

# Blue Club System

The book *Blue Club* was written by **Mr. Benito Garozzo** in 1969, and the co-author was **Mr. Leon Yallouze**. This book was adapted from the French by **Mr. Terence Reese** and the Introduction was written by **Mr. Omar Sharif**. The book was published in 1969. This book is now out of print. The Blue Club system is derived from the **Neapolitan Club system** devised by **Mr. Eugenio Chiaradia**, also of Italy, but who spent many years from 1964 on in Brazil.

During the 1950s, the **Blue Team of Italy** was formed. Bidding systems were not governed completely during that time, as they are today by ACBL and the WBF. Even today some restrictions applied by the ACBL are not restricted by the WBF. For example, Forcing Pass bidding systems are forbidden by ACBL at ACBL-sanctioned tournaments, but not by the WBF. Striving towards a unified agreement is a continuing process, made difficult by the many partnership agreements within the bridge community.

The Blue Team developed a bidding system using a combination of the Neapolitan and Roman bidding systems. Combining the most favorable features of both bidding systems resulted in the formation of the Blue Club bidding system. The main proponents of this bidding system were Mr. Walter Avarelli, Mr. Benito Garozzo, Mr. Pietro Forquet, Mr. Massimo D'Alelio, and Mr. Giorgio Belladonna. They had great success at the bridge tournaments using the Blue Club System.

A version of the Blue Club written by **Mr. Alex Knox**, called the **Calgary Casual Style**, is contained in the following [.pdf file](#), and, if clicked, will be automatically downloaded to your computer and opened with Adobe Acrobat Reader. This [.pdf file](#) contains 116 pages.

The translation of this system and the resulting variations of the system were accomplished mainly by Mr. C.C. Wei and Mr. Terence Reese, and studied, copied, and played by many top bridge players of that time. Some versions of the Blue Club bidding system are still used by bridge partnerships today, however this occurs more in Europe than in North America.

As a result of the Blue Club bidding system, itself an evolution of the Neapolitan and Roman Systems, the Blue Team Club was devised, and evolved into other bidding systems such as the Super Precision using Alpha, **Beta**, Gamma, and Delta Suit Asking Bids, an updated version of the Roman system, the Blue Club, and the Super Roman system.

We would like to present a general overview of this bidding system. The reader should be made aware of the fact that the bids can have different meanings before they are subsequently clarified through rebids. The Blue Club has many similarities also with the Symmetric Relay of Mr. Hugh Grosvenor and Mr. Ian Robinson.

## Opening Bids

1 ♣: Promises 17 plus high card points and unbalanced, or 18 plus high card points and balanced.

1 ♦: Promises 12-16 high card points, at least 3 Diamonds.

1 ♥: Promises 12-16 high card points, at least 4-card Heart suit, and possibly a longer Minor suit.

1 ♠: Promises 12-16 high card points, at least a 4-card Spade suit, and possibly a longer Minor suit.

1 Promises 14-17 high card points, used with Lavings responses.

NT:

2 ♣: Promises 12-16 high card points, natural, standard Blue Club.

2 ♦: MULTI

2 ♥: MULTI

2 ♠: MULTI

2 Three level Preempt in either Minor suit.

NT:

3 ♣: Promises 5-12 high card points and 5-5 distribution at least in both Minor suits.

3 ♦: Signifies any solid 7-card suit.

3 ♥: Standard preempt.

3 ♠: Standard preempt.

3 Four level preempt in either Minor suit.

NT:

4 ♣: NAMYATS, a transfer to 4 Hearts.

4 ♦: NAMYATS, a transfer to 4 Spades.

4 ♥: Weaker preempt in Hearts.

4 ♠: weaker preempt in Spades.

4 Specific Ace-asking bid.

NT:

5 ♣: Preempt

5 ♦: Preempt

5 ♥: Preempt, bid 6/7 Hearts with 1/2 top honors respectively.

5 ♠: Preempt, bid 6/7 Spades with 1/2 top honors respectively.

A **1 No Trump opening** shows 15-18 high card points. A 1 No Trump opening or overcall may include a five card Major suit in a balanced hand and then a response of 2 Clubs becomes a Lavings Asking Bid, asking opener to describe his holding further. This response always shows at least invitational values. The rebids of the opener are as follows:

2 ♦: Promises 15-16 high card points, and no 5-card Major suit.

2 ♥: Promises 15-16 high card points, and a 5-card Heart suit.

2 ♠: Promises 15-16 high card points, and a 5-card Spade suit.

2 NT: Promises 17-18 high card points, no 5-card suit holding.

3 ♣: Promises 17-18 high card points, and a 5-card Club holding.

