

The analysis is based on 5-card majors, weak NT, transfers and weak 2 openings in 3 suits. IC promises at least 2 cards. 1D is normally 5 cards.

<p>♠ K1042 ♥ AK75 ♦ K ♣ KQ65</p> <p>♠ A653 ♠ QJ8 ♥ Q62 ♥ J10843 ♦ 1097 ♦ 642 ♣ J98 ♣ 42</p> <p>♠ 97 ♥ 9 ♦ AQJ853 ♣ A1073</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>4</td> <td>S</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts						18		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT				N	6	6	3	4	6	7	4	S	6	6	3	4	6			E						11		W						<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Nil All</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1C</td> <td>P</td> <td>1D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>4C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>4H</td> <td>P</td> <td>5D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>6C</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Greetings and felicitations. We meet again. Our basic system is as above. Our signals are smiles and snarls.</p> <p>Once North shows game-going values via 2NT [18-19], South knows a slam is likely, but in which minor? Remember 1C only promised 2 cards. So 4C suggests that suit, and 4H from North agrees clubs and is a cue-bid. 5D shows the Ace [but denies SA, otherwise South would bid 4S]. North knows the lead is coming up to his SK so it is protected. 6C is therefore the chosen spot.</p> <p>Any lead but a spade concedes an overtrick. Well done if you got to 6NT by North!</p>	West	North	East	South		1C	P	1D	P	2NT	P	4C	P	4H	P	5D	P	6C	P	P	P			
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<p>♠ 86542 ♥ KQ10 ♦ 1064 ♣ 94</p> <p>♠ J97 ♠ A ♥ 973 ♥ 865 ♦ J85 ♦ K973 ♣ QJ62 ♣ AK1075</p> <p>♠ KQ103 ♥ AJ42 ♦ AQ2 ♣ 83</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>14</td> <td>S</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts						5		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT				N			2	4	1	5	14	S			2	4	1			E	2	1				16		W	2	1				<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS Vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1C</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1S</td> <td>P</td> <td>2C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2S</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In this situation, South needs a way to invite game without overbidding. If he raises 1S to 2S it shows more than he's got, because North could have no points at all. 2C, bidding the opponents' suit [the "Unassuming Cue-bid"] is the way to enquire if North has extra values. North is quite good – a 5th spade and nice H honours – but I think discretion is the better part of valour in the long run. I must be getting old.</p> <p>Well done to those who got to 4S.</p>	West	North	East	South			1C	X	P	1S	P	2C	P	2S	P	P	P			
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♠ 964
 ♥ AJ85
 ♦ J63
 ♣ A107
 ♠ A ♠ 85
 ♥ K7632 ♥ Q104
 ♦ Q72 ♦ 10984
 ♣ K942 ♣ Q653
 ♠ KQJ10732
 ♥ 9
 ♦ AK5
 ♣ J8

HCP	
10	
12	4
14	

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

Board 3 : Dealer South : EW Vulnerable

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

All roads should lead to 4S.

West does best to lead SA for a look at dummy. Now a club or a diamond give 11 tricks, so let's assume West switches to a heart. Getting back hand with a trump, South must advance the CJ, which will be covered and taken by the Ace. Now South comes to hand via a diamond and finesses the C8 – 11 tricks also.

Some people don't like redoubling on the North hand with 3-card trump support. If 2NT shows a raise to 3S, that's fine.

By the by, did you know that an anagram of Leo Varadkar is Ole Aardvark? I'm just saying, ok?

♠ AK73
 ♥ 962
 ♦ 92
 ♣ 9863
 ♠ QJ964 ♠ 10
 ♥ AQ ♥ KJ107543
 ♦ AJ1086 ♦ KQ3
 ♣ 5 ♣ K10
 ♠ 852
 ♥ 8
 ♦ 754
 ♣ AQJ742

HCP	
7	
14	12
7	

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

Board 4 : Dealer West : All Vulnerable

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

4H is normal. The bidding should prompt South to lead CA and switch a spade, but I wouldn't be surprised to see a few 680s.

