

# L'ÉCUYER – MARCIŃSKI

## Opening bid summary

**1♣** = if BAL then any reasonable  $\geq$  ~17 HCP's ( $\geq$  16 at FAV and  $\geq$  18 at UNFAV)  
 = else ~16<sup>+</sup> but on marginal strength UNBAL hands likely  $\geq$  5 "A-K points" (A = 2; K = 1)

**1♦** = in all seats either  
 (a) 2-5 (perhaps 6 if poor) ♦'s with 11-13 HCP (but 13-15 HCP at FAV vulnerability and 12-14 at UNFAV vulnerability) in a BAL hand (we *tend not* to treat (5422) or 6m (322) patterns as balanced), < 1♣ opening (in terms of strength) and wrong range to open 1N in this position and vulnerability, or  
 (b) 0-5 (perhaps 6 if poor) ♦'s (2<sup>+</sup> in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) in an UNB hand without a decent 6m (except in 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> seat if 4M6♦) if marginal (i.e. MIN strength) likely  $\geq$  3 "A-K points" (A = 2; K = 1) but < 1♣ opening (may be as light as 9 HCP's with sufficient compensating distributional features, facility of likely rebids, controls, texture in long suit(s), and location and "mesh" of high cards)

*We may choose to Pass on marginal (i.e. MIN strength) hands that fit our opening bid requirements yet present awkward rebid problems should Responder bid 1♠ (showing 4<sup>+</sup>♥'s), e.g. 42(25) or 4144 or 41(35).*

*We may also choose to open 1♦ in lieu of 1♣ on marginal strength (say 16-17 HCP) if we have an awkward rebid – eg 1444 or (31)45 or 14(35) or 04(45) where the stiff is not an honor and the 5-card suit is mediocre*

**1♥** = in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> (almost all of the time) promises  
 (a)  $\geq$  5♥'s (will not have longer ♣/♦'s),  
*VUL with 3415, 4414 or 4405 we can open 1♥*  
*[but we have no means to disclose this divergence from the assumed norm]*  
 (b) if marginal (i.e. MIN strength) then likely  $\geq$  3 "A-K points" (A = 2; K = 1),  
 (c) denies sufficient strength to open 1♣ instead – ergo ~9-16 HCP,  
 (d) if 6<sup>+</sup>♥'s then too strong for 2♥ opening bid,  
 (e) may be as light as 9 HCP's with sufficient compensating distributional features, facility of likely rebids, controls, texture in long suit(s), and location and "mesh" of high cards

= in 3<sup>rd</sup> seat could be light, lead-directional, and based on a good 4-card suit

**1♠** = in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> (almost all of the time) promises  
 (a)  $\geq$  5♠'s (will not have longer ♣/♦'s),  
 (b) if marginal opening bid strength then likely  $\geq$  3 "A-K points" (A = 2; K = 1),  
 (c) denies sufficient strength to open 1♣ instead – ergo ~9-16 HCP,  
 (d) if 6<sup>+</sup>♠'s then too strong for 2♠ opening bid,  
 (e) may be as light as 9 HCP's with sufficient compensating distributional features, facility of likely rebids, controls, texture in long suit(s), and location and "mesh" of high cards

= in 3<sup>rd</sup> seat could be light, lead-directional, and based on a good 4-card suit