3 ♦: Promises 17-18 high card points, and a 5-card Diamond holding.

3 ♥: Promises 17-18 high card points, and a 5-card Heart suit.

3 ♠: Promises 17-18 high card points, and a 5-card Spade suit.

## **MULTI Openings**

### **2 Diamonds**

1. Weak-Two in either Major suit.
2. Strong, balanced holding of 20-22 high card points with exactly 4-3-3-3 distribution.
3. Strong, single-suited Minor suit with less than 18 high card points.

### **2 Hearts**

1. Weak values with 5-5 distribution in Hearts and unknown Minor suit,

and 5-12 high card points.

2. Strong (8 plus playing tricks), single-suited in Hearts with less than 18 high card points.
3. Strong (8 plus playing tricks), two-suited holding in Hearts and unknown Minor suit, and less than 18 high card points.

## **2 Spades**

1. Weak values with 5-5 distribution in Spades and unknown Minor suit, and 5-12 high card points.
2. Strong (8 plus playing tricks), single-suited in Spades with less than 18 high card points.
3. Strong (8 plus playing tricks), two-suited holding in Spades and unknown Minor suit, and less than 18 high card points.

## **Leads and Signals**

1. Holding a sequence, including interior sequences, the choice is to lead the top of touching honors.
2. Leading fourth from a suit headed by an honor shows length.
3. Lead the second card from three or more small cards.
4. Signals indicate natural count, except for the first discard, which shows attitude, and after the lead of an Ace.
5. A Smith Peters attitude signal given at the first chance by the partner with the opening lead against a No Trump contract, or in the trump suit only.

**Opening 1 Club shows 17 plus high card points and unbalanced shape, or 18 plus high card points and balanced shape**

## **Responding To 1 Club**

The responses to a 1 Club opening are standard Blue Club responses, except for certain bidding sequences. The following information is necessary to determine the correct bidding sequence.

1. A response of 1 Heart is game-forcing, whereas a 1 Diamond response indicates a poor seven count.
2. A response of 1 Club, and a rebid of 1 Heart is an Artificial Force showing 20 high card points plus.

### Responder's Rebids

1 ♠: A Second Negative showing 0-3 high card points and any shape.

1 Shows a 4-4-4-1 or 5-4-4-0 shape.

NT:

2 ♣: A Transfer to at least a 5-card Diamond suit.

2 ♦: A Transfer to at least a 5-card Heart suit.

2 ♥: A Transfer to at least a 5-card Spade suit.

2 ♠: 4-7 high card points, shows a balanced holding, 5-card Club holding is possible.

2 Shows a 5-5 distribution in both Minor suits.

NT:

3 ♣: Shows a 6-card Club suit.

### Exceptions

If the response to a 1 Club opening are standard Blue Club responses, then the opener's rebids are standard Blue Club rebids. Several exceptions must be noted.

1. A 1 No Trump response and a 2 No Trump rebid by the opener asks for a possible Singleton or Void.
2. If the opener makes a rebid which shows an acceptance of any Transfer Bid, then the opener promises support. In return, the responder can raise with stronger values, bid game using the Principle of Fast Arrival, show a second suit, or bid No Trump with a

5-3-3-2 distribution.

3. If the opener opens with 2 Spades, showing 15-16 high card points and a 5-card Spade suit, and the responder bids 2 No Trump, then the opener can rebid 3 Clubs showing a 5-card Club suit, 3 Diamonds showing a 5-card Diamond suit, 3 Hearts showing a 5-card Heart suit, or 3 Spades showing a 5-card Spade suit.
4. If the opponent, left of the responder, enters the auction after a prior bidding sequence of 1 Club - 1 Diamond, then the overcall cancels the meaning of the 1 Heart as a second forcing rebid by the opener, and all responses of the responder after the overcall are considered natural.

**After any 1 Club opening, 1 Diamond response, 1 Spade rebid by opener, the responder has the following guidelines:**

- 2 ♣: Shows 17-20 high card points, not forcing.
- 2 ♦: Shows 17-20 high card points, not forcing.
- 2 ♥: Shows 17-20 high card points, not forcing.
- 2 ♠: Natural and game-forcing.
- 3 ♣: Natural and game-forcing.
- 3 ♦: Natural and game-forcing.
- 3 ♥: Natural and game-forcing.

The bidding sequence: Opener 1 ♣, Responder 1 ♦, Opener 1 ♥, Responder 1 ♠, the opener's rebids of either 3 Clubs or 3 Spades are considered natural and not forcing, showing an ACOL Two type holding, which is most likely too strong for a **MULTI** opening.