Murphy's first law: there's always one.

Murphy's second law: sometimes there are more than one.

If any NS pair manages to sacrifice in 5C doubled for -500, they win the prestigious "God Loves A Trier" award, sponsored by Sean Gallagher [you remember him...decent chap but a slow learner, he graciously gave us a second chance to tell him where to go].

<p>♠ Q4 ♥ K632 ♦ J9876 ♣ 96</p> <p>♠ J8 ♠ A6532 ♥ AJ75 ♥ 94 ♦ Q52 ♦ 43 ♣ AJ32 ♣ Q1087</p> <p>♠ K1097 ♥ Q108 ♦ AK10 ♣ K54</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>6</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></td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td></td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td></td></tr> </table>	HCP		6		13	6	15		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N		1	1			S		1	1		1	E	2			1		W	2			1		<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS Vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>1C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1D</td> <td>P</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Nice little pairs hand. South will open 1NT if playing strong NT, otherwise 1C. West has 2 suits to lead – a club gives 7 tricks but a heart can lead to one down. West gains the lead with DQ and must play a spade to East’s Ace. East now has to play CQ or ten in order to collect 4 tricks in that suit.</p>	West	North	East	South		P	P	1C	P	1D	P	1NT	P	P	P	
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<p>♠ Q107 ♥ AQ97 ♦ Q7642 ♣ 10</p> <p>♠ AJ83 ♠ K964 ♥ J1054 ♥ 86 ♦ K ♦ A98 ♣ A865 ♣ J432</p> <p>♠ 52 ♥ K32 ♦ J1053 ♣ KQ97</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</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>2</td><td>1</td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td></td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td><td>1</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		10		13	8	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N		2	1		1	S		2	1		1	E	1			2		W	1			2		<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW Vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1C</td> <td>X</td> <td>1S</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2S</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>3D</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Another good pairs bidding tussle. For me, North has to come in with a takeout double of 1C. He’s non-vul and can support the other 3 suits. South’s double is responsive and his 2NT shows the minors.</p> <p>If North passes, EW will score a comfortable 110 in 2S unless North backs in at the end with a takeout double of that.</p> <p>3D-1 is likely to score above average, because 2S is likely to make.</p>	West	North	East	South			P	P	1C	X	1S	X	2S	P	P	2NT	P	3D	P	P	P			
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♠ K98743
 ♥ K73
 ♦ 753
 ♣ 6
 ♠ Q ♠ 52
 ♥ AJ85 ♥ 62
 ♦ KJ1086 ♦ A92
 ♣ KJ5 ♣ Q108432
 ♠ AJ106
 ♥ Q1094
 ♦ Q4
 ♣ A97

HCP	
6	
15	6
13	

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

Board 7 : Dealer South : All Vulnerable

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

Yet another good pairs contest.

You need a bid to cater for West's hand over 1NT. I play ANTI and in that system, 2H shows H and a longer minor.

When 2S comes back to West he should make a takeout double. He's got the best hand at the table but it isn't for defending 2S.

Ten tricks are there in spades but 4S won't be bid. If EW press to 4C, maybe NS will go on to 4S but in practice it is unlikely. 130 for EW will score very well and deservedly so.

♠ Q7532
 ♥ KQ7
 ♦ A107
 ♣ J2
 ♠ J104 ♠ AK8
 ♥ J4 ♥ 1062
 ♦ 963 ♦ 852
 ♣ K8754 ♣ A1063
 ♠ 96
 ♥ A9853
 ♦ KQJ4
 ♣ Q9

HCP	
12	
5	11
12	

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

Board 8 : Dealer West : Nil All

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

Game is normal but is going down. East will lead his top spades and must then play clubs, otherwise 4H makes.

Heigh ho. Life's a beach. We live in an imperfect world where disappointments abound.

