

## **Defense over the 2/1 - 1♣ and the Precision - 1♦\* May be Short Bids**

**By Neil H. Timm**

Playing 2/1 several pairs in the Club games use the bid of 1♣ as may be short (announced as may be short as two and NF). And many Precision pairs use the bid of 1♦\* with an alert and if asked often, explain the bid as may be as short as two with 10/11-15HCP.

To defend against these bids, one may use a useful gadget as follows:

Use the bid of 1NT\* is used to show 10-14 HCP as a takeout bid (at least 3-cards in the unbid suits) which must be alerted since it does not show 15-18HCP.

With 15+HCP one doubles (called a power X) which need not be alerted and is like bidding a strong NT with 15-18HCP. Responses to the double are dependent upon your agreement for a strong 1NT overcall since systems may be ON or OFF by agreement.

While the 1NT\* overcall bid is restricted (hence the alert), the overcall take-out X is undefined, except for its minimum 8HCP requirement with no maximum strength limit (hence to alert is required).

What other defensive bids should be used over these bids?

Since one wants the strong hand on lead if one has a 5-card suit it is best not to bid it but employ transfers.

The bid of 1♥\* shows 5+spades and the bid of 1♠\* shows hearts while a bid of their short suit shows 5+cards in their suit bid: clubs or diamonds.

2NT\*        shows 5-5 in the minors

3om        show 5-5 in the majors

2M        show 5-cards in the bid major (may also have a 5-card minor)

Playing 2/1 and the Open Convention chart, the bid of 1♣ may be made with as few as 8HCP or with hands that satisfy the rule of 17. If pairs pre-announce their bidding agreement as light opening bids; the above bids may also be to your advantage.

Many use Mathe to interfere over the strong Precision 1 ♣\* bid:

X            4-4 in the Majors

1NT\*        5-5 in the Minors

All other 1-level bids natural

The convention provides little interference. An alternative convention is called 1-level Modified Bloomen bids:

1 ♦\*        6+hearts

1 ♥\*        6+spades

1 ♠\*        6+diamonds

X\*           relay to 6+clubs if weak or 5-5 in Major+ Minor

2x           Natural suit bid with a control