

# U3ABC Compendium Nine: Commentary

## Introduction

This is a summary of Hands 1-16 from Compendium Nine, complete with Commentary to help explain the recommended bidding or play. As always, your mileage might vary when you play these hands.

### Advanced topics

Advanced topics are in green. These are included for completeness; you can ignore them for now or dive in if you want *more*.

## The Hands

North	East	South	West
1♥	1NT	DbI	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ QJ		
	♥ AJT93		
	♦ Q8743		
	♣ 3		
♠ T53		♠ A76	
♥ 854		♥ Q62	
♦ AJT5		♦ K6	
♣ J85		♣ AQ976	
	♠ K9842		
	♥ K7		
	♦ 92		
	♣ KT42		

### Board: 1 Dealer: North Lead: ♣A 2027

East has 15 HCP and a (poor) stop in Hearts so overcalls 1NT instead of doubling and bidding their Clubs on the second round to show their strength. Hmm.

This 1NT overcall promises 16-18 HCP, a balanced hand, and a stop in Hearts. **This is a poor overcall, East's hand fails on both counts, really.**

South has 9 HCP but only 2 Hearts, so they can't raise partner's suit. They can't bid their 5-card Spade suit because 2S promises 10+ HCP, so they double 1NT for penalties; partner has at least 12 HCP, plus their own 9 HCP, making 21 – **a fairly risky double.**

North doesn't fancy defending against 1NT doubled, as they are much stronger in a suit contract, so they bid their second suit, 2D. This shows 4+ Diamonds.

South has 2 Hearts and 2 Diamonds, doesn't like either suit, but bids 2H as a preference, since partner bid them first, so must have more cards in Hearts or – at worst – the same number of each suit. Hearts also scores better!

East	South	West	North
3♥	DbI	Pass	4♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	
	♠ 984		
	♥ Q2		
	♦ A652		
	♣ 8762		
♠ Q762		♠ JT5	
♥ J5		♥ AKT9843	
♦ T943		♦ 7	
♣ KQT		♣ 95	
	♠ AK3		
	♥ 76		
	♦ KQJ8		
	♣ AJ43		

### Board: 2 Dealer: East Lead: ♥A #1927

East has 8 HCP and 7 Hearts, an ideal 3-level pre-empt.

This 3H pre-empt suggests 7+ Hearts and 6-9 HCP.

South has 18 HCP, a shortage in Hearts, and good support for the other 3 suits, so doubles the 3H pre-empt for takeout.

A double of 3-level pre-empt shows 15+ HCP and 3-card support for the other suits. It's forcing, for takeout (but see [Discussion](#) point 1, below)

North has 6 HCP and two 4-card suits. They're forced to bid by partner's double (but see [Discussion](#) point 2 below). They bid their better suit, 4D.

This lowest-level response to a takeout double promises at least 4 Diamonds and 0+ HCP. It also denies a strong holding in the doubled suit. (If you have a decent suit and 10+ HCP, jump direct to game.)

Mindful that North was forced to bid, South passes their 4D response; they might only have a total of 18 HCP.

### ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

1. You CAN double a pre-empt to announce that you have a very strong hand rather than for takeout; your rebid shows which is the case.
2. You CAN pass a takeout double to convert it to a penalty double but you need a good holding in the doubled suit (at least KTxx).

**South West North East**

1NT Pass 2♥ Pass  
 2♠ Pass 3♠ Pass  
 4♠ Pass Pass Pass

♠ 876432

♥ A65

♦ A8

♣ QJ

♠ 95

♥ KQJ

♦ J953

♣ A842

♠ AT

♥ T872

♦ T64

♣ 9763

♠ KQJ

♥ 943

♦ KQ72

♣ KT5

**Board: 3 Dealer: East Lead: ♥K #3301**

North has 6 Spades and 11 HCP, so they start by bidding 2H, asking partner to bid 2S. When South bids 2S, what does North bid next?

With 11 HCP, and partner's 12-14, the partnership has 23-25 – maybe just enough for 3NT or 4S but only if partner has the maximum 14 HCP. So North bids 3S to tell partner:

- I have exactly 6 Spades
- I have 11-12 HCP, please bid game in NT or Spades if you have 14 HCP
- You decide!

The golden rule here is: after the transfer, with six trumps, your rebid is 3S (with 11-12 HCP) or 4S (with 13+ HCP). Do not bid NT.

