

The analysis is based on 5-card Majors, Weak No-Trump, Transfers and Weak Two Openings in 3 suits. Our 1C opening can be 2 cards and our 1D is normally a 5 card suit.

<p>                 ♠ 10843                  ♥ QJ92                  ♦ 97                  ♣ 942                  ♠ 7652                  ♥ A106                  ♦ K52                  ♣ K87                  ♠ AK9                  ♥ 74                  ♦ QJ108                  ♣ AQ53                  ♠ QJ                  ♥ K853                  ♦ A643                  ♣ J106             </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="188 707 311 898"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="347 707 592 898"> <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>4</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		3		10	16	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N						S						E	4	4	1	3	3	W	4	4	1	3	3	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Nil All</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="611 300 1149 443"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>P</td><td>1C</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>1S</td><td>P</td><td>1NT</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>3NT</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr> </table> <p>Good evening my little treasures. Delira and excira to be back with you. Let's see if we can review these hands together, whilst at the same time extemporising on the state of our great little nation, nay the world in general.</p> <p>All roads lead to 3NT here. A heart lead holds it to 9 tricks [defence get 3 hearts and a diamond], and with hearts the unbid major, this is surely the most likely.</p> <p>If South leads a diamond [his other 4-card suit], it gives declarer the tempo to knock out the Ace and make 10 tricks for a very good score.</p> <p>I know you're all over the moon at the prospect of President Trump. Well, I am too. I think we'll be royally entertained. I'm only sorry Boris Johnson didn't make PM – Trump and Bojo would have been the greatest double act since Abbott and Costello.</p>	West	North	East	South		P	1C	P	1S	P	1NT	P	3NT	P	P	P
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<p>                 ♠ A842                  ♥ A4                  ♦ 876                  ♣ Q862                  ♠ J9                  ♥ 985                  ♦ J105                  ♣ A9754                  ♠ K3                  ♥ QJ762                  ♦ KQ92                  ♣ J10                  ♠ Q10765                  ♥ K103                  ♦ A43                  ♣ K3             </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="188 1603 311 1794"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="347 1603 592 1794"> <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>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td></td><td>1</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td></td><td>1</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	HCP		10		6	12	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N				3	2	S				3	2	E	1		1			W	1		1			<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="611 1196 1149 1339"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1H</td><td>1S</td></tr> <tr><td>2H</td><td>3H</td><td>P</td><td>3S</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>South's 1S overall could be as strong as 18 points, so North has to show game interest, which he does by bidding the opponents' suit with 3H. South is nowhere close to a maximum overcall, so will be happy with 3S. There are 9 easy tricks.</p> <p>If EW get to play in hearts, I expect they'll make 7 tricks. 3H undoubled minus 2 would probably score well.</p> <p>By the way, our chosen wine for this session is a Chilean Merlot. And before you turn up your noses, reflect on the fact that Chilean wines are derived from grafts from the old, great French vines. These French vines were themselves subsequently devastated by the Great Blight of the 1860s. So you could sensibly argue that Chilean wine is more French than the "French wine" you buy today. Cheers!</p>	West	North	East	South			1H	1S	2H	3H	P	3S	P	P	P	
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P	P	P																																																											

♠ K532  
 ♥ A93  
 ♦ A8  
 ♣ K743  
 ♠ Q10864      ♠ 9  
 ♥ QJ108      ♥ K7654  
 ♦ 9      ♦ QJ76  
 ♣ A102      ♣ Q95  
 ♠ AJ7  
 ♥ 2  
 ♦ K105432  
 ♣ J86

HCP	
14	
9	8
9	

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

Board 3 : Dealer South : EW Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			P
P	1NT	P	2NT*
P	3D	P	P
P			

\* Transfer to 3D

I play 4-suit transfers over 1NT – so 2S is a transfer to clubs and 2NT a transfer to diamonds. Passing 1NT only works if the diamonds are running – in which case you may as well play in diamonds anyway. Note that 3D from North, accepting the transfer, says “I have support for diamonds”. If South’s diamonds are AJxxxx or KQxxxx, he can occasionally pot a thin 3NT.

In passing - if North doesn’t like diamonds he bids 3C instead, saying “fine if you want to play in 3D, but I haven’t got much support for them”.

You make 3D by playing on clubs – the 13<sup>th</sup> club lets you discard your spade loser. But that’s not obvious here – there are hands where playing on spades gets you out of a club loser.

I reckon 1NT will go down more often than it makes.

