

Reverse Bidding

<p>♠ 6 ♥ AK 6 2 ♦ AK Q 7 2 ♣ 8 7 2</p> <p>♠ A 10 9 8 ♥ Q J 5 3 ♦ 10 9 8 4 ♣ J 9</p> <p>♠ K 7 5 4 3 ♥ 7 ♦ 10 4 3 ♣ K 6 5 3</p>		<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>2♥⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>1 A reverse showing (16) 17+hcps with 5+diamonds and 4+hearts</p> <p>North's sequence of bids defines an opener's reverse. Partner can only support opener's first suit at the 3level level. We don't want to be at the 3level without extra values which is why we need opener to have more than a minimum for this type of bidding.</p> <p>The best lead is a trump and that will restrict declarer to nine tricks – five diamonds, two hearts, a heart ruff and ♠K. If we made North's hand a little weaker 3♦ could fail so, with such a hand, North would rebid 2♦ over 1♠ and stay at a lower level.</p>		West	North	East	South		1♦	Pass	1♠		2♥ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3♦								
West	North	East	South																				
	1♦	Pass	1♠																				
	2♥ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3♦																				
<p>♠ Q 10 9 ♥ J 10 ♦ Q J 8 4 3 ♣ 7 5 4</p> <p>♠ 8 4 2 ♥ Q 7 ♦ K 6 2 ♣ K Q J 3 2</p> <p>♠ J 6 3 ♥ 9 8 5 3 ♦ A 10 7 5 ♣ 9 6</p>		<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2N</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♣⁽²⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>6♣</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>1 (16) 17+hcps a reverse showing 5+hearts and 4+spades. Game forcing after partner has introduced a new suit at the 2level 2 Denies a side suit ace (else a bid of that suit instead)</p> <p>When West denies the ace of diamonds (no cue bid) East knows that partner won't make more than twelve tricks. He bids the slam because of the excellent controls (aces and kings), diamond shortage and good trump support.</p> <p>With ♦ A well placed making twelve tricks is quite simple – two spades, three hearts, a diamond, a diamond ruff and five clubs. Had North been dealt ♦ A declarer would have played on hearts. With that suit breaking 4-2 the fourth round could have been ruffed to set up the fifth card as a winner.</p>		West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2N	Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	6♣	All pass
West	North	East	South																				
		1♥	Pass																				
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4♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	6♣	All pass																				

♠ 9 2 ♥ K 7 ♦ K 10 9 8 3 2 ♣ AK 6	♠ 10 5 3 ♥ 10 5 4 2 ♦ AJ 6 ♣ 9 8 4
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Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable			
West	North	East	South
	1♠		1♠
1♠	2♦	Pass	2♥ (1)
Pass	2♠ (2)	Pass	2N
Pass	3N	All pass	
1 This looks like, but isn't, a reverse (see text) 2 A cue bid of the opponent's suit, looking for more information. Best played as game forcing			
North's 2♦ is forcing and partner is obliged to respond. Because of that obligation we cannot put a lower limit on opener's bid. For that reason 2♥ does not promise any extra values. It is a bid that is descriptive in showing a hand with 5+clubs and 4+hearts. With 13hcps North has enough for game and makes a cue bid of the opponent's suit. This forward-going move is often, as here, looking for a stop in the overcalled suit. South's holding of ♠QJx is useful and 3N is reached.			
Generally declarer has nine tricks (four hearts and five clubs) and a 4 th best spade lead would give an easy tenth trick. The best lead for the defence is a diamond and this lead could see declarer defeated. South cannot play ♦ K so East wins with ♦ J. If East switches to a small spade declarer mustn't play the queen or the knave of spades! If East switches to ♠10 South must cover and ♠9 in dummy will stop the run of the spades. Tricky.			

