

For discussion purposes – I am assuming 4-card Majors, Weak No-Trump (Strong NT mentioned), Transfers, RKCB and Weak Two Openings in 3 suits. FOB.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 63 ♥ KQ1076 ♦ AJ63 ♣ 84</p> <p>♠ AKJ84      ♠ 75 ♥ AJ2          ♥ 93 ♦ 94            ♦ K1085 ♣ 765          ♣ AJ1032</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q1092 ♥ 854 ♦ Q72 ♣ KQ9</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10	8	13	9	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	-	-	S	-	-	1	-	-	E	3	-	-	2	-	W	3	-	-	2	-	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There is a trend among good players to open the bidding lighter and lighter every year. There will be some good players who will view the North hand as a full blooded 1♥ opening. If you have a ‘gadget’ to show the hand you can wheel it out now. Some might try a ‘Tartan’ 2♥ showing Hearts and a minor and 6-10 points. Other Norths might prefer to overcall 2♥ on the next round may indeed be allowed make 2♥. To beat 2♥ E/W need to play 3 rounds of Spades followed by a 4<sup>th</sup> round of Spades by West when he gets in on the first round of trumps.</p> <p>However most tables will see West declare 2♠ and indeed if North gets too frisky in the bidding he might lure South into doubling this unbeatable contract.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	All Pass		
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 843 ♥ 109 ♦ AJ93 ♣ J542</p> <p>♠ J95      ♠ Q1072 ♥ A87642    ♥ J5 ♦ 1082      ♦ Q754 ♣ 6          ♣ Q109</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AK6 ♥ KQ3 ♦ K6 ♣ AK873</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">22</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>3</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		6	7	5	22	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	2	1	3	4	S	5	2	1	3	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>All roads lead to 3NT by South whether South opens 2NT or 2♣. The South hand is very very strong and 2♣ does it more justice than 2NT. On another night 6♣ would be laydown.</p> <p>Most declarers will make 10 tricks in 3NT on a Heart lead. Those who don't get a Heart lead will have to set up two Heart tricks themselves to make 10 tricks. As usual in a matchpointed event, any N/S landing in 5♣ will get a very poor score.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A96432 ♥ A76 ♦ 95 ♣ Q8</p> <p>♠ KJ                      ♠ Q75 ♥ 942                      ♥ QJ5 ♦ A10873                  ♦ J42 ♣ J63                      ♣ A1092</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 108 ♥ K1083 ♦ KQ6 ♣ K754</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;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</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 style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10		9	10	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	2	2	-	S	-	-	1	2	-	E	1	2	-	-	1	W	1	2	-	-	1	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Most Norths will take some action in third seat – either 1♠ or 2♠. Those who open 1♠ might have trouble stopping below 3♠, while the 2♠ openers should be left undisturbed in the safe haven of 2♠.</p> <p>Declarer should lose 2 trump tricks, 2 aces and a Heart trick. Those declarers in 3♠ will somehow have to talk the defenders out of their Heart trick – as by getting East to waste his ♣A on thin air or by getting East to open the Heart suit first – and to be fair that ♥Q looks like a might attractive opening lead.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	2♠	All Pass	Pass
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A1076 ♥ K53 ♦ 954 ♣ 543</p> <p>♠ KQ85                      ♠ J4 ♥ Q9                          ♥ J8742 ♦ A1072                      ♦ J ♣ KJ8                          ♣ A9762</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 932 ♥ A106 ♦ KQ863 ♣ Q10</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;">7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</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 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;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</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;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		7		15	7	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	-	3	2	2	W	4	-	3	2	2	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>There will be a few West players telling their partners ‘This is another fine mess you got me into’ when they get to 3NT or 4♥. How high you get depends on how East values his 5-5 shape.</p> <p>Legitimately both game contracts should go one down but if the defenders aren’t awake then some declarers will make their game contracts. The defenders need to be patient here and wait for their tricks.</p> <p>As ever in a matchpointed game any plus score will score well.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	All Pass
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J94 ♥ AQ ♦ K63 ♣ KJ1097</p> <p>♠ Q753      ♠ 1062 ♥ 1064      ♥ KJ9 ♦ AQ97      ♦ J102 ♣ 53      ♣ Q842</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AK8 ♥ 87532 ♦ 854 ♣ A6</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8      7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>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		14	8      7	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	1	2	1	2	S	3	1	2	2	2	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>3NT by North is a reasonable contract and it will be bid at practically every table. It won't be a pretty contract to play even on a Club lead.</p> <p>As long as the defenders don't give away tricks they should get 5 tricks and in some cases 6 tricks - 3 Diamonds, a Heart and a Spade and some E/Ws will get a Club trick too.</p> <p>All in if North can escape with 3NT-1 he will salvage some matchpoints.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ KQJ654 ♥ 4 ♦ KJ1064 ♣ 8</p> <p>♠ -      ♠ A2 ♥ Q8      ♥ AKJ10763 ♦ AQ93      ♦ 8 ♣ KQ107632      ♣ J54</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 109873 ♥ 952 ♦ 752 ♣ A9</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13      13</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <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>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10	13      13	4	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	-	3	-	S	-	2	-	3	-	E	6	-	5	-	3	W	6	-	5	-	3	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6♣</td> <td>6♠</td> <td>DbI</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>6♥ by E/W goes down if South leads the ♣A and continues the suit to give his partner a ruff. Unlucky. 6♣ is unbeatable but it is not easy to bid.</p> <p>But regardless of what E/W do, once N/S find their 11 card Spade fit, E/W won't get to play the hand at too many tables.</p> <p>6♠ is a great sacrifice – even against a 4♥ game – the defence getting 4 tricks (3 Aces and a Diamond ruff for East) going only 3 off to give E/W a mere 500 points. There will be a few lucky N/S pairs allowed to play in 4♠X and 5♠X.</p> <p>In the good old days, the 4♥ rebid would have implied a partial Club fit, making it easier for West to bid 6♣.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♥	Pass	2♣	2NT	4♥	4♠	6♣	6♠	DbI	All Pass
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Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