♠ A32  
 ♥ 965  
 ♦ AQ92  
 ♣ 963  
 ♠ KQ8      ♠ 109754  
 ♥ AJ72      ♥ KQ4  
 ♦ J53      ♦ K87  
 ♣ A87      ♣ J10  
 ♠ J6  
 ♥ 1083  
 ♦ 1064  
 ♣ KQ542

HCP	
10	
15	9
6	

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

Board 4 : Dealer West : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1C	P	1S	P
1NT	P	2D*	P
2S	P	3S	P
3NT	P	P	P

After a 1NT rebid, a handy gadget is to play :-

- 2C from responder as a transfer to 2D, showing a hand with invitational values.
- 2D from responder [as here] as an artificial game force.

This allows you time and space to sort out whether you belong in a major suit or NT, and possibly in slam.

Here, 2S from West shows 3 card support. East invites game [and invites partner to make the last mistake ☺]. West is flat 4-3-3-3 so may opt for 3NT.

A diamond lead from North will result in 10, and possibly 11 tricks [North needs to switch to a club when in with the Ace of spades]. A club lead holds 3NT to 9 tricks. 4S is always delivering 10 tricks I reckon.

♠ A6  
 ♥ J7543  
 ♦ 72  
 ♣ QJ86  
 ♠ Q743                      ♠ K95  
 ♥ 6                              ♥ AK102  
 ♦ Q109653                  ♦ KJ  
 ♣ A7                              ♣ K432  
                                  ♠ J1082  
                                  ♥ Q98  
                                  ♦ A84  
                                  ♣ 1095

HCP	
8	
8	17
7	

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

Board 5 : Dealer North : Ns vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	P	1C	P
1D	P	1NT	P
2D*	P	2H	P
2S	P	3NT	P
P	P		

As with board 4, we have the 2D game force after the 1NT rebid. East and West both get to show their majors.

Looks like a spade lead results in 11 tricks, a heart 10 and a club 9.

Now I'm nothing if not upfront with my readership, we all know that. So I can exclusively reveal that since last I beguiled you in this august publication, a dire tragedy has befallen me. To wit, I am in love. It's awful, it's dreadful and there should be a law against it, but there it is. You can call her Tooma [The Object Of My Affections]. So if you detect a certain mellowing of my normal acerbic style, it's all Tooma's fault.

♠ J5432  
 ♥ 1054  
 ♦ AK84  
 ♣ 10  
 ♠ KQ87                      ♠ 10  
 ♥ AK9                        ♥ QJ6  
 ♦ 53                            ♦ Q62  
 ♣ KJ53                        ♣ A87642  
                                  ♠ A96  
                                  ♥ 8732  
                                  ♦ J1097  
                                  ♣ Q9

HCP	
8	
16	9
7	

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

Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		P	P
1C	X*	2NT*	P
3NT	P	P	P

I think North is better to double 1C for takeout rather than bid 1S on that awful suit. Doubling certainly overstates his values, but South has already passed and they're non-vul against vul. Pairs is all about competing in the auction when prudent.

2NT from responder after partner's 1-level opener is doubled shows 10-12 points and at least 4-card support [ie an Acol raise to 3 of the suit]. It allows you to bid 3 of the suit with weaker hands and 4-card trump support, often stealing the pot. Note that in this case 2NT promises at least 5 clubs, because 1C promises only 2.

West actually has 4 clubs so he knows there's a good fit there. He'll bid 3NT to show a strong 1NT opener – and he'll reason that East must have diamonds stopped with his 10-12 point hand.

There are 10 tricks on the lead of the Jack of diamonds. A bright North may win the Ace [ostensibly denying the King], and return a low one [hoping declarer has Q10x and will play the ten], but here East has no option but to put up the Queen.

♠ 65  
 ♥ J98532  
 ♦ 1062  
 ♣ K9  
 ♠ 1082                      ♠ A974  
 ♥ K                              ♥ Q104  
 ♦ AKJ985                      ♦ Q  
 ♣ 652                              ♣ J10843  
                                  ♠ KQJ3  
                                  ♥ A76  
                                  ♦ 743  
                                  ♣ AQ7

HCP	
4	
11	9
16	

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

Board 7 : South : Both vulnerable

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
			1C
1D	1H	1NT	P
P	2H	P	P
P			

Good contest here in the auction.

I think 2H is booked for one down. 1NT by EW just has the 7 top tricks on the obvious King of spades lead...but South has 3 discards to find on the run of the diamonds [luckily the 10 falls], so the odd 120 would be a very good score.

