

Pre-empt Traps

I love to pre-empt. This is where you bid to a high level with a weak hand. You don't really expect to make the contract. You hope that you upset the opposition to the point that they either do not find their contract or they bid too high or not high enough. If you only go off one trick vulnerable or two tricks not vulnerable this is a good score if they can make a part score and a fabulous score if they can make game.

Opening 3S is always going to be difficult for the opposition. It gives me a sort of sadistic pleasure to see them squirming not knowing what to bid. I am not competitive, am I?

But what are the pitfalls of pre-empt.

The first one is that maybe the opposition can't make anything. The next problem maybe your partner is the one with the good hand and you may be pre-empting them.

Both of these problems can be alleviated somewhat by ensuring that you are WEAK and not too strong.

♠- AKxxxx

♥- void

♦-Axx

♣-xxxx

If partner has as little as two ♠s and an opening hand then with your distribution you will miss out in your game and of course the stronger you are the less likely the opposition will be able to make their contract.

The recognised strength for a weak-two is 6-9 and 6-card suit. I don't mind a bit weaker on occasion do not like a stronger; with 7-card suit open at the three level. Do not try to hedge your bets and open at the two level and then bid to three if the opposition come in. It is too late; for maximum effect bid high and bid only once. There is no point in forcing a mistake by the opposition if you then give him another chance to get it right.

Which of these hands would you open weak?

A.	A9	B.	K9	C.	K753	D.	AJ7653
	Q1074		Q		AKJ108653		5
	KJ9542		K1087632		7		43
	9		862		-		10543

Ans

A. No too strong and 4 spades Partner doesn't need much to make game – maybe in spades,

B. Q hearts not worth anything and 3D could be hard to bid over. Go for maximum disruption!!

C. What's wrong with 1 H -- 3 1/2 loser hand, if partner denies 4 spades by bidding 1NT then bid 4 ♥'s.

D. If partner has already passed 2♠'s it is a good bid otherwise it is a bit light but all your points are in ♠'s.
What about vulnerability?

Happy Hunting