<p>♠ 72 ♥ 1087542 ♦ 965 ♣ AJ</p> <p>♠ A986543    ♠ KQJ ♥ Q            ♥ A93 ♦ KJ73        ♦ A1082 ♣ 8             ♣ K105</p> <p>♠ 10 ♥ KJ6 ♦ Q4 ♣ Q976432</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>The power of the 7-4 shape strikes again. Well done to any E/W pair who bid and make a slam on this one.</p> <p>Some Souths will think about opening 3♣ but the Club suit is poor and there is too much strength outside of the Club suit.</p> <p>Then the spotlight turns to West. If he opens 3♠ he probably be raised to 4♠. Anyone who was listening to Gay Keaveney in Donegal espousing the virtues of the 7-4 shape, might open 1♠ with this hand and now there is every chance of getting to slam in Diamonds, Spades or No-Trump!</p> <p>Of course, there is the small matter of guessing which opponent has the ♦ Q! Good Luck with that!</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
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HCP	
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Makeable contracts					
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N	1	-	1	-	-
S	1	-	1	-	-
E	-	6	-	6	6
W	-	6	-	6	6

Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all

<p>♠ - ♥ 65 ♦ J10852 ♣ AQ9854</p> <p>♠ K10853    ♠ 9642 ♥ KJ10932   ♥ A8 ♦ 97         ♦ A63 ♣ -         ♣ K1032</p> <p>♠ AQJ7 ♥ Q74 ♦ KQ4 ♣ J76</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This board is full of judgement decisions. Everyone has a big decision to make here so there will be many different results.</p> <p>If West has some gadget to show both majors, the Spade fit will be found and E/W will play in 2, 3 or 4 Spades. Surprisingly, E/W can make 4♠ if South tells the world he has 4 trumps (as by doubling 4♠ or opening 1♠).</p> <p>If West has no two suiter 'gadget' he will just bid his Hearts and will make 8 or 9 tricks. Then there is North who will feel he should have a bid too with his cute 6-5 shape. All great fun.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥	All Pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠										
2♥	All Pass												

  

HCP	
7	
7	11
15	

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

Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

**West North East South**

Pass 1NT Dbl 2♦

Pass Pass Dbl All Pass

If North opens a Weak No-Trump East will make a penalty double. On best defence this will go two down but in real life declarer will probably end up with 6 tricks.

