

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

| <p>♠ Q972 ♥ Q876 ♦ 853 ♣ KJ</p> <p>♠ AK10 ♠ 83 ♥ A53 ♥ K92 ♦ K62 ♦ AQ1097 ♣ A865 ♣ 1074</p> <p>♠ J654 ♥ J104 ♦ J4 ♣ Q932</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">18</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</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>3</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>4</td></tr> </table> | HCP | | 8 | | 18 | 9 | 5 | | Makeable contracts | | | | | | | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT | N | | | | | | S | | | | | | E | 3 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 4 | W | 3 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 4 | <p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Nil All</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">This is a quiet board to start with. I expect most E/W pairs to get to 3NT via the auction above. North will probably lead a major, a ♠ is more likely as the suit is slightly better. West will be held to the 10 top tricks unless South discards too many ♣s on the run of the ♦ suit.</p> | <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> | | Pass | Pass | Pass | 1♣ | Pass | 1♦ | Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3NT | Pass | Pass | Pass | | |
|---|--------------|-------------|--------------|---|----|---|---|--|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|----|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|------|------|------|----|------|----|------|-----|------|-----|------|------|------|--|--|
| HCP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Makeable contracts | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | 3 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | 3 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Pass | Pass | Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♦ | Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2NT | Pass | 3NT | Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| <p>♠ 63 ♥ KQ875 ♦ Q9 ♣ AQ32</p> <p>♠ KQJ542 ♠ A98 ♥ J ♥ 94 ♦ 10753 ♦ AK864 ♣ 94 ♣ KJ7</p> <p>♠ 107 ♥ A10632 ♦ J2 ♣ 10865</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;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">15</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</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>1</td><td></td><td>1</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td></td><td>1</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td></td><td>5</td><td></td><td>5</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>5</td><td></td><td>5</td><td>1</td></tr> </table> | HCP | | 13 | | 7 | 15 | 5 | | Makeable contracts | | | | | | | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT | N | 1 | | 1 | | | S | 1 | | 1 | | | E | | 5 | | 5 | 1 | W | | 5 | | 5 | 1 | <p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">E/W will make 11 tricks in a ♠ contract on this board but some pairs may play in a partscore. I recommend the auction above. North may overcall 2♥ but this will give E/W the choice of bidding their game or getting an even better score by doubling a ♥ contract as South will surely raise ♥s.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">If playing a strong NT, West will either bid game directly after transferring or will invite and East should accept the invitation.</p> | <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> | | | 1♦ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 4♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass |
|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|---|----|----|---|--|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|--|----|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|------|------|
| HCP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Makeable contracts | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | | 5 | | 5 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | 5 | | 5 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 1♦ | Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1♠ | Pass | 2♠ | Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| <p>♠ A1087 ♥ 103 ♦ J52 ♣ AJ42</p> <p>♠ QJ3 ♠ 642 ♥ K842 ♥ AQJ5 ♦ K96 ♦ AQ1043 ♣ Q97 ♣ 3</p> <p>♠ K95 ♥ 976 ♦ 87 ♣ K10865</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;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> | HCP | | 10 | | 11 | 13 | 6 | | Makeable contracts | | | | | | | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT | N | 2 | | | 1 | | S | 2 | | | 1 | | E | | 4 | 4 | | | W | | 4 | 4 | | | <p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW Vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Most pairs will have the auction above.</p> <p>If playing a strong NT, West should rebid 2NT on the second round but the final contract should be the same.</p> <p>E/W will make ten tricks in a ♥ contract on this board. It is hard to imagine how any more or less tricks will be made.</p> | West | North | East | South | Pass | Pass | 1♦ | Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 3NT | Pass | 4♥ | Pass | Pass | Pass | | |
|---|-------|------|-------|---|----|----|---|--|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|------|-------|------|-------|------|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|-----|------|----|------|------|------|--|--|