Transfer bids are still applicable, but only with balanced holdings, after a No Trump rebid only by the opener in the bidding sequence.

Bidding sequence: 1 ♣ - 1 ♦ - 1 No Trump shows 18-19 high card points. **LAVINGS-type** responses are in effect.

Bidding sequence: 1 ♣ - 1 ♦ - 1 ♥ - 1 ♠ - 1 NT shows 20-21 high card points and a possible 5-card Major suit.

Bidding sequence: **1♣ - 1♦ - 1♥ - 1♠ - 2 NT** shows 22-23 high card points. All responses by the responder all considered to be natural.

Bidding sequence: **1♣ - 1♦ - 2 NT** shows 24 high card points plus. All responses by the responder all considered to be natural.

Bidding sequence: **1♣ - 1♠ - 1 NT**, the responder has at his disposal **Baron** or **LAVINGS** as Transfer Bids. The opener, in not accepting the Transfer Bid, shows a 4-4-4-1 distribution. If the opener responds after the Transfer Bid with 3 Clubs or 3 Diamonds, then the opener is showing a good 6-card suit in Clubs or Diamonds respectively, and slam interest.

Bidding sequence: **1♣ - 1 NT /2♣ /2♦ - 2 NT** is the same as for 2 No Trump opening.

Bidding sequence: **1♣ - 1♥ /1♠ - 2 No Trump** shows 22 high card points plus with good controls. This bidding sequence invites the responder to attempt slam. Exploring for slam can be accomplished by using Roman Key Card Blackwood, the Roman Club with Step Responses, the Arno Club, and Multi-Cuebids.

Bidding sequence: **1♣ - 2 (of any Major) - a rebid of 2 No Trump** is then an Asking Bid about the shape of the responder's holding. For example:

Bidding sequence: **1♣ - 2♥ /2♠ - 2 NT - 3 (of any suit)** shows a Singleton

Bidding sequence: **1♣ - 2♥ /2♠ - 2 NT - 3 (of any Major suit)** indicates no Singleton in any suit

Bidding sequence: **1♣ - 2♥ /2♠ - 2 NT - 3 No Trump** indicates no Singleton in any suit and two of the top honors

Bidding sequence: **1♣ - 2♥ /2♠ - 2 NT - 4 (of any suit)** shows a void.

Bidding sequence: **1♣ - 2 (of any Major suit)** - a rebid of 4 Clubs by the opener is a Modified Key Card Asking Bid. The rebids of the responder are:

4 ♦: Shows No Key Cards

4 ♥: Shows 1 Key Card

4 ♠: Shows 1 Key Card plus the Queen of trump

## Responding To One Of A Suit

Contrary to the guidelines set forth in the original Blue Club system, the revised version was updated to include Two Over One as an absolute game-forcing feature. In addition, a 1 No Trump response show 7-11 high card points. The responder also was not permitted to use Canape Reverses, and all 2 No Trump rebids by one partner, who had in the auction had no limited his holding are forcing. Transfer Jump Shifts at the Three level were also included.

Bidding sequence: **1♦ / 1♥ - 1♠ - 1 NT - 2 NT** is forcing, and the opener can show a possible Club suit or a 3-card Spade support.

Bidding sequence: **1♦ / 1♥ - 1♠ - 1 NT - 2♣** becomes non-forcing and shows a long Club suit

**Opening 1 Diamond shows 12-16 high card points, and at least 3 Diamonds.**

#### **Responding To 1 Diamond:**

**1♥ / 1♠** shows 6 plus high card points, and a 4-card suit length in Hearts or Spades.

**1 NT** shows 7-10 high card points. The responder should have one 4-card Minor suit, whereby a 2 Clubs rebid indicates both Minor suits, and therefore is not a Canape bid.

**2♣** shows a 5-card plus Club suit with Diamonds. This bid is not forcing. The opener can escape the 2 Clubs response with a strong Canape bid or rebid a strong Diamond single-suiter.

**2♦** shows 11 high card points plus and is forcing to 2 No Trump. The rebids by opener are below:

**2♥**: Shows a stopper for play in No Trump.

**2♠**: Shows a stopper for play in No Trump.

**2** Shows 12-13 high card points, balanced holding with stoppers in NT: both Major suits.

**3♣**: Shows a 5-card Club suit. The opener uses Canapé.

**3♦**: Shows a 5-card Diamond suit and is unlimited.

**3♥**: This rebid becomes a strong Canapé.

**3♠**: This rebid becomes a strong Canapé.

3 Shows 13-14 high card points, balanced holding with stoppers in NT: both Major suits.

2 ♥ / 2 ♠ are then natural and strong bids by the responder.

