

USEFUL BIDDING AGREEMENTS – 3

THE CONTESTED AUCTION

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1

South opens 1S. Next hand overcalls 2C. Sitting North, you have a weak hand with 4-card support. What will you do?

If you believe in the Law of Total Tricks you should (must!) raise to 3S – it may not make, but is likely to win the auction.

In fact on this deal, South can make 3S on the 2-2 break. Meanwhile West can make 3C. The weak raise is usually a winner unless opponents double at unfavourable vulnerability.

	♠ K543	
	♥ 876	
	♦ Q1054	
	♣ 94	
♠ 96		♠ Q2
♥ A5		♥ QJ432
♦ J96		♦ 32
♣ AKJ1076	♠ AJ1087	♣ Q532
	♥ K109	
	♦ AK87	
	♣ 8	

2

What if you have invitational values and support? What will you do now?

If you agree to play cue raises over an opening of 1H/S as showing an invitational or better hand with support, you can bid 3C.

Now partner will know that you have genuine values and will happily jump to game.

	♠ K543	
	♥ QJ7	
	♦ Q1054	
	♣ 94	
♠ 96		♠ Q2
♥ A5		♥ 86432
♦ J96		♦ 32
♣ AKJ1076	♠ AJ1087	♣ Q532
	♥ K109	
	♦ AK87	
	♣ 8	

3

South opens 1D and next hand overcalls 2C. What will you do now?

After partner opens 1C/D, a cue bid of the overcaller's suit is not (primarily) a raise, it asks for a stopper in the suit for 3NT. So you need to bid 3C to reach 3NT from the right side.

3NT by South is the only making game: in diamonds North-South are only worth 10 tricks.

	♠ AK4	
	♥ QJ7	
	♦ Q10654	
	♣ 94	
♠ 976		♠ J532
♥ A5		♥ 86432
♦ J9		♦ 32
♣ AKJ876	♠ Q108	♣ 53
	♥ K109	
	♦ AK87	
	♣ Q102	

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You are East. South opens 1H. Partner overcalls 1S and North passes. What will you do?

You have a good hand but it's not clear whether your side has game on. However, you can make a cue raise of 2H, which promises 3+ support and values, say 10+ hcp.

With a good hand and shortage in diamonds, partner can jump to 4S, which cannot be defeated.

	♠ K6	
	♥ 953	
	♦ J1064	
	♣ 10765	
♠ AQ854		♠ J932
♥ K842		♥ 6
♦ 9		♦ Q532
♣ QJ9		♣ AK43
	♠ 107	
	♥ AQJ107	
	♦ AK87	
	♣ 82	

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South opens 1H. Partner overcalls 1S and this time North raises to 2H. What will you do?

Again, if you have agreed to play cue raises to show a good hand, you can now bid 3H, which promises a raise to 3S with genuine values.

This time partner has limited strength, so if South passes you will play in 3S. But if South overbids to 4H, she might "save" in 4S, which makes!

	♠ K6	
	♥ QJ3	
	♦ J1064	
	♣ 10765	
♠ AQ854		♠ J932
♥ 9542		♥ 6
♦ 9		♦ Q532
♣ QJ9		♣ AK43
	♠ 107	
	♥ AK1087	
	♦ AK87	
	♣ 82	

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You are South and open 1D. West passes, partner bids 1H and East overcalls 2C. What will you do?

If you have agreed to play support doubles, you can show your ♥K65 instead of just rebidding 2D.

Partner will happily bid 2H and might consider bidding 3H.

9 tricks in hearts are easy (10 are possible) and that beats 9 tricks in diamonds!

	♠ A976	
	♥ AJ832	
	♦ 7	
	♣ 753	
♠ J842		♠ KQ5
♥ 107		♥ Q94
♦ K832		♦ 104
♣ J42		♣ KQ1096
	♠ 103	
	♥ K65	
	♦ AQJ965	
	♣ A8	

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You are North. Partner opens 1NT (15-17 hcp) and West overcalls 2H (natural). What will you do?

Clearly you will bid 3D to show values and a good 5+ suit.

With a maximum opening and a double stopper in hearts, partner will not hesitate to bid 3NT.

The contract makes easily.

	♠ KJ6	
	♥ 42	
	♦ KJ1085	
	♣ Q107	
♠ Q107		♠ 953
♥ QJ8763		♥ 1095
♦ A		♦ 6432
♣ KJ5		♣ 842
	♠ A842	
	♥ AK	
	♦ Q97	
	♣ A963	

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Again, partner opens 1NT (15-17 hcp) and West overcalls 2H (natural).
What will you do this time?

You don't have the values to bid 3D, but would like to play in 3D. If you have agreed to play 2NT Lebensohl, that's what you bid.

South must bid 3C, then pass whatever you bid – in this case 3D.

In fact 3D makes. Note that as 2H is only one down, you need to reach your contract.

	♠ J6	
	♥ 42	
	♦ J108532	
	♣ K107	
♠ K107		♠ Q953
♥ QJ8763		♥ 1095
♦ A		♦ K64
♣ QJ5		♣ 842
	♠ A842	
	♥ AK	
	♦ Q97	
	♣ A963	

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The same logic can be applied to responding to partner's double after an opponent's weak 2-bid.

After West opens 2H, North and East pass. South doubles. With limited values, North should not respond 3D but can instead bid 2NT Lebensohl.

South must bid 3C, then pass your 3D bid.

Again 3D makes, while 2H is only one down.

	♠ 1087	
	♥ 52	
	♦ K10865	
	♣ K107	
♠ 95		♠ KJ63
♥ Q109876		♥ AJ3
♦ A3		♦ J42
♣ QJ5		♣ 842
	♠ AQ42	
	♥ K4	
	♦ Q97	
	♣ A963	

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