| HCP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Makeable contracts | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | | 4 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | 4 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| West | North | East | South | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | Pass | 1♦ | Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1♥ | Pass | 2♥ | Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3NT | Pass | 4♥ | Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| <p>♠ K102 ♥ A5 ♦ AQ4 ♣ QJ532</p> <p>♠ A874 ♠ 5 ♥ Q ♥ K107632 ♦ 76532 ♦ J9 ♣ 975 ♣ A1086</p> <p>♠ QJ963 ♥ J984 ♦ K108 ♣ K</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">16</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</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;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> | HCP | | 16 | | 6 | 8 | 10 | | Makeable contracts | | | | | | | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT | N | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | S | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | E | | | | | | W | | | | | | <p>Board 4 : Dealer West : Both vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Should South's response of 1♠ show 4+♠, 5+♠ or less than 4♠? There is no correct answer to this question. What is important is that both North and South agree what the bid means. On this hand I expect that most partnerships will reach a 4♠ contract. Those who reach 3NT should expect a good score as 10 tricks should be made in both contracts. Anyone who scores 11 tricks will get a great result.</p> <p>If playing a strong NT North will open 1NT and I would expect the final contract to be 4♠.</p> | West | North | East | South | Pass | 1♣ | 1♥ | 1♠ | Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3NT | Pass | Pass | Pass | | | |
|--|-------|------|-------|---|----|---|----|--|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|------|-------|------|-------|------|----|----|----|------|----|------|-----|------|-----|------|------|------|--|--|--|
| HCP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Makeable contracts | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| West | North | East | South | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | 1♣ | 1♥ | 1♠ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 2NT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | 3NT | Pass | Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|---|----|----|----|--|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|------|----|------|------|--------|------|----|------|------|------|--|
| <p>♠ J942 ♥ KQ6 ♦ 43 ♣ A1072</p> <p>♠ 8763 ♠ 10 ♥ A873 ♥ 542 ♦ J10 ♦ KQ9752 ♣ J95 ♣ KQ8</p> <p>♠ AKQ5 ♥ J109 ♦ A86 ♣ 643</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><td colspan="2">HCP</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <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>2</td><td></td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td></td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td></td><td>2</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>2</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> | HCP | | 10 | | 6 | 10 | 14 | | Makeable contracts | | | | | | | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT | N | 2 | | 1 | 3 | 2 | S | 2 | | 1 | 3 | 2 | E | | 2 | | | | W | | 2 | | | | <p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Double</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>If East opens a weak 2♦ bid I think that South should pass. The hand is an opening bid but has sterile distribution. North may also pass but I think that s/he should compete. South may be tempted to bid game but I think that an invitational bid is sufficient.</p> <p>If East fails to open, South will open 1NT which North should pass. East may now compete but North should now make a takeout double in which case N/S should play in 2♠.</p> <p>Will South think that North's double is penalty? Some will - in which case North cannot double so E/W will make 2♦.</p> <p>If N/S play in ♠ they should make 9 tricks.</p> | West | North | East | South | | Pass | 2♦ | Pass | Pass | Double | Pass | 3♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass | |
| HCP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Makeable contracts | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N | 2 | | 1 | 3 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | 2 | | 1 | 3 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| West | North | East | South | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Pass | 2♦ | Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | Double | Pass | 3♠ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|---|----|---|----|--|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|--|------|-----|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|------|------|--|--|--|
| <p>♠ Q976 ♥ AK2 ♦ K1086 ♣ A10</p> <p>♠ AK85 ♠ 4 ♥ 3 ♥ 1098765 ♦ J93 ♦ Q742 ♣ 98764 ♣ Q2</p> <p>♠ J1032 ♥ QJ4 ♦ A5 ♣ KJ53</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><td colspan="2">HCP</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <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>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> | HCP | | 16 | | 8 | 4 | 12 | | Makeable contracts | | | | | | | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT | N | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | S | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | E | | | | | | W | | | | | | <p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Should we play in 3NT or 4 of a major?</p> <p>On this hand I think that North should use Stayman. The hand has 2 four card suits and controls (Aces and Kings) which suggest playing in a suit contract.</p> <p>With careful play declarer should emerge with 11 tricks although the 4-1 trump break may cause declarer to be held to 10 tricks.</p> <p>In NT declarer will probably make 10 tricks.</p> | West | North | East | South | | | Pass | 1NT | Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 4♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass | | | |
| HCP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Makeable contracts | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| West | North | East | South | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Pass | 1NT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 2♠ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | 4♠ | Pass | Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