Speaking of disappointments, can I ask the discerning readership of this august publication the following question: "has anyone seen or heard Brendan Howlin these past couple of years?"

As a fellow Wexfordman, I am very concerned. Apparently he's the leader of the Labour party. Please peeps, if you have any knowledge of his whereabouts, or if you've heard him enunciate anything resembling a leftwing policy, can you let the authorities know asap? Thanks a mill. You know it makes sense.

♠ 7
 ♥ KQ763
 ♦ K973
 ♣ Q84
 ♠ 64 ♠ KQJ983
 ♥ 984 ♥ AJ2
 ♦ J108652 ♦ A4
 ♣ 102 ♣ 65
 ♠ A1052
 ♥ 105
 ♦ Q
 ♣ AKJ973

HCP	
10	
1	15
14	

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

Board 9 : Dealer North : EW Vulnerable

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

The issue here is whether to play 3NT or 5C. As it happens, they both make.

I wouldn't be surprised to see 5C make the odd overtrick. For example – spade lead to the Ace, heart to the King. Now if East doesn't take the DA he doesn't get it, since the hearts can be ruffed good, and the diamond loser goes away on them.

♠ K1087
 ♥ K9
 ♦ 942
 ♣ AJ43
 ♠ J6 ♠ A942
 ♥ 753 ♥ 108
 ♦ AJ763 ♦ Q10
 ♣ 1095 ♣ KQ862
 ♠ Q53
 ♥ AQJ642
 ♦ K85
 ♣ 7

HCP	
11	
6	11
12	

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

Board 10 : Dealer East : All Vulnerable

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

Another close decision, but again I think game is a stretch [I really must be getting old]. It pretty much comes down to needing the DA to be onside if 4H is to make. Sadly, not today.

Goodness me, ten boards gone already and not a child in the house washed!

♠ KQ3
 ♥ J
 ♦ Q8
 ♣ AQJ9653
 ♠ 96 ♠ 75
 ♥ A10863 ♥ Q975
 ♦ KJ9732 ♦ A104
 ♣ - ♣ 8742
 ♠ AJ10842
 ♥ K42
 ♦ 65
 ♣ K10

HCP	
15	
8	6
11	

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

Board 11 : Dealer South : Nil All

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

At last, a hand brimming with potential for rancour, disharmony, argument and aggression. In short – my kind of bridge hand. This is the one yiz’ll be thrashing out in the bar after play.

3C is a Ghestem 2-suited overcall, showing the red suits here. I much prefer it to Michaels, because Ghestem specifies the minor whereas Michaels doesn’t.

Neither side should be allowed to play at the 4-level here. 5H makes if you drop the DQ. EW may well double 5S.

5Sx goes down 3 only if EW take 2 club ruffs. A clever way to achieve this is for West to lead D2!! This is intended as suit preference for a club return, but it needs East to put in the ten, which is asking a lot. If East plays the Ace, then returns a club, that is 2 down. If East returns a diamond, that’s just 1 down.

If NS can concede less than 420, they should score well.

Ah yes, fear and loathing in the Sim pairs. I love the smell of napalm on a bridge evening. I confidently predict at least eight divorces as a result of this hand.

♠ AQ10
 ♥ AKJ4
 ♦ 764
 ♣ J75
 ♠ K8 ♠ J7542
 ♥ 9872 ♥ Q
 ♦ J109852 ♦ AQ
 ♣ K ♣ AQ984
 ♠ 963
 ♥ 10653
 ♦ K3
 ♣ 10632

HCP	
15	
7	15
3	

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

Board 12 : Dealer West : NS Vulnerable

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

1S should make, and be a decent score.

Strong NTers will open the North hand 1NT and East will roll out whatever gadget they have to show spades and a minor [or clubs and a higher suit]. EW fail by a trick at the 2 level.

1NT is a lucky make for NS if they get to play there, whilst the heart fit [2H makes] only comes to light if playing weak NT and 4-card majors.

