

BFP B1 L05 Balanced Reply to 1 NT

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 9 8 4

♥ A 9

♦ A J 10

♣ K 10 9 8

♠ 5 3 2

♥ K 10 6

♦ K 6 4

♣ J 4 3 2



♠ J 10 6

♥ Q 8 5 3 2

♦ Q 8 7

♣ 7 5

14
7 5
14

♠ A K 7

♥ J 7 4

♦ 9 5 3 2

♣ A Q 6

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | 1 NT | Pass | 3 NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

North has 14 HCP and a balanced hand. North opens the bidding 1 NT.

South has a balanced hand with 14 HCP. South knows that North has a balanced hand with 12-14 HCPs.

Assuming the minimum 12 HCP, the total between the hands is at least 12 + 14 HCP = 26 HCP. 25 HCP between the two hands is enough to make nine tricks.

The 3 NT contract attracts the game bonus. South makes a jump bid to 3 NT. This is a sign off bid and North passes.

East leads ♥ 3, the fourth highest in the longest suit in the hand.

North has winners as follows: 3 in spades, 1 in hearts, 1 in diamonds, 3 in clubs, total of 8.

The ninth trick might come from a 3:3 distribution of opponents spades or clubs, so both suits need counting; or

There are two missing honours in diamonds. Finesse twice.

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Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K 9 6 3

♥ A 4

♦ K 9 6

♣ K 6 4 2

♠ 8 4 2

♥ Q 6

♦ A J 10 5 2

♣ 7 5 3



♠ A Q J

♥ K 10 9

♦ 8 7

♣ Q J 10 9 8

♠ 10 7 5

♥ J 8 7 5 3 2

♦ Q 4 3

♣ A

13
7 13
7

West

North

East

South

1 NT

Pass

Pass

Pass

East opens the bidding with 1 NT. This shows 12,13, or 14 HCPs and a balanced hand.

West has a balanced hand with only 7 HCPs. Even if East has maximum 14 HCPs the total between the hands would be 21 HCPs. This is not enough for the game contract of 3 NT. West passes.

South leads ♥ 5, the fourth highest of the longest suit, hoping to establish heart winners.

East has few quick winners: spades 1, hearts 0, diamonds 1, clubs 2 = total 4.

Clubs is the friendly suit, East-West have eight of them. East should lead clubs until the opponents have played their ace and king. That will lead to 3 tricks won in clubs making the 7 altogether needed for 1 NT.

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| | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Board 3 | ♠ 10 8 4 3 | | |
| South Deals | ♥ Q 4 2 | | |
| E-W Vul | ♦ A 10 6 4 | | |
| | ♣ A J | | |
| ♠ K Q J 7 | | N | ♠ 9 6 |
| ♥ 9 6 5 3 | | W E | ♥ A J 10 8 |
| ♦ J 8 | | S | ♦ K Q 5 2 |
| ♣ 5 4 3 | | | ♣ 8 6 2 |
| | ♠ A 5 2 | | |
| | ♥ K 7 | | |
| | ♦ 9 7 3 | | |
| | ♣ K Q 10 9 7 | | |
| | 11 | | |
| | 7 10 | | |
| | 12 | | |
| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
| Pass | 2 NT | Pass | 1 NT |
| Pass | | | Pass |

South has 12 HCPs and a balanced hand, so opens 1 NT.

North has 11 HCPs. If partner holds 12 or 13 HCPs, there will not be enough to make the 9 tricks needed for the game contract of 3 NT. If partner has 14 HCPs, then there would be enough for the game contract.

North bids an invitational 2 NT. This doesn't say that eight tricks is all the partnership can make. It says that the partnership should be able to make 8 tricks, but might be able to make 9 tricks IF South has 14 HCPs. It invites to raise to 3 NT with 14 HCPs, but to pass otherwise.

South has only 12 HCPs and so passes.

Opening lead from West would be **♠** K top of a touching sequence of at least three.

There are five quick tricks in clubs, one in spades, one in diamonds, making seven. Forcing out the **♥** A will add one more for the 2 NT.

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Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ A K 6 3

♥ K 7 4

♦ 10 8 5

♣ A 6 5

♠ Q 9 5

♥ 8 6 2

♦ A 9 7 3

♣ J 10 2



♠ 10 8 2

♥ Q J 5

♦ K Q J 6

♣ K 8 7

♠ J 7 4

♥ A 10 9 3

♦ 4 2

♣ Q 9 4 3

7
14 12
7

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 NT | Pass | 2 NT | Pass |
| 3 NT | Pass | Pass | Pass |

West opens the bidding with 1NT showing a balanced hand with 12-14 HCPs.

