

# U3ABC Compendium Six: Bidding Commentary

## Introduction

This is a summary of Hands 1-24 from Compendium Six, complete with Bidding Commentary to help explain the recommended bidding. 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

2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ KQ5		
	♥ AK2		
	♦ AKT4		
	♣ AK6		
♠ JT98			♠ A743
♥ J96			♥ QT53
♦ Q82			♦ J
♣ J94			♣ Q873
	♠ 62		
	♥ 874		
	♦ 97653		
	♣ T52		

### Board: 1 Dealer: North #2464

North has 26 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.

South has 0 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.

North bids 3NT to show their point count and balanced hand.

The 3NT rebid after a 2C opening shows 25-28 HCP and a balanced hand.

South has nothing else to say and passes

### East South West North

1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ KQ		
	♥ AT63		
	♦ J5		
	♣ 98654		
♠ 9854			♠ AT98652
♥ QT64			♥ 7
♣ KQ732			♦ AK98
			♣ J
	♠ J743		
	♥ KQJ2		
	♦ 732		
	♣ AT		

### Board: 2 Dealer: East #1540

East has 12 HCP and a 7-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).

West has 7 HCP and no Spades, so certainly can't support partner's suit. They're not strong enough to bid any of their suits at the 2 level (that shows 10+ HCP), so they respond 1NT. This bid is not forcing.

This 1NT response shows 6-9 points and denies 4-card support for Spades.

East can see that game is rather unlikely with just 18-21 HCP, despite their very shapely hand, so bids 2S. This shows 5 Spades and a minimal hand (12-14).

West isn't happy with the Spade bid, but there's nothing else they can do, and passes.

South	West	North	East
Pass	1♣	3♠	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	
	♠ AKJ742		
	♥ J632		
	♦ T		
	♣ J6		
♠ Q986		♠ T3	
♥ T		♥ AKQ9	
♦ A65		♦ KJ974	
♣ AK932		♣ 84	
	♠ 5		
	♥ 8754		
	♦ Q832		
	♣ QT75		

**Board: 3 Dealer: South Lead: ♥A 2498**

North's 3S overcall of 1C is a double jump; a pre-empt.

A 3-level pre-empt promises 7 trumps, two of the top three honours and less than 6-10 HCP – North only has 6 trumps, but three honours. Hmm.

West has opened, showing 12+ HCP. East has 14 HCP so game looks likely but can't support partner's Clubs with just two of them. They can't bid NT without a stop in Spades. And they can't bid 4H with just four, as they don't know how many partner has got. They could perhaps bid 4D, but again they would be guessing about support - So they double 3S for take-out, asking partner to choose one of the other two un-bid suits.

**Remember:** A double of a 3-level pre-empt is for takeout, if there are unbid suits to choose between. Even if partner has already bid a suit (as in this case). A double of a 3-level bid that isn't a pre-empt (such as 1S pass 3S X) is for penalties.

So East has doubled for takeout. West hasn't got length in either of the un-bid suits, but they do have four Spades, so they pass, converting the takeout double to a penalty double. Their hand is excellent in defence, with three top tricks and one or two Spade tricks – plus whatever partner has to offer.

If you look at the hands, you can see that North will probably only make 4 Spade tricks and 1 Heart trick; 4 down doubled is a very painful penalty. Well done West!

West	North	East	South
2NT	Pass	6NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ T97		
	♥ Q976432		
	♦ T2		
	♣ 2		
♠ AKQ		♠ 864	
♥ KJ5		♥ AT	
♦ AK953		♦ J4	
♣ T6		♣ AKJ543	
	♠ J532		
	♥ 8		
	♦ Q876		
	♣ Q987		

**Board: 4 Dealer: West #1933**

West has 20 HCP and a balanced hand, so opens 2NT.

The 2NT opening bid promises 20-22 HCP in a balanced hand.

East has 13 HCP and a balanced hand, so can see a total of 33-35 HCP. 33 points is just enough for a Small Slam in NT, so they bid 6NT without hesitation.

**ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION**

33 HCP is usually enough for a Small Slam in No Trumps, but it's not certain. Missing 7 points, the opening lead could even be the Ace from AK, taking you down immediately. Life, eh?

