

LARRY COHEN SEMINARS DRURY NEW VERSION

LARRY COHEN SEMINARS DRURY

Hi everyone. I'm Mike Lawrence

Welcome to the Larry Cohen lecture series. For many years Larry and I butted heads at the table. Today, we've taken off the gloves and found a common interest. Teaching bridge.

I'm discussing Drury Today. It's one of my favorite conventions. Drury was invented by Canadian player Doug Drury when playing with another Canadian, Eric Murray. Eric had a tendency to bid too much in third seat and often went for large numbers. The Drury Convention, a gift from Doug Drury, is the result.

It works.

I'll start by stating my opinion. Drury is an excellent convention. It's a powerful tool that can and should be used when partner opens in third and fourth seats.

Drury is relatively simple to use. Here's how it starts.

Partner opens 1H or 1S in third or fourth seat. Assuming RHO passes, a 2C bid by you promises three or more cards in partner's suit and ten or more support points. Some players think that's all the information you need. Not true.

I'm going to discuss all of the facets of Drury, but am first going to discuss other bids you can make before settling on a Drury bid.

You and your partner must agree on what you need to open in third seat. For some players, it isn't very much. For instance:

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
	P	P	?

HAND ONE

K43

QJ873

A84

Q6

Do you open 1H in third seat?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
	P	P	?

HAND TWO

J74

AQ1085

Q63

Q3

Do you open this one?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
	P	P	?

HAND THREE

764

KQJ87

KJ3

104

Or this one?

Opinions on these hands vary. I promise this. Somewhere out there, there are players who will open all of these hands with 1H. You and your partner need to know where you draw the line. Some will do it with less. More on this later.

WHEN PARTNER OPENS A MAJOR, YOU HAVE OPTIONS.

When your partner opens a major in third or fourth seat, if you have three or more cards in that major, you should pass with nothing, and failing that, raise, one way or another. Do not be distracted with other possible bids. You can raise partner in many ways. Not all of your raises require Drury.

You can make a simple raise to the two level. Of all the bids in this list, it's the only one where you can have three trump. All the rest require four or more trump.

You can make a jump raise to the three level.

You can make a jump raise to the four level.

You can bid 2NT, which shows a special hand.

You can bid 3NT, which also shows a special hand.

You can make a splinter bid.

Here are examples of each.

RAISING TO TWO OF PARTNER'S MAJOR

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1H	P	?

HAND ONE

87

J94

AJ105

7532

Bid 2H. A simple raise. Do not overlook this bid. You would bid 2H if partner had opened in first or second seat. Do the same thing here.

It's very important to let partner know you have 'something' of use.

RAISING TO TWO OF PARTNER'S MAJOR

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1H	P	?

HAND TWO

A764

QJ4

874

Q43

Bid 2H. You have a better hand this time. But it's still only worth a normal raise to 2H. Note that bidding 1S is a serious error. You want to tell partner about the heart fit. Finding a fit is priority one. Bidding 1NT is also an error. You have a hand with correct values to raise. Raise now.

RAISING TO TWO OF PARTNER'S MAJOR

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P

P 1H P ?

HAND THREE

984

QJ42

KJ6

Q43

Bid 2H. You have four hearts on this hand but it's balanced with poor high cards.

RAISING TO TWO OF PARTNER'S MAJOR

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W N E S

P

P 1H P ?

HAND FOUR

Q87

6432

986

J43

Pass. I mention this because one might be tempted to bid something. I love bidding but I also like having a happy partner. Thus, I pass with this hand. Bidding with this hand runs the risk that your partner will bid something you don't like.

RAISING TO THREE OF PARTNER'S MAJOR

W N E S

P

P 1H P 3H

When you raise to the three level you are showing a limit raise. However, given partner is opening in third seat, you need to have friendly values for this bid. In other words, if you have a crummy eleven points with four trumps, use Drury instead. That discussion is coming up shortly.

RAISING TO THREE OF PARTNER'S MAJOR

DOES THIS HAND QUALIFY?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1H	P	?

HAND ONE

8

Q1097

K654

K742

Bid 3H.

You have four good trumps and good shape. This is a limit raise your partner will like.

TIP FOR YOUR PARTNER:

If your partner has a legitimate opening bid that includes a small singleton, he should bid game. The value of his hand goes up when he has a singleton, and that usually is enough to take ten tricks.

