

## Yeats Country Congress 2016

Commentary on the hands from Saturday Night

(Congress Pairs, Intermediate Pairs,

Novice Pairs and Open Pairs)

For the sake of simplicity I am assuming a Weak-No-Trump and 4-card major system – but the comments are relevant to any system. You can see how all the other sections handled these hands by clicking on to [fob.ie](http://fob.ie)

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ K86 ♥ A2 ♦ AQJ85 ♣ 1096</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ A543      ♠ Q10 ♥ Q73      ♥ J109864 ♦ K97      ♦ 32 ♣ A73      ♣ Q82</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ J972 ♥ K5 ♦ 1064 ♣ KJ54</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>N/S can make a lot of tricks on this board - provided declarer runs the ♣10 through East. But it's difficult to see how they can bid any of their makeable games, 3NT, 4♠ or 5♦.</p> <p>Even if North decides to upgrade his hand to 15-17, they are still unlikely to get past 1NT.</p> <p>Then there will be a few E/Ws who will be reluctant to pass (at Nil All) and they will score well if they can steal the hand in 2♥-2 undoubled.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1NT	All Pass																																					
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♠ A10832  
 ♥ A6  
 ♦ 765  
 ♣ 1042  
 ♠ 964                      ♠ K  
 ♥ J10854                  ♥ 72  
 ♦ Q4                        ♦ AJ10832  
 ♣ KJ7                      ♣ Q985  
 ♠ QJ75  
 ♥ KQ93  
 ♦ K9  
 ♣ A63

HCP	
8	
7	10
15	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	2	5	3
S	-	-	2	5	3
E	-	2	-	-	-
W	-	2	-	-	-

Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Bidding and making 4♠ will be a huge result for N/S. I don't see anyone dropping the singleton ♠K - to make 4♠+1.

Even if E/W keep quiet, not all Norths will realise just how good their hand is. Once North discovers the Spade fit (and particularly if he is able to discover that it is a 5-4 fit rather than a 5-3 fit), he can deduct a loser for having all of his points in Aces – so he has an 8 loser hand and can easily raise South's jump raise to game.

East will be itching to bid something – either by opening 1♦, or overcalling 2♦ or even overcalling an 'Unusual 1NT' on the second round. The singleton ♠K should put him off opening 1♦ - but the vulnerability will prove too much of a temptation to most. 5♦x-3, while a good sacrifice in theory, won't be a such a great score in practice as not every N/S will get to 4♠.

♠ 102  
 ♥ A1054  
 ♦ KJ853  
 ♣ 82  
 ♠ KQ8                      ♠ J9754  
 ♥ K6                        ♥ J72  
 ♦ 1097                    ♦ 4  
 ♣ QJ743                  ♣ AK106  
 ♠ A63  
 ♥ Q983  
 ♦ AQ62  
 ♣ 95

HCP	
8	
11	9
12	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	3	2	-	1
S	-	3	2	-	1
E	4	-	-	3	-
W	4	-	-	3	-

Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1NT

All Pass

E/W can make 3♠ or 4♣ but they might not have the courage to enter the auction especially since they are vulnerable. 'Duplicate Pairs' is a bidder's game and the more experienced E/W pairs will have a go and they will be well rewarded for their bravery.

Some Easts might simply bid 2♠ over South's weak No-Trump and other East's will bid 2♠ when the strong no-trump N/S's subside in their Heart fit.

