

Practice Session for U3ABD11: Responder's Rebid

Welcome!

Here a description of all the hands that you could play in today's Practice Session. It includes details like the cards in each hand, how to evaluate each hand (High Card Points, Shortage Points, shape), the "correct" bidding, and lead. **Don't feel bad** if you bid the hands a bit differently, or ended up in a slightly different contract. Each week there's something new, it will take you a while to get the hang of all of it. Hopefully it will make a bit more sense with the detailed explanations given here.

We're here to help, share our enthusiasm for this great game. You will make mistakes, but we're always happy to explain or answer questions. Remember, you're playing with people who are just starting out, too. Let's have fun together!

-Ed

This Week's Lessons – In Brief

In previous lessons, you learned how to open balanced and unbalanced hands with 12-19 points, how Partner (Responder) should respond, and how the Opener should make their second bid; the Opener's Rebid. We have also given guidelines on Responder's second bid.

In this week's lessons you were given more detailed guidance on Responder's second bid in the most complex situation: when Opener has shown a weaker (12-15 point) hand with two suits. You have four main options, in order of preference:

OPTION 1: If you have an 8-card fit with either of partner's suits, choose that. You can assume partner has five cards in their first suit, and four cards in their second suit. If you have a choice between a major and a minor, choose the major:

- With 6-9 points and a fit, raise to the two-level or pass (if already in the right suit)
- With 10-12 points and a fit, raise to the three-level
- With 13+ points and a fit, raise to the four-level

In each case, you are showing the same points as the direct bid. For example: 1H 1S 2D 3H promises 10-12 points and four Hearts, just like 1H 3H – but it conveys a bit more information.

OPTION 2: If you don't have a fit, but do have a stopper in the unbid suit(s), bid NT:

- With 6-9 points and a stopper, bid 1NT
- With 10-12 points and a stopper, bid 2NT
- With 13+ points and a stopper, bid 3NT

In each case, you are showing the same points as the direct bid. For example: 1D 1H 1S 1NT promises 6-9 points, just like 1D 1NT.

OPTION 3: If you don't have a fit or stoppers, but do have a 6-card suit, rebid your suit. You need 6+ because partner has shown 9 cards in two other suits, not many left for a fit:

- With 6-9 points and a 6-card suit, bid 2x
- With 10-12 points and a good 6-card suit, bid 3x – a SINGLE JUMP
- With 13+ points and a good 6-card suit (ideally 7), bid 4x – A DOUBLE JUMP

A good suit has at least two of the top three honours (AK, AQ, or KQ). If you have less (e.g. KJ) then you should consider bidding one level lower.

OPTION 4: If you don't have a fit, or stoppers, or a 6-card suit, you must make a Preference Bid, by choosing one of your partner's suits. Choose their first suit unless you have TWO MORE cards in their second suit (because they are probably 5-4):

- With 6-9 points bid 2x or pass (to choose the second suit)
- With 10-12 points, bid 3x – a SINGLE JUMP
- With 13+ points bid 4x – A DOUBLE JUMP

By the time Responder makes their second bid, they usually have a very good idea of Opener's hand, and can often decide the final contract by passing or bidding game. If they are just short of game points, they can use bids like 3S and 2NT, Game Invitations, to ask partner to bid game if they have the maximum points for their bidding.

A Cautionary Tale - Advanced

When the bidding goes something like this: 1S 2C 2S, Opener has shown you a one-suited hand, so they must have 6+ trumps, yes? Not exactly.

If Opener has a 5-card suit but no second 5-card or 4-card suit, their hand is balanced and they will bid it as balanced (e.g. 1H... 2NT). It's true! The only hand shape they can have is 5332, and that's balanced. They can't have a singleton or two doubletons because they must have 13 cards:

5332 = balanced, but 5331 = 12 cards, 5330 = 11 cards, 5321 = 11 cards. And so on.

Opener can have 5422, 5431 and many other combinations, but those are two-suited (5-4) hands and should be bid as two-suited hands i.e. open with one of a suit and then rebid the second suit.

