Overloading ♠-Transfer with Weak Minors

The agreement

Following a 1N opening, responder’s 2N bid is initially ambiguous with 3 possible meanings:

a) Weak Minors, at least 5-4, with no chance of game.
b) A weak transfer to ♠, intending to play 3♠.
c) A strong transfer to ♠, game forcing, with at least mild slam interest.

Opener bids the gap, 3♣, with longer ♣s only. With equal-length or longer ♦s, opener completes the transfer, 3♦. Thus, there are only 2 initial continuations:
1) Longer ♣s: 1N 2N; 3♣ I have more ♣s than I have ♦s.
2) Longer ♦s: 1N 2N; 3♦ I have at least as many ♦s as I have ♣s.

The partnership is able to play below game in 3♣ or 3♦ when responder is weak, or to play in game or to investigate for slam in NT or ♠. In the following, the continuations are described under the six possible responder-opener hand combinations:

Continuations

a) Responder bids 2N with a weak minor 2-suiter

Case a-1: Opener has longer ♣s; responder must pass the 3♣ continuation.

1N 2N
3♣ pass

Case a-2: Opener has longer or equal-length ♦s; responder must pass the 3♦ continuation.

1N 2N
3♦ pass

There are no other cases when responder has a weak minor 2-suiter.

b) Responder bids 2N as a weak transfer intending to play 3♦

Case b-1: Opener prefers ♣; responder corrects to 3♦ and opener must pass.

1N 2N
3♣ 3♦
pass

Case b-2: Opener prefers ♦; responder simply passes opener’s 3♦ response.

1N 2N
3♦ pass

There are no other cases when responder is making a weak transfer to ♠.
c) **Responder bids 2N as a strong transfer, forcing to game, with slam interest**

**Case c-1**: Opener prefers ♣; responder rebids above 3♦.
**Case c-1**: Opener prefers ♠; responder rebids above 3♦.

The partnership is forced to at least 3N. Regardless of opener’s preference, responder indicates the strong transfer by continuing above 3♦ to describe his distribution. Traditional descriptive continuations following a minor suit transfer can be employed to show shortness or a strong semi-balanced hand. Responder’s continuations above 3N show strong slam interest, and must be agreed by the partnership. One possibility is to adopt the continuations described below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1N</th>
<th>2N</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3m</td>
<td>3♥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♣-shortness, 6+ ♦'s slam interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3♠</td>
<td>♤-shortness, 6+ ♦'s slam interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3N</td>
<td>strong ♦-transfer with no shortness, mild slam-try</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4♠</td>
<td>♤-shortness, 6+ ♦'s slam interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4♦</td>
<td>6+ ♦'s slam interest, passing control to opener</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4♥</td>
<td>Kickback, 6+ ♦'s, strong slam try</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4♠</td>
<td>♤-exclusionary ask, 6+ ♦'s, strong slam try</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4N</td>
<td>♥-exclusionary ask, 6+ ♦'s, strong slam try</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5♠</td>
<td>♤-exclusionary ask, 6+ ♦'s, strong slam try</td>
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