

Great Britain Players Systems

Both British anchor pairs play the Acol system with plenty of gadgetry.

Sally Sowter and Sandra Landy use a 12-14 notrump throughout, strong 2, Acol two bids in the majors and a "multi" 2D: weak two in one of the majors; 22-24 balanced; 19-22 three-suiter. This leaves them to open 2 NT with 19-21. a slightly unusual treatment. While their third- and fourth-seat preempts are normal, they add some color in first and second position: 3C shows a weak minor two-suiter; 3D shows a weak or strong preempt in one of the majors; 3H is similar but promises a minor; 3S shows a solid minor and out; 3 NT purports to deliver some outside stopper(s). An interesting feature of their style is their escape mechanism once a weak notrump has been doubled: semicompulsory redoubles and transfer bids. They also use 2C as an artificial relay after a 1 NT response to a major opening. Notrump rebids by opener always tend to show extra values. Defensively they lead the top card from honor sequences most of the time, but they lead king from A-K (1) against preemptive openings, (2) against contracts of 5 + or higher and (3) when it is intended to switch to a singleton. Their basic carding tendency is count over attitude and they use Smith peters against notrump when a count in the first suit played by declarer is not deemed relevant: a peter by opening leader suggests a switch; by his partner a peter suggests a liking for the lead. Sowter-Landy are active and aggressive and comfortably well-experienced in international level competition.

Nicola Gardener and Pat Davies Notrumps are variable: 10-12 in first and second position at favorable vulnerability, 15-16 vulnerable except in fourth seat, 12-14 in all other situations. This makes the rebid of 1 NT a bit amorphous and they use a Crowhurst 2C to check on range. Their two bids resemble Sowter-Landy's but their version of the "multi" caters to Acol two-bid types in the minors rather than the strong threesuiters; the balanced range for 2D is 21-22 rather than 22-24 and their 2 NT openings are 19-20. They use something called the Stavely Wriggle to escape in the sequence: 1 NT-Dbl-2C-Dbl. They use Ghestem two-suited methods and like their teammates, Asptro (2C = H and another; 2D = S and another) after the opponents open 1 NT (double of a strong notrump shows a touching two-suiter).

Both pairs use artificial defenses against strong club systems (Wei-Radin only), and Gardener-Davies card essentially in the same manner as Sowter-Landy, Gardener in particular likes to get into the bidding early and some of her overcalls are decidedly hawkish.

USA Players Systems

Edith Kemp and Nancy Gruver play Standard American with a strong Roth-Stone influence. An unusual feature of their style (unusual today, that is) is the forcing jump raise of all opening bids in non-competitive auctions. Ostensibly five-card majorites, they play strong two-over-one responses, forcing notrump responses and constructive major-suit raises. New suits are forcing over a 1 NT rebid and jump shift responses to opening bids are weak. They use weak two bids in diamonds, hearts and spades and their carding is standard.

Carol Sanders and Betty Ann Kennedy methods are natural, genuinely modern Standard American. They use five-card majors, forcing notrump, strongish two-over-ones, limit jump raises in the majors with single raises carrying no constructive implications. They use Drury over third- and fourth-seat major-suit openings. Their minor-suit raises are inverted. Jump shift responses in competition are preemptive. They play "new minor forcing" after 1 NT rebids. Short suit game tries are used after a major-suit fit has been established. They play weak two bids in the majors and Flannery 2D. Direct cuebids of major-suit openings are "colorful" and like Kemp-Gruver they play Michaels cuebids over minor-suit openings. Defensively They lead Rusinow against suit contracts and employ the Foster echo (2nd highest if one can't beat dummy's card) against notrump.

Kathie Wei and Judi Radin are the only pair using a club system in the final. They play a brand of Precision that is both simpler and more complex than the textbook version. They eschew the "standard" Alpha (control-support natural ask) and Beta (1 NT for controls) rebids by the 1C opener in favor of purely natural methods. Both 1H and 1S rebids after 1C-1D are forcing and may be the start of canape sequences. Accordingly, responder's 1 NT rebid after 1C-1D-1H(or 1S) may be made on a complete yarborough and 2C is an artificial, value showing noise. Their notrumps are variable: 11-14 non vulnerable, 14-15 vulnerable. And so 1C starts at 16 HCP, balanced. The balance of their structure is pretty much typical Precision. They do use a trump ask and a control ask in later auctions and a super unusual positive for three-suiters over 1C. Over the opponents' notrumps they use Astro (Kemp-Gruver play Landy and Kennedy-Sanders Ripstra). Their major-suit jump overcalls are intermediate-ish (11-15) and the rest of their competitive arsenal caters to two-suited types with limited (less than opening) strength. Their carding is unusual: they play "attitude" leads against all strains with European-style honor leads against notrump. They signal odd encouraging, even discouraging with suit preference tendencies. In ambiguous situations, count tends to overrule oddeven.