

Meckwell

After 1N by the opponent, you bid Meckwell (in either immediate or passout seat) to show:

2C shows clubs and a major

2D shows diamonds and a major

2H shows hearts

2S shows spades

X shows clubs OR diamonds OR both majors. Partner is asked to bid 2C. The doubler passes with clubs, bids 2D with diamonds, or bids 2H with both majors. In the last case, partner would pass 2H or correct to 2S based on his preference.

The Meckwell two-suit bids may show 5-5, 5-4 or 4-4 distribution, based on position and vulnerability.

CAN RESPONDER BID HIS OWN SUIT? Yes, but he should have a 6-card (or longer) suit good enough to play opposite a singleton. Examples: (a) partner doubles 1NT and you bid anything other than 2C; (b) partner bids 2C over 1NT and you bid 2D or 2S; (c) partner bids 2D over 1NT and you bid 2S or 3C.

RESPONDER'S BIDS IF OPPONENTS DOUBLE A MECKWELL 2C or 2D BID

We will use a redouble to ask partner to show his other suit, regardless of whether the double was conventional (Stayman) or for penalty. However, if our Meckwell 2C bid is doubled, responder may determine the meaning of the double.

RESPONDER'S BID IF OPPONENTS BID OVER MECKWELL

Double asks partner to clarify his hand. If you want him to bid, double; otherwise pass.

RESPONDER'S BID AFTER A REDOUBLE OF A MECKWELL DOUBLE

You no longer have to bid 2C automatically and should not do so unless you have a clear reason to do so. You can pass and partner can still clarify his hand. Do not bid unless you have a six card or longer suit that can play opposite a singleton. 2C would show such a club suit rather than being the automatic relay bid. If you have such a suit, you must bid it immediately. Do not wait for partner to clarify his hand and then expect to be able to bid your suit.

RESPONDING TO MECKWELL WITH GAME INTEREST

When the opponents open 1N, it will be a rare occasion for your side to bid game. However, such rarities may occur. When responder to Meckwell has such a powerful hand that game is possible, he should bid 2N (if not over interference), which asks partner to clarify his hand.