So, if partner rebids their first suit (doesn't bid a second suit), are you SURE that they are one-suited, and therefore must have 6+ trumps? Sadly, no. They may have a two-suited hand but can't bid their second suit because that would take them **above the barrier**, showing 16-19 points but they have 12-15 points.

For example: with 12 points, five Spades and four Clubs, I open 1S intending to rebid 2C, but that's only possible if partner responds 1NT; if partner responds 2D or 2H I would have to rebid 3C – above the barrier. What do I do? I can't pass (partner has changed suit, forcing). I MIGHT be able to raise their suit or bid NT, but if not my only option is to rebid my first suit – telling my partner I am one-suited. It's less misleading than lying about your points.

So, when partner rebids their first suit, you should assume they have SIX because most of the time they will. But they may on occasion have FIVE, in a two-suited hand that they had to bid like a one-suited hand.

The Hands

North	East	South	West
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

♠ AKT972
♥ A65
♦ 976
♣ 4

♠ 843
♥ Q7
♦ A42
♣ QJT73

♠ 5
♥ JT9432
♦ QJT5
♣ K5

♠ QJ6
♥ K8
♦ K83
♣ A9862

East	South	West	North
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

♠ JT6
♥ A7
♦ QJ95
♣ QJT6

♠ A975
♥ KT8
♦ K874
♣ 84

♠ 8
♥ QJ965
♦ A62
♣ AK93

♠ KQ432
♥ 432
♦ T3
♣ 752

Board: 1 Dealer: North Lead: ♦Q #7

North has 11 HCP and is one-suited with a good 6-card suit, so they open 1S planning to rebid 2S (showing 6+ Spades and 12-15 points). They are a bit weak, but the sixth Spade is worth an extra point maybe.

South has 13 HCP so bids their longest suit, 2C. This change of suit at the 2-level shows 10+ points and 4+ Clubs. It is forcing for one round.

North rebids 2S as planned, showing a one-suited hand with 6+ Spades and 12-15 points. (But see *A Cautionary Tale* in the introduction.)

South now knows they have at least eight Spades and 25 HCP. They can even add one Shortage Point for the Heart Doubleton, so they support partner's suit (option 1) and bid 4S.

Board: 2 Dealer: East Lead: ♠K #333

East has 14 HCP in a two-suited unbalanced hand, so they open their longer suit, 1H (showing four Hearts and 12-19 points). They intend to rebid their second suit, Clubs.

West has 10 HCP and two 4-card suits. They bid 1S because that takes up less space than 2D.

The 1S response promises 6+ HCP and 4+ Spades, denying 4+ support for Hearts. It is forcing for one round.

East rebids Clubs as planned. This shows five Hearts, four Clubs, and 12+ points. (With four Hearts they would have a balanced hand and bid rather differently.)

West now changes their plan, as they know that Partner has five Hearts so they have a 5-3 fit and can support partner's suit (option 1); they jump raise to 3H, showing 3+ Hearts and 10-12 points. (They could add one Shortage Point for their doubleton Clubs, but their bid is the same.)

East now knows they have 24-26 HCP and decides to be slightly optimistic and bid 4H; a reasonable risk.

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
		♠ J65	
		♥ K8	
		♦ Q65	
		♣ KQJ54	
♠ 942		♠ T	
♥ J732		♥ AQ96	
♦ AT982		♦ KJ743	
♣ 7		♣ T32	
		♠ AKQ873	
		♥ T54	
		♦	
		♣ A986	

Board: 3 Dealer: South Lead: ♣7 #1311

South has 13 HCP in a two-suited unbalanced hand, so they open one of their longer suit, 1S. They plan to rebid their Clubs.

The 1S opening promises four Spades and 12-19 points. It doesn't deny a biddable Heart suit, but they probably have more Spades than Hearts.

North has 11 HCP and a balanced hand. They are too strong to respond 1NT (showing 6-9 points); while 2NT would be OK (showing 10-12 points), 2C is more informative, showing a 4+ suit and 10+ points. It is forcing for one round.

