the final contract.

Opening 1 ♣ all hands having 16+ HCP , implicates that all other opening bids at 1 level are limited to 11-15 HCP and this can come very handy. All possible bidding developments after a 1♦ or 1♥ or 1♠ openings are no longer limited by the reverse syndrome : I can not bid at 2 level a higher ranking suit without a reverse strength . If you use a strong 1♣ opening , it is no longer the case : after having opened , for instance , 1♥ , over partner 2♦ response , you can happily bid 2♠ with only 12-13 HCP, without making your partner dream about an unjustified slam try.

The use of a forcing relay over 11-15 opening bids , weak openings or overcalls , tends to make life much easier : by definition , every bid different from a forcing relay can be passed . It becomes therefore easier to manage those hands where we have no game ambition.

It also has to be said that when we get used to controls asking bids at low level , Aces request with 4NT , acquires a Middle aged primitive taste. The bidding space waste , not to talk about 5NT request for K , could sometimes hold back our slam ambitions in fear of taking a road with no return and more so when ♣ is our best fit. Thus the justification for Turbo convention with all connected problems.

Finally we can not certainly oversee the sizable advantage of keeping the strong hand undisclosed to opponents . This can often , but unfortunately non always, allow for a friendly lead that can make the difference between maintaining the contract or going down. The frequent use of 2 suited bids in openings, responses and overcalls , can grant to The 2 Suited ♣ a destructive / constructive connotation that can not be overlooked.

Let us finally not forget that Bridge is basically a game and that when you play The 2 Suited ♣ you certainly have lots of fun.