<p> ♠ K87 ♥ QJ1087 ♦ 10653 ♣ Q ♠ 96432 ♠ J10 ♥ K4 ♥ A3 ♦ J ♦ Q9742 ♣ J10953 ♣ AK62 ♠ AQ5 ♥ 9652 ♦ AK8 ♣ 874 </p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">HCP</td> <td colspan="4"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td colspan="4"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td colspan="4"></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♦</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> </table>	HCP					8					5	14				13					Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N			3			S			3			E	4			2	1	W	4			2	1	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All Vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: center;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1D</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1S</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;">3C</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>EW can make 4C and NS 3H, but I think it is difficult for NS to enter the auction. After 2C by East, 2H from West would be fourth suit forcing, so 3C is not intended as constructive, but it should keep NS out of the action.</p>	West	North	East	South		P	1D	P	1S	P	2C	P	3C	P	P	P
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<p> ♠ AK1098 ♥ J5 ♦ QJ1082 ♣ 5 ♠ 65 ♠ QJ73 ♥ AQ10976 ♥ - ♦ A5 ♦ 9743 ♣ AJ7 ♣ 109642 ♠ 42 ♥ K8432 ♦ K6 ♣ KQ83 </p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">HCP</td> <td colspan="4"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td colspan="4"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td colspan="4"></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♦</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	HCP					11					15	3				11					Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N		2		2	1	S		1		1	1	E	2		1			W	2		1			<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Nil All</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: center;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1H</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2C</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2NT</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>Once South opens a 5-card 1H, West's guns are spiked. On the auction given, West could venture 2H over 2C. However I think 2NT is the most likely spot, on the basis that when you don't have a fit you should stay low in NT.</p> <p>2NT on a diamond lead has chances, and 120 would be a good score.</p>	West	North	East	South			P	1H	P	1S	P	2C	P	2NT	P	P	P			
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11																																																																													
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P	1S	P	2C																																																																										
P	2NT	P	P																																																																										
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♠ 92
 ♥ A10863
 ♦ A1086
 ♣ 107
 ♠ KJ106 ♠ A5
 ♥ J ♥ K975
 ♦ 74 ♦ J532
 ♣ AKQ854 ♣ J92
 ♠ Q8743
 ♥ Q42
 ♦ KQ9
 ♣ 63

HCP	
8	
14	9
9	

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

Board 15 : Dealer South : NS Vulnerable

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

I think EW ought to be able to figure out that game in NT is not attractive, and that game in clubs is also a tall order.

Although the lie of the diamonds allows East to make 3NT, it is a poor contract.

♠ K86532
 ♥ Q
 ♦ K8
 ♣ Q1065
 ♠ Q4 ♠ 9
 ♥ AK2 ♥ 953
 ♦ Q10542 ♦ AJ76
 ♣ K74 ♣ AJ832
 ♠ AJ107
 ♥ J108764
 ♦ 93
 ♣ 9

HCP	
10	
14	10
6	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N			1	3	
S			1	3	
E	5	6			1
W	5	6			1

Board 16 : Dealer West : EW Vulnerable

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

[* 3C shows at least 9 points]

Once NS start bidding spades, it's difficult for EW to get to their making games [both 5C and 5D make]. East's 3C is part of the Lebensohl convention, very useful when opponents overcall your 1NT opening. It allows you to distinguish between a weak 3C bid [say AQxxxx and no other points] and a stronger 3C bid, as here. Bidding 3C direct shows that EW have the balance of points.

To show a weak hand, East bids 2NT, which commands West to bid 3C. East now passes if he's weak with clubs, or bids 3 of whatever suit he's got – but it is a weak takeout in all cases.

Once NS go to 4S, I think East will take the money, holding two Aces. Note that if he wanted, East could bid 4NT – this would show diamonds [he's already bid clubs]. It's a variant of the unusual NT.

