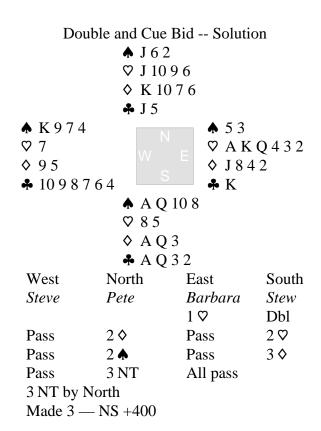
http://3nt.xyz -- Double and Cue Bid -- Problem **♠** J 6 2 ♥ J 10 9 6 ♦ K 10 7 6 ♣ J 5 West South North East Steve Barbara Stew Pete 1♡ Dbl Pass 2 💠 Pass 2♡ **2**♠ 3 ♦ Pass Pass

What does South's auction mean?

Pass

As North, what would you bid?

Board 14East Deals
None Vul



As North, I pushed on to 3 NT. On four rounds of hearts, I discarded two clubs from dummy. The spade finesse lost and diamonds failed, but the *K popped up: nine tricks, no big deal.

When dummy came down, I remarked that I had hoped for a stronger hand. Grand life master Steve Gladyszak piped up that this is how you bid an 18-point hand with 3-card support.

Definitely; I have preferred to play this way for years. Even though Eddie Kantar recommends this treatment, I was not confident that it is standard. I am now assured it is. Stew did not owe me anything with that dummy.

After making a takeout double, a cue bid suggests doubt as to strain, which usually means a good hand with 3-card support. Of course, it could be a stronger hand, but not with a non-forcing 3 ⋄ next.