

Deal 1
South Deals
None Vul

♠ A 3 2
♥ 9 6
♦ Q J 5
♣ 10 9 8 3 2

12
7 7
14

♠ J 8 4
♥ A 2
♦ K 10 9 6 3
♣ K J 4

♠ K 9 7 6
♥ 8 7 4 3
♦ A 8 2
♣ 7 5

♠ Q 10 5
♥ K Q J 10 5
♦ 7 4
♣ A Q 6

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♥
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
3 NT by South			

After South's 1 ♥ opening North counts 12 HCP plus one length point for the fifth ♦. That is enough for a 2/1 response so North says 2 ♦.

The partnership is now forced to reach game so South bids 2 NT. This describes a balanced hand with exactly 5 ♥s and no 4-card ♠ suit.

North is happy to play in Notrump, and with no extra strength above the 13 points already promised, uses Quick Arrival and bids 3 NT. South passes and a reasonable game contract is reached.

Notice that you would bid this hand the same way whether or not you play 2/1.

Deal 2
South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 4 2	♦ K J 8		
♥ 10 5	♥ A 2		
♦ Q J 7 4	♦ K 10 9 6 3		
♣ A 7 5 2	♣ K J 4		
	♠ A Q 10 7 3		
	♥ 9 7 6		
	♦ 8 2		
	♣ 10 9 8		
	♠ 6 5		
15 7 6 12	♥ K Q J 8 4 3		
	♦ A 5		
	♣ Q 6 3		
West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
4 ♥ by South			

game and North passes.

The hand would have been bid the same with or without 2/1.

South opens 1 ♥ and North, with 16 points, responds 2 ♦, forcing the partnership to game.

South has a minimum strength hand, but with a 6-card suit he rebids 2 ♥.

Opposite South's 6-card suit, North's doubleton is adequate support. If North had a minimum for her 2/1 response she might just jump to 4 ♥ to show no interest in slam. With a little extra she bids 3 ♥ since she knows the bidding cannot stop until game is reached. From North's perspective South might have a big hand; his 2-level rebid shows suit length but does not say anything about strength. This is one of the beauties of 2/1, the bidding can be kept low while you look for the best place to play. However, this time South merely bids the

Deal 3South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 7 3 2
 ♥ 5
 ♦ J 10 8 4
 ♣ Q 8 5 2

¹⁵
 3 6
¹⁶
 ♠ K 5
 ♥ K Q J 7 4 3
 ♦ 7 5
 ♣ A K 4

West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass		
6 ♥ by South			



♠ Q 6
 ♥ A 8 2
 ♦ A K Q 6 3
 ♣ 7 6 3

♠ A J 10 8 4

♥ 10 9 6

♦ 9 2

♣ J 10 9

With 16+ points and 3 ♥s, North will insist on a ♥ game at a minimum. But there is no need to start making jump bids, she starts with a simple 2 ♦ bid. South also refrains from a jump, and rebids 2 ♥ to show the 6-card suit.

North now says 3 ♥ to set the trump suit. At this point South reveals some slam interest, making a control-showing bid of 4 ♣. North continues the process, and bids 4 ♦, showing the ♦ A.

South has heard enough. He bids 4 NT, and when North admits to two Aces he bids the slam.

Deal 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q	♦ A 9 8 6 5	♥ 9 6 2	♣ A 7 4 2
♠ 4 2	♦ A K Q 10 8 3	♥ Q J	♣ 9 8 5
10	12 7	11	♣ K 6 3
♦ 4 3	♦ 7 5	♦ A K J 8 6 5	♦ 10 9 7 3
♦ 7 5	♦ A K J 8 6 5	♦ 4 3	♦ K 10 7 2
♦ A K 6 3	♦ 7 5	♦ 4 3	♦ J 4
♦ K 6 3	♦ A K 6 3	♦ 4 3	♦ Q J 10



West	North	East	South
2 ♦	2 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	2 ♠
2 ♠ by South			

South has a minimum 1♠ opening bid. After West's 2♦ overcall both South and North know that the 2/1 Game Force is no longer on. North can therefore bid 2♥, showing at least 11 points. This bid is forcing on South for 1 round, but not forcing to game.

South next rebids his ♠s, promising a 6-card suit, but also indicating a minimum strength hand! Since the Game Force is not on, South would have to make a jump bid to show extra strength.