<p>           ♠ Q82            ♥ KJ96            ♦ 7            ♣ QJ643            ♠ K94                  ♠ AJ7            ♥ Q72                  ♥ 1084            ♦ K865                ♦ QJ10932            ♣ 952                  ♣ K            ♠ 10653            ♥ A53            ♦ A4            ♣ A1087         </p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		9		8	11	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	-	4	3	4	S	4	-	4	3	4	E	-	2	-	-	-	W	-	2	-	-	-	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Another hand where the brave bidders will be well rewarded. Thanks to the lucky layout in the Heart suit and the lucky position of the ♣K, N/S can make 10 tricks in 4♥ or in 3NT.</p> <p>However N/S are unlikely to bid higher than 2♥. If E/W get too frisky in Diamonds they will be doubled in 3♦-1 for 200 to N/S and a very good N/S result.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	Pass	Pass	1♦	Dbl	2♦	2♥	All Pass	
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<p>           ♠ 1052            ♥ 932            ♦ A962            ♣ J82            ♠ 96                      ♠ QJ87            ♥ AQ106                ♥ J4            ♦ K105                 ♦ QJ843            ♣ AQ74                 ♣ 63            ♠ AK43            ♥ K875            ♦ 7            ♣ K1095         </p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		5		15	7	13		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	4	1	2	2	W	2	4	1	2	2	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South has the tricky '4441' hand but as long as he doesn't open a weak no-trump he should avoid trouble. If South does try a weak No-Trump opening he will probably be doubled and suffer a hefty penalty.</p> <p>If South opens 1♥, then the obvious bid for West is 1NT showing 15-17 or 16-18 and a good holding in Hearts. East can be forgiven for inviting game, either via Stayman or otherwise and as long as West doesn't accept the invite, all will be ok for E/W. There are 8 easy tricks for E/W in No-Trump and 10 easy tricks for them in a Diamond contract.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	1NT	Pass	Pass	1♥		All Pass		
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 2 ♥ K642 ♦ J9653 ♣ A53</p> <p>♠ Q10875      ♠ AJ43 ♥ Q              ♥ AJ95 ♦ Q              ♦ AK104 ♣ QJ8642      ♣ 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K96 ♥ 10873 ♦ 872 ♣ K109</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">17</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8		9	17	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	3	1	2	5	3	W	3	1	1	5	3	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>All roads lead to 4♠ here. East having all his points in Aces and Kings can deduct a loser from his hand and treat it like a 6-loser hand. But even if East does not bid game, West will surely 'come alive' with his 6-5 shape.</p> <p>There shouldn't be any complications in the play, and if declarer ruffs two Clubs in dummy he will be tripping himself up with winners - losing one just Club trick and one trump trick.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AJ76542 ♥ A52 ♦ 8 ♣ 92</p> <p>♠ Q3              ♠ 8 ♥ 763              ♥ KJ1098 ♦ 953              ♦ KQ72 ♣ KJ643          ♣ A108</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K109 ♥ Q4 ♦ AJ1064 ♣ Q75</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		9		6	13	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	-	4	2	S	-	1	-	4	2	E	2	-	2	-	-	W	2	-	2	-	-	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>N/S have an easy 10 tricks on this board – losing one heart and two Club tricks. There will be some who will languish in a Spade partscore. Those that bid 4♠ will probably just respond an immediate 4♠ to the 1NT opening bid. In fact North might just take a punt at 4♠ no matter what South opens.</p> <p>Other pairs might transfer first and then bid 4♠ and it is important that the partnership has discussed a meaning to both routes. One of the sequences – probably the transfer one – should have undertones of a 'Slam Suggestion'.</p>	West	North	East	South				1NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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♠ 32  
♥ A10  
♦ QJ108732  
♣ 43

♠ AKJ9      ♠ Q876  
♥ 863      ♥ KJ952  
♦ AK5      ♦ 6  
♣ 1096      ♣ AJ7

♠ 1054  
♥ Q74  
♦ 94  
♣ KQ852

HCP	
7	
15	11
7	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	1	-	-	-
S	-	1	-	-	-
E	2	-	4	4	3
W	2	-	4	4	2

Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♦	4♠	All Pass

E/W have an 8-card fit in both majors and 26 HCP – so once they find this out they should have no trouble bidding 4♥ or 4♠.

East might be tempted to sacrifice in 5♦ but ‘Nil All’ is not a good time to be sacrificing. Of course if West opens 1♣ then North might try a pre-emptive 3♦ overcall – but even then East will either bid 3♥ or make a Negative Double showing both majors and a major suit fit will come to light.

The ♦K takes care of one of East’s Club losers and declarer makes 10 tricks losing two Hearts and one Club trick.

♠ A106  
♥ Q63  
♦ A942  
♣ Q97

♠ K      ♠ J9853  
♥ 109875      ♥ AJ4  
♦ 763      ♦ K5  
♣ J864      ♣ 1053

♠ Q742  
♥ K2  
♦ QJ108  
♣ AK2

HCP	
12	
4	9
15	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	4	1	3	4
S	2	4	1	3	4
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

All roads lead to 3NT by N/S here. Some South’s might use Stayman en route.

