

Rationale

- ♠K87 If you wouldn't dream of opening this hand in 1st or 2nd seat, your
- ♥K643 partnership might like to consider the
- ♦QJ6 *Drury* convention. Pairs who pass
- ♣QJ3 this hand will frequently want to open this south hand in 3rd or 4th seat.
- ♠AQT53 The challenge is to *avoid*
- ♥A72 overbidding the hand. This is the
- ♦43 auction which we *don't* want!
- ♣964

N	E	S	W
P	(P)	1S	(P)
3S	all pass		

- 3S is likely to be one off. Here we are inviting game and the part score doesn't make! Not the most clever sequence of events, is it?
- The hand certainly belongs to us. The challenge is to stop in 2S.
- If north had opened this hand, it would be impossible to stop below the unsuccessful 3S.
- The good work done by passing the north hand has been undone by north's "catch up" bid on the next round. North's initial judgment was right. Now, south has been "punished" for protecting the partnership score with a lighter than normal opening in 3rd seat.
- The *Drury* convention reserves the use of a 2C! response by a passed hand when partner has opened 1M as an asking bid. Support for the major is needed by the 2C bidder. It says :-
"Partner do you have a genuine opening or have you opened light in 3rd seat?"
 In the modern style, opener simply rebids his suit to show the light opening. Any other action is natural and promises a genuine opening. (Technically, this is *reverse Drury* since the meanings are the reverse of Mr *Drury's* original scheme). It has been changed as a memory aid to make it the same sequence as the Cue Raise (*Lesson 5*)
 This is how the above auction should go:-

N	E	S	W
P	(P)	1S	(P)
2C!	(P)	2S!	all pass

- If the opposition double our 2C bid as lead directing showing clubs, opener will pass to show weakness.
- **FAQ:** What have we given up?
 - ANS:** We have given up the natural meaning for 2C response by a passed hand. i.e. a genuine suit with 10 – 11 HCP. When we are dealt that hand and no support for opener's major, we'll just have to bid 2NT.

A word on ethics

- There is no need to alert 3rd seat openings unless you and partner make it *compulsory* to open in that seat.
- It is important for the partnership to be squeaky clean. If partner forgets to alert your 2C, he may have forgotten. This is an easy gadget to forget. However, you must assume that he has remembered and bid according to his rebid. However, don't alert his rebid

– you're not allowed to wake him up! Look at the mess. If the opponents find that they can make a club partial or fail to find the killing defence, they will claim that it is because of partner's failure to alert your 2C. Even in doubtful cases, the director will award an adjusted score. At best, you'll be told to stop playing the convention.

- *Drury* allows you to properly protect light openings.
- If you don't play *Drury* but *suspect* partner has opened light, you had better "*bid out your hand*". Maybe west thought for ages over partner's 1S bid. You can't assume he has a monster hand – he may have been thinking about dinner. In an established partnership, directors don't like it if one player *overbids* their hand at the same time their partner *underbids*.

Try bidding these hands. In all cases West is dealer.

♠A87	♠QJ432	P	1S
♥K6	♥A72	2C!	2S! all pass
♦QJ43	♦K9	Again, 3S will be a perilous contract.	
♣Q642	♣873		

♠K87	♠QJ432	1D	1S
♥K85	♥A72	1NT	2C ¹ !
♦QJ43	♦K9	2S	3S
♣QJT	♣873	all pass	

This west is slightly better. However, after ¹NMF (*Lesson 18*), we're in the soup again. Pass the west hand works well – again

♠K87	♠QJ5432	P	1S
♥K8	♥A72	2C!	3S
♦QJ43	♦K97	4S	all pass
♣Q642	♣J		

Despite the singleton CJ, most would treat this as an opening hand and a good game contract is found. Notice that if you open it a weak 2S or give the weak *Drury* rebid, the game won't be found.

♠82	♠T9543	P	1S
♥K94	♥A72	2NT	pass
♦A92	♦K8		
♣QJ654	♣K32		

This time we are robbed of playing in a safe club partial score. However, 2NT should just make.

♠J32	♠KQ987	P	1S
♥K53	♥A72	2C!	3D
♦K76	♦AQ432	4D ¹	4H ¹
♣KJ42	♣--	4S	4NT ²
		5C	5S

¹Since east already knows west has spade support from the 2C bid, west is in no rush return to 4S. Fast Arrival. 4D and 4H are control bids.

²4NT looks silly when east is looking at a void. However one ace would be enough. If it is CA, it takes care of one heart loser. If it is SA, even better. Not this time. Remember west's trumps could be even worse! Still, 6S might make on CA lead and it is only those wasted values in clubs which make it a poor slam.