

The Kokish Relay

(Mostly) Natural Slam Bidding

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- * Opener: ♠ AK ♥ QJx ♦ AQxx ♣ AKQx
- * Auction A: 3NT
- * Auction B: 2♣-2♦-3NT
- * Any other alternatives???
- * Responder: ♠ QJxxx ♥ x ♦ KTx ♣ JTxx
- * How do you find 6♣ or 6♠???

The Kokish Relay

(Mostly) Natural Slam Bidding

- * With Kokish, you can describe:
 - * big (25+) & small (22-24) balanced hands
 - * all one-suited GF hands
 - * all two-suited GF hands (except ♣ & ♦)
- * Kokish describes these hands below 3NT

The Kokish Relay

(Mostly) Natural **Balanced** Slam Bidding

* 2♣-2♦ -2NT

* 22-24 HCPs & balanced

* 2♣-2♦ -2♥-2♠! -2NT

* 2♠ is the Kokish relay (& 2♦ is also a req'd relay)

* it allows 2NT to mean 25+ HCPs & balanced

* After 2NT, normal NT systems are ON

The Kokish Relay

(Mostly) Natural **Unbalanced** Slam Bidding

* 2♣-2♦ -3♣

* single suited with ♣ , game forcing

* 2♣-2♦ -2♥-2♠! -3♥

* single suited with ♥ , game forcing

* 2♣-2♦ -2♥-2♠! -3♣

* two suited with ♥ & ♣ , game forcing

The Kokish Relay

(Mostly) Natural Slam Bidding

* Opener: ♠ AK ♥ QJx ♦ AQxx ♣ AKQx

* Responder: ♠ QJxxx ♥ x ♦ KTx ♣ JTxx

* Standard Auction: 2♣-2♦ -3NT

* Kokish Auction:

2♣-2♦ -2♥-2♠!-

2NT-3♥ -3♠-4♣-

5♣-5♦ -5♠-6♠

The Kokish Relay

Opener's Extensions

* 2♣-2♦ -3♥

* one-suited ♥ hand, 8.5-9 tricks, passable!

* 2♣-2♦ -3NT

* to play, gambling, maybe: ♠Kx ♥Kxx ♦AQ ♣AKQxxx

* 2♣-2♦ -2♠-

* one or two suited ♠ hand

* relay to 2NT

* rebid = one-suited ♠'s, new suit = two suited with ♠'s

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Responder's Continuations

- * If Opener shows a balanced hand:
 - * use your normal 2NT conventions
- * If Opener shows a 2-suited hand:
 - * name the trump suit
 - * opener can insist on his own suit
- * If Opener shows a 1-suited hand:
 - * raising trump suit is simple preference, to play
 - * new minor accepts trump and is cue bid for slam
 - * new major either promises 5+ or is advance cue bid

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Breaking the Relay

- * Responder: ♠ xxx ♥ x ♦ KJxxxxx ♣ xx
- * Auction: 2♣-2♦ -2♥-???
- * Opener may have ♥'s, does not have ♠'s
- * Responder only has ♦ tricks
- * Describe your weak single suited hand
 - * Bid 3♣, everything is a transfer
 - * Opener accepts the transfer only with ♦ support, otherwise he places the contract
 - * Responder new suit continuations are splinters

The Kokish Relay

Breaking the Relay: An Example

- * Opener: ♠x ♥AKQxxx ♦AQx ♣AKJ
- * Responder: ♠xxx ♥x ♦KJxxxxx ♣xx
- * Auction:
2♣-2♦ -2♥-3♣-
3♦-3♥ -6♦
- * Responder promises one of the top honors (A/K/Q) if he breaks the relay

The Kokish Relay

A Two Suited Kokish Example

- * Opener: ♠ AKJxx ♥ Kx ♦ Q ♣ KQJTxx
- * Responder: ♠ QTxx ♥ xx ♦ AKxx ♣ xxx
- * Standard Auction:
 - * 1♠ - 3♠ - 4♠
- * Kokish Auction:
 - * 2♣ - 2♦ 2♠ - 2NT - 3♣ - 3♠ - 4NT - 5♣ - 5♠

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A One Suited Kokish Example

* Opener: ♠ K ♥ AKJTxx ♦ KQJx ♣ AQ

* Responder: ♠ Qxxx ♥ Qxx ♦ xx ♣ Jxxx

* Standard Auction:

* 2♣-2♦ -2♥-3♥ -4NT-5♦ -5♥

* One too many!

* Kokish Auction:

* 2♣-2♦ -2♥-2♠ -3♥-4♥