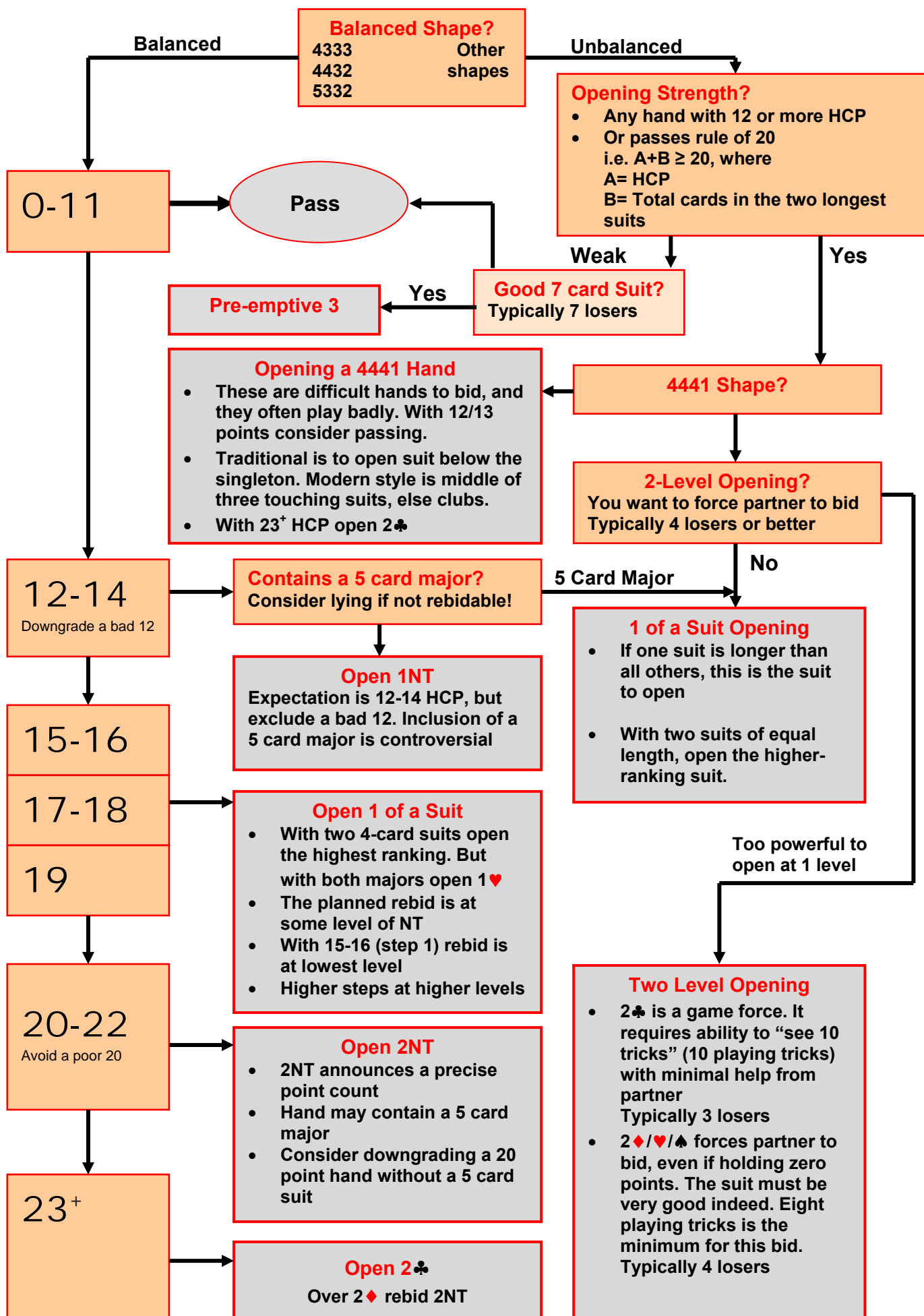
