

<b>Board 2</b> <b>Dealer E</b> <b>NS Vul</b>	♠ Q2 ♥ K10865 ♦ KJ6 ♣ J76	♠ J104 ♥ 4 ♦ Q3 ♣ KQ98532																															
	♠ K987 ♥ AQJ93 ♦ 10952 ♣ —																																
	♠ A653 ♥ 72 ♦ A874 ♣ A104																																
Par +120 2NT= NS			<table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>NT</th> <th>♠</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♣</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>8</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>8</td> <td>6</td> <td>8</td> <td>8</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>7</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		NT	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	8	6	7	7	6	S	8	6	8	8	6	E	5	6	5	5	7	W	5	6	5	5	7
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The East hand is a perfectly normal 3C opening. 14 players out of 16 did so. Perhaps surprising that it wasn't 16 out of 16. This time partner unfortunately had a void which made it challenging. That is bridge. Good bids don't always get good results. But it is an instructive hand for the bids which got bottom scores in both directions.

One South doubled 3C. Enough points but not the right shape. Had I been North I would have responded 4H to that double. At the table North, perhaps used to their partner's style, only bid 3H, but that still resulted in a bottom board for North/South.

One E/W pair play a treatment over opening 3 bids that seems to have infected the bidding of a number of inexperienced players. They play a response in a new suit after a pre-empt as being a sign-off. So here they were able to bid 3H to play.

On this occasion that was no good because 3H was down 3, a worse result than anyone playing in 3C. That result is not why all the world's experts play a new suit as a forcing bid. It is because you need it when you have a good hand.

If 3H is a sign off you made life impossible if the responding hand holds:

Q32	or: A	or: AQ72	
AQ952	KJ9642	AKJ54	
AKQ5	AKQJ4	94	
6	7	K3	

Don't lose all your constructive bidding because you are scared to pass with a void.

An additional point is that 3H non-forcing is a very unusual treatment, so it MUST be alerted. If North had a good hand and passed 3H expecting the auction to continue they would be able to call the director when it did not.