2 No Trump becomes a Transfer bid to 3 Clubs and is natural and game-forcing. In this case, the opener can accept the transfer with moderate support. The opener can otherwise rebid a higher-ranking suit than Clubs, which is then a natural bid.

3 ♣ is a Transfer bid to 3 Diamonds and shows a 4-card Diamond suit, and is game-forcing indicating slam interest. The opener will accept the transfer when holding 4 or more Diamonds. With less than 4 card support, the opener rebids a Major suit showing a stopper. A rebid by the opener of 3 No Trump shows a stopper in both Major suits.

3 ♦ becomes a preemptive raise.

3 ♥ / 3 ♠ are Splinter bids and Diamonds become the agreed trump suit.

3 No Trump is the Principle of Fast Arrival and sets the final contract.

## Responding To 1 Heart Or 1 Spade

In responding to an opening of 1 Heart or 1 Spade, the general practice is to use the procedural bidding sequences set forth in standard Blue Club. The newer version, however, incorporates Constructive Simple Raises, Transfer Jump Shifts, and Preemptive Double Raises up to and including the Three Level.

A 1 of a Major suit opening shows 12-16 high card points, at least a 4-card Spade/Heart suit, and possibly a longer Minor suit.

1 Heart - 2 Hearts by the responder shows 7-11 high card points and 4-card support

1 Spade - 2 Spades by the responder shows 7-11 high card points and 4-card support

A Constructive Simple Raise is considered forcing for one round provided the opener has a minimum balanced holding or a 5-4-2-2 distribution. The opener can either rebid his longer Minor suit or rebid 2 No Trump, requesting the responder to further describe his holding such as minimum or maximum values. However, if the opponents decide to balance after the opener decides to pass with a minimum balanced holding, then a double is for penalties.

1 Heart - 3 Hearts is purely a preemptive response showing 0-6 high card points and a 4-card support

1 Spade - 3 Spades is purely a preemptive response showing 0-6 high card points and a 4-card support

1 Heart - 2 Diamonds - 2 Hearts becomes a Waiting bid and the opener promises a 5-card suit

1 Heart - 2 Diamonds - 2 No Trump promises 12-14 high card points and semi-balanced, however, no 4-3-3-3 distribution

1 Heart - 2 Diamonds - 3 No Trump shows 12-14 high card points with a 4-3-3-3 distribution

In responding to a Major suit opening, the responder also has the option of using the **Splinter** bid. Using the Blue Club system, however, the Splinter bid is permitted only up to and including 4 Diamonds. Therefore, a bidding sequence of 1 Spade - 4 Hearts is natural, and not a Splinter bid, since it has exceeded the established limit of 4 Diamonds. A bidding sequence of 1 Heart - 3 Spades is a Splinter bid by the responder.

An opening of either 1 Heart or 1 Spade shows 12-16 high card points, at least a 4-card Heart or Spade suit, and possibly a longer Minor suit. In the bidding sequences of either 1 Heart - 3 Diamonds or 1 Spade - 3 Hearts, the bids of the responder are Transfer Raises showing at least 12 high card points plus and therefore game-going values, and also at least a 3-card support for the Major suit opening. The Transfer Raises are not game-forcing since opener may have minimum and only a 4-card Major suit. The opener is, however, required to accept the transfer or rebid his longer Minor suit depending on his values and strength.

It is general practice, when using the Blue Club system, to consider any bid above 3 No Trump as a Multi-Cuebid. Any bid below 3 No Trump are considered to be natural in the sense of the Blue Club system, even after an agreed trump Major suit has been established. If a Minor suit has been established as the trump suit, a bid of 3 No Trump is then a natural bid and 4 bid of a Minor suit is the continuation of the cuebid. There are several bidding sequences which calls for different interpretation:

Bidding sequence: 1 ♦ 2 ♦ 3 ♦ 3 ♥ / 3 ♠ / 4 ♣ are cuebids  
3 NT is to play

Bidding sequence: 1 ♦ 2 NT 3 ♣ 3 ♦ / 3 ♥ / 3 ♠ are cuebids  
3 NT is to play

## A 1 No Trump Opening Shows 14-17 high card points. Responses To 1 No Trump

The general practice is to use standard **Lavings** responses with Transfers, including 4 Clubs and 4 Diamonds. Experience has shown, however, that in the auction 1 No Trump- 2 Clubs (asking bid) - 2 Diamonds (or 2 No Trump) - 3 Diamonds is **Stayman Plus**, which is the traditional Stayman convention, but which promises Clubs length. The opener is then required to by-pass 3 No Trump with a 4-card Club support.