- 1N** = at FAV vulnerability, shows 10-12 HCP  
 = at EQUAL vulnerability, shows 14-16 HCP (occasional upgrading of 13<sup>+</sup>)  
 = at UNFAV vulnerability, shows 15-17 HCP (occasional upgrading of 14<sup>+</sup>)
- (a) at Opener's discretion may have 5♥/♠ in 5332 or (52)(42) pattern,  
 (b) with 6 $\clubsuit$ (322) we will usually prefer to open 2 $\clubsuit$ , unless the  $\clubsuit$  is of poor quality  
 (c) in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> may have 4144 pattern irrespective of the quality of the ♥ singleton (again anticipating an awkward rebid problem after a 1♠ response to the alternative 1♦ opening bid)  
 (d) singleton H's (particularly K) are not uncommon, though usually w/o 5M unless 5=3=(4=1)
- 2♣** = in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> seat promises  
 (a) ≥ 6♣'s  
 (b) if only 6♣'s then at least moderate (≥ QT9xxx) strength/texture – else we will open 1♦ instead (whether BAL or UNB) or 1N (or Pass or stretch to open 1♠)  
 (c) may have any side suit pattern, including 4 or even 5M/♠, but ♦'s will be the longest suit  
 (d) if marginal opening bid strength then likely ≥ 3 “A-K points” (A =2; K =1),  
 (e) denies sufficient strength to open 1♠ instead – ergo ~9-16 HCP,  
 (f) may be as light as 9 HCP's with sufficient compensating distributional features, facility of likely rebids, controls, texture in ♣'s, and location and “mesh” of high cards  
 = in 3<sup>rd</sup> seat could be light, lead-directional, and based on a good 5-card suit  
 = in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> seat, denies 4M
- 2♦** = in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> seat promises  
 (a) ≥ 6♦'s  
 (b) if only 6♦'s then at least moderate (≥ QT9xxx) strength/texture – else we will open 1♦ instead (whether BAL or UNB) or 1N (or Pass or stretch to open 1♠)  
 (c) may have any side suit pattern (including 4/5M other than in 4<sup>th</sup> seat) yet < 5♣'s, but ♦'s will be the longest suit (but with full opening bid values in 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> seat denies 4<sup>+</sup>M)  
 (d) if marginal opening bid strength then likely ≥ 3 “A-K points” (A =2; K =1),  
 (e) denies sufficient strength to open 1♠ instead – ergo ~9-16 HCP,  
 (f) may be as light as 9 HCP's with sufficient compensating distributional features, facility of likely rebids, controls, texture in ♦'s, and location and “mesh” of high cards  
 = in 3<sup>rd</sup> seat could be light, lead-directional, and based on a good 5-card suit  
 = in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> seat, denies 4M
- 2M** = promises  
 (a) 6 or 7 M's (if lower range) of any suit quality  
 (b) may have any side suit pattern, including 4 or even 5OM/ $\clubsuit$   
 (c) 8-13<sup>-</sup> HCP (might be slightly shaded at FAV vulnerability)  
 = in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at FAV vulnerability  
 (a) in principle same as above, although more like 7-11  
 (b) in practice, could be shaded  
 = in 3<sup>rd</sup> seat, it's “anything goes”

**2N** = promises xy(55) with 8-13<sup>+</sup> HCP, values tend to be concentrated in *m*'s (ergo an initial Pass does not preclude this shape)

*ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)*

**3N** = in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seat only, a 4-level preempt in either ♣/♦

*ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)*

**4♣** = in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seat only, NAMYAT[♥], 8-8 ½ tricks and ≤ 1-loser suit

*ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)*

**4♦** = NAMYAT[♠], 8-8 ½ tricks and ≤ 1-loser suit

*ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)*

**4N** = a strong 5-level opening in either ♣ or ♦ (10<sup>+</sup> tricks), stronger than direct 5*m*, F[5*m*]

*Mandatory ACBL pre-approved defence (copy provided at the table)*

***After we open 1♣\****

*After any GF positive response, relay ("tell me more") options are available, with captaincy residing either with Opener or with Responder.*

*Should you engage in delayed interference:*

*(a) directly over the Captain/Asker, relays are off after 3<sup>+</sup> step interference*

*(b) indirectly over Puppet/Teller's response, relays are off after a 2<sup>+</sup> step interference*

