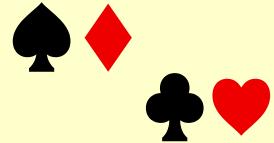


Bridge on Sundays



Crowhurst or Checkback

Playing a no-trump rebid of 15-17 points, it is useful to find a 5-3 fit with a major suit in responder's hand.

After 1 of a suit, responder replies 1 of a major suit and opener rebids 1NT.

If responder is looking for a 5-3 fit in the major suit and a possible game, responder bids 2♣. Even if opener had bid 1♣, this is not supporting clubs but a conventional bid asking opener about cards in the major suit and strength of the 1NT rebid.

Opener's responses:

With 3 cards in the major suit, bid it at 2 or 3 level

Else bid an unbid 4 card major suit

Else bid 2♦ with 15 points or 2NT with 17 points

If responder has a 6 card major, bid it direct not 2♣

If responder bids 1♦ instead of the major then, after 1NT rebid, the 2♣ bid agrees the ♣ suit and is not checkback

Examples

1. Opener 1♥; responder 1♠; opener 1NT; responder 2♣; opener 3♠ (shows 3 cards in spades and 17 points)
2. Opener 1♦; responder 1♠; opener 1NT; responder 2♣; opener 2♥ (less than 3 cards in spades but 4 cards in hearts and 15 points)