If N/S are playing some sort of escape over 1NT doubled e.g. Helvic (2♦ showing 4 Diamonds and 4 Hearts) then they will be able to land in a safer 2♦ contract. This goes one off at most.

Even the Strong No-Trumpers will probably land in 2♦ doubled when North opens 1♦. E/W can make a lot of tricks in either black suit but West might not be too comfortable bidding over 2♦.

♠ K1087  
 ♥ 1096  
 ♦ KQ53  
 ♣ A4  
 ♠ 954      ♠ AQJ3  
 ♥ 842      ♥ KQJ  
 ♦ A92      ♦ 106  
 ♣ Q1098    ♣ KJ52  
 ♠ 62  
 ♥ A753  
 ♦ J874  
 ♣ 763

HCP	
12	17
6	5

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

Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

**West North East South**

Dbl 3♠ Pass 1♥

All Pass Pass 4♠

There will be a lot doubled contracts on this board. What does North respond after 1♥ - Dbl -? Anything could be right. South seems to be the player with the easiest decisions to make. He simply has to open his longest suit and support his partner if his partner bids.

West has a few options over South's 1♥ opening e.g. 2♣, 1NT and Double. On balance 'Double' is probably best - yes you would like to have 4 Spades but once a year a hand like this comes along where you won't have 4 Spades.

Now North has to decide whether or not to bid Spades (given the reasonable assumption that West might have 4 Spades). And if North does decide to bid Spades, does he bid 1♠, 2♠, 3♠ or 4♠?

If North doesn't bid, will East convert the Take Out Double to penalty by passing? All in all it must be right for North to bid and now N/S will play in 3♠ or 4♠ and they might even be doubled. E/W have a nice sacrifice in 5♦ or 5♥.

♠ QJ109753  
 ♥ -  
 ♦ 432  
 ♣ 1092  
 ♠ 4      ♠ 6  
 ♥ K94    ♥ AJ1052  
 ♦ KQ95    ♦ 10876  
 ♣ AK763   ♣ J54  
 ♠ AK82  
 ♥ Q8763  
 ♦ AJ  
 ♣ Q8

HCP	
3	6
15	16

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

Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all

**West      North      East      South**

Pass      2♥      Pass      3♥

Pass      4♥      All Pass

4♥ is a reasonable on contract despite N/S having only 22 HCP. It will be very difficult for any N/S pair to stay out of game.

However most of the 4♥ bidders will be rewarded because it takes a trump lead to beat it (or a trump switch after an initial Spade lead).

Without the trump lead declarer can have some crossruffing fun - ruffing 3 Diamonds in dummy and 2 Clubs in his hand.

♠ 96  
♥ A10954  
♦ AJ764  
♣ 9

♠ AJ72      ♠ K8  
♥ 862      ♥ 73  
♦ Q9      ♦ K8532  
♣ KQ86      ♣ 10543

♠ Q10543  
♥ KQJ  
♦ 10  
♣ AJ72

HCP	
9	
12	6
13	

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

Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

**West      North      East      South**

Pass      3♠      Pass      4♠

All Pass

Some Norths will justifiably have concerns about preempting 3♠ when vulnerable. Some Norths will open 2♠ (weak) instead. Having the ♠8 will probably be all the reassurance most Norths will need to open 3♠.

No matter what North opens or doesn't open, N/S will surely get to game when South shows his 17 count.