3 Clubs is **Baron**, but in this auction does not show any slam interest.

## Lebensohl and Take-Out Doubles at the Two Level

If the opponents decide to balance or enter the auction, than any new suit bid by the responder and/or opener becomes completely invitational, and the values are then considered to be minimum. If the values are stronger, then one partner or the other can make a call of double, redouble, cuebid, and/or rebid his suit. Any direct cuebid of the opponent's suit is Stayman-like and implies shortness in the opponent's suit.

After an immediate overcall by an opponent after a 1 No Trump opening, Lebensohl is applicable.

Opener	LHO	Responder	RHO	Meaning
1 NT	2 ♠	2 NT	pass	
3 ♣	pass	3 ♦		Responder signs off, showing weakness.
		3 ♥		Responder signs off, showing weakness.
		3 ♠		Responder promises game-going values and a half-stopper.
		3 NT		Game-going values, but no stopper, and denies holding a 4-card Heart suit.

If the opponents decide to balance at the Three Level, or enter the bidding at the Three level as an immediate overcall, then a Double is for Penalties and any Suit bid if forcing for one round.

## A 2 Clubs Opening Shows 12-16 high card points. Responding To A 2 Clubs Opening

The responses to a 2 Club opening are standard Blue Club system responses.

### Responding To Two Diamonds

The 2 Diamonds opening is treated as a Multi. This is a bid showing a Weak Two-Bid in either Major suit, a balanced hand with strong values, or a 4-4-4-1 distribution with excellent values. The Multi was devised by Mr. Terence Reese and Mr. Jeremy Flint at the end of the 1960s, along with Mr. Robert Sheehan, Mr. Irving Rose, and Mr. Jonathan Cansino. Based on the rebids, the responder is able to recognize the true holding and values.

- 2♦    2♥    2♦ is Multi, and 2♥ is a non-forcing Relay.
- 2♠       Shows a Weak Two-Bid in Spades.
- 2 NT      Shows a strong balanced holding with strong values.
- 3♣       Shows a strong Single-Suiter.
- 3♦       Shows a strong Single-Suiter.

2 Spades is a non-forcing Relay response, but considered invitational if the opener opened a Weak Two-Bid in Hearts, which becomes determined according to the rebids of the opener as shown in the above chart.

- 2♦    2 NT    Asking response, Relay
  - 3♣       Shows a Weak Two-Bid in Hearts.
  - 3♦       Responder's Asking Bid for further information.
  - 3♥       Responder's sign-off response.
  - 3♠       Responder's forcing rebid, requesting opener to bid the better suit for game.
  - 4♣       Responder's Key Card Asking Bid.
- 
- 2♦    2 NT    Asking response, Relay

- ♦ NT
- 3 ♦ Shows a Weak Two-Bid in Spades.
- ♦
- 3 ♥ Responder's Asking Bid for further information.
- 4 ♣ Responder's Key Card Asking Bid.
- 4 ♥ Responder's forcing rebid, requesting opener to bid the better suit for game.

- 2 ♦ 2 NT Asking response, Relay
- 3 ♥ Shows a holding with strong Clubs.
- 3 ♠ Shows a holding with strong Diamonds.
- 3 NT Shows a strong, balanced No Trump distribution.

Any strong responses to opener's rebids are forcing to 4 No Trump.

- 2 ♦ 2 NT Asking response, Relay
- 3 ♣ A natural rebid by opener and non-forcing if a Weak Two-Bid.
- 3 ♦ A natural rebid by opener and non-forcing if a Weak Two-Bid.
- 3 ♥ A a non-forcing Relay by opener.
- 3 ♠ A non-forcing Relay by opener.
- 4 ♥ A non-forcing Relay by opener.
- 4 ♠ A non-forcing Relay by opener.
- 4 NT A bid considered a normal Blackwood convention rebid by opener.

If the opponents decide to enter the auction after a 2 Diamond opening with a **Double**, then a **Redouble** shows support for either of the two Major suits, and is a business double. A response of 2 Hearts over the Double is considered to be non-forcing and indicates relatively weak support for either one or both of the Major suits. Otherwise, the responses are the same as in the diagrams above and the partnership continues with

the auction as if the double had not occurred.  
After intervention:

If the opponents enter the auction on the Two Level with either 2 Hearts or 2 Spades, then a Double by the Responder, instead of the normal 2 No Trump response, promises adequate support for the other unbid Major suit. All rebids after this bidding sequence are considered natural in nature. If the responder bids 2 No Trump, then this is a Lebensohl response showing a weak competitive holding in an unnamed Minor suit. Any response in either Minor suit becomes natural and is forcing for one round. A Cuebid of the opponent's suit and its significance is based on the partnership agreement regarding the strength and values of the holding.

