

COMPETING OVER A STRONG CLUB OPENING

QUESTION : Most of the bridge players in north indian clubs play strong club(19+pts)and semi strong diamond(16-18pts) Pl recommend bidding system in defense to these strong bids, specially when you have double suiter hands as a opponent.

SRIDHAR'S VIEWS :

Competing over a strong club opening has the following objectives :

1. Compete for Part score
2. Deprive the opener of bidding space.
3. Bid our game that makes.
4. Find a profitable sacrifice.
5. Make a lead indicating bid to help partner if he happens to be on lead.

Before making an overcall we should be satisfied that some of the objectives stated above are met by our overcall.

It is advisable to (a) make an immediate overcall with an intermediate or weak hand (b) Pass first round and then make an overcall with a strong hand where the game prospects exist in spite of the strong club opening. This is a good technique in bidding and I recommend this.

Even if you do not play artificial , 2 suited overcalls , you will be doing well if you follow the above prescription.

There are some popular systems on 2 suited overcalls over a strong club – (a) 1C-Dbl = showing both majors ; 1C-1NT , showing both minors ; Jump overcalls being pre-emptive and other non-jump overcalls being natural . (b) Suction – 1C-Dbl to show either a diamond one suitor or Both majors; 1C-1D to show either a heart one suitor or spades and clubs ; 1C-1H to show either a spade one suitor or both minors , 1C-1S to show either a club one suitor OR red 2 suitor ; 1C-1N to show the non-touching suits, either club/heart 2 suitor OR spade/diamond 2 suitors. (c) other methods like Crash etc. In my experience pairs who have discussed and reached a sound understanding on subsequent bids in the auction succeed in throwing a spanner into the opponents' progress, others get into serious misunderstanding leading to loss . Hence it is necessary to discuss in detail with your partner on all bids in the subsequent auction before attempting to play these methods.