I don't think West should press on to 3D vulnerable. He's got 6 black losers and the bare King of hearts, a suit bid by North. 3D should be 2 down, but would escape for 1 down on a heart lead.

Another old pairs dictum is to concentrate on getting positive scores, and West would do well to heed it here.

♠ 63  
 ♥ 9764  
 ♦ AKJ1043  
 ♣ 5  
 ♠ 92                              ♠ AQJ1084  
 ♥ KJ10                              ♥ 85  
 ♦ Q92                              ♦ 8  
 ♣ AJ1098                              ♣ 7642  
                                  ♠ K75  
                                  ♥ AQ32  
                                  ♦ 765  
                                  ♣ KQ3

HCP	
8	
11	7
14	

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

Board 8 : Dealer West : Nil all

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1NT	2D	2S	2NT
P	P	P	

West will upgrade his hand to 12 points in light of the very good clubs. South will think there are an awful lot of points in the deck – he's got 14 points and everybody else has had a bid before him!! He's got a flat hand so 2NT appeals as the value bid.

8 tricks are the limit, assuming East ducks the spade lead – or wins and switches to a club. South ought to get diamonds right given West's opening bid.

It looks very hard for NS to find their heart fit – a good score awaits if you manage it!

<p>♠ 1062 ♥ Q98 ♦ J963 ♣ KQ6</p> <p>♠ AQ987      ♠ K ♥ J2            ♥ AK763 ♦ 742           ♦ AQ5 ♣ J73           ♣ 9854</p> <p>♠ J543 ♥ 1054 ♦ K108 ♣ A102</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>8</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><th>N</th><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><th>S</th><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><th>E</th><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr> <tr><th>W</th><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr> </table>	HCP		8		8	16	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N						S						E	2	2	1	1		W	2	2	1	1		<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>P</td> <td>1H</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1S</td> <td>P</td> <td>2C</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2H</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </table> <p>Despite holding a combined 24 points, EW ought to be able to stay low here. I think 2H will sneak home and score well enough. Declarer can take a discard on a spade. Some Souths may even be kind enough to lead a diamond, the unbid suit.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		P	1H	P	1S	P	2C	P	2H	P	P	P
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<p>♠ 4 ♥ Q ♦ AQJ1086 ♣ KJ1053</p> <p>♠ 1076      ♠ AKQ2 ♥ AJ873      ♥ 42 ♦ 543        ♦ K972 ♣ Q2        ♣ A98</p> <p>♠ J9853 ♥ K10965 ♦ - ♣ 764</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>4</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><th>N</th><td>3</td><td>1</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><th>S</th><td>3</td><td>1</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><th>E</th><td></td><td></td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><th>W</th><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		13		7	16	4		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	1				S	3	1				E			2	1	1	W			1	1	1	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : Both vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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></td> <td>1C</td> <td>2D*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This one is a live wire 😊</p> <p>You need a system to show overcalling hands with 2 5-card suits. There are 2 in use – Ghestem and Michaels. If you're aware of both, I am in the Ghestem camp because it specifies both suits, whereas Michaels does not specify the minor.</p> <p>Over 1C, 2D in Ghestem shows the majors [2NT is hearts and diamonds, 3C is spades and diamonds]. You should agree that the Ghestem overcall shows either a strong or a weak hand. Here, that makes it easy for North to see that South is weak and that this is a misfit. Happily he can pass 2D, holding reasonable trump support!!</p> <p>2D will make unless EW find a club ruff, which is unlikely. I doubt 90 will score that well, as there will I'm sure be many EW pairs going down in NT contracts.</p> <p>If South passes over the 1C opening, West will bid 1H and North has a classic 2NT [unusual NT] bid, showing the minors, 5-5 at least. This may well lead to NS playing in and making, 3C doubled. Well done if you did that!</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1C	2D*	P	P	P	
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<p>♠ 86 ♥ 8543 ♦ A983 ♣ K83</p> <p>♠ K1093                  ♠ J52 ♥ 6                          ♥ KQJ1097 ♦ 76542                  ♦ KQ ♣ 1062                    ♣ Q9</p> <p>♠ AQ74 ♥ A2 ♦ J10 ♣ AJ754</p> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; margin-right: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"> <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>3</td><td></td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td></td><td>2</td><td>2</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		7		3	14	16		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	3		2	2	S	4	3		2	2	E			1			W			1			<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Nil All</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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></td> <td></td> <td>1C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1H</td> <td>P</td> <td>1S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>A partscore in NT, realising 8 tricks, should be a common result.</p> <p>Time for a progress report on the wine situation. It's going down rather well, thankshhh for asking. Bottomsh up!</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1C	P	1H	P	1S	P	1NT	P	2NT	P	P	P	
