

DEFENSE TO MULTI 2D AND STRONG CLUB OPENINGS

Mr.A.Bose's question : -

“ My first question is What is the defense over Multi 2D opening?
My 2nd question is what is the best defense against Strong club?”

Sridhar's views : -

1. Defense to Multi 2D opening :-

Here the issues are : (a) how to compete effectively (b) how to collect the penalty that's due to us ? (c) ensure we don't go overboard.

I suggest natural overcall based on the understanding that the multi opening is based on weaker option; I e. if opponents are playing either weak 2 in a major OR a strong balance 20-21 , then ignore the 20-21 opening and treat it as some weak 2 in major. So overcalls can be normal and natural including 2NT to show strong balanced hand (16-18) ; Double to show either a take out double of a Major OR balanced 19+. Over the take out double you can play Lebensohl -partner can sign off at 2 level or use 2nt lebensohl to show various types of hands, with the only difference that partners' bids will not be based on the knowledge of which Major has been opened, so his bids will show suits bid by him over the forced 3c over his 2nt. Pl keep in mind that cue bids in lebensohl will not be available here , so you have to design forcing bids- I suggest Jump bids by responder to the take out Double are Forcing and natural. This modification in Lebensohl is needed to facilitate forcing bids.

If you have a penalty oriented hand pass and then wait for partnership to make a take out double. For eg if you pass 2D in direct seat and responder corrects to 2Maj then partner's doubles(as well as your doubles if the correction is passed out to you in balancing seat) are for take out – this take out double can be passed for penalties if appropriate. Passing 2D and then bidding a suit in balancing seat should be a balancing bid in the true sense of the word balancing. (similar to P-(2Maj)-P-(P)-? in non-multi auctions).

2. Defense to strong club :-

A simple method is to use your normal style of overcalling except Double to show interest to compete in Majors and NT bids to show similar interest to compete in Minors.

I also suggest that a Pass of 1C opening and subsequent bids by the same player should show a strong hand with values. These apply to the immediate over-caller over 1C opening; the 4th seat defender should make natural bids depending on style of partnership on overcalling.

There are also methods like “ suction” , “Crash” etc which are designed to be obstructive which are employed by experts ; these are well documented but are not recommended for the advancing player.