



AN HONORS eBook FROM MASTER POINT PRESS

Krzysztof Jassem

Translated from Polish by Tomek Brus

Polish Club  
2020  
Expert

Text © 2020 Krzysztof Jassem  
Cover image: 123RF/dolgachov

All rights reserved.

Honors eBooks is an imprint of Master Point Press. All contents, editing and design (excluding cover design) are the sole responsibility of the authors.

Master Point Press  
214 Merton St. Suite 205  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
M4S 1A6  
(647) 956-4933

[info@masterpointpress.com](mailto:info@masterpointpress.com)

[www.masterpointpress.com](http://www.masterpointpress.com)  
[www.bridgeblogging.com](http://www.bridgeblogging.com)  
[www.teachbridge.com](http://www.teachbridge.com)  
[www.ebooksbridge.com](http://www.ebooksbridge.com)

ISBN: 978-1-77140-330-6

Cover Design: Olena S. Sullivan/New Mediatrix

1 2 3 4 5 6      23 22 21 20

# **POLISH CLUB**

**2020**

*Expert*



**By Krzysztof Jassem**

**Translated from Polish by  
Tomek Brus**

## *Acknowledgements*

Special thanks to my IT expert *Dominik Macialek* and to my wife *Joanna* without whose help and encouragement this work could not have been completed.

Additional thanks to Christina Hardyment who showed me that resizing Word documents is actually quite simple.

And last, but not least, thanks to Martin Cantor, who carefully read the books, corrected my English, and made many valid remarks about Bridge.

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.*

<i>CONTENTS</i> .....	3
Small dictionary of bridge terminology.....	15
Introduction to the system POLISH CLUB 2020	
Expert.....	25
Uncontested auction.....	29
Table of opening bids.....	29
Non-vulnerable opening bids.....	29
Vulnerable opening bids.....	30
The 1♣ Opening.....	31
Description of the opening.....	31
Contra-indications to opening with a Strong Club.....	31
When to use Strong Club.....	32
Table of responses.....	32
1♦ response .....	33
1♥/ 1♠ responses .....	38
“ <i>Odwrotka</i> ”.....	45
Responses with balanced hands.....	53

2♣ / 2♦ responses .....	55
Other responses.....	58
Bidding after opponent's double.....	60
The 1♦ Opening .....	61
Description of the opening.....	61
Table of responses.....	61
Responses at the one level .....	62
Responses at the two level .....	66
Bidding after opponent's double.....	72
The 1♥ / 1♠ openings .....	74
Description of the openings.....	74
Table of responses.....	76
Responses to third in hand openings.....	77
Responses with a fit in opener's suit.....	78
<i>Mini – Splinter</i> and <i>Splinter</i> .....	81
Bidding after a <i>one-over-one</i> response.....	83
<i>Two-over-one</i> responses .....	88
Forcing 2NT.....	94
Bidding after an opponent's double.....	97

Bidding after an overcall by first opponent.....	100
Bidding after an overcall by second opponent.....	101
When both opponents bid.....	103
Inviting with opponent's suit.....	104
The 1NT Opening .....	106
Description of the opening.....	106
Table of responses.....	107
<i>Stayman</i> .....	107
Transfers to majors.....	114
Bidding after a transfer to a minor.....	115
Bidding after the 5-4-3-1 convention .....	117
Bidding after "Four-level Texas" .....	118
Bidding after intervention.....	118
Bidding after an opponent doubles 2♣.....	124
Bidding after an opponent doubles a transfer.....	126
Bidding after an opponent overcalls <i>Stayman</i> .....	128

Bidding after an opponent overcalls a transfer.....	129
Bidding after an opponent bids in the protective position.....	130
The 2♣ Opening - Both Majors.....	131
Description of the opening.....	131
Table of responses.....	132
2♦ response .....	132
2NT response .....	134
3♣ response .....	136
3♦ response .....	136
Tactics – most successful responses.....	137
Bidding after opponent’s double.....	137
Bidding after a suit overcall.....	138
The 2♦ Opening - Multi.....	139
Description of the opening.....	139
Table of responses.....	140
2♥ response .....	140
2♠ response .....	142
2NT response .....	143



3♣ response - “show me your suit via a transfer” .....	145
3♦ response .....	145
Bidding after a suit overcall by an opponent.....	147
The 2♥/ 2♠ Openings .....	150
Description of the opening.....	150
Table of responses.....	151
2NT response .....	152
Tactics of the auction.....	153
Bidding after intervention.....	154
The 2NT Opening .....	156
Description of the opening.....	156
Table of responses.....	156
Selected bidding sequences.....	157
Three level openings.....	159
Description of the openings.....	159
Development of the auction.....	160
The 3NT Opening .....	161
Four level openings.....	163