The computer says there are 10 tricks available for N/S but for sure any declarer making 10 tricks will score at least 80% because it requires accurate timing and careful watching of East’s discards.

To make 10 tricks you have to lead a Heart towards dummy’s King early on, cash you minor suit winners and then endplay East in one major to lead away from his other major.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AKQ3 ♥ K105 ♦ 42 ♣ A973</p> <p>♠ 64                      ♠ 10982 ♥ AJ874                ♥ Q63 ♦ 953                    ♦ KQ1076 ♣ K54                    ♣ 8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J75 ♥ 92 ♦ AJ8 ♣ QJ1062</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">16</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8      7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		16	8      7	9	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	1	1	4	5	S	5	1	1	4	5	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Two balanced hands, a combined 25 HCP and every suit well stopped – surely a flat board with every N/S making 3NT+2? Of course not!</p> <p>As always those who find themselves in 5♣ will not score well.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
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W	-	-	-	-	-																																																					
West	North	East	South																																																							
		Pass	Pass																																																							
Pass	1♣	Pass	1NT																																																							
Pass	3NT	All Pass																																																								

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ KQ ♥ A54 ♦ A742 ♣ AQJ2</p> <p>♠ 1053                    ♠ 962 ♥ KJ76                   ♥ 10832 ♦ K10                    ♦ J865 ♣ 9653                   ♣ 107</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AJ874 ♥ Q9 ♦ Q93 ♣ K84</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">20</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7      1</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		20	7      1	12	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	6	5	2	6	6	S	6	5	2	6	6	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>When North hears his partner open the bidding, he should be immediately thinking of Slam and he could nearly respond 6NT there and then.</p> <p>Despite the easy bidding, not everyone will make 12 tricks. Declarer has 11 top tricks and when he cashes his 4 Club and 5 Spade tricks, West will be under some pressure.</p> <p>If declarer reads the position correctly, he can endplay West in one red suit to lead away from the other red suit.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass	6NT	All Pass	
HCP																																																										
20																																																										
7      1																																																										
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			1♠																																																							
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠																																																							
Pass	6NT	All Pass																																																								

Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

**West North East South**

Pass Pass 1NT Dbl

Rdbl Pass 2♣ Pass

Pass 2♠ All Pass

This hand could get very competitive at some tables. The first two passes should be routine and then East has to decide whether or not to open 1♣ or 1NT. A good tip is 'never open a weak No-Trump in third seat'.

The ♦J in the West hand is a big card meaning that E/W can make 7 tricks in Clubs or No-Trumps.

N/S will probably buy the hand in 2♥ or 2♠ making 8 tricks. Hopefully N/S won't get too high on their combined 21 points!

♠ KQ642  
♥ 92  
♦ 8752  
♣ 43

♠ 95      ♠ A 1083  
♥ 764      ♥ QJ10  
♦ J106      ♦ K9  
♣ A10876      ♣ KJ52

♠ J7  
♥ AK853  
♦ AQ43  
♣ Q9

HCP	
5	14
5	16

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	3	2	2	-
S	-	3	2	2	-
E	1	-	-	-	1
W	1	-	-	-	1

Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable

**West North East South**

Pass Pass 3♣

Dbl Pass 3♠ All Pass

Respect to any South player who opens 3NT. In third seat it has become common practice to open 3♣ or 3NT with only a 6 card suit. As the cards lie, N/S can make 9 tricks in Clubs or No-Trumps.

E/W need to be careful not to get over-board because North will be only too ready to double if they do.

♠ K952  
♥ A97  
♦ K654  
♣ 95

♠ A43      ♠ Q1086  
♥ K1042      ♥ Q6  
♦ AQ109      ♦ 8732  
♣ 74      ♣ 1063

♠ J7  
♥ J853  
♦ J  
♣ AKQJ82

HCP	
10	4
13	13

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	-	2	-	3
S	3	-	2	-	3
E	-	2	-	-	-
W	-	2	-	1	-

♠ A632  
 ♥ K8542  
 ♦ K  
 ♣ KQJ  
 ♠ KQJ10984    ♠ 5  
 ♥ 109            ♥ AJ6  
 ♦ 54             ♦ A972  
 ♣ A3             ♣ 109754  
  
 ♠ 7  
 ♥ Q73  
 ♦ QJ10863  
 ♣ 862

HCP	
16	
10	9
5	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	2	2	-	-
S	-	2	1	-	-
E	-	-	-	3	-
W	-	-	-	3	-

Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
		Pass	Pass
3♠	Dbl	Pass	4♦
All Pass			

This hand has 'trouble' written all over it for N/S. There will be some E/Ws in 3♠, others in 4♠ and quite a number of these contracts will be doubled.

