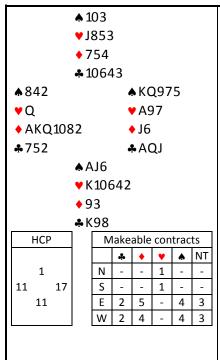
Fearghal O'Boyle (Assuming 4-card Majors, Weak No-Trump, Transfers and Weak Two Openings)



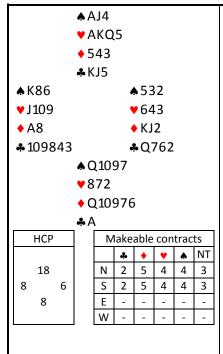
Board 1:	Dealer North	n : Nil All	
West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
<b>4</b>	All Pass		

With both the ♠A and the ♣K in the South hand, 6♠ is doomed. 4♠ will be the popular contract and many declarers will just lose 2 trump tricks making 11 tricks for a good result.

The only way the defenders can stop 11 tricks is for them to cut declarer off from dummy's Diamond suit — either by leading Diamonds twice or by leading the ♥K making declarer use his Heart ruff entry to dummy prematurely.

The auction raises an important question for partnership discussion — what does East's 2NT rebid show? Modern treatment, if playing weak No-Trump is to play the 2NT rebid in this situation as 15+ and forcing. This allows more room to explore all the possible game and slam options.

The East players who end up in 3NT will probably score +430. Only the 'spectacular' ♥K lead from South holds declarer to 9 tricks in 3NT.

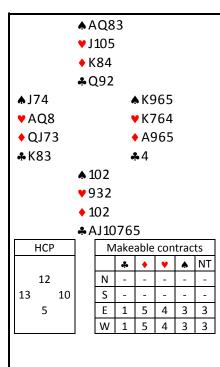


Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable				
West	North	East	South	
		Pass	Pass	
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	
All Pass				

3NT will be the popular contract although most tables won't take as long as this to get there! If you play North's 2NT rebid as 18-19 and forcing then N/S will have the luxury of investigating any possible 5-3 Heart or Spade fits. So the above auction, while long, is a very nice auction as N/S are fully aware that they do not have any 5-3 major suit fits.

If you land in 4♥ or 4♠, the play will be a lot easier than in 3NT and you will more than likely end up with 11 tricks if E/W don't get their diamond ruff.

Those of us in 3NT will make 3S, 4H and 2C for 9 tricks. Some will make 10 tricks if West covers the ♠Q and some of us will go down if we go after diamond tricks.



Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

West North East South
Pass

1NT Pass 2♣ Pass

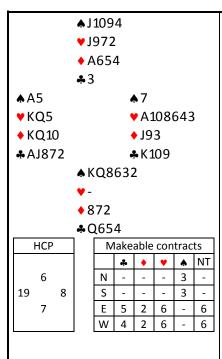
4ll Pass

E/W can make a lot of tricks here because the Hearts break 3-3, the ◆10 is doubleton and both black aces are onside.

Some Easts will pass the 1NT opening, some will try Stayman and Pass whatever response they get. Others will try Stayman and get to 3NT or 5 ♦.

As 10 counts go, that East hand is top notch. It feels right to try Stayman and if you find a major suit fit to either bid game or at least invite game.

At the table when you hear the 2 ◆ reply you might wish you had just passed the 1NT opening but as it happens both Diamond and No-Trump partscores lead to +150.



Board 4 : L	bealer west	: All vulnera	abie
West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♥	1♠
Dbl (3H)	3♠	4♥	4♠
Dbl	All Pass		

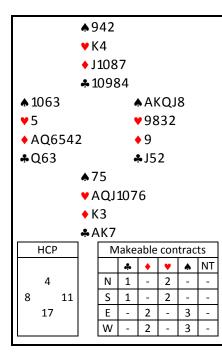
One of the more interesting boards of the night. E/W can make 12 tricks in Hearts or No-Trump - as long as they correctly guess the location of the &Q. Of course the &Q will be easy to find if South bids Spades, then shows out of Hearts and then follows to 3 rounds of Diamonds!

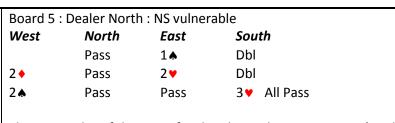
Slam won't be bid too often - especially if N/S get busy. So any N/S pair finding a good sacrifice in 7 + x-4 for -1100 will not get the good result they were hoping for. The 3-3 Diamond break gives N/S their all-important  $9^{th}$  trick in a Spade contract.

West's 'Double' of 1♠ is a support-double showing 3-card Heart support. There won't be many E/W pairs who are allowed to play peacefully in 4♥. Most N/S will compete to 4♠ and then the real decisions begin.