Any declarer making 11 tricks - without getting any help from E/W - will have played the hand incredibly well. To make 11 tricks declarer has to spurn the Club finesse and instead lead a Heart towards the Jack after drawing trumps. The hand becomes a race between declarer and the defenders - where West gets to win a trick with only one of his minor suit kings!

♠ AJ109862  
♥ 5  
♦ J95  
♣ 85

♠ 53      ♠ Q4  
♥ A84      ♥ Q10632  
♦ K63      ♦ Q84  
♣ K9742      ♣ J106

♠ K7  
♥ KJ97  
♦ A1072  
♣ AQ3

HCP	
6	
10	7
17	

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

♠ Q1053  
♥ K10  
♦ AK875  
♣ 32

♠ 94                      ♠ K872  
♥ 98532                ♥ J4  
♦ Q942                 ♦ J106  
♣ 107                    ♣ J864

♠ AJ6  
♥ AQ76  
♦ 3  
♣ AKQ95

HCP	
12	
2	6
20	

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

Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	6NT

All Pass

Once North opens the bidding there will be no stopping South from bidding Slam. Another worthwhile tip is not to jump shift as responder when you have two suits to bid – hence the simple 2♣ response.

If South had discovered a Club or Heart fit he might have investigated a Grand Slam but lacking a fit he bids the top spot 6NT. There are 12 tricks available because the Spade finesse is working. So you cash 3 Clubs and give East his Club trick and later finesse twice in Spades to make 3 Spade tricks, 3 Heart Tricks, 2 Diamond tricks and 4 Club tricks.

If you try for 4 Spade tricks by cashing the Spade ace before tackling Clubs you will only make 11 tricks.

♠ 832  
♥ -  
♦ 987542  
♣ 7652

♠ K1096                ♠ AJ75  
♥ A74                 ♥ J103  
♦ K6                    ♦ QJ103  
♣ QJ83                ♣ K10

♠ Q4  
♥ KQ98652  
♦ A  
♣ A94

HCP	
0	
13	12
15	

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

Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all

West	North	East	South
		1NT	3♥

Dbl            All Pass

North has a perfect 'Yarborough' – a rare bird indeed! No card higher than a nine - 1 hand in approximately every 2000.

East will open 1NT if playing a weak NT or 1♦ if playing a Strong NT. South will bid some number of Hearts (between 1 and 4). E/W have enough points to be in game and on this board they will be very happy if they miss their Spade fit altogether and play in 3NT because N/S can get a beautiful crossruff going to defeat 4♠ by 3 tricks.

If South gets to play in a Heart contract he will most likely be doubled and make 7 tricks - 5 Heart tricks and 2 Aces.