If West decides to open 2♠ or even 3♠ then North might feel compelled to bid his scrawny Heart suit and end up in 4♥ doubled – although there will be worse results than that for N/S.

♠ AQ10542  
 ♥ KQ1087  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ 2  
 ♠ 976            ♠ KJ  
 ♥ J952           ♥ A43  
 ♦ 765            ♦ KQ10984  
 ♣ J73            ♣ KQ  
  
 ♠ 83  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ A32  
 ♣ A1098654

HCP	
12	
2	18
8	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	-	2	5	-
S	3	-	2	4	-
E	-	1	-	-	-
W	-	1	-	-	-

Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
			Pass
Pass	1♠	2♦	Pass
Pass	2♥	Dbl	2♠
Pass	4♠	Dbl	All Pass

Another hand where there will be many different results.

When North picks up this 6-5 hand he will want to play in 4♥ or 4♠ and nothing is going to stop him getting there – he might even rebid 4♥ at his second turn to make sure his partner gets the message. He makes 4♠ easily enough losing 2 Hearts and a Spade.

Some Souths might open 3♣ and now North might not know how to describe his hand – but he may as well just bid 4♠ and hope for the best.

Spare a thought for all the East players who were hoping to be declarer when they first looked at their hands.



♠ J  
 ♥ KQJ97  
 ♦ AQJ86  
 ♣ AQ  
 ♠ KQ95      ♠ A86  
 ♥ 106      ♥ 8543  
 ♦ K753      ♦ -  
 ♣ 962      ♣ KJ8754  
 ♠ 107432  
 ♥ A2  
 ♦ 10942  
 ♣ 103

HCP	
20	
8	8
4	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	5	3	1	3
S	-	5	3	1	3
E	2	-	-	-	-
W	2	-	-	-	-

Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

So what should North open? If he opens 1♥ he might be left there! The way to look at these hands is to imagine 4 trumps and an outside Ace or King in partner's hand. If you would have a good shot at making 4♥ with that imagined hand then you should open the bidding with a Strong opening bid.

So on this hand you should open a good old fashioned strong 2♥ (or whatever your 2016 method for showing that hand is).

South should visualise his hand as being worth 2 tricks (the Ace of trumps and a Club ruff) and raise to 4♥ - either directly or via a stronger 3♥ bid.

4♥ will make at most tables because not many Wests will be able to imagine the Diamond void in their partner's hand.

♠ AJ  
 ♥ 3  
 ♦ A974  
 ♣ A98743  
 ♠ 752      ♠ Q9864  
 ♥ J1096      ♥ AQ5  
 ♦ J83      ♦ Q62  
 ♣ QJ5      ♣ 106  
 ♠ K103  
 ♥ K8742  
 ♦ K105  
 ♣ K2

HCP	
13	
5	10
12	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	5	5	4	2	3
S	5	5	4	2	3
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	1♣	1♠	2♥
2♠	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East's 1♠ overcall might be frowned upon but whenever you get a chance to overcall 1♠ over a 1♣ opening bid by your opponents you should take it.

With the Diamonds breaking 3-3 there are 9 easy tricks in 3NT and 11 easy tricks in 5♦ and 11 incredible tricks in 5♣.

4♥ also makes – but if anyone bids and makes it – let me know!

