



Beginner Bridge Bulletin

Learning from the African Zonal.



Hello all, Carol, your friendly beginner bridge teacher here. Today I started playing in the African bridge Zonal championships. If we win or come second we will represent Africa in the world championships later this year.

Everyday a bulletin is posted on the African Bridge Federation site. This bulletin keeps the world updated with regards to scores and schedules and highlights interesting hands. If you are interested in checking it out, please click the link below.

https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwop/bw.cgi?club=abf&pid=display_page20

Unfortunately, the official bulletin is very often targeted towards intermediate/ advanced and experienced bridge players. With you in mind, I decided to create my own little bulletin which hopefully you can use to learn new and useful conventions. These conventions are aimed at the level you are currently at or at the level you should be working towards.

Everyday I will highlight one useful convention. I will explain how it was used, why we use it and provide notes on it so that you too can hopefully discuss with a partner and begin playing the various conventions.

I will also be running mini courses on the various conventions introduced here. These courses will be for 4 people at a time (I will give you various time slots you can choose from), we will have 30- 45 minutes of a lesson on zoom and then practice the convention on BBO for 1.5 hours. If you are interested then have a look at the offered courses and then email me to sign up.

How the tournament works



How the teams are selected

During February 2023 South Africa held trials to determine who would represent South Africa in the African Zonal championships. I was fortunate enough to be part of the winning team....



The open team will be playing at the same time as us, also competing to be the African Zonal Champions...



The African Zonal trials is a teams tournament. Each team is allowed up to 6 people. Only 4 people play at a time though.

If you have never played a team's event in bridge, have a look at the next page where it is explained....

How a team tournament works



On 1 Table South Africa (Nicola Bateman and Tas Nestoridis) plays N/S and Morocco plays E/W.

On Table 2, South Africa (Carol Stanton and Vanessa Armstrong) plays E/W and Morocco plays N/S. We play the same hands. We then compare how well we did on each board compared to the other team playing the same hands. We get points for every contract we do better in and lose points for every contract we did worse in. See the score sheet below.

17	3♠= N	♣5	140	3♥-2 E	♠Q	100		1		
18	3NT+2 E	♣6		460 4NT+3 E	♥8		520	2		
19	3NT+2 E	♦4		660 3NT+2 E	♠4		660	-	-	
20	4♥-2 W	♠6	200	3♥-2 W	♠6	200		-	-	
21	3NT= E	♥4		400 3NT+3 E	♥J		490	3		
22	4♥-1 N	♣8		50 2♣-1 N	♦10		50	-	-	
23	3NT= S	♥4	600	3NT-1 S	♣J		100	12		
24	Passed out		-	- 2NT= E	♥Q		120	3		
25	1NT= N	♥A	90	1NT-1 N	♥6		50	4		
26	4♠-1 N	♦7		100 4♠-2 S	♠4		200	3		
27	2♥= S	♣A	110	2♠= W	♠10		110	6		
28	3NT+1 S	♠J	630	3NT+1 S	♠J	630		-	-	
29	2♠= S	♥A	110	3♣= W	♦A		110	6		
30	2NT-1 W	♣3	50	1NT= W	♣6		90	4		
31	3♥+1 N	♣Q	170	3♥+1 N	♣Q	170		-	-	
32	2♠+1 E	♥8		140 4♠-1 E	♥8	100			6	
								v MOR (Women)	44	6

On board 2 for example we were in 4nt +3 to get 520 points while Morocco on the same board was in 3nt +2 to get 460. 520-460= 60 points so we get 2 IMPS. We did better as we made more tricks so we get points for our team. If you are interested in more info on teams events click the link below:

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/wncunit171/New%20To%20Tournament%20Bridge.pdf>

Today's featured system:

The Jacoby 2nt

When do we use the Jacoby 2nt?

