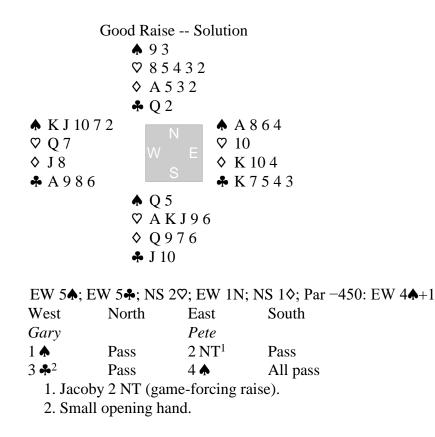


Join me as East on this deal at the Charlotte regional, playing your system. How should we respond?

The ideas described for this deal enhance those in my *E-Z Expert Bidding Tools* book and are planned to appear in a future edition.

(2024-11-30 Charlotte) https://3nt.xyz © Pete Matthews Jr

*Board 12* West Deals N-S Vul



With 4-card support for partner's major suit, that singleton is worth three points. If we play Jacoby 2 NT, that's a fine response. Gary and I play that opener always rebids bids 3  $\clubsuit$  with a small opening hand (normal strength). This is a super agreement: usually responder can rule out slam and not tell the opponents a thing. Here, we place the contract at 4  $\clubsuit$ , end of auction. On the favorable lie of the cards for this deal, partner makes 5  $\bigstar$  on an effective 9 HCP (the  $\heartsuit$  Q is wasted).

If opener were to make a standard shortness response to 2 NT, it would not fit our hand in any suit. We would refuse to cooperate with such a slam exploration. Standard Jacoby 2 NT methods do not include a way for responder to show shortness with a hand either weaker or stronger than a game-splinter. With a large hand, responder has plenty of room to try for slam over a small-hand 3 **&** rebid.

With a medium or large hand, Gary would have made a NLMH5 bid over 2 NT. If that bid were 3  $\diamond$  (no shortness), our shortness could be huge opposite a hand such as:

**▲** K Q 1072 ♥ A 73 ♦ Q 8 **♣** A Q 9 6

Our NLMH5 shortness bid over  $3 \diamond$  would be:  $3 \heartsuit$  (none),  $3 \bigstar$  (clubs), 3 NT (diamonds),  $4 \clubsuit$  (hearts, our bid). Opener asks for keycards and bids the slam.

On page 56 of the October 2024 *Bridge Bulletin*, Vic Quiros recommends playing a 3 NT response as showing a hand such as ours (4+ card support, a singleton somewhere, and 9 to 11 good HCP), concealing the singleton. If opener needs to know where the singleton is, they bid 4 **\*** (the next step), and responder bids LMH (there are other methods). However, modern responses to Jacoby 2 NT handle this hand just fine, and we have better uses for the 3 NT response.

Another fine method is to play a  $3 \diamond$  response as an artificial 4-card limit raise, as in Bergen raises. Because opener cannot pass that bid, we can use it on the way to a game, based on shape as well as high cards.