DEFENSIVE AND COMPETITIVE BIDDING
OVERCALLS (Style: Responses: 1/2 Level; Reopening)
Usually $5+$ cards at 1 level and good $5+$ cards at 2 level
Continuations: New suit = NF after 1 level overcall, F1 otherwise Cue $=$ value raise (normally exactly 3 cards of M ) or very strong 2 NT after $1 \mathrm{M}=4$-card value raise; jumps \& double jumps $=$ suit + fit ump cue $=$ fit + shortage in their suit
Overcalls can be weaker in reopening position
NT OVERCALL (2 $\mathbf{2}^{\text {nd }} / 4^{\text {th }}$ Live; Responses; Reopening)
$15-17$ in direct seat, continue as after 1 NT opening
$0-14$ reopening after major, $11-14$ reopening after minor
continuations as after 1 NT opening
NT after (1x)-P-(1y) = takeout with preference for higher unbid suit

## JMP OVERCALLS (Style; Responses; Unusual NT)

Single jump = weak, $6+$ card suit (usually $7+$ cards vul at 3 level) Double jump = pre-empt. Jumps wider range facing a passed hand.
Continue as after weak opening 2NT=lowest suits $5+5+$ weak/strong eoopen: good 6+card suit 12-15
DIRECT \& JUMP CUE BIDS (Style; Response; Reopen)
Over $1 \mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{~m}=5+5+$ MM weak or strong
Over $1 \mathrm{M}, 2 \mathrm{M}=5+5+\mathrm{oM} / \mathrm{a}$ minor weak or strong
Over $1 \mathrm{M}, 3 \mathrm{M}=$ asks for stopper; over $1 \mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{~m}=5+5+$ om +
Over $1 \rho, 4 \odot=$ strong $4 \uparrow$ overcall, forcing if opponents bid on
VS. NT (vs. Strong/Weak; Reopening; PH)
$2 \boldsymbol{\omega}=$ both majors usually $54+$ or 44(41)
$2 \diamond / 0 / \uparrow=$ natural
$2 \mathrm{NT}=5+5+$ minors or $5+5+\mathrm{Mm}$ strong (forcing to 4 m )
Double $=$ penalty
Same in reopening position and by passed hand
VS.PREEMPTS (Doubles; Cue-bids; Jumps; NT Bids)
Double takeout to $4 \varrho$, values higher Cue of $\mathrm{m}=$ both majors
Cue of $M=$ other $M+$ minor. Jumps to $4 m$ weak, other jumps strong Jump cue of $4 \varrho=$ strong $4 \wedge$ overcall
VS. ARTIFICIAL STRONG OPENINGS- i.e. 1* or 2*
$\mathrm{Dbl}=5+\varrho, 1 \diamond=5+\boldsymbol{\wedge}, 1 \diamond / \boldsymbol{\wedge} / \mathrm{NT}=2$ suits same colour/rank/odd (54)+ Weak jumps. After $\mathrm{Dbl} / 1 \diamond$, next bid $=$ value raise

## OVER OPPONENTS' TAKEOUT DOUBLE

Redouble $=9+$ seeking penalty - most bids ignore double
Single raise $=$ weak. Jump raise $=$ raise to 2.5
$2 \mathrm{NT}=$ raise to $3+$ level. Jumps \& double jumps = suit shown + fit

| LEADS AND SIGNALS |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| OPENING LEADS STYLE | In Partner's Suit |  |
|  | Lead | K for count, 2nd (weak) 4th |
| 3rd \& 5th TON from 4 if sup |  |  |
| Suit | K unblock, 2nd (weak) 4th | 3rd \& 5th |
| NT | A deny K | A deny K |
| Subseq |  |  |

Other: 3rd \& 5th if leading through declarer; suit pref if leading trumps
K then switch against suit contract may be to singleton
LEADS

| Lead |  | Vs. Suit V | Vs. NT |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ace | AKx AKxx Ax Axx(x) ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  | $\operatorname{AKxx}(\mathrm{x}) \mathrm{AKJx}(\mathrm{x})$ |
| King | AK AKxxx(x) KQ (x) Kx |  | KQ109 KQJ9 AKJ10 + (x) |
| Queen | QJ(x)(x)(x) Qx |  | QJ(x) KQx(x) Qx AQJx(x) |
| Jack | J10(x) KJ10(x) Jx |  | J10(x) KJ10(x) AJ10(x) Jx |
| 10 | Q109(x) K109(x) 10x |  | Q109(x) K109(x) A109(x) |
| 9 | 109x(x) 9x |  | 109x(x) 9x |
| Hi-X | xXx Xx |  | xXx Xx |
| Lo-X | HxX HxxX HxxXx(x) |  | HxX HxxX HxxXx(x) |
| SIGNALS IN ORDER OF PRIORITY |  |  |  |
|  | Partner's Lead | Declarer's Lead | Discarding |
| 1 | High= encourage | High = even | High= encourage |
| Suit 2 | High = even | High $=$ high suit | High = current even |
| 3 | High = high suit |  | High = high suit |
| 1 | High= encourage | High= please switch | High= encourage |
| NT 2 | High = even | High = even | High = current even |
|  | High = high suit | High = high suit | High = high suit |