This 3S bid is a Game Invitation. South should now:

- Bid 4S with 14 points
- Pass with 12-13 points

Phew! Look at it another way: when partner bids 3S after the transfer, you just need 14 points to bid game, the number of Spades you hold isn't important as you must have 2, for an 8-card fit.

South has 14 points, so bids 4S.

### ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

If South had four Spades and 13 HCP, they might raise 3S to 4S instead of passing, hoping that the extra trumps would compensate for the missing HCP – especially if they also had a Doubleton to ruff. Some people are so optimistic.

You might also wonder why North doesn't add two Shortage Points for their Doubletons (since they have a 6-2 fit in Spades), making them strong enough to bid 4S. That sounds like a reasonable argument, but look at the weakness of their trump suit (no Honours) and their QJ in Clubs – a bare QJ will be worth nothing if the opposition has the Ace and King. So one reason for optimism cancels out the reason for pessimism; 3S is a better bid.

**West North East South**

Pass	1♣	Dbl	Pass
1♥	2♣	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ QJ6		
	♥ 5		
	♦ AQ4		
	♣ KQ9763		
♠ 85		♠ AK42	
♥ J873		♥ AKT94	
♦ 63		♦ K97	
♣ AT842		♣ J	
	♠ T973		
	♥ Q62		
	♦ JT852		
	♣ 5		

**Board: 4 Dealer: West #2733**

East has 18 HCP, a shortage in the opponents' suit, and a good 5-card suit, so they double intending to bid their suit on the second round; **Double Then Bid**, to show their strength. They're much too strong for a simple overcall.

This 1-level double promises 12 HCP, a shortage in the doubled suit, and a tolerance for any of the other three suits; a **Takeout Double**. Or it could be a strong hand with a long suit – see the [Discussion](#) for Board #1.

This double is forcing.

West has just 5 HCP and a poor 4-card major. They're forced to bid by partner's double. They can't bid 1NT despite their stop in Clubs, as they don't have 6 HCP, so they bid their 4-card suit, 2H.

This minimum level suit bid promises very little; a 3-card suit (usually 4+) and 0-8 HCP.

East has a great fit with West's Hearts – it's the suit they were going to bid! They can see at least 8 Hearts and 18-26 HCP. With so much uncertainty on the point count, they can't bid game straight away, so bid 3H as a game invitation.

This jump raise of Hearts shows a strong hand (4 card support and 16+ HCP); as opener has intervened a raise to 2H would be taken as weak (competitive only).

West has 5 HCP plus 2 pints for their doubletons, making at least 23 points. More importantly, they're significantly stronger than the minimum and partner has bid strongly, so they bid a slightly optimistic game, 4H.

**North East South West**

1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ 8		
	♥ AT62		
	♦ AKQT9		
	♣ AJ7		
♠ AJ654		♠ T9732	
♥ 8		♥ QJ9	
♦ 632		♦ 87	
♣ Q632		♣ KT8	
	♠ KQ		
	♥ K7543		
	♦ J54		
	♣ 954		

**Board: 5 Dealer: North Lead: ♣2 #118**

West makes the moderately active lead of their fourth highest Club, ♣2, hoping to promote their Queen. Leading away from ♠AJ is far too likely to lose a trick.

East sees Dummy go down with a powerful hand, but at least West has found the best suit for their opening lead. Declarer plays ♣7 from Dummy. Which Club should East play?

West's ♣2 lead is almost certainly low from an Honour (3 or 4+). It can't be a singleton or South would have a 6 card Club suit, which they would have bid! If West didn't have an Honour in Clubs, they would have led their second highest, not their lowest. East can see the A and J in Dummy, so there's only one "missing" Honour in Clubs, the Queen. West must have it! East can therefore play ♣T, knowing that it will win the trick. This is called 'Finessing Against Dummy'.

At trick 2 East leads ♣K to knock out Dummy's ♣A - promoting West's Q. Declarer cashes plays ♥AK and three rounds of Diamonds. East ruffs the third round and leads a Club to West's ♣Q. West's ♠A is the setting trick.

East defeated this contract by understanding West's opening lead which allowed them to safely "finesse against Dummy" at trick 1. They also ruffed the 3rd round of Diamonds (with ♥Q), so they could make the Club trick before Declarer could discard their losing Club on Dummy's Diamonds.

