# U3ABD Reinforcement Practice Four: Bidding Commentary

## Introduction

This is a summary of the hands you played in the Reinforcement Practice for U3ABD07-U3ABD17. It is complete with Bidding Commentary to help explain the recommended bidding. As always, your mileage might have varied when you played these hands.

## The Hands

| North | East | South | West |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2♣ | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | Pass | Pass |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠KQ5<br>♥AK2<br>♦AKT4<br>♣AK6 | |
| ♠JT98<br>♥J96<br>♦Q82<br>♣J94 | | ♠A743<br>♥QT53<br>♦J<br>♣Q873 |
| | ♠62<br>♥874<br>♦97653<br>♣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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 3NT | Pass |
| 4♥ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠A6<br>♥JT32<br>♦J987<br>♣763 | |
| ♠JT3<br>♥A9876<br>♦2<br>♣AKJ8 | | ♠Q874<br>♥KQ4<br>♦A43<br>♣Q42 |
| | ♠K952<br>♥5<br>♦KQT65<br>♣T95 | |

**Board: 2 Dealer: East Lead: ♦K #1641**
West has 5 Hearts and 13 HCP, so they start by bidding 2D, asking partner to transfer 2H.

East bids 2H as requested, what does West bid next?

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

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

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

With three good Hearts, East is happy to bid 4H, game. (This type of bid is sometimes called a Correction or Preference Bid.)

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

East only has three Hearts, so could pass 3NT, especially as they have a 4333 hand, but they have two good Honours in Hearts, so they decided on 4H.

I wonder which you chose - some people prefer playing in a suit, some people prefer No Trumps

| South | West | North | East |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♣ | Pass |
| 2♦ | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | Pass | Pass |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠ J6<br>♥ AQ73<br>♦ K53<br>♣ Q742 | |
| ♠ Q8542<br>♥ T85<br>♦ A62<br>♣ A5 | | ♠ K73<br>♥ 642<br>♦ 987<br>♣ JT96 |
| | ♠ AT9<br>♥ KJ9<br>♦ QJT4<br>♣ K83 | |

**Board: 3 Dealer: South Lead: ♠4 #143**

South 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.

North knows there's no major fit, but with 12 HCP can count 24-26 HCP, so they bid the 2NT Game Invitation, asking partner to bid 3NT if they have the maximum points for their 1NT bid.

South has 14 HCP, the maximum for their 1NT opening bid, so bids 3NT as requested.

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1♠ | Pass | 2♥ | Pass |
| 4♥ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠ 9853<br>♥ 2<br>♦ 976<br>♣ KJ865 | |
| ♠ AKQT7<br>♥ A953<br>♦ 3<br>♣ Q73 | | ♠ J6<br>♥ QJT86<br>♦ AK842<br>♣ 2 |
| | ♠ 42<br>♥ K74<br>♦ QJT5<br>♣ AT94 | |

**Board: 4 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.)

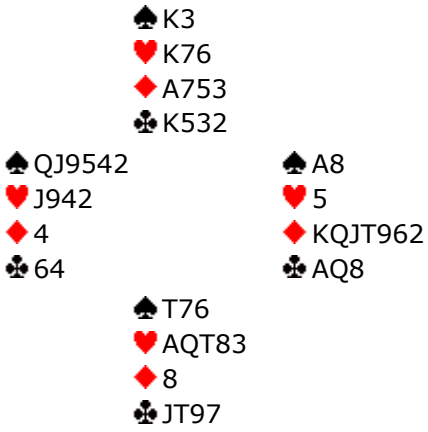
So East bids 2H, showing a 5-card Heart suit and 9-15 points. This bid is forcing for one round. (Bidding 2H over 1S promises 5 Hearts because by opening 1S, partner has denied having 4 Hearts, unless they have a longer Spade suit – so you must have 5 Hearts to bid 2H over 1S. Phew!)

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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1NT | Dbl | 2♥ | 2♠ |
| Pass | 3♦ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |




**Board: 5 Dealer: North Lead: ♣J #488**

East has 16 HCP and an excellent 7-card Diamond suit. While it's tempting to overcall with 2D, they're strong enough to double 1NT, and that double will probably achieve a much better score.