South's plan to rebid Clubs is modified a little by North's 2C bid. However, raising 2C to 3C shows 12-15 points and four Clubs and therefore five Spades, so it conveys the same message as their planned bid!

North now knows they have at least eight Spades and 23 HCP. They can add one Shortage Point for the Heart Doubleton, so they can raise partner's suit (option 1); they're strong enough to game, 4S.

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

I'm not too keen on South's 3C bid. Rebidding 3S would show six Spades, which is likely to be more useful information than 4-card support for Clubs. Their void in Diamonds is an asset in a trump contract and a worry in NT; they don't want to play in NT or in 5C.

North's 4S rebid is a bit pushy. Their support for Spades is weak, and South might only have 12 HCP. I think 3S would be a better bid – a Game Invitation so partner can decide..

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
		♠ T	
		♥ Q87	
		♦ J976	
		♣ QJT54	
♠ AKQJ64		♠ 752	
♥ KJ93		♥ 542	
♦ 54		♦ AKQ3	
♣ 7		♣ K86	
		♠ 983	
		♥ AT6	
		♦ T82	
		♣ A932	

Board: 4 Dealer: West Lead: ♣Q #1541

West has 4 HCP in a two-suited unbalanced hand, so they open one of their longer suit, planning to rebid Hearts.

The 1S opening promises four Spades and 12-19 points. It doesn't deny a biddable Heart suit, but they probably have more Spades than Hearts.

East has 12 points in a balanced hand. They bid their longest suit, 2D, to show 10+ points and 4+ Diamonds; you usually bid your longest suit on the first round in preference to a NT response, as it shares more information.

The 2D response promises 10+ points and 4+ Diamonds, denying 4+ support for Spades. It is forcing for one round.

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

East can see 24+ HCP and 8+ Spades. The Spade fit means they can raise partner's suit (option 1) but they can't see enough points to be sure of game, so they bid 3S, a Game Invitation.

West has a powerful Spade suit AND two more HCP than the minimum for their bid, so they are happy to accept the invitation and bid 4S.

North East South West

1♦ Pass 2♣ Pass

2♦ Pass 3NT Pass

Pass Pass

♠ QJ76

♥ KJ

♦ AK542

♣ 83

♠ 82

♥ QT7543

♦ QT98

♣ J

♠ A953

♥ 962

♦ 76

♣ QT97

♠ KT4

♥ A8

♦ J3

♣ AK6542

Board: 5 Dealer: North Lead: ♥5 #1163

North has 14 HCP in a two-suited unbalanced hand, so they open with one of their longer suit, 1D, and plan to rebid Spades.

This 1D opening promises four Diamonds 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 15 HCP and a 6-card Club suit, so they respond 2C. They can see at least 27 HCP, so game is almost certain, maybe in NT, maybe in Clubs (27 points is usually enough for game in a minor, if you have a fit).

This 2C bid shows 4 Clubs and 10+ points and is forcing for one round, like any change of suit by Responder (on their first bid). It denies a longer major, but doesn't say anything about their holding in Diamonds; in general you don't support a minor on the first round.

Change of plan. North is not strong enough to rebid Spades as planned, because 2S would be above the barrier (set at 2D by their first bid), and that would promise 16-19 HCP. So North rebids 2D.

The 2D rebid promises 6+ Diamonds and 12-15 HCP.

South can't support partner's suit (option 1), but with stops in the two unbid suits they can rebid NT (option 2); they have enough points to rebid 3NT, so they do.

This 3NT rebid by responder requires 13+ HCP and a stop in each of the unbid suits. North could "correct" the bid to 5C or 5D if their hand is really unsuitable for playing in NT, but it looks OK, so they pass. 3NT is usually a better contract than a minor gamet!

