

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

02/15/11 Jr. Fund

<p>♠ Q 9 8 ♥ A 8 6 4 ♦ J 3 2 ♣ K J 8</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	<p>♠ J 6 5 ♥ K 10 ♦ A K Q 10 7 6 5 ♣ 3</p> <p>♠ 10 7 ♥ 9 5 3 2 ♦ 9 4 ♣ A 6 5 4 2</p> <p>♠ A K 4 3 2 ♥ Q J 7 ♦ 8 ♣ Q 10 9 7</p>
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NS 4♠; NS 3N; NS 5♦; EW 1♥; NS 1♣

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♠	All pass	

4♠ by South

The auction above by GIB makes sense. After the 2♦ rebid, South should subtract for diamond shortness and only bid 2NT. North's 4♠ bid is clearly 3-card support with a great diamond suit.

But how would you bid it? In particular, take the North seat, after a 1♠ response. You have lots of choices:

- 2♦: sensible, but perhaps an underbid, and likely to lose a spade fit
- 2♥: a manufactured reverse, intending to show 3-card spade support next
- 2♠: sensible, but 7-0 diamonds may play better than 4-3 spades
- 2NT: lots of trick potential, but no club stop, a wild choice
- 3♦: somewhat of an overbid
- 3♥: [see below] neither ♠Jxx nor the values are good enough for this bid (♠KJx works)
- 3♠: a terrible bid: 3♠ absolutely guarantees four card support
- 3NT: another wild choice that would be sensible with ♣Kxx and a stiff spade

With my established partnerships, I strongly prefer to play a *jump reverse* (3♥ here) as promising a strong hand with exactly three card support. Much of the time, responder will set the final contract, but opener may keep on bidding. Among other situations, this helps with the *nightmare hand*, when opener is strong with a six card suit and responder bids opener's three card major. (I got this from Gary Schwartz; Eric Schwartz credits Lloyd Arvedon.)

Comments to mitdlbc-discuss@mit.edu, please!

- Pete Matthews