

Defence to Strong Club

Precision 1♣ opening bid

One club opening bid that shows any hand with 16+ HCP. It is a forcing opening bid. Precision Club is the most popular variant. A one diamond response is negative, showing 0-7 HCP.

Over the strong 1♣ opener it is important to bid aggressively because the opponents have not exchanged any information: they'll be focused on doing that rather than doubling you for penalties.

It is VERY important to look at the vulnerability - you can do almost anything at favourable vulnerability (you are non-vulnerable and they are vulnerable). Whenever you are vulnerable, your actions must be sound and based on good distribution. At love all you can be more competitive.

Recommended defence:

Double shows both majors. At favourable vulnerability this can be 4-4. At equal vulnerability this should be 5-4/4-5. At unfavourable it is most likely to be 5-5.

1NT shows both minors, typically 5-4 except 5-5 at unfavourable.

Advancer should raise or pre-empt as much as possible, taking into account the vulnerability. Normally, with 4-card support, you would hope to raise to the 3-level.

Suit bids are natural. Jump overcalls are weak. Double jumps are even weaker with longer suit.

Good hands wait and bid later.

After (1♣) - Pass - (1♦), you play the same defence. Double shows the majors and 1NT is the minors. However, note that you should be more cautious here, since responder has shown 0-7 HCP and the strong hand now has a better idea of his side's combined points. He will be able to double for penalties more easily.

Example

♠ KJ10652

♥ 5

♦ 83

♣ Q743

At favourable vulnerability, your first thought, when they open a Precision 1♣, should be 3♠. You have a powerful 6-4 distribution, a good suit, and you are consuming a lot of space before they have exchanged useful information about their hands.

Precision 1♦

Their 1♦ opening bid shows 11-15 HCP, denies a 5-card major (unless six diamonds), denies a 1NT opening bid (check range), denies six good clubs (see Precision 2♣), and promises just one diamond. It is non-forcing but rarely passed.

Normally it will be a balanced 12-14 points.

Defence

Recommended: treat as natural

This may leave you poorly placed initially if you have a lot of diamonds, but better to wait for an opportunity later.

In particular, (1♦) - 2♦ remains Michaels showing the majors and (1♦) - 1♥ - (P) - 2♦ shows a good heart raise.

It is safer to overcall 1NT with a balanced 15-17 points without a good stop since they don't know whether the diamond bid is natural.

Precision 2♣

Two clubs is a natural opening bid showing 11-15 HCP, either with six clubs or five clubs with a 4-card major. It is non-forcing.

Defence

Recommended: treat as natural

Double is takeout of clubs

2NT is a strong no-trump overcall, 15-18 HCP. Over this you play your normal 2NT system.

(2♣) 3♣ shows the majors, at least 5-5.

Opening 2NT, 5-5 Minors

An opening 2NT showing 11-15 HCP with 5-5 in the minors

Defence

Double shows a strong no-trump or better.

3♣ shows both majors with equal or longer hearts

3♦ shows both majors with longer spades