Description of the openings.....	163
Development of the auction.....	164
<b>Conventions in the uncontested auction.....</b>	<b>165</b>
Two <i>checkbacks</i> .....	165
Description of the convention.....	165
2♣ <i>checkback</i> .....	166
2♦ <i>checkback</i> .....	168
The <i>cheap transfer</i> convention .....	170
Description of the convention.....	170
3♣ - preparation to <i>sign off</i> .....	171
<i>cheap transfer</i> at the two level .....	173
The <i>third suit</i> convention .....	175
Slam bidding.....	178
<i>Cue bids</i> – general principles.....	178
Slam bidding with 5 – 4 shape.....	180
Four in a major – proposal of contract or <i>cue bid</i> ?.....	182
Bidding after our <i>cue bid</i> is doubled.....	183
Bidding 5 in the agreed major.....	184

<i>Keycard Blackwood 1430</i> .....	186
<i>Keycard Blackwood 5NT</i> .....	189
5NT – Grand Slam Force.....	190
5NT – “pick a small slam” .....	191
Exclusion <i>Keycard Blackwood</i> .....	191
Bidding after <i>Blackwood</i> is doubled.....	193
Bidding after Exclusion <i>Keycard Blackwood</i> is doubled.....	194
Bidding after <i>Blackwood</i> is overcalled.....	194
Bidding after response to <i>Blackwood</i> is doubled.....	194
Question about trump queen.....	196
Question about number of kings.....	198
Question about specific kings.....	199
Bidding after the question is doubled.....	201
<b>Bidding after intervention</b> .....	<b>203</b>
General principles.....	203
Transfers at the one level .....	204
New suit at the two level .....	209

Jump in a new suit.....	211
Negative double.....	213
Bidding after a negative double at the two level .....	216
Support double and redouble.....	217
Bidding after our redouble.....	220
Bidding after the opponent has passed....	220
Free bids when the second opponent bids.....	221
Redouble after our overcall.....	225
Bidding after an overcall of our suit opening.....	226
Bidding with a fit.....	226
Bidding after major suit agreement.....	228
Bidding after opponent's two-suited overcall.....	231
Bidding after an overcall of our 1NT response.....	234
Bidding after high level pre-empts.....	235
Bidding after a pre-empt by second defender.....	236

Re-opening double after an overcall.....	239
Bidding by the 1♣ opener after intervention....	241
Doubling artificial 1♣ opening.....	241
Showing a suit.....	241
Double followed by a suit bid.....	242
Jump in a new suit after partner's pass or negative .....	243
Bidding the opponent's suit.....	244
Bidding after second defender overcalls our 1♣ opening.....	246
Bidding clubs in competitive auctions.....	249
Bidding after a trap pass.....	251
Forcing pass.....	252
Creating a forcing pass situation after we have agreed a suit.....	253
<b>Competitive bidding in defence.....</b>	<b>256</b>
Take-out double.....	256
After opponent's 1♣ opening.....	256

After opponent's other openings at the one level.....	258
Bidding after opponent's redouble.....	260
Overcalling at the one level .....	260
1♦ overcall .....	261
1♥/ 1♠ overcall .....	261
<i>Drury</i> convention .....	262
Traditional <i>Drury</i> .....	263
Development of the auction after our 1♥/ 1♠ overcall.....	265
Overcalling at the two level .....	267
Development of the auction.....	267
Bidding after our 2♣ overcall of opponent's 1♣ opening.....	269
Bidding after an opponent opens 1NT.....	270
Defence to Strong NT (15-17 or 14-16)....	270
Defence to Weak NT (13-15 or weaker)...	272
No Trump overcalls.....	276
1NT overcall.....	276
2NT overcall.....	279

3NT overcall.....	280
Two-suited overcalls.....	282
<i>Michaels Cue bid</i> .....	282
<i>Leaping Michaels</i> convention.....	287
Other two-suited overcalls with majors.....	290
Other sequences in defence.....	292
Competitive bidding after our take-out double.....	292
Attacking – defensive double.....	296
Defence to two-suited openings with both majors.....	298
Defence to a 2♣ opening with clubs.....	300
Defence to Multi 2♦.....	301
Defence to 2♥/ 2♠ openings .....	304
Defence to a Strong Club opening.....	307
Opponent’s suit at the three level .....	308
Bidding after an artificial suit raise.....	311
Bidding in the protective position.....	312
Re-opening double at higher levels.....	314

