

STAMFORD BRIDGE CLUB

3rd AUGUST 2016

REVERSE BIDDING

“The reverse has always been surrounded by such an aura of mystique and confusion that it is advisable for any new analysis of the subject to start from rudimentary principles.”

Eric Crowhurst

Bridge is a Partnership Game

Bidding is a Language

(Today we are concentrating on opener's second round bid)

It is important that you give your partner accurate information.

**Look at these two hands
What is the difference between them?**

a)

♠ Q 6

♥ K Q 6 4

♦ A J 9 6 3

♣ J 2

b)

♠ A 6

♥ A Q 10 6

♦ K Q J 6 3

♣ J 6

The first is a minimum hand. Care should be taken not to overbid it.

The second is stronger and can be bid differently.

Bidding a 'Reverse' is also known as 'Going above your barrier':

1♦ P 2♣ P

Anything above 2♦ is 'above the barrier'. But we prefer the term 'reverse'.

Why don't we 'Reverse' with a weak hand?

It is all down to responder being able to show 'simple preference' (for opener's first bid suit) with a weak hand.

"The opener is said to 'reverse' if he bids two suits in such an order that his partner is forced to go to the **three level** in order to express simple preference for the first".
Crowhurst.

If you hold:

♠ A J 9 6 3

♥ K Q 6 4

♦ Q 6

♣ J 2

You will bid 1♠. Partner responds 1NT

Your rebid is 2♥.

Partner can now show simple preference for Spades at the two level (expecting the Spades to be longer than the Hearts – or at least 5 cards).

You hold:

♠ Q 6

♥ K Q 6 4

♦ A J 9 6 3

♣ J 2

You open 1Diamond.
Partner responds 1NT

What is your rebid?

If you rebid Two Hearts, partner, with the same weak hand, would have to show preference (for your first bid suit) at the three level.

Therefore on the above hand you can only rebid 2 Diamonds (or pass).

To rebid a higher ranking suit at a higher level you need to be that much stronger (at least 16/17 HCPs)

As responder you hold

♠ K J 5

♥ J 9 3

♦ T 7 5

♣ Q 9 4 3 2

If partner opens 1 Diamond and rebids 2 Diamonds you are happy to pass the rebid.

You expect a hand such as a)

♠ Q 6

♥ K Q 6 4

♦ A J 9 6 3

♣ J 2

If partner opens 1 Diamond and rebids 2 Hearts over your 1NT you expect a strong hand and should bid accordingly:

b)

♠ A 6

♥ A Q 10 6

♦ K Q J 6 3

♣ J 6

If opener bids 1 Diamonds and rebids 2 Hearts with hand a) responder will bid on and **the partnership gets too high.**

(we also know there can be no 4-4 heart fit, precluded by the 1N response)

It is the same if responder is a little stronger.

Over your 1 Diamond bid, he bids 2 Clubs, showing at least 10 HCPs

If you are minimum you still only rebid your Diamonds at a minimum level.

i.e. you don't adjust your bid because partner is stronger.

An important tenet:

Bid your hand, not your partner's.

You should not reverse **in order to** show a strong hand.

The issue is that the strong hand **allows you** to show a reverse. If you don't have the strength you must find a bid that describes your minimum hand.

NB 1♣ P 1♥ P
1♠

is NOT a reverse, as preference for the first bid suit (clubs) can be shown at the two level.

What do you bid with this hand?

♠ A K J 8 4

♥ Q 4

♦ K Q J 7 3

♣ 8

W	N	E	S
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1♠	P	2♥	P
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?

2 Spades is much too weak.

3 Spades suggests more spades.

Bid 3 Diamonds. This shows a strong hand with at least 5 Spades:

a 'High Reverse'

(the bid of a new suit at the 3 level)

What do you bid with this hand?

♠ A K Q 7 3

♥ 7 2

♦ K 9 5

♣ A Q 8

W	N	E	S
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1♠	P	2♦	P
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2 Spades is much too weak.

3 Spades suggests more spades.

2 NT is risky with the Heart gap.

Bid 3♣: a 'High Reverse' – subtle, the bid of a 3card suit

On both these hands you can afford to rebid at the three level (a High Reverse) because the hand is strong enough.

With a weaker hand you would simply bid 2 Spades

Another tenet:

A new suit at the three level is always forcing – i.e. responder **MUST** bid again:

(simple preference, NT, raise to game or 4th Suit Force)

Let's play Board 1