East South West North

1♦ Pass 1♥ Pass

2♣ Pass 3NT Pass

Pass Pass

♠ JT

♥ K84

♦ J9862

♣ T97

♠ AQ65

♥ QJT93

♦ K4

♣ A6

♠ 42

♥ A

♦ AQ753

♣ Q8542

♠ K9873

♥ 7652

♦ T

♣ KJ3

Board: 6 Dealer: East Lead: ♠J #2717

East has 14 HCP, in a very unbalanced two-suited hand. The suits are the same length, so they open 1D, the higher-ranking suit as they expect to rebid their lower suit next. Their shape makes up for their modest point count - as long as they play in Clubs or Diamonds!

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

West has 16 HCP with two biddable majors and a fairly balanced hand; game is almost certain, with at least 28 HCP. They respond 1H, their longest suit, expecting to choose game on the second round.

East now rebids 2C as planned, showing 5+ Diamonds, 4+ Clubs and 12-15 points.

West may be tempted to rebid 2S (the fourth suit) but bidding the fourth suit has a special meaning that we haven't covered yet. Anyway, there isn't much point bidding Spades, as partner has shown 9+ cards in the minors, so the chance of a 4-4 fit in Spades is slim. West can't support either of East's suits(option 1), but does have a stop in the unbid suit, so can rebid NT. With 28+ HCP, they bid game, 3NT, with a clear conscience.

East could "correct" the bid to 5C or 5D if their hand is unsuitable for NT, but 3NT is usually a better contract!

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠A83		
	♥K5		
	♦T7		
	♣AKT964		
♠KJ62		♠T4	
♥Q97		♥J642	
♦Q8653		♦K42	
♣J		♣Q873	
	♠Q975		
	♥AT83		
	♦AJ9		
	♣52		

Board: 7 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 passed, but they have 11 HCP in a balanced hand with two 4-card majors. They respond with 1H (rather than 1S) to give partner room to bid Spades at the one-level. (With five Spades and four Hearts, they'd bid 1S.)

North rebids 2C as planned, showing that they're one-suited with 6+ 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 could support partner's suit (option 1) as they can see 6+2 Clubs, but game in a minor requires more points. They can't repeat their Hearts (option 3) as that promises 6+ Hearts, or bid Spades (no chance of a fit). They have stoppers in the unbid suits, so they bid NT (option 2); they aren't sure of enough points for game 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
------	-------	------	-------

1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
----	------	----	------

2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
----	------	-----	------

Pass	Pass		
------	------	--	--

	♠ 942		
--	-------	--	--

	♥ QT84		
--	--------	--	--

	♦ T		
--	-----	--	--

	♣ QJT72		
--	---------	--	--

♠ AKQ65		♠ 3	
---------	--	-----	--

♥ A976		♥ 532	
--------	--	-------	--

♦ 642		♦ AK53	
-------	--	--------	--

♣ 3		♣ AK865	
-----	--	---------	--

	♠ JT87		
--	--------	--	--

	♥ KJ		
--	------	--	--

	♦ QJ987		
--	---------	--	--

	♣ 94		
--	------	--	--

Board: 8 Dealer: West Lead: ♦Q #2957

West has 14 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.

East has 14 HCP with two biddable minors but poor support for partner's Spades. Game is likely, with at least 26 HCP. They respond 2C, their longer suit, planning to rebid NT on the second round as they aren't strong enough to rebid their second suit, Diamonds, as that would be above the barrier (promising 16-19 HCP). This bid is forcing for one round.

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

East can't support partner's majors (option 1), but with a stopper in the unbid suit (Diamonds) they can bid NT (option 2); they can see 26-29 HCP so they are strong enough to bid 3NT as planned.

West could "correct" the bid to 5C or 5D if their hand is unsuitable for NT, but 3NT is usually a better contract!

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

What would East do if partner hadn't rebid Hearts? They don't have a stop in Hearts, so couldn't bid NT. Tricky. If the bidding went:

1S 2C 3C... East could try for game in Clubs with 4C or 5C

1S 2C 2D... East could try for game in Diamonds with 4D or 5D

1S 2C 2S... East should probably pass, as 4S and 3NT look risky

1S 2C 2NT... East can happily raise to 3NT

I think the most likely game in all cases is 3NT, but it's hardly certain. None of West's rebids is forcing – perhaps you should pass; hard to tell!