North has nothing further to say so the partnership arrives in a safe contract.

Deal 5	♠ Q 4		
South Deals	♥ Q 10 7		
None Vul	♦ A J 6		
	♣ A 10 9 8 6		
♠ 8 7 3	♠ A 10 2		
♥ J 9 2	♥ 6 5		
♦ K Q 10 9 8	♦ 4 3 2		
♣ J 5	♣ K Q 7 3 2		
	♠ K J 9 6 5		
13 7 9 11	♥ A K 8 4 3		
	♦ 7 5		
	♣ 4		
West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♥ by South			

South opens 1 ♠, the higher ranking of the two 5-card suits.

North, with 14 points, responds 2 ♣, forcing the partnership to game.

South now bids his ♥ suit.

At this point North figures South for 5 ♠s and 4 ♥s. North cannot support either of South's Majors, but with a good stopper in the fourth suit bids 2 NT. The game force is still on and South may not pass this bid.

South bids 3 ♥, indicating that this is also a 5-card suit. Now North can bid the ♥ game, knowing there is an 8-card fit.

Deal 6

West Deals

None Vul

♠ K 2	♦ A J 10 7 4
♥ J 8 2	♦ K 10 7
♦ 7 4	♦ A 9 5
♣ A J 10 8 4 3	♣ 7 2

12	♠ 6 5
9 6	♥ A Q 9 5 3
13	♦ K Q 6 3
	♣ Q 9

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
4 ♥ by South			

N		E
W		S
♠ Q 9 8 3	♥ 6 4	♦ J 10 8 2
♣ K 6 5		

North opens 1 ♠ and South, with 14 points, responds 2 ♥. Note that South is not permitted to make this bid without a 5-card or longer ♥ suit.

North, knowing that South has 5, bids 3 ♥ to confirm the trump suit.

South has a minimum strength hand with no slam aspirations, so he uses Fast Arrival and bids 4 ♥. North is also satisfied to just play at game.

2/1 is a good bidding method, and here, 4 ♥ is a good contract. But you can see that it is not a laydown - there is no bidding system that will always reach To% contracts. In this hand a 3-3 ♦ split will provide the Tth trick, or if that fails, taking 2 ♠ finesses provides a 75% chance of success.

Deal 7	♠ 7		
South Deals	♥ A K 7 5		
None Vul	♦ K 7 6 2		
	♣ K Q 10 6		
♠ 8 3	♠ Q J 10 4		
♥ J 6	♥ Q 4 2		
♦ Q J 10 8 5	♦ A 9 3		
♣ J 4 3 2	♣ 9 7 5		
	♠ A K 9 6 5 2		
15 5 9 11	♥ 10 9 8 3 ♦ 4 ♣ A 8		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
4 ♥ by South			

South has 13 points and naturally opens 1 ♠.

North, with 15 points, would bid 2 ♥ in standard bidding, but with 2/1 this promises a 5-card suit. So instead, North responds 2 ♣, forcing the partnership to game. Note that holding two 4-card minors North bids them up-the-line, just as in standard bidding.

South has a nice 6-card ♠ suit, so you might think he would rebid them. But Opener's first responsibility with his second bid is to show a 4-card Major if he has one. This isn't much of a suit, but South still bids 2 ♥.

You can see why it is important for Opener to show a 4-card Major. Since North couldn't bid ♥s in her first

response the fit would have been lost if South had not mentioned the suit. North now confirms the trump suit with a 3 ♥ bid, and South shows his minimum by just bidding the game.

Deal 8North Deals
None Vul

♠ J 10 6 4
 ♥ 7 6 2
 ♦ K 9 3
 ♣ A 5 4

¹³
8 6
₁₃

West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
3 NT by South			

♠ A K 9 2
 ♥ A Q 9 8 3
 ♦ 8 5
 ♣ 8 6

N
W E
S

♠ Q 3
 ♥ J 10 5
 ♦ 6 4 2
 ♣ Q J 10 3 2

♠ 8 7 5
 ♥ K 4
 ♦ A Q J 10 7
 ♣ K 9 7

North opens 1 ♥, his 5-card Major. South, with 14 points, naturally responds 2 ♦, forcing the partnership to game.

