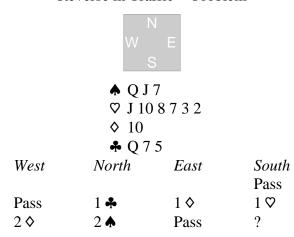
Reverse in Traffic -- Problem

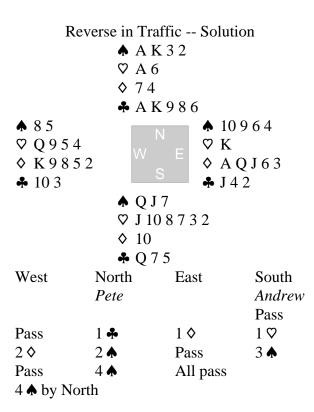
Board 9South Deals
E-W Vul



In an online matchpoint pairs game, after two passes, the auction gets busy. We are in poorly-charted waters.

- 1. What shape and strength do you think partner has?
- 2. What are your options here?
- 3. What's your choice?

Board 9South Deals
E-W Vul



1. What shape and strength do you think partner has?

Responder has a strong reverse, with four or five spades and more clubs. Strength could go down to 16 HCP with heart tolerance, or perhaps fewer HCP, all in black suits, with a fifth spade.

2. What are your options here? Here is what I say - do you agree?

Pass shows a terrible hand, likely three small spades, a small singleton club and hearts worth showing.

- 2 NT is needed to be natural and encouraging, since the opponents have bid. That's out.
- 3 \$\dis \text{ is forcing to game, perhaps with five hearts -- the reason we don't need lebensohl. That's out, too.
- 3 ♣ picks clubs, and is not encouraging.
- $3 \heartsuit$ shows six hearts and is encouraging.
- 3 \(\hat{\hat{h}}\) should provide four spades, being the raise of a second suit.

3. What's your choice?

My partner, Andrew Hanes, chose the magnificent bid of 3 ♠! He held *three* honors in my suits, and expected me to suspect he only had three spades, because he had not made a negative double of 1 ♦. With a weaker hand, I might have chosen to pass.

After my raise, the defense started with the \Diamond A and ∇ K. I ruffed my diamond in dummy, drew trump in four rounds (returning to hand with a club), and ran the clubs for a score over 90%. Four hearts sometimes made four and sometimes went down (probably losing the ∇ K and two more trumps). The pairs not in game scored below average.