Overcalls when both opponents are  
bidding.....314

**What do we do when something has not been  
discussed in the text?.....316**



## *UNCONTESTED AUCTION*

### TABLE OF OPENING BIDS

#### *Non-vulnerable opening bids*

Opening	Meaning
1♣	12-14; balanced 12+; natural 12-17; 4-4-1-4 18+; any
1♦	12-17; 4-4-4-1 or 5+
1♥	10-17; 5+
1♠	10-17; 5+
1NT	15-17; balanced
2♣	4-9; both majors; 4+ 4+ (if 4-4, 6-9 strength)
2♦	4-9; Multi
2♥	4-9; ♥ and a minor, 5+ 4+
2♠	4-9; ♠ and a minor, 5+ 4+
2NT	4-11; both minors, 5+ 5+
3♣/3♦/3♥/3♠	Destructive; may be 6 cards

### *Vulnerable opening bids*

Opening	Meaning
1♣	12-14; balanced 12+; natural 12-17; 4-4-1-4 18+; any
1♦	12-17; 4-4-4-1 or 5+
1♥	12-17; 5+
1♠	12-17; 5+
1NT	15-17; balanced
2♣	6-11; both majors, at least 5-4
2♦	6-11; Multi
2♥	6-11; ♥ and a minor, 5+ 5+
2♠	6-11; ♠ and a minor, 5+ 5+
2NT	6-11; both minors, 5+ 5+
3♣/3♦/3♥/3♠	Fair; promise 7 cards when partner not a passed hand

# The 1♣ Opening

## *Description of the opening*

- 1) 12-14; balanced
- 2) 12+; club suit
- 3) 12-17; 4-4-1-4
- 4) 18+; any (“Strong Club”)

The strength of the opening is the same at all vulnerabilities (at least 12 points).

This opening third in hand should not be much weaker (assume at least 11 points).

## *Contra-indications to opening with a Strong Club*

5-5 major-minor hands are difficult to describe with a Strong Club opening. With borderline strength (17 points) I suggest opening with the major.

### *When to use Strong Club*

Hands with 6 in a major and 4 in a minor are well suited for a Strong Club opening. With borderline strength (17 points) I suggest you open 1♣.

Hands with 5-4 or longer in the majors can be well described using the Strong Club. With borderline strength I suggest you open 1♣.

### *Table of responses*

Pass	- there is no such response
1♦	- 1) 0-6 (7); any distribution 2) 8-11; unbalanced with one or both minors
1♥ / 1♠	- 7+; natural, forcing
1NT	- 8-10; balanced, no four card major
2♣ / 2♦	- 12+; natural, 5+ suit, game force, 4 card major possible
2♥	- 7-9; 5+ spades, 4+ hearts
2♠	- 11-12; balanced, no four card major, invitational to 3NT
2NT	- 13+; balanced, no four card major

3♣ / 3♦ - 9-11; six card suit

3♥ / 3♠ - 3-6; seven card suit

### 1♦ response

#### Meaning

1) 0-6 (7); any distribution – *negative*

With 7 points we bid:

-1♦, without a 4 card major

-1♥/1♠, otherwise

2) 8-11; one or both minors.

#### Examples of bidding sequences

1♣	1♦
?	

1♥ / 1♠ - 12-20; 3+ suit, “bid if you can”

1NT - 18-20; balanced

2♣ - 12-17; no four card major

2♦ - any hand forcing to game

2♥ / 2♠ - 20+; five card suit or longer

2NT - 21-23; balanced

1♣	1♦
1♥	?

Special rebids:

2♠ - 9-11; 5 clubs, 4 diamonds

2NT - 9-11; 5 diamonds, 4+ clubs

1♣	1♦
1♠	?

2NT - 9-11; 5 diamonds, 4+ clubs (with five clubs and four diamonds and this strength we bid 2♣)

1♣	1♦
1♥ / 1♠	1NT
?	

2♣ - 12-17; 4 hearts / spades, 5 clubs

The motto of the Polish Club 2020 Expert system is: ‘Bid aggressively with an offensive hand, keep quiet with a defensive hand.’ Non-vulnerable one-level light openings and responses are introduced here. But the main merit of the Polish Club, i.e. to ‘keep an eye on the total strength of the bidders’, is still preserved.

In comparison to other versions of Polish Club (including Polish Club 2020 Standard), the meaning of the 2C opening has been changed. The Precision approach has been dropped, and replaced by the major two-suiter. This treatment, added to weak two-suited openings, makes the system’s two-level openings very aggressive. And this brings IMPs and matchpoints!

The list of useful additional conventions in uncontested and competitive auctions is richer than in any other version of the Polish Club system. Some novel ideas (such as Cheap Transfer) are universal enough to be applied in any bidding system.



**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.



**TOMEK BRUS** (Translator) was born in Warsaw, Poland and emigrated to Great Britain in 1972, where he obtained a PhD in theoretical Statistics. He has worked at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Bristol University, Pfizer Pharmaceutical Company and Oxford Brookes University.