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

South has 7 HCP and a good 5-card Heart suit. They're not strong enough to redouble, but can rescue into 2H.

This 2-level bid after partner's 1NT is doubled shows a 5-card suit and 0-10 HCP. It's weak.

West has 4 Hearts and 4 HCP, so they're not quite strong enough to double 2H (requires 5 HCP). They have a 6-card Spade suit and decide to bid that instead, even though they're short on points. Their hand would be useless in defence.

An overcall of an intervention like this shows 5 HCP and a 5+ card suit.

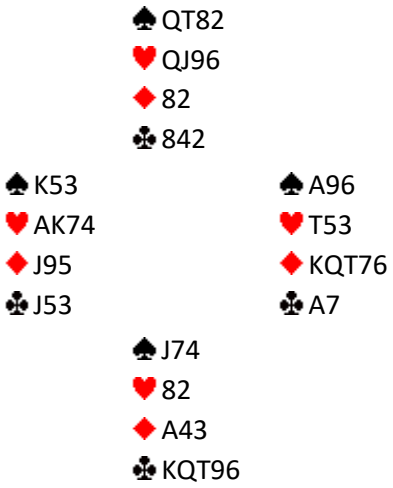
North passes with relief, 2H was quite likely to fail.

East doesn't like partner's Spades much, so bids their excellent Diamond suit: 3D, settling for a part score.

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

West's 2S bid is rather questionable with just 4 HCP

| East | South | West | North |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♣ | Pass |
| 2♦ | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | Pass | Pass |



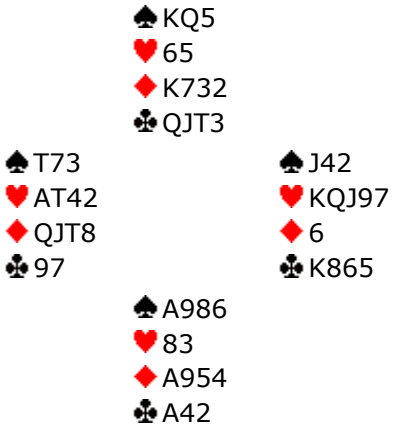

**Board: 6 Dealer: East Lead: ♣K #1539**

East 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.

West knows there's no major fit, but with 12 HCP they can count 24-26 HCP, so they bid the 2NT Game Invitation, asking partner to bid 3NT if they have the maximum points for their 1NT bid.

East has 14 HCP, the maximum for their 1NT opening bid, so bids 3NT as requested.

| South | West | North | East |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1NT | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |



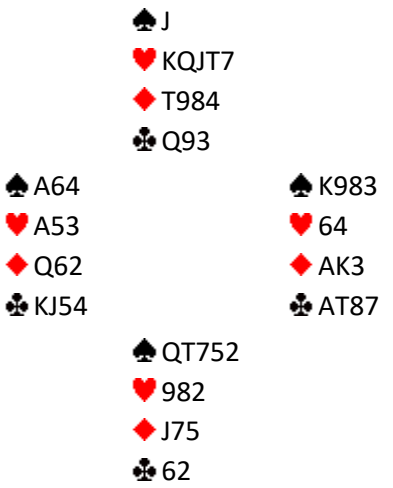

**Board: 7 Dealer: South Lead: ♦Q #578**

South has 12 HCP and a balanced hand, so opens 1NT, showing 12-14 HCP and a balanced hand.

North has 11 HCP and a balanced hand. This isn't quite enough to be sure of making 3NT, as that requires 25 HCP. They bid 2NT to tell partner they have 11-12 HCP, asking them to bid 3NT if they have the maximum 14 HCP.

North does not have the maximum 14 HCP, so they pass 2NT.