After a bidding sequence: 2 Diamonds - 3 of any other suit - Double means that the Double by the responder is for Penalty.

### Responding To 2 Hearts. The responses are Multi responses:

- |      |      |   |
|------|------|---|
| 2 ♥  | 2 ♠  | A natural responses showing a 6-card plus Spade suit. Opener should pass if he is weak.                 |
|      | 2 NT | Asking Bid, one round forcing.  |
| 3 ♣  |      | Shows a weak holding and 5-5 distribution in Hearts and Clubs.  |
| 3 ♦  |      | Shows a weak holding and 5-5 distribution in Hearts and Diamonds.                                       |
| 3 ♥  |      | Shows a strong 1-suited holding.  |
| 3 ♠  |      | Shows a strong 2-suited holding.  |
| 3 NT |      | Shows a strong, solid Heart holding (partnership agreement).  |
| 4 ♣  |      | Shows a strong 2-suited holding.  |
| 4 ♦  |      | Shows a strong 2-suited holding.  |
|      | 3 ♣  | Opener either passes or corrects.   |
|      | 3 ♦  | Opener either passes or corrects.   |
|      | 3 ♥  | this response is a weak, invitational bid if holding 5-5 distribution. May show possible slam interest. |
|      | 3 ♠  | A natural response showing a 6-card Spade suit, and one round forcing.                                  |

- 3     A sign-off response.
- NT
- 4 ♣   Opener either passes or corrects.
- 4 ♦   Opener either passes or corrects.

**Responding To 2 Spades. The responses are Multi responses:**

The responses to an opening of 2 Spades are the same as for an opening of 2 Hearts, except for the response of 3 Spades, which is a weak, invitational bid if holding 5-5 distribution. This response may show possible slam interest. The 3 Heart response then allows the opener to either pass or correct.

**Responding To 2 No Trump. Three level Preempt in either Minor suit:**

- 2     3 ♣   Opener either passes or corrects.
- NT
- 3 ♦   Opener either passes or corrects.
- 3 ♥   This response is forcing, and shows a 6-card Heart suit.
- 3 ♠   This response is forcing, and shows a 6-card Spade suit.
- 3     This response is to play.
- NT
- 4 ♣   Opener either passes or corrects.
- 4 ♦   Opener either passes or corrects.
- 4 ♥   This response is a sign-off.
- 4 ♠   This response is a sign-off.
- 4     This is Roman Key Card Blackwood for opener's Minor
- NT     suit.

In contrast to the Blue Club system, the Blue Team Club system offers the partnership a second choice for the definition of the 2 No Trump opening. In the Blue Team Club system, a 2 No Trump opening signifies values between 21-22 high card points, a balanced holding, making allowance for a 5-card Major.

Using the Blue Club system, a bidding sequence of: 1♣ - 1♦ - 2 NT shows values of 24 plus high card points and a balanced holding. A bidding sequence of: 1♣ - 1♦ - 1♥ - 1♠ - 2 NT shows 23-23 high card points and a balanced holding. A bidding sequence of: 2♦ - 2♥/2♠ - 2 NT shows 21-22 high card points and a 4-3-3-3 distribution.

For those partnerships, which would prefer playing the Blue Team Club opening of 2 No Trump, the responses follow a certain pattern. In general, the Blue Team Club bid of 2 No Trump, as an overcall, will signify only 19-20 high card points and a balanced hand. After an opening by the opponents of a Weak-Two bid, a Multi bid, or a Flannery bid, an overcall of the Blue Team Club of 2 No Trump shows only 16-19 high card points and a balanced hand. Whether the bid of 2 No Trump is an opening or an overcall, the responses signify the same.

- 2 NT    3♣    the response is Extended Stayman, or just simple Stayman.
- 3♦    Jacoby Transfer, transferring to 3 Hearts. Opener can use Super Acceptance Bid.
- 3♥    Jacoby Transfer, transferring to 3 Spades. Opener can use Super Acceptance Bid.
- 3♠    shows interest in a Minor suit slam. Opener is required to rebid 3 No Trump.
- 3 NT    this response is a sign-off.
- 4♣    Gerber
- 4♦    Flint
- 4♥    Transfer to 5 Clubs with at least a 6-card Club suit, showing slam interest.
- 4♠    Transfer to 5 Diamonds with at least a 6-card Diamond suit, showing slam interest.
- 4 NT    this is a simple Quantitative Raise, not Ace asking.
- 5♣    this response is a sign-off and is natural.
- 5♦    this response is a sign-off and is natural.

