

The analysis is based on 4-card Majors, Weak No-Trump (Strong NT mentioned), Transfers and Weak Two Openings in 3 suits.

<p>♠ Q7642 ♥ 8764 ♦ J5 ♣ Q5</p> <p>♠ J953                      ♠ A ♥ J1095                      ♥ AK ♦ 107632                    ♦ AK8 ♣ -                              ♣ AKJ8742</p> <p>♠ K108 ♥ Q32 ♦ Q94 ♣ 10963</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;">5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">26</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</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></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		5		2	26	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N						S						E	5	6	4	2	4	W	5	6	4	2	4	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Nil All</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2C</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2D</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3C</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3D</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4C</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4H</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6D</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>East picks up a monster here, and after North passes East should open their strongest bid, whatever that may be, 2C or 2D. West should make a negative response, as even with the void, their hand is lacking in controls. East will follow this up with an obvious 3C bid and after hearing 3D from their partner, East has a clear 4C rebid. West now should bid a natural 4H, since they don't have strong enough diamonds to rebid them. Pretty sure of the fact that his partner has five diamonds now, East can bid 6D safely enough. The play will go fine, with West pulling trumps and ruffing a club in hand.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		P	2C	P	2D	P	3C	P	3D	P	4C	P	4H	P	6D	P	P	P		
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<p>♠ Q1083 ♥ K97 ♦ 76532 ♣ 4</p> <p>♠ 95                              ♠ J74 ♥ A10432                      ♥ J85 ♦ AJ1098                      ♦ 4 ♣ 5                              ♣ AQJ987</p> <p>♠ AK62 ♥ Q6 ♦ KQ ♣ K10632</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;">5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">17</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 style="text-align: center;">1</td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	HCP		5		9	9	17		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1			2	1	S	1	1		2	1	E			3			W			3			<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS Vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">3C</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>East here has a very reasonable 3C opening bid; they only have 6 cards in the suit but it a relatively strong one, and it describes their hand to their partner well enough in first hand while also getting in the way of their opponents. South must pass even with their 17 count - they aren't strong enough for 3NT - don't have enough spades for 3S - and they have too many clubs for a takeout double, which would show a shortage. It is still much more useful to be playing takeout doubles here, as a hand like this which wants to penalise straight away is rare. West has a nice looking hand, but with only one club, and nine points, they shouldn't bid over their partner's pre-empt. Now if North has their eye on the ball, they can make a good takeout double here. With the singleton club and the length in other suits, it's not unreasonable that you and your partner have a reasonable chance of a 3-level contract yourselves, or even a large penalty if your partner has a hand like they have. It will be tempting for West to come back in over the double with 3D, but I think this is too risky, and they should trust that their partner won't go too far off after pre-empting in first seat, and having two aces in dummy. Unfortunately as the cards lie, it's not going to go well at all for declarer, and a good defence will bring in a nice +500.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			3C	P	P	X	P	P	P			
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♠ A752  
 ♥ A76  
 ♦ K85  
 ♣ 1065  
 ♠ QJ4                      ♠ 10983  
 ♥ J98                        ♥ 10432  
 ♦ A102                      ♦ J  
 ♣ 9832                      ♣ AJ74  
 ♠ K6  
 ♥ KQ5  
 ♦ Q97643  
 ♣ KQ

HCP	
11	
8	6
15	

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

Board 3 : Dealer South : EW Vulnerable

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

NS should reach 3NT here in a fairly normal uncontested auction. South, though will have a decision to make about their rebid, whether they want to choose 2D or 1NT. I prefer 2D as 1NT might be overselling their hand with the weak diamond suit and KQ alone in clubs, and it also describes their shape better.

Either way, whatever you bid you should still end up in 3NT, just with different declarers. East should elect to lead a small club on this auction; with spades being bid before them it would be unwise to lead into them. After the club situation unravels itself, giving the defence three tricks, declarer will see that they must play diamonds for one loser to bring in the contract. Declarer will need a little luck and guesswork here, as there is no way to figure out the layout of the diamonds. The winning play turns out to be playing small to the queen, losing to the ace, and then finessing West for the ten, which is not an obvious play.

I would not be surprised to find many declarers a trick short in this contract. 5D fares no better as a contract as, while you have less clubs to lose, you face the exact same problem in diamonds, playing them for one loser.

♠ Q653  
 ♥ 42  
 ♦ K762  
 ♣ 953  
 ♠ J102                      ♠ K9874  
 ♥ AK65                      ♥ J  
 ♦ Q                            ♦ 8543  
 ♣ QJ874                      ♣ K106  
 ♠ A  
 ♥ Q109873  
 ♦ AJ109  
 ♣ A2

HCP	
5	
13	7
15	

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

Board 4 : Dealer West : Both Vulnerable

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

At last we see some competition in the auction. The first two bids in the auction are very straightforward, and then we get to South. South can double here, to show a two-suiter in hearts and diamonds, or they can overcall 2H. I prefer the 2H bid as your partner is going to find it difficult to believe that you ever have a six card heart suit if you don't bid them the first time. Despite the weakness of the suit, I still think it's worth a bid given the strength of the rest of South's hand, with them only having four and a half losers. A point of note here is that 2S from South would not be a cue bid, showing a two-suiter, it would be a strong hand with a solid spade suit. Anyway, over the overcall, West makes a support double, telling their partner that they have three card spade support. This is not encouraging enough for East to go anywhere and they should bid 2S. South now again has a decision, and I think their hand is strong enough to bid 3D, showing the rest of their shape to their partner. When it passes around to East it will be easy enough for them to bid 3S, knowing that their partner will be short in diamonds.