Signals (including Trumps): in trumps: 1 high= high suit 2 hi-low for ruff In suit on K lead: high=even. In NT on K lead unblock or high=even In NT if partner leads own suit \& dummy wins with J or lower: high=even DOUBLES

## TAKEOUT DOUBLES (Style; Responses; Reopening)

If minimum, tolerance for unbid major(s) and usually short in suit opened
If $18+$ points, can be balanced or be single suited
In fourth seat, can be 3 points weaker than in second seat
Cue bid in response by unpassed hand = forcing to suit agreement
SPECIAL, ARTIFICIAL \& COMPETITIVE DBLS/RDBLS
Responsive doubles to $4 \triangle$; game try doubles, competitive doubles to $4 \mathrm{\rho}$. After $1 \mathrm{x}-\mathrm{P}-1 \mathrm{y}-1 \mathrm{z} / 2 \mathrm{w} \mathrm{Dbl}=15+$, can be $15-17$ bal (with no stopper)

## X of slam asks for unusual lead

Delayed X after opponents bid 3 suits asks partner to lead suit doubled
Over Multi 2nd seat $\mathrm{Dbl}=$ takeout; in 4th seat Double $=$ the suit or shortage
Dbl of Stayman/Transfer = either strong (dbl of 1NT) or the suit doubled

## CATEGORY: Green

NCBO: Wales
PLAYERS: Tony Ratcliff \& Julian Pottage
EVENT (Open - Camrose Home International 2020)

## SYSTEM SUMMARY

## GENERAL APPROACH AND STYLE

Benjamin Acol: 4-card majors, 12 -14 1NT, 2M weak
$2 \mathrm{NT}=22-23,2 \boldsymbol{*}=$ artificial near game or 20-21/26-27 balanced
$2 \diamond=$ artificial game force or 24-25/28-29+ balanced

SPECIAL BIDS THAT MAY REQUIRE DEFENSE
3NT opening $=$ solid minor $7+$ card suit little outside
$2 *$ and $2 \diamond$ both strong and artificial

## SPECIAL FORCING PASS SEQUENCES

Not if we have bid only 1 suit, else at 4 level if only we vul \& always at 5 level
After we dbl 1NT for pen, first pass is forcing if partner is short

