***This Week in Bridge***

**(426) Special 2-Major & 2NT Rebids in 2/1 GF Auctions**

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**General**

When we are in a regular partnership, we often develop sophisticated 2/1 GF auction agreements – like “2-Major Waiting” and “3-level rebids show extra values”. This “2-Major Waiting” agreement allows Opener to rebid 2-Major more often than “natural” bidding (and preserves bidding space). We can actually take these agreements further, creating a structure where our rebids give more shape and strength information to our partner. To do this we will define “rebidding our Major” as showing exactly a 5-card suit with a minimum hand and use a rebid of 2NT to show a 6+card Major. Let’s look at these agreements in detail and see how they help us better describe our hand.

**2NT Rebid Showing a 6+card Major Suit**

In a 2/1 GF auction we can introduce a conventional agreement that a rebid of 2NT by the opening bidder shows a 6th card in our Major suit.

*Example 1*

♠ AQ9542

♥ 9

♦ Q93

♣ A43

1♠ 2♥

\_\_?

A 2NT\* rebid shows a 6+card ♠ suit. It also usually denies 3-card ♥ support. This 2NT\* rebid is a conventional agreement we make with partner.

2NT\* is our rebid with this hand but could also be used with a stronger hand.

*Example 2*

♠ KQ9542

♥ A

♦ K93

♣ AQ3

1♠ 2♥

\_\_?

Here we rebid 2NT\* to show our 6th ♠ and later make a strong bid to show our extra values.

*Note: A jump to 3-Major still shows a very strong suit and thus rebidding 2NT denies a self-sufficient suit.*

**2-Major Rebid – Showing a 5-card Suit and a Minimum**

We combine using 2NT\* to show an extra card in our long suit with using 2-Major to deny having a 6-card suit and show a minimum valued hand.

*Example 3*

♠ AQ954

♥ A9

♦ Q93

♣ 843

1♠ 2♥

\_\_?

Here we rebid 2♠, which denies 3+card ♥ support and shows exactly 5-card ♠ with a minimum hand. This can be a balanced hand or a hand with a 4+card minor.

*Example 4*

♠ AQ954

♥ A

♦ 932

♣ Q843

1♠ 2♥

\_\_?

Here we rebid 2♠ as well. We do not have enough values to show our ♣ suit.

**Other Shapes and Strengths**

We can use these new 2NT\* and 2-Major rebid agreements to effectively describe many hands – shapes and strengths.

*Example 5*

♠ KQ954

♥ A

♦ KJ32

♣ K43

1♠ 2♥

\_\_?

Here we rebid 3♦, showing 4+card ♦ and at least 14 points – extra values. This bidding usually denies having a 6-card ♠ suit as we would rebid 2NT with that hand.

*Example 6*

♠ K9

♥ AQ8732

♦ 2

♣ K432

1♥ 2♦

\_\_?

Here we rebid 2NT to show our 6+card ♥ suit. This does not limit our hand in values, but it shows our extra ♥ and keep the auction at a relatively low level.

**Conclusion**

If you have a partnership that likes to add a lot of structure to your constructive bidding agreements, then these 2/1 GF methods are an expert modern approach. They take a little practice getting used to, but once you do you are able to describe your hand well, in terms of strength and shape, in your 2/1 GF auctions. Give it a try if you and your partner are up for it!