♠ 974
♥ J109
♦ -
♣ K876432

♠ Q1082 ♠ AK63
♥ 873 ♥ Q62
♦ AJ6 ♦ 10953
♣ AJ10 ♣ 95

♠ J5
♥ AK54
♦ KQ8742
♣ Q

| HCP | |
|-----|---|
| 4 | |
| 12 | 9 |
| 15 | |

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

Board 7 : South : Both vulnerable

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | 1♦ |

South has an easy opening bid. I do not think that West has enough to make a takeout double. North will hate passing but I think that s/he has no option. I do not think that East is strong enough to bid.

If E/W can avoid leading hearts the 1♦ contract should fail. In practice, I think that it will normally succeed.

Achieving a plus score as N/S or E/W should be a good result.

♠ 6
♥ 86543
♦ 54
♣ AK1054

♠ K832 ♠ QJ
♥ QJ ♥ AK10972
♦ J3 ♦ AKQ10
♣ Q9632 ♣ 8

♠ A109754
♥ -
♦ 98762
♣ J7

| HCP | |
|-----|----|
| 7 | |
| 9 | 19 |
| 5 | |

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

Board 8 : Dealer West : Nil all

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Pass | Pass | 1♥ | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 3♦ | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | Pass | Pass |

West may choose to give preference to ♥ after the 3♦ bid in which case the contract will be 4♥.

In theory 4♥ is a better contract than 3NT. However, in practice, I do not think that N/S will find the defence to hold the 3NT contract to 9 tricks. North must either lead a ♠ or switch to one after cashing a top ♣ on which South must play the J.

Some N/S pairs may be able to open the North hand with 2♥. This will cause East a lot of grief and it is difficult to predict what will happen.

I expect that 3NT+2 will be a normal result when North leads a small ♣.

Those in 4♥ will probably only make 10 tricks and N/S should find their ♠ ruff.

♠ J62
 ♥ 942
 ♦ K65
 ♣ K862
 ♠ A83 ♠ 954
 ♥ AKJ5 ♥ Q76
 ♦ A98 ♦ QJ10743
 ♣ AJ9 ♣ 5
 ♠ KQ107
 ♥ 1083
 ♦ 2
 ♣ Q10743

| HCP | |
|-----|---|
| 7 | |
| 21 | 5 |
| 7 | |

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

Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 3NT | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

If you play Benjamin 2 bids you may open the West hand 2♣ and rebid 2NT. Otherwise you are likely to open 2NT. If you play Puppet Stayman you may bid 3♣ but you will probably play in 3NT. In this case, South may double 3♣ for a club lead as s/he may fear a ♦ lead otherwise.

For want of anything better to do North will probably lead a ♣ and declarer will make 11 tricks. Declarer should play the ♦ suit by cashing the Ace and leading another. Declarer will fear that South can win the second round with the King and return a ♣ in which case the contract would be in danger, but all is well. If North is fortunate enough to lead a ♠ declarer will be held to 9 tricks.

♠ 95
 ♥ J106
 ♦ J95
 ♣ Q10852
 ♠ K1083 ♠ QJ74
 ♥ AK ♥ Q843
 ♦ 8764 ♦ KQ32
 ♣ AJ4 ♣ 7
 ♠ A62
 ♥ 10952
 ♦ A10
 ♣ K963

| HCP | |
|-----|----|
| 4 | |
| 15 | 10 |
| 11 | |

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

Board 10 : Dealer East : Both vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | | Pass | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 4♣ | Pass |
| 4♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

If playing a strong NT West would open 1NT and E/W should reach 4♠ via a Stayman sequence.

If playing a weak NT West will open 1♠ and I think that East, as a passed hand, can bid 4♣ to show ♠ support, almost an opening bid and a singleton or void in ♣.

South might be tempted to open but the vulnerability should lead South to resist the temptation.

Declarer should only lose two ♦s and a ♠ and make 10 tricks.

♠ AKJ
 ♥ 74
 ♦ 632
 ♣ AKJ103

♠1083 ♠ 6542
 ♥KQJ ♥ A98653
 ♦ K10 ♦ A97
 ♣98642 ♣ -

♠ Q97
 ♥ 102
 ♦ QJ854
 ♣ Q75

| HCP | |
|-----|---|
| 16 | |
| 9 | 8 |
| 7 | |

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

Board 11 : Dealer South : Nil All

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | | | Pass |
| Pass | 1♣ | 1♥ | 2♣ |
| 2♥ | 3♣ | 3♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

I expect a competitive auction on this board. At his second turn South has the values to bid but no obvious bid so I suggest supporting partner's ♣. If playing 5 card majors South would have a more difficult bid.

West should pass East's 3♥ bid; if East wanted to make an invitational bid s/he could have doubled 3♣ or bid 3♦.

