

The Truscott defence to a strong 1♣ opening

When the opponents open a strong 1♣ (say precision, 16+) then it is desirable to compete with shapely hands. Truscott is a convention that shows all two-suited hands and may sometimes exploit the fundamental weakness of strong 1♣ systems – that playing Precision etc. the first two bids are totally artificial (stating points and not suits/distribution).

As a defender, if you can find a fit quickly and pre-empt to the limit then that makes life difficult for the Precision side as they have no idea what suit(s) partner has nor if there is a fit.

The scheme for Truscott is as follows: -

Over RHO's 1♣ opening: -

dbl = ♣'s and ♥'s
1♦ = ♦'s and ♥'s
1♥ = ♥'s and ♠'s
1♠ = ♠'s and ♣'s
1NT = ♠'s and ♦'s
2♣ = ♣'s and ♦'s

It is also possible to extend the convention to when the bidding has started 1♣ pass 1♦: -

Then, after the negative 1♦ response we have, by the next player: -

dbl = ♦'s and ♠'s
1♥ = ♥'s and ♠'s
1♠ = ♠'s and ♣'s
1NT = ♣'s and ♥'s
2♣ = ♣'s and ♦'s
2♦ = ♦'s and ♥'s

The way to remember these responses is that a suit bid promises that suit and the one above, a double promises the suit doubles plus the non-touching suit and 1NT promises the two suits that double denies.

Any higher bids are natural, a long suit and pre-emptive.

With a strong hand the normal tactic is to pass to start with and then come in later.

Example: You hold this hand and LHO opens a strong 1♣.

Partner bids 2♦, showing ♦'s and ♥'s and RHO double, passes or whatever to show his points. You should now bid 3♥ (or even 4♥, depending upon vulnerability) to make it difficult for them to find their ♠ fit at the correct level.

♠ 65
♥ QJ64
♦ 96
♣ K7432

Truscott over a strong 2♣.

It is also possible to play Truscott over a strong 2♣ opening (or 2♦ response), but obviously you need a very shapely hand as you are a level higher and 2♣ is usually very strong. But actually a good example did come up in news-sheet 218.

- ♠ KQ10432 Playing Truscott over 2♣ the bids are the same but one level higher.
- ♥ QJ1054 Over a 2♣ opening bid (or 2♦ response to 2♣) bid 2♥ with this hand to
- ♦ 8 show both majors. Partner had 5 ♠'s and enthusiastic interference would
- ♣ 7 have made it difficult for the opponents to reach their solid 7♣ or 7NT.