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♣ | Pass |
| 2♦ | Pass | 3NT | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

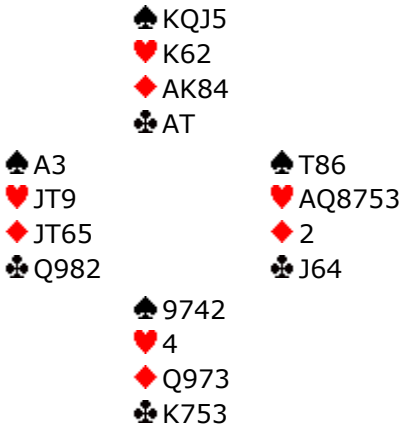



**Board: 8 Dealer: West Lead: ♥K #183**

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 14 HCP can count 26-28 HCP, enough to bid 3NT.

| North | East | South | West |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2NT | Pass | 3♣ | Pass |
| 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |




**Board: 9 Dealer: North #2234**

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

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

South has 5 HCP, so knows they have enough points for game (25-27) but not enough for a Slam. They could bid 3NT, but the singleton Heart is a worry. With 4 Spades they bid 3C, Stayman, to check if there's a 4-4 fit in a Major. 4S would probably be easier than 3NT with a fit.

Notice that South just needs 4 Spades, they don't have to be good cards!

North responds 3S to show they have 4 Spades and deny 4 Hearts.

South raises to 4S as they have at least 8 Spades and 25 HCP, just enough for game – although they can (perhaps) add two points for their singleton Heart.

| East | South | West | North |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pass | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3♥ | Pass | 3♠ | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | 4♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠Q43<br>♥KQJ9<br>♦KJ842<br>♣7 | |
| ♠KT7<br>♥A76<br>♦A5<br>♣AKQ53 | | ♠AJ965<br>♥T82<br>♦T3<br>♣964 |
| | ♠82<br>♥543<br>♦Q976<br>♣JT82 | |

**Board: 10 Dealer: East #3563**

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

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

East has 5 HCP so game should be on, with 25-27 HCP. In 3NT? Maybe. East has a decent 5-card Spade suit and a doubleton Diamond, so 4S sounds a better bet, but only if partner has 3+ Spades, for an 8-card fit. The way to find out is to use a Transfer.

East also wants West's much stronger hand hidden from the Defence, so they want West to be Declarer – another advantage of a Transfer.

So East bids 3H, a transfer to 3S, then bids 3NT rather than 4S. This tells partner that they have a 5-card Spade suit and enough points for game. Partner can pass if they only have two Spades, or bid 4S with three or more, confident of an 8-card fit.

West does indeed have three Spades, so "corrects" the contract to 4S as requested.

| South | West | North | East |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1♦ | Dbl | 1♠ | 4♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠J986<br>♥2<br>♦T762<br>♣K853 | |
| ♠KT5<br>♥KJ93<br>♦K3<br>♣AT42 | | ♠Q32<br>♥AQ874<br>♦9<br>♣QJ97 |
| | ♠A74<br>♥T65<br>♦AQJ854<br>♣6 | |

**Board: 11 Dealer: South Lead: ♣6 #2628**

West has 14 HCP, a shortage in the opponents' suit, and no 5-card suit, so doubles 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; Double Then Bid.

This double is forcing.

North's 1S bid is – well – baffling. They should either have passed or raised to 2D.

East has 11 HCP and a 5-card major. They know they have a 5-3 fit in Hearts and 23+ HCP and decide to make the rather optimistic bid of 4H over the 1S intervention.

If you look at the hands, you can see they lose 1-2 Spades, no Hearts, 1 Diamond and 1 Club. They will probably go down one, or two if they take the Club finesse before drawing trumps.

