

L'ÉCUYER – MARCIŃSKI

Opening bid summary

1♣ = if BAL then any reasonable \geq ~17 HCP's (\geq 16 at FAV and \geq 18 at UNFAV)
 = else ~16⁺ but on marginal strength UNBAL hands likely \geq 5 "A-K points" (A = 2; K = 1)

1♦ = in all seats either
 (a) 2-5 (perhaps 6 if poor) ♦'s with 11-13 HCP (but 13-15 HCP at FAV vulnerability and 12-14 at UNFAV vulnerability) in a BAL hand (we *tend not* to treat (5422) or 6m (322) patterns as balanced), < 1♣ opening (in terms of strength) and wrong range to open 1N in this position and vulnerability, or
 (b) 0-5 (perhaps 6 if poor) ♦'s (2⁺ in 3rd and 4th) in an UNB hand without a decent 6m (except in 3rd/4th seat if 4M6♦) if marginal (i.e. MIN strength) likely \geq 3 "A-K points" (A = 2; K = 1) but < 1♣ opening (may be as light as 9 HCP's with sufficient compensating distributional features, facility of likely rebids, controls, texture in long suit(s), and location and "mesh" of high cards)

We may choose to Pass on marginal (i.e. MIN strength) hands that fit our opening bid requirements yet present awkward rebid problems should Responder bid 1♠ (showing 4⁺♥'s), e.g. 42(25) or 4144 or 41(35).

We may also choose to open 1♦ in lieu of 1♣ on marginal strength (say 16-17 HCP) if we have an awkward rebid – eg 1444 or (31)45 or 14(35) or 04(45) where the stiff is not an honor and the 5-card suit is mediocre

1♥ = in 1st, 2nd, and 4th (almost all of the time) promises
 (a) \geq 5♥'s (will not have longer ♣/♦'s),
VUL with 3415, 4414 or 4405 we can open 1♥
[but we have no means to disclose this divergence from the assumed norm]
 (b) if marginal (i.e. MIN strength) then likely \geq 3 "A-K points" (A = 2; K = 1),
 (c) denies sufficient strength to open 1♣ instead – ergo ~9-16 HCP,
 (d) if 6⁺♥'s then too strong for 2♥ opening bid,
 (e) may be as light as 9 HCP's with sufficient compensating distributional features, facility of likely rebids, controls, texture in long suit(s), and location and "mesh" of high cards

= in 3rd seat could be light, lead-directional, and based on a good 4-card suit

1♠ = in 1st, 2nd, and 4th (almost all of the time) promises
 (a) \geq 5♠'s (will not have longer ♣/♦'s),
 (b) if marginal opening bid strength then likely \geq 3 "A-K points" (A = 2; K = 1),
 (c) denies sufficient strength to open 1♣ instead – ergo ~9-16 HCP,
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- 1N**
- = at FAV vulnerability, shows 10-12 HCP
 - = at EQUAL vulnerability, shows 14-16 HCP (occasional upgrading of 13⁺)
 - = at UNFAV vulnerability, shows 15-17 HCP (occasional upgrading of 14⁺)
- (a) at Opener's discretion may have 5♥/♠ in 5332 or (52)(42) pattern,
 - (b) with 6*m*(322) we will usually prefer to open 2*m*, unless the *m* is of poor quality
 - (c) in 1st and 2nd may have 4144 pattern irrespective of the quality of the ♥ singleton (again anticipating an awkward rebid problem after a 1♠ response to the alternative 1♦ opening bid)
 - (d) singleton H's (particularly K) are not uncommon, though usually w/o 5M unless 5=3=(4=1)
- 2♣**
- = in 1st, 2nd and 4th seat promises
 - (a) ≥ 6♣'s
 - (b) if only 6♣'s then at least moderate (≥ QT9xxx) strength/texture – else we will open 1♦ instead (whether BAL or UNB) or 1N (or Pass or stretch to open 1♣)
 - (c) may have any side suit pattern, including 4 or even 5M/♣, but ♦'s will be the longest suit
 - (d) if marginal opening bid strength then likely ≥ 3 “A-K points” (A =2; K =1),
 - (e) denies sufficient strength to open 1♣ instead – ergo ~9-16 HCP,
 - (f) may be as light as 9 HCP's with sufficient compensating distributional features, facility of likely rebids, controls, texture in ♣'s, and location and “mesh” of high cards
- = in 3rd seat could be light, lead-directional, and based on a good 5-card suit
 - = in 3rd and 4th seat, denies 4M
- 2♦**
- = in 1st, 2nd and 4th seat promises
 - (a) ≥ 6♦'s
 - (b) if only 6♦'s then at least moderate (≥ QT9xxx) strength/texture – else we will open 1♦ instead (whether BAL or UNB) or 1N (or Pass or stretch to open 1♣)
 - (c) may have any side suit pattern (including 4/5M other than in 4th seat) yet < 5♣'s, but ♦'s will be the longest suit (but with full opening bid values in 3rd/4th seat denies 4⁺M)
 - (d) if marginal opening bid strength then likely ≥ 3 “A-K points” (A =2; K =1),
 - (e) denies sufficient strength to open 1♣ instead – ergo ~9-16 HCP,
 - (f) may be as light as 9 HCP's with sufficient compensating distributional features, facility of likely rebids, controls, texture in ♦'s, and location and “mesh” of high cards
- = in 3rd seat could be light, lead-directional, and based on a good 5-card suit
 - = in 3rd and 4th seat, denies 4M
- 2M**
- = promises
 - (a) 6 or 7 M's (if lower range) of any suit quality
 - (b) may have any side suit pattern, including 4 or even 5OM/*m*
 - (c) 8-13⁻ HCP (might be slightly shaded at FAV vulnerability)
- = in 1st and 2nd at FAV vulnerability
 - (a) in principle same as above, although more like 7-11
 - (b) in practice, could be shaded
- = in 3rd seat, it's “anything goes”

