

Polish 2 Clubs Auctions

The Polish Club 2♣ opening shows 12-15 points and six or more Clubs or five Clubs, a four card Major. (Balanced hands in this range with five Clubs, i.e: 2-3-3-5, 3-2-3-5 and 3-3-2-5, are opened 1♣.) The 2♣ opening generally promises fewer than four Diamonds, but with a concentrated x-x-4-6 or x-x-4-7 2♣ will often be a better tactical call. The 2♣ opening is much like the Precision 2♣ opening and the Precision responding structure *can* be used, however, a broader range of hands can be accommodated with a transfer based approach. Here is an outline of our transfer response structure to 2♣. (The subsequent development of the auction is detailed in the following sections.)

2♥ shows either five or more Hearts *or* exactly four Spades. Strength should be invitational or better (8+ hcp) but may be shaded with long Hearts or Club fit. 4-4-x-x hands of invitational strength are also developed with 2♥.

2♠ shows five or more Spades and invitational or better strength. The responder may also have Heart length.

2♦ shows exactly four Hearts and is of invitational or better strength. 4-4-x-x hands of game going strength also begin with 2♦.

2NT is natural and invitational.

3♣ and 4♣ are weak raises.

3♦ is a game going hand with good Diamonds (usually six or more.) The opener rebids a Major suit stopper, 3NT with both, or 4♣ or 4♦ with neither.

3♥ and 3♠ show strong supporting hands with either No Trump or slam interest. The opener should initially assume that the responder's bid shows a stopper. If the responder later bids above 3NT he is indicating slam interest.

3NT is to play.

4♣ is RKC kickback in Clubs.

This system is OFF when the opponents overcall or double the 2♣ opening. Negative doubles / free bids can be used in a fashion consistent with the rest of your methods. The auction development after the 2♣, 2♥ and 2♠ responses is explored in the following sections.

The Transfer Responses

The transfer auctions operate somewhat differently after a 2♣ opening than they do after 1NT. This is mostly because the opener is not assured of having any support for

responder's suit. To make up for the possibility of a misfit the responder must hold a decent hand or, lacking that, a very long suit to use these responses. This allows the opener some freedom in choosing a descriptive rebid while retaining a margin of safety. The rebid scheme accommodates these constraints and is described in separate sections for each transfer below. One hint for learning the system – the responder's 3 rebid is always an artificial force, depicting a hand that would otherwise be difficult to develop. Specific interpretations of 3 can usually be worked out by a process of elimination.

The 2 Clubs – 2 Diamonds Auction

2 shows long Hearts or exactly four Spades and at least some game interest. 2 is also used on invitational strength hands which are 4-4 in the Majors. Here is the schedule of the opener's rebids and a discussion of the subsequent development of the auction.

2 shows tolerance for Hearts, i.e. two or more Hearts, three or more with a maximum opening. The responder now chooses from these common options (you are on your own with the bids that are not described here):

Pass with a long suit and no game interest.

2 when the intent was to show exactly four Spades. Forcing. With 4-4-x-x and invitational strength responder can later rebid 3. With game going 4-4-x-x the responder should begin with 2 instead of 2.

2NT with five Hearts and invitational strength. (This is akin to invitational transfer sequences after a 1NT opening.)

3 with a marginally invitational hand containing five Hearts and three or more Clubs that is unsuited for No Trump.

3 is ambiguous and forcing. The opener should initially assume that it shows a stopper and doubts about Spades. Subsequent action would suggest it was a cuebid with slam interest in Hearts.

3 shows six or more Hearts and is invitational.

3 is ambiguous and forcing. The opener should initially assume that it shows a stopper and doubts about Diamonds. Subsequent action would suggest it was a cuebid with slam interest in Hearts.

3NT is to play, with five Hearts.

4 gives the opener a choice of round suit games, likely with five Hearts and at least four Clubs.

4 is to play.

4 can reasonably be used as Roman Kickback in Hearts.

2 denies Heart tolerance (singleton or two with a maximum) and shows four Spades. Forcing. The responder rebids:

2NT with five Hearts but no Spade fit. The opener can pass, press on to 3NT, or try

3 with a No Trump averse hand.

3 with five Hearts and Club support, unsuited for No Trump. Not forcing.