300 for EW should be a good score.

♠ A
 ♥ 10543
 ♦ J87
 ♣ Q9743
 ♠ KJ732 ♠ Q1085
 ♥ AQJ97 ♥ 8
 ♦ A ♦ 10962
 ♣ K2 ♣ AJ65
 ♠ 964
 ♥ K62
 ♦ KQ543
 ♣ 108

HCP	
7	
18	7
8	

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

Board 17 : Dealer North : Nil All

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

[2C = Drury convention]

Drury is a useful convention. It's used by a passed hand [East] after partner opens 1H or 1S. 2C is artificial and shows invitational values with trump support – a direct raise to 2S would be weak. The advantage is that if partner has opened light in 3rd or 4th seat, you get to stay at the 2-level.

On this hand, West can easily envisage slam and rolls out Keycard Blackwood. 5C shows one of the 5 Aces and 5D asks about the trump queen. Holding that card plus a singleton, East can jump to 6S.

Making 6S turns on which way you play hearts...straight finesse or Ace and run the Queen. Here, a finesse and one ruff will get the job done.

I expect 6S to be bid only occasionally – well done if you got there and made it.

♠ 965
 ♥ 5
 ♦ KQJ10
 ♣ KQ763
 ♠ QJ108 ♠ K32
 ♥ Q106 ♥ J9843
 ♦ 952 ♦ 8764
 ♣ J42 ♣ 10
 ♠ A74
 ♥ AK72
 ♦ A3
 ♣ A985

HCP	
11	
6	4
19	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	7	6	3	3	6
S	7	6	3	3	6
E					
W					

Board 18 : Dealer East : NS Vulnerable

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

Saints preserve us, another slam! We're losing the run of ourselves!

I have North bidding 3C as a straight Acol raise [10-12 points]. Note that it shows at least 5 clubs, since 1C only promised 2 cards. South has a genuine club suit and a big hand so is off to the races again. 5D shows one of the 5 Aces, and that's enough for South. I can't see a foolproof route to 7C.

13 tricks are easy [draw trumps, pitch 2 spades on the diamonds, ruff one spade and throw North's 3rd spade on a heart].

There are other ways to show North's hand. If you play inverted minor suit raises, then 2C is the bid. Another possibility is 2NT, a Jacoby raise showing at least invitational values in support of clubs.

I don't think I can stand much more excitement. I'm taking a couple of Valium, washed down with wine. I'll see you in a few minutes.

<p>♠ A73 ♥ 108 ♦ K653 ♣ QJ76</p> <p>♠ KQJ ♠ 10982 ♥ A5 ♥ Q942 ♦ QJ109 ♦ 874 ♣ 10843 ♣ A9</p> <p>♠ 654 ♥ KJ763 ♦ A2 ♣ K62</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">1</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		10		13	6	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	1	2		1	S	2	1	2		1	E						W						<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW Vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1H</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td style="text-align: center;">XX</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1NT</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>Thank goodness for small mercies, a partscore hand at last. The Valium and wine are getting the job done, thanksh for ashking.</p> <p>NS will make 1NT by running the ten of hearts and then running the eight. Mightn't be a great score. Beating EW in their partscore, or playing 2H, would score better.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				1H	X	XX	1S	P	P	1NT	P	P	P			
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<p>♠ AKJ106 ♥ 85 ♦ KQ10 ♣ 754</p> <p>♠ Q9843 ♠ 52 ♥ AJ1074 ♥ Q96 ♦ A8 ♦ J965 ♣ 3 ♣ QJ82</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ K32 ♦ 7432 ♣ AK1096</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</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		11	6	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	2		1	1	S	4	3		2	2	E						W						<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All Vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2H</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>I think 2H will fail by a trick. If East gives preference to 2S its down 2 I reckon.</p> <p>There follows a message from POTUS!!</p> <p>“Members of CBAI. This is a bad deal. A very bad deal. The worst deal in history for Irish bridge players. If anyone says otherwise it is FAKE NEWS!!! I am planning a takeover of world bridge, so vote for me. And together we will – Make Acol Great Again!!!”</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	1S	P	1NT	P	2H	P	P	P
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2H	P	P	P																																																						