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2NT | Pass | 3♦ | Pass |
| 3♥ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠Q83<br>♥Q975<br>♦T9<br>♣QJT2 | |
| ♠K964<br>♥AK<br>♦A52<br>♣AK43 | | ♠75<br>♥T8632<br>♦J643<br>♣87 |
| | ♠AJT2<br>♥J4<br>♦KQ87<br>♣965 | |

**Board: 12 Dealer: West #1731**

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

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

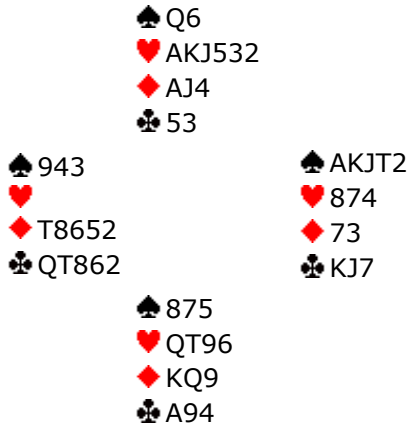
East has just 1 HCP so game is very unlikely. They could pass 2NT, but they have a 5-card Heart suit and two Doubletons, their hand is much more useful in Hearts than NT.

East also wants West's much stronger hand hidden from the Defence, so they want them to be Declarer – an advantage of a Transfer.

So East bids 3D, a transfer to 3H, then passes. Partner must have at least two Hearts, for a 7-card fit. Not ideal, but they are not strong enough to rebid 3NT to offer a choice.

At first glance the 3H contract looks more difficult than 2NT, after all it requires an extra trick! However, East's hand is so weak it's unlikely to make ANY tricks in NT, but might make two tricks (by ruffing) in Hearts.

| North | East | South | West |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1♥ | 1♠ | 3♥ | Pass |
| 4♥ | Pass | Pass | Pass |



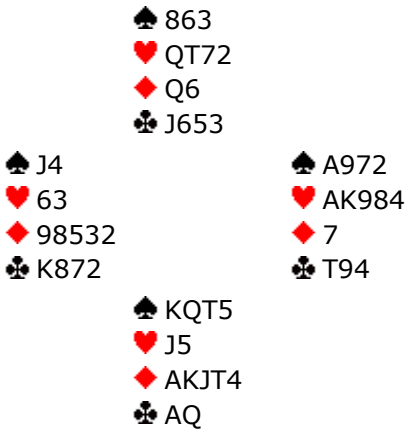

**Board: 13 Dealer: North Lead: ♠A #376**

East has 12 HCP, a good 5-card Spade suit, and three small Hearts. While the Hearts are a worry, East is strong enough to overcall at the 1-level.

The 1S overcall shows 8-15 HCP and a 5-card Spade suit.

West has 3-card support for partner's overcall but just 2 HCP. They pass, they're not strong enough to bid.

| East | South | West | North |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1♥ | Dbl | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 3NT | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |




**Board: 14 Dealer: East #2586**

South has 21 HCP, a shortage in the opponents' suit, and a strong 5-card suit. They're strong enough to double and then bid then suit on the next round.

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.

The double is forcing.

North only has 5 HCP but is forced to bid. They have a balanced hand and a stop in the opponents' suit, but they're not quite strong enough to bid 1NT (requires 6-9 HCP). So they bid their longest suit; they have a choice between Clubs and Hearts. Normally they would bid the major, but that's been bid by the opponents, so they bid Clubs.

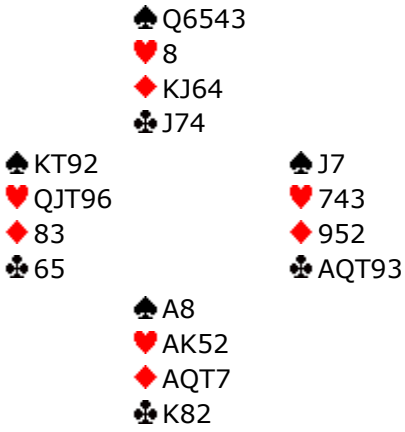
The 2C response promises very little; at least 3 Clubs and 0-8 HCP!

South responds with their long suit, 2D, showing either 16+ HCP and a good 6-card suit, or 18+ HCP and a good 5-card suit.

North can't support Diamonds with just 2 trumps, but does have a stop in the opponent suit and 5 HCP, so bids 2NT, showing 6-9 HCP and a stop; a slight overbid.