North	East	South	West
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ 75		
	♥ AT98653		
	♦ J53		
	♣ T		
♠ J82		♠ Q96	
♥ KQJ		♥	
♦ A72		♦ QT986	
♣ 9643		♣ J8752	
	♠ AKT43		
	♥ 742		
	♦ K4		
	♣ AKQ		

**Board: 5 Dealer: North Lead: ♦T #2785**

North has just 5 HCP and 7 Hearts, a little weak for a 3-level pre-empt. Naughty!

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

South has 17 HCP and 3 small Hearts. Even if they had no HCP, with 3-card support they should raise a 3-level pre-empt to 4 (to extend the pre-empt). As it is, you've got at least 10 trumps and 23 HCP; you'll probably make game.

Raising a 3-level pre-empt to 4 promises 3 trumps and 0+ HCP!

The opposition isn't strong enough to overcall or double for take-out.

East	South	West	North
2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ AJ94		
	♥ 973		
	♦ A92		
	♣ T87		
♠ Q3		♠ KT8762	
♥ A865		♥ KJ4	
♦ Q54		♦ JT	
♣ KQ62		♣ 43	
	♠ 5		
	♥ QT2		
	♦ K8763		
	♣ AJ95		

**Board: 6 Dealer: East Lead: ♥2 #2106**

East has a 6-card Spade suit with just one Honour (and a ten) but 8 HCP; the high-ish point count compensates for the single Honour in their suit.

This Weak Two opening suggests 6 Spades and 5-10 HCP, and no (other) 4-card major.

West has two Spades, so they can't raise partner based on that alone, to extend the pre-empt. They have 13 HCP, so can see 8 Spades and 18-23 HCP. Not enough points to make 4S, but with most of their points outside Spades, their hand could be quite good in defence, so it's better to pass and see if the opposition bids.

South	West	North	East
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ QT32		
	♥ 75		
	♦ T532		
	♣ QJT		
♠ 74		♠ 865	
♥ QJT		♥ K98632	
♦ J987		♦ Q	
♣ 9652		♣ K84	
	♠ AKJ9		
	♥ A4		
	♦ AK64		
	♣ A73		

**Board: 7 Dealer: South #2997**

South has 23 HCP and a balanced hand. Slightly 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 5 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 5 HCP and a 4-card Major, so bids 3C (Stayman) to check for a 4-4 fit.

South has a 4-card Spade suit, so responds with 3S.

North raises partner to 4S as they've established a 4-4 fit in Spades.

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ T7		
	♥ QT7		
	♦ A6		
	♣ JT6543		
♠ K32			♠ A654
♥ A32			♥ K96
♦ QT98			♦ KJ73
♣ K92			♣ 87
	♠ QJ98		
	♥ J854		
	♦ 542		
	♣ AQ		

**Board: 8 Dealer: West Lead: ♣5 #571**

West 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.

East knows there's no major fit, but with 11 HCP can count 23-25 HCP, so they bid the 2NT Game Invitation, asking partner to bid 3NT if they have the maximum points for their 1NT bid.

West has 13 HCP, one less than the maximum for their 1NT opening bid, so passes as requested.

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
		♠ AQJ	
		♥ KQJT9	
		♦ Q54	
		♣ A8	
♠ T65			♠ 9432
♥ 5			♥ A8432
♦ AJT97			♦ K6
♣ J975			♣ T2
		♠ K87	
		♥ 76	
		♦ 832	
		♣ KQ643	

**Board: 9 Dealer: North Lead: ♦J #1353**

North has a strong, balanced hand with 19 HCP. The best way to show that is to bid 1 of a suit, then on the second round jump to 3NT. So North starts by bidding their longest suit, 1H. However, as this is a major with five cards, a game in Hearts is also possible. Let's see...

North's bid shows 12-19 HCP and 4 Hearts – they're much stronger than this, but can show that with their second bid; if partner has less than 6 points they pass and North doesn't get to bid again, but they didn't have enough points for game anyway.

Note that until you've agreed a trump suit, you don't add Shortage Points for voids, singletons and doubletons – and then only Dummy can add them!

South has 8 HCP, so is not strong enough to bid their long suit (2C requires 10+ points), doesn't have 4 Hearts, so can't bid 2H, so their only sensible bid is 1NT (showing 6-9 HCP). This bid denies 4-card support for Hearts, and denies 4 cards in Spades. A lot of information for partner to use.

North now knows they have enough points (25+) for game in Hearts or NT, but which? They chose 3NT, as partner might have 0 Hearts!

#### ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

Some partnerships take a different approach to a 3NT hand with a 5-card major, rebidding 3H/S, not 3NT. This is (by agreement) forcing, partner must bid 3NT if they have 2 or fewer cards in the suit, 4H/S if they have 3.

Once again, the strongest hand is going to be dummy. Rats

North really does have a maximum hand for a 1H opening, should be very keen to bid game, but isn't quite strong enough for a strong opening like 2H or 2NT. Resist the temptation to lie to your partner!

South's 1NT bid does NOT promise a balanced hand.

**East South West North**

2NT Pass 3NT Pass

Pass Pass

♠ JT854

♥ QT2

♦ T9

♣ 972

♠ K97

♥ 53

♦ KQ752

♣ 864

♠ AQ6

♥ A97

♦ AJ4

♣ KQ53

♠ 32

♥ KJ864

♦ 863

♣ AJT

**Board: 10 Dealer: East #561**

East has 20 HCP and a balanced hand, so opens 2NT.

A 2NT opening shows 20-22 HCP and a balanced hand.

West has 8 HCP, so knows they have enough points for game (28-30) but not enough for a Slam, so bids 3NT

**South West North East**

1♠

DbI

2♠

3♥

4♠

5♥

Pass

Pass

Pass

♠ A93

♥ 876

♦ 4

♣ T75432

♠ Q

♥ AKJ54

♦ A83

♣ KQ86

♠ T64

♥ QT932

♦ KJ95

♣ J

♠ KJ8752

♥

♦ QT762

♣ A9

**Board: 11 Dealer: South #2563**

West has 19 HCP, a shortage in the opponents' suit, and a good 5-major suit. While they could overcall with 2H, that would undervalue their hand; they double with the intention of bidding their suit on the second round, to show their strength.

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.

East has 7 HCP and a 5-card major, so bids 3H over the 2S intervention.

A suit response over an intervention promises 6-9 HCP and a 4-card suit.

West can see 25-28 HCP and probably 9+ Hearts, so bids 5H over the 4S intervention with reasonable confidence.

#### ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

West might be tempted to double 4S for penalties. After all, N-S can only have 15 (or less) HCP! However, their length in Hearts and the Singleton Q in Spades suggest the opponents probably have enough trumps and shortages to make 4S by cross-ruffing.

**West North East South**

1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ 532		
	♥ K843		
	♦ Q874		
	♣ K5		
♠ AQ87		♠ KJT96	
♥ Q		♥ A52	
♦ A93		♦ K52	
♣ JT743		♣ 62	
	♠ 4		
	♥ JT976		
	♦ JT6		
	♣ AQ98		

**Board: 12 Dealer: West Lead: ♥J #597**

West has 13 HCP in an unbalanced hand, so bids their longest suit, 1C. This shows 4 Clubs and 12-19 points. They intend to rebid their second suit, Spades, if they can – they may not be strong enough.

East has 11 HCP and 5 Spades, so bids 1S. This shows 4 Spades and 6-15 points. Note that East is strong enough to jump, but there's no need to do that (yet) as their bid of 1S is forcing for one round; this leaves more room for bidding.

West has 4-card support for partner's suit, so can raise it – but how high? Partner might only have 6 points, making a total of 21 (even with two 2 Shortage Points for their Heart singleton). West raises partner to 2S, showing 4-card support and a "weaker" (12-15 point) hand.

East can see game is possible in Spades, but it's a close call. Partner has shown 12-15 points and 4 Spades, so they have a minimum total of 9 Spades and 24 points between them. With so many small cards, they're a bit pessimistic and bid 3S as a game invitation, rather than bidding 4D.

West has a few more points than the minimum for their bidding, so raises 3S to game, 4S.

**ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION**

West's singleton Heart is worth two Shortage Points if you're playing in a suit, but most players would reduce the value of a singleton Queen from 2 to 1, as it's unlikely to make a trick and may not help make a trick.

Even if you had 4 Clubs and 4 Spades, you usually open 1C and bid Spades if you get the chance.

**North East South West**

1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ AQJ6		
	♥ QJT9		
	♦ A7		
	♣ 643		
♠ 7		♠ T853	
♥ 87543		♥ A	
♦ Q86532		♦ KT9	
♣ 2		♣ QJT95	
	♠ K942		
	♥ K62		
	♦ J4		
	♣ AK87		

**Board: 13 Dealer: North Lead: ♣Q #94**

North has four Hearts and four Spades, so responds 2H to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows at least four Hearts but does not deny four Spades. Notice that you don't choose your best or longest major, if you have both; you bid Hearts.