RAISING TO THREE OF PARTNER'S MAJOR

DOES THIS HAND QUALIFY?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1S	P	?

HAND TWO

KQJ4

J63

J74

Q53

Don't feel that your good trumps are enough to raise to the three level. You have lousy shape and poor-quality points. Bidding 2S wouldn't be a mistake. This hand is actually worth around eight support points, not ten. Raising to 2S shows decent judgment.

RAISING TO THREE OF PARTNER'S MAJOR

DOES THIS HAND QUALIFY?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1H	P	?

HAND THREE

82

KQ95

543

A1054

You can bid 3H with this. Everything in your hand is nice. This is a friendly hand. Four good trump, all high cards working, and some distribution.

RAISING TO THREE OF PARTNER'S MAJOR

DOES THIS HAND QUALIFY?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1S	P	?

HAND FOUR

QJ843

K53

Q7

QJ3

Bid 2C, Drury. 3S is tempting but what you have is long trumps and a lot of garbage.

If you bid 3S and your partner passes, don't be surprised if he goes down.

RAISING TO THREE OF PARTNER'S MAJOR

DOES THIS HAND QUALIFY?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1S	P	?

HAND FOUR

A873

4

97542

A109

Bid 3S. Only eight high-card points but they are terrific. You have four trumps and you have a singleton.

By any standards this is worth a 3S raise.

RAISING TO FOUR OF PARTNER'S MAJOR

A jump to game in partner's major is preemptive. Do not raise to four to tell partner you have a maximum for a passed hand.

The jump to game to shows a preemptive hand. This is a bidding agreement that has been with us for many years.

RAISING TO FOUR OF PARTNER'S MAJOR

DOES THIS HAND QUALIFY?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1H	P	?

HAND ONE

43

QJ764

2

QJ1064

Bid 4H. Hope for the best. Your partner knows this hand is possible.

RAISING TO FOUR OF PARTNER'S MAJOR

DOES THIS HAND QUALIFY?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1H	P	?

HAND TWO

43

AKJ54

Q87

J43

Do not bid 4H. 4H shows a preemptive hand. Partner will expect you to have a weak hand. Choose from a 3H, a limit raise, and 2C, Drury.

THE 2NT RESPONSE TO A THIRD SEAT 1H OR 1S BID

This is a bit scientific. But easy to explain. You will almost never have a twelve-point hand that wants to bid 2NT as a natural bid. There are many hands that would like to have a way to show better than expected hands when responding to one of a major.

2NT does the job.

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1H	P	2NT

This is a little bit like the Jacoby 2NT bid. If your partnership uses the Jacoby 2NT bid, playing 2NT by a passed hand as showing a good raise will be easy to do.

Here are some examples.

THE 2NT RESPONSE TO A THIRD SEAT 1H OR 1S BID

DOES THIS HAND QUALIFY?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1H	P	?

HAND ONE

K103

KJ98

A1094

32

Bid 2NT. Close to an opening bid with all good cards. Nothing about this hand not to like. Partner usually chooses between 3H and 4H. Or, perhaps he will make a cue bid.

THE 2NT RESPONSE TO A THIRD SEAT 1H OR 1S BID

DOES THIS HAND QUALIFY?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1H	P	?

HAND TWO

43

AJ98

KQ1075

43

Bid 2NT. You are showing a hand that is close to an opening bid, again with quality points and shape and four trump.

THE 2NT RESPONSE TO A THIRD SEAT 1H OR 1S BID

DOES THIS HAND QUALIFY?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1H	P	?

HAND THREE

QJ5

KQ43

Q43

Q43

A typical trap for point counters. You have twelve high-card points and good trumps but that's it. Your side values are marginal. Your shape is horrible.

It's not right for a raise to 3H either. Same reasons.

Use the Drury 2C bid.

THE 3NT RESPONSE TO A THIRD OR FOURTH SEAT OPENING BID

Earlier I showed hands that might jump to four of a major. It was defined as preemptive. Not much of a hand. Just distribution and trumps.

There is an added bid you can use.

On hands where you have what looks like a raise to four of partner's major, you can consider a different bid if you have a few useful cards.

		P		P
P	1S	P		?

What might you bid with this hand? It's too good to bid 4S. But it is a pretty hand. Is there a cure? Here's one example.