**East South West North**

2NT Pass 3♣ Pass  
 3♦ Pass 3NT Pass  
 Pass Pass

♠ 6  
 ♥ 987632  
 ♦ Q8743  
 ♣ 6

♠ AK32                      ♠ Q74  
 ♥ J4                         ♥ AKQ  
 ♦ J9                         ♦ AK6  
 ♣ T9754                    ♣ K832  
  
 ♠ JT985  
 ♥ T5  
 ♦ T52  
 ♣ AQJ

**Board: 6 Dealer: East Lead: ♠J #419**

South makes a safe attacking lead in the form of ♠J, top of a four-card sequence. Dummy wins with ♠K, North following with ♠6 and Declarer with ♠4. At trick 2 Declarer runs Dummy's ♣T to South's ♣J. What should South lead to trick 3?

It would be a serious mistake to cash ♣A. This would allow Declarer to make three Club tricks, eleven in all. South should continue their attack on Spades by leading ♠T. Dummy wins with ♠A and North discards ♥2.

Declarer plays a Club to ♣K and South's ♣A. What should South lead to trick 5?

It's still wrong for South to play their Club winner, they must lead Spades again – to set up their ♠85 as winners when they get back on lead with ♣Q

Declarer cashes ♥AKQ, on which South plays their low Hearts and discards ♦2. Declarer continues with ♦AK, but has to concede the rest. Despite having 30 points, Declarer goes one down.

The Defence achieved this by leading Spades at every opportunity. Declarer didn't have time to set up their Clubs before South had set up their Spades.

**South West North East**

1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass  
 Pass Pass

♠ K842  
 ♥ A954  
 ♦ 96  
 ♣ T32

♠ J7                         ♠ T9  
 ♥ QJ632                   ♥ K  
 ♦ AQ4                     ♦ T8732  
 ♣ J97                     ♣ A8654  
  
 ♠ AQ653  
 ♥ T87  
 ♦ KJ5  
 ♣ KQ

**Board: 7 Dealer: South #2565**

South has 15 HCP and a 5-card Spade suit, so they open 1S, intending to rebid 2S.

The 1S opening bid shows 4 Spades and 12-19 HCP (but see the discussion for Hand 1).

North has 7 HCP, 4-card support for partner's Spades, and a Doubleton. With a total of 8 points, they're not strong enough to bid 2H (a 2-level change of suit shows 10+ points), so they respond 2S.

2S, a single raise of partner's suit, promises 6-9 and 4 trumps. This bid is not forcing.

North adds partner's 6-9 points to their 15 + 1 (for the Doubleton) and can see that game is unlikely, so they pass.

**ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION**

With the same points but slightly better shape (say xx in Hearts and KQx in Clubs) and slightly better Spades (say AQT98 rather than AQ653), South might bid 3S rather than pass, asking partner to bid 4S with 8-9 points.

**West North East South**

2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ T63		
	♥ 85		
	♦ 52		
	♣ AQT863		
♠ AKQ		♠ 87	
♥ KQT4		♥ AJ6	
♦ AK6		♦ J743	
♣ K92		♣ J754	
	♠ J9542		
	♥ 9732		
	♦ QT98		
	♣		

**Board: 8 Dealer: West #2297**

West has 24 HCP and a balanced hand. Too strong for a 2NT opening bid (20-22 HCP), they open 2C.

An opening bid of 2C shows 21+ HCP (with a 5-card Major) or 23+ HCP in a balanced hand, or 9+ playing tricks. This is a Game Force unless opener rebids 2NT.

East has 7 HCP, not quite enough for a positive response, so must make the negative response, 2D.

The 2D response to the 2C opening bid shows 0-7 HCP; a negative response indicating a Slam is unlikely.

West bids 2NT to show they have 23-24 HCP and a balanced hand. Partner can pass now if they have a very weak hand (less than 2 HCP) i.e. this rebid "cancels" the presumed Game Force.

East doesn't have a 5-card suit to bid, or a 4-card Major to investigate with Stayman. They do have 7 HCP, more than enough to raise to 3NT.

**North East South West**

1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ K543		
	♥ A64		
	♦ Q974		
	♣ K6		
♠ QJT		♠ 8	
♥ KQJT		♥ 9532	
♦ J82		♦ A53	
♣ 954		♣ J8732	
	♠ A9762		
	♥ 87		
	♦ KT6		
	♣ AQT		

**Board: 9 Dealer: North Lead: ♥5 #1471**

South has 5 Spades and 12 HCP, so they start by bidding 2H, asking (telling) partner to bid 2S.