South can see at least 27 HCP so raises to 3NT, even though a single stop in the opponents' suit might not be enough.

| South | West | North | East |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2NT | Pass | 3♥ | Pass |
| 3♠ | Pass | 3NT | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |




**Board: 15 Dealer: South #780**

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

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

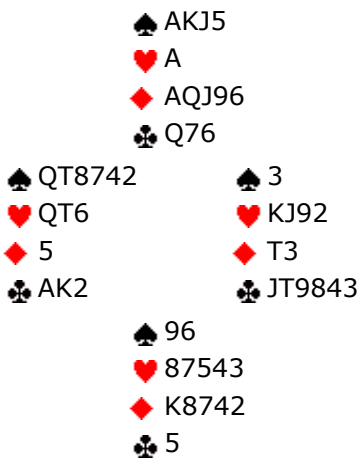
North has 7 HCP so game should be on, with 27-29 HCP. In 3NT? Maybe. North has a decent 5-card Spade suit and a singleton Heart, so 4S sounds a better bet, but only if partner has 3+ Spades, for an 8-card fit. The way to find out is to use a Transfer.

North also wants South's much stronger hand hidden from the Defence, so they want South to be Declarer – another advantage of a Transfer.

So North bids 3H, a transfer to 3S, then bids 3NT rather than 4S. This tells partner that they have a 5-card Spade suit and enough points for game. Partner can pass if they only have two Spades, or bid 4S with three or more, confident of an 8-card fit.

South only has Spades, so 3NT is a abetter contract than 4S (with a 7-card fit) – so they pass.

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1♠ | Dbl | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | 3♦ | Pass | 5♦ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |




**Board: 16 Dealer: West H2724**

North has 21 HCP, NO shortage in the opponent's suit, and a good 5-card Diamond 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 as here – see the Discussion for Board #1.

This double is forcing.

South has just 3 HCP and two 5-card suits. Partner's double forces them to bid their longest suit, but which one? Even though the Diamond suit is better (with an Honour) you should always bid a major rather than a minor – so they bid 2H.

But North had doubled to show strength, so they continue by bidding their long suit as planned: 3D.

This bid by the doubler of their own suit indicates they had doubled to show a strong hand (Double Then Bid) and promises 16+ HCP and a 6-card suit, or 18+ HCP and a 5-card suit, or 19+ HCP with any shape. North's hand is in the third category, but South doesn't know that.

So South can see a minimum of 16+3 HCP i.e. 19+. The better news is that they have at least a 5-5 fit with partner's Diamonds, as well as a singleton and a doubleton – so they can add 3 Shortage Points to that rather unimpressive HCP total, making 22+.

So... is that enough for South to bid 5D, bearing in mind you usually need 27+ points for a minor game? South thought so and bid it.

Did you?

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

If you look at the hands, you can see that Declarer can make 5D easily. Indeed, they can make 6D by drawing trumps and cross-ruffing the losing Hearts, Spades, and Clubs – just losing one Club trick as you can throw one away on the fifth Heart. Indeed, if you take the Spade finesse (which is likely to succeed, West ought to have an Honour in their suit), you make 7D.

So is South's 5D bid a good bid? **Not really**. North is a lot stronger than promised by their bids AND they got lucky. North could have a much weaker hand like this:

♠ QJ
♥ AT6
♦ AQJT96
♣ Q6

Now North has 16 HCP, a shortage in Spades, and a 6-card Diamond suit as promised – but they would lose two Spades, two Hearts and two Clubs!

So I'd say South's 5D bid was quite bad, they should have bid 4D – and even that is fairly optimistic! Of course North would raise to 5D in a heartbeat with 21 HCP, but there is no way that South could know they were that strong.

| North | East | South | West |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1♠ | 1NT | Pass | 3NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

♠ AKT864
♥ T2
♦ K2
♣ QJ3

♠ 52
♥ QJ4
♦ AQJ87
♣ 874

♠ Q973
♥ AK7
♦ T95
♣ AK5

♠ J
♥ 98653
♦ 643
♣ T962

**Board: 17 Dealer: North #2651**

East has 16 HCP, a reasonable stopper in Spades, and a balanced hand – so they can overcall with 1NT.

The direct 1NT overcall shows 16-18 HCP, a balanced hand, and a stopper in the opponent's suit.

