

Suit Length

October 30, 2012

Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club

Warren Watson

Opening

Do you have opening points 12+?

Open a suit except:

a balanced 15-17, then open 1NT (no singletons or voids)

a balanced 20-21, then open 2NT (no singletons or voids)

Otherwise Open Longest Suit First

Five Card Majors

1♥ 1♠

These promise 5 or more of the major

Better Minor

1♣ 1♦

Without a five-card major, open your longest minor. This promises three of the minor and usually four diamonds.

Two-Suited hand:

Bid higher ranking first then rebid the lower ranking.

If the lower ranking is longer and you have 17+ points, see reverse section.

Three-Suited Hand

open five-card major

otherwise bid four-card suits up the line.

Rebids

Opener, on his second chance to bid, may either:

- Rebid his own suit showing 6 or more
- Raise partner's response showing four
- Bid a new four-card suit, rebidding twice shows 5 or more.
- Bid cheapest notrump showing 12-14. Not 11 and not 15.
- Skip a notrump showing 18-19.

Reverse

A reverse shows 17 points so sometimes one must lie about length not strength or lose a suit if not holding reverse points when the lower ranking suit is longer.

- ♠AQ2 ♥5 ♦K1054 ♣AQ876
open 1♦ and rebid 2♣
- ♠AQ2 ♥A ♦K1054 ♣AQ876
Open 1♦ and rebid 1NT if partner bids a heart
(normally should have 2♥'s)
- ♠AQ2 ♥K ♦5432 ♣AQ876
open 1♣ and rebid 2♣ (lose a weak diamond suit)
- ♠AQ765 ♥KQJ1098 ♦43 ♣---
Open 1♥ and rebid 2♥
- ♠AQ765 ♥J98762 ♦AK ♣---
Open 1♠ and rebid 2♥
- ♠AKQ76 ♥KQJ1098 ♦43 ♣---
Open 1♥ and rebid 2♠
(2♣ is an option when not two-suited.
The bidding won't pass out)

Responding

Want a Golden Fit

Between both hands, a golden fit is eight cards or longer

With no golden fit, notrump is tried assuming the suits are stopped.

After a one-level suit opening, Your options are:

Raise partner's major with three

Raise partner's minor with five and no four card major

Bid a new suit:

Bid longer suit first

Bid four card suits up the line

Bid the higher ranking five-card suit

1♠ 2♥ is always 5+ hearts

A reverse by responder is game forcing

New suit at the 2 level is 10+ and 1 round forcing

1♣ 1♠

1NT 2♥ skipped a four or five card heart suit to bid a five card or longer spade suit. New suit at the two level is 10+.

exception

with new minor forcing (nmf)

1♣ 1♠

1NT 2♥ is to play

1♣ 1♠

1NT 2♦ is forcing and artificial if nmf
and asks for 4 heart then 3 spades

After a 2♣ opening

Both openers and responders first bid suit are 5 in length

After a Notrump opening

majors are five and minors are 6 to transfer into them

5-4 one uses Stayman

Right Hand Opponent Opens First Overcalls

One-level Overcall

Good Suit with 8+ points mostly in the suit

Two-level Overcall

Distributional or a good 13+

Safer when vulnerable

Doubles

W	N	E	S
	1♣	Dbl	

A double promises three cards in the unbid suits and shortness 2 or fewer in the doubled suit usually. Unbid majors tend to be four and rarely 5.

Rule of 2

Do not double when the difference in unbid suit length is 2 or more.

Five card majors tend to get lost when one doubles-better to overcall

Negative Doubles

W	N	E	S	
1♣	1♦	Dbl		4-4 in majors
1♣	1♦	1♥		4 hearts if spades are 3 or less
1♣	1♦	1♠		4 spades if hearts are 3 or less
1♣	1♥	Dbl		4 spades and has a course of action if partner bids diamonds
	♠AQ32 ♥42 ♦43 ♣KJ543			Dbl and rebid 3♣ if p bids 2♦
	♠AQ32 ♥AJ32 ♦43 ♣543			Dbl and rebid 2NT if p bids 2♦
1♣	1♥	1♠		5 spades
1♣	1♠	2♥		5 hearts and 10+ points
1♣	1♠	Dbl		either does not have 5 hearts or 10 points

W	N	E	S
1♣	1♠	Dbl	P
1NT	P	2♥	

to play

Exercises:

What are the length of the following suits in Standard American?