I expect a ♣ lead against a ♥ contract. Declarer should ruff this and immediately play a ♠ in which case s/he should make 10 tricks.

I do not expect many pairs to bid a game on the E/W cards. It does make but requires really kind distribution.

♠ Q5
 ♥ AK1063
 ♦ AJ97
 ♣ J6

♠ K1042 ♠ 873
 ♥ 9872 ♥ 5
 ♦ Q86 ♦ K542
 ♣ K5 ♣ 98742

♠ AJ96
 ♥ QJ4
 ♦ 103
 ♣ AQ103

| HCP | |
|-----|---|
| 15 | |
| 8 | 3 |
| 14 | |

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

Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 4♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass |

I expect some N/S pairs to bid a slam on these cards. This contract probably requires one black suit finesse to be on but you might have to guess which one. However, as both finesses are wrong the contract should go down.

South may consider bidding 3NT as s/he has both of the black suit well stopped. This should work very well on this hand and those who play 3NT should get a very good score; 11 tricks should be made in both NT and ♥s.

South might also bid 3♣ on the second round. This will give North a problem. If s/he bids 3♠, South could then bid 3NT.

♠ K97
 ♥ KQ87
 ♦ Q10
 ♣ K942
 ♠ Q1064 ♠ 53
 ♥ A65 ♥ J10942
 ♦ 97 ♦ A632
 ♣ 8653 ♣ A7
 ♠ AJ82
 ♥ 3
 ♦ KJ854
 ♣ QJ10

| HCP | |
|-----|---|
| 13 | |
| 6 | 9 |
| 12 | |

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

Board 13 : Dealer North : Both vulnerable

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | 1NT | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 3NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

I expect the final contract on this board to be 3NT. I have suggested one possible auction above. In this sequence South has shown 4♠. I do not think that South should bid ♦ as s/he barely has the values for game and 5♦ is unlikely to be the best contract.

If East leads a ♦ against 3NT, the contract will make with at least one overtrick.

If East leads ♥J the contract should be beaten. After winning the second ♥ North should play a ♣. If East allows this to win, declarer can switch to ♦s and make the contract.

♠ 862
 ♥ 762
 ♦ J84
 ♣ Q975
 ♠ AK975 ♠ QJ3
 ♥ AQ954 ♥ 108
 ♦ 3 ♦ AQ107
 ♣ J6 ♣ AK84
 ♠ 104
 ♥ KJ3
 ♦ K9652
 ♣ 1032

| HCP | |
|-----|----|
| 3 | |
| 14 | 16 |
| 7 | |

| Makeable contracts | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|----|
| | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT |
| N | | | | | |
| S | | | | | |
| E | 5 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| W | 5 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 7 |

Board 14 : Dealer East : Nil all

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | 1♦ | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 1NT | Pass |
| 3♥ | Pass | 3♠ | Pass |
| 4NT | Pass | 5♠ | Pass |
| 6♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

I expect all E/W pairs to mke 13 tricks on this board, even those greedy ones who play in NT. It would seem unfair if you were N/S and your opponents bid 6NT but life is not fair.

I confess that I am not sure whether 1♣ or 1♦ is the correct opening bid on East's hand or whether it is a matter for partnership agreement.

I am not sure that the auction above is the best one but it does get E/W to the best contract.

If playing strong NT, East will open 1 NT and West will transfer. The subsequent auction should be similar

♠ KJ6
♥ AK965
♦ 74
♣ K43

♠ A10943 ♠ Q8752
♥ 8 ♥ Q10
♦ J1032 ♦ AKQ96
♣ 972 ♣ 10

♠ -
♥ J7432
♦ 85
♣ AQJ865

| HCP | |
|-----|----|
| 14 | |
| 5 | 13 |
| 8 | |

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

Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|------|--------|------|-------|
| | | | Pass |
| Pass | 1♥ | 1♠ | 3♣ |
| 4♠ | 5♥ | Pass | Pass |
| 5♠ | Double | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

I expect that there will be a lot of different auctions on this board.

North has the first decision here. Should s/he open 1♥ or 1NT?
I suggest opening 1♥.

If East is playing the Michaels convention s/he can bid 2♥ to show a ♠ and minor two-suiter. If playing the Ghestem convention s/he can bid 3♣ to show a ♠ and ♦ two-suiter. Here East just bids 1♠ and hopes to show his ♦ suit later.

