

11- 2024 – Do Not Bid 3NT

This hand was sent to me. Many NS pairs played in 3NT, and it was a bloodbath

Dealer N Nil Vul

	NORTH	
	1097	
	9854	
	10942	
	64	
WEST		EAST
53		KJ62
73		J106
J7		Q653
AKQ10852		73
	SOUTH	
	AQ84	
	AKQ2	
	AK8	
	J9	

The bidding went:

North	East	South	West
P	P	2C (1)	3C (2)
P (3)	P	3NT (4)	P (5)
P	P		

- (1) Strong hand
- (2) Alerted as a long solid suit
- (3) Nothing to say
- (4) Noooooooo!
- (5) West hopes 3NT is passed out, and should not Double, as NS might escape to a suit (Note: it is possible South has Jxxx Clubs, a natural stopper as the cards lie)

CONTRACT

3NT by South

THE PLAY

West rattled off the first 7 Tricks

MORAL OF THE STORY

South knows West has a long Club suit. He can hope Partner has a stopper (e.g. Qxx, or Kx, etc)

In reality, as North did not bid, South should have a Stopper and a Half himself in Clubs – e.g. AJ9, or K109, or QJ108

South should Double 3C, and North should bid suits up the line, starting with 3D. With only 3 Diamonds in hand, South could convert 3D to 3H, given he holds AKQ. North then Passes

It is possible to make 4H as the cards lie. West surely will play CA and then CK, and then any other card helps Declarer (Spades the most). After drawing Trumps Declarer plays A and K of Diamonds, then another throwing East in with DQ. East must play a Diamond to D10 and D9 or lead a Spade for a free finesse. H2 to H9 is an entry to the table to repeat the Spade finesse after cashing the best Diamond in Dummy. But it is hard for North to raise 3H to 4H (unless you play the 2C opening as a game force - recommended by me)

Ian Morison

15 March 2024