

3C over 2NT (new minor forcing). In 4H, a club lead holds West to 1 (diamond queen) after drawing trumps. In 3NT, East received a heart losing to the correct hand to protect the club holding, EW should make

Board 4, both vulnerable, West deals

After two passes, East opens 1D, South doubled at one table (the responder might lose a major suit fit) and bid 2C at the other tables. Over the double. At this table, the friendly BBO bot bid 2S vulnerable and, not surprising, minus 800, a really terrible bid with poor spots in diamonds and the club. If you overcalled 2C, NS played in 3C or 3H. Both contracts should make 10 tricks and 3NT should make 10 tricks on any lead with the club king in the

Boards 5-8 John Cobb

Board 5 N/S Vulnerable, North deals

North has a solid 6 card suit and a weak hand. Should they preempt? E/W Not Vulnerable, this is the most unfavorable time to preempt. The correct answer is a resounding No. Even at Matchpoint scoring like we have, the presence of a singleton/void, and the unfavorable vulnerability also point to No. If you choose, you need to have a conversation with your partner so that you know what to expect (or not) out of a Vul vs. Non-Vul preempt. For this a

East opens 1H and South passes. With 12 HCP, 3 Quick Tricks, and a club, enough to bid a game forcing 2C if you are playing a 2/1 system. North's correct rebid.

There are different styles of 2/1 systems, and one of the big decisions is the opener's rebid. If rebidding 2H promises a 6 card heart suit then 2NT promises stoppers in the unbid suits. If 2NT promises stoppers, then

does not promise a 6 card suit. You may see these described as the [this article](#) for a description. I will assume that rebidding 2H shows analysis.

With a minimum balanced hand and only a 5 card heart suit, East re is the final contract. South will likely lead a fourth best Diamond. V cards offside, East will eventually come to 9 tricks.

Board 6 E/W Vulnerable, East deals

East and South pass. West opens 1S and North has enough to over

South with 4 card trump support and shortness can raise to 3 Hearts

West has "only" 17 HCP, but with now a known 9+ card spade fit, no HCP in the Heart suit, should just bid 4S. This likely ends the auction

While the Queen of Clubs is doubleton and could be dropped, there and will likely lose a club finesse, and therefore lose 1 spade, 1 diamond tricks.

Board 7 All Vulnerable, South deals

South has enough to open. For a discussion about various strategies diamonds and 5 clubs, see [this article](#). For this particular hand (2-2 I think the best approach is to open 1C with the plan of rebidding 1N 1S. Therefore South opens 1C.

West has a very poor Heart suit with most of their high card points in with only 4 HCP should also pass (although some will find a reason pass, East has an easy 1S overcall. South has nothing extra to say

2S, and this will end the auction.

West needs to take care and ruff his losing diamond in dummy before successfully ruff a diamond, declarer will lose a trick in each suit and

Board 8 None Vulnerable, West deals

West opens 1NT and everyone passes. This auction was replicated

Since the opponents did not look for a major fit, North will likely lead tricks. After cashing the fourth heart, North's goal should be to exit (incorrectly) pitches a Club instead of a Diamond on the fourth heart is a Club. Otherwise It looks like a spade may be best. There will whether to get out in Spades or Clubs. If North succeeds in getting to only 6 tricks and go down 1.

Boards 9-12 Mary Jo Dunnebacke

Board 9 EW vulnerable, N deals

With 17 hcp and a singleton all Easts opened 1 club.

Also with an opening hand and a singleton South overcalls 1 Diamond

With 9 hcp and diamonds East bids 1nt.

North passes. East should trust his partner and just bid 3nt.

East should not bid the spades, that shows 5 and he knows that West have 4 spades or he would have bid them on his first turn. It also shows the weakness is Hearts.

With careful play on a diamond lead, 3nt East only loses the ace king

With a heart lead they lose the heart king. Everyone made 3.

To make 4 on a diamond lead, take the first diamond you can and stop. When the ace comes out then whatever is led back take it and run either the clubs or the diamonds. Save the spades for transportation. Never take the heart finesse, cover the clubs or the diamonds.