North next bids 2 ♠, showing the other Major suit. In standard bidding North would not be able to bid the ♠s since that would be a Reverse and North is far too weak to Reverse. But after a 2/1 Response the concept of a Reverse does not apply, and the priority of showing a 4-card Major certainly does apply.

South assumes North to be 4-5 in the Majors, so she cannot support either. She bids 2 NT. If North actually has 6 ♥s (or 5 ♠s) he will rebid the suit. South's 2 NT bid guarantees a stopper in the fourth suit.

he just bids 3 NT. Notice that North never once considered the possibility of passing what might be a misfit - the initial 2/1 response unconditionally forced the partnership to reach a game somewhere.

North does not have either 6 ♥s or 5 ♠s so

Deal 9
South Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 3
♥ K Q 4
♦ J 10 4 2
♣ 10 9 4 3

12
8 7
13

♠ K 8
♥ J 10 7
♦ 9 7 5
♣ A K J 6 2

♠ J 10 6 5
♥ 6 5 2
♦ A Q 8 3
♣ 8 5

♠ A 9 7 4 2
♥ A 9 8 3
♦ K 6
♣ Q 7

West North East South
Pass 2 ♣ Pass 1 ♠
Pass 3 ♦ Pass 2 ♥
Pass Pass Pass 3 NT

3 NT by South

South opens 1 ♠, his 5-card Major. North, with 14 points, responds 2 ♣, a 2/1 force to game.

South next bids 2 ♥, showing the other Major suit.

North assumes South to be 5-4 in the Majors, so she cannot support either. She cannot bid 2 NT without a stopper in ♦s. So North bids the fourth suit, 3 ♦, telling South she knows she must make a bid, but can't find anything appropriate.

South now must find a bid. His choices include rebidding the 5-card ♠s, supporting North's ♣s with a doubleton Queen, or bidding 3 NT with the ♦ K 6 as a stopper. He chooses this last option. It appears that 3 NT is the best game for these two hands.

Deal 10
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ Q 8	♦ K J 7 6 3
♥ 4	♥ A Q 7
♦ J 9 6 3 2	♦ 8 4
♣ 10 9 6 5 2	♣ A Q J

$\begin{matrix} & N \\ W & & E \\ & S \end{matrix}$	$\begin{matrix} \spadesuit 10 9 5 2 \\ \heartsuit 9 2 \\ \diamondsuit A 10 7 5 \\ \clubsuit K 4 3 \end{matrix}$
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$\begin{matrix} & N \\ W & & E \\ & S \end{matrix}$	$\begin{matrix} \spadesuit 10 9 5 2 \\ \heartsuit 9 2 \\ \diamondsuit A 10 7 5 \\ \clubsuit K 4 3 \end{matrix}$
---	---

<i>West</i> Pass Pass Pass ALL	<i>North</i> 1 ♠ 3 ♥ 4 ♣ 5 ♥ Pass	<i>East</i> Pass Pass Pass Pass	<i>South</i> 2 ♥ 3 ♠ 4 NT 6 ♥
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6 ♥ by South

of a finesse. But the best way to play the hand would be to try to establish a ♠ in the North hand, and if that fails try the ♣ finesse.

North opens 1 ♠, her 5-card Major and South responds 2 ♥. North knows this is a 5-card suit, and bids 3 ♥, confirming the 8+card trump fit.

Once the trump fit is known, South revalues his hand to about 19 points. He makes a slam try with a control-showing bid of 3 ♠. He knows North won't take this as ♠ support since the partnership has agreed that ♥'s are going to be trumps.

North now shows her control by bidding 4 ♣.

That was what South needed to hear; when Blackwood uncovers two Aces he bids 6 ♥.

The slam is a good one. If either the ♠ Q or ♣ K is right there are 12 tricks by way

Deal 11

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 7 4
♥ Q J 10 4
♦ 10 7 5
♣ 9 8 6

¹⁴
3 6
₁₇

West	North	East	South
			Pass 1 ♥
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 NT
Pass	6 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
6 NT by South			

♠ 8 6 3
♥ 7 3
♦ A Q 4
♣ A K J 10 4



♠ K Q 5 2
♥ 6 2
♦ J 8 3 2
♣ 5 3 2

♠ A J 10
♥ A K 9 8 5
♦ K 9 6
♣ Q 7

South opens 1 ♥ and North responds 2 ♣. Using standard bidding South would now jump to 3 NT to show his 19 points, but in 2/1 this is not necessary since the partnership must not stop bidding until game is reached. So South just bids 2 NT. North shows her minimum by bidding 3 NT.