KJ873

3

43

A6543

You can bid 3NT to say you have an extremely distributional hand with perhaps 6-8 quality points. It's likely you have 5-5 shape or similar. This hand would bid 3NT. Partner has room to cuebid if he wishes.

SPLINTER BIDS – If responder has a hand with unusual shape and trump support, his hand goes up in value when a fit is found. Responder may have a hand that warrants using a splinter bid. If you use them already, this will be an easy idea. If you aren't sure of their value, I will be discussing splinter bids next week. Here's a hand that shows a splinter bid and ensuing auction.

Here's the layout.

KJ43

AJ8742

8

76

A5

KQ965

10765

AK

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1H
P	4D	P	4NT
P	5D	P	6H
P	P	P	

North Pass.

North correctly did not open 2H. Doing that risks missing a spade fit. If partner has five spades and one heart, you may end up going down in 2H.

South 1H A solid opener.

North 4D The key to this hand is knowing what 4D means. It's a splinter bid, a convention I rate in my top-five list. North is saying he has a hand that is worth bidding game and his 4D bid describes why North likes his hand so much.

South 4NT With North showing one diamond, South knows diamonds are not a problem for slam. There might be a grand slam here.

North 5D North is showing one ace. Your Blackwood responses may be different.

South 6H This should be cold.

A HAND MAKING A SPLINTER RESPONSE

DOES THIS HAND QUALIFY?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1S	P	?

HAND ONE

Q874

3

KQ74

J1083

This hand is not good enough for a splinter bid of 4H. Choose from a limit raise of 3S or 2C. A

HAND MAKING A SPLINTER RESPONSE

DOES THIS HAND QUALIFY?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1S	P	?

HAND TWO

J1074

KQ87

Q

QJ87

Do not bid 4D, showing a splinter raise. The hand has too much garbage. This is best shown by making a limit raise of 3S.

TIME TO DISCUSS DRURY

The discussion so far has discussed things that you need to know before you start a Drury auction.

These were:

ONE What your agreements are on opening in third or fourth seat.

TWO The hands that can be bid without a Drury bid.

WHAT DOES A DRURY 2C RESPONSE LOOK LIKE?

The simple definition is a hand with ten or more support points for partner's major suit.

REMEMBER. A Drury bid denies the ability to make one of the bids I showed earlier. That's important.

DRURY BIDS DENY WONDERFUL HANDS. Drury is used for run of the mill good hands.

Examples.

WHAT DOES A DRURY RESPONSE LOOK LIKE?

DO YOU THINK THIS HAND QUALIFIES?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1H	P	?

HAND ONE

K43

Q94

A6542

Q9

Bid 2C. This is a typical Drury bid. Ten points with support. But how do you show it if you aren't using Drury?

2H is an underbid.

3H is a horrible bid. Jump-raising with three cards is a classic error.

Bidding 2D intending to raise hearts next is bad. Partner is allowed to pass 2D. New suits by responder are not forcing after a third or fourth suit opening bid.

So Drury it is. Perfect.

WHAT DOES A DRURY RESPONSE LOOK LIKE?

DO YOU THINK THIS HAND QUALIFIES?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1H	P	?

HAND TWO

8754

AJ3

KQ105

74

Bid 2C. This hand is clearly too strong to raise to 2H. 2C says you have a hand with ten or so support points or more. 2C is forcing. Partner's next bid will guide the rest of the bidding. For now, you have told partner you have something to be proud of. Notice that this hand is relatively balanced. Balanced hands are not as good as distributional hands. But your points are excellent.

As Drury hands go, this is a good one.

WHAT DOES A DRURY RESPONSE LOOK LIKE?

DO YOU THINK THIS HAND QUALIFIES?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P

P	1H	P	?
---	----	---	---

HAND THREE

875

AJ32

984

KQ6

Bid 2C. 2C says you have a hand with ten or so support points or more. Notice that this hand is balanced. Always be aware of your distribution. This hand is a Drury 2C bid. It's too good to bid 2H and it's not appropriate for 3H.

WHAT DOES A DRURY RESPONSE LOOK LIKE?

DO YOU THINK THIS HAND QUALIFIES?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P

P	1H	P	?
---	----	---	---

HAND FOUR

QJ2

KQ2

Q843

Q65

Bid 2C. Yes, you have almost an opening bid. But it's lousy. Poor quality high-card points. Awful distribution. Only three trumps. Starting with 2C is correct.