We use it when:

- A) Partner opens a major (1♥ or 1♠)
- B) We have game going values with partner (13+HCP)
- C) We have 4+ card support with partner (if partner opens 1♥ and we have 4 or more ♥'s with partner and 13+HCP, if partner opens a ♠ and we have 13+ hcp and 4+♠'s with partner)

What does bidding the Jacoby 2nt look like?

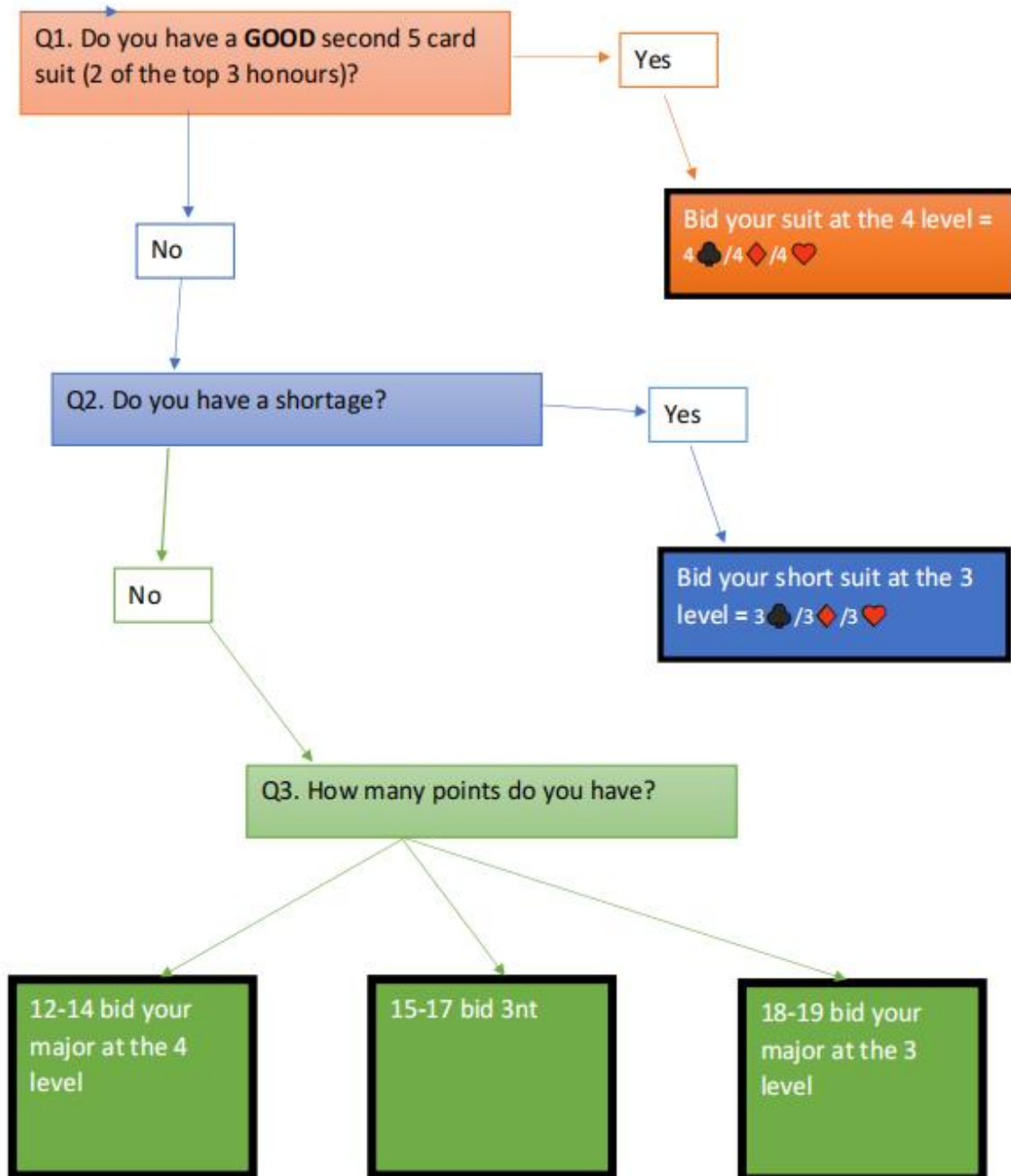
Partner (East)	South	You (west)	North
1♥ or 1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass

Why should we learn the Jacoby 2NT?