North	East	South	West
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
		♠AKQJ96	
		♥K4	
		♦T872	
		♣6	
♠3			♠T82
♥T872			♥Q953
♦AK63			♦Q5
♣QT72			♣J843
		♠754	
		♥AJ6	
		♦J94	
		♣AK95	

Board: 9 Dealer: North Lead: ♥3 #1554

North has 14 HCP, in an unbalanced two-suited hand. They open their longer suit, 1S, and could rebid Diamonds to show they're two-suited or rebid Spades to show they have 6+. Yes, it's a one-suited, two-suited hand! Golly.

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 13 HCP and a balanced hand with a 4-card minor. They could bid 3NT straight away to show their shape and point count, but bid 2C instead, to give partner a bit more information and room to describe their hand further.

This 2C response shows 10+ HCP and 4+ Clubs. It denies 4-card support for Spades and is forcing for one round.

North has decided to bid their hand as one-suited, so they rebid 2S. They have an excellent 6-card Spade suit and a puny 4-card Diamond suit, fair enough.

The 2S rebid promises 6+ Spades and 12-15 HCP.

South can count at least 8 Spades so they can support partner's suit (option 1); they can see 25 HCP, so they can bid 4S. Hurrah! (They don't have a stop in the unbid suit, so can't bid NT.)

East	South	West	North
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
		♠974	
		♥T73	
		♦852	
		♣AKQ9	
♠KQJ6532			♠A8
♥Q5			♥AJ6
♦K			♦AJ743
♣843			♣JT7
		♠T	
		♥K9842	
		♦QT96	
		♣652	

Board: 10 Dealer: East Lead: ♣A #1594

East has 15 HCP and a 5-card minor in a balanced hand. They open 1D planning to rebid 1NT to show their point count and shape.

West has a good 7-card major and 11 HCP in an unbalanced hand, so they respond 1S. Their rather overexposed singleton ♦K looks like it might even win a trick as partner has bid Diamonds! They plan to rebid their suit (option 3).

This 1S response shows 4+ Spades, 6+ HCP, and denies a longer Heart suit, but not much else can be gleaned from the bid at this time.

East rebids 1NT as planned. This shows a balanced hand with 15-16 HCP and denies 4-card support for Spades.

West can't support partner's suit (option 1) and see at least 9 Spades (partner must have two to bid NT) so they are happy to rebid their suit (option 3) and can see 26-27 HCP and 4S. (They don't have stops in the unbid suits, so option 2, 3NT, would be misleading – and risky.)

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ Q83		
	♥ A832		
	♦ AKQ9		
	♣ 75		
♠ T976		♠	
♥ 7654		♥ JT	
♦ J		♦ T865432	
♣ KJ32		♣ AQT9	
	♠ AKJ542		
	♥ KQ9		
	♦ 7		
	♣ 864		

Board: 11 Dealer: South Lead: ♦J #1780

South has 13 HCP in an unbalanced hand with a 6-card Spade suit, so they open 1S intending to rebid 2S to show their shape and point count.

This 1S opening promises four Spades and 12-19 points.

North has 15 HCP in a balanced hand. They can't support Spades, so bid the lower of their two 4-card suits, 2D, as that leaves more bidding space.

This 2D response shows 10+ HCP and 4+ Diamonds. It denies 4-card support for Spades and is forcing for one round. Partner opened, so must have 12-19 HCP. North can see at least 27 HCP, so expects to reach game, but in Spades? Or maybe No Trumps?

South rebids 2S as planned. This bid shows a one-suited hand (probably 6+ Spades) and 12-15 HCP. (It doesn't deny support for Diamonds, as you don't usually support a minor if there's any other bid available!)

Now that North can see 6+3 Spades, they can support partner's suit (option 1); they can see 27+ HCP, so can raise 2S straight to 4S.