The worst bid you could make is 2NT, telling partner you have twelve points. If partner has a minimum hand he will pass 2NT, which is likely to go down. Show your heart support by bidding 2C. You may be able to bid further later.

WHAT DOES A DRURY RESPONSE LOOK LIKE?

DO YOU THINK THIS HAND QUALIFIES?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1H	P	?

HAND FIVE

8

10732

A874

A1084

Bid 3H. I showed a hand like this one earlier. Only eight high-card points but they are beautiful points. Two aces are worth more than eight points. The singleton is a big plus. And, the last good thing about this hand is that it has four-card support. This is a really good hand.

WHAT DOES A DRURY 2C RESPONSE LOOK LIKE?

DO YOU THINK THIS HAND QUALIFIES?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P

P	1H	P	?
---	----	---	---

HAND SIX

94

KQ84

AJ1053

97

This hand is exceptional. It's too good to use Drury.

This hand should bid 2NT. You usually have a strong passed hand with good shape. This is such a hand. Your partner will bid game on almost any excuse.

WHAT DOES A DRURY 2C RESPONSE LOOK LIKE?

DO YOU THINK THIS HAND QUALIFIES?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P

P	1H	P	?
---	----	---	---

HAND SEVEN

86

KQ3

8

KJ97543

Bid 2C. You can't bid clubs in any sane fashion. 2C is Drury, not a club suit. It's hard to find a perfect bid. I suggest using Drury is best. At least you are making a bid that partner will understand. Judgment in bridge is the product of experience. Seeing the occasional difficult hand is helpful.

WHAT DOES A DRURY 2C RESPONSE LOOK LIKE?

DO YOU THINK THIS HAND QUALIFIES?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1H	P	?

HAND EIGHT

J5432

74

A87

KQ3

Bid 1S. This is obvious but it tells partner something important. When you bid 1S, or perhaps 1NT, you deny three-card support for partner. Even if partner drags a heart bid out of you later in the auction, he will know you don't have three-card support.

I want to emphasize this. When you respond 1S, or perhaps 1NT, after partner's third-chair 1H opening bid, you deny three-card support.

WHAT DOES A DRURY 2C RESPONSE LOOK LIKE?

DO YOU THINK THIS HAND QUALIFIES?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1H	P	?

HAND NINE

875

KQ75

AJ2

987

Bid 2C. This hand has bad shape. Shape counts and you don't have it.

HOW DOES OPENER REPLY TO A 2D DRURY BID?

WHEN OPENER HAS A WEAK HAND

If opener has a hand that can't possibly make a game opposite a Drury hand, he bids two of his suit. That is a strong statement that he does not want to go further. Responder should respect that opinion.

IMPORTANT - Remember that responder does not have one of the better hands that does not use Drury.

HOW DOES OPENER BID WHEN RESPONDER BIDS 2C?

WHEN OPENER HAS A WEAK OPENING BID

SHOULD SOUTH REBID HIS MAJOR TO SHOW A MINIMUM?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

HAND ONE

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	?

QJ875

A95

A43

43

Bid 2S. Tell partner you don't want to go higher. You know the maximum hand for North is twelve support points, and that just isn't enough for game. It is very rare that your partner will have a hand that can bid again. Note that the South hand is a sound third-seat 1S bid. It could be worse.

HOW DOES OPENER BID WHEN RESPONDER BIDS 2C?

WHEN OPENER HAS A WEAK OPENING BID

SHOULD SOUTH REBID HIS MAJOR TO SHOW A MINIMUM?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

HAND TWO

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	?

KJ854

54

K84

QJ9

You might not open this hand. Passing would have been acceptable.

If you did open 1S, you will bid 2S now telling partner you have no interest in game. Rebidding your major is the equivalent to shouting.

HOW DOES OPENER BID WHEN RESPONDER BIDS 2C?

WHEN OPENER HAS A WEAK OPENING BID

SHOULD SOUTH REBID HIS MAJOR TO SHOW A MINIMUM?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

HAND THREE

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	?

AJ965

A98

J

8643

Bid 2S. This is a good hand for a third-seat opening bid. Finding a fit is good news but you certainly want to stop right now. 2S is the way to do it. 2S is not a suggestion. It's a strong request that partner pass.

HOW DOES OPENER BID WHEN RESPONDER BIDS 2C?