Declarer must be careful now not to lose control of the hands, though should find it easy enough to wrap up nine tricks.

♠ AJ106  
 ♥ AK986  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ 1095  
 ♠ K97543      ♠ 8  
 ♥ Q42            ♥ 1075  
 ♦ J73            ♦ Q1082  
 ♣ 8                ♣ AJ742  
 ♠ Q2  
 ♥ J3  
 ♦ AK965  
 ♣ KQ63

HCP	
12	
6	7
15	

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

Board 5: Dealer North: NS Vulnerable

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

The first decision in this hand lands at West's feet, as North and South should have nothing to think about for their first bids. While West has a hand which looks like it may have some promise in a preempt, it is much too weak a suit and too few points to act. After they pass, North should bid 2H, as their hand is too weak to bid 2S here, which would be a reverse, showing a strong 17+ game forcing hand. South now bids 3C, which shows their full shape, and sets the game force in action. A new suit at the three level is always going to be game forcing. North can now bid 3NT, happy enough that his AJ106 suit in spades is an adequate stopper. East doesn't have any particularly lucrative looking leads, not wanting to lead into declarer's hearts, or dummy's long suit diamonds. The decision comes down to a club or a spade, and with the spade so unlikely to work out I think I would choose a small club. It is quite possible that South does not have a fully-fledged club suit, and was using the 3C bid to establish a game force. With the King of spades onside, and the hearts splitting 3-3, it will be easy for declarer to make a fair share of overtricks on this hand.

♠ Q65  
 ♥ 84  
 ♦ 1073  
 ♣ AKQ95  
 ♠ 73                ♠ AKJ984  
 ♥ AQ102           ♥ J653  
 ♦ AKQ8            ♦ J64  
 ♣ 1042            ♣ -  
 ♠ 102  
 ♥ K97  
 ♦ 952  
 ♣ J8763

HCP	
11	
15	10
4	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N					
S					
E	1	7	7	7	2
W	1	7	7	7	2

Board 6 : Dealer East : EW Vulnerable

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

East here picks up their hand and at first sight might think that a Weak Two opening in spades is their best bet; they have 6-10 points, and a strong six card major, so why not? This hand in my opinion is much too strong for a Weak Two bid. With the void, and the four-card heart suit, it is too likely that you have game in a major opposite lots of hands where your partner can't move over a Weak Two. This is not quite such a hand, as your partner has a very strong hand themselves, but such hands do exist. Over the 2H rebid, West should not jump straight to 4H, as with their 15 count, if their partner is maximum for their 2H rebid they may have a slam on. By bidding 3C first (Fourth suit forcing), and then 4H it shows a stronger hand than just bidding 4H straight away. This is called the principle of slow arrival, which comes into play when you have many different ways of forcing to a game contract - the slowest is usually the strongest. This tells your partner that you are interested in a slam, but you don't quite have the strength to blast off all by yourself. In this particular hand, while slam makes, I'm not sure that the East hand is quite strong enough to act over this slam try. You do have a void and a strong spade suit, but your red suits are so weak that you're going to need the perfect hand from your partner to make your slam. Unfortunately, they do have this perfect hand, and you miss a slam which can happen. With all the spades and hearts coming in, declarer will struggle to lose a trick on this hand, most likely leaving them with an equal measure of overtricks and regret.

♠ K9865  
 ♥ J52  
 ♦ 82  
 ♣ J32  
 ♠ AJ107                      ♠ Q2  
 ♥ Q7                              ♥ AK9863  
 ♦ K753                         ♦ QJ6  
 ♣ 985                            ♣ 64  
 ♠ 43  
 ♥ 104  
 ♦ A1094  
 ♣ AKQ107

HCP	
5	
10	12
13	

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

Board 7 : South : Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1C
P	1S	2H	P
P	P		

With this semi-balanced hand, South should open 1C and not try get fancy with a 1NT opening bid. The 1C does just fine, and is a great lead directing bid if the opponents end up stealing the auction. North could make a light 2S bid here, as there is nothing that South can rebid that will make them too unhappy. They have three card club support if South rebids that, and it's good to get your major suits in the auction, especially with the scoring bonus that 2S has over 2C in matchpoints. East just about has a 2H overcall here - they have a great suit without much else to write home about, but again, it's important to show your partner where you want the lead if the opponents end up being the ones playing the contract. South, not having the strength to bid at the three level, will pass this. East too should pass I think, with both opponents having bid constructively, and with spades being bid on their left, it is unlikely that they and their partner have a game on. North also will have nothing more to say here with their five count. South will cash the King and Ace of clubs on the lead, asking their partner for count. If their partner is being clever, they can play the two first, showing an odd number, and then the Jack of clubs, their higher of the two remaining cards, to show suit preference for spades. When defending, and you find that you have a choice of cards that seemingly doesn't matter, it's often a good place to find a suit preference signal to steer your partner in the right direction. The defence will take two clubs, the Ace of diamonds, and the King of spades for four tricks, and +1 for declarer.