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<p>♠ K942 ♥ K1043 ♦ 3 ♣ A743</p> <p>♠ Q10                      ♠ J8763 ♥ 65                          ♥ AQ92 ♦ AK106                  ♦ 842 ♣ KQ1052              ♣ 9</p> <p>♠ A5 ♥ J87 ♦ QJ975 ♣ J86</p> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; margin-right: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"> <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>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10		14	7	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N						S						E	2	2	1	2	1	W	2	2	1	2	1	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>1NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>2C</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2D</td> <td>p</td> <td>2S</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>West's 5-4-2-2 shape is known as "semi-balanced", and it's normal enough to treat it as if it were a "normal" balanced hand. The alternative is to open 1C and plan to rebid 2C when partner responds in a major.</p> <p>2S from East, after the 2D answer to Stayman, shows 5 spades and 4 hearts, and no further interest.</p> <p>2S should make. Any diamond ruff[s] North scores are really with natural trump tricks anyway.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1NT	P	2C	P	2D	p	2S	P	P	P		
HCP																																																													
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<p>♠ KQJ963 ♥ J76 ♦ 72 ♣ 52</p> <p>♠ 107                      ♠ 854 ♥ K3                        ♥ AQ95 ♦ AK853                  ♦ J1096 ♣ Q987                    ♣ A3</p> <p>♠ A2 ♥ 10842 ♦ Q4 ♣ KJ1064</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>10</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>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>4</td><td>2</td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		7		12	11	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N				1		S				1		E	2	4	2		1	W	2	4	2		1	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : Both vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>2S</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North's weak 2S opener is likely to steal the pot. West can't double for takeout because he doesn't have hearts. If he's eaten all his Weetabix, he might try 3D, which will yield a very good score.</p> <p>2S – 1 should be common.</p> <p>"There's always one" is one of life's little aphorisms. So I'll venture to predict that there will be one instance of East declaring in NT and making 11 tricks on a club lead.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		2S	P	P	P			
HCP																																																									
7																																																									
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<p>♠ QJ2 ♥ A83 ♦ Q9632 ♣ J3</p> <p>♠ -                            ♠ AK10986543 ♥ QJ10962                ♥ 4 ♦ K10754                 ♦ - ♣ 104                      ♣ Q92</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ K75 ♦ AJ8 ♣ AK8765</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>15</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>3</td><td>3</td><td></td><td></td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td><td></td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>2</td><td></td></tr> </table>	HCP		10		6	9	15		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	3			4	S	3	4			4	E				2		W				2		<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Nil all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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></td> <td>4S</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Question – what do you call a 9-card suit head by AK? Answer – trumps.</p> <p>East has too few points for a strong 2C opening. South has a normal double of 4S.</p> <p>4S is 2 down most days, unless the defence begin with 3 rounds of clubs. If they lead a club and switch, East would have to lead the Queen of clubs to pin North's Jack in order to limit his losses to down one.</p> <p>I think 300 will be a near top, because the only game available to NS is 3NT, and that's not an option once 4S is opened.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			4S	X	P	P	P	
HCP																																																									
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P	P	P																																																							

♠ Q1062  
♥ K64  
♦ A854  
♣ A10

♠ -                      ♠ J73  
♥ 87                      ♥ AQJ32  
♦ 10976                  ♦ Q32  
♣ J985432              ♣ Q6

♠ AK9854  
♥ 1095  
♦ KJ  
♣ K7

HCP	
13	
1	12
14	

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

Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1S
P	2NT*	P	3S
P	4C	P	4D
P	4H	P	4NT
P	5S	P	6S
P	P	P	

Have to admit I'd be likely to go overboard and bid slam here.

2NT is the widely-used Jacoby response to a major suit opening. It shows 4-card support and game values. 3S shows a non-minimum opener, usually promising a sixth spade. 4C 4D and 4H are cuebids. 4NT is Blackwood and 5S shows 2 of the 5 Aces plus the Queen of trumps.

Sadly, 6S has no play - the duplication in hearts and clubs is a bummer.

If you play in 4S, careful play will realise 11 tricks.