- | | | | | | |
|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|----|
| 1. W | E | 11. W | E | 21. W | E |
| 1♠ | 1NT | 1♠ | 2♣ | 1♣ | 1♥ |
| 2♥ | P | 2♠ | not P | 2♣ | 2♦ |
| 2. 1♠ | 1NT | 12. 1♠ | 2♦ | 22. 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 3♥ | 3♠ | 3♣ | | 2♣ | P |
| 3. 1♠ | 1NT | 13. 1♥ | 1NT | 23. 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 3♠ | P | 2♠ | 3♥ | 2♦ | 3♦ |
| 4. 1♠ | 1NT | 14. 1♣ | 1NT | 24. 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 3♠ | 4♠ | 2♣ | | 2♣ | 2♥ |
| 5. 1♠ | 1NT | 15. 1♣ | 1♥ | 25. 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♥ | 3♣ | 2♣ | | 2♣ | 2♠ |
| 6. 1♠ | 1NT | 16. 1♣ | 1♠ | 26. 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♥ | 3♥ | 1NT | 2♦ | 1NT | 2♠ |
| 7. 1♠ | 1NT | 17. 1♦ | 1♠ | 27. 2♣ | 2♦ |
| 2♥ | 2♠ | 1NT | 2♣ | 2♠ | 3♥ |
| 8. 1♠ | 1NT | 18. 1♦ | 1♥ | 28. 2♣ | 2♦ |
| 2♠ | | 1♠ | 3♠ | 2♥ | 3♣ |
| 9. 1♠ | 2♥ | 19. 1♦ | 1♥ | 29. 2♣ | 3♣ |
| 2♠ | not P | 1NT | 2♥ | 6NT | |
| 10. 1♠ | 2♦ | 20. 1♦ | 1♥ | 30. 2♣ | 2♠ |
| 2♠ | not P | 1NT | 3♥ | 6♠ | |

Answers:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. W: 5+♠, 4+♥ | E: 4+♣, 10+ | 22. W: 4+♦, 4+♣ |
| E: 2-♠, 3+♥ | 12. W: 5+♠, 5+♣ | if ♠>♦, min |
| 2. W: 5+♠, 5+♥, GF, 18+ | E: 4+♦, 10+ | E: 4+♥, ♣>♦ |
| E: 2♠, 3-♥ | 13. W: ♥>♠, 16+ | 23. W: longer ♣ than ♦, |
| 3. W: 6+♠, inv, 16-18 | E: 6-9, 4+♥, max | 16+ |
| E: 0 or 1 ♠, minimum | 14. W: 5+♠, not bal | E: better ♦ than ♠, |
| 4. W: 6+♠, inv, 16-18 | E: 6-9, likely bal | min |
| E: 1 or 2 ♠, maximum | 15. W: 5+♠, not bal | 24. W: 5+♠, not bal |
| 5. W: 5+♠, 4+♥ | E: 4+♥ | E: 5+♠, 4+♥ |
| E: long♣, to play | 16. W: 5-♣, bal | 25. W: 5+♠, not bal |
| 6. W: 5+♠, 4+♥ | E: 5+♠, 4+♦ | E: 6+♠ |
| E: 6-9, 2♠, 4♥, max | 17. W: 5-♦, bal | 26. W: 5-♠, bal |
| 7. W: 5+♠, 4+♥ | E: 4+♠, 4+♣, 10+ | E: 5+♠ |
| E: 6-9, 1or2♠, 2-♥ | 18. W: 6+♠ | 27. W: 5+♠ |
| 8. W: 6+♠ | E: 4♥, 4♠, 10-12 | E: 5+♥, GF |
| E: 6-9, 1or2♠, min | 19. W: 5-♦, bal | 28. W: 5+♥ |
| 9. W: 5+♠ | E: 5+♥, 6-9 | E: 5♣, GF |
| E: 5+♥, 10+ | 20. W: 5-♦, bal | 29. W: 2♣ opener |
| 10. W: 5+♠ | E: 6+♥, 10-12 | E: 6♣, 2 of top3Hon |
| E: 4+♦, 10+ | 21. W: 6+♠ | 30. W: 2♣ opener |
| 11. W: 6+♠ | E: 5+♥, 4+♦ | E: 5♠, 2 of top3Hon |

Note: 5-♣ = 5 or less clubs

In these contested Auctions, what do you know of East's hand:

W	N	E	S	W	N	E	S
31. 1♣	1♦	Dbl		42. 1♣	1♥	1♠	P
32. 1♣	1♦	1♠		43. 1♣	1♦	1NT	P
33. 1♣	1♦	1♥	P	44. 1♣	1♥	1NT	P
34. 1♣	1♦	1♥	P	45. 1♣	1♦	Dbl	P
1♠	P	2♠		1♠	P	1NT	
35. 1♣	1♦	1♠	P	46. 1♣	1♠	Dbl	P
1NT	P	2♥		2♦	P	2NT	
36. 1♣	1♠	Dbl	P	47. 1♠	2♣	P	P
1NT	P	2♥		Dbl	P	P	P
37. 1♣	1♠	Dbl	P	48. 1♠	2♣	P	P
2♦	P	2♥		Dbl	P	2♦	
38. 1♣	1♠	2♥	P	49. 1♠	2♣	P	P
39. 1♦	1♠	Dbl	P	Dbl	P	2♥	
2♣	P	2♦		50. 1♠	2♣	P	P
40. 1♣	1♠	Dbl	P	Dbl	P	3♣	
2♦	P	2NT		51. 1♠	2♣	3♣	P
West has a reverse?				52. 1♠	2♣	Dbl	P
41. 1♣	1♥	Dbl	P	2♥	P	3♣	

Answers:

31. 4♠-4♥ 32. 4+♠ 33. 4+♥ 34. 4♠-5♥ 35. 5♠-4♥ 36. long hearts, 6-9, to play
 37. long hearts, 6-9, to play 38. 5♥, 10+ 39. 6-9, 4♥-4♦ 40. 4♥, spade stopper, 10-12 It is not a reverse because
 West may have intended to never bid diamonds. 41. 4♠ 42. 5♠ 43. ♦ stopper, 6-9, No 4 card major 44. ♥ stopper,
 no 4♠ 45. 4♥ + ♦ stopper 46. 4♥, 10-12, ♠ stopper 47. club length (3+ trump tricks) and 10+ 48. club length + 3+♦
 49. 4♥, 0-5 50. 0-10, club length 51. limit+ in spades 52. GF, 3♣ is Western Cuebid

What do you open with the following? and what is your rebid if partner responds 1NT?

53. ♠AQ654 ♥A753 ♦K54 ♣3
54. ♠AQ6543 ♥A73 ♦K54 ♣3
55. ♠AQJ104 ♥A75 ♦K54 ♣32
56. ♠A10984 ♥A75 ♦K54 ♣K2
57. ♠32 ♥A73 ♦K54 ♣AQ654
58. ♠3 ♥A73 ♦K54 ♣AQ6543
59. ♠AQ654 ♥A75 ♦K53 ♣43
60. ♠AQ654 ♥AQ654 ♦53 ♣4

Answers:

53. 1♠, 2♥ 54. 1♠, 2♠ 55. 1♠, P 56. 1♠, P or open 1NT 57. 1♣, P 58. 1♣, 2♣ 59. 1♠, P
60. 1♠, 2♥ then 3♥

You open a minor. What is your rebid if partner responds 1♠:

61. ♠32 ♥A73 ♦K54 ♣AQ654
62. ♠K3 ♥A73 ♦854 ♣AQ654
63. ♠A75 ♥AQ654 ♦K53 ♣43
64. ♠AQ65 ♥A752 ♦K53 ♣43
65. ♠AQ65 ♥A75 ♦K53 ♣432
66. ♠A43 ♥Q732 ♦AK543 ♣7

Answers:

61. 1♠, 1NT 62. 1♠, 1NT 63. 1♥, 1NT 64. 1♦, 2♠ 65. 1♠, 2♠ 66. 1♦, 2♠

What do you open? What is your rebid if partner responds 1♥?

67. ♠K4 ♥AQ5 ♦AJ54 ♣K543
68. ♠54 ♥AQ6 ♦AJ54 ♣K543
69. ♠5 ♥AQ2 ♦AJ543 ♣K543

What do you open? What is your rebid if partner responds 1♠?