WHEN OPENER HAS A WEAK OPENING BID

SHOULD SOUTH REBID HIS MAJOR TO SHOW A MINIMUM?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

HAND FOUR

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	?

KJ875

QJ4

QJ

KJ2

Bid 2S. Even though you have fourteen high-card points, it is hard to imagine that there is a game here. If partner has three aces, almost impossible, game won't be very good. 2S shows excellent judgment.

HOW DOES RESPONDER BID WHEN HE BIDS DRURY AND OPENER REBIDS HIS MAJOR?

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1S	P	2C
P	2D	P	?

Responder knows opener a minimum hand. Depending on your agreements, that might be nine points. Your Drury hands can be bid on some nine-point hands up to twelve-point hands. About the best hand partner can have is a thirteen count with boring points. Barely possible he has a boring fourteen points.

Remember this. On most of your good passed hands, you have a bid other than Drury to start with. This means you just won't have very many attractive Drury bids.

So my suggestion is this. If partner bids 2 of his major, just pass it. If your hand turns out to be good enough to make game, I expect it wasn't cold. It might have required two finesses. Or perhaps the defense defended badly.

Against this one success story will be lots of hands where your partner made two of his major. Or went down. Passing is a good guideline to follow when partner shows a minimum hand.

HOW DOES OPENER BID WHEN RESPONDER BIDS 2C?

WHEN OPENER HAS A GAME HAND BUT NO POSSIBLE SLAM

HERE'S A RULE YOU WILL LOVE.

If you have a good enough hand that you are sure game will make but it isn't good enough for slam, just bid game without making unnecessary bids.

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	4S

This auction will stop the bidding and the opening leader will have to lead with very little information. You like uninformed opponents. If you have, say, a seventeen-point hand, you know you have a game and you know you don't have a slam. Why make more bids when you know you are going to end in four of your major? Remember the WW1 poster: "Loose lips sink ships!"

Well, too much blather in the bidding is just as dangerous.

Seriously. Do not make unnecessary bids. When game is your destination, get there fast. Following are some examples.

HOW DOES OPENER BID WHEN RESPONDER BIDS 2C?

WHEN OPENER HAS A GAME HAND BUT NO POSSIBLE SLAM

SHOULD SOUTH JUMP TO GAME?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	?

HAND ONE

AJ9874

2

K3

A1098

Bid 4S. Partner's raise was terrific news. What was a twelve-point hand is now worth around eighteen. All of your distribution is good. Auctions like this keep the opponents in the blind.

6-4 hands traditionally benefit from finding a fit. Be aggressive when you have one.

HOW DOES OPENER BID WHEN RESPONDER BIDS 2C?

WHEN OPENER HAS A GAME HAND BUT NO POSSIBLE SLAM

SHOULD SOUTH JUMP TO GAME?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	?

HAND TWO

KQ873

A43

3

KQ74

Bid game. Partner has ten support points and your fit adds to the value of your hand. This hand is worth, including distribution, about seventeen points. Partner would need around fifteen points to make a slam.

HOW DOES OPENER BID WHEN RESPONDER BIDS 2C?

WHEN OPENER HAS A GAME HAND BUT NO POSSIBLE SLAM

SHOULD SOUTH JUMP TO GAME?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	?

HAND THREE

AJ986

74

AQ7

AK8

Bid 4S. You have eighteen high-card points and after the raise, you can count it as nineteen, perhaps even twenty. Your partner has shown from nine to twelve support points. At best you have thirty-two points and you might have twenty-eight.

HOW DOES OPENER BID WHEN RESPONDER BIDS 2C?

HOW DOES OPENER BID WHEN HE THINKS SLAM IS POSSIBLE?

SHOULD SOUTH JUMP TO GAME?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	?

HAND ONE

AK10863

AK4

A8

J2

Bid 3S. Why jump to 3S? Because you are looking for a slam. If you jump to 4S, partner will think you are signing off in game. Ideally you would like partner to cuebid in clubs. It would put your mind at ease. You need a big hand to jump in your suit. This hand is a solid example.

Partner can easily have twelve high-card points without the ace or king of clubs. 3S helps end that worry.

HOW DOES OPENER BID WHEN RESPONDER BIDS 2C?

HOW DOES OPENER BID WHEN HE THINKS SLAM IS POSSIBLE?