**Immediate response structure (ACBL General Convention Chart, ergo no defences req'd):**

<b>1♦</b>	= 0-7 (8 if FAV) HCP's, F1
<b>1♥</b>	= GF, either (i) any 5 <sup>+</sup> ♠ or (ii) 8-10/14 <sup>+</sup> HCP's w/ BAL (no 5M)
<b>1♠</b>	= GF, either (i) any 5 <sup>+</sup> ♥ or (ii) 8-10/14 <sup>+</sup> HCP's w/ (A) 3-suited (no 5M) or (B) 55m's
<b>1N</b>	= GF, BAL (no 5M) and 11-13 HCP's
<b>2♣</b>	= GF, either (i) any 6 <sup>+</sup> ♦'s or (ii) 6♣4♦ or (iii) 6♣ w/ BAL 8-10 HCP's and poor ♣'s
<b>2♦</b>	= GF, 6 <sup>+</sup> ♣
<b>2♥</b>	= GF, 11-13 HCP's, 3-suited (no 5M), short ♥'s
<b>2♠</b>	= GF, 11-13 HCP's, 3-suited (no 5M), short ♠'s
<b>2N</b>	= GF, 11-13 HCP's, 3-suited (no 5M), short ♦'s
<b>3♣</b>	= GF, 11-13 HCP's, 3-suited (no 5M), 5♦'s + short ♣'s
<b>3♦</b>	= GF, 11-13 HCP's, 4=4=4=1♣
<b>3♥</b>	= GF, 11-13 HCP's, L=S=5 <sup>+</sup> ♦5 <sup>+</sup> ♣
<b>3♠</b>	= GF, 11-13 HCP's, S=L=5 <sup>+</sup> ♦5 <sup>+</sup> ♣
<b>3N</b>	= 7 tricks in any suit (AKQJxxx), no side A/K
<b>4any</b>	= GF, Xfer, < 8 HCP, 8 <sup>+</sup> suit

**After we open 1♦\*****(1♦\*) - P - (1♥\*)**

1♥ = (a) by UPH it's artificial, F1, 4<sup>+</sup> ♠'s [will not have longer ♥'s]; (b) natural by PH

→ Opener's 1♠ rebid (if RHO is silent) = 4♥, denies 4♠'s, and is NF

Suggested defence:

X = take-out of ♠'s, equal/longer ♦'s  
 1♠ = take-out of ♠'s, longer ♠'s  
 2♥ = natural  
 Others = whatever it would've meant after a natural 1♠ response

**(1♦\*) - P - (1♠\*)**

1♠ = (a) by UPH it's artificial, F1, 4<sup>+</sup> ♥'s; (b) natural by PH

Suggested defence:

X = take-out of ♥'s  
 2♠ = natural, good hand [not preemptive as if over 1♦ - (P) - 1♥ natural]  
 Others = whatever it would've meant after a natural 1♠ response

**(1♦\*) - P - (1N\*)**

1N = NF, denies 4M, tends to have a higher upper limit than in Std. American (~ poor 11)

**(1♦\*) - P - (2♣\*)**

2♣ = by UPH it's  
 (a) artificial, GF+  
 (b) no restrictions as to pattern, but unlikely to have a self-SPL in any suit  
 (c) initially commences a relay sequence where Opener describes his hand  
 (d) Responder can break relay chain to opt into a natural dialogue mode

Suggested defence:

X = ♣'s  
 2N = two-suiter, typically m's  
 Others = natural

**N.B. Should you interfere:**

(a) directly over the Captain/Asker, relays are off after 3<sup>+</sup> step interference  
 (b) indirectly over Puppet/Teller's response, relays are off after a 2<sup>+</sup> step interference

= by PH it's 7-9 HCP's and 6♣'s

(1♦\*) - P - (2♦\*)

2♦ = by UPH it's F1, but assumed to be always weak (if GI then  $\geq 1$ -loser 6<sup>+</sup>M) with either  
 (a) 4♠5<sup>+</sup>♥ [1♦ Opener assumes this]  
 (b) but could also be 6<sup>+</sup>♠

Suggested defence:

