

OPENING LEADS : initially 4th (some 2nd from bad) at NT but 3rd/low at suits, strong K at NT, T can be high card at NT, 3rd/5th partner's suit

v. suit	A K Q J x H x x x	A K x J 10 x H x x x x	K Q 10 10 x x H x x x x x	K Q x 10 9 x x x	K J 10 9 8 7 x x x x	K 10 9 10 x x x x x x x	Q J 10 H x x
v. NT	A K x (x) Q J x H x x x	A J 10 x J 10 x H x x x x	K Q 10 10 x x H x x x x x	K Q x 10 9 x x x	K J 10 9 8 7 x x x x	K 10 9 10 x x x x x x x	Q J 10 H x x

Other agreements in leading, e.g. high level contracts, partnership suits:-

A/K above 4N for attitude/count. (Reverse)

If giving count, original 4th on second round – except if leading the suit xxxx order is x12x and xxxxx order is x1xx2

From AK doubleton, whatever feels unusual.

3rd/5th partners suit

CARDING METHODS

	Primary method v. suits	Primary method v. NT contracts
Partner's lead	Low to encourage	Same but unblock/count on K lead
Declarer's lead		Same
Discarding	Low for even number	Same

Other carding agreements

Count HIGH=ODD : Attitude HIGH= BAD : If honours known, count (HIGH=odd).

SUPPLEMENTARY DETAILS (continued)

After 1M-2N : 3♣=any min (then 3♦ asks), 3♦/3M=extras & shortage, 3N=extras no shortage, 4L=void and minimum

After a reverse at 2L : suit at 2L is F1, lower of {2N,FSF} puppet for weak hands, any suit at 3L is GF.

After 1m-1M-2M : step1 asks (natural, 3M=min4, 3N=max3M no spl), After their UNT, lowest cue=F is lower suit etc.

After 1m-2m : always step1 with weakNT

Always rebid 1N when in range, bypassing 1♠ <2♣>-X=majors

1♦-1N-2♣ asking range and 1♦-1N-2N for stopping in 3m

Lowest suit = second negative after double & cue/double

Name **Patrick Shields**
 Partner **Garry Watson**

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF BIDDING METHODS

Strong NT and 2-tier weak twos (Multi)

1NT OPENINGS AND RESPONSES

Strength good 14 - average 17 <occasional singleton>

Resp 2♣ Stayman (after 2D: 2S invite, 3m GF, 3M 4M5OM, 4m 64 linked M)

2♦	Hearts, then 3L new suit GF, jump splinter, NPH raise GF	2♥	Spades, then new suit GF, jump splinter, NPH raise GF
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2♠	clubs or clubs+4♦, then 2N=fit and then 3M short	2N	diamonds, over which 3♣=fit and then 3M short
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Others 2R-2M-3m-4om=dbl fit; 2R-breaks:2N=HHx,3♣=max; 3♣=5M ask (puppet); 3♦=♦+♣; 3M=short; 4♣=q-raise; 4R=transfer; 4♠=44mm

Action after X <XX=bid 2♣, suit=lower of 2, P-P-XX=5cd suit>
 when 2R doubled : accept=3, XX=3+good

Action after natural overcall X takeout @ 2L/3L, 2N puppet to 3♣, 3X transf, cue=M-ask; over 3m, 4R=transfer

TWO-LEVEL OPENINGS AND RESPONSES

2♣	Strong	2♦ neutral; 2♦-2♥ is hearts or GF flat (2♠ asks, refusal=dfs); 2♦-3M limited NF; lowest bid=waiting
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2♦	Weak 2M	2/3M p/correct, 2N/4m enquiry 2N-3m=non min with ask
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2♥	55+ ♥+minor	3-10 (atv)	2♠ F1 (2N max no support), 2N/3♦ enquiry, 3♣ pass/correct, 3OM invite
2♠	55+ ♠+minor	10-13 (4 th)	

2N	flat 20-21	stayman+transfers, 3♠ minors, 2-under
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OTHER ASPECTS OF SYSTEM WHICH OPPONENTS SHOULD NOTE

3N opening is long solid minor, little else
 <4N opening asks for specific aces (5♣=none, 5N=two, 6♣=clubs)>

OTHER OPENING BIDS

		Len	MEANING	RESPONSES
1♣		3+	natural	1m-2m/2N=GF,natural; 1♣-2♦/1♦-2♥ are decent raise in minor; 1♣-1N=4♣; P-1m-jump=splinter; 1♦-2♣-2♦=weak NT; 1m-2M=low end weak2; 1♣-1M-3♦/1♣-1♠-3♥ = balanced raise
1♦	4+ or 4432			
1♥				
1♠		5+		1M-2M=top end 3cd; 1M-1X-2♣=Gazilli, 1M-2N=GT+ raise; 1M-3lower=inv; 1M-DJ1=any spl, higher=void
3m 3M		6+	constructive in 2 nd /4 th	3m-4om and 3M-4♣ artificial slam interest: nonv return=bad else cue, vul give RKC response
3N 4X			solid m natural	4♣=pass/correct, 4♦=asks shortage 4m-om=RKC, 4m-4N to play