North bids 2S as requested, what does South bid next?

They have 13 HCP, and partner has 12-14, so the partnership has 25-27. You need 25 points for 3NT or 4S, but which is the better contract? South bids 3NT to tell partner:

- I have exactly 5 Spades
- We have enough points for game in NT or Spades
- You decide!

Yes, it's a proper dialogue. North can pass to play in 3NT or bid 4S to play in 4S. With just two Spades, they'd pass 3NT, as they've only got a 5-2 fit in Spades, not enough. With three Spades, they would probably bid 4S unless they hate the idea; with four or more Spades, they would bid 4S.

With four Spades, North is happy to bid 4S, game. (This type of bid is sometimes called a Correction or Preference Bid.)

**Additional Advanced Discussion**

If North had three Spades, they might pass 3NT if they had a 4333 hand and no Honours in Spades, but would usually bid 4S. Then again, some people prefer playing in a suit, some people prefer playing in No Trumps

**East South West North**

1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ KJ6		
	♥ 65		

**Board: 10 Dealer: East Lead: ♣K #692****WARNING: Advanced hand!**

When partner opens 1NT, West has a problem. They only have 9 HCP (not enough for Stayman), but they have a void and two good 5-card majors. Their hand will play a lot better in either of those majors than in No Trumps. But which major? And should they use Red Suit Transfers or

♦ Q9832	
♣ 643	
♠ A8753	♠ T942
♥ KJ742	♥ QT8
♦	♦ AKJ
♣ JT5	♣ A82
♠ Q	
♥ A93	
♦ T7654	
♣ KQ97	

Stayman to try for a fit?

They chose Stayman, despite being 2 HCP short, because they aren't going to play in NT. So...

East does not have four Hearts, but does have four Spades, so responds 2S to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows at least four Spades and denies four Hearts.

West can only count 21-23 HCP but 9 Spades, so bids 3S as a Game Invitation, asking partner to bid 4S if they have the maximum 14 HCP for their 1NT bid. A bit optimistic?

East has 14 HCP, the maximum for their 1NT opening bid, so should bid 4S – but bids 3NT instead. This is based on two worries: their support for Spades is poor (no Honours) and their shape is also poor; entirely balanced so no ruffing opportunities.

West is happy to hear that partner has 14 HCP, but is still dead set against playing in No Trumps, with their void and nine Spades they correct to 4S.

### Additional Advanced Discussion

West is very lucky that East had a four card major, finding a 4-5 fit. If East had replied 2D, West could only guess which suit to choose. I think there's a better way to bid this hand, using **Red Suit Transfers**.

To show a weak two-suited hand, West should respond 2D to East's 1NT opening, requesting a transfer to 2H. This shows East they have at least five Hearts. West can then bid 2S, to tell East that they have 5 Spades as well. East can now choose which suit to play in, at the lowest level: pass to play in 2S or bid 3H.

To show a stronger two-suited hand, West should respond 2H to East's 1NT opening, requesting a transfer to 2S. This shows East they have at least five Spades. West can then bid 3H, telling East that they have 5 Hearts as well. This is a Game Invitation, asking East to choose the suit and bid game (4H or 4S) if they have the maximum points for their 1NT bid. If East has less than 14 HCP, they choose the suit at the lowest level, by passing 3H or bidding 3S.

To show a strong two-suited hand, West should respond 2H to East's 1NT opening, requesting a transfer to 2S. This shows East they have at least five Spades. West can then jump to 4H, telling East that they have 5 Hearts as well and enough points for game. This is a Game Force, asking East to choose the suit by passing 4H or bidding 4S.

The differences are subtle; with a weak hand you keep the bidding as low as possible; with a stronger hand you bid less economically; with a strong hand, you jump. Phew!

In general you should use Stayman with 4-card majors and Red Suit Transfers with 5-card majors.

**South West North East**

1NT Pass 2♣ Pass  
 2♦ Pass 3NT Pass  
 Pass Pass

♠ KQ74  
 ♥ Q65  
 ♦ AQJT5  
 ♣ 6

♠ 86  
 ♥ 9832  
 ♦ 74  
 ♣ AT852

♠ AT2  
 ♥ AJ4  
 ♦ 9632  
 ♣ KJ9

♠ J953  
 ♥ KT7  
 ♦ K8  
 ♣ Q743

**Board: 11 Dealer: South Lead: ♣5 #41**

West makes their best lead against a NT contract; fourth highest from their longest suit: ♣5.

