Conventional Wisdom - part 7

In each of the next several issues, we’ll break down a section of the new ACBL convention card. See pages 18-19 of the March issue for the complete card and a glossary of terms and abbreviations.

The OVERCALLS box on the new convention card has several additions and now incorporates Jump Overcalls, which used to have its own section. Note that this section is for overcalls in a suit; notrump overcalls still have its own section.

The first line is for “one over one” overcalls; the two blank lines are for your high-card point range for making a one-level overcall; if you routinely might have a four-card suit, check the Often 4 Cards box.

Jump Overcalls
If your RHO opens the bidding 1♥ and you overcall 2♣, what kind of hand are you showing? Most pairs play this as weak (Wk), similar to preemptive bids at the two or three level. Other options, which require an Alert, include intermediate (Int) or strong (Str), showing opening-hand values or better with a long suit.

Any artificial treatments to jump overcalls can be described in the Conv (Conventional) line.

Jump Raise
What is a Jump Raise in your partnership? Some play it Weak (preemptive), Mixed (four trump, not weak but not a limit raise) or Invitational (such as a limit raise).

New Suit
After you overcall, what are partner’s responses?

RHO You LHO Partner
1♦ 1♥ Pass

Is a new suit Forcing, Non-forcing Constructive or Non-Forcing? Check the boxes that correspond to your agreements. Some partnerships play Transfers, which require an Announcement.

Cuebids
Cuebids can mean different things depending on the level, for example a “jump cuebid.”

RHO Partner LHO You
1♦ 1♥ Pass 3♣

Explain how your partnership differentiates between cuebids in the line provided, and if they generally indicate support.

Other
There is a line provided for other agreements not listed.