♠ KQJ97  
♥ A76  
♦ KJ54  
♣ 10

♠ 8                      ♠ 652  
♥ KQ85                  ♥ J10943  
♦ 1063                  ♦ A2  
♣ J6532                  ♣ K74

♠ A1043  
♥ 2  
♦ Q987  
♣ AQ98

HCP	
14	
6	8
12	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	5		6	2
S	1	5		6	2
E			1		
W			1		

Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
P	1S	P	2NT*
P	3D	P	4NT
P	5S	P	6S
P	P	P	

As with board 15, 2NT is the Jacoby response, game forcing with 4-card trump support. 3D is natural, and now South's hand is huge. They've got a fit in two suits, and he's got Ace and singleton in the other two.

6S makes easily, you can ruff 2 hearts in the South hand. Even the club finesse works if you needed it, which you don't. So you have a cold slam on 26 combined points [24 really, since the club Queen isn't needed].

There's a case for bidding 6D rather than 6S, because the long spade in North could yield a vital discard. Unluckily, a spade ruff beats 6D. If you were in 6D-1, I'd suggest you keep your money in your pocket at Cheltenham next month!



♠ AQJ7  
 ♥ 94  
 ♦ AKQ8  
 ♣ K87  
 ♠ 98                      ♠ 62  
 ♥ A732                    ♥ QJ1065  
 ♦ J63                      ♦ 9542  
 ♣ J1053                   ♣ 96  
                          ♠ K10543  
                          ♥ K8  
                          ♦ 107  
                          ♣ AQ42

HCP	
19	
6	3
12	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	4	4	1	5	2
S	5	5	2	6	6
E					
W					

Board 17 : Dealer North : Nil All

West	North	East	South
	1C	P	1S
P	4S	P	4NT
P	5S	P	6S
P	P	P	

Lawksamercy – 3 slam hands in a row! I reckon they’re juicing the dealing machine!!

You need to play 6S from South, because if North plays it a heart lead beats it.

Once North’s diamonds are on the table as dummy, East will hold his 4 diamonds, saving the overtrick. West might lead his heart Ace anyway.

If you were in 6S-1, then as with the previous board, I’d suggest you keep your powder dry at Cheltenham! But since I like you so much, here’s a tip. Look for horses in handicaps trained by Dan Skelton, and fill yer boots ☺ .

♠ 72  
 ♥ A875  
 ♦ 875  
 ♣ KQJ2  
 ♠ KJ5                      ♠ Q108643  
 ♥ QJ9                      ♥ 6  
 ♦ AK964                   ♦ Q10  
 ♣ 105                      ♣ 9863  
                          ♠ A9  
                          ♥ K10432  
                          ♦ J32  
                          ♣ A74

HCP	
10	
14	4
12	

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

Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		P	1NT
X	XX	2S	P
P	P		

A spade partscore should be common enough, and 8 tricks should be normal [though beware my “there’s always one” rule, which says that someone will be allowed to make 10].

If South opens 1H rather than 1NT, NS may be allowed to play in 3H, and one down in that contract should be a good score.

Do you ever despair of your children? I do, all the time. Just recently we were out at dinner when my eldest [26 and counting] announced that in her considered opinion, the Twin Towers had been destroyed by the CIA. Whilst I was scanning the floor for my jaw, numbers 2 and 4 [23 and 14] pitched in to say that this was common knowledge – the USA needed some justification for going after Bin Laden.

Reeling at this point, I fixed my gaze on number 3 [22 and counting] – a first-class honours Engineering graduate, possessed of a fine [and expensively educated] enquiring mind. “That’s complete rubbish” he pronounced. I was close to tears, I don’t mind telling you. “Quite right, my boy. Just like those halfwit conspiracy theories about the JFK assassination or the moon landings”. At which point he pulled a face and said “well.....I’m not convinced about the moon landings”.

If this is rock’n’roll, I want my old job back.

♠ K52  
 ♥ 7  
 ♦ AQJ952  
 ♣ J83  
 ♠ -                      ♠ J10976  
 ♥ Q1096542        ♥ J83  
 ♦ 1076                ♦ 83  
 ♣ K72                 ♣ 654  
 ♠ AQ843  
 ♥ AK  
 ♦ K4  
 ♣ AQ109

HCP	
11	
5	2
22	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	5	6		5	6
S	6	6		5	6
E			1		
W			1		

Board 19 : Dealer South : EW Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			2NT
P	3S*	P	3NT
P	4D	P	4H
P	4S	P	4NT
P	5D	P	6D
P	P	P	

There are a couple of important aspects arising in the bidding of this hand.

First, you have to open 2NT as South, because there are many hands where North will not be able to respond to a 1S opening, but you are cold for game.