<p> ♠ 764  ♥ 10853  ♦ KJ62  ♣ Q9  ♠ 98                      ♠ AQ1053  ♥ AJ942                ♥ KQ76  ♦ A94                    ♦ 3  ♣ 854                    ♣ KJ6  ♠ KJ2  ♥ -  ♦ Q10875  ♣ A10732 </p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		6		9	15	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	3	-	-	-	S	1	3	-	-	-	E	-	-	4	3	2	W	-	-	4	3	2	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>E/W have an easy 10 tricks in a Heart contract losing just 2 Club tricks and 1 Spade. Most tables will bid 4♥ although a few Easts will talk themselves out of bidding game opposite a passed hand.</p> <p>The 4-0 trump break means that declarer cannot take advantage of the favourable 3-3 Spade break to make more than 10 tricks.</p> <p>There will be some Souths who might overcall 1NT (a variation of the unusual No-Trump to show the minor suits but hopefully the vulnerability will help South to resist the temptation to sacrifice in 5♦x-2.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AKJ1096 ♥ 82 ♦ J642 ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ 43                      ♠ 2 ♥ 109                      ♥ K653 ♦ 3                            ♦ A10985 ♣ KJ976543    ♣ A82</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q875 ♥ AQJ74 ♦ KQ7 ♣ 10</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">11</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <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>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		11		4	11	14		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	2	3	-	S	-	3	2	3	-	E	4	-	-	-	-	W	4	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♣</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>When North opens 1♠ South will surely contemplate slam. He might check for aces immediately or he might show his good hand by bidding 2♥ first. However on this hand even 4♠ can be defeated (♦A and a Diamond Ruff, ♣A and a second Diamond ruff).</p> <p>On the other hand maybe West will bid too many Clubs?</p> <p>Those N/S pairs playing a thing called 'Gerber' might have the last laugh on this one!</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♠	Pass	2♥	4♣	4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠	All Pass	
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AK873 ♥ 76 ♦ 1084 ♣ AK5</p> <p>♠ Q9                      ♠ 104 ♥ 5                            ♥ AQJ109 ♦ AK7652                ♦ Q ♣ J1063                ♣ Q9842</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J652 ♥ K8432 ♦ J93 ♣ 7</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">11</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <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>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		14		10	11	5		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	2	2	S	-	-	1	2	2	E	3	2	-	-	-	W	3	2	-	-	-	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbf</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbf</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>N/S will end up in a Spade partscore at most tables. Most E/W defenders will pick up the 5 tricks due to them one way or another but there will be a few E/Ws who end up with only 4 tricks.</p> <p>If East leads his singleton ♦Q and it wins, he needs to lead the Ace and Queen of Hearts to the next two tricks and West needs to ruff the ♥Q even if it is winning in order to cash his ♦AK.</p> <p>There is a chance that E/W might get too high on this board but having a singleton in their partner's main suit should help them put the brakes on.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbf	Pass	3♣	3♠	Dbf	All Pass		
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ A82 ♥ Q105 ♦ 953 ♣ KJ75</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ K63            ♠ 10 ♥ K                ♥ AJ632 ♦ KJ1064        ♦ A87 ♣ AQ63         ♣ 9842</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ QJ9754 ♥ 9874 ♦ Q2 ♣ 10</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10		16	9	5		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	1	-	S	-	-	-	1	-	E	4	4	3	-	2	W	4	4	3	-	3	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Well done to any E/W pairs who manage to bid and make 3NT here. For a start declarer has to finesse the right way in Diamonds and then for his 9<sup>th</sup> trick he needs either a Spade lead around to his King or be able to realise that North is being squeezed on the 5<sup>th</sup> round of Diamonds.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Some South's might even try a 'weak' 2♠ as dealer but even if they don't they will surely arrive in 3♠ at some point. Now E/W might decide to take the money in 3♠x. This goes 2 off on most defences.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠	2♣	2♠	3♣	3♠	Dbl	All Pass		
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ AK ♥ AKQJ62 ♦ 9 ♣ AKQ3</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 109754        ♠ Q6 ♥ 5                ♥ 10873 ♦ A108            ♦ J53 ♣ J1062         ♣ 9875</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ J832 ♥ 94 ♦ KQ7642 ♣ 4</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		25		5	4	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	5	6	3	5	S	5	5	6	3	5	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Most North's will want to be in slam as soon as they see their hands and some might even open 6♥. The more patient will investigate the possibility of 7♥ or 6NT or even 7NT by checking to see if their partner has that all important ♦A.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">When South denies the ♦A, North chooses the safest slam - 6♥ rather than 6NT. A simple Club ruff will give declarer his 12<sup>th</sup> trick in 6♥.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Even the ♦A lead won't let you make 6NT - unless the defenders continue Diamonds at trick 2 - because declarer can't get to the South hand.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass	
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Pass	6♥	All Pass																																																															

Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

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

Pass      Pass      Pass

1♣      1♥      1NT      Pass

2NT      Pass      3♣      All Pass

3NT will be a popular contract and indeed it is very hard to avoid it. 3NT goes down – even on a favourable Heart lead from North - if North wins the first Diamond and finds the Spade switch.

