

Two Over One

HELLO

Penalty double and transfer effect

Like DONT and Hamilton (or Cappeletti), Hello is a convention used to overcall an opening bid of 1NT by the opponents. Each of these conventions employs a slightly different strategy. Hamilton seeks to compete in a major suit more often than in a minor. DONT seeks to enter the auction as cheaply as possible and to settle for the first possible fit at the two level.

The main concept behind the Hello Convention is the creation of what might be called “the transfer effect.” The hand in direct seat tries to transfer the contract to her partner across the table in order to put the player who bid 1NT on lead. Playing first to any trick is in itself a disadvantage. When you possess strength and must lead away from it, the disadvantage is somewhat greater. The strategy of Hello is to impose this lead disadvantage upon the strong hand with a somewhat greater frequency than the other disruptive conventions do.

Looking at the Hello Schema shown in the next column, you can observe how often the transfer effect is sought. The overcall of 2 Clubs transfers to diamonds, the overcall of 2 Diamonds transfer to hearts, and the overcall of 2 NT transfers to clubs. With hearts and spades, the overcall is 2 Hearts, so if the partner can prefer spades to hearts yet another transfer effect will take place. Likewise, the overcall of 3 clubs shows both minors, so if partner can prefer diamonds, then once again the transfer effect will have been successful.

Carefully note that if one player overcalls 2 Clubs, transferring partner to diamonds, she may subsequently “erase” the transfer by bidding a major. If the transfer is “erased” by this subsequent bid of a major, then the overcaller has a major suit and a minor suit. To learn the identity of the overcaller’s minor, the partner would bid 2NT over the bid of the major suit.

The Hello Schema

Double.....penalty double.

Partner should sit for the double with as few as 4 points. If partner decides not to sit for the double, then 2 clubs is Stayman and transfers are on.

2 Clubs.....transfers partner to 2 Diamonds.

The 2 Club bidder will pass if she actually has long diamonds.

But if the 2 Club bidder next bids a major, then she is showing a major-minor two suiter.

2 Diamonds.....transfers partner to 2 Hearts

2 Hearts.....shows hearts and spades

2 Spades.....spades

2NT.....transfers partner to 3 Clubs

3Clubs.....shows both minors