The second point is that you need to be able to bid minor suit slams after a 2NT opener. I play 3S as showing slam interest in a minor – it directs partner to bid 3NT, then 4D is a slam try in that suit. If South doesn't like diamonds, 4NT is a signoff.

Even the spade ruff at trick one doesn't beat 6D, as long as you play small from dummy – as you should.

God between us and all harm, that's four slams in five hands!! Maybe the apocalypse is upon us.

If you played in 6S/7S or 7D – what can I say? There ain't no justice.

♠ A10987  
 ♥ AK2  
 ♦ J1064  
 ♣ J  
 ♠ KQ32                ♠ J6  
 ♥ J85                 ♥ 9764  
 ♦ 975                 ♦ AKQ  
 ♣ AQ10                ♣ K854  
 ♠ 54  
 ♥ Q103  
 ♦ 832  
 ♣ 97632

HCP	
13	
12	13
2	

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

Board 20 : Dealer West : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1NT	P	2C	P
2S	P	3NT	P
P	P		

3NT making 9 tricks should be the order of the day.

Maybe North will double or venture 2S – will he get out for 2SX-2?? Will EW play 1NT redoubled +2?? Will Jorry Oddums remember being in the IRA? Will Mayo ever win an All-Ireland???

Good news - Daniel O'Donnell is now playing bridge in Donegal!!!

You see - now you've got me all agitated and upset. Tooma is not best pleased and no mistake. I have to go to lie down for a while. Perchance to dream.

♠ Q76  
 ♥ J864  
 ♦ 108  
 ♣ 9865  
 ♠ K10                      ♠ 94  
 ♥ 10                         ♥ K75  
 ♦ K654                     ♦ AQJ972  
 ♣ AKQJ74                 ♣ 32  
                               ♠ AJ8532  
                               ♥ AQ932  
                               ♦ 3  
                               ♣ 10

HCP	
3	
16	10
11	

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

Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	P	1D	3C*
4NT	P	5D	P
P	P		

Oooooohhhhhhhmmmm - ah, peace and tranquillity are restored after that awful last board.

I love watching PMQs at Westminster – I had a sheltered upbringing. So I refer the Honourable Member to the answer I gave on board 10!

3C is Ghestem again, showing the majors 5-5.

West can see a slam if partner has two Aces for his opener, but there's just the one. 5D making is normal.

From the Twilight Zone, I can see South leading a major suit against 3NT by East, resulting in plus 4!!!!

♠ KQ103  
 ♥ 3  
 ♦ Q1094  
 ♣ AJ107  
 ♠ 962                      ♠ J75  
 ♥ 106                     ♥ KJ874  
 ♦ J653                     ♦ A82  
 ♣ 9832                     ♣ 64  
                               ♠ A84  
                               ♥ AQ952  
                               ♦ K7  
                               ♣ KQ5

HCP	
12	
1	9
18	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	6	5	4	6	6
S	6	5	4	6	6
E					
W					

Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
		P	1H
P	1S	P	2NT
P	3NT	P	P
P			

South's 2NT shows 18-19, but North has a singleton in partner's 5-card suit, so ought to be content with game.

Many learned treatises have been written, attesting to the proposition that leading from Jxxx against a NT contract is not a good idea. I have long since been persuaded that this is true – and a diamond lead here lets out 12 easy tricks. I'd lead a club – South can still come to 12 tricks but it isn't nearly so easy.

Stick around, folks – I'm giving yiz pearls here.

♠ 95  
 ♥ K7  
 ♦ AQ106542  
 ♣ A2  
 ♠ A108432      ♠ J6  
 ♥ 952            ♥ AQJ84  
 ♦ K73            ♦ J98  
 ♣ J                ♣ Q96  
                  ♠ KQ7  
                  ♥ 1063  
                  ♦ -  
                  ♣ K1087543

HCP	
13	
8	11
8	

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

Board 23 : South : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			P
2S	3D	3S	P
P	P	P	

Those of you who know me will appreciate that my bidding style is not that of a shrinking violet, to put it mildly. Why then, I hear you ask, do I pass up the opportunity of opening 3C as south?

The answer, sadly, is that I'm getting conservative and disciplined in my old age. I don't like to pre-empt in front of partner when I've got two 3-card majors; what if he's got 11-15 points and a 5 or 6 card major?? Second, if I pre-empt vulnerable in a minor suit, I like to have the agreement that it promises two of the top three honours. For these and all my sins, I'm a passer.