♠ Q875
 ♥ 63
 ♦ AK94
 ♣ KQ3
 ♠ K1063 ♠ A94
 ♥ 9752 ♥ KQ10
 ♦ Q8 ♦ 753
 ♣ J82 ♣ A1064
 ♠ J2
 ♥ AJ84
 ♦ J1082
 ♣ 975

HCP	
14	
6	13
7	

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

Board 21 : Dealer North : NS Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1NT	P	P
P			

There's 90 available for NS in 1NT or 2D. If EW can contrive to play 2C or 2S minus one, they should score well.

♠ A9
 ♥ Q2
 ♦ Q10532
 ♣ 10963
 ♠ 63 ♠ KQJ74
 ♥ 93 ♥ AJ1086
 ♦ J876 ♦ A
 ♣ QJ875 ♣ 42
 ♠ 10852
 ♥ K754
 ♦ K94
 ♣ AK

HCP	
8	
4	15
13	

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

Board 22 : Dealer East : EW Vulnerable

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

A bitty hand with the bulk of the E/W points in the East hand.

If North decides not to allow East play in 1S, they have the option of a poorish double (not a lot in Hearts) or better - an overcall of 2D. East will dredge up a 2H bid to try to persuade West to join in.

If North has started with a 2D bid, South will bid a very restrained 3D, as he senses that North has already bid a lot of his points! And there it stops!

Some of our experienced international players in the N/S seats may find a way to drop a double on East, once they have discovered they have the balance of points – just!

Even so, I expect to see a lot of E/W scores of 80 or 110

♠ KQJ6
 ♥ -
 ♦ AJ743
 ♣ Q1084
 ♠ 10982 ♠ A73
 ♥ A1075 ♥ Q943
 ♦ 1065 ♦ Q9
 ♣ A5 ♣ J972

 ♠ 54
 ♥ KJ862
 ♦ K82
 ♣ K63

HCP		Makeable contracts					
13		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
8	9	N	3	4	1	2	2
		S	3	4	1	3	3
		E					
10		W					

Board 23 : Dealer South : All Vulnerable

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

North's first two bids show 5 Diamonds and 4 Spades. South now has a choice between a slightly heavy 1NT and the value raise to 3D, which would be my choice. North, being void in South's suit, will drop it quicker than Klopp dropped Karius.

♠ 10765
 ♥ Q
 ♦ 9854
 ♣ KQJ7
 ♠ K4 ♠ 8
 ♥ J85 ♥ A9432
 ♦ KQJ10 ♦ A7632
 ♣ A1094 ♣ 83

 ♠ AQ932
 ♥ K1076
 ♦ -
 ♣ 652

HCP		Makeable contracts				
8		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
14	8	N			4	
		S			4	
		E	3	3		2
10		W	3	2		2

Board 24 : Dealer West : Nil All

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

I've conducted numerous seminars for improvers over the years, and the single biggest bidding tip I offer them is that shape eats point count for breakfast. This hand is a perfect example. NS have 18 combined points but 4S is cold, even with the King offside.

North may in fact opt for 4S rather than 3S. South should not double 4H, because he should know that the penalty is unlikely to compensate NS for their available game. It's not beyond the bounds of possibility that East might double 4S holding 2 Aces – would you be confident enough to redouble??

Points schmooints!!

♠ 975
 ♥ K96
 ♦ K764
 ♣ 984
 ♠ AK62 ♠ 43
 ♥ AQ5 ♥ J10742
 ♦ 8 ♦ A9532
 ♣ A7652 ♣ J
 ♠ QJ108
 ♥ 83
 ♦ QJ10
 ♣ KQ103

HCP	
6	
17	6
11	

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

Board 25 : Dealer North : EW Vulnerable

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

4H is cold for EW but if South opens [he should], it's not easy for them to get there.

