

# TRUMPS ADVANCED TRAINING TERM 3, 2006

## HAMILTON OVER THEIR 1NT OPENING

Over a 1NT opening normal overcalling methods are both dangerous and inefficient. The CappelleTTis invented a new approach which Fred Hamilton subsequently modified. There have been many modifications since. The Hamilton combines all single suited hands into 1 bid of 2 clubs. This leaves the higher two level bids to show 2 suited (5/5 shapes). Over a weak 1NT I recommend following the system with the following modification. Call 5/4 shapes or 6/4 shapes 2 suited provided that the hand contains a singleton and the 4 card suit is strong enough to play reasonably opposite 3 cards in partner's hand. Using the double of a strong 1NT (15+HCP) for penalties is fundamentally unsound. I find that the system works better with the double showing a single suited hand. The 2 suited hands can be introduced at a lower level. This reduces the risks and gives more opportunity to compete. The system's main advantage over a strong 1NT is to find sacrifices when they have the balance of power and to vie for the part score when the points are shared.

*Note. The system applies both in 2nd seat (1NT - ?) and in 4th seat (1NT - P - P - ?)!*

### HAMILTON OVER A STRONG 1NT

- DbI** Single suiter (usually 6+\* cards) at least 11+HCP\*. No good 4+ card side suit. \* Less stringent fav. vul.
- 2C** Both minors. Min 5/4 shape and no 4 card major. 11+HCP good suits if 5/4. Better shape fewer HCP.
- 2D** Both majors. Min 5/4 shape. HCP as above for 2C.
- 2H** Hearts and a minor 5/4+ shape either way and 11+ HCP not vul 13+ vul. Better shape fewer HCP.
- 2S** Spades and a minor, Shape & HCP as for 2H.
- 2NT** Strong 5/5+ shape 3 loser or better hand.

**1. Responding to Double (when LHO Passes):**

0-9HCP Bid 2C regardless of your hand's shape.  
9+HCP Bid 2D/H/S/3C with good 5+ card suit. Pass with all flat hands. \*Have 11+HCP on favourable vul.

**2. Responding to 2C (when LHO Passes):**

0-9HCP Pass or bid 2D with more diamonds  
9-11HCP Bid 2 of a good 5+ card major, Bid 3C/D with 4+ card suit fit, otherwise pass or correct to 2D.  
12+HCP Bid 2NT (relay) asking for more information.

**3. Responding to 2D (when LHO Passes):**

0-9HCP Pass with 6+card diam. suit otherwise bid 2H/S.  
9-11HCP Jump to 3H/S with 4+ card fit. Bid 3C or D with very good 5+ card suits otherwise 2 of 3 card H/S  
12+TP Bid 2NT (relay) asking for longer major.

**4. Responding to 2H (when LHO Passes):**

0-9HCP Pass with 3+ hearts or 2 hearts and short minor. Bid 3C with short hearts and 3+ in each minor.  
10+HCP Bid 3H with 9-11TP and 4+ card fit. Bid 2S with good 5+ card suit and 9+HCP, bid 2NT asking for minor then 3H shows 3 card heart support and 10-12HCP a new suit now asks for stopper for 3NT.

**5. Responding to 2S (when LHO Passes):**

0-9HCP Pass with 3+ spades or 2 spades and short minor  
All other bids as for 2H above except that 3H shows 10+HCP and good 6 card heart suit.

**6. Responding to 2NT**

3C Either 0-6HCP or better hand with possible misfit  
3D 7+HCP at least 3 cards in three suits. Game force.  
Opener now bids cheapest 5 card suit or highest with 6+/5 in higher suit.

### HAMILTON OVER A WEAK 1NT

- DbI** Penalty orientated good 14+HCP.
- 2C** Single suiter (usually 6+\* cards) at least 10-13HCP\* No good 4+ card side suit. \* Less stringent fav. vul.
- 2D** Both majors. Min 5/4 shape. HCP as above for 2C.
- 2H** Hearts and a minor 5/4+ shape either way and 10+ HCP not vul 12+ vul. Better shape fewer HCP.
- 2S** Spades and a minor, Shape & HCP as for 2H.
- 2NT** Both minors. Min 5/5 shape, no 4 card major. 10-13HCP. Better shape & fav vul fewer HCP.

**1. Responding to Double (when LHO Passes):**

0-5HCP Bid a 5+ card suit otherwise Pass  
6+HCP Pass except with extreme shape (5/5, 6/4 etc) then jump in your longest suit.

**2. Responding to 2C (When LHO Passes):**

0-10HCP Pass with 6+ cards in clubs otherwise bid 2D  
10-12HCP Bid your own good 5+card major otherwise bid 2D or 3C with good 6+ club suit.  
12+HCP Bid 2NT (relay). Then explore game.

**3. Responding to 2D, 2H, 2S (When LHO Passes):**

Respond in the same way as over a strong 1NT except invite with 10-12 and relay with 13+HCP.

**4. Responding to 2NT (when LHO Passes):**

Respond in the same way as you would to the unusual 2NT overcall in suit auctions.

### RESPONSES WHEN LHO DOUBLES

This includes the redouble of partner's double.  
Only bid with a long (6+ card suit) of your own if partner's suit/s are not known. When Partner's suits are known. Pass suggests no 4 card fit in either or in the known suit. All raises at all levels in known suits are weak the more shape the higher you bid.

### RESPONSES WHEN LHO BIDS

Raising partner's known suit/s at all levels shows 4+ card fit. The more shape the higher the bid.  
Cue bidding LHO's suit shows game interest. Bidding your own suit at 2 level shows at least 9HCP and a good 5+ card suit at the three level should be a good 6+ card suit. Doubles are for penalties and Pass allows partner to consider balancing with good shape and maximum values