

For a future Newsletter and Corner

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A useful and alertable 3NT bid after partner opens 1 of a major. The 3NT bid shows exactly 3 of partner's major and no void, singleton or doubleton and 13-15 points. This bid well defines responders hand. Usually opener will leave the 3NT bid in with a flattish hand or return to play 4 of his major with a shapely hand. Occasionally, opener will have a big hand and explore for slam.

The value of this bid is when the same number of tricks can be made in notrump as the major, leading to a good matchpoint board. However, sometimes, opener will think it easier to score 9 tricks than 10 at IMPs.

I originally heard this bid as being called a Jacoby 3NT bid. I've also heard it referred to as a Bergen 3NT bid.



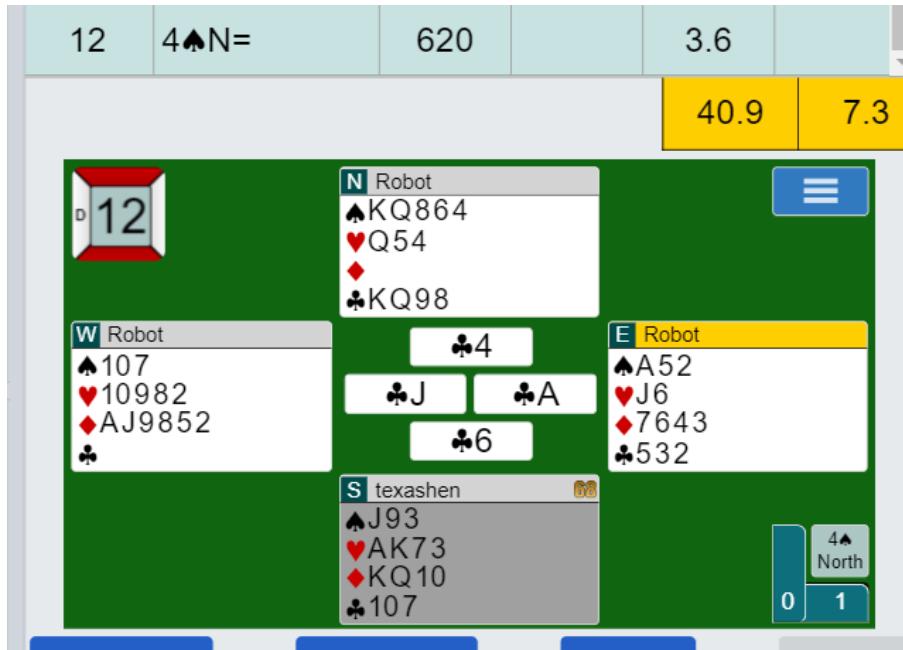
N 1S

S 3NT (the alertable 3NT bid describes this hand perfectly)

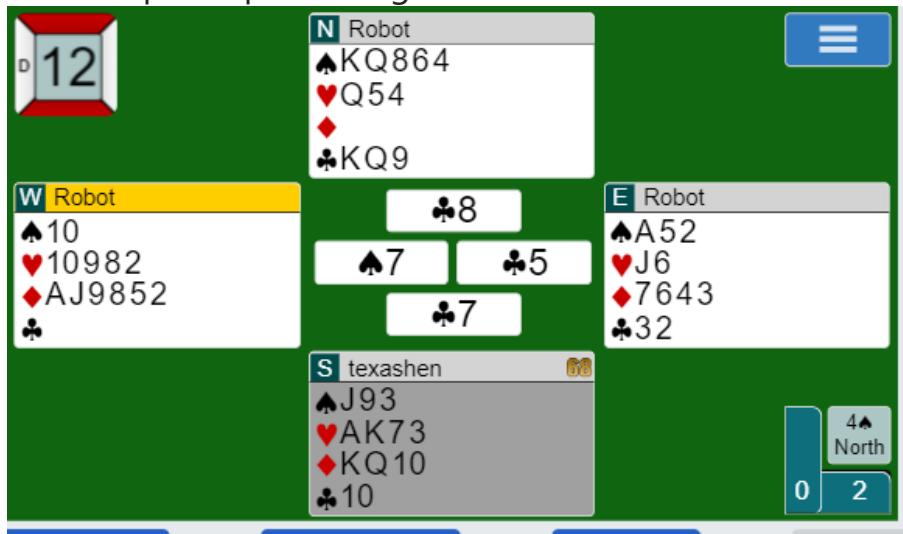
N 4S (With the diamond void, and the minimal opener, it's an easy 4S bid)

Passed out. An easy auction.

Much to my chagrin, East finds the killing lead of the Ace of clubs. Usually leading out unsupported aces is a poor lead, but not on this hand. I play the 4 from the North hand. As declarer it's best to play a low card when you want the defense to switch.



East is a poor sport and gives West a club ruff.



However, the ace of spades is East's only entry and West only has one spade left. So, the defense only gets one more trick the ace of spades.

Marty Bergen says voids are magical. North's diamond void saved the day.