*If unpassed hand:* your defence to Flannery 2♦ opening bid

*If passed hand:*      2♥ = m's, longer ♣'s  
                              2♠ = m's, longer ♦'s  
                              2N = m's, equal length

= by PH it's 6♦'s by PH

(1♦\*) - P - (2♥\*)

2♥ = by UPH it's F[2N], GI, showing  
 (a) BAL (denies 4M), anti-positional [see 2N response in juxtaposition]  
 (b) (54)UNB or 55m's

Suggested defence:

Pass, then simple = weaker than direct action  
 Pass, then jump = strong  
 X = 5<sup>+</sup>♥'s, unlimited [N.B. direct 3♥ = preemptive]  
 2♠ = natural  
 2N = Michaels [M's]  
 3♣ = 4♠5<sup>+</sup>♥  
 3♦ = 5<sup>+</sup>♠4♥  
 3M = preemptive  
 Others = natural

= by PH it's 6♥'s and 5-7 HCP's

**(1♦\*) - P - (2♠\*)****2♠ = by UPH it's F[3m], preemptive in either m**Suggested defence:

X	= take-out of ♦'s → Lebensohl applies if that's what you usually play
3♦	= Michaels, Majors
Others	= natural

**= by PH it's 6<sup>+</sup>♠'s by PH and 5-7 HCP's****(1♦\*) - P - (2N\*)****2N = by UPH it's NF, GI, BAL but positional [see 2♥ response in juxtaposition]**ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)**= by PH it's 55 m's, preemptive****(1♦\*) - P - (3m)****3m = by UPH it's NF, GI, 6/7m's**ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)**= by PH it's natural, NF, preemptive****(1♦\*) - P - (3♥\*)****3♥ = by UPH it's F[3N/4m], at least 55 m's,**ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)**= by a PH it's natural, NF, preemptive****(1♦\*) - P - (3♠\*)****3♠ = by UPH it's F[3N/4m], AKQ 7<sup>th</sup> in either m w/ no side A/K**Suggested defence:

P, then X	= transferable values, strong NT or better
X	= ♠'s, but not enough to venture 4♠ directly
3N	= at least 55M's, equal length
4m	= both M's, longer corresponding M
4M	= natural, NF

**= by a PH it's natural, NF, preemptive**

**(1♦\*) - P - (3N\*)**

*3N = preemptive, at least (65) in m's*

*ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)*

**(1♦\*) - P - (4m\*)**

*4m = Texas-like transfer to ♥/♠*

*ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)*

**(1♦\*) - P - (4M)**

*4M = to play*

*ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)*



*After we open 1♥*(1♥) - P - (1N)

1N = NF, denies 4♠, tends to have a higher upper limit than in Std. American (~ 11)

(1♥) - P - (2♣\*)

2♣ = by an UPH it's an artificial GF<sup>+</sup>, without any restrictions as to pattern (tends to deny a V), commencing a relay sequence where Opener describes his hand

*N.B. Should you interfere:*

- (a) directly over the Captain/Asker, relays are off after 3<sup>+</sup> step interference
- (b) indirectly over Puppet/Teller's response, relays are off after a 2<sup>+</sup> step

Suggested defence:

- X = ♣ suit and values
- 2♦/2♠ = natural
- 2♥ = two-suiter with ♠ + either m
- 2N = two-suiter in the m's
- 3m/3♠ = natural

= by a PH it's 4-card support Reverse Drury

(1♥) - P - (2♦\*)

2♦ = by UPH it's artificial, F1, and

- (a) < a constructive ♥ raise [could be quite weak] – usually only 3♥'s, or
- (b) GI w/ (i) BAL/semi-BAL w/o 4♠/3♥, (ii) 55 m's, (iii) THx[♥](64)/55m's, or (iv) 3♥ L/R
- (c) GO with 3=3=(43)

Suggested defence:

