

CHECKBACK AFTER OPENER REBIDS 1NT

Mr.D.S.Roy Choudhury's Question :

It seems that there is a lot of confusion over the development of CHECK BACK, especially after the sequence

1-club/1-Diam :: 1-spade

1-NT :: 2-Club (Check Back)

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(1)How far this check back is Forcing. For one round or upto game or for 2 rounds??

(2)Should the opener SHOW only spade support position? or further clarify his hand ?

I submit a hand in this connection.

1-club :: 1-spade

1-NT :: 2-club (Check Back)

2-heart:: Holding ♠:AKJ85 ♥:AQ3 ♦:85 ♣:973 What Opener would rebid?]

IS HIS 2-spade Sign-off??

Sridhar's views :

Over the rebid of 1NT by opener , the responder has the following requirements :

- 1.Make a Sign off bid
- 2.Make an invitational bid
- 3.Force to game and find out about suit fits Vs 3N, keeping slam options open

Experts use several methods to facilitate the above ; success of these methods will depend on the depth of partnership understanding . A popular method is :

- 1.Rebid of responder's suit at 2 level is sign off – eg 1C-1S-1N-2S = weak sign off.
- 2.Jump suit bids are invitational – eg 1C-1S-1N-3S = invitational ; here even jump in new suit also becomes invitational like 1C-1S-1N-3H – showing a major 2 suitor with invitational values.
- 3.Treat 2C as the ONLY game forcing, artificial bid . Hence after the auction 1C-1S-1N-2C , the partnership cannot pass any bid below game level. This allows the partnership to meaningfully investigate suit fits , assess the combined values for game /slam try .

Over the 2C checkback , opener must show support or lack of support and also clarify his other suit holdings ; for eg , a popular method is over checkback 2C (in the auction , say, 1C-1S-1N-2C-?) , opener rebids :-

2D- artificial, denies support for responder (spade here); over this responder can bid new suit , naturally

2H- 4 card heart + 3 card spade

2S- 3 card spade, min hand

2N- 3 card spade and max hand but no further suits to show

3C- 5 card club and 3 card spade, max

3D- 3-2-4-4 pattern and max.

After 2C checkback , opener cannot sign off in 2S , since 2C is treated as Game force.