

## The 2103 principle:

2103 indicates the scale we use when replying to a relay that asks for length in one specific suit (partner's suit).

As the name suggests, 2103 implies that:

1st bid shows exactly 2 cards in the specified suit (if possible)

2nd bid shows exactly 1 card in the specified suit (if possible)

3rd bid shows exactly 0 cards in the specified suit (if possible)

4th bid shows exactly 3 cards in the specified suit (if possible)

5th bid shows exactly 4 cards in the specified suit (if possible)

6th bid shows exactly 5 cards in the specified suit (if possible)

If any of the specific numbers are impossible the higher ranked steps are moved down.

If there is little room we merge adjacent meanings in the following way:

If the relay bid is immediately below the "ceiling" we merge 1 and 0 cards and place them first (the ceiling bid).

If there is only 1 bid between the relay bid and the ceiling we merge 1/0 cards and place them second (the ceiling bid).

After a 2 $\spadesuit$  opening we merge 2/1/0 cards when the relay hand shows a Minor suit (as the Minor is only 5 card+).

The 2103 principle is very frequent, and is used in several situations:

If the 2 $\spadesuit$  opener shows a maximum (6-8 hcp) by bidding 3 $\heartsuit$  over the 2 NT relay, 3 $\heartsuit$  by the strong hand shows a 5 card+  $\heartsuit$  suit, and the opener shows his number of  $\heartsuit$  after the 2103 scale (1/0 merged).

If the 2 $\spadesuit$  opener shows a maximum (6-8 hcp) by bidding 3 $\heartsuit$  over the 2 NT relay, 3 $\heartsuit$  by the strong hand shows a 5 card+ suit, and the opener shows his number of  $\heartsuit$  after the 2103 scale (2/1/0 merged).

3rd suit forcing...

4th suit forcing...