Below is a small outline for the continuation of the bidding sequence after one partner has opened the auction with a Blue Team Club 2 No Trump opening.

2 NT	3 ♣	Extended Stayman by responder.
3 ♦		Opener shows both Minor suits.
	3 ♥	Responder now shows a 5-card Heart suit.
	3 ♠	Responder now shows a 5-card Spade suit.
	4 ♣	Responder now sets the suit and begins cuebidding.
	4 ♦	Responder now sets the suit and begins cuebidding.
	4 ♥	Responder's Asking Bid for Clubs and Diamonds.
	4 ♠	Responder Asking Bid for Clubs and Diamonds.
3 ♥		Opener shows a 4-card Heart suit.
	3 ♠	Responder now shows suit preference.
	3 NT	Responder now signs off after a 3 Heart rebid by the opener.
	4 ♣	A natural bid now by responder and forcing to 4 No Trump.
	4 ♦	A natural bid now by responder and forcing to 4 No Trump.
	4 NT	Now Roman Key Card Blackwood by responder.
3 ♠		Opener shows a 4-card Spade suit (with both, opener bids 3 Hearts first).
3 NT		Opener shows a 3-3-3-4 (any Minor suit distribution).

In the bidding sequence: 2 NT - 3♠, the responder is indicating a possible slam try in one of the Minor suits. The opener is obliged to rebid 3 No Trump. The responder then shows his preference according to the following diagram:

2NT	3 ♠	
3	4 ♣	Responder shows at least a 5-card Club suit.

## NT

- 4 ♦ Responder shows at least a 5-card Diamond suit.
- 4 ♥ Responder shows a 5-card Club suit and a 4-card Diamond suit.
- 4 ♠ Responder shows a 5-card Diamond suit and a 4-card Club suit.
- 4 NT Responder shows a 5-card Club suit and a 5-card Diamond suit.
- 5 ♣ Responder shows a 6-card Club suit with moderate values.
- 5 ♦ Responder shows a 6-card Diamond suit with moderate values.

After any of the above responses, the opener, in the Blue Team Club system, will use the next higher-ranking suit as Roman Key Card Blackwood. The bidding sequence: 2 NT - 3♠ - 3 NT - 4♣ - a rebid of 4♦ by the opener initiates Roman Key Card Blackwood. Through Step Responses, the responder can show his number of Key Cards. If the responder has shown both Minor suits, for example with a rebid of 4 No Trump, then both Minor Kings are counted as Key Cards. In any case, the opener becomes the captain of the partnership and decides whether to bid slam, initiate cuebidding, sign-off in 4 No Trump, bid game in the Minor suit bid by his partner, owing to a lack of additional values, or initiate Roman Key Card Blackwood.

If the responder has bid 4 Clubs after a 2 No Trump opening, then this is generally accepted as a **Roman Gerber** bid.

If the responder has bid 4 Hearts or 4 Spades, then these responses are Jacoby Transfers to 5 Clubs or 5 Diamonds respectively, showing at least a good 6-card suit. The opener, who then becomes the captain of the partnership, can choose to bid slam, initiate cuebidding or Roman Key Card Blackwood, or sign-off in game.

If the opponents have opened the auction on the One or Two Level, and one partner overcalls with 2 No Trump, a Transfer is not possible. Any suit response becomes then an indication of a shortage in the named suit, and is the beginning of at least a game try, if not a slam try.

If one partner has opened the auction with a Preempt, then the responder can guide his partner to the best contract.

- 3 Pass Responder prefers Clubs.
- ♣
- 3 ♦ Responder prefers Diamonds over Clubs.
- 3 ♥ A natural bid and forcing for one round.
- 3 ♠ A natural bid and forcing for one round.
- 3 NT Responder wishes to sign-off.
- 4 ♣ A response considered to also be preemptive in nature, and in Clubs.
- 4 ♦ A response considered to also be preemptive in nature, but in Diamonds.
- 4 ♥ Responder wishes to sign-off.
- 4 ♠ Responder wishes to sign-off.
- 4 NT Responder initiates Roman Key Card Blackwood, and both Minor Kings are counted as Key Cards.

**Opening 3 Diamonds signifies any Solid 7-card Suit. Responding To 3 Diamonds:**

- 3 ♦ 3 ♥ Opener then passes or corrects.
- 3 ♠ Responder shows a singleton Ace.
- 3 NT Responder signs off.

