

Rationale

Playing tennis against lefthanders is never much fun – They're used to playing against righthanders but.... The same goes for playing against Precision pairs. Even though they will alert their bids, established pairs are wise to make a few variations to their system to cater for such opponents. If you give them too easy a ride, particularly over their 1C, they will land in good contracts. This strategy should apply against any other "Big Club" systems. If you are playing teams, you will be playing at least 8 boards against this pair. Be prepared to spend a few minutes discussing your strategy before playing the first hand. You are entitled to do so. First, you need to know a little about precision:-

- Their 1M openings are 5 card suits, 11 – 15 HCP
- Their 1D! opening shows 11 – 15 HCP, a minimum of two diamonds and that is quite frequently the case.
- Check whether they open ALL 11 HCP hands. If not, what are the restrictions.
- Their 1C! opening promises 16+HCP and virtually any shape.
- Their 1D! answer to 1C! shows 0–7HCP, any shape
- Their 1NT opening is usually 13-15 or 14-16 HCP
- Their 2C opening is "natural" 11-15 HCP showing either 6 clubs or 5 clubs and another suit.
- Their 2D opening may be a singleton or void in diamonds, 11 -15 HCP. Check it.

The following changes to your system against precision are suggested :-

- Play "No Michaels over their precision 1C & 1D" So, (1C) – 2C, (1C) – 3C, (1D) – 2D and (1D) – 3D are all natural bids
- Play (1C)-X for the majors. May be 4-4 nil vul, weak
- Play (1C)-1NT for the minors
- Play (1C)-2NT for both reds
- Overcall their 1C at the 1 level freely
- Play weak jump overcalls over their 1C
- Play (1D) – X as our usual takeout
- Since their 2C is natural, X is takeout, 2NT is natural, 3C is Michaels,
- Play (1D) – 1NT as natural, 15-18, no need D stop
- X of their 1D! response to 1C shows diamonds
- If 2D! is short, X shows diamonds, 3D is natural
- If partner overcalls their 1C, their responder frequently has to double to show values or bid a 5 card suit with 5-7 HCP. Be prepared to raise partner's overcall preemptively. (1C!) – 1S – (X) – 3S. Now, let's see if they can judge how high to bid when they haven't yet mentioned a suit!
- Do watch the vulnerability unless the fit is good.

• Your right hand opponent has dealt and opened 1C. What will you do with each of the following hands, NOT VUL?

♠A94 ♥KQ62 ♦K72 ♣QJ7

Pass. Sure, you have a natural 1NT bid. Let them have a round of bidding. If your LHO makes a positive bid, you'll be glad you passed and haven't told them where everything is. You can bid it on the next round if it goes (1C!) – P – (1D!) – P
1H – ?

What will you do over their 1C with these hands?

♠AQ9753 ♥86 ♦72 ♣65

Bid 2S. Make life difficult for them.

♠AQ97 ♥KQT62 ♦543 ♣2

Double. For the majors.

♠74 ♥86 ♦K9764 ♣A8743

1NT. For the minors

♠97 ♥QJ7 ♦T6 ♣AQ8765

Bid 2C. Natural over their precision minors.

♠A9754 ♥KT6 ♦753 ♣32

Bid 1S.

♠AQ62 ♥KQ4 ♦QJ87 ♣32

Pass. X would be 5-4 in majors

♠5 ♥A8763 ♦K9873 ♣42

Bid 2NT. Lower two of remaining suits.

• This auction comes around to you, NOT VUL:-
(1C!) 1S (X) ?

You know that X says 8+ HCP, nothing to do with spades. (Remember, this will not be alerted since X and XX are self-alerting bids). What are you going to do with each of these hands?

♠5 ♥A8763 ♦K9873 ♣42

Pass and pray. This is a misfit. Surely they won't go after partner at the one level when they can probably make 3NT.

♠QT86 ♥K76 ♦86432 ♣7

Bid 3S. That should make life difficult for them.

♠Q87 ♥A42 ♦KQ63 ♣876

Bid 2S. Something smells here and I think it's partner. Too many HCP. 16+8+8+11 (Precision pairs nearly always have their bid – otherwise they get in a mess)

• This auction comes around to you NOT VUL:-
(1C!) 1NT! (X) ?

Partner has both minors but the opposition have enough for game.

♠8 ♥T85 ♦KT876 ♣9743

Bid 5D. They are almost certain to make 6S. Let's see if they bid it now.

♠K75 ♥A976 ♦T76 ♣432

Pass! When they double our two suited overcall and we have equal length in partner's suit, it is best to pass. Partner will pull it. Remember, he may have one suit longer than the other and it would be a shame to pick the wrong one.

♠T9862 ♥A8753 ♦K ♣72

Bid 2C. nice and smooth. Looks like another horror coming up.

• This auction comes around to you NOT VUL:-
(1C!) 1S (2H) ?

2H shows 5 – 7 HCP and a 5 cards heart suit.

♠K87 ♥A97 ♦K32 ♣6532

Bid 2S. Sure, you have 10 HCP, but partner is weak.

♠K8 ♥AQ97 ♦K32 ♣6532

Pass. Do not try to play these hands in NT. Add up the HCP. Not much for partner is there?

♠T8765 ♥8 ♦K983 ♣976

Bid 4S. They have a huge heart fit. Can they diagnose a slam?