Some Norths might open a weak 2♥ and then West will either bid 3NT or double but 3NT will probably be the end result – either way. With two aces, North is nearer a 1♥ opening than a 2♥ opening.

Any ‘plus’ score for E/W will be a huge matchpoint score. A 5♣ contract has the obvious 3 losers.

♠ A42  
 ♥ Q97632  
 ♦ A5  
 ♣ 84  
 ♠ 105      ♠ Q63  
 ♥ AJ4      ♥ K5  
 ♦ KQ109      ♦ 764  
 ♣ AQ72      ♣ K10653  
 ♠ KJ987  
 ♥ 108  
 ♦ J832  
 ♣ J9

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
10		N	-	-	1	1	-
16	8	S	-	-	1	1	-
6		E	4	3	-	-	1
		W	4	3	-	-	1

Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

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

Pass      Pass

1♦      Dbl      Pass      2♣

All Pass

Now it's N/S's turn to avoid a doomed game contract. Maybe their best chance of a good board is to let E/W play the hand?

E/W can make at most 6 tricks in whatever denomination they choose as long as N/S do not gift them a trick. So if West rebids 2♦ he might be left there and two off (even undoubled) will not be a good result for E/W.

North's 4-3-3-3 shape might be all the warning he needs to avoid the temptation of pushing too high. South has a useful 8 points and he might reasonably decide to bid more than 2♣ in response to North's take-out-double. It does look like there will be a lot of N/S's going down in 3NT.

♠ KQ53  
 ♥ AQ9  
 ♦ J72  
 ♣ A75  
 ♠ 1064      ♠ J98  
 ♥ 104      ♥ K6532  
 ♦ AKQ864      ♦ 93  
 ♣ K2      ♣ 1094  
 ♠ A72  
 ♥ J87  
 ♦ 105  
 ♣ QJ863

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
16		N	3	-	2	2	1
12	4	S	3	-	2	2	1
8		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

♠ K7  
 ♥ AK1062  
 ♦ J4  
 ♣ 10984  
 ♠ QJ3      ♠ 9852  
 ♥ J          ♥ 987  
 ♦ K9872     ♦ A5  
 ♣ K732      ♣ AQ65  
 ♠ A1064  
 ♥ Q543  
 ♦ Q1063  
 ♣ J

HCP	
11	
10	10
9	

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

Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

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

Most Norths will open 1♥ in third seat - if they don't bid now they won't get another chance as East will not open with his 10 points and only 4 Spades. 'Passed Out' will not be a very good result for N/S.

What does South respond to 1♥? Devotees of the 'Losing Trick Count' will bid 4♥ with their 7 loser hand. The point counters will feel their hand is worth more than 3♥ but may not feel they have quite enough for 4♥?

In any case 3♥+1 won't be too bad as there will be some in 4♥ who won't manage to establish that 10<sup>th</sup> trick.

♠ A  
 ♥ KJ98  
 ♦ AK96  
 ♣ J974  
 ♠ K10765      ♠ Q4  
 ♥ 10          ♥ AQ7642  
 ♦ 1087        ♦ 543  
 ♣ Q852        ♣ K6  
 ♠ J9832  
 ♥ 53  
 ♦ QJ2  
 ♣ A103

HCP	
16	
5	11
8	

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

Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	1♥	1♠
Pass	1NT	2♥	All Pass

Either side could end up in big trouble here – East if he persists in bidding Hearts and South if he gets carried away with his 5-card Spade suit.

If East decides to jump overcall to 2♥ (weak or intermediate), South might make a negative double and North will pass that for penalties.

Most pairs play that South's 1♠ bid shows a 5-card Spade suit so there will be no need for South to bid Spades again and that should keep him out of trouble.

On the other hand any North who bids 3NT will probably make it because it takes the ♠Q lead or a small Club lead to beat it.