If South opens a weak NT, West can either double or show spades and a minor if they've got a bid for that. If South opens 1C West is really in a spot....double? 1S? 1NT? Pass?

Either way I think there will be a lot of 200s in the EW column.

♠ 9642
 ♥ 96432
 ♦ 1062
 ♣ 3
 ♠ 3 ♠ AQ1075
 ♥ AQ5 ♥ 10
 ♦ KJ9543 ♦ AQ87
 ♣ KQ7 ♣ 1086
 ♠ KJ8
 ♥ KJ87
 ♦ -
 ♣ AJ9542

HCP	
0	
15	12
13	

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

Board 26 : Dealer East : All Vulnerable

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

Remember that Bob Marley song – “we’re jamming”? Well I think in relation to this set of hands it should be “we’re slamming”. Once more unto the breach!

6D is a very good contract. Look at the East hand and remove the Queens. 6D is STILL a very good contract. Sadly, a club ruff beats it. Heigh ho. Sic transit gloria mundi.

<p>♠ QJ9742 ♥ 7 ♦ 10752 ♣ 104</p> <p>♠ A853 ♠ K106 ♥ A1062 ♥ KQ54 ♦ 83 ♦ KQJ4 ♣ KJ6 ♣ 97</p> <p>♠ - ♥ J983 ♦ A96 ♣ AQ8532</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">14</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td></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></td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td></td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	HCP		3		12	14	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N						S						E	1		5	2	5	W	1		4	2	5	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Nil All</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1C</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>1S</td><td>X</td><td>2C</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>2S</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>2NT</td><td>P</td><td>3H</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>3NT</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr> </table> <p>East knows that West is likely to have hearts, but it isn't certain. The other factor he has to consider is that he doesn't have any Aces, which is a negative for bidding 4H. The alternative is 3NT, and by bidding 2S, East can show a stop there. West, having clubs stopped, offers 2NT and East now introduces hearts, which gives West the final decision. 3NT is the winner.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				1C	X	1S	X	2C	P	P	2S	P	2NT	P	3H	P	3NT	P	P	P
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<p>♠ QJ85 ♥ KQJ2 ♦ KQJ ♣ 87</p> <p>♠ A ♠ K9643 ♥ 864 ♥ 105 ♦ 972 ♦ 1085 ♣ AQ9653 ♣ KJ10</p> <p>♠ 1072 ♥ A973 ♦ A643 ♣ 42</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td></td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	HCP		15		10	7	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N		2	2	1		S		2	2	1		E	2					W	2					<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS Vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr> <tr><td>1C</td><td>X</td><td>1S</td><td>X</td></tr> <tr><td>2C</td><td>2H</td><td>3C</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>3C is one down but that's ok as 2H is making for NS. If NS push on to 3H that is too high. However, EW have to untangle their tricks. That means arranging a spade ruff to go with the 4 top tricks in spades and clubs – not easy.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	1C	X	1S	X	2C	2H	3C	P	P	P		
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<p>♠ AKJ10 ♥ 74 ♦ Q1054 ♣ AKQ</p> <p>♠ Q4 ♠ 76 ♥ Q108 ♥ 963 ♦ A7 ♦ KJ932 ♣ J109643 ♣ 752</p> <p>♠ 98532 ♥ AKJ52 ♦ 86 ♣ 8</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">19</td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">9 4</td> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td>W</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	HCP	Makeable contracts					19		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	2	4	4	4	9 4	S	1	2	4	4	4		E						8	W						<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All Vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1C</td> <td>P</td> <td>1S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>4S</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South bids Spades, planning to bid hearts at his next turn. He doesn't get one. Some may upgrade the North hand to a 2NT opening. If so, South transfers to Spades then bids 4H. With West leading a club, 13 tricks will be a common result. If North declares 4S, a diamond lead is more likely, and 11 tricks will score poorly. There ain't no justice.</p>	West	North	East	South		1C	P	1S	P	4S	P	P	P			