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ J		
	♥ JT92		
	♦ T98732		
	♣ T9		
♠ K6		♠ AQT542	
♥ A85		♥ Q6	
♦ AKQ		♦ 54	
♣ Q7654		♣ 832	
	♠ 9873		
	♥ K743		
	♦ J6		
	♣ AKJ		

Board: 12 Dealer: West Lead: ♣A #2341

West has 18 HCP and a poor 5-card minor in a balanced hand. They open 1C, planning to rebid 2NT to show their point count and shape.

East has a good 6-card major but and 8 HCP in an unbalanced hand, so they respond 1S. While the Spade suit is tempting, they aren't really strong enough to bid again without a lot of encouragement.

This 1S response shows 4+ Spades, 6+ HCP, and denies a longer Heart suit, but not much else can be gleaned from the bid at this time.

West rebids 2NT as planned. This shows a balanced hand with 17-18 HCP and denies 4-card support for Spades.

East can see 25-26 HCP and at least 8 Spades (East must have two, they're balanced). They can't raise partner's suit (option 1) but they can rebid 4S (option 3). (They don't have stops in the unbid suits, so option 2, 3NT, would be misleading – and risky.)

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
		♠	
		♥AT53	
		♦AQ862	
		♣J953	
♠A9		♠T32	
♥QJ97		♥K842	
♦J953		♦T	
♣AT6		♣K8742	
		♠KQJ87654	
		♥6	
		♦K74	
		♣Q	

Board: 13 Dealer: North Lead: ♥Q #2658

North has just 11 HCP in a three-suited unbalanced hand. This is a bit awkward to bid, so they open 1D, their longest and plan to rebid one of their 4-card suits on the second round, to show a two-suited hand. (They are just strong enough to open on the rule of twenty: 11 HCP plus 9 cards in two suits.)

South has a good 8-card major and 11 HCP in an unbalanced hand, so they respond 1S. They plan to bid Spades at least twice, to show their length!

This 1S response shows 4+ Spades, 6+ HCP, and denies a longer Heart suit, but not much else can be gleaned from the bid at this time.

North now bids one of their 4-card suits, as planned: 2C. While they would rather bid the Heart suit because it's stronger and it's a major, a 2H rebid would be above the barrier, showing a stronger(16-19 point) hand. So 2C it is!

South could support partner's Diamonds (option 1) with the 5-3 fit, but game in a minor demands more points. They don't have a stop in the unbid suit, so NT (option 2) is out. Their Spade suit is so long (at worst an 8-0 "fit") that it's good enough to rebid (option 3); they can only see 23-26 HCP, but their Spade suit is so strong (worth six or seven tricks), with partner's support for their Honours in the minors 4S is a good bet.

When you have a very long trump suit like this, HCP are much less important.

East	South	West	North
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		
		♠JT9	
		♥QJ98	
		♦QJ93	
		♣QT	
♠53		♠Q742	
♥764		♥AK	
♦AT8742		♦65	
♣K5		♣A8764	
		♠AK86	
		♥T532	
		♦K	
		♣J932	

Board: 14 Dealer: East Lead: ♠J #2693

East has 13 HCP and a poor 5-card minor in a two-suited hand so they open their longer suit, 1C, planning to rebid 1S to show their point count and shape.

West has a fair 6-card minor but only 7 HCP, so they respond 1D, planning to rebid Diamonds or pass on the second round.

This 1D response shows 4+ Diamonds, 6+ HCP, and denies a longer major suit, but not much else can be gleaned from the bid at this time.

East rebids 1S as planned. This shows a weaker two-suited hand with 12-15 HCP and denies 4 Hearts.

West can't support either of partner's suits (option 1) without a fit, or bid NT (option 2) without a Heart stop, so rebids Diamonds (option 3). (They would have to make a preference bid – option 4 – if their suit was less than 6.)

This 2D rebid shows 6+ Diamonds and 6-9 HCP (with more, they would jump as a game invitation, but that's pretty optimistic with no fit).