♠ QJ9873  
♥ Q  
♦ K863  
♣ 43

♠ K54                  ♠ 62  
♥ 1073                ♥ A962  
♦ Q4                    ♦ J10752  
♣ A10852            ♣ Q7

♠ A10  
♥ KJ854  
♦ A9  
♣ KJ96

HCP	
8	
9	7
16	

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

Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥ (max)	Pass	4♠

All Pass

N/S should get to 4♠ whether North opens a weak 2♠ or not. On the other hand, there will be some Norths who will be happy in 3♠+1 because not everyone will make 10 tricks – especially if declarer is left to guess which Club to play himself when he leads a low Club towards the KJ in the South hand.

There will also be one or two tables where North's ♦8 will suddenly become the master Diamond after only 2 rounds of the suit.

Declarer has a lot of work to do – knock out the ♥A while he still has an entry to South's ♥KJ – then he has to either ruff a Diamond with the Ace of trumps – and failing that has to guess to play the Jack rather than the King of Clubs when he comes to play a Club.

♠ A6  
♥ 975  
♦ AQJ6  
♣ A953

♠ Q94                  ♠ J8753  
♥ AQJ864            ♥ K32  
♦ 102                  ♦ K93  
♣ 87                    ♣ Q2

♠ K102  
♥ 10  
♦ 8754  
♣ KJ1064

HCP	
15	
9	9
7	

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

Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
2♥	Dbl	3♥	4♣
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

N/S can make 11 tricks in either minor with ease but not many pairs will actually bid to game. E/W will probably win the auction in 3♥. 3♥-2 even if undoubled (losing 3 Spades, a Diamond and 2 Clubs) will be a good score for N/S.

N/S have no points in the Heart suit so they are said to be playing with a '30 point' deck. They have 22 of the 30 points in this '30 point' deck so it is not surprising that slam simply depends on the Diamond finesse.

For those Norths who find themselves in 3NT – Don't Panic! It is not unheard of for defenders to block the Heart suit after an initial small Heart lead from East!