East has 12 HCPs. This may or may not be enough for the nine trick 3NT contract that would earn a game bonus.

East bids 2NT, an invitational bid. This shows partner enough HCPs for game providing partner is maximum within the 12-14 HCP range.

West is maximum and so raises to the game contract.

North leads ♦ 3 the fourth highest of the longest suit.

For West, the quick winners are: spades 2, hearts 0, diamonds 0, clubs 2, total 4.

However, West will play diamonds until the ace appears setting up three other tricks in diamonds. Then West will play hearts until the ace appears setting up two tricks in hearts.

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|---|--------------|---|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|------|------|--------------|------|------|------|--|--|--|
| Board 5 | ♠ Q 9 3 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| North Deals | ♥ A 10 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N-S Vul | ♦ K 9 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♣ K 6 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♠ 7 6 | | <div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="width: 10px;"></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> | | N | | W | | E | | S | | ♠ K J 10 8 5 | | | | | | |
| | N | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ Q 8 6 5 2 | | | ♥ 7 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ A 4 2 | | | ♦ Q 10 8 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ A 3 2 | | | ♣ J 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♠ A 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♥ K J 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♦ J 6 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♣ Q 10 9 8 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table style="margin-left: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: right;">12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: right;">10 7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: right;">11</td></tr> </table> | 12 | 10 7 | 11 | <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><i>West</i></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><i>North</i></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><i>East</i></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><i>South</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1 NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2 NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> | | 1 NT | Pass | 2 NT | Pass | Pass | Pass | | | |
| 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 NT | Pass | 2 NT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

North opens the bidding with 1NT showing partner 12-14 HCPs in a balanced hand.

With a balanced hand and 11 HCPs in South's hand it is possible but not certain that a game contract of 3NT can succeed.

South makes an invitational bid of 2NT. This shows partner enough HCPs for game providing partner is maximum within the 12-14 HCP range.

With a minimum HCP count of 12, North declines the invitation and passes.

East leads ♠ J from an internal sequence in the five card spade suit.

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Board 6

East Deals

E-W Vul

♠ Q 8 2
 ♥ K 9 8 7 4
 ♦ Q 7 5
 ♣ 10 6

♠ J 6 3
 ♥ A Q 10
 ♦ 10 9 3
 ♣ K J 8 3



♠ A 10 4
 ♥ J 5
 ♦ K 8 6 4
 ♣ A 9 7 2

7
 11 12
 10

♠ K 9 7 5
 ♥ 6 3 2
 ♦ A J 2
 ♣ Q 5 4

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | 1 NT | Pass |
| 2 NT | Pass | Pass | Pass |

East opens the bidding with 1NT showing partner 12-14 HCPs in a balanced hand.

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Board 7

South Deals

Both Vul

♠ A 7 4
♥ 10 7 4 2
♦ Q J 9
♣ K 4 3

♠ 6 3 2
♥ Q 9
♦ K 10 8 6 3
♣ Q 7 2



♠ K 9 5
♥ K 5 3
♦ 7 4 2
♣ A 9 6 5

7
10 10
13

♠ Q J 10 8
♥ A J 8 6
♦ A 5
♣ J 10 8

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Pass | Pass | Pass | 1 NT |

South opens the bidding with 1NT showing partner 12-14 HCPs in a balanced hand.

North has a balanced hand with only 7 HCPs. Even if South has maximum 14 HCPs the total between the hands would be 21 HCPs. This is not enough for the game contract of 3NT. North passes.

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Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 7 3

♥ A K 8

♦ K Q J 8

♣ 8 6 2

7
13 14
6

West

1 NT

Pass

♠ Q J 2

♥ 9 4 3 2

♦ 6 3

♣ K J 10 4



♠ 8 5 4

♥ 7 6 5

♦ A 7 4

♣ Q 9 7 3

North

Pass

Pass

East

3 NT

South

Pass

♠ A K 10 6

♥ Q J 10

♦ 10 9 5 2

♣ A 5

West opens the bidding with 1 NT showing partner 12-14 HCPs in a balanced hand.

East has a balanced hand with 14 HCP. South knows that North has a balanced hand with 12-14 HCPs.

Assuming the minimum 12 HCP, the total between the hands is at least 12 + 14 HCP = 26 HCP. 25 HCP between the two hands is enough to make nine tricks.

The 3 NT contract attracts the game bonus. East makes a jump bid to 3 NT. This is a sign off bid and North passes.