

## ♠♥♦♣ RESPONDING TO THE REVERSE ♠♥♦♣

North deals and opens 1♣. The opponents are silent throughout the auction. You have this hand:

S	South
♠	AK10842
♥	KQJ
♦	J43
♣	8

You count 14 HCP. But your quality 6-card Spade suit easily adds another 3 points. You are in the slam territory and will be thinking about that as the auction continues. Your Spade suit is semi-self-sufficient. That means it can serve as the trump suit even opposite a singleton.

You start by responding with a forcing 1♠ response. North rebids 2♦. What is the meaning of this bid?

Rebidding a suit at the 2-level that is higher ranking than his first suit is called a Reverse. It requires the Responder to go to the 3-level to return to his first suit. In other words, forcing the auction to 3♣ opposite what could be only 6 points, requires a stronger hand than the minimum hand North might have had. Most play Reverses as showing a about 16 or 17 HCP.

Since one always opens their longest suit, this Reverse promises that North's Club suit is longer than his Diamond suit. Furthermore, a Reverse is forcing for one Round.

Now you are positive that you will play in a slam contract. But before you bid Blackwood, you must set the trump suit. You rebid 2♠ showing your six bagger. North raises to 3♠. Presumably, this shows at least 2 Spades and sets the trump suit. You can now bid 4NT and ask for the number of Aces and the possession of the ♠K. North answers with 6♠. West makes the passive lead of the ♠J and you see this dummy:

N	North
♠	Q5
♥	
♦	A1072
♣	AKQ10953

West Leads: ♠J

S	South
♠	AK10842
♥	KQJ
♦	J43
♣	8

Partner bid 6♠ in order to indicate he held a void somewhere and that would make his answer to Blackwood ambiguous.

North hand is a little short of the HCP needed for the reverse, but the shape makes up for the lack of strength. You hope for normal breaks in the Spades. If the outstanding Spades break 3-2, you can take 13 tricks.

You win the opening lead and draw the rest of the Spades in 3 rounds. Then you start the Clubs. If they break worse than 3-2, you will ruff the 4<sup>th</sup> Club and use the ♦A to return to the dummy.

In fact, the Clubs do split 3-2 and you can discard all your Hearts and Diamonds on the 7-card Club suit. You take all 13 tricks.

This is the entire deal:

D	1	N undefined	W N E S
		♠ Q5	1♣ P 1♠
		♥ A1072	P 2♦ P 2♠
		♦ AKQ10953	P 3♣ P 4NT
			P 6♣ P P
			D
W undefined		E undefined	
♠ J6		♠ 973	
♥ 108653		♥ A9742	
♦ Q865		♦ K9	
♣ J2		♣ 764	
		S undefined	
		♠ AK10842	
		♥ KQJ	
		♦ J43	
		♣ 8	
			6♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/2k4p6e50> , or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the

“Next” button on the bottom to advance through each trick. If you don’t want to see the opponents hands, click on the white area in the South hand before you start.

Alternatively, by clicking on “Play” you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.

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