♠ -  
 ♥ 8642  
 ♦ 1053  
 ♣ Q106432  
 ♠ KJ93                         ♠ Q107652  
 ♥ AK53                         ♥ -  
 ♦ KQ87                         ♦ 94  
 ♣ J                                ♣ K9875  
 ♠ A84  
 ♥ QJ1097  
 ♦ AJ62  
 ♣ A

HCP	
2	
17	5
16	

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

Board 8 : Dealer West : Nil all

West	North	East	South
1D	P	1S	2H
3H	4H	4S	P
P	P		

I think 1D is the best opening option for West here, they leave room for their partner to bid either major, and they can also reverse and bid a major themselves, if their partner bids 2C or 1NT. Sometimes with 4441 hands you'll have to lie and pretend you have a five card suit somewhere, and it's better to lie about a minor than a major. South has a reasonable 2H overcall here, with a solid enough suit, and an ace heavy hand. West can now bid 3H here, which is a cue bid and should show their partner that they have quite a strong hand with spade support. North now should be a little concerned that their opponents have a game on, and should bid 4H to try get in the way. Unfortunately, the spade suit reigns supreme in the auction as always and East should have no other destination in sight than 4S. South may be tempted to double here with their three aces and a solid heart suit, but with the way the auction has gone it looks like their ♦J may be useless as it is under the opening diamond bid, and their heart suit may also not come to much given that their partner has length. I think a cautious pass is best. Declarer will find it difficult to lose any more tricks than the three aces and will take in an easy +420.

♠ K6  
 ♥ QJ9753  
 ♦ Q4  
 ♣ K93  
 ♠ J954                      ♠ 10732  
 ♥ 1042                      ♥ 86  
 ♦ 532                        ♦ AKJ1097  
 ♣ J85                         ♣ 7  
 ♠ AQ8  
 ♥ AK  
 ♦ 86  
 ♣ AQ10642

HCP	
11	
2	8
19	

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

Board 9 : Dealer North : EW Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1H	P	2C
P	2H	P	4C
P	4S	P	5C
P	P	P	

North should open here with their 11 count, they have a strong suit and only six losers. East should pass here over the opening instead of bidding 3D. They have many losers outside their diamond suit, and the vulnerability is wrong for them. Going for 2 undertricks doubled is -500 whereas a game for the opposition might only be -400 or -420. North has a clear 2H rebid, beginning to show their shape. South now has to figure out a plan for the rest of the auction. They have a very strong hand themselves, but they still need some help from partner to make a slam. They can't bid 3C, as that would be non-forcing, and it would be a disaster if partner were to pass here. They could bid 2S but they risk ending up in a seven-card major fit. They can't bid 3NT again as it is a sign off bid and partner won't continue with their good hands. I think a natural 4C is best here. Lots of people would play this as Gerber here, which I would advise against. It's often much more useful as a cue bid, or a natural bid such as this case.

When North doesn't cue bid 4D over 4C, which would show the ace or king of diamonds, or a void or a singleton, they know that they don't have a slam on and can sign off in 5C. This will likely end up as a worse score than those who settled in 3NT, but I think the South hand is much too strong to settle at the three level. If West can manage to find the diamond lead, the defence will hold declarer to 11 tricks.

♠ QJ73  
 ♥ 92  
 ♦ K854  
 ♣ Q95  
 ♠ K96                      ♠ A8542  
 ♥ 863                      ♥ AKQ10  
 ♦ AJ1032                  ♦ 976  
 ♣ A7                        ♣ 6  
 ♠ 10  
 ♥ J754  
 ♦ Q  
 ♣ KJ10843.

HCP	
8	
12	13
7	

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

Board 10 : Dealer East : Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1S	3C
3D	P	3H	P
4S	P	P	P

East begins the auction with a normal 1S opening. They shouldn't be tempted to open their stronger heart suit, as you should always open your longest suit first, regardless of their relative strengths. Over this, South can pre-empt in clubs, they have a very shapely hand which makes up for their lack of high card points. West can happily bid 3D with their five card suit here. If they had a weaker hand, less than ten or eleven points, they might make a negative double instead. Now I think a 4C bid vulnerable might be a bit much from North. They have mostly soft values in their own hand and a -800 would be a disaster if the opponents only have a game on. East is forced to bid here and 3H describes their hand nicely. Now however tempted South may be, they shouldn't bid again over the 3H. A good rule when pre-empting is that if you're willing to bid to a certain level, you should bid to it straight away. It has much more value as a pre-empt if you jump higher immediately. In the play, declarer needs to be careful of running out of trumps, and losing control of the hand. If they can set up the diamonds without being ruffed, they should be home and dry.