I now have South bid 3♣ This is a fit jump. It shows support for partner's suit and a good 5 card ♣ suit.

West should now bid 4♠. This just shows ♠ support. North may be tempted to double but this will turn out badly as the 4♠ contract should make; South's bidding should have warned North that E/W have all the ♦s and E/W bidding suggest that South may be void in ♠s so perhaps bidding on to 5♥ may be better.

♠ Q94
♥ A987
♦ AQ63
♣ 105

♠ 52 ♠ AK107
♥ Q1064 ♥ K52
♦ J87 ♦ K92
♣ KQ87 ♣ 942

♠ J863
♥ J3
♦ 1054
♣ AJ63

| HCP | |
|-----|----|
| 12 | |
| 8 | 13 |
| 7 | |

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

Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| Pass | 1NT | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

After the excitement of the previous board we now have a quiet one but this is the type of board where pairs competitions are decided.

I expect most Norths to play in 1NT. It will be a hard fought contest between the declarer and defence but I suspect that more often than not declarer will make the contract. A plus score on this board will be a good result.

♠ A1095
 ♥ J4
 ♦ 10
 ♣ AJ9642
 ♠ 73 ♠ Q862
 ♥ AK92 ♥ Q86
 ♦ K76 ♦ Q952
 ♣ KQ85 ♣ 107
 ♠ KJ4
 ♥ 10753
 ♦ AJ843
 ♣ 3

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--------------------|---|---|---|----|---|
| HCP | | Makeable contracts | | | | | |
| 10 | | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT | |
| 15 6 | | N | 3 | 1 | | 2 | |
| 9 | | S | 3 | 1 | | 2 | |
| | | E | | | | | 1 |
| | | W | | | | | |

Board 17 : Dealer North : Nil All

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| 1♥ | 2♣ | 2♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

North may be tempted to open in first position with the good distribution and 2 Aces. I would not criticise North for opening.

If North does not open West will open in fourth position and North will then overcall. East might pass which should end the auction as neither South or West has a reason to bid over 2♣ and in that case 2♣ should make.

East might dredge up a bid of 2♥ which should also end the auction. This is a tough contract to both play and defend and I expect it to end up one or two down.

♠ 6
 ♥ 73
 ♦ 1062
 ♣ KJ109865
 ♠ AJ4 ♠ Q10873
 ♥ K10982 ♥ A5
 ♦ A87 ♦ KJ953
 ♣ Q2 ♣ 7
 ♠ K952
 ♥ QJ64
 ♦ Q4
 ♣ A43

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|--|--------------------|---|---|---|----|--|
| HCP | | Makeable contracts | | | | | |
| 4 | | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT | |
| 14 10 | | N | 2 | | | | |
| 12 | | S | 2 | | | | |
| | | E | | 5 | 4 | 5 | |
| | | W | | 5 | 4 | 5 | |

Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | 1♠ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 2♠ | Pass |
| 4♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

East has another marginal opening bid here. If s/he opens E/W should bid smoothly to 4♠ which should make, possibly with an overtrick.

Note that East bid 2♠ on the second round of bidding. S/he would like to show her ♦ suit but bidding 3♦ would show a much better hand.

If East does not open South will open 1NT. If West doubles, can you as North escape to a ♣ contract. If West does not double can you as North get to a ♣ contract. If not 1NT may be 4 down vulnerable.

In either case it would be much more difficult for E/W to get to their game contract.

♠ A85
 ♥ AK98
 ♦ 1092
 ♣ 1097
 ♠ KQ64 ♠ J3
 ♥ 765 ♥ J432
 ♦ KJ ♦ 86543
 ♣ QJ62 ♣ K3
 ♠ 10972
 ♥ Q10
 ♦ AQ7
 ♣ A854

| HCP | |
|-----|---|
| 11 | |
| 12 | 5 |
| 12 | |

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

Board 19 : Dealer South : EW Vulnerable

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | | 1NT |
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

I expect the final contract to be 2NT at most tables even when playing a strong NT.

On the bidding above, I expect West to lead a 4th best ♣. I expect declarer to make 2♣, 2♠, 3♥ and 1♦ and make his contract and get an above average score.

