Polish Club 2005 A Brief Description



by Krzysztof Jassem

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Openings

The 14 opening is described at the end of this section.

1 ◆ opening - 4 cards, 12-17 HCP

Canape: 4 diamonds: 5 clubs are possible if weak (12–14 HCP)

2* response – natural, promises 5 clubs, one-round force.

Rebidding diamonds by Opener shows length (5 diamonds) and does not specify strength. The other 2-level bids show 4-card openings in the range of 12–14 HCP.

2♦ response – inverted minor, 10+ HCP, 4 diamonds

3 response - preemptive

NT responses: 1NT = 7-10 HCP, 2NT = 11-12 HCP; both deny a 4-card major.

1 ♥/1 ♠ openings - 5 cards, 12-17 HCP

1NT Response – not forcing

Responder's 2NT is forcing after the suit is repeated.

```
1 v
          1 ▲/1NT
          2NT = forces to 3 of a major; opener shows shortage, and
2♥
1 🛦
          1NT
```

2▲ 2NT = forces to 3 of a major; opener shows shortage

Two-over-one response – forces to three of that suit.

2* response is semi-natural.

Rebidding the suit by Opener shows a minimum and does not show length.

2NT rebid by Opener shows strength (15–17 HCP).

2NT response – limit raise with support

Jump raise – preemptive

Two types of Splinter bids

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3 = \text{any shortage}, 9-12 \text{ HCP (then 3NT asks shortage)}
1 v
1 🛦
          3NT = any shortage, 9–12 HCP (then 4♣ asks shortage)
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3NT = spade shortage, 12-16 HCP 1 🔻

 $4 \spadesuit$, $4 \spadesuit$, $4 \spadesuit$ (after $1 \spadesuit$) = bid shortage, 12–16 HCP

Drury-fit by a passed hand; 2 of the bid major is the weakest rebid. lump shift by a passed hand – invitational (9–11 HCP)

1NT opening (15-17 HCP)

Stavman 2*

Opener's 2♥ does not deny four spades.

Responder's subsequent bidding is natural: forcing at the 3-level, non-forcing at the 2-level. Also:

```
1NT
2•
          2
              = invitational (7–9 HCP), 5 spades, 4 hearts, and
1NT
          2.
2♥/2▲
          3 ♦ /3 ♥
                    = transfer, agrees Opener's suit, GF
```

Jacoby transfers 2♦/2♥

Transfer to hearts (2♦) does not deny five spades. Responder's new suit at the 3-level forces to game. Also:

```
1NT
2.
         2♠ forces to 3♥ (8+ HCP)
```

Openings Polish Club 2005 3

2♠ response – transfer for clubs

Opener may choose between a positive 2NT, and a negative 3. Responder may continue by showing shortage.

2NT response - limit

3* response – transfer to diamonds, weak or strong

Opener is obliged to bid 3. Responder may continue by showing shortage.

3♦ – natural, inviting

3♥/3♠ – 5431 convention: GF, both minors: at least 5-4, shortage in the bid suit

2. Opening - Precision: 5 clubs and a 4-card major, or 6 clubs, 11-14 HCP

2♦ response – relay, forcing to 3♣

Opener shows a 4-card suit (3♦ shows extras) or makes a choice between 2NT and 3♣ with long clubs.

2♥/2♠ response – not forcing, good 5-card suit (7–11 HCP)

2NT response – weak support in clubs or GF two-suiter. Puppet to 3.

Opener must bid $3 \bigstar$. Responder either passes or shows his suits: $3 \bigstar =$ diamonds and hearts, $3 \bigstar =$ hearts and spades $3 \bigstar =$ spades and diamonds.

3. response – limit raise (invitational)

3♦/3♥/3♠ response – limit, good 6-card suit

2 ◆ opening - weak two in a major (limited Multi), 6+ cards, 6-11 HCP

 $2\sqrt{2}$ $\sqrt{3}$ $\sqrt{3}$ response – pass or correct

2NT - relay, forcing to 3 of the major. Opener bids:

 $3 \clubsuit = \text{good opening} \rightarrow 3 \spadesuit = \text{ask} \rightarrow 3 \heartsuit = \text{spades}. 3 \spadesuit = \text{hearts}$

3♦ = hearts, minimum opening

3♥ = spades, minimum opening 3♣ response – GF, any one-suited hand

3 → response – Gr, any one-suited hand
3 → – game-invitational with support in both majors

Öpener bids 4♣ with hearts and 4♦ with spades if the invitation is accepted.

4★ response – asks Opener to bids the suit below his major. Opener bid 4♦ with hearts and 4♥ with spades.

4♦ response - asks Opener to bids his suit.

4♥/4♠ response – to play

2 v/2 ♠ openings - Polish two-suiters, 6-11 HCP

Opening 2♥ = any 5-5 with hearts (spades possible). 2♠ response = pass or correct

Opening 2 = 5 spades and 5 of a minor

2NT response – asks for another suit. With hearts and spades Opener bids 3♥. Other responses – natural

2NT opening - 5-5 in minors, 6-11 HCP

3♥ asks to bid a longer minor or a longer major if minors are equal.