♠ 9  
 ♥ J10872  
 ♦ Q753  
 ♣ 763  
 ♠ AJ3                      ♠ 10742  
 ♥ K95                      ♥ AQ3  
 ♦ 9864                     ♦ KJ10  
 ♣ 1042                     ♣ KQJ  
 ♠ KQ865  
 ♥ 64  
 ♦ A2  
 ♣ A985

HCP	
3	
8	16
13	

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

Board 11 : Dealer South : Nil All

West	North	East	South
			1S
P	P	X	2C
2D	P	P	P

South has a normal 1S opener here, and it should be passed around to East. East has a bit of an ugly decision to make now. Passing doesn't feel great with your 16 count, you could have a lot of games on with hands your partner would pass 1S with. You don't have a suit to bid, and 1NT would be protective and 10-14, you also don't really have a stop in spades with 10xxx. I think a reluctant double should be what East goes with here, hoping partner will do something that will clear the fog. South can bid 2C here now to get in the way a bit and make things awkward for EW. This is a safe enough bid as it's hard for them to be penalised here. I think West needs to act here with their 8 count and should bid their longest suit, diamonds. East now can decide to bid 2S, which would be forcing and asking for a stop, or can pass. With most of the values the defence have being to the left of declarer, I don't think it's a crime to take a passive route and pass in this hand. Declarer doesn't have much room to manoeuvre here without any real long suits for discards, but should hopefully wind up making their contract.

♠ A853  
 ♥ K1054  
 ♦ AJ  
 ♣ K42  
 ♠ 72                      ♠ J964  
 ♥ A                      ♥ J6  
 ♦ K9843                 ♦ Q10762  
 ♣ AJ1085                ♣ Q3  
 ♠ KQ10  
 ♥ Q98732  
 ♦ 5  
 ♣ 976

HCP	
15	
12	6
7	

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

Board 12 : Dealer West : NS Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1D	1NT	3D	4H
P	P	P	

With two five card suits, it's always better to open the higher one, which West will do now, opening 1D. North now can double or bid 1NT, doubling does get across the major length to your partner, but 1NT gets across the strength of your hand, and the fact that you have a stopper. Partner can always use Stayman later in the auction if they have a four card major they want to find out about. East can bid 3D now, a pre-emptive raise which in lots of situations will really fog up the auction, but unfortunately this is not one of those times, as South can bid 4H with some confidence. They know that their partner has at least two hearts, and a minimum of 15 points, they also have the singleton diamond to add to their hand. West must think now whether they want they want to sacrifice over the game or not. With two aces and a king, and a partner who has bid at the three level, I think 4H is going to go down too often to be sacrificing over it.

♠ 872  
 ♥ 976542  
 ♦ 5  
 ♣ 953

♠ K5                      ♠ QJ10943  
 ♥ AKJ                     ♥ 108  
 ♦ Q1043                 ♦ J7  
 ♣ AJ62                   ♣ Q87

♠ A6  
 ♥ Q3  
 ♦ AK9862  
 ♣ K104

HCP	
0	
18	8
16	

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

Board 13 : Dealer North : Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	P	2S	3D
4S	P	P	P

The bidding should end with East being declarer in 4S and with AK of diamonds, South will lead one of these. After two diamonds hold, South can see that together with the Ace of Spades, the defence will need one extra trick. Given the strength of dummy and South's own hand, the only chance is to find partner with a useful spade holding such as Qx or J10x which would allow partner to score a trump trick by leading diamonds repeatedly, we are also keen to do this to get rid of declarer's diamonds winners. East now will overruff the diamond ruffs, draw the trumps and will lead a club to the jack. After this holds if any winning diamonds remain, these can be used for a club discard and a claim. If not, declarer should cash the Ace of clubs catering for Kx with South and then cash a top heart and take the heart finesse. This line loses an extra trick when South doesn't have Kx and when the heart finesse is offside but gains when Kx is onside.

♠ 1072  
 ♥ AJ742  
 ♦ J9  
 ♣ Q82

♠ 963                      ♠ K54  
 ♥ KQ5                     ♥ 9863  
 ♦ Q53                     ♦ 872  
 ♣ 10963                 ♣ K54

♠ AQJ8  
 ♥ 10  
 ♦ AK1064  
 ♣ AJ7

HCP	
8	
7	6
19	

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

Board 14 : Dealer East : Nil all

West	North	East	South
		P	1D
P	1H	P	1S
P	1NT	P	3NT
P	P	P	

This begins with 1D from South (better than a 2C opening) followed by 1H from North. Depending on agreements, South will rebid 1S which is forcing and shows 5-4. North now will bid 1NT since there is no fit and their heart suit isn't strong enough to rebid. South now knowing that North is limited to 9/10 HCPs will sign off in 3NT. With both black kings on side and the KQ hearts also onside, declarer will have no problem wrapping up 11 tricks.

♠ -  
♥ A1063  
♦ K7  
♣ 10987543

♠ QJ10632      ♠ K875  
♥ 5                      ♥ KJ942  
♦ A862                ♦ 1093  
♣ KQ                    ♣ A

♠ A94  
♥ Q87  
♦ QJ54  
♣ J62

HCP	
7	
12	11
10	

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

Board 15 : Dealer South : NS Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			P
1S	P	2H	P
2S	P	4S	P
P	P		

EW will reach 4S in what should be an uncontested auction, the North hand is absolutely NOT worth a pre-empt!

North will lead the ten of clubs and declarer wins and seeing that they will need to ruff diamonds at some point should immediately duck a diamond. Following the return, declarer cashes the ace of diamonds and the top club throwing a diamond from dummy and now leads a diamond to ruff. Seeing North show out, declarer will ruff low and lead a low spade to hand. The defence can't stop 10 tricks being made since declarer will always be able to ruff another diamond. Also it's important to note that when West eventually leads a heart up to the K J, North should know to play the Ace as he knows declarer's hand is 6-1-4-2.

