

Reverse in Traffic -- Problem

Board 9

South Deals

E-W Vul



♠ Q J 7
♥ J 10 8 7 3 2
♦ 10
♣ Q 7 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
Pass	1 ♣	1 ♦	1 ♥
2 ♦	2 ♠	Pass	?

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?

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Reverse in Traffic -- Solution

		♠ A K 3 2	
		♥ A 6	
		♦ 7 4	
		♣ A K 9 8 6	
♠ 8 5			♠ 10 9 6 4
♥ Q 9 5 4			♥ K
♦ K 9 8 5 2			♦ A Q J 6 3
♣ 10 3			♣ J 4 2
		♠ Q J 7	
		♥ J 10 8 7 3 2	
		♦ 10	
		♣ Q 7 5	
West	North	East	South
	<i>Pete</i>		<i>Andrew</i>
Pass	1 ♣	1 ♦	Pass
2 ♦	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	
4 ♠ by North			

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 ♦ 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 ♥ shows six hearts and is encouraging.

3 ♠ 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 ♦ 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.