

<b>1</b>	♠ AJ	<i>Dlr: N</i>																																		
	♥ 7542	<i>Vul: None</i>																																		
	♦ A96																																			
	♣ AQ75																																			
♠ Q9	♠ 7653																																			
♥ AKJ	♥ Q963																																			
♦ Q7543	♦ KT8																																			
♣ JT4	♣ K9																																			
15	♠ KT842																																			
13	♥ T8																																			
8	♦ J2																																			
4	♣ 8632																																			
		<table> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>						♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	-	-	3	1	S	3	-	-	3	1	E	-	2	1	-	-	W	-	2	1	-	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																															
N	3	-	-	3	1																															
S	3	-	-	3	1																															
E	-	2	1	-	-																															
W	-	2	1	-	-																															

**Play:** South takes 1 trick at NT but 3 tricks (trumps #3,4,5) at Spades. This is why a weak hand transfers to a 5 card major. Ruff a H or D to get to South hand. Lead a low trump towards AJ. Make 5 spade tricks, 2 aces & a long club.

<div style="font-size: 48pt; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 10px;">2</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;">             ♠ 965              ♥ AT987              ♦ AK              ♣ 764           </div> <div style="text-align: center;">             ♠ 842              ♥ KQ2              ♦ QT65              ♣ J95           </div> </div>	<div style="text-align: right; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <i>Dlr: E</i>  <i>Vul: N-S</i> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;">             ♠ 965              ♥ AT987              ♦ AK              ♣ 764           </div> <div style="text-align: center;">             ♠ 842              ♥ KQ2              ♦ QT65              ♣ J95           </div> <div style="text-align: center;">             ♠ AQJ7              ♥ J6              ♦ J98              ♣ AQT2           </div> </div>	<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">             ♠ KT3              ♥ 543              ♦ 7432              ♣ K83           </div> <div style="text-align: center;">             8              11      15              6           </div>
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	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	4	2	3	4	3
W	4	2	3	4	3

**Play:** Play at NT is a race between the 2 sides. Declarer must knock out KS, KH, QH and/or KC to set up enough tricks. If the defenders lead D, they might set up 2 D tricks before declarer can set up 9 tricks.

Biding After Opening NT – Ed L'Heureux (01Mar2024)

<b>3</b>		♠ JT96 ♥ K92 ♦ Q965 ♣ K9	Dlr: S Vul: E-W																															
♠ AK4 ♥ T84 ♦ T74 ♣ T753			♠ 83 ♥ 653 ♦ AJ32 ♣ Q842																															
9 7      7 17	♠ Q752 ♥ AQJ7 ♦ K8 ♣ AJ6	<table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>				♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	2	3	4	3	S	1	2	3	4	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
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W	-	-	-	-	-																													

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
		1NT	P
2C	P	2H	P
2NT	P	4S	& 3 passes

**Bidding:** N bids 2C to check for 4-4 spades. S shows 4 hearts. N retreats to NT. S knows N has a 4 card major and it's not hearts, must be spades. With enough for game, South bids 4S.

**Opening lead:** No rush to cash AK of trump. South has both majors. Lead a minor, top of nothing

**Play:** Lose only A & K of trump and the AD. Trump the 6C with dummy's last trump.

Biding After Opening NT – Ed L'Heureux (01Mar2024)

<b>4</b>		♠ A54 ♥ T94 ♦ 87 ♣ KQ764	<i>Dlr: W</i> <i>Vul: Both</i>	
♠ T9 ♥ A53 ♦ AQ532 ♣ AJ8			♠ K632 ♥ K876 ♦ K64 ♣ 92	
9 15 7		♠ QJ87 ♥ QJ2 ♦ JT9 ♣ T53		
	9			

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
			1NT
P	2C	P	2D
P	2NT	& 3 passes	

**Bidding:** Open 1NT, not 1D. After 2C asks about majors, West answers 2D, none. E retreats to NT. West is at bottom of the range and passes.

