30. Not incorporating Weak Twos I'm a great fan of Weak Twos, whereby an opening bid of 2 ◆ , 2 ♥ or 2 ♠ shows 5-10 points and a decent

shows 5-10 points and a decent six-card suit — like a pre-emptive Three-bid but with one fewer card.

I prefer Weak Twos to Strong Twos for several reasons. They occur way more often. They're easy to play and tricky to defend against. Also, you have no way to describe a Weak Two when playing Strong Twos (you have to pass). However, when playing Weak Twos, you can describe a Strong Two by opening One and jumping on the next round.

Enjoy being able to describe the following hands.

 ♠AQ8532
 ♠4
 ♠

 ♥52
 ♥KQ10832
 ♥9853

 ♦J72
 ♦9532
 ◆QJ10532

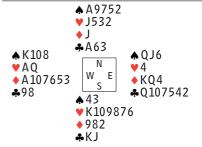
 ♣63
 ♣73
 ♣K83

When responding to partner's Weak Two, normally you know precisely what to bid. Good hands (16 or more points) typically bid game in partner's suit; poor hands pass (or bid to the level of the fit). If you really need to find out more about partner's Weak Two hand, there is a special strong asking bid: 2NT.

What Happened

North-South were playing Strong Twos, so South was never able to show his hand. East-West had a free ride to 3NT, declarer (West) winning North's spade lead with the ten and immediately returning the king. North won the ace and switched to a heart but declarer beat South's king with the ace and cashed his six diamonds as well as the promoted spade and heart. Ten tricks and game made plus one — to E-W.

Dealer: South, Vulnerability: Neither



What Happened

| S | W | N | Ε |
|---------|-----|---------|----|
| Pass(1) | 1♦ | Pass(2) | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2 🄷 | Pass | 3♦ |
| Pass | 3NT | end | |

(1) Playing Strong Twos, South is silenced.(2) Spade suit not quite strong enough for an overcall; overall hand not quite strong enough for a take-out double.

Contract: 3NT (by W), Opening Lead: ♠5

What Should Have Happened

| S | W | N | Ε |
|-------|---------|---------------|-----|
| 2♥(1) | Pass(2) | 4♥ (3) | end |

(1) Weak Two, 5-10 pts and a decent (at least two honours — including the ten) six-card suit.
(2) Not quite good enough to bid 3 ◆ — close.
(3) Raising to the (ten-card) level of the fit, primarily pre-emptively.

Contract: 4♥ (by S), Opening Lead: ♣9

What Should Have Happened

With South opening a Weak 2, his side win the bidding in 4. On West's \$9 lead, you beat \$Q with K, cash \$J and lead (say) \$2. The defence can win one diamond and AQ but with your second spade going on dummy's \$A, that's ten tricks and game made — to N-S.

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