North and South have reached 3NT after a Stayman auction, so East knows they've shared some useful information! From the bidding, South has 12-14 points and no 4 card major. Dummy has 14 points. East has 9 points, so West must have 3-5 points. Phew!

When West leads ♣5, East is pleased to see that Dummy has only a singleton. East plays "third hand high" with ♣Q and Declarer wins with ♣K. At trick 2, Declarer takes the losing Diamond finesse and East wins with ♦K.

It's easy to see that East should return a Club, but which one? West would really like to know how many Clubs East has. The way to tell them is to lead ♣3, your (original) fourth highest. Why? This is a bit advanced:

*With three Clubs remaining South correctly returns ♣3, their original fourth highest. West now knows that East started with two or four Clubs. After beating Declarer's ♣9 with ♣T West assumes the latter and continues with ♣A to drop Declarer's ♣J. After this good defence Declarer goes one down.*

*If East had returned ♣7 at trick 3 (thinking that this would make no difference) West would have assumed that East started with three Clubs and tried to put East on lead for a further Club lead through Declarer. Declarer would then finish with at least ten tricks. We manage to take 5 of the first 6 tricks to defeat the contract. The key play was returning ♣3 at trick 4, our original 4th highest, so Partner knows they can cash their remaining Clubs without trying to put us on lead again.*

If you aren't using (and understanding) signals like this, East leads a small Club, West beats South's 9 with the T, and then has to guess whether South has J, Jx or Jxx.

**West North East South**

1NT Pass 3NT Pass  
 Pass Pass

♠ 953  
 ♥ KJ842  
 ♦ T8  
 ♣ 873

♠ AQJ8  
 ♥ QT6  
 ♦ KJ9  
 ♣ 942

♠ T42  
 ♥ A97  
 ♦ A65432  
 ♣ Q

♠ K76  
 ♥ 53  
 ♦ Q7  
 ♣ AKJT65

**Board: 12 Dealer: West Lead: ♥4 #216**

**The Bidding:** West's opening bid shows a 12-14 point balanced hand; East's raise to 3NT shows 13+ points, without a 4+ card major. East could have up to around 17 points; any more than that and they would probably have at least explored a slam.

**The Play:** North has a long suit with an honour (well, two), so leads their fourth highest, ♥4.

South wins with ♥A and dutifully returns ♥9. Declarer plays ♥T and North plays ♥J. North knows the only remaining Hearts are the Queen and 7. If South had the Queen, they would have led that back (to unblock) so West probably has it, but who has the 7? North can't tell, so just hopes that South has it and leads ♥K. Declarer's ♥Q falls and North can cash two small Hearts to defeat the contract.

South has to discard on the last two Hearts. To encourage a Diamond lead (to their Ace), South should play ♦6 followed by ♦2. This **high-low signal** also known as **Petering** (no idea why) tells partner you want that suit lead. So North leads a Diamond, South plays their ♦A and the contract goes two down.

If North leads a Spade instead of a Diamond, Declarer gets the lead and can discard all their losing diamonds on Dummy's long Club suit, only going one down. It's just one trick difference, but small score differences can make a big difference when playing Duplicate Bridge. And it's quite fun being quite mean.

Key points in the Defence:



- North's opening lead of a low card from their long Heart suit gave the Defence three quick tricks because partner had the Ace; if North had led any other suit, Declarer would have romped home, discarding all their Heart losers on Dummy's Clubs
- South's high-low signals encouraged North to make the correct lead (of a Diamond) to take another trick off Declarer before they could discard their losing Diamonds

### Additional Advanced Discussion

The Heart lead could be a mistake, as leading away from KJx is risky. For example: if the Ace is in Dummy and Declarer ducks, they'd get a cheap trick (winning with the Ten) AND would know where the K and J were, making playing Hearts a lot simpler.

No playing strategy will work all the time, sometimes you just need to be lucky. A passive lead like a Club would be better some of the time – with an unhelpful bidding sequence like 1NT-3NT the opposition haven't provided many clues.

