

## THEIR GAMBLING 3NT

West deals and passes. Your partner also passes and East opens 3NT. This is alerted as 'Gambling 3NT.' This is a special conventional opening when you have a long 7-card suit, usually a minor suit, and expect to make your contract with the help of 2 tricks from your partner. It is a gamble because it means that East has no stoppers in the suits outside his long suit. If West feels he doesn't have the stoppers in the those suits, he is supposed to respond 4♣. Then West will either pass if his suit is clubs, or correct to his long suit if it isn't clubs.

This is your hand.

S	South
♠	KJ108
♥	K9876
♦	2
♣	AKQ

Usually you can deduce what the opener's long suit is. Here, it is obviously diamonds. With 16 HCP, your best choice is to double. You will be happy to play in any of the other suits.

Before your partner can take it out, West responds 4♣. As I stated above, he is warning his partner that he can be set before he ever gets in to run his suit, and he had better convert to his long suit.

Partner takes your double out to 4♥ and East bids 5♦. What will you do now?

This is the bidding so far:

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
Pass	Pass	3NT	Dbl
4♣	4♥	5♦	?

Since you partner freely bid his 4-level heart contract, you should push to 5♥, even though you are vulnerable.

East leads the ♦A and his partner shows out. The ♦A wins and East follows with the ♦K. Take over for North and plan the play:

<b>S</b>	South
♠	KJ108
♥	K9876
♦	2
♣	AKQ

East leads ♦AK, West showing out

<b>N</b>	North
♠	74
♥	AQ1042
♦	Q74
♣	732

If you don't put up the ♥K, you will get overruffed. This is not a big problem. You have 10 trump and the probability is high that East will be void. Why? From the opening lead, you know that East started with 9 diamonds. That leaves 4 cards to spread among the 3 other suits. You can lead the ♥Q and finesse against the ♥J being in West.

The other problem is the spades. You can't lose 2 spades, so when you are in the dummy you should lead a spade to your ♠J. It would be counter to the terms of the convention for East to hold an ace outside diamonds. Therefore, you have to hope that East holds the ♦Q and West the ♦A. This is, in fact, the case and you should end losing only one diamond and one spade.

This is the entire deal:

D 4	<b>N</b> North	<b>W</b> West	<b>N</b> North	<b>E</b> East	<b>S</b> South
	♠ 74 ♥ AQ1042 ♦ Q74 ♣ 732	♠ A9632 ♥ J53 ♦ ♣ J8654	P P 3NT X 4♣ 4♥ 5♦ 5♥ P P P	♠ Q5 ♥ ♦ AKJ1098653 ♣ 109	♠ KJ108 ♥ K9876 ♦ 2 ♣ AKQ
	<b>S</b> South		5♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0		

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <http://tinyurl.com/yCS533ze> , or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. Alternatively, by

clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.

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