

Balcombe-Thurston Pre-alerts

2 level transfer bids showing the Major suit above

2♦ opening bid shows 9+ to 13 HCP **with 6 or 7 card ♥ suit** (may be 2 suited)

2♥ opening bid shows 9+ to 13 HCP **with 6 or 7 card ♠ suit** (may be 2 suited)

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

New suit responses are forcing and natural, except:

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

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

2♥ (=♠)-3♣ shows 5+♥ & 2♥ (=♠)-3♥ shows 6+♣

Suggested defense: Double shows an overcall in the bid suit, cue bid of 3♠ is takeout

Suggested Defense of the opening bids

Double = Takeout of the suit shown.

(2♦)-Dbl is takeout of ♥ (2♥)-Dbl is takeout of ♠

The partnership should play the same advance structure as after doubles of weak 2 bids

Cuebid = Michael's (5+ other Major & 5+ unknown minor), opening bid strength

The partnership should play the same as other 2 suited bids

2NT = 15+ to 18 HCP, balanced

The partnership should respond as after a 2NT overcall of a weak 2-bid

3NT = Same meaning as 3NT over a weak 2 bid

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

For example (2♦=♥)-4♣ for many partnerships will show 5+♣ & 5+♠ with sound values

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 same as after a weak 2-bid raise