South will now disclose his extra strength. He bids 4 NT. This is not Blackwood, but rather a quantitative raise in Notrump, and an invitation to slam.

North has 15 points, and they are good ones. She accepts the invitation and bids 6 NT.

There are 11 top tricks. A 3-3 ♥ split would provide the 12th winner, but this is against the odds. Better to try two ♠

finesses, a 75% chance.

Deal 12

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 4
♥ 10 8 7 6 4
♦ 8 5 3
♣ K Q 10

12
5 8
15

♠ Q 6 3
♥ Q 3
♦ A K J 9 4
♣ 9 6 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 10
♥ J 9 5 2
♦ 10 7 2
♣ A 5 3 2

♠ A J 8 7 5 2
♥ A K
♦ Q 6
♣ J 8 7

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
Pass			Pass

4 ♠ by South

South opens 1 ♠ and North responds 2 ♦. South has a pretty good hand, 17 points, but no stopping power in the minor suits. Also, South's ♠ suit is pretty ragged. Taking these points into consideration, South should just rebid his 6-card suit.

North should now jump to 4 ♠. This is Fast Arrival, indicating a minimum hand with no particular interest in slam.

South is happy to rest in the game contract.

Even with a combined 30 points, T tricks are certainly not a sure thing. South must hope that East holds the trump King.

Deal 13

West Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 8 4 3
♥ J 7
♦ K 9 7 5
♣ K 5 3

12
7 5
16

♠ A J 10 6 2
♥ A 6 2
♦ Q J
♣ 10 8 7

N
W E
S

♠ Q 7
♥ 10
♦ 10 8 6 3 2
♣ Q J 9 6 2

♠ K 5
♥ K Q 9 8 5 4 3
♦ A 4
♣ A 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	5 NT
Pass	6 ♣	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
6 ♥ by South			

North opens 1 ♠. South has a powerhouse, plenty strong enough to jump-shift. But playing 2/1 it's usually simpler when you make the 2/1 response, and save your jumping for later - if at all. So South bids just 2 ♥, knowing North must keep the bidding open.

North knows South has at least 5 ♥s, so his first priority is to agree on the trump suit. He bids 3 ♥.

South now makes the slam try. She knows North has at least three trumps, and all she wants to find out is how many Aces/Kings North holds. So she bids Blackwood and North confesses to two Aces.

Still hoping for the Grand, South bids 5 NT. Oops, North doesn't have any kings so South settles for a small slam.

This is a good slam, cold if West makes any opening lead other than a ♣. With a ♣ lead, South will have to pull trumps and play to discard a loser on the ♠T.

Deal 14

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K 10 7 5
♥ 8 4 2
♦ J 3
♣ A 5 3 2

♠ Q J 2

♥ K 10

♦ K Q 8 6 5

♣ Q 8 7



♠ 9 8 6 4 3
♥ 9 6
♦ A 10 9
♣ 10 9 6

♠ A
♥ A Q J 7 5 3
♦ 7 4 2
♣ K J 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♥
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♥ by South			

South opens 1 ♥ and North responds 2 ♦.

South has a good-looking hand, but needs to find a trump suit before she starts showing her extra strength, so she bids just 2 ♥.

Knowing that South holds 6 ♥s, North can support with the honor doubleton so he agrees the trump suit with a Fast Arrival bid of 4 ♥.

South has some extra strength, but not enough to push on after North's weak bid. Notice that if South DID try a 4 ♠ Control bid North would just bid 5 ♥ and the pair might be one trick too high.

Deal 15

North Deals	♠ A Q 8 6 2
None Vul	♥ 10 4
	♦ K 6 5
	♣ K 8 7

♠ 10 9 5	♠ K 7 4 3		
♥ A 9 8 2	♥ 6		
♦ A 9 8	♦ Q J 10 7		
♣ J 6 3	♣ A 10 9 2		
9 10	♠ J		
9	♥ K Q J 7 5 3		
	♦ 4 3 2		
	♣ Q 5 4		
West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
2 ♥ by South			

North opens 1 ♠. South has 11 points, enough to respond 2 ♥ in standard bidding, but not when using 2/1. So she bids 1 NT.

