

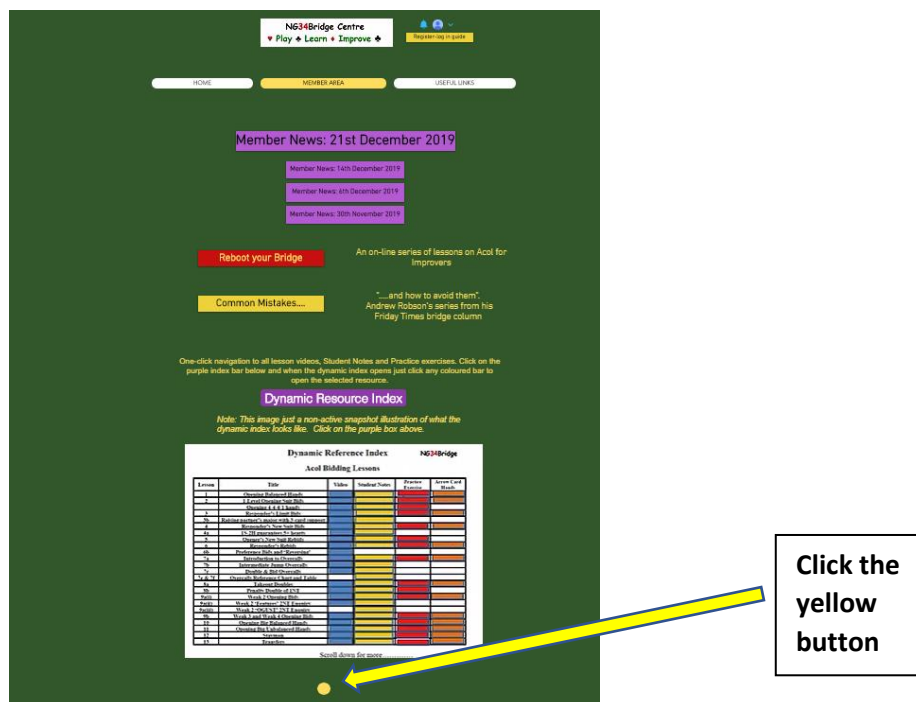
Workshop 2: Bidding Big Hands

Wednesday 19th February & Wednesday 4th March 2020

All three video lessons, Student Notes and Practice exercises are now available for Workshop participants via a discreet button on the 'Member Area' page of the NG34Bridge website. Here is a quick link:

<https://www.ng34bridge.com/news>

Just click the small yellow circular button at the bottom of the Member Area page.



This will bring up the Big Hands Resources Index (below). To select any resource just click on the appropriate coloured box.

Dynamic Reference Index II (Workshops)			
Opening Big Hands			
Title	Video	Student Notes	Practice Exercise
Opening 2NT			
Opening 2C with a Balanced Hand			
Opening 2C with an Unbalanced Hand			

If you cannot sign in to the website for any reason, below is a quick link to the index, but you need to be aware that each time I update the index a new http address is generated and this link will stop working. Access via the website should always work.

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We have covered this topic at least twice, in the Beginner Bridge Course and in Next Steps, but I will bet most of you will have forgotten a lot of it, because big hands don't come up that often so you don't get many opportunities to put the theory into practice. That's why it's an ideal subject for Workshop treatment.

I have broken the subject down into three parts, starting with the relatively straightforward 2NT opening, and ending with Opening 2♣ with an Unbalanced hand (the most challenging one where mistakes are most likely). Each part has its own video lesson and Student Notes, and a set of 'Practise your Bidding' exercises. **To help ensure that your learning is embedded, I strongly recommend that you complete each lesson, including the practice exercise, before moving to the next one.**

On the workshop day we will spend the first half working in pairs (two North, two South) either side of the table just discussing and bidding prepared sets of North South hands using worksheets rather than a pack of cards, and then referring to the correct solutions (examples below). I reckon we can get in 20+ hands covering all the key points by break, and we will then play prepared hands as foursomes after the break (the most important part will be the bidding practice in the first half, but we all like to play some hands.)

NORTH HANDS	SOUTH HANDS
Board: 1 Dealer: South ♠ 10 8 5 4 ♥ K 9 8 6 3 2 ♦ 2 ♣ 7 5	Board: 1 Dealer: South ♠ A K ♥ 4 ♦ A Q J 7 ♣ A K J 10 8 3

Solution

STRONG 2♣ OPENING AND RESPONSES			
Board: 1 Dealer: South			
West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South has a 3 loser hand. With 22 points a 2♣ opening is better than 1♣. After North's negative/waiting response South shows his club suit and North is just strong enough to show his hearts – just 3 points but the 6th heart justifies it. South now closes the auction by bidding 3NT.

Board: 8	Board: 8
Dealer: West	Dealer: West
♠ K Q J 10 8 3 ♥ K 6 ♦ A K Q ♣ A K	♠ A 6 5 4 ♥ Q 10 7 3 2 ♦ 2 ♣ Q 6 4

Solution

Board: 8 Dealer: West			
West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

South has 8 points but the heart suit is not good enough for a 2♥ response so South bids a waiting 2♦. North now shows his spades. South's 3♠ shows a reasonable hand – with a weaker hand South would have bid 4♠ (Principle of Fast Arrival). North now bids Blackwood and settles for 6NT when South has only one ace.

Terry