

Was that a reverse partner ...?

We should all now be fairly familiar with reverse sequences by opener ...

e.g 1D-----1S            where 2H is only bid with extra values { usually 17+ pts}  
2H

e.g 1C-----1H            where 2D is only bid with extra values { usually 17+ pts}  
2D

e.g 1C-----1S            where 2H is only bid with extra values { usually 17+ pts}  
2H

e.g 1D-----2C            where 2H is only bid with extra values { usually 15+ pts}  
2H

e.g 1D-----2C            where 2S is only bid with extra values { usually 15+ pts}  
2S

and there are others but lets stick with these for the time being.

A correct definition of a reverse is that if a bid of the second suit by opener will force responder to go back to opener's first suit at the three level , then opener has reversed and will need extra values. Quite a mouthful but put *terribly simply* , opener must be aware that they must not always bid their second suit as it may push their side too high. With strong points there is no reason not to bid the second suit but with more modest values opener must NOT introduce the second suit.

Opener with two suits always has the option to *miss* out their second suit completely and simply rebid the first suit.

e.g 1D-----1S  
?  
Ax  
Qxxx  
AQxxx  
xx

e.g 1H-----2C  
?  
Qxxx  
AQxxx  
KJ  
xx

Here opener avoids any problems { and doesn't reverse} if they simply rebid 2 Diamonds.

And here opener is careful not to reverse into 2Sp { which would show more points } and so rebids 2H.

Now there is no point in players learning all about reverses if their partners never take any notice of the bids ! Over the page we are going to see how responder should act when they hear partner's reverse.