As it happens, 3C making is going to be a near top, since EW can make 3S. I think East is just about worth 3S here on the bidding given.

♠ K1093  
 ♥ QJ  
 ♦ A92  
 ♣ J1062  
 ♠ J72            ♠ 86  
 ♥ A872           ♥ 109  
 ♦ -                ♦ KQJ1076543  
 ♣ K87543        ♣ -  
                  ♠ AQ54  
                  ♥ K6543  
                  ♦ 8  
                  ♣ AQ9

HCP	
11	
8	6
15	

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

Board 24 : Dealer West : Nil all

West	North	East	South
P	P	4D	X
P	P	P	

With those hearts, I would not open the North hand - yuk!

If you opened only 3D as East, the words "lily" and "livered" spring to mind.

Over 4D, NS are fixed and have little option but to take the money – one down [unless South kicks off with the Ace of clubs ?!?!].

You'd like to play in 4S as NS wouldn't you? However, the cruel lie of the cards dooms it – diamond ruff, two club ruffs and the heart Ace. Jeez Louise!!

If you've read the wonderful Victor Mollo books about the Hideous Hog and his pals, then as East against 4S you'd lead the THREE of diamonds – suit preference for a club return ☺ .

♠ QJ103  
 ♥ J6  
 ♦ QJ764  
 ♣ 54  
 ♠ 87  
 ♥ 109832  
 ♦ K952  
 ♣ K10  
 ♠ AK4  
 ♥ AQ7  
 ♦ 108  
 ♣ AJ873  
 ♠ 9652  
 ♥ K54  
 ♦ A3  
 ♣ Q962

HCP	
7	
6	18
9	

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

Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	P	1C	P
1H	P	2S	P
2NT	P	3H	P
4H	P	P	P

East has a tricky rebid, because the hand might belong in hearts or NT. I think 2S is best, it's unlikely to cause problems and isn't a huge distortion. Now 3H over 2NT shows exactly what East has.

If you play a club to the ten, you make 11 tricks.

For the 3NTers, West can make ten tricks on a diamond lead with the right guess in clubs. East will get a spade lead, which holds 3NT to 9 tricks.

♠ 874  
 ♥ Q1054  
 ♦ KQ10  
 ♣ KJ7  
 ♠ 963  
 ♥ A976  
 ♦ J98  
 ♣ 1054  
 ♠ K102  
 ♥ 8  
 ♦ A753  
 ♣ AQ862  
 ♠ AQJ5  
 ♥ KJ32  
 ♦ 642  
 ♣ 93

HCP	
11	
5	13
11	

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

Board 26: Dealer East : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1C	X
1H	1NT	P	P
P			

Once West bids hearts I can't see NS finding their fit for 140.

I'd double as South, even with minimum values, because of my chunky majors. I hope it's clear that 1NT is plenty from North – opponents have opened, responded and bid his suit!!!

There are always 7 tricks in 1NT.

<p>♠ A985 ♥ Q8 ♦ J93 ♣ A643</p> <p>♠ 1043                      ♠ KQ762 ♥ K10963                  ♥ 75 ♦ K8                            ♦ 76 ♣ 1087                        ♣ KQJ2</p> <p>♠ J ♥ AJ42 ♦ AQ10542 ♣ 95</p> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; margin-right: 10px;"> <tr><td>HCP</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>6      11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>4</td><td></td><td></td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td></td><td>4</td><td></td><td></td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td></td><td></td><td>2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td></td><td></td><td>2</td><td></td></tr> </table>	HCP	11	6      11	12	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N		4			2	S		4			2	E	1			2		W	1			2		<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Nil All</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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></td> <td></td> <td>1D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1S</td> <td>P</td> <td>2D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North's 1S response will keep EW out of their spade partscore.</p> <p>8 tricks every day of the week, apart from the days when East leads a low spade!!</p> <p>Well done if you judged to play in diamonds – a well deserved top!</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1D	P	1S	P	2D	P	2NT	P	P	P			
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<p>♠ K862 ♥ - ♦ K854 ♣ A9543</p> <p>♠ Q543                      ♠ AJ9 ♥ A764                      ♥ Q832 ♦ J2                            ♦ A10976 ♣ J72                        ♣ 8</p> <p>♠ 107 ♥ KJ1095 ♦ Q3 ♣ KQ106</p> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; margin-right: 10px;"> <tr><td>HCP</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>8      11</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</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>1</td><td>1</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	HCP	10	8      11	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4				1	S	4				1	E			1			W		1	1			<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>1D</td> <td>1H</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1S</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>2C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>3C</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </table> <p>An interesting partscore deal.</p> <p>South simply HAS to bid 2C at his second turn. Opponents are happy to play in 1S – give them, say, 22 combined points. South has 11 and no defence to 1S, so partner must have a few scattered values - 2C is clear. Even if North is weak with diamonds, that's fine.</p> <p>Ten tricks in clubs is the optimum for NS.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	P	P	1D	1H	1S	P	P	2C	P	3C	P	P
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P	3C	P	P																																																						

