

## REVERSE DRURY

It's a common tactic to occasionally open the bidding with a weaker hand in third or fourth position. When partner has 10-12 points and a fit with opener's suit, this can present a challenge. A new suit response is no longer forcing – so it can't be used as a temporizing bid before showing support – and a jump response might get the partnership too high if opener doesn't have full values. To resolve this situation, partnerships use a convention called Reverse Drury, they bid 2 clubs.

Opener rebids his major to deny a full opener, bids game if he would go to game opposite a limit raise. He rebids something else, other than the original suit to show a full opener.

West	Pass	East	2 passes, East opens
K62	2 clubs (Drury)	AQ874	1 Spade
A863	3 diamonds, values	K2	2 diamonds (full opener)
KJ72		Q943	4 spades
83		K4	

Having already implied support for spades using Drury, West now shows support for East's second suit. Enough for East to bid game.

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I play Drury on in competition. Pass Pass 1 Heart 1 Spade 2 clubs (Drury)  
Pass Pass 1 Spade Double 2 Clubs (Drury)  
I play it off in the opponent bids 1 NT - Pass Pass 1 Spade 1 NT (Drury is off)

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A disadvantage of using Drury is that the partnership gives up the natural 2 club response to a major-suit opening bid in third or fourth position, but there is adequate compensation.

I play Drury on if partner opens in 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> seat after 2 passes, and only on when partner bids a major in 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> seat. It's not on when partner opens a minor.

After the 2 club response, opener must bid again, even with a sub-minimum hand, unless his right-hand opponent bids or doubles. If he rebids his suit, denies full opener.

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Q54 DEALER - Pass  
AJ104 2 Clubs (Drury)  
J87  
Q94

A10		J3	Pass
K	Pass	Q986	Pass
5432		KQ1096	
K87632		J10	

K98762 1 Spade  
7532 2 Spades  
A  
A5

South opened in 3<sup>rd</sup> seat- definitely aggressive, giving North a problem. Should he make a conservative 2 spade raise? Should North bid 3 spades, a limit raise? The answer is to bid 2 clubs, Drury, promising a hand in the family of a limit raise. If opener has a light opener, he rebids 2 spades and that ends the bidding.

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Hand #1: K9764 Q84 A6 K98

How does opener rebid? With any hand that counts to a bad 13 or less – a hand that would decline to go to game after partner’s limit raise – rebid the major to put on the brakes.

Hand #2: AK1096 2 KQ983 74

This too is only 12 points, but the distribution is fabulous. I accept invitations whenever I can. Bid game.

Hand #3: KQ864 A432 A8 J6

This looks promising, but only if partner can help in hearts or can limit heart losers with shortness. Ask him. Over 2 clubs, promising a limit raise, bid 2 hearts.

With three low hearts, for example, partner will sign off in 2 spades.

Once in a great while, partner will hold: K974 6 AQ83 Q1098 and bids 4 spades.

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If you’re not sure whether to bid game, you can have an agreement that after Drury, the bid of a new suit is a help-suit game try. (no alert required) Drury is an Alert

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There is nothing in the rules of bridge which says you must open light in 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> seat. Consider the temptation to bid with this hand after 2 passes: KQJ92 75 A32 973  
You know partner doesn’t have an opening hand, no way you’ll end up too high, play Drury.