**Responding To A Preempt In A Major Suit**

Accepting the standard conventions regarding Preempts is the general practice. It is normally a matter of vulnerability versus non-vulnerability which governs the favorability of opening with a preemptive bid. Most partnerships have the understanding that the **Rule of 2 and 3** should be applicable, and that any other bid by the partner in another suit is natural, at least one round forcing, and asking for a 3-card support. Any 4 No Trump response is considered simple **Blackwood**, and not **Roman Key Card Blackwood**.

If the partner responds with a bid of 4 Clubs, then this is a modified Key Card Asking Bid.

The rebids of the preemptive opener are as follows, which are Step Responses.

- First Step: Shows no Key Cards
- Second Step: Shows 1 Key Card without the Queen of Trump
- Third Step: Shows 1 Key Card with the Queen of Trump
- Fourth Step: Shows 2 Key Cards without the Queen of Trump
- Fifth Step: Shows 2 Key Cards with the Queen of Trump

**A bid of 3 No Trump shows a Four Level Preempt in either Minor Suit.  
Responding To 3 No Trump:**

- 3 NT    4 ♣    Responder either passes or corrects.
- 4 ♦    Responder either passes or corrects.
- 4 ♥    This response is to play in Hearts.
- 4 ♠    This response is to play in Spades.
- 5 ♣    Responder either passes or corrects.
- 5 ♦    Responder either passes or corrects.
- 4 NT    Roman Key Card Blackwood in the opener's suit.

**Responding To A 4 Clubs or 4 Diamonds Namyats Opening Bid**

These two openings are considered Namyats transfer opening to Hearts and Spades respectively. These opening bids indicate either a solid suit in the respective Major suit, or, at worst, a Major suit with one loser and an outside trick-taking honor. The responder can bid either: 4 No Trump which is Roman Key Card Blackwood using the already agreed upon King of the trump suit; or the responder can bid a New Suit, which is a Control Asking Bid for the bid suit. The opener can bid the next step as a Negative Response.

**Responding To A 4 Hearts or 4 Spades Preempt**

Although these two openings are generally weaker in values than an opening of four in a Minor Suit, they promise at least a holding with 7/8 playing tricks. This means that the opener holds 5/4 losing tricks. The responses are, however, the same as with an opening of 3 Clubs or 3 Diamonds.

A List of the conventions used in the Blue Club system.

## Roman Key Card Blackwood

### Gerber

### **Multi**

### **Lavings**

### Texas Convention

### Grand Slam Force

Using the **Grand Slam Force** in connection with the Blue Club, the initiation of the attempt at a grand slam is somewhat different. It depends upon the agreed trump suit. The Grand Slam Force bid is always one rank higher than the agreed trump suit.

Trump Suit    Grand Slam Force bid

Spades:    5 No Trump

Hearts:    5 Spades

Diamonds:    5 Hearts

Clubs:    5 Diamonds

The responses are then **Step Bids**:

First Step:    Responder holds the Ace or King of trump.

Second Step:    Responder holds the Queen of trump, or 2 additional trump cards.

Third Step:    Responder holds no trump honor, but one additional trump card.

Fourth Step:    Responder holds no trump honor, and no additional trump card.

6 No Trump:    Responder holds two top trump honors.

7 of a suit:    Responder holds two top trump honors.

The attempt has been made to simplify the Blue Club system as much as possible with all of its complexity. Since the probability of an opponent overcalling is great and the responses then vary according to the nature of the overcall, defense mechanisms have not been included. However, it would be wise to acquaint oneself with the defense methods of the Blue Club system, since they could become invaluable tools. It is our hope that we have achieved somewhat our goal in presenting a simplified explanation of the Blue Club system. In order to understand completely the Blue Club system, it would be necessary for the reader and interested partnerships to purchase the books related to this system, study them, and practice before its application at the bridge table. Absolute comprehension is a prerequisite.

If you wish to include this feature, or any other feature, of the game of bridge in your partnership agreement, then please make certain that the concept is understood by both partners. Be aware whether or not the feature is alertable or not and whether an announcement should or must be made. Check with the governing body and/or the bridge district and/or the bridge unit prior to the game to establish the guidelines applied. Please include the particular feature on your convention card in order that your opponents are also aware of this feature during the bidding process, since this information must be made known to them according to the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge. We do not always include the procedure regarding Alerts and/or Announcements, since these regulations are changed and revised during time by the governing body. It is our intention only to present the information as concisely and as accurately as possible.

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