

Balcombe-Thurston Pre-alerts

May 2015

2 level transfer bids showing the Major suit above

2♦ opening bid shows 9+ to 14 HCP with 6 or 7 card ♥ suit (may be 2 suited)

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For both bids, 2NT asks, implying (but not guaranteeing) at least 2 card support

New suits are forcing and natural, except:

2♦-2♠ shows either 5+♠ or semi-balanced 3NT invite (artificial)

Suggested defense: Double is takeout of ♥ & ♠, but other bids, (including 3♠) is natural

2♠-3♣ shows 5+♥ & 2♠-3♥ shows 6+♣

Suggested defense: Double shows an overcall in the bid suit, cue bid is takeout

Suggested Defense (from ACBL database, modified)

Double = 13-15 HCP balanced or strong (about 19+ HCP or equivalent)

2NT = 16-18 HCP, Respond as after a 2NT overcall of a weak 2-bid

Cuebid = Takeout of suit shown

3NT = Same as over: (weak 2-bid)-3NT

Other calls are as over an opening 2 level bid in suit shown.

After 2X - Double – bid of shown suit:

Double is Responsive

After 2X - Double – bid of new suit or NT:

Double is Penalty, Forcing Pass implied

After 2X - Pass - 2 or 3 of shown suit:

Calls are as over an weak 2-bid

After 2X - Pass - 2 or 3 of any suit - Pass – Pass:

Double is Penalty

1♠ response to 1♥ opening bid to show a Forcing NT response

1♠ response to 1♥ shows 5+ to 12 HCP, usually without a fit

1NT response to 1♥ shows 5+♠, 5+ HCP

Suggested Defense

After 1♠ response (shows “Forcing NT”)

Double = equivalent of 1♠ overcall; respond as after a 1♠ overcall after (1♥)-Pass-(Pass)

1NT = 15-18 HCP balanced; Respond as after a 1NT overcall after (1♥)-Pass-(Pass)

Pass and double is Takeout

After 1NT response (shows 5+♠)

Double of 1NT response = takeout of ♥ and ♠ (treat as after standard 1♠ response)

All other bids as after a standard 1♠ response

Pass and double is Takeout

2♦ overcall to 1NT opening bid to show an overcall in either Major

Suggested Defense

Double = Artificial, looking to penalize the opponents; Forcing Pass & penalty doubles applies

Double followed by Responder’s new suit is invitational

2♥ or 2♠ = Natural, non-forcing, at least 5 cards in the bid suit, an offensive hand, part score values

2NT & higher = Same as over 2M overcall; if strong expect stoppers in neither Major (failure to double)

Pass and double is light Takeout, part score values