- X = take-out of ♥'s, good hand [with a “pre-balance”, simply P and balance back in later]
- 2♥ = Michaels, i.e. a two suiter with ♠'s and either m
- Others = whatever it would've meant after a natural (1♥) - P - (2♥) auction

= by a PH, it's natural

**(1♥) - P - (2♠\*)**

**2♠ = F[3m], GI, Hx♥ (55/64)m's**

*ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)*

**= by a PH it's "fit-showing" (i.e. typically 4♥5♠), INV but NF**

**(1♥) - P - (3m\*)**

**3m = NF, GI, 6<sup>+</sup>m's, tends to deny 4♠'s**

*ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)*

**= by a PH it's "fit-showing" (i.e. typically 4♥5m), GI but NF**

**(1♥) - P - (3♠\*)**

**3♠ = F1, either (a) a solid 7-card suit or (b) SPL[♣], but by a PH, SPL[♣]**

*Suggested defence:*

*P then X = transferable values, strong NT strength*

*X = ♠'s*

*3N = m's*

*4♥ = Michaels (5♠ + 5m)*

*Others = natural*

*After we open 1♠*(1♠) - P - (1N)

1N = NF, tends to have a higher upper limit than in Std. American (~ 11)

(1♠) - P - (2♣\*)

2♣ = by UPH it's artificial, GF<sup>+</sup>, without any restrictions as to pattern (tends to deny a void), commencing a relay sequence where Opener describes his hand

*N.B. Should you interfere:*

(a) directly over the Captain/Asker, relays are off after 3<sup>+</sup> step interference

(b) indirectly over Puppet/Teller's response, relays are off after a 2<sup>+</sup> step

Suggested defence:

X = ♣ suit and values  
 2♦/2♥ = natural  
 2♠ = two-suiter with ♥ + either m  
 2N = two-suiter in the m's  
 3m/3♥ = natural

= 4-card support Reverse Drury by a PH

(1♠) - P - (2♦\*)

2♦ = by either UPH or PH it's F1, constructive, showing 4<sup>+</sup>♥'s and unspecified strength

(a) < GI, 6<sup>+</sup>♥'s

(b) GI, with (i) 4/5 ♥'s BAL or quasi-BAL, (ii) 5♥'s + 5m, (iii) 4♥'s + 6m, or (iv) 6<sup>+</sup>♥'s

(d) GF<sup>+</sup>, 5<sup>+</sup>♥'s

Suggested defence:

X = a good hand, take-out of ♠'s  
 2♥ = both m's  
 2N = natural, 17-19  
 Others = natural

**(1♠) - P - (2♥\*)**

**2♥ = by UPH it's artificial, F1, and**

**(a) < constructive ♠ raise – usually only 3♠'s, or**

**(b) GI w/ (i) BAL/semi-BAL w/o 4♥/3♠, (ii) 55 m's, (iii) Hx♠55/64m's, or (iv) 3♠ L/R**

**(c) GO with 3=3=(43)**

Suggested defence:

X = take-out of 2♠, good hand [with a “pre-balance”, simply P and balance back in later]

2♠ = Michaels, i.e. a two suiter with ♥'s and either m

Others = whatever it would've meant after a natural (1♠) - P – (2♠) auction

**= by a PH, it's 3-card support Reverse Drury**

**(1♠) - P - (3m\*)**

**3m = by an unpassed hand it's constructive, NF but GI 6<sup>+</sup>m's**

ACBL General Convention Chart (ergo no defence req'd)

**= by a PH it's “fit-showing” (i.e. typically 4♠5m), GI, NF**

**(1♠) - P - (3♥\*)**

**3♥ = F1, either (a) a solid 7-card suit, or (b) SPL[♣]**

Suggested defence:

P then X = transferable values, strong NT strength

X = ♥'s

3♠ = Michaels (5♠ + 5m)

3N = m's

Others = natural

**= by a PH it's “fit-showing” (i.e. typically 4♠5♥), GI, NF**