

# Great Lakes Bridge Club

## Topic 4: Bidding with High Points

It is very exciting to sort your hand and find an abundance of Honour Cards or a Void!  
*Now, what to do...* calmly start counting and thinking of possibilities about yours and partner's hands! *Remember Slams occur only 5% of games, not much chance of practice!*

### Opening with 20 + HCP or 4 Losers:

**Balanced Hand:**    20 - 21 HCP : Open 2NT  
                              22 – 23 HCP: Open 2♣ then rebid 2NT  
                              24 – 26 HCP: Open 2♣ then rebid 3NT

**Unbalanced Hand:** 20 + HCP:    Open 2♣  
                              4 Losers:        Open 2♣

**2♣ opening is forcing to Game; partner MUST continue to bid until at least Game has been reached, you may be looking towards Slam**

### Bidding with a Balanced Hand:

Points	Opener		Points	Responder
20 - 21	2NT		0 - 4	Pass
				3♦ or 3♥ for transfer / then pass
			5 - 11	3♣ for stayman
				3♦ or 3♥ for transfer / then 3NT
				3NT for balanced hand
			<b>Bidding to Slam needs 32 HCP</b>	
			12 +	3♣ for stayman / with fit Ace asking
				3♦ or 3♥ for transfer / then 4NT invite for Slam
				4NT for balanced hand invite for Slam
22 - 23	2♣ - then 2NT to show higher points			<i>Responder must answer a 2♣ opening, even with 0-4 points. After 2NT response answer as for 5-11 points. Consider your points in relation to Slam values</i>
24 – 26	2♣ - then 3NT to show higher points			<i>As immediately above.</i>

## Bidding with an Unbalanced Hand:

Points	Opener		Points	Responder
20 +	2♣		0 - 7	2♦ (only telling about points, gives partner another bid)
	2 x (5 card suit)			With <b>fit</b> count your <b>distribution</b> , is your new total 8 + points, if <b>YES</b> bid 3 x suit, you may have an Ace partner may want to know about! If <b>NO</b> , <b>bid game</b> in suit -shut off the bidding
				No fit, show a 5 card suit; else 2NT, let partner decide
	2♣		8 -10 <b>Balanced</b>	bid 2NT, partner will play 3♣ (Stayman) or show 5 card suits with 3♦, 3♥ or 3♠
	Ask for Aces (4♣ Gerber) or Bid 6 of Suit			
			11-13 <b>Balanced</b>	bid 3NT, partner will play 4♣ (Stayman) or show 5 card suits with 4♦, 4♥ or 4♠
	Ask for Aces (4NT) or Bid 6 of Suit			
	2♣		8 + <b>Unbalanced</b>	Show a 5 card suit (use 3♦ for diamonds). Once a fit is found count distribution (slow bidding shows better points!). Your hand may warrant Ace asking if you have high points. <i>You know partner has 20 + points, but partner does not know how strong you are!!</i>
4 Loser	2♣			As the above 2♣ bidding. Partner will usually have an interesting shape. You should have less than 8 losers for a slam contract.
			<b>Bidding to Slam needs 32 HCP</b>	

## Bidding Examples:

### 1 Give your Opening:

- |    |  |    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|----|--|
| a) | ♠ K Q 9 8<br>♥ 7 3<br>♦ A Q 6<br>♣ A K Q 2 | b) | ♠ A K Q 7 2<br>♥ 5<br>♦ A K Q J 7 3<br>♣ 3 | c) | ♠ K 4 2<br>♥ A K Q J<br>♦ A Q 6 3 2<br>♣ Q |
|----|--|----|--|----|--|

### 2 Give your response to a 2♣ opening:

- |    |  |    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|----|--|
| a) | ♠ Q 8 4<br>♥ A K 8 3<br>♦ Q 6<br>♣ J 9 6 2 | b) | ♠ 7 2<br>♥ A Q J 8 5<br>♦ K 4<br>♣ J 8 4 3 | c) | ♠ 4 2<br>♥ J 9 8 6 4 3 2<br>♦ 6 3 2<br>♣ 5 |
|----|--|----|--|----|--|

### 3 The bidding goes: 2♣ / 2♦ / 2♠ , what is your next bid?

- |    |  |    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|----|--|
| a) | ♠ Q J 8 6 4<br>♥ 8 3<br>♦ 8 6<br>♣ J 9 6 2 | b) | ♠ 7<br>♥ 9 5 3<br>♦ K J T 8 5 4<br>♣ 9 8 4 | c) | ♠ J 9 8 6<br>♥ J 3 2<br>♦ 6 3 2<br>♣ T 7 5 |
|----|--|----|--|----|--|

### 4 The bidding goes: 2♣ / 2♦ / 2NT , what is your next bid?

- |    |  |    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|----|--|
| a) | ♠ Q J 8 6 4<br>♥ A 9 8 3<br>♦ 8 6<br>♣ 6 2 | b) | ♠ 7 4<br>♥ 9 5 3<br>♦ K J T 8 5<br>♣ 9 8 4 | c) | ♠ J 9 2<br>♥ 8 3 2<br>♦ 6 3 2<br>♣ T 7 5 4 |
|----|--|----|--|----|--|

### 5 The bidding goes: 2♣ / 2♥ , what is your next bid?

- |    |  |    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|----|--|
| a) | ♠ K Q 6 4<br>♥ A K 8 3<br>♦ J 8<br>♣ A K Q | b) | ♠ K J 7 4<br>♥ A 3<br>♦ A K J<br>♣ A K 8 4 | c) | ♠ A<br>♥ K Q 3 2<br>♦ A K Q J 3 2<br>♣ A 7 |
|----|--|----|--|----|--|

## Opening Leads if Playing Slam:

- a) an Ace
- b) a singleton
- c) top of a 2 or 3 card honour sequence
- d) the contract suit, *but not a singleton trump*, this may upset a holding like Qxx in partner's hand (allows you to keep your honours and support for better things!)