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ 863		
	♥ K84		
	♦ K832		
	♣ AK5		
♠ Q74			♠ JT92
♥ QJT9			♥ 32
♦ QJ			♦ T97
♣ 8763			♣ QJT9
	♠ AK5		
	♥ A765		
	♦ A654		
	♣ 42		

### Board: 13 Dealer: North Lead: ♣Q #1159

North does not have four Hearts or four Spades, so responds 2D to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows less than four Hearts and less than four Spades. It doesn't say anything about Diamonds.

South knows there's no major fit, but with 15 HCP can count 27-29 HCP, enough points to bid 3NT.



**East South West North**

1♥ Pass 2♣ Pass  
3NT Pass Pass Pass

♠ QJT  
♥ KQT9  
♦ 73  
♣ JT73

♠ 973                      ♠ AK5  
♥ J3                      ♥ A852  
♦ A4                      ♦ K952  
♣ KQ9854              ♣ A2

♠ 8642  
♥ 764  
♦ QJT86  
♣ 6

**Board: 14 Dealer: East Lead: ♦Q #223**

East has 18 points and a balanced hand, with two 4-card suits, Diamonds and Hearts. They plan to open one of a suit and rebid 2NT to show their shape and points, but which suit? With a major and a minor you will usually choose the major – not least because there's a chance that partner has four and you'll find a fit right away. So they open 1H.

West has 10 points, an unbalanced hand, and a good 6-card minor. They don't have four Hearts so can't support partner's major. They are just strong enough to bid a new suit at the two level, so they bid 2C. Bidding a new suit at the two-level shows 10+ points and 4 cards, and is forcing.

East now knows that West has 10+ points, making a total of at least 28. So, instead of rebidding 2NT, East can rebid 3NT.

**South West North East**

2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass  
2NT Pass 3♣ Pass  
3♥ Pass 3NT Pass  
4♠ Pass Pass Pass

♠ J942  
♥ 65  
♦ QT53  
♣ 873

♠ A3                      ♠ 875  
♥ T7                      ♥ KJ984  
♦ 9872                    ♦ 64  
♣ KQT94                ♣ 652

♠ KQT6  
♥ AQ32  
♦ AKJ  
♣ AJ

**Board: 15 Dealer: South #3356**

South has 24 HCP and a balanced hand. Too strong for a 2NT opening bid (20-22 HCP), they open 2C.

An opening bid of 2C shows 21+ HCP (with a 5-card Major) or 23+ HCP in a balanced hand, or 9+ playing tricks. This is a Game Force unless opener rebids 2NT.

North has less than 8 HCP, so must make the negative response, 2D.

The 2D response to the 2C opening bid shows 0-7 HCP; a negative response indicating a Slam is unlikely.

South bids 2NT to show they have 23-24 HCP and a balanced hand. Partner can pass now if they have a very weak hand (less than 2 HCP) i.e. this rebid "cancels" the presumed Game Force.

North has 3 HCP so decides to bid on. They don't have a 5-card suit to bid, but do have a 4-card Spade suit, so use Stayman to look for a fit.

This 3C (Stayman) bid in response to 2NT shows 3+ HCP and at least one 4-card Major.

South bids 3H to show they have 4 Hearts.

With no fit established in Spades, North bids 3NT.

South could pass, but now knows that North has at least 4 Spades (or they would not have used Stayman), and they have 4 Spades, so bids 4S confident of a 4-4 fit.

4H or 4S usually plays better than 3NT, if you have a 4-4 fit.

**West North East South**

1♣ Pass 3♣ Pass

5♣ Pass Pass Pass

♠ QT53

♥ AJ86

♦ JT97

♣ 5

♠ AK

♥ 32

♦ AK43

♣ QT943

♠ J82

♥ 975

♦ 85

♣ AKJ62

♠ 9764

♥ KQT4

♦ Q62

♣ 87

**Board: 16 Dealer: West #330**

West has 16 HCP, unbalanced, and a 5-card Club suit.

Their 1C bid shows 4 Clubs and 12-19 HCP (but see the discussion for Hand 1).

East has 9 HCP plus one point for the Doubleton Diamonds (playing in Clubs), making 10. With 4-card support for Clubs and 10 points, they're too strong for a simple raise (2C would show 6-9 points) so they jump raise to 3C.

The 3C response shows 10-12 points and 4 card support for Clubs.

West can now add two points for their Doubletons, as Clubs have been agreed as trumps, making 18. Adding the 10 points shown by East, they reach 28, which should be enough for game in a Minor. So they bid 5C.