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Krzysztof Jassem

Translated from Polish by Tomek Brus

Polish Club 2020 Standard

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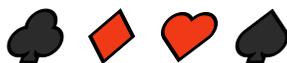
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POLISH CLUB

2020

Standard



By Krzysztof Jassem

**Translated from Polish by
Tomek Brus**

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Tomek Brus,

Translator's note.

I acknowledge that as many women as men play Bridge. There are no neutral pronouns in English, and constantly putting s/he, her/him, her/his is clumsy and distracting. I have therefore used the male version for simplicity.

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Introduction to the system

Polish Club 2020 Standard

The bidding system *Polish Club Standard* has been created as the result of a questionnaire among the potential users of the system. The questionnaire was published on the internet page www.jassem.pl in September and October 2019.

The structure of the system reflects the preferences of the responders of the questionnaire. *Polish Club 2020 Standard* consists of arrangements that have proved most popular.

In one aspect of the system I have been unable to find solutions, which would meet all the preferences of the readers. After an opening of one of a major, the 1NT response was supposed to be non-forcing, *two-over-one* responses were forcing to game, and a jump in a new suit would be an artificial raise with a fit in opener's suit. I found it impossible to combine these three features consistently within the structure of the system as a whole because it would become impossible to show an invitational hand with a minor. I decided

to adopt a scheme, where a *two-over-one* response does not force to game.

TABLE OF OPENING BIDS

Opening	Meaning
1♣	12 – 14; balanced 12 - 17; 4-4-1-4 15+; 5+ Clubs 18+; any
1♦	12 – 17; 5+ suit
1♥, 1♠	12 – 17; 5+ suit
1NT	15 – 17 balanced or semi-balanced
2♣	11 – 14; 5+ clubs and a 4 card major or 6+ clubs (<i>Precision</i>)
2♦	6 – 11; 6+ major
2♥	6 – 11; 5+ hearts and a 4+ minor
2♠	6 – 11; 5+ spades and a minor
2NT	6 – 11; minors (5 – 5)
3 any suit	Pre-empt, 6+ suit
3NT	1 st , 2 nd hand – <i>gambling</i> 3 rd , 4 th hand – to play
4♣, 4♦	Natural, pre-empt

The 1♣ Opening

Description of the opening

This opening has four possible meanings.

In the weak variant of the opening (balanced hand) the range of the opening is 12 – 14.

12 – 17; 4-4-1-4, singleton diamond.

In the “Club” variant (at least 5 clubs and an unbalanced distribution) the bid promises 15 – 17 points.

In the strong variant the opening promises strength of at least 18 points or equivalent.

The lower limit of the strong variant (18+) can be approximately defined as follows: **If an average fit with King and Queen of the trump suit being in partner’s suit, it is sensible to open with a strong version of the 1♣ opening.**

Table of responses

Response	Meaning
1♦	0 – 6(7); any distribution; (7)8 – 11; with a minor (or both minors) not 8-10 balanced
1♥ / 1♠	7+; at least a four card suit
1NT	8 – 10; no four card major, balanced
2♣ / 2♦	12+; 5+ suit; game force
2♥	7 – 9; 5+ spades; 4+ hearts
2♠	13+; no four card major; game force; no 5 card minor
2NT	11 – 12; no four card major; invitational to 3NT
3♣ / 3♦	9 – 11; good 6 card suit; non- forcing
3♥ / 3♠	0 – 6; promising 7 card suit
4♣ / 4♦ / 4♥ / 4♠	0 – 6; distributional pre-empt

1♦ response

Meaning

- 1) 0 – 6(7) any distribution;
- 2) 8 – 11 unbalanced distribution, no four card major.

Explanation

1♦ response shows a weak hand – up to 7 points. With 7 points we should choose a response in a major, if we hold a four card major – otherwise bid 1♦. With 8 – 11 points we also bid 1♦, if we do not have a four card major, and the hand is unbalanced (for instance, we have a 6 card minor, or 5 – 4 in the minors).

Opener's rebids after 1♦ response

The 1♦ response is forcing. With a weak variant (12-14) opener selects one of two rebids: 1♥ or 1♠, indicating his **longer major** (in extreme cases it can be a three card suit).

With 15 – 17 points opener either bids one of a major, or 2♣ if he does not have a four card major (this hand contains 5+ clubs).

With 18+ points opener has a wide choice of rebids: 1NT and 2NT show strong balanced hands. 2♦ is an artificial bid showing the strongest hand – forcing to game. Jump rebids in a new suit show hands with at least twenty points and a five card suit. With a slightly weaker hand (18-19 points) opener bids his suit without a jump (e.g. 1♥ or 1♠) hoping that partner will continue bidding.

Let us look at all opener's rebids.

1♣	1♦
?	

- 1♥ / 1♠ - 1) 12-14; longer major
- 2) 15-17; 4 card suit and 5+ clubs
- 3) 18-19; 5 card suit
- 1NT - 18-20; balanced
- 2♣ - 15+; 5+ clubs no 4 card major unless 20+
- 2♦ - game force; any distribution

2♥ / 2♠ - 20+; five card suit

2NT - 21-23; balanced

3♣ / 3♦ - 18+; 6+ suit

Opener's major suit rebid

West	East
1♣	1♦
1♠	?

East has shown either a negative hand (up to 7 points), or a reasonable hand (8-11) with minors.

West has stated that his Spades are better than Hearts, but has not disclosed his strength. **East** should continue the bidding, if he has more than four points:

1NT - 5-7 without four spades

2♣ / 2♦ - 5-11; five card suit

2♠ - 4-6; four spades

3♣ / 3♦ - 8-11; six card suit

The Polish Club bidding system is based on an ambiguous 1C opening, limited one-level openings, 5 card majors and a Strong No Trump. The concept makes it possible to find partner's total strength on a lower level than in all-natural systems. In the Standard version, a 2C opening is Precision, 2D is Multi, and remaining two-level openings are weak Polish two-suiters.

One of the key original features of the system is the concept of the artificial reverse (“odwrotka” in Polish), which occurs in the sequence: 1C – 1H / 1S – 2D – ? The convention lets players quickly find the fit in the major and determine whether the hands are worth slam investigation.

The latest version of the system, Polish Club 2020, has been based on a questionnaire among potential users of the system. It adapts most popular treatments used in various contemporary bidding systems.

A 1D opening is now almost always 5 cards, and the two-level opening bids are more aggressive than in earlier versions. The introduction of modern conventions to both uncontested and competitive auctions makes the system more attractive to expert players.



KRZYSZTOF JASSEM (Poland) is a well-known international player whose successes include winning the Vanderbilt Cup and a silver medal in the World Olympiad Teams. He is professor of computer science at Poznan University.



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