♠ 9 2	♠ Q 4
♥ K 7	♥ A Q 6
♦ K 10 9 8 3 2	♦ 7
♣ A K 6	♣ Q J 10 7 5
♠ A K 8 7 6	♠ 10 5 3
♥ 9 8 3	♥ 10 5 4 2
♦ Q 5 4	♦ A J 6
♣ 3 2	♣ 9 8 4

Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable																							
<p>♠ J 10 9 4 ♥ 18 5 ♦ A Q 8 4 ♣ 10 6</p>	<p>♠ K 8 6 5 3 ♥ A 7 3 ♦ 6 5 2 ♣ K 7</p>	<table><thead><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1 ♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>1 ♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2 ♥⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>3 ♦⁽²⁾</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3 ♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4 ♥⁽³⁾</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">All pass</td></tr></tbody></table>	West	North	East	South	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3 ♦ ⁽²⁾	Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♥ ⁽³⁾	Pass	All pass				<p>♠ Q ♥ 9 6 4 ♦ K J 10 7 3 ♣ 9 5 4 2</p>
West	North	East	South																				
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass																				
2 ♥ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3 ♦ ⁽²⁾	Pass																				
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♥ ⁽³⁾	Pass																				
All pass																							
<p>1 Reverse 2 Fourth suit forcing (see text) 3 Ace-showing cue bid (denies ♦ A, else 4 ♦ bid)</p> <p>The use of fourth suit forcing, after a reverse by opener, is always forcing to game. Here its use allows West to show his pattern of 5clubs, 4hearts, a singleton diamond and 3spades (occasionally the hand will have a void diamond with a sixth club). West will never have 4spades because spades would have been raised strongly on the second round of bidding.</p> <p>East makes a heart cue bid. West has no extras so signs off with 4 ♠ knowing that partner can make a further slam try with a better hand. With poor trumps and no extras East passes. Declarer will have to play carefully and ruff the diamond losers in dummy. If he fails to do this the 4-1 trump break will be enough to break the contract. After two rounds of trumps declarer might play winning hearts or clubs. North will ruff in, take out dummy's last trump and cash the diamond winners.</p> <p>When in a seemingly impregnable contract think about what might go wrong. Here's it's an appreciation of the bad trump break that puts declarer on the winning path.</p>																							

Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable					
<p>♠ K9 ♥ A Q ♦ K 10 5 4 ♣ A 9 8 4 2</p>	<p>♠ J 8 3 ♥ K 10 3 2 ♦ 9 8 2 ♣ K 10 6</p>	<p>West</p> <p>1 ♣ Pass</p> <p>Pass 2 ♦⁽²⁾ Pass</p> <p>Pass 4 ♦⁽⁴⁾ Pass</p> <p>Pass 5 ♦⁽⁶⁾ Pass</p> <p>Pass 6 ♦⁽⁸⁾ All pass</p>	<p>North</p> <p>Pass</p> <p>Pass 4 ♦⁽³⁾</p> <p>Pass 4 N⁽⁵⁾</p> <p>Pass 5 N⁽⁷⁾</p>	<p>East</p> <p>Pass</p> <p>Pass</p> <p>Pass</p> <p>Pass</p> <p>All pass</p>	<p>South</p> <p>1 ♠⁽¹⁾</p> <p>4 ♦⁽³⁾</p> <p>4 N⁽⁵⁾</p> <p>5 N⁽⁷⁾</p>
<p>1 The now-familiar reverse – (16)17+heps, 5+clubs and 4+diamonds 2 Bids the higher suit first with two 5card suits 3 Slam try with diamonds as trumps 4 Ace-showing cue bid 5 Roman Key Card Blackwood ("RKCB") 6 3 of the 5 "aces" 7 Any side suit kings? 8 Yes, one</p>					
<p>South might have taken the auction a little slower by bidding 2♥, fourth suit, over 2♦ but would eventually have shown the diamond support. Over 5♦ a bid of 5♥ would have asked for the queen of trumps, clearly an unnecessary bid. Instead North asks for side suit kings by bidding 5N. Had North shown two of them South would have tried for the grand slam.</p>					
<p>If East leads a heart declarer will make all thirteen tricks (four spades, a spade ruff, two hearts, five diamonds and a club). On a neutral lead declarer should be held to twelve trick. Had the trumps broken 2-2 the 3-3 spade break would have been sufficient for declarer to take the lot too. Then it would have been possible to ruff the spades good and ruff the losing heart.</p>					

Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable			
♠ K976 ♥ 4 ♦ KQ8653 ♣ 95	♠ A43 ♥ J53 ♦ A9 ♣ AK42	♠ A43 ♥ AKQ6 ♦ 7 ♣ QJ1073	♠ 108 ♥ 109872 ♦ J1042 ♣ 86
West	North	East	South
1 ♠	2 ♦	1 ♣	Pass
4 ♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	2 ♥ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
4N ⁽⁴⁾	Pass	4 ♥ ⁽³⁾	Pass
6 ♣	All pass	5 ♠ ⁽⁵⁾	Pass
1 A reverse – a different situation from Board 3 (see text) 2 Slam try in clubs 3 Ace-showing cue bid 4 RRCB 5 2 of the 5 "aces" with the queen of trumps			
This differs from Board 3 because, after North's intervention, East is able to pass to show a minimum hand. When East, instead, volunteer's 2 ♥ he is showing extra values. That information is enough to take West on a slam adventure. Clubs are fixed with the jump to 4 ♣ and East is able to make a heart cue bid. West takes a small risk by using RRCB (he has no spade control but partner's strong bidding suggests he may hold ♠A or ♠K). West could try for the grand slam by bidding 5N but it seems he's done enough – East needs his (already) perfect cards plus ♠K for thirteen tricks to roll in.			
The contract is at the right level as declarer will lose one trick – a spade. 6N would have made but that contract is dependent on the favourable position of ♠K (North is marked with that card though West can't appreciate that at the bidding stage).			

Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable			
♠ Q654 ♥ 105 ♦ Q3 ♣ QJ1042	♠ A10982 ♥ Q4 ♦ J72 ♣ 953	♠ J7 ♥ AKJ2 ♦ A9654 ♣ AK	♠ K3 ♥ 98763 ♦ K108 ♣ 876
West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♥ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3N ⁽²⁾	All pass		
1 Reversing values (16)17+, 5+diamonds and 4+hearts 2 Some extras and good cover in clubs			
The auction starts in a similar way to Board 1 but, here, opener has 4hcps more. Further the fourth suit is covered well so West is able to bid 3N over partner's non-forcing 3 ♦.			
North will lead ♠Q. Declarer has eight tricks and the spade suit gives declarer the best chance of making at least nine tricks. West takes the opening lead and advances ♠J. This runs to South's king who returns a second club. Declarer now plays a second spade and finesses in dummy (playing one of ♠10 9 8). It holds but the spades don't break 3-3. Declarer will generally have to be satisfied with nine tricks (two spades, four hearts, a diamond and two clubs).			
Declarer has made the contract by taking a <u>double finesse</u> in spades. It would have been a mistake for North to cover ♠J. That would have given declarer eleven tricks as that error gives West four spade winners.			

<p>♠ A K Q 6 3 ♥ K ♦ 18 3 ♣ A 9 7 6</p> <p>♠ 9 7 2 ♥ J 7 5 2 ♦ 7 6 5 ♣ K 8 3</p>	<p>♠ 10 8 5 4 ♥ Q 10 9 6 4 ♦ 10 9 ♣ J 10</p>
<p>♠ J ♥ A 8 3 ♦ A K Q 4 2 ♣ Q 5 4 2</p>	

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	3 ♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3 ♥ ⁽²⁾
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4N ⁽³⁾
Pass	5 ♥ ⁽⁴⁾	Pass	5N ⁽⁵⁾
Pass	6 ♥ ⁽⁶⁾	Pass	7 ♦

All pass

1 A high reverse, introducing a new suit at the 3level. Same reverse principles apply – (16)17+ with 5-spades and 4+clubs **2** 4th suit forcing **3** RKCB **4** 2 of the 5 “aces” without the queen of trumps **5** Side suit kings? **6** Two

We end with a high reverse where the opener introduces a second suit on the second round with a bid at the 3level. After South has used fourth suit forcing North is able to show his pattern – 5spades-1heart-3diamonds-4clubs. That will see South checking on trumps and side suit kings. When North shows two side suit kings South bids the grand slam. South mentally slots in partner having the two black kings and can hope to make thirteen tricks: two spades, one heart, two heart ruffs, five diamonds and three clubs.

As it is North appears with ♥K instead. That seems a drawback but there is compensation in the quality of the spades. It’s traditional to lead a trump against a grand slam. On that lead declarer wins in dummy, unblocks ♥K and plays a spade to ♠J. A heart is ruffed and trumps are drawn. ♠A is the entry to the spade winners. Four spades, two hearts, a heart ruff, five trumps and a top club. Grand slam made.

A club lead would be more testing (he won’t risk running the lead to hand) but declarer will succeed with the spades breaking 4-3. He’ll make five spades, two hearts, five diamonds and the ace of clubs.