- 3 shows a Heart stack and is forcing to game.
- 3 shows a Heart stack and is not forcing.
- 3 shows an invitational strength hand with four Spades.
- 3NT is to play.
- 4 is to play.

2NT shows a maximum hand with six or more Clubs (remember, with only five Clubs the opener will have one of the Majors, and therefore will be able to rebid either 2 or 2) and denies Heart tolerance as well as four Spades.

3 shows a minimum hand with six or more Clubs and denies Heart tolerance as well as four Spades.

The 2 Clubs – 2 Hearts Auction

The 2 response to 2 depicts hands with five or more Spades and invitational or better strength. The responder could also have four or five Hearts. Here is an outline of the opener's rebid choices:

2 shows Spade tolerance, three Spades if a maximum opener, two otherwise. The responder's rebids are pretty natural:

- Pass with a long suit and no game interest.
- 2NT shows five Spades and about 11-12 points. Not forcing.
- 3 shows Club support, five Spades and about 8 to 10 points.
- 3 suggests a strong, awkward hand, possibly a Major two suiter, and asks the opener to bid something descriptive. Forcing to game.
- 3 shows an invitational 5-4-x-x or 5-5-x-x hand. Not forcing.
- 3 shows a six card Spade suit and is invitational.
- 3NT shows a five card Spade suit and is natural.
- 4 shows a Major two-suiter with no slam interest.
- 4 is to play.

2NT shows a minimum hand without Spade tolerance (0-1 Spades) and five Clubs. Note that as the opener does not have Spade tolerance and does not have six Clubs, this hand necessarily has four Hearts. The 2NT rebid is also acceptable on a hand with six Clubs and four Spades. The responder can rebid:

- Pass - to play.
- 3 - natural, to play.
- 3 - suggests a strong, awkward hand, possibly a Major two suiter or big Spade stack, and asks the opener to bid something descriptive. Forcing to game.
- 3 - natural, acknowledging the Heart fit, not forcing.
- 3 - big Spade stack, not forcing.

3NT - to play.

4 - to play.

3 shows a minimum hand without Spade tolerance and six or more Clubs. The responder rebids:

Pass - to play.

3 - suggests a strong, awkward hand, possibly a Major two-suiter or big Spade stack, and asks the opener to bid something descriptive. Forcing to game.

3 - 5-5-x-x hand, not forcing.

3 - big Spade stack, not forcing.

3NT - to play.

3 and **3** promise six or more Clubs, maximum values, no tolerance for Spades, and a stopper in the suit bid.

3NT - is to play.

The 2 Clubs – 2 Spades Auction

The **2** response to **2** shows exactly four Hearts and at least invitational strength. **2** can also be used with game going 4-4-x-x responding hands. Here is an outline of the opener's rebids and the responder's continuations.

2NT shows a minimum opener, five Clubs, fewer than four Hearts and *necessarily four Spades*. (Note that a **2** hand containing only five Clubs and lacking four Hearts will *always* have four Spades, the only possible distributions being 4-1-3-5 4-2-2-5 and 4-3-1-5! The balanced hands with five Clubs, 3-2-3-5 and the like, are opened **1**.) The opener may rebid **2NT** on minimum 4-x-x-6 hands also. The responder has a variety of options at this point.

Pass - sounds good to me partner.

3 - is natural and to play.

3 - shows 4-4-x-x and is forcing - with invitational strength 4-4-x-x the responder starts with **2**, not **2**.

3NT - and **4** are to play.

4 - is natural and forcing.

4 - is Roman Kickback in Clubs.

3 shows a minimum hand with a six card or longer suit. The responder may pass or continue naturally.

3 shows a maximum opener with a six card or longer Club suit. The responder rebids:

3 or **3** - stoppers, could be first move on big hand supporting Clubs.

3NT - to play.

4 - invitational, majors unstopped.

4 - Roman Kickback in Clubs.

3 shows a minimum hand with four Hearts. Not forcing.

3 shows a maximum 4-x-x-5 opener.

3NT is to play on a maximum hand for which 3NT looks to be the right spot. Denies holding four Spades.

4 and **4** are cuebids, agreeing on Hearts.

4 shows a maximum hand with four Hearts.