70. ♠4 ♥AQ65 ♦AJ54 ♣K543
71. ♠K ♥AQ65 ♦AJ54 ♣9543

What do you open? What is your rebid if partner bids 1♥ and RHO bids 1♠:

72. ♠KJ4 ♥Q6 ♦AJ54 ♣K654
73. ♠K4 ♥Q6 ♦AJ54 ♣K6543
74. ♠54 ♥AQ6 ♦AJ54 ♣K543
75. ♠4 ♥AQ ♦AJ543 ♣K6543
76. ♠A ♥AQ63 ♦AJ54 ♣K543
77. ♠A ♥AQ ♦AJ54 ♣K5432

What do you open? What is your rebid if partner responds 1♥:

78. ♠42 ♥AQ ♦AJ54 ♣K5432
79. ♠A2 ♥A6 ♦9854 ♣KQ432

Answers:

67. 1♣, 1NT 68. 1♦, 1NT 69. 1♦, 2♥ 70. 1♦, 2♣ 71. 1♦, 1NT 72. 1♦, 1NT(12-14) 73. 1♦, 1NT 74.
1♦, 2♣ 75. 1♦, 2♣ 76. 1♠, 3♠, 18+ splinter 77. 1♣, Dbl then 2♠, Western Cuebid asking for another stopper.
78. 1♦, 1NT 79. 1♠, 1NT

Partner opens 1♣. What do you respond with the following:

80. ♠J842 ♥A543 ♦J954 ♣2
81. ♠J8432 ♥A542 ♦J95 ♣2
82. ♠J8432 ♥A3 ♦J9854 ♣2
83. ♠AJ42 ♥A543 ♦J954 ♣2
84. ♠AJ432 ♥A3 ♦J9854 ♣2
85. ♠J8 ♥A543 ♦82 ♣J9872
86. ♠J8 ♥A53 ♦832 ♣J9872

Answers:

80. 1♥ 81. 1♥ not strong enough to bid 1♠ then 2♥. 82. 1♠ then 2♠ over 1NT 83. 1♥ 84. 1♠ then 2♦
85. 1♥ then 2♣ 86. If using inverted minors, 1♦ then 2♣ if vulnerable and then 3♣ if not vulnerable. 2♣ if not
using inverted minors.

Right Hand Opponent Opens 1♣. What do you bid with the following:

87. ♠A2 ♥A6 ♦9854 ♣KQ432
88. ♠AK42 ♥AK54 ♦9854 ♣2
89. ♠QJ42 ♥AK54 ♦9854 ♣2
90. ♠A1098 ♥AK54 ♦9854 ♣2
91. ♠A109 ♥AK54 ♦Q854 ♣52
92. ♠2 ♥62 ♦A854 ♣AKQ432
93. ♠AK543 ♥9876 ♦AQ65 ♣---
94. ♠AK54 ♥9876 ♦AQ652 ♣---

Answers:

87. Pass 88. Dbl 89. Pass 90. Dbl but a pass would be fine. It is nice if partner can count on a full
opening for a double defensively and offensively. 91. Dbl 92. 3♣ 93. 1♠ then 2♥ 94. Dbl

Right Hand Opponent opens 1♥. What do you bid with the following:

95. ♠AK54 ♥9876 ♦AQ2 ♣K2
96. ♠AK54 ♥987 ♦AQ2 ♣982
97. ♠AK54 ♥A87 ♦QJ2 ♣Q82
98. ♠AK54 ♥AQ7 ♦QJ2 ♣982
99. ♠AK542 ♥9876 ♦AQ2 ♣K2

Answers:

95 Dbl or 1♠ 96. Dbl 97. 1NT 98. 1NT 99. 1♠

- Right Hand Opponent Opens 1♠. What do you bid the following:
- 100. ♠AK542 ♥9876 ♦AQ2 ♣K2
 - 101. ♠A2 ♥AK876 ♦AQ2 ♣K32
 - 102. ♠AK ♥A876 ♦Q32 ♣K32
 - 103. ♠3 ♥AK876 ♦Q432 ♣K32
 - 104. ♠3 ♥AK876 ♦KQJ2 ♣KJ2
 - 105. ♠9872 ♠AK876 ♦KQJ ♣K

Answers:

100. Pass 101. Dbl 102. 1NT 103. 2♥ not vul 104. 2♥ or Dbl if their 3♠ is not weak 105. 2♥

Partner Opens 1♠. What do you bid the following:

- 106. ♠32 ♥AK762 ♦KJ2 ♣432
- 107. ♠32 ♥AK76 ♦KJ32 ♣432
- 108. ♠432 ♥AK762 ♦KJ32 ♣4
- 109. ♠432 ♥KJ762 ♦KJ32 ♣4
- 110. ♠5432 ♥K76 ♦KJ32 ♣K2
- 111. ♠532 ♥AK76 ♦KJ32 ♣A3

Answers:

106. 2♥ 107. 2♦ 108. 2♦ then 4♠ you want to dissuade partner from slam if he has a singleton diamond not a singleton heart 109. 2♥ then 4♠ 110. 3♠, limit raise 111. need 4♠'s for J2NT bid 2♦ then 4♠