3♠ - natural, forcing

3NT opening - gambling (no stopper outside)

4♦ asks for singleton.

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1 + opening

 1) 12-14 HCP, no 5-card major, no 4-card diamond suit. Five clubs are possible if the hand is balanced. Opener should not bid clubs on the next round – even in competition.

2) 15–17 HCP, five clubs, unbalanced distribution. Opener bids clubs in the next round.

3) 18+ HCP, any distribution.

1 ★ 1NT 2 ★ = natural, 15+ HCP, GF 1 ★ 1NT 2 ★ 2 ♥ 2 ★ = 5+ cards, 18+ HCP, GF

1 ♦ response

1) negative: 0–8 HCP. In the 7–8 HCP range, Responder should not have a 4-card major (the response of one of a major is 7+HCP, the 1NT response is 9–11 HCP).

2) 9–11 unbalanced; either both minors (5-4), or one poor minor. (The hand does not qualify for any of the responses: 1NT, 2 in a minor, 3 in a minor.)

3) 12–16 HCP balanced without a 4-card major. The hand is not suitable for declaring no trumps.

```
1*
                       1.
     1 \checkmark /1 = \text{better major (3 cards is possible)}
     1NT = 18-20 HCP, balanced
     2. = 15+ HCP, natural
     2 ◆ = artificial GF, exclusive of 2-suiter hands
     2 \checkmark, 2 \diamondsuit, 3 \diamondsuit, 3 \diamondsuit = 5+ in the bid suit, semi-forcing
     2NT = 21-23 HCP, balanced
     3 \checkmark / 3 \land / 4 = GF. 2-suiter (5-5):
           3♥ – with hearts, then Responder's 3♠ shows preference over hearts, 3NT asks
           for a minor, 4♣, 4♦ are cue bids with agreed hearts,
           3 - \text{spades} and a minor, then 3NT asks for a minor, 4 - \text{spades} are cue bids.
           4♣ - minors
1♥/1♠ response - 7+HCP, 4 cards
           1 &
                       1 ♥/1 ▲
           2 \Rightarrow = 15+, one-round force, then Responder's 2 \Rightarrow forces to game.
           1.
           2♦ = Relay. 18+ HCP, promises at least 3 cards in Responder's major.
                 Responder bids:
                 2 \checkmark = 7-10 HCP, 4 cards in the bid major
                 2 = 11 + HCP, 4 cards in the bid major
                 2NT = 11 + HCP, at least 5 cards in the bid major
                 3 \clubsuit, 3 \spadesuit = 9-11 HCP, 5 in the bid minor, 4 in the bid major
                 3 \checkmark = 7-10 HCP, 5 cards, unbalanced (then 3 \blacktriangle asks for a shortage, 3NT asks
                       for a side suit)
                 3 = 7-10 HCP, 5332 with 5 in the bid major
                 3NT = 7-10 HCP, 6 cards in the bid major
           1.
           2 = 5 + 4, (18 + HCP), GF
                       1 ♥/1 ♠
           2NT = 18+ HCP, (semi-)balanced, denies 3-card support in Responder's suit.
1NT response – 9–11 HCP, no 4-card major
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2♣/2♦ response – 5 cards, GF

2♥/2♠ – strong jump shift (semi-solid suit)

2NT response – 12+ HCP. GF no 4-card major

3♣/3♦ response – good 6-card suit, invitational (9–11 HCP)

 $3\sqrt{3} - 7$ -card suit with 2 high honours, nothing outside

Conventions in an uncontested auction

Jump shift - strong, semi-solid suit, slam interest

Fourth suit

Fourth suit invites to game after an initial one-over-one response. Responder may pass in the subsequent bidding but Opener may not. Fourth suit forces to game after a two-over-one response.

Third suit

If Opener raises the third suit, that promises four cards in the suit and denies a stopper in the unbid suit. 3NT bid by Opener shows four cards in the third suit and promises a stopper in the unbid suit.

Forcina 2NT

Responder's 2NT is forcing after a two-over-one response.

2. - check back: weak with clubs or game invitational, or game forcing

Opener's rebids:

- $2 \bullet = \text{minimum opening, no 3-card support}$
- 2 in Responder's suit = minimum opening, 3-card support
- 2 in the other major = nice opening, 3-card support
- 2NT = nice opening, no 3-card support Responder's continuations: 3* signs off, 2 in the bid major is non-forcing (10–12) HCP). Other bids (including 2NT) are game forcing.

En passant

In an uncontested auction, stoppers are shown. In competition, bidding the opponent's suit asks for a stopper. If opponents bid two suits, bidding the higher-level suit promises stopper in the lower-level suit

Slam bidding

RKCB 1430

5 = 1 or 4; 5 = 0 or 3; 5 = 2 or 5, no kings; 5 = 2 and a king, etc.

Exclusion Key Card Blackwood (1430 responses)

After trump agreement, an unusual jump shift at the 5-level (or 4\times when hearts are agreed) asks for key cards, exclusive of the ace of the bid suit.

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Hovt

The cheapest bid after key cards are shown asks for kings. The next cheapest bid shows no kings, etc.