♠ J76  
♥ Q109  
♦ 75432  
♣ K2

♠ K32                      ♠ Q54  
♥ A43                      ♥ K8652  
♦ 106                      ♦ 98  
♣ QJ865                ♣ 1074

♠ A1098  
♥ J7  
♦ AKQJ  
♣ A93

HCP	
6	
10	5
19	

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

Board 16 : Dealer West : EW Vulnerable

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

After the 1D opening from South, North's best bid is 2D. A number of bids are now open to South depending on agreements but the vast majority will lead to a contract of 3NT.

From the West hand, a low club will be led and declarer is faced with a serious shortage of entries to take the double spade finesse and to cash the final diamond and so will eventually fail as the defence get 5 tricks before declarer can establish 9. If East is on lead, a heart lead will be fatal. The 5 should be led and when West wins the Ace and returns the 4, this must be ducked because we know that North has denied 4 hearts on the bidding (they would have bid 1H not 2D with 4+hearts) and so partner must have A43 of hearts meaning it's essential we preserve an entry into our hand by ducking.



♠ KQ5  
 ♥ 8742  
 ♦ K108763  
 ♣ -  
 ♠ J109763      ♠ A84  
 ♥ KJ5            ♥ 6  
 ♦ 954            ♦ AQ2  
 ♣ 8                ♣ QJ10653  
 ♠ 2  
 ♥ AQ1093  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ AK9742

HCP	
8	
5	13
14	

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

Board 17 : Dealer North : Nil All

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

After 1C from East, South will show their strong hearts with a 1H overcall. West will now bid 1S and North will have to find a way to show his very strong heart support. This is best done starting with a 2C bid (cue bid) which promises 11/12 HCP. Despite the fact that North only has 8 points, a void and 4 card trump support is more than enough to upgrade the hand. South now will bid 2NT as they still don't know if North has a strong hand or a strong raise in hearts and this allows them to show their club stopper. North's hand becomes clear when they rebid 3H and now South with two singletons and a max hand is happy to bid to game.

Even if hearts are 2-2 with the King offside the game has good chances and South will have to play carefully taking a ruffing finesse against East to set up a diamond discard for a club. On the actual hand with KJx of trumps offside, the game is destined to fail.

This hand also highlights the importance of not opening a weak 2 with a 4 card Major. If North originally opened 2D, N/S are much less likely to reach the sound heart game.

♠ AK98  
 ♥ K87  
 ♦ K103  
 ♣ 1063  
 ♠ 105            ♠ J764  
 ♥ J94            ♥ A632  
 ♦ AJ97           ♦ 4  
 ♣ AK72           ♣ J854  
 ♠ Q32  
 ♥ Q105  
 ♦ Q8652  
 ♣ Q9

HCP	
13	
13	6
8	

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

Board 18 : Dealer East : NS Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		P	P
1NT	P	P	P

West opens a normal 1NT which is passed out. North is faced with a tough choice of leads and most players will lead a spade of some sort. If the Ace of spades is led, South will encourage (showing the Queen) with the 3 of spades. Continuing a spade to South's queen, South should recognise that leading another spade will gift a trick to declarer and so they should switch to a diamond. North will beat West's 9 of diamonds with the ten and seeing the danger of leading a spade or a diamond will switch to a club or heart.

Declarer was always going to get 4 club tricks since the only chance for 4 tricks in the suit is to play AK and hope for the Q to fall. These 4 tricks together with 2 aces gives 6 tricks. The final trick will either come from hearts as they're 3-3 or when the defence eventually lead diamonds or spades again.

♠ -  
♥ AQ108652  
♦ K10732  
♣ J

♠ 94                      ♠ AK107652  
♥ KJ4                     ♥ 9  
♦ J96                      ♦ 5  
♣ 108543                ♣ KQ96

♠ QJ83  
♥ 73  
♦ AQ84  
♣ A72

HCP	
10	
5	12
13	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N		7	7		5
S		7	7		5
E	2			2	
W	3			2	

Board 19 : Dealer South : EW Vulnerable

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

South opens 1NT and North, despite having only a 10 count, should be aiming for slam. If partner has the Ace of clubs, the Ace of diamonds and something in hearts, slam will have excellent prospects. North will start by transferring to hearts by bidding 2D and East should make a 3S bid.

This East hand has excellent shape and playing strength and deserves a 3S bid (nothing more because of the unfavourable vulnerability).

This will be passed around to North who will continue with a natural 4D bid showing their hand to be at least 5-5 in the reds and GF. South now knows that their side will be definitely playing in a diamond game at the very least, so instead of just bidding 5D straight away they should bid 5C which shows diamond support and a club cue in case this information is of use to partner (which in this case it is). After hearing this, North is happy to bid 6D.

The play of the hand presents no problems as declarer can finesse the king of hearts, cash the ace and ruff a heart to establish the rest of the hearts for 13 tricks.

♠ KJ54  
♥ 9  
♦ A932  
♣ Q1084

♠ Q92                      ♠ 1073  
♥ QJ10653                ♥ AK82  
♦ 64                        ♦ Q875  
♣ A5                        ♣ K6

♠ A86  
♥ 74  
♦ KJ10  
♣ J9732

HCP	
10	
9	12
9	

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

Board 20 : Dealer West : Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2H	P	3H	P
P	P		

Here the West hand is a border-line weak two opening. The heart suit is ok but the shape is as flat as possible which is a serious flaw and the vulnerability is also a worrying issue. Despite this, I think many players would open it 2H regardless.