MPORTANT NOTES
Overcalls can be lead directing

## PSYCHICS: Rare

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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | DESCRIPTION | RESPONSES | SUBSEQUENT ACTION | COMPETITIVE \＆PASSED HAND BIDDING |
| 1＊ |  | 4 | 40 | Natural－rule of 19 | $1 \mathrm{~N}=6-9 ; 2 \mathrm{~N}=16+\& 3+\boldsymbol{*} ; 3 \mathrm{~N}=12 / 15$ \＆3＋＊ | 1NT 15－17 2NT 18－19 Jump reverse＝short |  |
|  |  | （3 rare） |  | $5+$ or 3334 or 4414 | $2 \boldsymbol{*}=9+$ F1 $3 \boldsymbol{*}=6-83 \diamond / 0 / \boldsymbol{\wedge}=$ splinter $4 \bigcirc / \Delta=$ Nat | After $1 \boldsymbol{*}-2 \boldsymbol{*}$ ： $3 \boldsymbol{*}$ is nf ， $2 \mathrm{x}=$ stopper， 2 N FG | Fit Jumps 5／4 F1，1／2／3NT nat |
| $1 \diamond$ |  | 4 | 40 | Natural－rule of 19 | $1 \mathrm{~N}=6-9 ; 2 \mathrm{~N}=16+\& 3+\diamond ; 3 \mathrm{~N}=12 / 15$ \＆ $3+\diamond$ | 2NT non－jump $=15+1 \diamond-2 \mathrm{NT}-3 *=$ Baron | cue $=$ value raise，jump raise $=2.5$ |
|  |  |  |  | $5+$ or 3343，（23）44，（14）44 | $2 \diamond=9+$ F1 $3 \diamond=6-83 \bigcirc / \wedge / 4 \otimes=$ splinter $4 \ominus / \wedge=$ Nat | $1 \diamond-1 \mathrm{~N}-2 *$ is F1 \＆ $1 \diamond-1 \mathrm{~N}-3 *$ is $5 / 5$ pre－empt | $1 \diamond-(1 \odot)-\mathrm{X}=4 \wedge$ and as after $1 *$ |
| 10 |  | 4 | $4 \diamond$ | Natural－rule of 19 | $2 \mathrm{NT}=$ game with $4+\bigcirc$ or $16+$ with $3 \bigcirc$ | 3NT over $2 \mathrm{~m}=15-17+4 \odot 10-3 \wedge-3 \mathrm{NT}=$ ？void | $\mathrm{P}-10-2 \mathrm{NT}=30$ \＆as after 1＊＊ |
|  |  |  |  | Can be 4441 or have 4（5）m／4＾ | $3 \boldsymbol{\wedge}=$ raise to $4 \bigcirc+$ ，any void 3 NT $=$ raise with sing $\uparrow$ | $10-2 \mathrm{~N}-3 *=$ enq．．． $3 \mathrm{~N}=4 *(5,4) 4 \mathrm{~m}=$ sing $13-14$ |  |
| 14 |  | 4 | 40 | Natural－rule of 19 not 44（32） | $2 \mathrm{NT}=$ game $4+$ or $16+$ with $3 \uparrow 3 \mathrm{NT}$ any void | $1 \oplus-3$ NT－4 $\boldsymbol{*}=$ asks for void \＆as after 10 | $\mathrm{P}-1 \oplus-2 \mathrm{NT}=3 \wedge$ \＆as after 1＊ |
| 1NT |  |  | $3 \times$ | 12－14（occasional good 11） | $2 \boldsymbol{*}=$ Stay．； $2 \triangleleft / \mathrm{s}=$ transfer $2 \wedge=$ range？ $2 \mathrm{~N}=$ minor（s） |  | If $\mathrm{X}: \mathrm{XX}=1$ suit， $2 \stackrel{\wedge}{ } / \diamond / \mathrm{C}=2$ suits |
|  |  |  |  | Can have weak 5M | 3 bids shortage；4＾$=$ Gerber | After 1N－2N－3s： $30 / \uparrow=$ sing，both minors | O／C．．．：2NT／higher＝Lebensohl |
| 2＊＊ | $\checkmark$ | 0 |  | 20－21／26－27 bal or 8／9 tricks | $2 \diamond=$ relay， $2 \mathrm{c} / \wedge 5+2 \mathrm{TH}+\mathrm{ve}, 2 \mathrm{NT}=9+$ bal，no ace | Jump $=9$ PT． $2 \otimes-2 \diamond-2 \mathrm{NT}$ then as 2 NT opener |  |
|  |  |  |  | May be game if $¢$ long suit | $3 \cdot / \diamond / \varnothing / \wedge=6$ cards with 2 of top 3 honours | $2 \diamond-2 \diamond-2 \diamond / \wedge$ ：next bid $=$ neg；jumps as $1 \diamond / \downarrow$ |  |
| $2 \diamond$ | $\checkmark$ | 0 |  | 24－25／28－29＋bal or any FG | $2 \mathrm{O}=$ relay， $2 \uparrow 5+2 \mathrm{TH}+\mathrm{ve}, 2 \mathrm{NT}=7+$ bal，no ace | After $2 \diamond-2 凶-2 \wedge: 3 \star=n e g ; 2 \diamond-2 \diamond-2 \mathrm{~N}$ as 2 N |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | $3 \wedge / \diamond / ৫ / \wedge$ cards with 2 of top 3 honours | $2 \diamond-2 \diamond-3 \star \cdot 3 \diamond=$ neg／waiting with $4 \mathrm{M} ; 3 \mathrm{M}=5$ |  |
| 20 |  | 6 （5） |  | Weak two | 2 $\downarrow / 3 \mathrm{~m}=$ NAT，INV，NF； $2 \mathrm{NT}=$ ENQ； $3 \bigcirc=$ pre－empt | After $2 \sim-2 \mathrm{NT}$ ： $3 \mathrm{~s} / \diamond=$ lower，suit poor／good； | After X：new suit rescue sign－off |