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K10753 ♥ - ♦ J42 ♣ AK1065</p> <p>♠ J6                      ♠ 92 ♥ AKQ74                ♥ J10 ♦ AQ10                   ♦ 87653 ♣ Q87                    ♣ J942</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AQ84 ♥ 986532 ♦ K9 ♣ 3</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">18</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		11		18	2	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	-	5	-	S	1	-	-	5	-	E	-	-	1	-	-	W	-	-	1	-	-	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbf</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠ All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Any N/S getting to 4♠ will get a well deserved good result. No doubt 4♠ made won't be a complete top as there will be other lucky N/S pairs making 2♠, 3♠ and 4♠ doubled!</p> <p>Things might not turn out very well for N/S if South starts with a weak 2♥ - but even then N/S can recover if they use an SOS Redouble. However life is much better for N/S if South correctly decides to pass as dealer. West opens 1♥ and North makes a simple 1♠ overcall (or 2♥ if playing such a thing to show his Spades and his Clubs).</p> <p>South can raise directly to 4♠ but better idea is to check with partner first by using an unassuming cue bid.</p> <p>Will there be any West player who doesn't double the final contract?</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass	2♥	Dbf	3♣	Pass	4♠ All Pass
HCP																																																													
11																																																													
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 943 ♥ KQ5 ♦ 76 ♣ Q7652</p> <p>♠ KJ65                      ♠ 10 ♥ J63                        ♥ A7 ♦ AJ9                        ♦ KQ108542 ♣ K109                      ♣ AJ8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AQ872 ♥ 109842 ♦ 3 ♣ 43</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td style="text-align: center;">14</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	HCP		7		13	14	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	1	-	S	-	-	-	1	-	E	2	5	-	-	5	W	2	5	-	-	5	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>If E/W don't get a Heart lead and if they guessed that North held the ♣Q they would make 6♦. Unfortunately both North and South will be leading a Heart so 6♦ will not make.</p> <p>However with only 14 HCP, East should just settle for game and bid 3NT. In matchpoint scoring we want to be in 3NT rather than 5♦ (3NT only needs 9 tricks and 5♦ scores less than 3NT+1 or 3NT+2).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
HCP																																																									
7																																																									
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			Pass																																																						
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♠ J2  
♥ KQ96  
♦ 10986  
♣ 763

♠ A65      ♠ KQ10873  
♥ 83      ♥ J1074  
♦ A54      ♦ K  
♣ AJ1092    ♣ KQ

♠ 94  
♥ A52  
♦ QJ732  
♣ 854

HCP	
6	
13	14
7	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	5	1	2	5	4
W	5	1	2	5	4

Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Some EWs might be tempted to try for Slam here and indeed it's not an unreasonable prospect. However tonight, the defence can cash the first two Heart tricks.

However, if East plays the hand he will probably make all 13 tricks as he is unlikely to get a Heart lead. Those who use Stayman with the East hand might be able to organise that East plays the hand but those playing transfers are only going to make 11 tricks.

♠ AJ984  
♥ Q  
♦ Q972  
♣ K105

♠ Q7      ♠ K102  
♥ K42      ♥ A765  
♦ K83      ♦ J106  
♣ Q8762    ♣ 943

♠ 653  
♥ J10983  
♦ A54  
♣ AJ

HCP	
12	
10	8
10	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	2	2	3	2
S	-	2	2	3	2
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

The trick for N/S here is to avoid getting to 4♠. There doesn't even seem to be any way the defence can 'gift' you 10 tricks – as they must always get 2 trump tricks, one Heart trick and one Diamond trick.

North has a minimum opening bid so he should be rebidding 2♠ and not a game forcing 3♦. South is minimum too and could easily pass the 2♠ rebid but that would be too pessimistic so an invite to 3♠ is in order – but still North should decline the invitation with his 7-8 loser hand.

Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

**West North East South**

Pass 1♥ Pass 1NT

All Pass

1♥-1NT will be the standard start at most tables and then North has to decide whether to rebid 2♥ or pass the 1NT. There is no right answer – except whatever you decide to do – you should always do it. So you either always bid 2♥ in these situations or you always pass the 1NT. Just pick one philosophy and stick to it.

2♥ should go down but some North's that will be allowed make 2♥ - if East doesn't organise a Club ruff for himself then 2♥ will make.

Some Easts might decide to open 1♠ and if they can bid and make 2♠ that will be an excellent result for them.

