

LOCKDOWN SEMINAR – THURSDAY, 7 JANUARY 2021

ADVANCED LEBENSOHL AFTER OPPONENTS' WEAK 2s AND 1NT BIDS

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LEBENSOHL (In response to partner's take-out double of a weak 2)

2H – X – P - Pass (converted to penalty double)
2S (weak 0-7 points)
3C/3D (At least 4 cards and about 8-11 points)
3H (Game forcing with 4 spades and H stop)
3S (Game forcing with 5 spades)
3NT (H stop and not 4 Spades, ie, minor suit orientated hand
with values for game) (FASS, Fast arrival shows stop)
2NT Lebensohl (forces partner to bid 3C unless very strong/shapely when
He/she can bid a suit naturally or 3NT)

So: 2H – X – P – 2NT

P – 3C (forced) – P - Pass (weak with clubs)
3D (weak with D)
3H (4 Spades and no H stop)
3S (Invitational with spades)
3NT (No H stop and not 4S, values may be a bit shaded
as have no natural 2NT available)

A simple way to remember these sequences is FASS (Fast Arrival Shows Stop).
ie, going through Lebensohl and bidding 3NT or their suit always **denies** a stop.

Over 2S – X – P - 3C/3D/3H are all values (8-11), cue bid is 4H but also a stop,
2NT Lebensohl.
3NT is natural with S stop.

With a game going hand, with hearts (5+), just bid game.

Similarly, after Lebensohl, 3D/3H are weak, 3S is 4H and no spade stop and 3NT is no stop
and not 4H.

If you have a hand that you would like to have bid 2NT but without the sort of trump
holding to pass for penalties, then just go to 3NT via the appropriate route above.

LEBENSOHL (After intervention of our 1NT opener)

If opponents overcall with a natural 2H or 2S, then the above apply again.

1NT - 2H - X take out, limited values wanting to compete (7-poor 11)
2S (weak with 5 spades)
2NT Lebensohl (Forces 3C from opener)
3C/3D/3S (Natural and forcing to game with 5+ suits)
3H (4S and H stop, game values)
3NT (H stop and not 4 Spades, values for game)

1NT – 2H – 2NT – P – 3C – P - Pass (competitive with clubs)
3D (competing with D, up to invitational values)
3H (4 spades and no H stop)
3S (Invitational with Spades)
3NT (no H stop and not 4S) Over this, opener passes with a stopper or secondly bids a 5 card major (spades here) or finally investigates a minor suit contract (a cue bid would be game going with equal length in minors, and a simple 4C/4D would just be a minimum NT opener)

Similarly after 2S overcall: X (take out, see above)
2NT (Lebensohl)
3C/3D/3H are all natural and game forcing
3S (4 Hearts and S stop, game values)
3NT (S stop and not 4 Hearts)

After Lebensohl 2NT and the forced 3C: Pass (competitive with Clubs)
3D/3H (competitive/Invitational)
3S (4Hearts and no spade stop)
3NT (No S stop and not 4H) Over this, opener passes with a stopper or secondly bids a 5 card major (hearts here) or finally investigates a minor suit contract (a cue bid would be game going with equal length in minors, and a simple 4C/4D would just be a minimum NT opener)

Dealing with a natural 2C/2D overcall of 1NT

Here, a simple method is just to play a cue bid as Stayman with values for game and a stop and a double as either penalty-orientated with values or take out. Going through Lebensohl and cue bidding is Stayman showing no stop.

Dealing with Artificial overcalls of 1NT

1. In the case that the artificial overcall shows two identifiable suits (for example, 2C showing the majors), then the cheaper cue bid (here it would be 2H) is game invitational. The higher cue bid (here it would be 2S) is then game-forcing. Stops can then be bid up the line. 3C/D are game forcing and 2NT is Lebensohl, where you can pass 3C or bid 3D weak.
2. In the case that the artificial overcall shows only one identifiable suit (for example Astro/Asptro), then the known suit can be used for the cue bid, suggesting minors and either game forcing or invitational depending on agreement. 2NT would be Lebensohl and a would treat the overcall as natural, in the known suit, so that all hands with the other major and stops/no stops can be shown.
3. Any double after an artificial overcall is considered to be natural and indicates defensive values in that suit, usually 9 points or more (opposite a weak NT).

In all these situations, Lebensohl can still apply and suit bids remain the same. So, 3 level bids are natural and forcing, cue bids of known majors are 4 of the other major etc.

Eg. 1NT – 2C (Asptro, showing H and another) - Double, 3+ clubs and defensive values, 9+
2D weak to play
2H cue bid (depends on agreement)
2S weak to play
2NT Lebensohl, then 3H = 4S no H stop
3C/3D/3S natural and forcing
3H 4S and H stop, values for game

These agreements can stretch to all sorts of situations in a competitive auction.

EG: 1S (opposition) - 1NT (Overcall, partner) – 2S (opposition) – This would now be a Lebensohl situation, as if partner had effectively opened a strong NT and there had been a 2S intervention.

1S (opposition) – P (you) - 2S (opposition) - X (Partner) - P – Lebensohl could be used here, with 3 level bids showing values and going through 2NT to show weak hands and the stop showing/4 of other major bids applying.

1NT (opposition) – X (partner) – 2H/2S (Opposition) – Lebensohl could be used here, assuming that partner has a balanced 16-18 type hand (the most common type). Remember, partner does not have to bid 3C over your 2NT with a very good or shapely hand.

Below, A and B have a 2S overcall to partner's 1NT and C, D, E, F and G have a 2H overcall to partner's 1NT.

| A | B | C | D | E |
|-----------|-----------|----------|---------|--------|
| ♠ 6 | ♠ 3 | ♠ KQ1085 | ♠ KQ107 | ♠ KJ85 |
| ♥ J108642 | ♥ KQ1043 | ♥ 52 | ♥ 82 | ♥ A4 |
| ♦ K754 | ♦ AJ2 | ♦ K96 | ♦ A96 | ♦ 9842 |
| ♣ K3 | ♣ K742 | ♣ Q73 | ♣ A652 | ♣ K92 |
| | | | | |
| F | G | | | |
| ♠ KJ2 | ♠ K109742 | | | |
| ♥ 62 | ♥ 62 | | | |
| ♦ AQ53 | ♦ AQ5 | | | |
| ♣ J752 | ♣ J7 | | | |