North would love to pass 1 NT but is not permitted to do so. He has no good bid, so he must bid a 3-card suit. When holding two 3-card minors, usually bid ♣s. South now shows the ♥ suit that she could not bid first round.

North was forced to reply to 1 NT, but he is not forced to bid again. With his minimum hand and a tolerance for partner's suit he just passes and the partnership ends up in a reasonable contract.

This hand demonstrates one of the benefits of Forcing 1 NT. In standard bidding South's first response would be 2 ♥, and North would have to bid again, probably 2 NT. The partnership might go even higher but in any case would probably not reach a good contract.

Deal 16North Deals
None Vul

♠ J 10 9 3
 ♥ Q 10 8 6
 ♦ J 4
 ♣ Q 10 6

¹⁷
 6 6
 11

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
3 NT by South			

♠ A Q 8 6 2	♦ 9 5	♣ A K 8 7
♥ A 4		
	♦ K Q 8 7 6	
	♣ 3 2	

♠ K
 ♥ K 7 5 3
 ♦ A 10 3 2
 ♣ J 9 5 4

North opens 1 ♠. South has 11 points, enough to respond 2 ♣, (or 2 ♦), in standard bidding, but not when using 2/1. So she bids 1 NT.

North is forced to bid again, but unlike the previous hand, here he wants to keep bidding. He bids 2 ♣. South knows North doesn't have ♥s, so she shows her above-minimum hand by bidding 2 NT.

North is happy to play Notrump. He assumes South must have something useful in ♦s and bids 3 NT.

3 NT seems to be a good contract. There are 8 top tricks and possibilities for a ninth winner in either ♠s, ♦s, or, (the best chance), ♣s.

Deal 17

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A Q 7 4 3
♥ 9 4
♦ A 8 7 4
♣ 9 7

10 7
11 12

♠ K 9 5
♥ 10 6
♦ K 10 3 2
♣ J 10 5 4

♠ J 10
♥ K 8 2
♦ Q J 6
♣ K Q 8 6 3

♠ 8 6 2
♥ A Q J 7 5 3
♦ 9 5
♣ A 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♥
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
2 ♥ by South			

South opens 1 ♥. North responds 1 NT, just as in standard bidding. The difference is that in this case the 1 NT response is forcing on South.

South has an easy second bid, he rebids his 6-card suit. North has nothing to say over 2 ♥ except pass.

Notice that this is the same bidding and same final contract that would have been reached with standard bidding. Using 2/1 is often like that.

Deal 18
South Deals
None Vul

♠ 7 6 3
♥ A K J 5 2
♦ 4 2
♣ 10 5 4

12
8 7
13

♠ K J 2
♥ 8 7 4
♦ A Q 9 7 5
♣ Q 2

N
W E
S
♠ 8 4
♥ Q 3
♦ J 3
♣ K J 9 8 7 6 3

♠ A Q 10 9 5
♥ 10 9 6
♦ K 10 8 6
♣ A

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♠ by South			

South opens 1 ♠. North responds 2 ♦, a 2/1 force to game.

South cannot rebid her ♠s, but has decent support for partner's ♦s. So she bids 3 ♦.

North always intended to play a ♠ contract. He now bids 4 ♠, using Fast Arrival to indicate he has no slam aspirations.

4 ♠ is cold, and if the defenders don't take their ♥ tricks immediately South will make an overtrick.

Deal 19

North Deals	♠ K 9 2		
None Vul	♥ A K 8 7 4		
	♦ K 10 7		
	♣ 10 8		
♠ Q 7 3	♠ A 8 5 4		
♥ J 10 6 5 3 2	♥ Q		
♦ A Q 4	♦ J 9 6 2		
♣ 4	♣ A 7 6 3		
	♠ J 10 6		
9 13	♥ 9		
7 11	♦ 8 5 3		
	♣ K Q J 9 5 2		
West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	Dbl	2 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	
2 ♣ by South			

North opens 1 ♥ and East Doubles.

After the intervening Takeout Double 2/1 is OFF. If South had T or more points she would Redouble. So even with only 9 points South can bid 2 ♣ without fear that North will think she has a strong hand.

North also knows everything mentioned above so he passes.