2N = promises xy(55) with 8-13⁻ HCP, values tend to be concentrated in *m*'s (ergo an initial Pass does not preclude this shape)

ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)

3N = in 1st and 2nd seat only, a 4-level preempt in either ♣/♦

ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)

4♣ = in 1st and 2nd seat only, NAMYAT[♥], 8-8 ½ tricks and ≤ 1-loser suit

ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)

4♦ = NAMYAT[♠], 8-8 ½ tricks and ≤ 1-loser suit

ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)

4N = a strong 5-level opening in either ♣ or ♦ (10⁺ tricks), stronger than direct 5*m*, F[5*m*]

Mandatory ACBL pre-approved defence (copy provided at the table)

After we open 1♣*

After any GF positive response, relay ("tell me more") options are available, with captaincy residing either with Opener or with Responder.

Should you engage in delayed interference:

(a) directly over the Captain/Asker, relays are off after 3⁺ step interference

(b) indirectly over Puppet/Teller's response, relays are off after a 2⁺ step interference

Immediate response structure (ACBL General Convention Chart, ergo no defences req'd):

- 1♦ = 0-7 (8 if FAV) HCP's, F1
- 1♥ = GF, either (i) any 5⁺♠ or (ii) 8-10/14⁺ HCP's w/ BAL (no 5M)
- 1♠ = GF, either (i) any 5⁺♥ or (ii) 8-10/14⁺ HCP's w/ (A) 3-suited (no 5M) or (B) 55m's
- 1N = GF, BAL (no 5M) and 11-13 HCP's
- 2♣ = GF, either (i) any 6⁺♦'s or (ii) 6♣4♦ or (iii) 6♣ w/ BAL 8-10 HCP's and poor ♣'s
- 2♦ = GF, 6⁺♣
- 2♥ = GF, 11-13 HCP's, 3-suited (no 5M), short ♥'s
- 2♠ = GF, 11-13 HCP's, 3-suited (no 5M), short ♠'s
- 2N = GF, 11-13 HCP's, 3-suited (no 5M), short ♦'s
- 3♣ = GF, 11-13 HCP's, 3-suited (no 5M), 5♦'s + short ♣'s
- 3♦ = GF, 11-13 HCP's, 4=4=4=1♣
- 3♥ = GF, 11-13 HCP's, L=S=5⁺♦5⁺♣
- 3♠ = GF, 11-13 HCP's, S=L=5⁺♦5⁺♣
- 3N = 7 tricks in any suit (AKQJxxx), no side A/K
- 4any = GF, Xfer, < 8 HCP, 8⁺ suit

After we open 1♦***(1♦*) - P - (1♥*)**

1♥ = (a) by UPH it's artificial, F1, 4⁺ ♠'s [will not have longer ♥'s]; (b) natural by PH

→ Opener's 1♠ rebid (if RHO is silent) = 4♥, denies 4♠'s, and is NF

Suggested defence:

X	= take-out of ♠'s, equal/longer ♦'s
1♠	= take-out of ♠'s, longer ♣'s
2♥	= natural
Others	= whatever it would've meant after a natural 1♠ response

(1♦*) - P - (1♠*)

1♠ = (a) by UPH it's artificial, F1, 4⁺ ♥'s; (b) natural by PH

Suggested defence:

X	= take-out of ♥'s
2♠	= natural, good hand [not preemptive as if over 1♦ - (P) - 1♥ natural]
Others	= whatever it would've meant after a natural 1♠ response

(1♦*) - P - (1N*)

1N = NF, denies 4M, tends to have a higher upper limit than in Std. American (~ poor 11)

(1♦*) - P - (2♣*)

2♣ = by UPH it's
 (a) artificial, GF+
 (b) no restrictions as to pattern, but unlikely to have a self-SPL in any suit
 (c) initially commences a relay sequence where Opener describes his hand
 (d) Responder can break relay chain to opt into a natural dialogue mode

Suggested defence:

X	= ♣'s
2N	= two-suiter, typically m's
Others	= natural

N.B. Should you interfere:

- (a) directly over the Captain/Asker, relays are off after 3⁺ step interference
- (b) indirectly over Puppet/Teller's response, relays are off after a 2⁺ step interference

= by PH it's 7-9 HCP's and 6♣'s

(1♦*) - P - (2♦*)

2♦ = by UPH it's F1, but assumed to be always weak (if GI then \geq 1-loser 6⁺M) with either
 (a) 4♠5⁺♥ [1♦ Opener assumes this]
 (b) but could also be 6⁺♠

Suggested defence:

If unpassed hand: your defence to Flannery 2♦ opening bid

If passed hand: 2♥ = m's, longer ♣'s
 2♠ = m's, longer ♦'s
 2N = m's, equal length

= by PH it's 6♦'s by PH

(1♦*) - P - (2♥*)

2♥ = by UPH it's F[2N], GI, showing
 (a) BAL (denies 4M), anti-positional [see 2N response in juxtaposition]
 (b) (54)UNB or 55m's

Suggested defence:

Pass, then simple = weaker than direct action
 Pass, then jump = strong
 X = 5⁺♥'s, unlimited [N.B. direct 3♥ = preemptive]
 2♠ = natural
 2N = Michaels [M's]
 3♣ = 4♠5⁺♥
 3♦ = 5⁺♠4♥
 3M = preemptive
 Others = natural

= by PH it's 6♥'s and 5-7 HCP's

(1♦*) - P - (2♠*)

2♠ = by UPH it's F[3m], preemptive in either m

Suggested defence:

X	= take-out of ♦'s → Lebensohl applies if that's what you usually play
3♦	= Michaels, Majors
Others	= natural

= by PH it's 6⁺♠'s by PH and 5-7 HCP's

(1♦*) - P - (2N*)

2N = by UPH it's NF, GI, BAL but positional [see 2♥ response in juxtaposition]

ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)

= by PH it's 55 m's, preemptive

(1♦*) - P - (3m)

3m = by UPH it's NF, GI, 6/7m's

ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)

= by PH it's natural, NF, preemptive

(1♦*) - P - (3♥*)

3♥ = by UPH it's F[3N/4m], at least 55 m's,

ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)

= by a PH it's natural, NF, preemptive

(1♦*) - P - (3♠*)

3♠ = by UPH it's F[3N/4m], AKQ 7th in either m w/ no side A/K

Suggested defence:

P, then X	= transferable values, strong NT or better
X	= ♠'s, but not enough to venture 4♠ directly
3N	= at least 55M's, equal length
4m	= both M's, longer corresponding M
4M	= natural, NF

= by a PH it's natural, NF, preemptive

(1♦*) - P - (3N*)

3N = preemptive, at least (65) in m's

ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)

(1♦*) - P - (4m*)

4m = Texas-like transfer to ♥/♠

ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)

(1♦*) - P - (4M)

4M = to play

ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)

*After we open 1♥***(1♥) - P - (1N)**

1N = NF, denies 4♠, tends to have a higher upper limit than in Std. American (~ 11)

(1♥) - P - (2♣*)

2♣ = by an UPH it's an artificial GF⁺, without any restrictions as to pattern (tends to deny a V), commencing a relay sequence where Opener describes his hand

N.B. Should you interfere:

- (a) directly over the Captain/Asker, relays are off after 3⁺ step interference
- (b) indirectly over Puppet/Teller's response, relays are off after a 2⁺ step

Suggested defence:

- X = ♣ suit and values
- 2♦/2♠ = natural
- 2♥ = two-suiter with ♠ + either m
- 2N = two-suiter in the m's
- 3m/3♠ = natural

= by a PH it's 4-card support Reverse Drury

(1♥) - P - (2♦*)

2♦ = by UPH it's artificial, F1, and

- (a) < a constructive ♥ raise [could be quite weak] – usually only 3♥'s, or
- (b) GI w/ (i) BAL/semi -BAL w/o 4♠/3♥, (ii) 55 m's, (iii) THx[♥](64)/55m's, or (iv) 3♥ L/R
- (c) GO with 3=3=(43)

Suggested defence:

- X = take-out of ♥'s, good hand [with a “pre-balance”, simply P and balance back in later]
- 2♥ = Michaels, i.e. a two suiter with ♠'s and either m
- Others = whatever it would've meant after a natural (1♥) - P - (2♥) auction

= by a PH, it's natural

(1♥) - P - (2♠*)

2♠ = F[3m], GI, Hx♥ (55/64)m's

ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)

= by a PH it's "fit-showing" (i.e. typically 4♥5♠), INV but NF

(1♥) - P - (3m*)

3m = NF, GI, 6⁺m's, tends to deny 4♠'s

ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)

= by a PH it's "fit-showing" (i.e. typically 4♥5m), GI but NF

(1♥) - P - (3♠*)

3♠ = F1, either (a) a solid 7-card suit or (b) SPL[♣], but by a PH, SPL[♣]

Suggested defence:

P then X = transferable values, strong NT strength

X = ♠'s

3N = m's

4♥ = Michaels (5♠ + 5m)

Others = natural

After we open 1♠**(1♠) - P - (1N)**

1N = NF, tends to have a higher upper limit than in Std. American (~ 11)

(1♠) - P - (2♣*)

2♣ = by UPH it's artificial, GF⁺, without any restrictions as to pattern (tends to deny a void), commencing a relay sequence where Opener describes his hand

N.B. Should you interfere:

(a) directly over the Captain/Asker, relays are off after 3⁺ step interference

(b) indirectly over Puppet/Teller's response, relays are off after a 2⁺ step

Suggested defence:

X = ♣ suit and values
 2♦/2♥ = natural
 2♠ = two-suiter with ♥ + either m
 2N = two-suiter in the m's
 3m/3♥ = natural

= 4-card support Reverse Drury by a PH

(1♠) - P - (2♦*)

2♦ = by either UPH or PH it's F1, constructive, showing 4⁺♥'s and unspecified strength

(a) < GI, 6⁺♥'s

(b) GI, with (i) 4/5 ♥'s BAL or quasi-BAL, (ii) 5♥'s + 5m, (iii) 4♥'s + 6m, or (iv) 6⁺♥'s

(d) GF⁺, 5⁺♥'s

Suggested defence:

X = a good hand, take-out of ♠'s
 2♥ = both m's
 2N = natural, 17-19
 Others = natural

(1♠) - P - (2♥*)

2♥ = by UPH it's artificial, F1, and

(a) < constructive ♠ raise – usually only 3♠'s, or

(b) GI w/ (i) BAL/semi-BAL w/o 4♥/3♠, (ii) 55 m's, (iii) Hx♠55/64m's, or (iv) 3♠ L/R

(c) GO with 3=3=(43)

Suggested defence:

X = take-out of 2♠, good hand [with a “pre-balance”, simply P and balance back in later]

2♠ = Michaels, i.e. a two suiter with ♥'s and either m

Others = whatever it would've meant after a natural (1♠) - P – (2♠) auction

= by a PH, it's 3-card support *Reverse Drury*

(1♠) - P - (3m*)

3m = by an unpassed hand it's constructive, NF but GI 6⁺m's

ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)

= by a PH it's “fit-showing” (i.e. typically 4♠5m), GI, NF

(1♠) - P - (3♥*)

3♥ = F1, either (a) a solid 7-card suit, or (b) SPL[♣]

Suggested defence:

P then X = transferable values, strong NT strength

X = ♥'s

3♠ = Michaels (5♠ + 5m)

3N = m's

Others = natural

= by a PH it's “fit-showing” (i.e. typically 4♠5♥), GI, NF