♠ K5
 ♥ J87
 ♦ QJ8
 ♣ AQ963
 ♠ 1074 ♠ A963
 ♥ 632 ♥ Q1054
 ♦ K109432 ♦ A6
 ♣ 7 ♣ K104
 ♠ QJ82
 ♥ AK9
 ♦ 75
 ♣ J852

| HCP | |
|-----|----|
| 13 | |
| 3 | 13 |
| 11 | |

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

Board 20 : Dealer West : Both vulnerable

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Pass | 1NT | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 3NT | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

The auction on this board is similar to the auction on the previous board but here North may accept the invitation because of the good 5♣ card suit.

3NT is not a great contract but should make on the lie of the cards.

The opening lead will probably be a ♥ which declarer must run around to his hand. If s/he plays a small ♠ to dummy at trick 2 he should make his contract.

If your opponents bid and make 3NT against you on this board you will get a bad score through no fault of your own.

♠ A1054
 ♥ 7
 ♦ 975
 ♣ A9752
 ♠ K86 ♠ Q72
 ♥ AKJ52 ♥ Q98643
 ♦ 86 ♦ J3
 ♣ Q104 ♣ 86
 ♠ J93
 ♥ 10
 ♦ AKQ1042
 ♣ KJ3

| | |
|-----|---|
| HCP | |
| 8 | |
| 13 | 5 |
| 14 | |

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

Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | Pass | Pass | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | Double | 4♥ | 5♦ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

East may consider opening 2♥ on this hand. I do not believe that s/he should. The suit is too weak, the hand is too weak and balanced and has decent support for ♠.

North has a choice of bids on the first round. On this hand double allows South to bid 5♦ over East's preempt. If North bid 1♠ South would be tempted to bid 4♠ over the preempt. This will work out very well on this hand.

If West is allowed to play the hand in a ♥ contract s/he will get 7 or 8 tricks which should yield a great result if undoubled.

♠ A98
 ♥ A9
 ♦ AJ85
 ♣ A742
 ♠ J542 ♠ Q103
 ♥ J1054 ♥ 6
 ♦ K7 ♦ Q109432
 ♣ J98 ♣ Q63
 ♠ K76
 ♥ KQ8732
 ♦ 6
 ♣ K105

| | |
|-----|---|
| HCP | |
| 17 | |
| 6 | 6 |
| 11 | |

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

Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | Pass | 1♥ |
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | 3NT | Pass | 4♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

Micheal and I have an agreement that North's 3NT bid in this auction guarantees a doubleton♥. This gives South more information to make a decision between 3NT and 4♥.

I expect every pair to bid game here with those bidding NT receiving an under average score. North may be tempted to bid more with all the aces but opposite a minimum opener and not great support for ♥ North should be content with game.

Declarer should make 10 tricks in NT and 11 tricks in a ♥ contract.

♠ KJ86
 ♥ 7
 ♦ Q9
 ♣ A86532
 ♠ Q54 ♠ A7
 ♥ 10 ♥ K98432
 ♦ K7543 ♦ AJ62
 ♣ Q1094 ♣ K
 ♠ 10932
 ♥ AQJ65
 ♦ 108
 ♣ J7

| HCP | |
|-----|----|
| 10 | |
| 7 | 15 |
| 8 | |

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

Board 23 : South : Both vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | | | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | 1♥ | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 3♦ | Pass | 3♥ | Pass |
| 4♦ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

West may do better to pass 2♦ but with 5 trumps it is tempting to give partner a raise. East is probably worth a 3♥ bid as ♥ could be a better contract if West has doubleton support. After West retreats to 4♦ I think East has a close decision whether to bid game or not. As West did not bid game over 3♥ East decided to pass.

The spotlight then turns to South who must lead. With a great holding in declarer's first suit it is normal to lead trumps to cut down declarer's ruffs in dummy. However in this case partner may be able to overruff dummy.

If South leads a trump declarer can make 11 tricks after drawing two rounds of trumps because the J♣ falls.

If South leads a ♠, a ♦ contract should be held to 10 tricks.

♠ Q1064
 ♥ Q1097
 ♦ A832
 ♣ 7
 ♠ J73 ♠ 95
 ♥ K ♥ 6532
 ♦ KQJ75 ♦ 1094
 ♣ Q962 ♣ J1083
 ♠ AK82
 ♥ AJ84
 ♦ 6
 ♣ AK54

| HCP | |
|-----|---|
| 8 | |
| 12 | 1 |
| 19 | |

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

Board 24 : Dealer West : Nil all

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|--------|
| 1♦ | Pass | Pass | Double |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 3♦ |
| Pass | 3♥ | Pass | 4♦ |
| Pass | 5♣ | Pass | 6♥ |

After South makes a takeout double North does not wish to choose between the majors so s/he cuebids to show both. Whether North's hand is strong enough for this action is an open question. South then forces North to bid a major by cuebidding at the 3 level and then makes a slam try by cuebidding at the 4 level. North makes one more try and South then bids the slam.