|  |  |  |  | Usually 5－9（8－12 in 4th） | 3＾／4m＝NAT，FG；4＾／5ヶ／5 | $3 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{A}=$ upper，suit poor／good；then suit $=$ cue | XX $=$ strong if $\times \mathrm{T} / \mathrm{O}$ ，SOS if pen |
| 2＊ |  | 6 （5） |  | Weak two | 2N＝ENQ；3¢／m NAT，INV，NF；4¢ NAT | After $2 \wedge-2 \mathrm{NT}$ ：as $2 \mathrm{O}-2 \mathrm{NT}$ ；then suit $=$ cue | As for $2 \bigcirc ; 2 \wedge$ Dble $4 \bigcirc$ is NAT |
|  |  |  |  | Usually 5－9（8－12 in 4th） | $4 \mathrm{~m}=$ NAT，FG； $5 * / 5 \diamond / 5 \otimes$ EKCB； $3 \wedge=$ pre－empt |  |  |
| 2NT |  |  |  | 22－23 balanced | $3 \boldsymbol{\sim}=$ Stay for $5 \mathrm{M} ; 3 \diamond / \mathrm{O}=$ trans； $3 \boldsymbol{\wedge}=$ both m ； |  | If 3a $\mathrm{X}: \mathrm{XX}=$ no stop，bid 5－card |
|  |  |  |  | Can have 5 M or 6 m | 4 any：nat，slam try； $5 \mathrm{~N}=\mathrm{F} 1$ Grand try | $3 \mathrm{O}=<4 \mathrm{C}, 3 \wedge=4 \bigcirc \&<4 \wedge, 3 \mathrm{~N}=4 \bigcirc \& 4 / 5$ ¢ weak | ．．if opener $\mathrm{P} / 3 \diamond / 3 \vee / \mathrm{XX}$ ，puppet |
| 3＊ |  | 6／7 |  | Pre－empt | 3any nat，F1；4 $\diamond$ fit $+\diamond$ ；4M NAT， $5 \diamond / 5 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{EKCB}$ |  |  |
| $3 \diamond$ |  | 6／7 |  | Pre－empt | 3M nat F1；4ヵ／4M NAT；5 ¢／ 5 M EKCB |  |  |
| 30 |  | 6／7 |  | Pre－empt | 3＾nat F1，4ヵ／／＝cue，4 $\downarrow$ NAT； $5 \boldsymbol{\wedge} / \diamond / \wedge$ EKCB |  |  |
| $3 \wedge$ |  | 6／7 |  | Pre－empt | $4 \bigcirc$ nat， $4 \stackrel{\sim}{ } / \diamond=$ cue， $5 \bullet / \diamond / \diamond$ EKCB |  |  |
| 3NT | $\sqrt{ }$ |  |  | Solid minor，little outside | $4 \diamond=$ enq for sing（then $5 \mathrm{~m}=$ sing in other m ） |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 4 \curvearrowleft \\ & 4 \diamond \\ & 4 \diamond \\ & 4 \curvearrowleft \end{aligned}$ |  | 7 |  | Pre－empt | $4 \diamond=$ enq for sing， $4 \diamond / \wedge=$ Nat， $4 \mathrm{NT}=$ RKCB | HIGH LEVEL BIDDING |  |
|  |  | 7 |  | Pre－empt | $4 \bigcirc / \wedge$ Nat， $4 \mathrm{NT}=$ RKCB， $5 *=$ need $*$ control | 4NT：RKCB： $5 \star=1$ or $4^{*} ; 5 \diamond=0$ or $3 * ; 5 ¢=2$ or 5 ， $\operatorname{sot} \mathrm{Q} ; 5 \wedge=2$ or $5,+\mathrm{Q}$ |  |
|  |  | 7 |  | Pre－empt | $4 \mathrm{NT}=$ RKCB， $4 \wedge / 5 \bullet / 5 \diamond=$ need control here | ＊If responder asks and opener has shown $15+$ points， $5 \star=0$ or $3 ; 5 \diamond=1$ or 4 |  |
|  |  | 7 |  | Pre－empt | $4 \mathrm{NT}=$ RKCB， $5 * / 5 \diamond / 5 \mathrm{O}=$ need control here | $5 \mathrm{NT}=1$ key＋useful void（uv）； $6 \stackrel{*}{*}=2$ keys＋（uv）； $6 \diamond=3$ keys＋（uv） |  |
| 4NT | $\checkmark$ |  |  | Specific ace ask |  | After $5 \stackrel{\sim}{*}$／ $5 \diamond$ reply：relay asks for trump Q then 5 trumps denies（5NT if cheaper） |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 5 \& \\ & 5 \diamond \\ & 5 \diamond \\ & 5 \wedge \end{aligned}$ |  | 8 |  | Pre－empt |  | 5 NT from 4NT bidder is for specific kings then resp shows either king or other 2 |  |
|  |  | 8 |  | Pre－empt |  | If opponents bid after RKCB：Dble／ReX＝ 0 key，Pass＝ 1 key ie DOPI and RDOPI |  |
|  |  | 7 |  | Asking for A K trumps |  | Exclusion KCB jump in void above 4 trumps：Step 1＝0 keys；then 1；then 2，no Q． |  |
|  |  | 7 |  | Asking for A K trumps |  | Repeat of void is for kings in the other side－suits（bid king；trump suit：no king） |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | Double RKCB if we have known $8+$ fit in two suits，both kings count as key cards |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 5 NT ，no 4NT：GSF（trumps＝worst） $6 \star=1$ of top 3，where room $6 \diamond=\mathrm{A} / \mathrm{Kxxxx}$ |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | $5 \mathrm{NT}=$ pick a slam（ 5 NT also pick a slam where final trump suit is in doubt） |  |