SHOULD SOUTH JUMP TO GAME?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	?

HAND TWO

KQ1065

AKJ74

4

A5

Bid 3H. A jump shift is forcing to game. It shows a good second suit and slam interest. Partner will cuebid if he likes the idea of a slam. And he will return to spades if not. If you bid 3H and partner bids 3S, you can forget about a slam. He might in fact, raise hearts if he has four or more.

HOW DOES OPENER BID WHEN RESPONDER BIDS 2C?

HOW DOES OPENER BID WHEN HE THINKS SLAM IS POSSIBLE?

SHOULD SOUTH JUMP TO GAME?

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	?

HAND THREE

AQ97632

AK4

4

K5

Some science here.

This is a bid you need to discuss with your partners. If you use splinter bids (to be discussed next week) you can bid 4D. It tells partner that if he has his values outside of diamonds, there is a slam. If he has wasted diamond honors he will bid 4S.

HOW DOES OPENER INVITE A GAME AFTER PARTNER'S DRURY BID?

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	2D

If opener has a hand that is not good enough to jump to game after the Drury bid, but good enough that opener thinks that game is possible, he has a way to do that.

Opener can bid 2D. It's artificial.

It says that opener is interested in game. This is a crucial part of Drury auctions.

But, if you think game is worth bidding and don't want to give more information to the opponents, it may be best just to bid game.

The next set of hands include some that rebid 2D, and some that are for various reasons not worth a 2D bid.

EXAMPLES OF OPENER'S 2D BID AFTER PARTNER'S DRURY BID

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	?

HAND ONE

AK974

K104

3

QJ53

Bid 2D. This is a pretty good hand once partner raises spades. I'd rate it at around fifteen points. Not quite good enough to bid 4S. But good enough to think of game. If partner likes his hand, he bids game. Otherwise he bids 2S, which usually ends the auction.

This is not a revealing auction.

Game may be good.

It may be awful.

Fate.

But as I have mentioned before, your opponents don't know anything about your hands. That's a big plus for your chances.

EXAMPLES OF OPENER'S 2D BID AFTER PARTNER'S DRURY BID

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	?

HAND TWO

QJ964

2

K3

AQ987

Bid 4S.

Don't waste time bidding 2D.

Don't waste time bidding 3C. If you bid 3C, you won't get a club lead.

You know you have a play for game. Bid it.

EXAMPLES OF OPENER'S 2D BID AFTER PARTNER'S DRURY BID

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	?

HAND THREE

KJ874

65

A8

AQ104

I suggest 4S. Another case of opener re-evaluating his hand. If partner had raised to 2S, you would pass. His Drury 2C bid shows a better hand.

EXAMPLES OF OPENER'S 2D BID AFTER PARTNER'S DRURY BID

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	?

HAND FOUR

K8743

KQ2

Q105

KQ

Bid 2D. If your partnership opens 1NT with a five-card major, you won't have a hand like this. If you did open 1S, you should realize that this is an OK but not great hand. No aces, so-so spades, boring shape. You need serious help from partner to make game. Bid 2D and see if he has it.

EXAMPLES OF OPENER'S 2D BID AFTER PARTNER'S DRURY BID

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	?

HAND FIVE

QJ965

3

AQ543

107

Bid 2S. Don't forget that 2D is not a natural bid. It is artificial, saying that opener has a good enough hand to look for game. That's what your partner will assume.

EXAMPLES OF OPENER'S 2D BID AFTER PARTNER'S DRURY BID

NO ONE VULNERABLE

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	?

HAND SIX

KQ965

3

AQ543

107

Bid 2D. Don't forget that 2D is not a natural bid. It is artificial, saying that opener has a good enough hand to look for game.

In fact, this hand is good enough to bid 2D. Let's see what partner thinks.

HOW DOES RESPONDER CONTINUE WHEN OPENER SHOWS GAME INTEREST WITH A 2D BID?

Here are a few hands showing how responder should be thinking.

ONE He should be thinking of how good his high cards are.

TWO He should be thinking of whether he has a minimum hand or a maximum hand.

THREE Lastly, he should be thinking about whether he has three or four trumps. This is the big one. When partner bids 2D, his most likely hand is a shapely but good thirteen or so high-card points.

Hands where you have three trumps will be less useful than hands where you have four trumps.