I expect any pair who bids the slam to get a very good score.

Declarer can make all 13 tricks by dropping the singleton K of trumps but I do not think that this is the correct line even though you know that West is almost guaranteed to hold that card.

Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**

4♠ Pass 2♠ Pass

 Pass Pass Pass

If E/W are playing weak 2 bids, East should open and West will raise to game. West could bid 2NT as an enquiry but I think that the hand is worth bidding a direct game opposite a vulnerable weak two opening. If East does not open, West will open 1♠ and the partnership may or may not get to game.

N/S should defeat the 4♠ contract but the defence needs to be careful. If South leads a ♦ East will go off if s/he plays 3 rounds of ♦ to discard a ♥. If East plays a trump at trick 2 South must switch to ♥Q to defeat the contract.

An unlikely opening lead of a ♣ will always defeat 4♠.

Anyone who defeats a 4♠ contract should get a very good score.

N/S can make a game in ♥ but I would be surprised if they ever get to be declarer or even enter the bidding.

♠ 8
♥ AJ106
♦ J10872
♣ Q102

♠ QJ73 ♠ K109652
♥ K87 ♥ 92
♦ KQ63 ♦ A4
♣ A7 ♣ 864

♠ A4
♥ Q543
♦ 95
♣ KJ953

| HCP | |
|-----|---|
| 8 | |
| 15 | 7 |
| 10 | |

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

Board 26: Dealer East : Both vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**

Pass Pass Pass Pass

Pass 1♥ Pass 1♠

Pass 2♠ Pass 2NT

Pass 4♠ Pass Pass

Pass

If playing a weak NT, N/S will probably reach the 4♠ contract with a bidding sequence similar to that above. Unfortunately West will lead three rounds of ♦ and the contract will go off.

If playing a strong NT, N/S will reach 4♠ played by North after a Stayman sequence. The ♦ lead is not as attractive from the East hand and on any other lead declarer has a chance to make the contract.

I expect down 1 in 4♠ to be a common result.

♠ A1043
♥ AK98
♦ J97
♣ K8

♠ J752 ♠ 9
♥ J7 ♥ Q10543
♦ AK854 ♦ 103
♣ J7 ♣ Q9652

♠ KQ86
♥ 62
♦ Q62
♣ A1043

| HCP | |
|-----|---|
| 15 | |
| 10 | 4 |
| 11 | |

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

♠ 10
 ♥ J95
 ♦ KQ3
 ♣ A108765
 ♠ KQ ♠ AJ9642
 ♥ A10842 ♥ 763
 ♦ J72 ♦ 84
 ♣ Q32 ♣ 94
 ♠ 8753
 ♥ KQ
 ♦ A10965
 ♣ KJ

| HCP | |
|-----|---|
| 10 | |
| 12 | 5 |
| 13 | |

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

Board 27 : Dealer South : Nil All

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | | | 1NT |
| Pass | Pass | 2♠ | Pass |
| 2NT | 3♣ | Pass | Pass |
| 3♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

I find it difficult to predict what will happen on this hand. South may choose not to open 1NT because of the 5/4 distribution but I think the two strong doubletons should steer them to opening 1NT.

North will probably pass her partner's 1NT opening unless the partnership has a way to transfer to 3♣. If East passes, West will lead a ♥ and declarer should make 8 tricks.

East may bid 2♠ as s/he expects partner to lead something other than a ♠ which would get the defence off to a bad start. I suggest that West should bid 2NT to check what sort of a hand partner has. North should take the opportunity bid her ♣ suit . West finishes the auction by bidding 3♠. This contract will go 2 off but this should be a good score for E/W as it is not doubled.

If playing a strong NT South will open 1♦ and N/S will probably play in a minor partscore.