East isn't keen on partner's Diamonds either, but they have already described their hand fully. Except... they have a great stop in the unbid suit (Hearts) so might be tempted to bid 2NT, but they don't have enough points; better to pass and trust in partner.

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

	♠ JT2		
	♥ A6		
	♦ KJ753		
	♣ AJ8		
♠ A84		♠ 6	
♥ KJ985		♥ QT73	
♦ T86		♦ 42	
♣ 54		♣ KQT963	
	♠ KQ9753		
	♥ 42		
	♦ AQ9		
	♣ 72		

Board: 15 Dealer: South Lead: ♣5 #2723

South has 11 HCP in an unbalanced hand with a 6-card Spade suit, so they open 1S intending to rebid 2S to show their shape and point count. (They can open under the Rule of 20.)

This 1S opening promises four Spades and 12-19 points.

North has 14 HCP in a balanced hand, with a 5-card suit. They can't support Spades, so they bid 2D to show their suit and points. This 2D response shows 10+ HCP and 4+ Diamonds. It denies 4-card support for Spades and is forcing for one round.

Partner opened, so must have 12-19 HCP. North can see at least 26 HCP, so expects to reach game, but in Spades? Or No Trumps? After all, they do have stops in the unbid suits. It all depends on partner's rebid.

South rebids 2S as planned. This bid shows a one-suited hand (6+ Spades) and 12-15 HCP. (It doesn't deny support for Diamonds, as you don't usually support a minor if there's any other bid available!)

North can now raise partner's suit (option 1) with the 6+3 fit. With 26+ HCP, they are strong enough to bid 4S.

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

	♠ JT975		
	♥ 2		
	♦ T95		
	♣ KT63		
♠ Q84		♠ A	
♥ QT9843		♥ KJ7	
♦ AK2		♦ J864	
♣ 5		♣ Q9742	
	♠ K632		
	♥ A65		
	♦ Q73		
	♣ AJ8		

Board: 16 Dealer: West Lead: ♠T #2786

West has 11 HCP in an unbalanced hand with a 6-card Heart suit, so they open 1H intending to rebid 2H to show their shape and point count. (They can open with 11 HCP under the Rule of 20.)

This 1H opening promises four Hearts and 12-19 points.

East has 11 HCP in a two-suited hand. They can't support Hearts, so they bid 2C to show their longer suit and points.

Partner opened, so must have 12-19 HCP. North can only see 21+ HCP, so game looks unlikely. Maybe in Hearts? It all depends on partner's rebid.

This 2C response shows 10+ HCP and 4+ Clubs. It denies 4-card support for Hearts or 4 Spades, and is forcing for one round.

South rebids 2H as planned. This bid shows a one-suited hand (6+ Hearts) and 12-15 HCP. (It doesn't deny support for Clubs, as you don't usually support a minor if there's any other bid available!)

East can now raise partner's suit (option 1) with the 6+3 fit. With 23+ HCP and 2 Shortage Points for their Spade singleton, they are strong enough to bid 4S.

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

If you look at the hands, Declarer can only make the contract because they hold an unbroken sequence of Hearts, from 7 to K. This allows them to use two of Dummy's Hearts to ruff their losing Spades.

If North leads ♥2 rather than ♠T and South follows through with a second Heart, the contract is doomed.

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: 17 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, 4+ Hearts and 12-15 points.

Now South can raise partner's suit (option 1) with the 5+3 fit. With 12+12 HCP and 2 Shortage Points they are strong enough to bid 4S.

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

The singleton Heart Queen is being valued as 2 HCP + 2 SP in the above. Without support, a singleton Queen isn't really worth 2 HCP, but partner has bid Hearts, suggesting it is on this occasion.

East	South	West	North
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
		♠32	
		♥JT863	
		♦4	
		♣K8764	
♠A84			♠QJT65
♥A9			♥K742
♦AT973			♦QJ8
♣T52			♣A
		♠K97	
		♥Q5	
		♦K652	
		♣QJ93	

Board: 18 Dealer: East Lead: ♣Q #3236

East 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.