All three of these things are important but the number of trumps you have is the biggest of the three.

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1H	P	2C
P	2D	P	?

Some examples of hands you may have to think about when partner bids 2D, encouraging.

K43

Q84

A103

J1063

Go back to 2H. Tell partner you aren't interested in going further.

K4

Q843

A103

J1063

Raise to 4H. Your fourth heart is a big plus. You now have a doubleton spade, which is often useful.

65

QJ8

K765

KJ42

Bid 4H. You don't have four hearts but you have solid points and good hearts and also a bit of distribution.

763

AJ4

AJ104

J106

Bid 4H. You would like a fourth heart. You would like better distribution. The fact is that you have quality high cards and you have some invisible extras in the form of the two tens in clubs and diamonds. Facing more 2D bid, 4H will have a play.

Final note.

Your bidding did not tell the opponents much about your hand.

The following hands show complete Drury auctions. I would like to show a lot of them but that is unfeasible. I'm showing a few here. For this part of discussion, you get to see both hands. There are some tidbits in these hands that are new.

FURTHER. Later, I will add to these notes how Drury can be used when the opponents compete. I did not have room to talk about that today. This discussion, as far as I know, has not been talked about anywhere else.

COMPLETE AUCTIONS USING DRURY

NO ONE VULNERABLE

HAND ONE

NORTH

9732

K8

AJ63

964

SOUTH

KJ8654

Q84

87

AJ

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	2S
P	P	P	

This is a straightforward sequence.

North Pass Normal.

South 1S A light opening bid.

North 2C Drury. Ten or so support points.

South 2S A minimum hand. No game interest.

North Pass

IMPORTANT GUIDELINE

When you bid Drury and your partner bids two of his major, you should pass. Your partner knows pretty much what you have.

If your partner is prone to opening junk, you know that he may have such a hand. Respect his opinion.

If you keep bidding with hands like the one North has you will end up going down in 3S or 4S. The rare hand that makes a game will not make up for all the unnecessary minus scores. Here you have four sure losers and could have five or six.

COMPLETE AUCTIONS USING DRURY

NO ONE VUL

HAND TWO

NORTH

KJ43

108764

AJ

76

SOUTH

A10872

3

K942

AJ4

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1S
P	3S	P	4S
P	P	P	

North Pass Normal

South 1S Routine opener

North 3S A good quality limit raise

South 4S Much of South's decision is based on his having a singleton. His opening bid is nice but the singleton makes it better in light of the limit raise promising four trumps. South's minimum opening bid grew when North bid 3S.

COMPLETE AUCTIONS USING DRURY

NO ONE VUL

HAND THREE

NORTH

A9

Q764

K964

654

SOUTH

93

AK10853

A

AQJ8

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1H
P	2C	P	3H
P	3S	P	4NT
P	5D	P	6H
P	P	P	

North Pass Normal.

South 1H This is a very good hand that hopes for a fit.

North 2C A sane Drury bid. Jumping to 3H would be too much.

South 3H South's hand has grown a lot. It rates to be worth around 20 points in support of hearts. This bid says South is looking for slam.

North 3S North has a good hand. It's clearly a maximum so North should find a bid that show this. His 3S bid is a cuebid. 4H would be a poor bid.

South 4NT South now knows that he is not facing two spade losers. He is entitled to ask for aces.

North 5D Showing two keycards. If using normal Blackwood, North would bid 5D showing one ace.

South 6H Should be a sensible contract. And it is. The bidding was reasonable. Most importantly, South's bid of 3H got North to show his ace of spades.

Our last hand of the day.

COMPLETE AUCTIONS USING DRURY

NO ONE VUL

HAND FOUR

NORTH

KQJ

J74

Q63

K432

SOUTH

732

AK1096

KJ

975

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1H
P	2C	P	2H
P	P	P	

North Pass Good judgment. If it's your style to open this hand, do so. I'm willing to open about 90% of my twelve-point hands, but not this twelve. Balanced, aceless, really poor-quality points. Point count tells you it's worth twelve points. In reality it's worth less.

South 1H A good third-seat choice.

North 2C Drury. Bidding 2NT would be bad. Better to bid Drury.

South. 2H Telling partner that 2H is high enough.

North Pass If you accept that North has a hand worth around eleven points, you will consider that if South has enough for game, he would have bid 2D to show game interest. This is a good pass by North.