DEFENSIVE METHODS AFTER OPPONENTS OPEN NATURAL 1X

simple overcall	wide range	2N=4cd GT support, jump fits; <i>TF adv over 1M from 2C (1N over X)</i>
jump overcall	weak, except strong over weak	
cue bid	over minor, majors over majors, OM + a minor <i>sandwich : any suit=natural</i>	over 2M, 2N asks (3m=min,3M=extras+that m)
1N direct: protective:	<15-18> <11-14>	system on unless 2 suits bid when lowest cue=Stayman
J direct: 2N protective:	at least 55 two lowest suits (any strength) protective=18-19 flat + system on	

OPPO OPEN	DEFENSIVE METHODS	SPECIAL RESPONSES
strong 1♣	?X/1♦/1N are two suits CRO 1♣-P-1♦-X = majors?	?NT acts as cue bid if partner overcalls a suit?
short 1♣/1♦	over 1♣ : 2♣ nat, 2♦ majors and 2N minors; over 1♦ unchanged; 1m-3m=SJO	bid of opened suit natural except is a cue bid when partner overcalls
by PH of 1N str 1NT in 4 th other 1N opener 1m-P-1N	X=1m;2♣=MM;2♦=1M,2M=M+m X=1m;2♣=MM;2♦=1M,2M=M+m X=PEN;2♣=MM;2♦=1M,2M=M+m X=t/o;2♣=MM;2♦=1M,2M=M+om	2♣-2♦ and 2♦/2M-2N asks 2♦-2M is pass/correct
weak 2	X takeout, else natural 4m=5m5OM by NPH	2N over second seat X forces 3♣ for weak hands
weak 3	X takeout; ?cue is MM or m+OM?	
4 bids	<X takeout over m/values over M> ?4m-4N is natural?	
multi 2♦	<X balanced 12-16 or strong, P then 2N minors>	

IN SANDWICH AT 1-LEVEL

- 1prepC-P-1D : we play 2C as natural, 2D as majors
- 1realC-P-1realD : we play 2C as majors, 2D as natural
- 1realsuit1-P-1realsuit2 : bid of realsuit2 natural but cue of realsuit1 and 2N are both 55 other suits with cue being weaker.
- phoneysuit1-P-realsuit2 : bid of phoneysuit1 natural and cue of realsuit2 is Michaels with OM+either minor, and 2N is both minors
- majorsuit-P-1N : X=takeout, bid of majorsuit1 is Michaels and 2N is lowest
- minorsuit-P-1N : X=takeout, 2C=majors, 2D=one major, 2M=major+other minor *<must check now defence to 1N new>*

AFTER 1D-1N

- 2C asks (2D=min, 2H=med, 2S=max GF)
- 2N says choose which minor to stop in
- 3C says 55, extras but NF

BLACKWOOD RULES

- ~~• If hearts agreed and 4S would be a slam try in hearts then 4S asks~~
- ~~• if hearts candidate trumps but 4S natural, then 4N is ace asking in hearts~~
- ~~• If minor already agreed and 4m forcing, 4m asks~~
- ~~• If denomination not already agreed but 4C and 4D would both commit us to play in the same minor, then 4D asks and 4C is support over which 4D asks~~

FSF Rules

is GF by a non-passed hand
lowest non-NT bid is a waiting bid
jump in fourth suit, 55 suits bid and GF
bid and rebid of fourth suit, asking again
1C-1D-1H-1S = spades, and F1
1C-1D-1H-2S = FSF and not spades and GF

Transfer refusals – continuations

bidding above 3M is a void
retransfer then suit is splint
retransfer then 3N is a non-splinter slam interest

Bidding suits at the 4L

Responder never introduces a new suit at the 4-level
Rebid of a suit already promised by either hand is natural
Else it promises support for the last bid suit
Applies to 1H-2D-3H-4C but not to 1M-1N-3M-4any which is natural
3X-P-4C = slam try but in competition 3X-3Y-4C is natural

Positive responses to 2C

Are forcing to 4H

Slam bidding in general

When major agree, step1 reserve for non-serious

Else 3N never to play and used to initiate cues so suit is always shortage

... but need to check : 1N-2H-2S-3D-3S-4C : bidding shape or shortage?

Unnecessary jump in partner suit = splinter

When we double 1N

Next double by either hand just shows values, and willingness to defend.

We usually defend with balanced opposite balanced and the majority of HCP.

Immediate bid if they pass is weak.

Immediate bid if they bid shows a little (pass first with weakest) and is NF.

Doubles tend to be aggressive, one aim being to get them out of 1N.

When competing our 2N direct (over their suit) is usually 2PP.

When in response to a double 2N is Lebensohl style. (in context).

Lebensohl Rules <TBC>

Applies to all bids over their 2M after a takeout double

2N natural by a hand that opened 1C or 1N

If minor game unlikely: asks better minor or shows weak heart bid

If minor game possible: 3L-bids all invitational, else 2N

After raising majors

1M-2M : step1=GT, step2= GT+ OM, step3=MST clubs, step4=MST diamonds.

1M-3M : step1=asks splinter

GF 2/1 sequences

1M-2lower-2N = weak NT range or 18+, gets transfers

1M-2lower-2M/3M = six plus / one-loser seven card suit

2N-3D-3H-3S: use 4C/4D as last train in hearts/spades respectively

2N-3R-3M-4m: use 4N=good, 4M=bad, lowest cue=last train next suit up, etc

HADAC / HADAD

Herbert (lowest suit) negative after double and cue/double