**Opening lead:** Either a low club or the KC from KQ in the long club suit look good.

**Play:** You have 5 diamond tricks, A & K of hearts and A of clubs for 8 tricks.

Bidding After Opening NT – Ed L'Heureux (01Mar2024)

<b>5</b>		♠ T82 ♥ A95 ♦ AK96 ♣ AK7		<i>Dlr: N</i> <i>Vul: N-S</i>																															
♠ Q97 ♥ QJ42 ♦ 743 ♣ JT4		♠ J53 ♥ K763 ♦ J85 ♣ Q93																																	
18		♠ AK64 ♥ T8 ♦ QT2 ♣ 8652		<table> <tr> <td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr> <td>N</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>S</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	5	2	4	3	S	4	5	2	4	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
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E	-	-	-	-	-																														
W	-	-	-	-	-																														
6	7																																		
9																																			

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1D	P	1S	P
2NT	P	3NT	& 3 passes

**Bidding:** A hand with 18 high card points is too strong to open 1NT. With 18-19, open 1 in a suit and jump to 2NT at your 2nd bid. Responder now has an almost exact count of the combined points and knows whether the pair belongs in part score or game or slam.

**Opening lead:** 3H, low card from longest and strongest suit.

**Play:** There are 9 sure tricks: 2S, 1H, 4D & 2C.

Bidding After Opening NT – Ed L'Heureux (01Mar2024)

<b>6</b>		♠ QJT9 ♥ KJ7 ♦ T86 ♣ Q72		<i>Dlr: E</i> <i>Vul: E-W</i>																															
♠ A8 ♥ 543 ♦ Q972 ♣ K983		♠ K52 ♥ A862 ♦ KJ43 ♣ A6																																	
9		♠ 7643 ♥ QT9 ♦ A5 ♣ JT54		<table> <tr> <td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr> <td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>E</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>W</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	4	3	1	2	W	2	4	3	1	2
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E	2	4	3	1	2																														
W	2	4	3	1	2																														
9	15																																		
7																																			

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
	1NT	P	2NT
P	P	P	

**Bidding:** Open 1NT with balanced 15-17. Respond 2NT with 8-9 and no 4+ card major. Respond 2NT with 8-9 & a 6 card minor. The 6 card suit can take many tricks at NT. Minimum opener should pass.

**Opening lead:** Perhaps 4C from 4-card suit. Or lead a major against NT, 7S top of nothing.

**Play:** Set up diamond tricks before playing other Aces & Kings. Get 2S + 1H + 3D + 2C = 8 tricks.

# Biding After Opening NT – Ed L'Heureux (01Mar2024)

<b>7</b>		♠ 92 ♥ JT2 ♦ KQ9754 ♣ 76		<i>Dlr: S</i> <i>Vul: Both</i>	
♠ KT73 ♥ A54 ♦ J32 ♣ K83		♠ Q854 ♥ K9 ♦ T6 ♣ QJ954			
6 11 15	8 15	♠ AJ6 ♥ Q8763 ♦ A8 ♣ AT2	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT N - 3 3 - 2 S - 3 3 - 2 E 2 - - 2 - W 2 - - 2 -		

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
		1NT	P
3C	P	3D	& 3 passes

**Bidding:** Open 1NT with 15-17 and a 5-card major and no other suit to bid next. With 0-7, North transfers into a 6+ card minor.

**Opening lead:** Leading away from an Ace or King is not recommended, often gives away a trick. Leading a trump looks “safer”.

**Play:** Looking at things from the North side, you lose 1 spade, 2 hearts, 0 diamonds and 1 club: 4 tricks total.

# Biding After Opening NT – Ed L'Heureux (01Mar2024)

<b>8</b>		♠ 93 ♥ T75 ♦ KQ73 ♣ JT86		<i>Dlr: W</i> <i>Vul: None</i>	
♠ AK ♥ J84 ♦ AT42 ♣ AKQ7		♠ QJ8752 ♥ Q96 ♦ 98 ♣ 43			
6 21 8	5 8	♠ T64 ♥ AK32 ♦ J65 ♣ 952	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT N - - - - - S - - - - - E 1 2 1 5 1 W 1 2 1 5 1		

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
			2NT
P	3H	P	3S
P	4S	& 3 passes.	

**Bidding:** Open 2NT with balanced 20-21. Stayman and transfers apply. 3H is transfer to spades. E would continue 3NT with only 5 spades, but bids 4S with 6 of them. NT opener will have no singletons, thus at least 2 spades.

