

Splinters

Question

I've read two different expert opinions regarding splinters; (a) that they should be limited and not show slam interest and (b) that they should be unlimited and used for more accurate slam bidding. Could you comment on the following:

- a) Should responder's first splinter bid be limited over 1M?
- b) Should opener's splinter at his second turn to bid be limited when the auction goes 1m-1M/<splinter in Om)
- c) When the auction starts off with a minor and responder splinters into a major; e.g 1c-3h

I've heard the term "one-in-three" used by an international expert to describe a splinter bidding sequence but no one seems to know what it means. Do you?

Reply - Bobby Wolff

Gary

What a tough question! There is no simple answer. I believe that one does not automatically put strong raises through a Jacoby 2NT call so yes, splinters are unlimited. Opener assumes responder is only interested in slam if he has a suitable hand with a non-minimum.

Opener's second round splinter is only limited by his failure to use Blackwood. in high-card terms the typical range is 17-20 with extra shape (a jump to game being balanced 18-19). In the third sequence 1C-3H can be played as splinter but I prefer natural and weak. With inverted minors available I can start with that then splinter later.

I do not know the 'one in three' term.

Bobby Wolff

Reply - Eric Kokish

Expect a fairly tight range. Most these days use two tiers of FG splinters, the direct ones being weaker (about 9-12), the three-in-one being stronger (about 13-15), typically no good side suit.

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