Lesson: The one who knows goes. East has 17 hcp and west bid more than your partner

Don't tell your opponents too much about your hand,

Board 10 both vulnerable, E deals

This hand was easy to bid but hard to make. Every north opened 1. No one made it. Sometimes it is just better to take your lumps and to make you go down two. North only has 5 losers, but everything is a break 4 / 1.

When east leads a heart, they get the 4 hearts. Whatever west leads

Lesson: Sometimes is it best to just go down 1, may be the best score

Board 11 neither vulnerable, S deals

If south preempts two spades, it is bad for E/W. North should raise. Law of total tricks. If we have a fit, they have a fit. East can double for west will bid 4 hearts which will make. If East passes the 3 spades, down at least one but not a great score for E/W. One E/W pair got to South did not preempt.

Lesson: Preempt when you can not Vul, especially in spades. Give

Board 12 NS vulnerable, W deals

North may or may not open in second seat, only 11 hcp but the Rule of 20 with both majors. When there is Three passes to South who has one heart. He opens 1 heart.

One west doubled with 10 hcp and 4 spades. Not sure why, maybe they does not open in third seat e/w does not have much but they are not sure. think sacrifice if they can find a suit., N/S are vulnerable.

One north bid 2nt. I think he was thinking Jacoby two nt. (a pretty good bid) I think he should have bid Drury, showing 10+hcp and 3+ hearts to make it an opening hand., One East came in with 3 diamonds and south bid 2 hearts strong hand. All finally got to 4 but who knew they all would make 6 tricks right on this hand even the singleton heart king.

West probably leads a diamond and N takes the queen, a trump to the king and a spade to the king works with west (the one who doubled) has

Lesson: Drury is a good convention to use when partner opens in the first round. Rule of 20 is a good convention, especially with both majors.

Boards 13-16 Eric Hamilton

Board 13 both vulnerable, N deals

The auction might go something like P-P-P-1D; 2C-2D-X-3D; P-P-P.

- North deals and passes. A first-seat 3C preempt would be reasonable not today.
- East has nothing to say.
- South at least thinks about opening 1S light and lead directing in the
- West has an easy 1D opening bid.
- North with a powerful six-card suit can overcall 2C.
- East competes to 2D. Yes, they'd like to have another diamond for pass and nothing else suits. Besides, partner shouldn't be opening diamonds or a good hand.
- South has a responsive double showing values to compete and interest (4-4). They wouldn't do this if they could not at least tolerate playing going to do if they don't like the majors.
- After partner's single raise west can bid to the three level. After south north to bid something so they'll be competing to the three level anyway of letting north clarify their hand.
- No one is willing to bid on over 3D so the auction is over.

It doesn't have to go exactly like that, but one way or another west

North makes the obvious opening lead of a high club which wins, loc switch, so continues with a second high club.

West, declarer, has eight sure tricks: six diamonds and the AK of hearts. The only likely possibility is to ruff a losing spade in dummy. So immediately declarer leads a small spade. It loses, but no matter: whatever comes spade, eventually ruff the third round of spades in dummy and draw

That's nine tricks, 3D bid and made (and as the cards lie a tenth trick)

Board 14 neither vulnerable, E deals

East deals and opens 1NT. West bids 2H to transfer to spades and bidding has been pretty much automatic, but now west has some choices.

- Is game very likely? If so west will bid 3N and east will pass with a fit or correct to 4S with three or more (at least an eight-card fit).
- Is game very unlikely? West will pass, ending the auction.
- Is game possible if east has a bit more than a minimum? West can bid two spades, correct to 3S if there is a spade fit.

So which is it? With 9 HCP in the west hand and 15-17 in the east hand, the two hands, so game is at least somewhat likely. Generally with 2H forcing to game or just inviting, but this west hand has some serious weaknesses.