South doesn't have four Hearts but does have 14 HCP so they can count 26-28 HCP, enough to bid 3NT.

North now knows that South has four Spades (but not four Hearts) –they used Stayman, so must have a 4-card major. As they have four Spades of their own, they correct the 3NT bid to 4S for the 4-4 fit.

4S is usually a better contract than 3NT, if you have a 4-4 fit.

East	South	West	North
2NT	Pass	6NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ QT86		
	♥ 6432		
	♦ 7		
	♣ 7543		
♠ KJ4			♠ A53
♥ KQ			♥ AJ7
♦ QJ83			♦ A652
♣ QT86			♣ AKJ
	♠ 972		
	♥ T985		
	♦ KT94		
	♣ 92		

**Board: 14 Dealer: East #1965**

East has 21 HCP and a balanced hand, so opens 2NT.

The 2NT opening bid promises 20-22 HCP and a balanced hand.

West has 14 HCP and a balanced hand. They can see that their partnership has 34-36 HCP. If partner has the minimum 20 HCP, the opposition only have 6 HCP, so you can't be missing two aces, and 6NT looks like the right contract.

6NT usually needs 33+ HCP.

**ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION**

There are few guarantees. If East has 20 HCP, you could go down quite quickly. For example: if South leads a low Spade and North has the Ace and Queen of Spades over Dummy's King, North makes two tricks at the outset.

Sometimes you need some luck.

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ 53		
	♥ KT84		
	♦ A65		
	♣ QJ72		
♠ QT42			♠ KJ97
♥ 963			♥ 2
♦ KQJ8			♦ T742
♣ 84			♣ KT95
	♠ A86		
	♥ AQJ75		
	♦ 93		
	♣ A63		

**Board: 15 Dealer: South Lead: ♦K #526**

South has 15 HCP and a nice 5-card major in a balanced hand, so opens 1H intending to rebid 1NT to show their points and shape.

North has 10 HCP and good 4-card support plus one Shortage Point for the doubleton Spade – making 11 points. Enough to raise to 3H.

Remember that a jump raise of a suit promises 10-12 points and 4+ trumps.

South can see a total of 25+ points, so raises to 4S for game

**West North East South**

1♠ Pass 2♥ Pass  
 4♥ Pass Pass Pass

♠ 9853  
 ♥ 2  
 ♦ 976  
 ♣ KJ865

♠ AKQT7 ♠ J6  
 ♥ A953 ♥ QJT86  
 ♦ 3 ♦ AK842  
 ♣ Q73 ♣ 2

♠ 42  
 ♥ K74  
 ♦ QJT5  
 ♣ AT94

**Board: 16 Dealer: West Lead: ♦Q #3375**

West has 14 HCP and a nice 5-card Spade suit, so opens 1S. This shows 4 Spades and 12-19 HCP. Note that, with a 4-card Heart suit and a longer Spade suit, you bid Spades first. (You bid Hearts first if you have 4 Hearts and 4 Spades.)

East has 11 HCP, and two 5-card suits, Hearts and Diamonds. They're strong enough to bid a new suit at the 2 level, but which one? They choose Hearts for two good reasons: it's a lot easier to make game in a Major, and if they get a chance, they can show their Diamond suit on the next round fairly economically. (To show controls and maybe progress to 3NT.)

So East bids 2H, showing a 5-card Heart suit and 9-15 points. This bid is forcing for one round. (Bidding 2H over 1S promises 5 Hearts because by opening 1S, partner has denied having 4 Hearts, unless they have a longer Spade suit – so you must have 5 Hearts to bid 2H over 1S. Phew!)

West can rely on East for 5 Hearts and 9 HCP, adding their own 4 Hearts, 14 HCP and 2 Shortage Points for the singleton Diamond (in a Heart contract) they have enough for game, so bid 4H.

**ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION**

If you don't find a fit with partner (say the bidding goes 1S-2H-2S-3D), your partner's bidding of two suits shows they probably have stops in those suits, which might be all you need to bid 2NT or 3NT. That's why it's sometimes better to bid a second suit rather than rebidding your first suit – it isn't always about finding a fit, sometimes it's about showing stops.