The North hand is now not strong enough to make a take-out double (give the hand another King and it would), and East has a funny problem. On one hand they could try for game through Ogust (a 2NT bid here) spurred on by their 10 card solid heart suit. However, the East hand is very weak to be looking for game and more importantly the hand is 4432 which is a serious drawback. Because of this, the East hand should make a blocking raise to 3H which should end the auction.

A subtle point to note about this hand is that if East had something like the Ace of spades and the King of diamonds instead of the King of hearts, they should think about bidding 3NT because they know that they almost certainly have 6 cashing hearts and two outside aces. 3H will go down one eventually because the Jack of spades is offside.

♠ K4  
 ♥ KJ10  
 ♦ KQ107  
 ♣ KQ63  
 ♠ A109752      ♠ QJ6  
 ♥ AQ63          ♥ 975  
 ♦ -                ♦ A654  
 ♣ J54              ♣ A82  
 ♠ 83  
 ♥ 842  
 ♦ J9832  
 ♣ 1097

HCP	
17	
11	11
1	

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

Board 21 : Dealer North : NS Vulnerable

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

North opens 1C which is passed around to West with the majors. West will now balance with 1S planning on rebidding hearts at some stage in the auction. Over this, North has no real reason to bid anything, (they definitely shouldn't even think about 1NT) and East will cue bid North's suit with a 2C bid to show a strong hand.

West now bids a natural 2H and then East can continue with 2S which describes their hand perfectly as being 11/12+ HCP with spade support. West now with 6 spades and a diamond void is thinking seriously about game and can bid 3C which should be a trial bid. Now East with 2 club losers is in a tight spot but because they are minimum for their 2C bid, they're flat and they have nothing extra of value in their hand they should reject the trial bid and bid 3S. Over this, West may still wish to take a punt with 4S which isn't unreasonable since if partner has the King of spades instead of the Q J, game will have good chances.

♠ QJ64  
 ♥ A853  
 ♦ J3  
 ♣ J62  
 ♠ A3                ♠ K10975  
 ♥ KQJ62          ♥ 9  
 ♦ 52                ♦ AK10876  
 ♣ AK98            ♣ 7  
 ♠ 82  
 ♥ 1074  
 ♦ Q94  
 ♣ Q10543

HCP	
9	
17	10
4	

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

Board 22 : Dealer East : EW Vulnerable

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

East has a perfectly good opening hand, easily satisfying the Rule of 20 and so should open 1D. West will respond 1H and East will now bid 1S, forcing showing 5-4 at least. West with 17 HCP has slam in mind and can get off to a good start with 2C which here is fourth suit forcing. This allows East to bid 2S which perfectly shows their hand as being 6-5 (because with 5-5 they would have opened 1S). Now because EW are forced to game, West can bid 3D agreeing diamonds as the trump suit which cannot be passed and shows some degree of slam interest.

EW now cue bids and having gone through 4NT they will discover that they are missing a keycard and the queen of trumps and so they will sign off in 5D.

No problems arise in the play and declarer must just ensure to keep entries to dummy to reach the hearts.

♠ KJ8763  
 ♥ 85  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ Q963  
 ♠ A10                      ♠ 52  
 ♥ A932                     ♥ J76  
 ♦ K972                     ♦ 108653  
 ♣ AJ5                        ♣ 1084  
                                  ♠ Q94  
                                  ♥ KQ104  
                                  ♦ AQ4  
                                  ♣ K72

HCP	
7	
16	1
16	

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

Board 23 : South : Both Vulnerable

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

South opens 1H and West has a normal 15-18 1NT overcall. Over this, North is not quite strong enough to X and so they are happy to bid 2S. South now can bid 3S showing a strong, invitational hand in case partner has in the region of 8-9 HCPs. North with very good shape can be aggressive and bid 4S which is an excellent contract.

East must lead a diamond immediately in order to beat the contract, otherwise declarer can employ a strip-squeeze on West. This hand shows the benefit of playing strong NT as it would have right-sided the 4S contract since West cannot initially lead a diamond himself without giving away a trick.

♠ 72  
 ♥ Q974  
 ♦ 1064  
 ♣ KJ87  
 ♠ Q863                      ♠ KJ104  
 ♥ J85                        ♥ A2  
 ♦ 875                        ♦ AJ92  
 ♣ Q93                        ♣ 1064  
                                  ♠ A95  
                                  ♥ K1063  
                                  ♦ KQ3  
                                  ♣ A52

HCP	
6	
5	13
16	

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

Board 24 : Dealer West : Nil all

West	North	East	South
P	P	1NT	X
2C	X	P	P
XX	P	2D	X
P	P	P	

East opens 1NT in the third seat followed by a routine double by South which puts West in a tough spot. West definitely doesn't want to play in 1NTx so he has to find some way to escape. The two options available are either lie about having 5 spades and bid XX followed by 2S or to pretend to have another 4 card suit and bid 2C showing clubs and a higher suit. The best option here is the latter and over West's 2C bid North will double. This will be passed around to West again who, knowing they have lied about their club length, will XX again which is an SOS bid telling partner to bid another suit. Over this, East will bid 2D (their lowest 4 card suit) which South should double and this will be the final contract.