- Bad spade spots. A spade contract won't play well if they break 4-3 in NT.
- The singleton heart queen is likely worthless.
- The point count overvalues queens and jacks and undervalues kings and aces, but balances out because we have some of both, but here we only have the queen.

All of this argues for taking the low road: west invites with 2N, and east declines the invitation and corrects to 3S.

The play in 3S is straightforward. The defense has the heart ace and no matter how declarer plays the spades (best is to lay down the king and queen, there is a sure loser there). So 3S, bid and made.

Board 15 NS vulnerable, S deals

South deals and opens 1C. North responds 1D, and south rebids 1E as an opening. North might reasonably pass this but will also consider the possibility of at least four clubs (no four-card major, no diamond raise, so 3334 shape) for suit play (singleton spade, and with at least nine spades between

attack in NT) so will consider 2C.

As the cards lie 2C is the wrong call: south's KJ9 of spades defangs spade ruffs in the dummy. A final contract of 1N will make exactly v after a diamond lead sets up a ruff for the defense.

Board 16 EW vulnerable, W deals

West deals and opens 1S - and note that this 11-point hand is much opened on the previous board.

East is just barely strong enough to make a three-card invitational raise jumping to 3S at their next turn. They would really like a bit more for isn't pulling its full weight here, those three HCP would be more useful a minimum raise of 2S, is a bigger underbid than the invitational raise is.

West is delighted to accept the invitation and bids 4S.

As the cards lie 4S goes down one on good defense, which will prove bidding on "with only eleven points, a total minimum". They're wrong south hand instead of the north hand 4S would make, and that's a 5 unfortunate dummy.

It may not have worked here but if you aren't bidding games that are playing winning bridge.

Boards 17-20 Michael Lavine

Board 17 neither vulnerable, N deals

Bidding: This hand looks like there will be three passes to West, with a simple raise to 2s and a limit raise, possibly a convention. Two additional points are worth mentioning. (1) West raises to 2s and the opponents intervene, W has enough to compete and has enough to bid 4s. (2) After West's opening, North has just about passed hand, S won't get too excited. If North were not a passed hand, overcalling.

Play: On lead against a spade contract North should expect his spade does not want a ruff — the spades will score tricks even without ruffs. Instead, North should try to weaken the EW spades by forcing them to lead a diamond. As <https://www.bridgeworld.com/pages/learn/elementary/> or more trumps (try to make declarer run out of trumps by leading a winners)." Also see the section on **Tapping strategies** at <https://kvb.com>

Lesson: Some aspects of competitive bidding. What to lead when you

Board 18 NS vulnerable, East deals

Bidding: The bidding should start 1d-p-1s-2h; 2s-3h. Both sides are expected to compete to the 3 or 4 level.

Play: If West plays in spades, he should delay drawing trump until he has ruffed. If East plays in hearts, she should delay drawing trump until she has ruffed.

Lesson: Declarer sometimes has to delay drawing trump so that declarer

Board 19 EW vulnerable, South deals

Bidding: I would expect the NS bidding to go 1c-1h; 1s-2h. I don't see

Play: East will lead a top diamond honor. Seeing dummy's singleton reduce dummy's ability to ruff diamonds. North will want to establish diamond ruff. So North wins the trump and plays the spade Jack. Whatever suit West leads, declarer can win in dummy and cash two. N ruff back to his hand to lead another diamond for another ruff.

Lesson: This lesson has come up many, many times in these mentoring sessions. Delay drawing trump so that dummy's trumps may be used for ruffing.

Board 20 both vulnerable, West deals

Bidding: North opens 3s and South has to think. North is showing a good hand. South has 3 aces plus finessing possibilities in three suits. South has to decide whether the game should be in spades or notrump. The danger in notrump is an entry outside of spades, so North's spades might be cut off and production in spades avoids that problem.

Play: On this layout, the notrump game makes because N has an entry. If N had not had an entry, N could have made the same bid without HK, in which case EW could prevent the game.

Lesson: When partner preempts and you have a good hand and an entry, think about communications: do you need to reach partner's hand and what if the notrump bidders were lucky that partner had an entry.