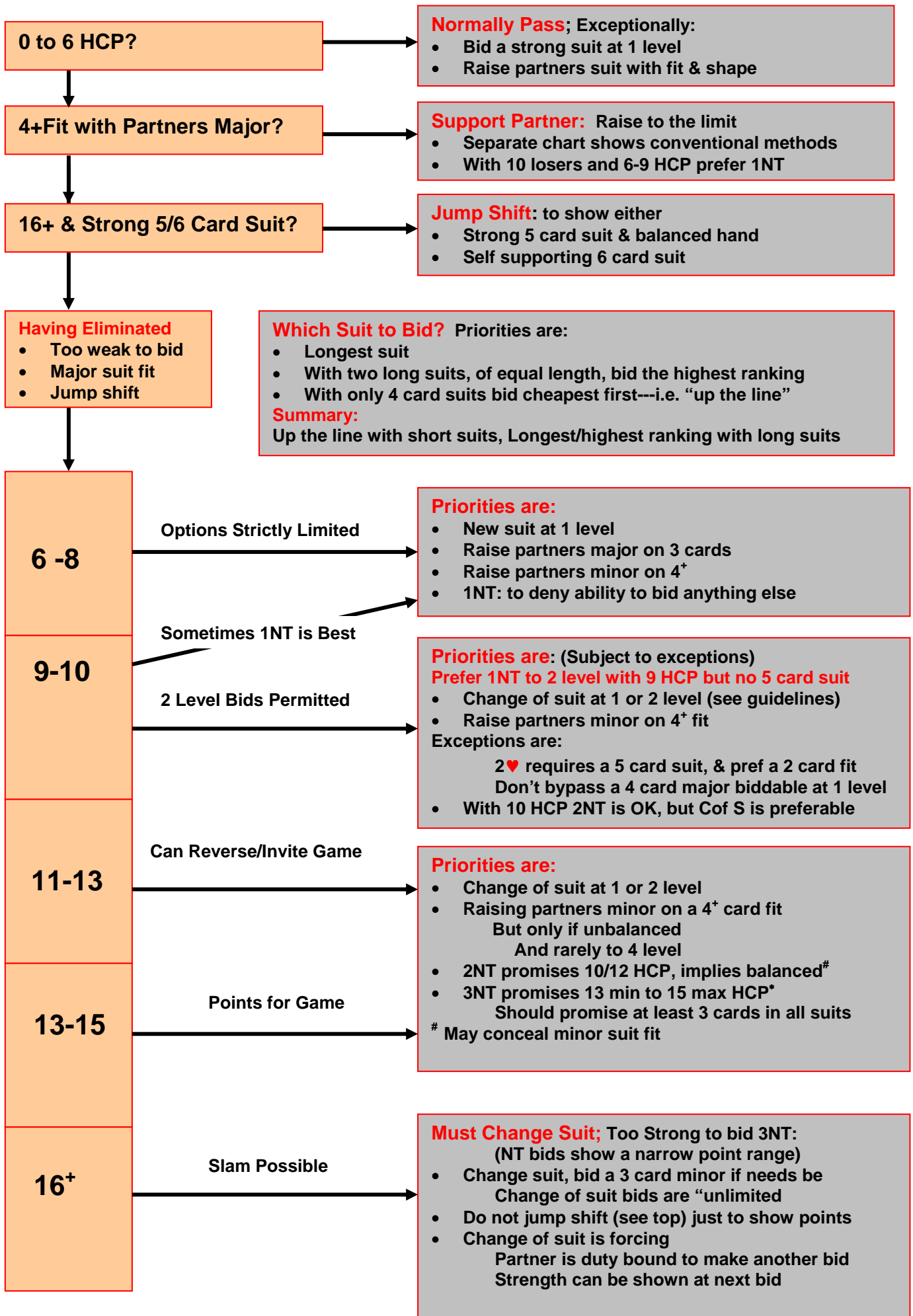