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<p>♠ Q43 ♥ A1063 ♦ 7 ♣ AK985</p> <p>♠ 975 ♠ AJ ♥ 872 ♥ QJ54 ♦ J5 ♦ KQ432 ♣ QJ1073 ♣ 42</p> <p>♠ K10862 ♥ K9 ♦ A10986 ♣ 6</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4 13</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td>W</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	HCP	Makeable contracts					13		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	3	3	5	3	4 13	S	3	3	3	5	3		E						10	W						<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Nil All</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1D</td> <td>1S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2D*</td> <td>P</td> <td>4S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>2D is an Unassuming Cuebid, showing spade support and asking how good South's overcall is. It wouldn't take much more than Ace of diamonds and AJ of spades to make slam a decent shot. South hasn't many points but has controls in all 4 suits. In a suit contract, Aces and Kings are worth more than 4 or 3 points. If you're not convinced, read the excellent "Better Balanced Bidding" by our own David Jackson. That's why I think South is worth 4S. [3D is an alternative, also constructive].</p> <p>11 tricks should be standard...clubs don't break but declarer can cross-ruff clubs and diamonds.</p>	West	North	East	South			1D	1S	P	2D*	P	4S	P	P	P	
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<p> ♠ KQ ♥ A1092 ♦ AJ5 ♣ AQ109 ♠ AJ9 ♠ 7 ♥ K6 ♥ QJ874 ♦ K7632 ♦ Q98 ♣ J86 ♣ K543 ♠ 10865432 ♥ 53 ♦ 104 ♣ 72 </p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td colspan="2">HCP</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td colspan="6">Makeable contracts</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>3</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		20		12	8	0		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N				3		S				2		E	1	1	1		1	W	1	2	1		1	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS Vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>X</td> <td>2H</td> <td>2S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>3S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>3S should go down as South has no entries to hand. It's hard to stop below that.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				P	1NT	X	2H	2S	P	2NT	P	3S	P	P	P	
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<p> ♠ Q87 ♥ J103 ♦ Q53 ♣ 10984 ♠ A63 ♠ K4 ♥ A87 ♥ K6542 ♦ K64 ♦ AJ10987 ♣ KQJ6 ♣ - ♠ J10952 ♥ Q9 ♦ 2 ♣ A7532 </p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td colspan="2">HCP</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td colspan="6">Makeable contracts</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></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>6</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>	HCP		5		17	11	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N						S						E	2	6	6	2	6	W	2	6	6	2	6	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW Vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td>1C</td> <td>P</td> <td>1D</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>2H</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3D</td> <td>P</td> <td>3H</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>5NT</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6H</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </table> <p>Another slam to finish with! We'll all be denounced from the pulpit, shameless charlatans that we are. East's 2H is a game-forcing reverse, and 3H confirms his 6-5 shape. 5NT shows 2 Aces and a void. Will you get diamonds right? "Eight ever, nine never" puts you wrong on this deal [it's a rule of thumb that says you don't finesse with 9 cards in the suit, you cash AK]. If you're a nasty suspicious type, you might reason that if East has a void, there's a singleton somewhere. Well done if you made 6H.</p> <p>Enfin mes enfants, mes pauvres petits, c'est fini. Apres moi le deluge. Toodle pip. Bid them up. Up the Republic. Death to the infidels.</p> <p>Tooma is not at all happy with me, I'll have you know. She reckons my wine consumption in course of assembling these few observations has vastly exceeded tolerance levels. She has tutted many tuts. I am in the doghouse and no mistake, but I deem it worthwhile if I have entertained or enlightened you.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	1C	P	1D	P	1NT	P	2H	P	3D	P	3H	P	4NT	P	5NT	P	6H	P	P	P
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