West has 12 HCP in a balanced hand. They can't support partner's Spades with just three so they respond 2D, their longest suit, planning to rebid Diamonds, NT or Spades depending on Opener's second bid.

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

West can raise partner's suit (option 1) with the 5+3 fit. With 12+12 HCP and 1 Shortage Point for their Heart doubleton, they have just enough to bid 4S.

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠AJT		
	♥JT9		
	♦A64		
	♣A832		
♠6		♠8754	
♥K7542		♥6	
♦QT93		♦K8752	
♣QT7		♣K94	
	♠KQ932		
	♥AQ83		
	♦J		
	♣J65		

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠K843		
	♥K9		
	♦742		
	♣T982		
♠Q7		♠AT52	
♥J4		♥AQ632	
♦QJT986		♦5	
♣AQ6		♣K54	
	♠J96		
	♥T875		
	♦AK3		
	♣J73		

Board: 19 Dealer: South Lead: ♦T #3279

South 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.

North has 13 HCP in a balanced hand. They can't support partner's Spades with just three so they respond 2C, their longest suit, planning to rebid NT or Spades depending on Opener's second bid.

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

Now North raise partner's suit with the 5+3 fit, and with 12 +13 HCP they are just strong enough to bid 4S.

With North's balanced hand they might be tempted to bid 3NT instead, as they have a stop in Diamonds, the unbid suit – but with a 5-3 fit in Spades, 4S is a better contract.

Board: 20 Dealer: West Lead: ♣T #2977

West has 12 HCP in a single-suited hand, so they open 1D, planning to rebid 2D to show their shape and points.

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

East has 13 HCP and two biddable majors, so they bid their longer major, 1H, planning to rebid their Spades on the second round. This 1H response shows 4+ Hearts, 6+ HCP, and denies a longer Spade suit, but not much else can be gleaned from the bid at this time.

West rebids 2D as planned, showing 6+ Diamonds and 12-15 HCP, while denying four Hearts or four Spades.

East now knows partner has 12-15 HCP and a 6-card Diamond suit and doesn't have four cards in either major. While they have enough points for game in a major or NT, they haven't found a fit.

East decides to bid their second suit, 2S, to show a stop and encourage partner to bid NT if they have a stop in Clubs. This bid shows 4+ Spades and 10+ HCP. (This isn't one of the Options listed in the introduction, because it only makes sense when Opener has a one-suited hand.)

West has a stop in the unbid suit (Clubs) and can see 22+ HCP, so can bid 2NT as a game invitation.

East can see 12+13 HCP, enough for game, so bids 3NT.

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

East actually has a weak stop in Clubs (Kxx) so could bid 3NT instead of 2S, but it's a bit risky.

Synopsis

u3a Commentary Synopsis				
	Subject	Responder's Re-bid	Hand #	Declarer /Defender
		Bidding Sequence		
1	N	1S,2C,2S,4S	7	Dec.
2	E	1H,1S,2C,3H,4H	333	Dec.
3	S	1S,2C,3C,4S	1311	Dec
4	W	1S,2D,2H,3S,4S	1541	Dec
5	N	1D,2C,2D,3NT	1163	Dec
6	E	1D,1H,2C,3NT	2717	Dec
7	S	1C,1H,2C,2NT,3NT	2783	Dec
8	W	1S,2C,2H,3NT	2957	Dec
9	N	1S,2C,2S,4S	1554	Dec
10	E	1D,1S,1NT,4S	1594	Dec
11	S	1S,2D,2S,4S	1780	Dec
12	W	1C,1S,2NT,4S	2341	Dec
13	N	1D,1S,2C,4S	2658	Dec
14	E	1C,1D,1S,2D	2693	Dec
15	S	1S,2D,2S,4S	2723	Dec
16	W	1H,2C,2H,4H	2786	Dec
17	N	1S,2D,2H,4S	2787	Dec
18	E	1S,2D,2H,4S	3236	Dec
19	S	1S,2C,2H,4S	3279	Dec
20	W	1D,1H,2D,2S,2NT,3NT	2977	Dec