Deal 20
South Deals
None Vul

♠ 5 3
♥ 10 9 8 5 4
♦ A 9 4
♣ 9 4 3

¹⁵
4 6
₁₅

West North East South
Pass 2 ♦ Pass 1 ♠
Pass 3 ♠ Pass 2 ♠
Pass 4 ♠ ALL Pass
4 ♠ by South

♠ Q J 2
♥ J 2
♦ Q J 8 6 2
♣ A K J

♠ 10
♥ A 6 3
♦ 10 5
♣ Q 10 8 7 6 5 2

♠ A K 9 8 7 6 4
♥ K Q 7
♦ K 7 3
♣ —

W N
S E

South opens 1 ♠. North responds 2 ♦, a 2/1 force to game.

South has a big hand, perhaps in the slam range, but first priority is to set a trump suit. So she contents herself with a rebid of 2 ♠. North agrees on trumps by bidding 3 ♠ (not Fast Arrival).

South now makes her slam try by using a Control-showing cue-bid. She bids 4 ♣, showing first round control of the suit (Ace or Void).

North's next bid would be a control-showing bid of her own - IF SHE HAD ONE. Since she cannot win the first round of either red suit she just returns to 4 ♠. South realizes that they are off two red Aces and passes.

Notice that South did not fall into the Blackwood trap. If she HAD asked for Aces, North would have shown one Ace and South wouldn't know what to do next. She might have figured the odds favored that one Ace being a red one and tried the slam. Moral: Don't use Blackwood when you have a void.

Deal 21

North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 9 5 3
♥ J 9 6 4
♦ 9 6
♣ A 4 3

¹⁴
_{7 5}
¹⁴

♠ A J 10 8 2
♥ A K 8 2
♦ Q 2
♣ 10 5

♠ 7 4
♥ Q 7 3
♦ A K J 7 3
♣ K J 9

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass

3 NT by South

North opens 1 ♠. South responds 2 ♦, a 2/1 force to game.

North's priority is to now show the 4-card ♥ suit. Remember that South might also have 4 ♥s.

South doesn't have 4 ♥s, nor does she have 3 ♠s. She does, however, have stoppers in ♣s so she bids 2 NT. North happily says 3 NT.

Deal 22

South Deals
None Vul

♠ K 6
♥ 9 5
♦ 10 8 5 4
♣ Q J 8 6 2

¹³
6 7
¹⁴

♠ 7 4
♥ K Q 3
♦ A K J 7 3
♣ 10 9 7

♠ Q 9 5 3
♥ J 7 6 4
♦ 9 6
♣ A 4 3

♠ A J 10 8 2
♥ A 10 8 2
♦ Q 2
♣ K 5

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

3 NT by South

N
W E S

South opens 1 ♠. North responds 2 ♦, a 2/1 force to game.

South's priority is to now show the 4-card ♥ suit. Remember that North might also have 4 ♥s.

North doesn't have 4 ♥s, nor does she have 3 ♠s. Furthermore, she does not have stoppers in ♣s so she cannot bid NT. Since she has to keep bidding, but has no reasonable bid she can make, she bids the fourth suit, 3 ♣. Compare this Deal with Deal 21.

South understands that North's ♣ bid is Fourth-Suit-Forcing, and does not actually show ♣s. However since South does have a ♣ stopper he bids 3 NT. In this case this turns out to be the best game contract.

Deal 23

North Deals

None Vul

Deal 24South Deals
None Vul

♠ A 8
♥ Q 5
♦ K J 9 5
♣ J 10 9 7 2

9
11 7
13

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 9 5 3
♥ K J 10 2
♦ Q 10 3
♣ 6 4

♠ K Q 10 6 2

♥ A 7 4

♦ 8 4

♣ A 8 5

West North East South

Pass 1 NT

Pass 2 ♠

Pass

2 ♠ by South

South opens 1♠. With 9 points and a doubleton ♠ North must respond 1 NT.

In standard bidding South would happily pass a 1 NT response. But in 2/1 the 1 NT response is forcing for 1 round. South is forced to bid a 3-card minor so he says 2 ♣.

North prefers ♣ over ♠ but must allow for the possibility that South has bid a 3-card suit. So North gives a preference to 2 ♠. This is called a "false preference", but it assures the team of being in at least a 7-card fit.