EW would do well to reach 2S however East bidding 2S over 2D runs the risk of playing in a 6-card fit instead of a 7 or 8 card fit which could be very costly meaning that passing 2DX is safer. This hand clearly shows one of the problems with playing a weak NT.

<p>           ♠ AJ95            ♥ QJ965            ♦ A8            ♣ 42            ♠ 8742                      ♠ K106            ♥ A43                        ♥ K10872            ♦ K                            ♦ 103            ♣ Q10875                   ♣ KJ3            ♠ Q3            ♥ -            ♦ QJ976542            ♣ A96         </p> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; margin-right: 10px;"> <tr><td>HCP</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>9      10</td></tr> <tr><td>9</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>5</td><td></td><td></td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td></td><td>5</td><td></td><td></td><td>4</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	12	9      10	9	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N		5			4	S		5			4	E	1		1			W	1		1			<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW Vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1H</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2H</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3D</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Over the 1H opening, South has a bit of a dilemma in deciding whether to bid 1NT or 2D. South must think of the likely rebid from North if he chooses 2D – this is very likely to be 2H and what is South’s plan over this? In pairs, 1NT is a better bid, followed by 3D (to play) after North’s 2H rebid. Despite 3NT and 5D making as the cards lie, this is only due to the King of diamonds being on side. With any 3-0 diamond break, King of diamonds with East, or guess on whether to finesse or not, these contracts are unlikely to make.</p> <p>West is likely to lead the 7 of spades or the 7 of clubs. Declarer makes +3 on the spade lead as he can discard 2 clubs from his hand on the spades which are set up on the table.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1H	P	1NT	P	2H	P	3D	P	P	P	
HCP																																																									
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P	2H	P	3D																																																						
P	P	P																																																							

<p>           ♠ 103            ♥ AQ876            ♦ J4            ♣ KQJ9            ♠ Q52                        ♠ KJ9874            ♥ K5                         ♥ J42            ♦ AK9853                   ♦ 2            ♣ 108                        ♣ A62            ♠ A6            ♥ 1093            ♦ Q1076            ♣ 7543         </p> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; margin-right: 10px;"> <tr><td>HCP</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>12      9</td></tr> <tr><td>6</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>2</td><td></td><td>2</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td></td><td>2</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td></td><td>1</td><td></td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>1</td><td></td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP	13	12      9	6	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2		2			S	2		2			E		1		3	1	W		1		3	1	<p>Board 26: Dealer East : Both Vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">2S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> </tr> </table> <p>East has an ideal hand to open a weak two in spades. West must then decide whether to raise this to 3S or 4S (or make an enquiry bid). In pairs, a bid of 4S is too risky. The diamond suit looks good but the two doubletons should put you off, especially when it is unlikely for partner to have the A hearts. So 3S is the best bid, as it shuts the opponents out of the auction and almost guarantees EW the contract.</p> <p>Note: For players playing a 2NT feature enquiry over weak twos, this would be of great help here to find whether partner has the ace of hearts or not. Over 2S, West bids 2NT to ask about partner’s hand. East bids 3C to show the ace or king of clubs, West bids 3D to show the ace or king of diamonds, and East then bids 3S. When he skips 3H, West now knows he does not possess the ace of hearts and can safely pass.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			2S	P	3S	P	P	P
HCP																																																					
13																																																					
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		2S	P																																																		
3S	P	P	P																																																		

♠ AJ93  
 ♥ J8643  
 ♦ 106  
 ♣ 98  
 ♠ 42  
 ♥ A107  
 ♦ AK32  
 ♣ AKJ10  
 ♠ KQ875  
 ♥ 52  
 ♦ 875  
 ♣ 762  
 ♠ 106  
 ♥ KQ9  
 ♦ QJ94  
 ♣ Q543

HCP	
6	
19	5
10	

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

Board 27 : Dealer South : Nil All

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

Despite the 5 points, East is worth a 1S bid, with a five-card spade suit with all points in that suit.

North leads the 4 of hearts, small from dummy, South rises with the Queen, declarer plays small. South continues with King (to ensure suit is not blocked), and declarer ducks again. Declarer wins third heart. West should then lead a spade from hand, North must play small on this, or else he sets up the KQ on the table. Declarer wins with the King – South must play the 10 of spades here to show count (high-low = even number). This is so that North knows it is safe to play the Ace on second round of spades and cut declarer off from the table.

When the King spades wins, declarer must now lead a club and, if South plays low, play the J or 10 from his hand. When this wins, he plays another spade, which North now wins with the Ace. North plays his two heart winners and, depending on what South discards, West will know what to keep in the minor suits. If South discards two diamonds, West discards a diamond and then a club. If South discards two clubs, West discards two diamonds. If South discards one of each, West discards two diamonds. This ensures he gets the remaining tricks to keep the contract to -1.

♠ -  
 ♥ Q10876  
 ♦ 973  
 ♣ A9652  
 ♠ K74  
 ♥ K954  
 ♦ A84  
 ♣ J83  
 ♠ J8532  
 ♥ J2  
 ♦ KQ5  
 ♣ KQ4  
 ♠ AQ1096  
 ♥ A3  
 ♦ J1062  
 ♣ 107

HCP	
6	
11	12
11	

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

Board 28 : Dealer West : NS Vulnerable

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

Despite holding 5 spades, East should open 1NT due to his poor spade suit. South may consider a 2S overcall, but with only an 11 count with no good shape, and being vulnerable, he should be dissuaded from doing so.

