

## The Expert Way to Bid to 3NT (not for mere mortals!)

In a recent match our opponents bid to 3NT, on the following hands, using a series of 7 bids, all artificial. However, there is a much simpler route!

North and South held:-

**N** : ♠ A86 ♥ AK7 ♦ A6 ♣ KQJ94 **S**: ♠ J73 ♥ 983 ♦ K982 ♣ A85 The bidding, with opponents silent, and **ALL** bids alerted went :-

**N - S**

2♣ -(1) 2♦ -(2)

2♥ -(3) 2♠ -(4)

2NT-(5) 3♣ -(6)

3NT - (7) pass – (8)

Explanations below

1. **Various strong hands** - most partnerships would open 2NT with a balanced 20 - 22.

2 **Forced relay** - standard response following a 2♣ opening

3. **The "Kokish" relay** - Shows a balanced hand OR a natural game going strong hand with a ♥ suit. This method releases the

2NT opening for various conventional meanings such as a minor 2-suiter. The

Convention is named after its inventor, the Canadian expert, Eric Kokish.

4. **Which is it?**

5. **20 -22 balanced.** Opener would instead have bid any suit to show that suit and ♥S

6. **5-card puppet Stayman** - partner do you have a 4 or 5-card major?

7. **No 4 or 5-card major.**

8. Then we will play 3NT.

An interesting way to reach the final contract which you and I, as at the other table, would find by bidding 2NT – 3NT.