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.