South happily passes and the pair lands in a reasonable contract, probably better than 1 NT.

Deal 25North Deals
None Vul

♠ J 5	♦ K 10 5 2	♣ K 10 8 7 6 2
♥ 5		
♦ K 10 5 2		
♣ K 10 8 7 6 2		



♠ A K 8 7 4	♦ J 8 6	♣ 9 3
♥ J 8 6	♦ A J 6	
♦ A J 6		
♣ 9 3		

♠ Q 6	♦ A K Q 9 7 2	♣ A Q
♥ A K Q 9 7 2	♦ 9 8 4	
♦ 9 8 4		
♣ A Q		

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	5 NT
Pass	6 ♦	Pass	6 ♥
ALL	Pass		
6 ♥ by South			

North opens 1 ♠. South has a mountain, but there is seldom a need to jump-shift when using 2/1. He bids 2 ♥.

North's priority on her first rebid is to agree trumps if possible. Knowing South has at least a 5-card suit, she bids 3 ♥.

South naturally feels slammish, and shows it with a control-showing cue-bid, 4 ♣. Do not even THINK this might be Gerber.

North doesn't have any extra strength, but that doesn't matter. With North making a slam try she should cooperate by showing her ♦ control. It is important to realize that North isn't showing any extra strength, she is merely going along with South.

South asks for Aces and gets two. He decides to find out about Kings, if North happens to have three he will bid 7 NT. When North shows just one South settles for 6 ♥. This should be a good slam, needing only a decent ♠ break.

Deal 26
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ A 4	♦ 7 6 4 2	♣ A 9 6 3	
♥ Q J 6			
♦ K Q J 9 5 3			
♣ 4 2			
	♠ K 10 9	♦ 9 7 4 2	
	W N E	♦ A 10	
	S	♣ Q J 10 8	
	♠ Q J 8 7 6 3		
11	♥ A K 8		
6 10	♦ 8		
13	♣ K 7 5		
West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
4 ♠ by South			

South opens 1 ♠. With 11 points North cannot respond 2 ♣. So she bids 1 NT, which is forcing for 1 round.

South's first priority is to show a 4-card ♥ suit. Since he doesn't have one his next priority is to rebid the 6-card ♠s.

North is strong enough to invite, and with the known 8-card fit she says 3 ♠.

South has a little extra so he bids 4 ♠, which is a pretty good contract.

Deal 27South Deals
None Vul

♠ 6 5
 ♥ K 7 6 4
 ♦ K 9 5 4
 ♣ 10 9 8

13
 6 10
 11

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♠ by South			



♠ 10 7
 ♥ Q 10 3
 ♦ A J 6
 ♣ A Q 6 4 2

♠ Q J 9 8 4 2
 ♥ A J 9 5
 ♦ 8 3
 ♣ K

♠ A K 3
 ♥ 8 2
 ♦ Q 10 7 2
 ♣ J 7 5 3

South opens 1 ♠. Perhaps a little marginal, but you don't pass 13 point hands. North has a good 2/1 response of 2 ♣.

South's first priority is to show a 4-card ♥ suit, so he does. North wouldn't dare support ♥s with only three cards, but has a good 2 NT bid.

South is not happy in notrump so rebids the 6-card major, 3 ♠. North's two ♠s are enough support so she bids the ♠ game.

Deal 28

South Deals
None Vul

♠ A J 8	♥ Q 6 5 2
♦ 8 7 3	♣ A 7 4
♠ 9 6 2	♠ 10 4
♥ A K 10 9 3	♥ J 4
♦ J 9 2	♦ A 10 5 4
♣ 6 3	♣ K J 10 8 2

11	♠ K Q 7 5 3
8 9	♥ 8 7
12	♦ K Q 6
	♣ Q 9 5



West	North	East	South
Pass	1 NT	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	2 ♣
Pass			Pass
3 ♠ by South			

South opens 1 ♠. North cannot say 2 ♥ because he only has 11 points, and also because he only has 4 ♥s. So he bids 1 NT (forcing for 1 round).

South rebids 2 ♣, a 3-card suit. North now jumps to 3 ♠, showing limit-raise strength. This sequence is the way to show a limit-raise with only 3 trumps; an immediate jump-raise to the 3-level shows a limit-raise with 4 trumps.

In any case South has a bare minimum and passes the invitation.