

Fifth Chair



Cuebids to Show a Raise in Partner's Suit

Cuebids of the opponents suit also come up frequently, in auctions where our side has bid a suit and the opponents compete.

1) When our side opens the bidding, and the opponents overcall and we cue bid the opponent's suit, such as, 1C-1S-2S is such a situation.

Partner opens 1 club and the opponent bids 1 spade and now we bid 2spades. The most popular current meaning of this bid is that it shows a limit raise of partner's suit, a limit raise 10 or more "dummy" points and support for partner's clubs, usually at least 4 clubs.

Also in the auction: 1S-2C-3C. We opened spades, and they bid clubs. The 3 club bid shows a limit raise or better in spades with 4-spades. The big advantage of this is that it allows us to use the other raises to show different hands. So, 1S-2C-2S shows a single raise, 6-9 points, and the jump raise of 1S-2C-3S can be used as a preemptive raise showing 0-5 points and 4 spades. So we now have 3 ways to raise partner's suit, depending on our strength, instead of just 2 ways.

2) When our opponents open the bidding and we overcall and our partner cuebids the opponents suit. The auction: 1c-1S-p-2c.

This time the opponents have opened the bidding, and we have overcalled one spade. The most popular current meaning of the 2 club cue bid by our side is that it means we have support for partner's spades and a limit raise or better, 10+ points.

Again we now have 3 ways to raise partner, 2s would be a single raise showing 6-9 points, and 3 spades would be a preemptive raise showing 0-5 points - in addition, the preemptive raise should always show 4+ spades as well.