DEC. 28th – BID THESE HANDS WITH ME

Α3 DEALER 2 NT K5 4 SPADES A1084 AKQ96 72 PASS K64 PASS A10862 Q743 **PASS** J7 **PASS** Q65 10843 J72 QJ10985 J9 4 HEARTS K932 5

I don't usually open 2 NT (or `NT) when I'm 5-4 with 2 doubletons. I would never do it with 5-4 in the majors and very rarely with a 5 card major and an outside 4 card minor. It is usually better to bid the 5 card suit and then JUMP or REVERSE into the 4 card suit showing 18+ points. On this hand you might open 1club, planning to reverse into 2 diamonds over any response which partner makes. HOWEVER, this hand is 20 H.C.P. and the 2 doubletons are both strong Ax and Kx, it might be important to protect the Kx of hearts by bidding NT first. It also tells partner your exact point count and allows him/her to use Stayman, Jacoby or Texas transfers, Gerber, Quantitative. It's very easy for partner to get to game by using Texas Transfer

| | A6 DEALER – 1 DIAN 3 3 DIAN AK109653 K94 | лOND лONDS |
|--|---|--|
| 1098 KJ76 2 HEARTS J7 PASS J873 | | K54 1 HEART Q9542 42 PASS A62 |
| | QJ732 1 SPADE A108 3 NT Q8 Q103 | |

A and Q of clubs are important stoppers, Q8 of Diamonds are equally important. North showed a good 6 card diamond suit. Heart lead, win the Ace, cash 7 diamonds, cash the spade Ace. Don't try for overtricks by finessing the spade K, if it's wrong, opponents will cash hearts.

| | | 974 DEALER – 1 NT AKQ3 2 HEA A32 PASS K102 | \RTS | |
|----------------------------|--------------|---|----------------------------|--------------|
| 8532 104 J8 A6543 | PASS PASS | ··· ····· | J10 J9865 Q9754 9 | PASS PASS |
| | | AKQ6 | | |
| | | 72 2 CLUBS | | |
| | | K106 4 NT | | |
| | | QJ87 | | |

When North responds 2 hearts over Stayman, South would jump to 4 clubs if he had a heart fit, asking for controls. 4 NT is Quanitative, wants North to bid 6 with 17 H.C.P. North is close to accepting with 16 H.C.P. but the 4-3-3-3 shape is deterrent. North takes 11 tricks, if spades broke 3-3 then making 6. A 3-3 break is only a 40%, not good odds for being in a slam

| | | A103 J1092 A9 AQ65 | DEALER- 1 NT 2 HEA 3 HEA | | |
|-------|----------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------|----------|
| QJ42 | PASS | | | K975 | PASS |
| AQ | 2 SPADES | | | K | DOUBLE |
| J1054 | PASS | | | KQ73 | 3 SPADES |
| 432 | | | | K987 | |
| | | 86 | | | |
| | | 876543 | 2 Diamonds (transfer) | | |
| | | 862 | PASS | | |
| | | J10 | PASS | | |

The double is T.O. showing a shortage in hearts, approximately an opener and support for the Other 3 suits, particularly the other major. When South passes, he most likely has a weak hand, wanted to play 2 hearts. North pushes on to 3 hearts because of his 4 card heart suit. East likes His Kings sitting behind the 1 NT opener and competes to 3 spades. 3 hearts would likely go down 1, but 3 spades is an easy make