

West	North	East	South
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			1♦
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Pass	Pass	x	Pass
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2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
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?			
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2♦ was certainly forcing, but for one round, to suit agreement or to game? I was not sure and so pressed the accelerator with 3♠.

Partner was asked and described my bid as a splinter which looked like disaster was about to strike..but emerged with what he may have thought was a forcing, “waiting” 3NT bid....and I could see no reason to move anywhere, the end of a fairly unconfident sequence. I am told 2♠ would have been forcing too. Would your partnership have been confident of that?

The other two pairs got stranded in 2NT.

An invitational raise may have helped half the North-South pairs on the following board. As South, would you bid again in the following sequence:

West	North	East	South
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Pass	1♦	1♠	2♣
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2♠	3NT	Pass	?
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South held: ♠A82 ♥A96 ♦753 ♣AK73 and neither side was vulnerable.

What has North got? Certainly not a weak no-trump even if one's opening 1NT was strong. Maybe 15-17 balanced if you open a weak 1NT...or maybe not. Surely you could make 4NT opposite whatever partner might have...and do not believe that those frivolous non vulnerable opponents could have much at all:

Board 24 ♠ K 3
 West Deals ♥ J 10 7
 None Vul ♦ A K Q 8 6 4 2
 ♣ 10

♠ 10 9 7 ♥ Q 5 3 2 ♦ J 10 ♣ Q 9 6 2		♠ Q J 6 5 4 ♥ K 8 4 ♦ 9 ♣ J 8 5 4	♠ A 8 2 ♥ A 9 6 ♦ 7 5 3 ♣ A K 7 3
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<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♦	1 ♠	2 ♣
2 ♠	3 NT	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	6 NT
All pass			

3NT looks a reasonable shot on those North cards, with partner showing 10+ with clubs. When partner invites, you have a very nice source of tricks but perhaps a little concerned about controls in the other suits. So, good advice from GeO is that when you accept an invitation like the above but are worried about aces, respond 5♣ with no aces or 5♦ with one. If your partner cannot add up to a combined three, he can sign off in 5NT. On the above deal, South would be happy to accept with the only problem in the play being playing for the unlikely overtrick.

A useful bid..that quantitative raise.

Richard Solomon