West has 10 HCP and no stopper in the opponent's suit. Since partner has 16-18 HCP and a stopper, they have 26-28 HCP and can bid 3NT with reasonable confidence.

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

An immediate overcall is termed a direct overcall; An overcall after 2 passes is called a fourth seat overcall.

A direct 1NT overcall requires 16-18 HCP; a fourth seat 1NT overcall requires just 11-14 HCP.

| East | South | West | North |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2♣ | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 4♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

♠ T973
♥ J4
♦ K865
♣ T75

♠ 642
♥ 9632
♦ JT2
♣ 842

♠ AK5
♥ AKQ85
♦ AQ4
♣ Q6

♠ QJ8
♥ T7
♦ 973
♣ AKJ93

**Board: 18 Dealer: East #485**

East has 24 HCP and a balanced hand with a good 5-card Major. Too strong for a 2NT opening bid (20-22 HCP) or 1H opening, 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.

West has 1 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.

East bids 2H to shows their 5-card suit.

West only has 1 HCP but does have 4-card support for partner's Hearts. They don't have any other values to show, so they bid game, 4 Hearts.

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

West's 4H bid feels a bit heavy-handed; the 2C opening bid is a game force, so a 3H response would give partner a bit more space for any other bids they want to make – they aren't going to miss game Still, no harm done.

| South | West | North | East |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1♥ | Pass | Pass | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 4♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

♠ 832
♥ 3
♦ QJ74
♣ 98432

♠ KJ75
♥ 752
♦ K832
♣ Q5

♠ AQT96
♥ AKQ4
♦ T
♣ T76

♠ 4
♥ JT986
♦ A965
♣ AKJ

**Board: 19 Dealer: South #1932**

West has 9 HCP but no 6-card suit, so can't overcall South's 1H.

East has 15 HCP and a good 5-card Spade suit, so overcalls with 1S.

The 1S overcall shows 8-15 HCP and a 5-card Spade suit.

West has good 4-card support for partner's Spades, and 9 HCP, so can raise them to 2S.

The 2S limit raise of the overcall shows 6-9 points and 3-card support.

East can see 21-24 points, plus 2 points for their Singleton Diamond. Feeling a bit optimistic, they bid 4S.

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

East's 4S bid is rather optimistic; I'd raise to 3S, asking West to bid 4S with a maximum.

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1♠ | Pass | 1NT | Pass |
| 3♥ | Pass | 4♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠ 64<br>♥ T52<br>♦ AT42<br>♣ JT92 | |
| ♠ A9853<br>♥ AKQ98<br>♦ KQ<br>♣ Q | | ♠ QJ<br>♥ J7643<br>♦ 75<br>♣ K853 |
| | ♠ KT72<br>♥<br>♦ J9863<br>♣ A764 | |

**Board: 20 Dealer: West #3168**

West has around 19 HCP and two 5-card suits, Hearts and Spades, so opens the higher-ranked suit, 1S. This bid shows 12-19 HCP and a 4 card Spade suit. (It may look like 20 HCP, but the singleton Q may be worthless and the KQ is worth less than KQx.)

West plans to rebid their second suit with a jump to show their stronger (1-19 point) hand.

East has 7 HCP, so is too weak to bid their Hearts at the 2 level, and doesn't have 4 Spades, so can't raise partner. They bid 1NT, showing 6-9 HCP and denying 4 Spades. This bid is not forcing.

West has a strong two-suited hand, so indicates that with a jump shift i.e. they rebid a new suit (Hearts) one level higher than necessary. Their 3H bid shows 16-19 HCP, 5+ Spades, and 4+ Hearts. This bid is forcing.

East is forced to bid. They aren't strong enough to change suit, but can make a suit preference bi: partner has shown 5 Spades and 4 Hearts, so they have at least 7 Spades and 9 Hearts between them. They bid 4H, the better fit.

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

West could have opened 1H, planning to show their strength by rebidding 2S "above the barrier". The bidding would then have been much simpler: 1H 2H 4H. I would have opened 1H; did you?