**Opening lead:** KD: top of touching honours. Good lead against a suit contract.

**Play:** There are 10 tricks: 6 spades, Ace of diamonds and AKQ of clubs.

Bidding After Opening NT – Ed L'Heureux (01Mar2024)

<b>9</b>		♠ AT72 ♥ AT4 ♦ AJT6 ♣ A4		<i>Dlr: N</i> <i>Vul: E-W</i>																															
♠ K953 ♥ J965 ♦ 8 ♣ KJ82		♠ 84 ♥ Q2 ♦ K9752 ♣ T976																																	
17		♠ QJ6 ♥ K873 ♦ Q43 ♣ Q53		<table> <tr> <th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr> <td>N</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>S</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr> <td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	3	3	3	3	S	1	3	3	4	5	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
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E	-	-	-	-	-																														
W	-	-	-	-	-																														
8	5																																		
10																																			

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1NT	P	2C	P
2S	P	3NT	& 3 passes

**Bidding:** South bids 2C to explore for a 4-4 heart fit. North has 4 spades, but not 4 hearts. South with 10+ points now bids the 3NT game.

**Opening lead:** 2D from the 5 card suit looks OK.

**Play:** Have QJT of spades in the two hands. OK to lead QS toward AS. Repeat until KS is captured. Make 4 spade tricks. Also have 2 H, 2-3 D and AC.

Bidding After Opening NT – Ed L'Heureux (01Mar2024)

<b>10</b>		♠ 93 ♥ Q965 ♦ 86 ♣ AK832		<i>Dlr: E</i> <i>Vul: Both</i>																															
♠ KQ65 ♥ K874 ♦ 743 ♣ J7		♠ AT72 ♥ AT ♦ AJ95 ♣ QT4																																	
9		♠ J84 ♥ J32 ♦ KQT2 ♣ 965		<table> <tr> <th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr> <td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	-	2	1	3	2	W	-	2	1	3	2
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<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
	1NT	P	2C
P	2S	P	3S & 3 passes

**Bidding:** W bids 2C looking for a 4-4 major suit fit. After E shows 4 spades, W is strong enough to invite with 3S, but not strong enough to bid game. E is not strong enough to bid game either.

**Opening lead:** KD, top of touching honors.

**Play:** When you get in, pull trump in 3 rounds. Then play clubs to set up QC as your 9th trick. Opponents will get 2 diamonds and 2 clubs, but that should be all they get.

Bidding After Opening NT – Ed L'Heureux (01Mar2024)

<b>11</b>		♠ J87 ♥ K76 ♦ A74 ♣ JT84		<i>Dlr: S</i> <i>Vul: None</i>																															
♠ QT64 ♥ 842 ♦ KQ62 ♣ 72			♠ K95 ♥ J53 ♦ T53 ♣ K965																																
9 7      7 17		♠ A32 ♥ AQT9 ♦ J98 ♣ AQ3		<table> <tr> <th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr> <td>N</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>S</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	2	3	2	3	S	3	2	3	2	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	
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W	-	-	-	-	-																														

N   E   S   W  
           1NT   P

2NT   P   3NT   & 3 passes

**Bidding:** Open 1NT with a balanced 15-17.  
Respond 2NT with 8-9 and no 4+ card major.  
Maximum opener bids 3NT.

**Opening lead:** 4S, best to lead a major against NT. 2D or KD are second best.

**Play:** Lead JC towards AQ. With 4 of top 5, play to trap the missing one. KC is indeed trapped, but you still get only 3 club tricks. Then you have 4 heart tricks & 2 Aces for 9 total, making 3NT.  
Work on clubs before cashing the Aces.

Bidding After Opening NT – Ed L'Heureux (01Mar2024)

<b>12</b>		♠ QT6 ♥ 8642 ♦ A642 ♣ 74		<i>Dlr: W</i> <i>Vul: N-S</i>																															
♠ A32 ♥ AT93 ♦ Q98 ♣ AQ2			♠ J87 ♥ KQ7 ♦ KJ7 ♣ T853																																
6 16      10 8		♠ K954 ♥ J5 ♦ T53 ♣ KJ96		<table> <tr> <th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr> <td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>E</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>W</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	3	3	1	3	W	2	3	3	1	3	
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E	2	3	3	1	3																														
W	2	3	3	1	3																														

N   E   S   W  
                           1NT

P   3NT   & 3 passes

**Bidding:** Open 1NT with a balanced 15-17.  
Respond 3NT with 10+ and no 4+ card major.

**Opening lead:** Perhaps 2D from 4-card suit. Or lead a major against NT, 8H top of nothing.

**Play:** Will lose 2 or 3 spade tricks. Knock out AD before anything else. Lead low towards AQ of clubs. Make 1-2S, 4H, 2D, 2C tricks = 9-10 total. Opponents get 2-3 spades and AD.