5NT – kind of Josephine; asks for the number of high honours (ace, king or queen) in trumps

6 = 0: 6 = 1: etc.

Cue bids - first- and second-round controls are treated as equals

Splinter bids - weaker and stronger types after 1 ♥/1♠ openings

 $1 \checkmark - 3 \blacktriangle$ = weaker Splinter (9–12 HCP), any shortage, → 3NT asks

1 − 3NT = regular Splinter (12–16 HCP), spade shortage

 $1 \checkmark /1 \land -3 \land /4 \land /4 \checkmark /4 \checkmark = \text{regular Splinters (12-16 HCP)}$

AutoSplinter

An unusual shift jump agrees bidder's own suit only if Partner has not shown any suit.

Six in the Splinter suit

Asks partner to bid the grand slam with a void in the splinter-suit.

Interference after Blackwood - DOPI

Double = 0, pass = 1, the cheapest bid = 2 keycards, etc.

Competitive bidding

Over opponent's takeout double

lump shift – suit and support (fit jump)

New suit – forcing at 1-level (except 1♦; see below), non-forcing at 2-level

Redouble = 10+ HCP. Opener bids before Responder: this shows a minimum if the bid is cheaper than two in the opening bid, but shows extras otherwise.

1 ◆ response over opponent's double – natural, not forcing

Support bidding after Partner's 1♥/1♠ opening is doubled:

1NT = 7-9(10) HCP; 3-card support

2NT = limit raise: 4-card support

Jump shift shows suit and support.

Over opponent's overcall

New suit is forcing at the level of 1 and 3. New suit is not forcing at the level of 2. lump raise is pre-emptive.

Support bidding after Partner's 1♥/1♠ opening is overcalled

2NT promises good support (usually 4 cards) and forces to game. Direct cue bid is game-invitational, or game forcing with flat distribution and defensive values.

Defensive bidding Polish Club 2005 7

After Partner's 1NT opening is overcalled

Double is negative – part score range. New suit is non-forcing at the two-level, but forcing at the three-level. Lebensohl: either GF with 4 cards in the other major or non-forcing with an unbid suit.

After Partner's 2 ♦ /2 ♥ /2 ♠ opening is overcalled

New suit = pass or correct. Double is punitive.

Negative double - through 4 ◆

Negative doubles include, apart from standard agreements, forcing hands with a weak 5-card suit and – after $1 \checkmark / 1 \spadesuit$ opening – invitational no-trump hands.

When the second defender overcalls

Support double

A support double does not shows extras but promises offensive values.

After a 14 opening, double is two-way: either a support double or a stronger variant of the opening.

Defensive bidding

No-trump hands

1NT and 2NT non-jump overcalls – 15–18 HCP with a stopper

Subsequent bidding: the same as after a 1NT opening

1NT re-opening – 12–15 HCP

Subsequent bidding: the same as after a 1NT opening

2NT re-opening - 19-21 HCP

Subsequent bidding: similar to after the 1NT opening

Jump overcalls – direct: natural, pre-emptive; re-opening: constructive

Takeout doubles and strong doubles (17+HCP)

Takeout doubles promise three cards in unbid majors and two cards in unbid minors. Equal level conversion shows extras.

After Partner has doubled 1♣, a 1♦ bid is negative, other 1-level suit bids are forcing.

After 2♦ artificial opening (Multi or Wilkosz)

Second hand's double is for takeout of spades. Pass and then double after $2 \checkmark / 3 \checkmark$ in the next round is for takeout of hearts:

Fourth hand's live double is for takeout:

2 ◆ pass 2 ♥/2 ♠ dble

= takeout of hearts/spades respectively

Direct cue bid

Michaels cue bid - unlimited

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Jump cue bid

Jump cue bid shows either a solid suit and asks for a stopper or shows any game-forcing one-suiter hand.

Versus strong 1 NT opening

Double shows two suits: 5+ cards in a minor, 4+ cards in a major.

2♣ = any one-suiter (constructive if a minor)

2♦ = major two-suiter

 $2\sqrt{2} = 5$ cards in the bid suit and a 4-card minor

Versus weak 1NT opening

Double is for takeout. Other bids show the same shape as versus a strong no trump and promise opening values.

Drury (2*) promises fit

Rebidding the suit is weakest.

Lebensohl after 2 \(\nspace / 2 \nspace \) and Partner's double

Leads and signals

Leads are 2nd best from bad suits (low from two); 4th best from good suits; top of honours; ace from ace-king, king from king-queen, etc., except 9 from 109x(x).

Signals are upside down throughout. In Partner's led-suit count is preferred in suit contracts, attitude is preferred in no trump contracts.

Echo against no trump contracts – a small card in Declarer's first-played suit (from either hand) accepts the lead. Lavinthal – standard way (discouraging in the suit discarded, suit preference for the other 2 suits).