This system is very useful. It does 2 things. It tells the opener straight away that the partnership is going to game and it tells the opener that the game we are going to is in the major suit which opener first bid. We now know the minimum level (Game) and the strain. Now the only question remaining is: Are we **just** going to game or are we bidding a slam?

Often the reason we can bid suit slams is because of distribution. If the opener has shortages or another long suit then we might be able to bid slam even with only 28 points or so between us. The Jacoby 2NT is a question, asking the opener to describe their distribution and if no special distribution to tell us how many points they have. See the flow chart below for opener's responses after responder has bid the 2NT.

Jacoby (1M-2nt-) What does the opener do next?



The Jacoby 2NT

An example from the tournament

I opened 1 ♠ and my partner had the hand below:

♠ QJ432
♥ AK
♦ AQ3
♣ K65

Does it fit the requirements for a Jacoby 2NT?

- ✓ Game going values
- ✓ 4+ card support in my Major

My partner bids 2NT and this asks about my distribution and if I have no interesting distribution I have to show her my points. My hand is adjacent.

♠ AK1085
♥ 8
♦ J5
♣ AQJ104

If we go back to the flowchart then we will find my answer: Yes, I do have a 2nd good five card suit. I show her this pretty feature by bidding 4♣ and this really works for my partner's hand. As she has the King of ♣ she knows that I must have the AQ of ♣ (2/3 top Honours is required for the 4♣ bid). This means we have no losers in clubs. She also knows I have 10 cards in the black suits which means I have only 3 cards in the red suits and she has 3 winners in the red suit, so no losers there.

My partner used Roman Keycard Blackwood (which will be discussed in a different bulletin) and discovered I had the Ace and King of spades and the Ace of clubs. What do you think she bid next? See the full hand and the final bid on the next page....

✕ ☰ ☑ ♠ 9		N samira																					
Bd 10, Dlr E 7♠ = E		Other table 7♠ = E																					
W Vanessa Armstrong		E Carol A Stanton																					
♠ QJ432 ♥ AK ♦ AQ3 ♣ K65		♠ AK1085 ♥ 8 ♦ J5 ♣ AQJ104																					
0 0 < > ↺		♠ 76 ♥ J97 ♦ 10986 ♣ 8732																					
rupal S		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT*</td> <td>P</td> <td>4♣*</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>5♦*</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7♠*</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		W	N	E	S			1♠	P	2NT*	P	4♣*	P	4NT	P	5♦*	P	7♠*	P	P	P
W	N	E	S																				
		1♠	P																				
2NT*	P	4♣*	P																				
4NT	P	5♦*	P																				
7♠*	P	P	P																				

If you want to learn more about Jacoby, the responses, and how to use it then join my major suit mini courses. The lesson topics, dates and times are on the next page....

Major suit lessons:

Lesson 1: Bergen Raises

Lesson 2: Jacoby 2nt

Lesson 3: Splinter bids

Lesson 4: Getting to game in the majors with only 3 card support -
4 lessons at your convenience. Once a week or multiple times in one week

Lesson structure: 45 minutes zoom followed by play and bidding on BBO (2 hours in total)

Price: R600 per person, 2400 per table for all 4 lessons

When: choose a slot....

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
10-12	7-9 am	7-9	7-9	7-9	10-12	All day...
13-15			13-15			
20-22	19-21	19-21	20-22	19-21		

What do you do?

Get a table together - 4 people. Email me with the preferred time slot at:
carolstantonbridge@gmail.com