♠ 54
 ♥ A84
 ♦ K9
 ♣ KQJ632
 ♠ A6 ♠ QJ8
 ♥ 932 ♥ KQ765
 ♦ AJ76 ♦ 10832
 ♣ A1087 ♣ 9
 ♠ K109732
 ♥ J10
 ♦ Q54
 ♣ 54

| HCP | |
|-----|---|
| 13 | |
| 13 | 8 |
| 6 | |

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

Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | 3♣ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

This is yet another weak NT opening. North passed as s/he knew what to lead against a NT contract. If s/he were greedy s/he might double. I know some people who would.

After the transfer North risks 3C. E/W will do well to pass this out. West would like to make a penalty double but s/he does not know whether her partner has any values. This contract will probably go 2 down although double dummy defence after ♣9 lead would put it 3 down.

If North passes South may try 2♠ in the pass out seat. This contract may also go 2 down and illustrates the risk of competing too vigorously when vulnerable.

E/W can make 10 tricks in ♥ but I would not expect anyone to bid game.

♠ 632
 ♥ A432
 ♦ 5
 ♣ J8764
 ♠ Q104 ♠ K97
 ♥ 976 ♥ Q85
 ♦ AJ632 ♦ K10984
 ♣ Q5 ♣ K10
 ♠ AJ85
 ♥ KJ10
 ♦ Q7
 ♣ A932

| | |
|-----|----|
| HCP | |
| 5 | |
| 9 | 11 |
| 15 | |

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

Board 29 : Dealer North : Both vulnerable

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | Pass | Pass | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♠ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

North might consider passing 1♠. With 3 trumps, a singleton and an Ace, I think that North is worth a bid. E/W will need to defend well to hold a ♠ contract to 8 tricks; leading a ♦ at every opportunity is required but it is unlikely.

If North passes East should bid 1NT which will go 1 down on a ♣ lead but North would probably compete with 2♠.

If N/S are playing a strong NT South will open 1NT which should go 2 down on a ♦ lead.

♠ K653
 ♥ J6
 ♦ KJ7
 ♣ 9653
 ♠ 8 ♠ AJ972
 ♥ AK743 ♥ Q1085
 ♦ Q52 ♦ 10986
 ♣ K742 ♣
 ♠ Q104
 ♥ 92
 ♦ A43
 ♣ AQJ108

| | |
|-----|---|
| HCP | |
| 8 | |
| 12 | 7 |
| 13 | |

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

Board 30 : Dealer East : Nil all

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | Pass | 2♣ | Pass |
| 3♥ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

There are a lot of defences to 1NT. The simplest is to play 2♣ for the majors and everything else natural.

East should not pass 1NT as s/he expects partner to lead a ♣. S/he shows both majors. West might just bid 2♥ but with such good trump support invites game, which East declines.

If North does not lead a trump E/W should make 10 tricks on a cross ruff. Even with a trump lead, 9 tricks should be made by setting up the long ♠. The bidding does indicate that a trump lead should be made.

If playing a strong NT South will open 1♣. After West overcalls 1♥, E/W should play in a ♥ contract

♠ 9753
♥ 5
♦ AQ9
♣ AK653

♠ J108 ♠ AK
♥ K9 ♥ AQ10873
♦ K106532 ♦ J74
♣ Q2 ♣ 109

♠ Q642
♥ J642
♦ 8
♣ J874

| HCP | |
|-----|----|
| 13 | |
| 9 | 14 |
| 4 | |

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

Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | | | Pass |
| Pass | 1♣ | 1♥ | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 3♣ | 3♦ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

I expect this board to be a partscore battle.

Initially I thought that the South hand should pass on the second round but with 4 trumps and a singleton South can risk a bid. If South passes, E/W will probably play in a ♥ partscore. If N/S are playing a strong NT, it is much less attractive for South to bid (because the ♣ bid could be made with a suit as short as 2 cards).

If N/S overcompete, E/W will need to double to get the magic 200 and a very good score.

♠ KJ853
♥ A2
♦ AQ954
♣ 5

♠ Q762 ♠ A104
♥ Q ♥ 97543
♦ 1073 ♦ KJ
♣ KQ1098 ♣ J42

♠ 9
♥ KJ1086
♦ 862
♣ A763

| HCP | |
|-----|---|
| 14 | |
| 9 | 9 |
| 8 | |

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

Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

I expect the contract will be a ♦ partscore at most tables.

East would like to lead a trump but cannot do so on this hand. I prefer a ♣ lead to a ♥.

North should make 9 or 10 tricks depending on the ♠ guess.