

04 - 2023 – Minor or NT Contract?

Dealer East - EW Vul

	K96	
	6	
	J74	
	A87432	
J752		Q103
J874		A10532
532		Q96
J6		K5
	A84	
	KQ9	
	AK108	
	Q109	

**The Bidding**

East opens the bidding with 1H

*You are South.* You have 18 Points, and should bid 1NT. It shows 15-18 Points, at least a stopper and a half in hearts, and no suit to bid

West passes (correct, in my view, as EW are vul)

What should North bid?

5C is a good chance to make, as South should have at least 2 Clubs

But I would simply jump to 3NT

You need 2 less tricks in 3NT. Sure, there are risks in 3NT, but 2 less tricks, and a higher score for overtricks makes this a good bet. Your long Club suit should give extra tricks, even if South is a minimum 1NT hand

Everyone then passes

**The Play**

East leads H4, you set up Clubs and make 11 tricks for 460. 5C also makes, but the score is just 400

**Moral of the Story**

3NT is known as “everyone’s friend”

It is very much preferred over 5C or 5D, less so over 4H or 4S

In cases where you have a long suit to run, like above, it is better to bid 3NT

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**Ian Morison**

Bridge lover

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