♠ Q32  
 ♥ J8652  
 ♦ KJ  
 ♣ AJ9  
 ♠ J10      ♠ 98764  
 ♥ A4      ♥ K107  
 ♦ 1074    ♦ AQ86  
 ♣ K108753 ♣ Q  
           ♠ AK5  
           ♥ Q93  
           ♦ 9532  
           ♣ 642

HCP	
12	
8	11
9	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	1	-	1
S	-	-	1	-	1
E	3	1	-	2	-
W	3	1	-	2	-

Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

**West North East South**

Pass 1♠ Pass 1NT

Pass 2♥ Pass 2♠

Pass 3♣ Pass 3♥

Pass 3♠ All Pass

This could be the 'Waterloo' board for some N/S pairs. 4♠ is a very reasonable contact – it would make most nights of the week – but tonight it is doomed and some West players will double any Spade contact.

Stopping in 2♠ will be a good N/S score and even stopping in 3♠ will be good but that North hand is gorgeous looking and well worth one try for game.

♠ A10962  
 ♥ 8653  
 ♦ -  
 ♣ AKJ8  
 ♠ QJ753      ♠ 4  
 ♥ KJ7      ♥ Q102  
 ♦ K98      ♦ AQ1054  
 ♣ 102      ♣ Q653  
           ♠ K8  
           ♥ A94  
           ♦ J7632  
           ♣ 974

HCP	
12	
10	10
8	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	-	1	1	-
S	1	-	1	2	-
E	-	2	-	-	1
W	-	2	-	-	1

♠ AKQ98  
 ♥ KQ64  
 ♦ Q  
 ♣ J83

♠ 102      ♠ J543  
 ♥ J92      ♥ A1073  
 ♦ KJ763    ♦ 10984  
 ♣ AK2      ♣ 4

♠ 76  
 ♥ 85  
 ♦ A52  
 ♣ Q109765

HCP	
17	
12	5
6	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	4	-	-	1	-
S	4	-	-	1	-
E	-	2	1	-	1
W	-	2	1	-	1

Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1NT	Dbl	2♦	3NT

All Pass

Another tricky board for N/S to negotiate. It's very hard for N/S to stop short of game and 4♠ will be a popular contract. Certainly any N/S making 3♣+1 will have a huge board.

A weak No-Trump opening by West will definitely push N/S too high. North can start off with a penalty double but if E/W are playing some sort of 'Helvic' escape they will find their Diamond fit. Not many E/Ws will guess the Diamond position and will probably go off one in 2♦ or 1NT.

The 3NT in the auction above is a bit of a punt but no matter what South bids – it will be impossible to keep North quiet.

♠ 1087  
 ♥ K54  
 ♦ J1042  
 ♣ 742

♠ 53      ♠ KJ62  
 ♥ AJ72    ♥ 103  
 ♦ 763      ♦ KQ5  
 ♣ 10653    ♣ QJ98

♠ AQ94  
 ♥ Q986  
 ♦ A98  
 ♣ AK

HCP	
4	
5	12
19	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	3	2	3	2
S	1	3	2	3	2
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	Pass	1NT	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	Pass
2♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl

All Pass

An easy board for N/S this time – they just keep doubling E/W whenever they bid.

Any EW pair who manage to get out for less than 200 will get a great result on the board. Most EWs will lose at least 200.

In the above auction, West's sequence of 'pass' followed by 2♣ is used by some pairs to show 4 cards in Clubs and Hearts (extended Helvic). 2♣ doubled should get out for one down, whereas 1NT doubled should be at least 2 down.

♠ 53  
 ♥ K974  
 ♦ AJ10864  
 ♣ 8  
 ♠ QJ104      ♠ A962  
 ♥ AQ86      ♥ 1053  
 ♦ 73      ♦ K52  
 ♣ 632      ♣ 975  
 ♠ K87  
 ♥ J2  
 ♦ Q9  
 ♣ AKQJ104

HCP	
8	
9	7
16	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	4	1	-	3
S	3	4	1	-	3
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

A nice hand to finish. The above auction should be common at most tables. The trick as always is to bid 3NT as soon as you can when you hold the minor suits.

Understandably quite a lot of declarers will go down in 3NT. If you don't get a Spade lead, you have plenty of time to establish your Diamond suit and make bundles of tricks.

On the normal Spade lead, declarer's 9<sup>th</sup> trick is the King of Hearts and he succeeds by playing a Heart towards the King early on - losing one Heart and 3 Spade tricks.

But who is going to do that? So 3NT-1 at most tables.