## Bidding Practice Not all 2♣ openings make a slam – some take loads of thinking!:

West is Dealer for each question.

1.

♠: JT97  
♥: J963  
♦: QJ97  
♣: K

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠: AQ  
♥: AK842  
♦: A85  
♣: AQ5

Bidding:

N	E	S	W

2.

♠: AKJ  
♥: AK763  
♦: A  
♣: A973

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠: 872  
♥: QT2  
♦: JT93  
♣: T62

Bidding:

N	E	S	W

3.

♠: 6543  
♥: J65  
♦: 87  
♣: JT74

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠: AKQJ9  
♥: AKQ942  
♦: 65  
♣: :

Bidding:

N	E	S	W

4.

♠: AKQ3  
♥: AT6  
♦: AQ3  
♣: AJ8

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠: T64  
♥: Q854  
♦: KJ64  
♣: KT

Bidding:

N	E	S	W

5.

♠: :  
♥: T3  
♦: JT854  
♣: AK9753

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠: AKT4  
♥: AK7652  
♦: AQ6  
♣: :

Bidding:

N	E	S	W

## Opening with a Standard Bid:

Sometimes you will open with a usual bid, eg 1NT or 1♥ etc. Your partner is amazed because they also have an abundance of HCPs! What to do now?

1. Find a Suit fit if possible, or establish you will play in NT.
2. Watch for clues from partner to see how strong they are:  
are they bidding slowly, changing suit at the 2 level - Opener needs 15 points to change suit at the 2 level!
3. The non-opener partner will proceed to establish if there are adequate A and K's to be able to place a Slam Game. Usually using a Gerber Ace asking bid.
4. If the bidding has already reached the 4 level, Ace asking using Blackwood (4NT bid) will need to be used.
5. Sometimes a void will be involved to bring extra strength to a suit bid. How to include this information when Ace asking?

## Gerber Bidding:

4♣ : How many Aces in your hand?

4♦ = 0 or 4; 4♥ = 1; 4♠ = 2; 4NT = 3

*If you have a suit fit, you may consider to count a Void as an Ace, that is a winner at the top level.*

5♣ : How many Kings in your hand:

5♦ = 0 or 4; 5♥ = 1; 5♠ = 2; 5NT = 3

*When you bid to Slam you can only lose 1 trick. So you should consider how you stand to hold either 3 Aces and 4 Kings or 4 Aces and 3 Kings.*

## Blackwood Bidding:

*Consider you will reach the 6 level when responding for Kings asking.*

4NT: How many Aces in your hand?

5♣ = 0 or 4; 5♦ = 1; 5♥ = 2; 5♠ = 3

5NT: How many Kings in your hand:

6♣ = 0 or 4; 6♦ = 1; 6♥ = 2; 6♠ = 3

North is the Dealer and Passes: Complete the bidding.

S: Q		S: K 9 7 4	<b>Bidding:</b> <table><tr><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th><th>W</th></tr><tr><td>/</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	N	E	S	W	/															
N	E	S		W																			
/																							
H: J 9 8 6 3	<table><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		H: A K Q T 7												
	N																						
W		E																					
	S																						
D: K J 3		D: A Q 8 6																					
C: K J 9 2		C: -																					

North is the Dealer and Passes: Complete the bidding.

<b>S: A J T 7 6 5</b> <b>H: -</b> <b>D: A Q 6 4</b> <b>C: 9 7 2</b>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<b>S: K 4</b> <b>H: A K 8 3</b> <b>D: K 5 3 2</b> <b>C: K J 4</b>	<b>Bidding:</b> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 150px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr> <th style="padding: 5px;">N</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">E</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">S</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">W</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">/</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	N	E	S	W	/															
	N																															
W		E																														
	S																															
N	E	S	W																													
/																																

*It is not always possible to bid a Slam even though you may win 6 or 7 tricks. It is worth trying”!*

North is the Dealer and Passes: Complete the bidding.

<b>S: T 7</b> <b>H: 8</b> <b>D: A Q T 4 3</b> <b>C: J T 8 5 3</b>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<b>S: A Q 5</b> <b>H: A K Q J T 4 2</b> <b>D: 8 5</b> <b>C: A</b>	<b>Bidding:</b> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 150px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr> <th style="padding: 5px;">N</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">E</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">S</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">W</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">/</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	N	E	S	W	/															
	N																															
W		E																														
	S																															
N	E	S	W																													
/																																

North is the Dealer and Passes: Complete the bidding.

<b>S: A K 8</b> <b>H: A J 6</b> <b>D: K 6 5 4 2</b> <b>C: K T</b>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<b>S: Q 5 3</b> <b>H: 5</b> <b>D: A Q T</b> <b>C: A 9 8 5 3 2</b>	<b>Bidding:</b> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 150px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr> <th style="padding: 5px;">N</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">E</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">S</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">W</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">/</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	N	E	S	W	/															
	N																															
W		E																														
	S																															
N	E	S	W																													
/																																