NEXT WEEK, I will be discussing another very useful bid, the Splinter Bid. Many players use this bid in one or two common situations.

These bids are useful in situations that are not widely known. I will discuss them.

For example.

Did you know that there are times where you can make a splinter bid with three high card points?

Did you know that there are times where a splinter bid requires twenty-three high card points?

Splinters are often the cure for times where you just don't know what to bid.

NOTES

You can go to Larryco.com after this talk. You can, if you wish, watch the video as often as you like. Further, you will find the notes that are the basis of my talk. You will see in words what was said in the talk. You can print these notes and keep them for immediate reference.

POSTMORTEM SECTION TO DRURY

You have seen the nuts and bolts of Drury. It looks like a lot to remember. I offer these thoughts.

Understanding Drury and adding it to your system is worth the effort.

Most likely you have learned other conventions before now.

Stayman

Jacoby Transfers

Negative Doubles

Unusual Notrump

And many more. I expect that each of them came with a breaking in period before you were comfortable with it.

Drury is the same. If you learn it you will have a tool that is at the top of the frequency list. It's a convention that meets two requirements. Frequency of use and merit.

Now, all you need is a partner who knows how to use Drury.

SOME THINGS THAT WERE NOT COVERED IN THE ZOOM DISCUSSION

There was a lot of information in it. Some new ideas. Some reminders. You also have my opinion on how useful Drury is.

I hope you will look at the rest of this material. The sooner, the better. Drury deserves your attention. Becoming familiar with it will be a big plus to your results.

TWO-WAY DRURY. I used to think it had too many problems to use it and I have not recommended it. During my work with Drury in the last few months, I have found a way to fix most of what was wrong.

Two-way Drury uses 2C to show three trumps and 2D to show four trumps. There are a number of reasons why I am not happy with it.

I think we can get along with just 2C Drury. But improvements to 2D Drury are good enough that I now give it a B+ grade instead of a C- grade. Someday I may do an article in the ACBL Bulletin on two-way Drury.

WHAT DO YOU BID WHEN YOU WANT TO SHOW A CLUB SUIT?

You can't bid clubs easily when partner opens a major in third or fourth seat. But there's a way to bid clubs on some hands. If partner opens 1H or 1S in third or fourth seat, you can't bid 2C with this hand:

32 83 KJ3 KQ10965

However, you can bid 3C, which shows something that looks like a good weak two-bid in clubs. 9-11 points and six decent cards.

WHEN YOU OPEN IN FORTH SEAT

When your side opens the bidding in fourth seat, it shows a hand that would have opened in first or second seat. Drury is still useful because it gives responder a method of showing his hand and letting opener make decisions. Be sure your partnership is aware that fourth seat bids are sound.

OTHER REMINDERS

ONE DRURY IS USED AFTER AN OPENING BID

OF 1H OR 1S IN THIRD OR FOURTH SEAT.

TWO DRURY IS USED IF YOUR RHO DOUBLES PARTNER'S 1H OR 1S OPENING BID.

THREE DRURY IS USED IF YOUR RHO BIDS 1S OVER PARTNER'S 1H OPENING BID

MY PROMISE

If the opponents get into your bidding, as in points two and three above, you will be far better placed in the bidding if you use Drury. One example:

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1H	DbI	?

What would you bid, if not Drury, with this hand?

65

KJ4

K8732

K98

What bid do you prefer? Bidding 2C, which shows this hand, or redoubling and hearing West bid 2S or 3S? Drury lets you show your hand right now, letting your partner in on the game.

A FINAL TWIST YOU MIGHT LIKE TO PLAY.

1S P ?

If you have a hand that qualifies for a passed hand limit raise, there is something you can do other than make a jump raise.

This is a maybe convention that has enough merit that it may interest you.

Play that a jump shift is a mini-splinter

1H P 2S shows a limit raise that includes a singleton spade.

1H P 3C or 3D both show a limit raise with a singleton in the minor.

Same for 1S.

If partner jumps to a suit at the three level, he is showing a limit raise with a singleton in the bid suit.

One problem you will encounter is that these jumps can affect other bids. For instance, if you use a jump to show a singleton club, then you can not use the jump to show a ten point hand with a good club suit.

I think these mini-splinters are worth playing for many reasons, one of which is that when partner raises your major to the three level, he denies a singleton.

It's a fun agreement.