Play-wise it is probably too risky, again, for South to lead a spade. He knows he is likely sitting over East's spade honours, as he has shown the majority of the points in the bidding, and would simply be giving away a trick. A diamond lead is more sensible.

Play-wise, declarer should get 3 diamonds, 2 clubs, a heart, and a spade (by leading towards the king) to go down 1. A spade lead would have allowed him to make.

♠ Q104  
 ♥ 94  
 ♦ Q643  
 ♣ 9843  
 ♠ A53                      ♠ J762  
 ♥ QJ2                      ♥ A853  
 ♦ K108                     ♦ AJ9  
 ♣ QJ107                   ♣ A5  
 ♠ K98  
 ♥ K1076  
 ♦ 752  
 ♣ K62

HCP	
4	
13	14
9	

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

Board 29 : Dealer North : Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	P	1NT	P
3NT	P	P	P

South should lead the 6 of hearts. Declarer plays the J or Q from the table, taking the trick. He should then tackle the clubs, losing the king, and setting up three tricks in total. He can now count 8 tricks – 1 spade, 2 hearts, 2 diamonds and 3 clubs. The last trick is likely to come from either spades or diamonds. He can perhaps hope for a 3-3 break in spades or KQ with North but diamonds give a better chance. Since South lead a heart and clearly has at least four, he probably has fewer diamonds. He has also shown the K clubs and is marked with the K hearts and a likely spade honour, so chances are the Q diamonds is with North. All declarer needs to do is finesse the J and the 9 tricks are in the bag!

♠ K2  
 ♥ Q52  
 ♦ Q74  
 ♣ KJ853  
 ♠ J107                      ♠ A9653  
 ♥ K874                     ♥ AJ63  
 ♦ J10962                  ♦ 3  
 ♣ 4                            ♣ AQ7  
 ♠ Q84  
 ♥ 109  
 ♦ AK85  
 ♣ 10962

HCP	
11	
5	15
9	

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

Board 30 : Dealer East : Nil all

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

It is very difficult to get to one of the making games on this hand. West is worth the 1NT bid but cannot bid on after that with merely 5 points. South leads the diamond Ace, North playing 7 for attitude, to show that he has the Queen. South can then continue a small diamond to the queen, forcing declarer to ruff and shorten his trumps in hand. He should then play a small heart to the king on the table and take a finesse in spades, losing to the queen. Now, anything that South leads benefits declarer. Ace of diamonds will force declarer to ruff with the J and North will get his heart Queen. The defence then get a heart, a spade and a diamond to keep the contract to +2.

♠ AK84  
 ♥ KJ  
 ♦ AQJ  
 ♣ AJ73  
 ♠ J                      ♠ 10763  
 ♥ A10865              ♥ 7  
 ♦ 10965                ♦ 7432  
 ♣ K102                 ♣ Q865  
 ♠ Q952  
 ♥ Q9432  
 ♦ K8  
 ♣ 94

HCP	
23	
8	2
7	

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

Board 31 : Dealer South : NS Vulnerable

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

North opens 2C to show 23+, South bidding 2D with 7 points. North then bids 2NT showing 23-24 and balanced. South should then transfer to hearts before bidding spades. This will show 5-4 in the majors. North knows they have a fit in spades and bids 4S. South should not continue over this as slam is unlikely with a maximum of 31 points between the hands and no singletons or voids.

West should lead the Ace of hearts. He knows from the bidding that South has five. North must have two to be balanced. This means his partner has one. He then continues with the five of hearts, which partner can ruff. The small heart also tells his partner that he should lead back a club after he ruffs (as this is the lower suit). Declarer wins this, and plays on diamonds, discarding a club from the table. He should then ruff a club, play a trump back to the Ace, and ruff another club. At this point, he has Q of trumps and Q9x in hearts on the table, and Kxx in trumps and J clubs in his hand. He should play the Q spades first hoping the remaining trumps will fall, which they do not. Then Q hearts, discarding the losing J clubs, East can ruff this too, keeping the contract to 10 tricks.

♠ KQ864  
 ♥ A10  
 ♦ 972  
 ♣ 762  
 ♠ 109                      ♠ A52  
 ♥ QJ742                 ♥ K965  
 ♦ AQ6                    ♦ J53  
 ♣ A95                    ♣ Q43  
 ♠ J73  
 ♥ 83  
 ♦ K1084  
 ♣ KJ108

HCP	
9	
13	10
8	

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

Board 32 : Dealer West : EW Vulnerable

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

East is worth a 3H bid, especially with Axx in spades and partner likely to be short in this suit. However, West is not worth a raise to 4H with no great shape. South is best not bidding 3S over the 3H as the opponents have shown most of the points and, on another lie of the cards, may push them into a making 4H contract.

The King of spades lead is normal by North, though a club lead is best as it happens. Declarer should win this so North doesn't switch to clubs, then draw trumps. When North wins the A hearts he may choose to continue spades, declarer ruffing the second one. After drawing remaining trumps, declarer can then lead A clubs and a small club, South getting 2 club tricks. Now, no matter what South returns, declarer makes his contract. A club allows a ruff and discard in diamonds, while a diamond can be let around to the Jack and then a finesse of the Queen will bring it home.