**North East South West**

1♥ Dbl Pass 2♠  
 Pass 3♠ Pass 4♠  
 Pass Pass Pass

♠ 5  
 ♥ AKT86  
 ♦ QT85  
 ♣ QJ6

♠ QJT98 ♠ AK76  
 ♥ 432 ♥ QJ  
 ♦ K6 ♦ AJ4  
 ♣ KT9 ♣ 8732

♠ 432  
 ♥ 975  
 ♦ 9732  
 ♣ A54

**Board: 17 Dealer: North #913**

East has 15 HCP, a shortage in the opponents' suit, and no 5-card suit – an ideal hand to double for takeout.

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 9 HCP, a balanced hand and a 5-card Spade suit, so they bid their 5-card major. They jump to show their point count.

This jump response promises 9-12 HCP, no stop in the doubled suit, and at least 3 trumps (although usually 4+).

East can see 24-27 HCP and probably 8+ Spades, so bids 4S with reasonable confidence – although their QJ in Hearts is likely to be worthless.



**East South West North**

1♥ Pass 2♦ Pass  
 2NT Pass 3NT Pass  
 Pass Pass

♠ T8  
 ♥ A95  
 ♦ 986432  
 ♣ A2

♠ Q75 ♠ K62  
 ♥ 87 ♥ KQJT  
 ♦ AKJT5 ♦ Q7  
 ♣ J65 ♣ KQT9

♠ AJ943  
 ♥ 6432  
 ♦  
 ♣ 8743

**Board: 18 Dealer: East #104**

East has a balanced hand with 16 HCP and two 4-card suits, so opens their higher-ranking Heart suit, planning to rebid 1NT to show their point count. The 1H bid shows 12-19 HCP and 4 Hearts.

(If they were unbalanced, they'd rebid their second suit, 2C.)

West has 11 HCP and a nice 5-card Diamond suit, so bids 2D – showing 10+ HCP and 4 Diamonds. Forcing.

East rebids 2NT as planned, showing 15-16 HCP and a balanced hand. They know they have enough points for 3NT, but 2NT leaves partner room to bid again – they might have more to say. Both partners know that game is likely, they can both count those points!

West adds up their points, making at least 26, so bids 3NT with confidence.

**South West North East**

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

♠ A8732  
 ♥ Q6  
 ♦ K963  
 ♣ KJ

♠ K9 ♠ QJ6  
 ♥ K742 ♥ J985  
 ♦ T85 ♦ J742  
 ♣ 9872 ♣ A6

♠ T54  
 ♥ AT3  
 ♦ AQ  
 ♣ QT543

**Board: 19 Dealer: South Lead: ♣8 #3316**

North has 5 Spades and 13 HCP, so they start by bidding 2H, asking (telling) partner to bid 2S. South bids 2S as requested, what does North bid next?

They have 13 HCP, and partner has 12-14, making 25-27 – enough for 3NT or 4S, but which is the better contract? North bids 3NT to tell partner:

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

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

**ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION**

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

**West North East South**

1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ 2		
	♥ QT82		
	♦ QT97		
	♣ KJT9		
♠ KJ98		♠ AQT7	
♥ 3		♥ A54	
♦ A85		♦ K63	
♣ A8653		♣ 742	
	♠ 6543		
	♥ KJ976		
	♦ J42		
	♣ Q		

**Board: 20 Dealer: West #2691**

West has an unbalanced hand with 12 HCP, so they open with one of their longest suit (1C), planning to bid their other suit on the second round to show their shape.

1C promises a four-card suit and 12-19 HCP.

East has a balanced hand with 14 HCP. While they are strong enough to jump straight to 3NT, it's better to allow both partners to bid some more, in case there's other considerations - such as a slam possibility (partner COULD have 19 HCP).

So East bids one of their longest suit. There's no need to jump, as this bid is forcing.

This 1S response promises 6+ HCP and a 4-card Spade suit; it does not deny a Heart suit and it's forcing for one round.

West isn't strong, but does have 4-card support for partner's suit, so they bid 2S.

This one-level raise promises four Spades and 12-15 HCP.

East can see 26-29 HCP and eight Spades, so 4S is the obvious contract.

**North East South West**

1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ KQJ82		
	♥ KJ43		
	♦ 76		
	♣ K4		
♠ 765		♠ 43	
♥ 75		♥ AT9862	
♦ AJT8		♦ K3	
♣ J952		♣ QT7	
	♠ AT9		
	♥ Q		
	♦ Q9542		
	♣ A863		

**Board: 21 Dealer: North Lead: ♠3 #2787**

North has 13 HCP, in an unbalanced two-suited hand. They open their longer suit, 1S, planning to rebid Hearts.

