

# 03- 2024 – The Misfit in 3NT

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Dealer N, N-S Vul

Last week, I wrote about this Hand, which I bid past 3NT, preferring 5D (which made, fortunately for Partner relations!)

<b>NORTH</b>	
K10985	
KQ1093	
QJ	
5	
<b>WEST</b>	<b>EAST</b>
QJ42	763
J42	A8765
K9	742
KQJ4	97
<b>SOUTH</b>	
A	
-	
A108653	
A108632	

## IF I HAD PASSED 3NT, THE BIDDING AT OUR TABLE WOULD HAVE BEEN:

West	North	East	South
-	P (1)	P	1D (2)
X (3)	1S (4)	P	2C (5)
P	2H (6)	P	3C (7)
P	3NT (8)	P	P (9)
P			

- (1) I would have bid 1S, intending 2H next
- (2) Amazing Hand, but no hurry
- (3) Perfectly reasonable by West (but tips NS off where missing Points may lie)
- (4) Intending to bid Hearts next
- (5) Showing the 2-suiter in the Minors
- (6) Showing the 2-suiter in the Majors
- (7) Showing good Clubs
- (8) Maybe 3NT will work?
- (9) I passed

## CONTRACT

3NT by North

## THE LEAD

- Both Defenders must look at how many Tricks they can take and be PATIENT in Defence
  - East = 1 (HA)
  - West = 3 to 6 across all 4 suits
- Both Defenders know North has the Majors and South the Minors

East should not lead a Major up to North's strength in the Majors (there is no hurry to win HA)

East should lead a Minor (it does not matter which). Declarer will probably play low in Dummy (enough to cover East's lead)

### **THE PLAY**

Irrespective of Dummy's play to the lead, West will soon be on lead, and should lead a small Spade to knock out SA. When on lead later, he can play SQ or SJ to knock out SK in North's Hand

Because South is Dummy, the Hand is on full display

EW should make 5 or 6 Tricks, as North cannot establish Dummy's suits in time

### **MORAL OF THE STORY**

Generally, 3NT on mis-fits should be eschewed. Communication between the Hands can be tough

Defence is often about patience and not leading up to strength. Here the Defenders must be alert to the bidding to guide their leads and discards

**Ian Morison**

Bridge lover

19 January 2024