♠ 54  
♥ 9632  
♦ A107  
♣ A1065

♠ AK93                      ♠ J1086  
♥ 7                              ♥ Q85  
♦ KQ985                      ♦ J42  
♣ Q73                          ♣ KJ8

♠ Q72  
♥ AKJ74  
♦ 63  
♣ 942

HCP	
8	
14	8
10	

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

Board 29 : Dealer North : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1H
X	3H	3S	P
P	P		

A good contest between the major suits here.

If you haven't heard of the Law of Total Tricks, I can tell you it's well worth a read. Essentially it says that there are the same number of tricks as there are trumps between the hands. In this case, NS have 9 hearts and EW have 8 spades, so the Law says there are 17 tricks available. That means that if NS make 3H then EW make 2S, and if EW make 3S then NS make 2H.

That being so, East knows that 3S could make, and is at worst one down versus a making 3H. It's a close call but I'm a 3S bidder.

3S has 9 tricks and 3H has 8 – isn't the Law a wonderful thing!!

♠ K73  
♥ AKJ654  
♦ 7  
♣ A42

♠ AJ94                      ♠ Q82  
♥ 92                              ♥ 108  
♦ AQ4                          ♦ K1065  
♣ J987                          ♣ K1053

♠ 1065  
♥ Q73  
♦ J9832  
♣ Q6

HCP	
15	
12	8
5	

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

Board 30 : Dealer East : Nil all

West	North	East	South
		P	P
1NT	2H	P	P
P			

Doesn't matter what your methods are, this hand is destined for a heart contract by NS. And I just know that as East, you'd always lead a diamond rather than a club, because K1065 is much stronger than K1053 – now isn't that right, boys and girls?!?

<p>♠ 53 ♥ KQ74 ♦ A952 ♣ A64</p> <p>♠ Q842                      ♠ A10 ♥ A                              ♥ 1098632 ♦ K643                      ♦ J10 ♣ QJ107                      ♣ 953</p> <p>♠ KJ976 ♥ J5 ♦ Q87 ♣ K82</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>10</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>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</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		13		12	5	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	2	1	1	3	S	1	2	1	2	3	E						W						<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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></td> <td></td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1C</td> <td>P</td> <td>1H</td> <td>1S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>I wouldn't make a takeout double as North, as I don't want partner jumping around in spades. Once South bids 1S, North has to show some sort of life [he's got 13 points more than he's shown!]. I wouldn't quibble if you prefer 1NT to 2NT.</p> <p>NT plays well, thanks to the friendly lies in hearts and spades.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				P	1C	P	1H	1S	P	2NT	P	P	P			
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<p>♠ 82 ♥ 2 ♦ K1032 ♣ QJ10632</p> <p>♠ Q53                      ♠ AKJ10 ♥ A943                      ♥ QJ107 ♦ QJ74                      ♦ 98 ♣ A8                      ♣ K97</p> <p>♠ 9764 ♥ K865 ♦ A65 ♣ 54</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>7</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>1</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		6		13	14	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N						S						E	1	2	4	5	4	W	1	2	4	5	4	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>1NT</td> <td>3C</td> <td>4C</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4H</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </table> <p>3C is pre-emptive. Put it this way – if I were dealer with that hand I'd open 3C because my majors are very weak. You can denounce me from the pulpit and send me to Coventry, but it's 3C from me every time.</p> <p>That gives East a thorny problem. He's forced to bid 4C, showing the majors. Happily, West has hearts.</p> <p>Note that 4NT from West over 4C would be signoff, denying a major.</p> <p>If you played in 3C doubled down 2 or 3 – when are you free for a game??</p> <p>Goodness me, is it that time already? Well, the wine's all gone anyhow. Say goodnight to the folks, Gracie. It's goodnight from me and it's goodnight from him. Hasta luego. Vamos muchachos!! Onwards and upwards. Death to the infidel. Après moi le deluge. Up the Republic.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1NT	3C	4C	P	4H	P	P	P
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