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.)

\[\text{Comments to mitdlbc-discuss@mit.edu, please!}\]

- Pete Matthews