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ QJ74 ♥ 96 ♦ K3 ♣ A10763</p> <p>♠ 95                      ♠ A83 ♥ KQ107                ♥ AJ853 ♦ A1095                ♦ QJ7 ♣ Q84                    ♣ K9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K1062 ♥ 42 ♦ 8642 ♣ J52</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></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11    15</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10	11    15	4	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	-	1	-	S	1	-	-	1	-	E	-	3	4	-	3	W	-	3	4	-	3	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Is there any chance that every table in every club will be in 4♥ contract making 10 tricks? There is always at least one table where something unusual happens. For instance, a Club lead to the Ace and a Club return allows declarer to make 11 tricks by disposing of his losing Spades on the Queen of Clubs and the 4<sup>th</sup> round of Diamonds.</p> <p>Maybe some Norths will open 1♣ in third seat helping N/S to find their Spade fit and sacrifice in 4♠ doubled. This should go 3 down for 500 to E/W but declarer might well get out for 2 down and a miserable 300 to E/W.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J5 ♥ 84 ♦ 96542 ♣ K872</p> <p>♠ -                      ♠ 96432 ♥ J7532                ♥ AQ96 ♦ QJ7                    ♦ A8 ♣ AJ1095              ♣ Q6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AKQ1087 ♥ K10 ♦ K103 ♣ 43</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;">4</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9    12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		4	9    12	15	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	-	3	1	S	-	2	-	3	1	E	2	-	5	-	-	W	2	-	5	-	-	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rdbl</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Wow! Some players will have nightmares over this one – especially any East players left to play in 1♠ doubled and redoubled!</p> <p>Any West who opens 2♥ showing some sort of two suited hand will cut out all the fun and avoid all the disasters because they will quickly get to 4♥ and South will simply sacrifice in 4♠x-1. Those Wests who pass will see East open 1♠. Then South after some squirming in the chair will probably decide to ‘double’.</p> <p>Now West has to decide whether to bid his suits or go the traditional route of ‘redoubling’. Then if West does ‘redouble’, does North bid or pass? If he passes he will probably collect 1000 from 1♠xx-3. If he bids he loses 200 in 4♠x-1?</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♠	Dbl	Rdbl	2♦	Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AQ765 ♥ 87 ♦ QJ ♣ J1032</p> <p>♠ 942                      ♠ J103 ♥ J1092                    ♥ A5 ♦ A10853                 ♦ 764 ♣ 4                            ♣ KQ765</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K8 ♥ KQ643 ♦ K92 ♣ A98</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>4</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		10		5	10	15		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	1	3	4	4	S	3	1	3	4	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>N/S have 25 HCP, they do not have a major suit fit so they should arrive in 3NT no matter what system they are playing.</p> <p>Declarer should make 10 tricks, 5 Spades, 2 Hearts, 2 Diamonds and a Club trick. The only technique required is to arrange to lead twice towards the ♥KQ in the South hand. If declarer makes any less than 10 tricks he will receive a very low matchpoint score.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K10754 ♥ 54 ♦ Q752 ♣ 74</p> <p>♠ QJ8                      ♠ A62 ♥ AK10                    ♥ Q763 ♦ AK6                      ♦ J94 ♣ K985                    ♣ A62</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 93 ♥ J982 ♦ 1083 ♣ QJ103</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">20</td><td style="text-align: center;">11</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <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>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	HCP		5		20	11	4		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	5	3	5	3	5	W	5	4	5	3	5	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Good players instinctively know to devalue 4-3-3-3 shapes. But they also know to upgrade hands with Aces, Kings and fillers (tens and nines). Such is the judgment dilemma that torments good bridge players on every hand and makes this game so wonderful.</p> <p>Both players have 4-3-3-3 shapes so they should both be declining any slam invitations.</p> <p>East's 4NT bid is quantitative – inviting West to bid 6NT if West has a maximum hand. Another good matchpoint tip is to play all your games in 3NT when you have 28+ HCP between the two hands.</p> <p>A simple 1♣ opening by West will also keep E/W out of trouble.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass	4NT	All Pass
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<p>           ♠ AKJ97            ♥ Q95            ♦ 94            ♣ AJ2              ♠ 62                      ♠ Q543            ♥ 63                      ♥ AK10            ♦ J7653                ♦ Q10            ♣ K753                ♣ Q864              ♠ 108            ♥ J8742            ♦ AK82            ♣ 109         </p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <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>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		15		4	13	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	4	2	3	S	-	-	4	2	3	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>The fortunate lie of the Heart suit (with the AK being in one hand) means that N/S can make 3NT or 4♥ on this board but both players will need to have their 'rose tinted' glasses on to bid either contract.</p> <p>If South responds 2♥ initially that might tempt North to raise to 4♥. Even if North only raises to 3♥ there will be some Souths who will fancy their own declarer play and move on to 4♥. Nowadays the trend is to have a little bit more for a 2♥ response – maybe the ♥Q instead of the ♥J.</p> <p>East might decide to enter the auction – although with 4 cards in Spades he should show some restraint.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
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<p>           ♠ K105            ♥ Q109            ♦ J84            ♣ AQ96              ♠ J873                      ♠ Q4            ♥ AK2                      ♥ 8764            ♦ 107                      ♦ AQ62            ♣ 8754                      ♣ K102              ♠ A962            ♥ J53            ♦ K953            ♣ J3         </p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <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>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>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		12		8	11	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	1	1	1	1	S	1	1	1	1	1	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The Weak No-Trumpers will open 1NT – or indeed they might pass. This 4-3-3-3 hand has good and bad points. The shape is bad news but the fillers (9's and 10's) are good news.</p> <p>If playing a strong no-trump, North will either pass or open 1♣ and then rebid 1NT.</p> <p>On balance most Norths will open and then the pressure is on them to make 7 tricks. There are 7 tricks there with a lot of hard graft. Certainly any North making 1NT will get a good score.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1NT	All Pass	
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