This 1S opening promises four Spades and 12-19 points. It denies a longer Heart suit, but not much else can be gleaned from the bid at this time.

South has 12 HCP with two biddable minors and can't support partner's Spades with just three. They respond 2D, their longer suit, planning to rebid their second suit, Clubs, NT or Spades depending on Opener's second bid.

North now rebids 2H as planned, showing 5+ Spades and 4+ Hearts and 12-15 points.

South now knows that North has five Spades, so can bid 4S with a clear conscience, as they can see 5+3 Spades, 12+12 HCP and 2 Shortage Points for their Heart singleton.

**ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION**

The singleton Heart Queen is being valued as 2 HCP + 2 SP in the above. The fact that partner has bid Hearts suggests the singleton Queen is probably worth 2 HCP.

**East South West North**

1NT Pass 3NT Pass  
 Pass Pass

♠ A872  
 ♥ K  
 ♦ 942  
 ♣ JT982

♠ KQJ  
 ♥ 862  
 ♦ 653  
 ♣ AK63

♠ 9653  
 ♥ AT75  
 ♦ AK  
 ♣ Q54

♠ T4  
 ♥ QJ943  
 ♦ QJT87  
 ♣ 7

**Board: 22 Dealer: East #2925**

East has 13 HCP and a balanced hand, so opens 1NT.

The 1NT opening bid shows 12-14 HCP and a balanced hand.

West has 13 HCP, bringing the partnership total to 25-27, enough for 3NT.

**South West North East**

Pass Pass 1♣ Pass  
 1♥ Pass 2♣ Pass  
 2NT Pass 3NT Pass  
 Pass Pass

♠ A83  
 ♥ K5  
 ♦ T7  
 ♣ AKT964

♠ KJ62  
 ♥ Q97  
 ♦ Q8653  
 ♣ J

♠ T4  
 ♥ J642  
 ♦ K42  
 ♣ Q873

♠ Q975  
 ♥ AT83  
 ♦ AJ9  
 ♣ 52

**Board: 23 Dealer: South Lead: ♦5 #2783**

North has 14 HCP in an unbalanced hand with a six-card Club suit, so they open 1C intending to rebid 2C to show their shape and point count.

This 1C opening promises four Clubs and 12-19 points. It denies a longer major suit, but not much else can be gleaned from the bid at this time.

South has 11 HCP in a balanced hand with two 4-card majors. They respond with 1H (rather than 1S) to give partner room to Spades at the one-level. (With five Spades and four Hearts, they'd bid 1S.)

NOTE: If partner doesn't bid Spades or support their Hearts, South must rebid NT – not Spades and not Hearts.

North rebids 2C as planned, showing that they're one-suited with 5+ Clubs and 12-15 HCP. This also denies four Hearts and denies four Spades.

South can see a total of 23-26 HCP, perhaps enough for game. They can't repeat their Hearts (would promise 5) or bid Spades (no chance of a fit). They have stoppers in the unbid suits, so they bid 2NT, a Game Invitation.

This second response of 2NT promises the same point range as an immediate response of 2NT (11-12 HCP) and stoppers in the unbid suits, Diamonds and Spades.

North can see 25-26 HCP, enough for 3NT, so they bid 3NT. It looks like a safe bet with that long Club suit and additional stops (entries) in Spades and Hearts.

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
	♠ T9743		
	♥ Q64		
	♦ JT62		
	♣ 4		
♠ J862		♠ K5	
♥ A52		♥ JT93	
♦ K85		♦ 93	
♣ AQ8		♣ JT762	
	♠ AQ		
	♥ K87		
	♦ AQ74		
	♣ K953		

**Board: 24 Dealer: West Lead: ♥J 2864**

South has 18 HCP so doubles 1NT for penalties.

A double of 1NT is always for penalties and requires 16+ HCP.

North has 3 HCP, a weak hand, so doesn't expect 1NT to fail, despite partner's double. They do have a 5-card Spade suit, so they bid 2S to rescue the double.

This rescue of the double shows a 5-card suit and less than 5 HCP. It's weak!

South passes because they can't see game in Spades (with less than 23 HCP) or a better bid.