

INFERENCES IN 2 OVER ONE by Maritha Pottenger

One of the basic inferences in 2/1 came up today, so I'm forwarding it to all of you in case some of you have not heard it.

With 1S-P-1NT (Forcing)-P it is understood the Opener normally rebids her “convenient minor.” This is often a 3-card suit. So, unless Responder has 5 cards in the 2nd suit, s/he returns to the major with 2 cards as the “false preference.”

Consider this Responder's Hand: Q KJxxx 10xx 109xx

After your 1NT (Forcing), if partner rebids 2C, you pass. It is not ideal, but you know that you are in at least a 7 card fit (and sometimes an 8 card fit). Partner canNOT have only 2 clubs. The only hand that can show a 2-card club suit is the hand that is 4-5-2-2 (and does not play Flannery). **Once partner opens 1S, the 2 club rebid guarantees at least 3.**

If partner rebids 2D, your correct response is 2H. This is the logic: partner's most common pattern with a 5-card major is some variation of 5-3-3-2. Once partner by-passes clubs, she canNOT be 5-2-3-3 (or she would have bid 2C). So, her most likely shape is 5-3-3-2 and bidding 2H will get you to an 8 card fit. If she is 5-4 I the point suits (also possible), you are still fine if she is 2-2 in the rounded suits. The only disaster is when she is specifically 5-1-4-3 and that is much less likely than other distributions. Furthermore, **partner will have only 3 diamonds much for often than she will have 4 and she will not enjoy playing a 3-3 trump fit.**

You prefer the (possible) 5-2 fit in hearts over the (possible) 4-3 fit in diamonds both because it is more likely and because 5-2 fits give more trump control than 4-3 fits. Also, when the hand is a misfit (or possible misfit), it is usually better to play in the trump suit of the WEAKER hand—as was discussed in an earlier Teaching Point.