Acol Reviewed: The Opening Bid



Responding to Partners 1 level Opening Bid: Opponents Silent



Basic Bidding Charts

Background

These three basic charts were produced with several aims in mind.

- To collect together a lot of information so that all the options could be brought together
- Something that a learner could consult at the table
- Something that a learner could use when trying to understand what they should have done
- To help me, personally, to understand what the bidding priorities were.

They seem to work best as a framework for explaining how the bids fit together.

In using the charts it is important to start at the top. The logical structure has much in common with the type of flow charts that are sometimes used to describe algorithms and computer programs. Thus to arrive at a low level box means that one has, by passing through higher level boxes, eliminated a number of possibilities. Similarly within a box arrival at the lowest level option implies that higher level options have been eliminated.

The explanations are deliberately terse. Longer sentences would take up more space, cause the material to overflow a single A4 page, and thereby destroy the basic concept of "all the most important information on a single page".

The flow of decision making was not what I expected when I set out to produce flow charts. However the decision trees shown have the virtue that they make possible a chart that is much less cluttered than all the alternatives I explored. My experience in teaching students to understand complex technical situations is that anything one can do to make the information look simple and comprehensible is a good starting point. I hope that you and your students find them useful.

Feedback

Each of the three charts is the result of multiple iterations and there others at various stages of development. If you find them useful, or have suggestions or corrections to make please do get in touch by sending an email to philcooke@philcooke.plus.com.

Phil Cooke, February 2006

Responding to 1NT Opening Bid

	Danger
	Maybe
	Go for Game

1NT	Pass	?
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Partscore

Without a long and almost solid suit, there is no worthwhile chance of game

Options
Pass
2 ♣: A deliberate decision that 1NT is better than any alternative

Use Stayman to help choose a suit contract that offers better prospects than 1NT

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣					
4 4 5 -	Pass	any response	All offer a good chance of an 8, or even 9 card fit Worst case is a 7 card fit		
5 4 x x	Correct	2♦ to 2♠			
4 5 x x	Correct	2♦ to 2♥			
x x x 6	Correct	any response to 3♣			

Note: Opener MUST NOT bid after any of these rebids, i.e. 2♥/2♠/3♣

2♦/♥/♠: To Play: "A Weakness Takeout", Opener must pass
 Requires at least 5 cards in that suit.
 Can be made with zero points

0-10
weak

11-12
Invitational

13-18
Game Zone

19 plus
Slam zone

Invitational

2♣ Stayman, asking for a 4 card major. Without a shortage prefer 2NT
2NT Denies a 4 card major. Opener is expected to bid game if maximum

Game or Slam Zone

2♣ With a 4 card major and a shortage, start with Stayman
3♣/♦ Shows 6 card suit, suggests slam, but leaves 3NT available as a sign off
3♥/♠ Shows exactly 5 cards. Slam is possible. Opener to bid best game or cue bid
3NT To play. Denies a slam
4♣ Gerber.
4♥/♠ To play. Denies a slam.
4NT Invites 6NT if max
5NT Opener to choose; 6NT or 7 NT
6NT To play
7NT To play

Do the sums at the table!
 6NT requires at least 33HCP
 7NT requires at least 37 HCP

After the Stayman Response

<div style="border: 1px solid purple; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; color: purple;">Stayman Response</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: purple;">?</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: purple;">2♥/♠</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: purple;">Promises 4 card suit</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center; color: purple;">2♦</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: purple;">Denies 4 card major</p> </div>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%; padding: 5px;">Options</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Responders Rebid after the Stayman Response</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass: • 2NT: • 3♣ • 3♦ • 3 of major • 3NT • 4 of major </td> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demands that opener does not bid again Invitational points. Promises 4 cards in other major Opener's choices are pass/3NT/ 3 or 4 of other major To play. Opener is required to pass Requires at least 6 clubs & a hand unsuited to NT Game points and a second 4 card suit Invitational points plus an 8 card fit Game points and 4 cards in the other major Opener's choices are 3NT or 4 of other major To play. </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass: • 2♥/♠ • 2NT: • 3NT: </td> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires a special shape. (5♦, & 4 of each major) To play. Shows at least 5 cards & 4 in other major Invitational points To play </td> </tr> </table>	Options	Responders Rebid after the Stayman Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass: • 2NT: • 3♣ • 3♦ • 3 of major • 3NT • 4 of major 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demands that opener does not bid again Invitational points. Promises 4 cards in other major Opener's choices are pass/3NT/ 3 or 4 of other major To play. Opener is required to pass Requires at least 6 clubs & a hand unsuited to NT Game points and a second 4 card suit Invitational points plus an 8 card fit Game points and 4 cards in the other major Opener's choices are 3NT or 4 of other major To play. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass: • 2♥/♠ • 2NT: • 3NT: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires a special shape. (5♦, & 4 of each major) To play. Shows at least 5 cards & 4 in other major Invitational points To play
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