West will probably double to show his extra values and then East has to decide whether to pass or bid on. And then N/S have to decide whether to bid again if E/W go to 5♥.

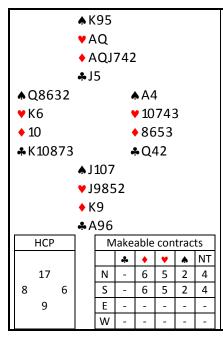
Bridge is a Great Game!





There are a lot of decisions for the players here. Most East's will open 1 and then South has to decide whether to bid his Hearts or double. If he doesn't bid his Hearts now he might hear his opponent bid them on the next round and then he might not be able to get his partner to believe he really has a Heart suit!

E/W will make 9 or 10 tricks in Spades. It takes a trump lead to hold E/W to 9 tricks but most Souths will probably lead a top Club. There doesn't seem to be any way for N/S to make more than 8 tricks in a Heart contract. 3 •-1 by South undoubled will be a good score for N/S but 4 •-2, whether doubled or not, will be poor.

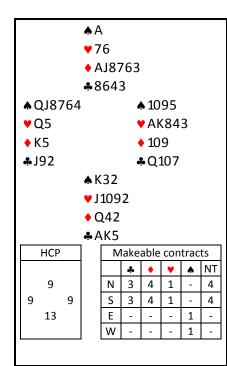


Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable				
West	North	East	South	
		Pass	Pass	
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	
Pass	3NT	All Pass		

The popular contract will be 3NT by N/S but some pairs will talk themselves out of No-Trump and into  $4 \checkmark$  or even  $5 \checkmark$ . As ever the pairs in  $5 \checkmark +1$  will get a very poor matchpoint score.

On a club lead, declarer will win the third round, take the heart finesse and cash out for 3NT+1 and +430. On a non-club lead, declarer might end up with 11 tricks because he has time to set up another heart trick for himself.

Will anyone really bid and make 6♦?

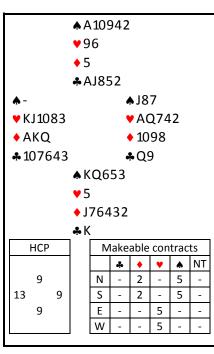


Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable				
West	North	East	South	
			1NT	
2♠	2NT	Pass	3♣	
Pass	3♦	All Pass		

A competitive hand where informed bidding will get N/S to a diamond partscore and less informed bidding will get them to a lucky 3NT. Both contracts will make an easy 10 tricks courtesy of 6 diamond tricks, 2 spades and 2 clubs.

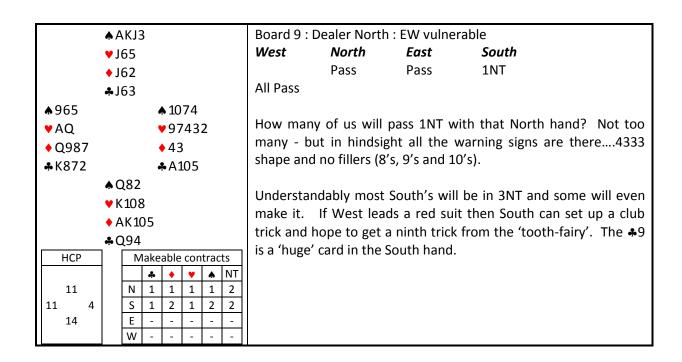
At some tables E/W might be able to buy the hand in 2 \( \bightarrow \) and if this is not doubled it will drift one off for a good E/W score.

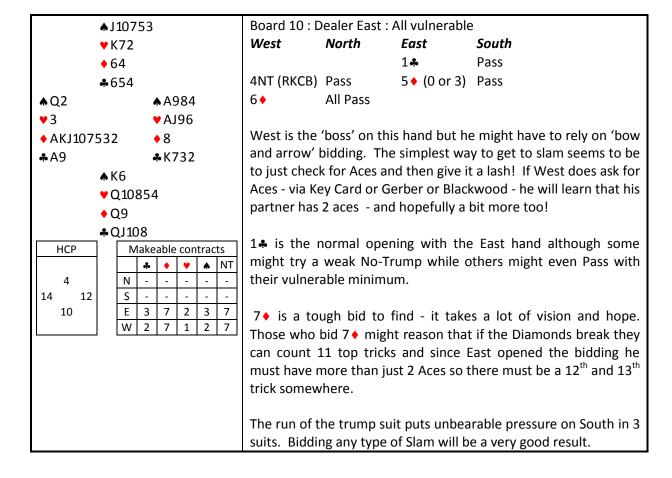
If South opens 1NT and West overcalls 2♠, then the N/S pairs who are playing Lebensohl will be able to show a weak hand with diamonds and play in 3♦ while those who never heard of Lebensohl will bid 3♦ anyway and land on their feet in 3NT for a huge matchpoint score. Virtue is its own reward!

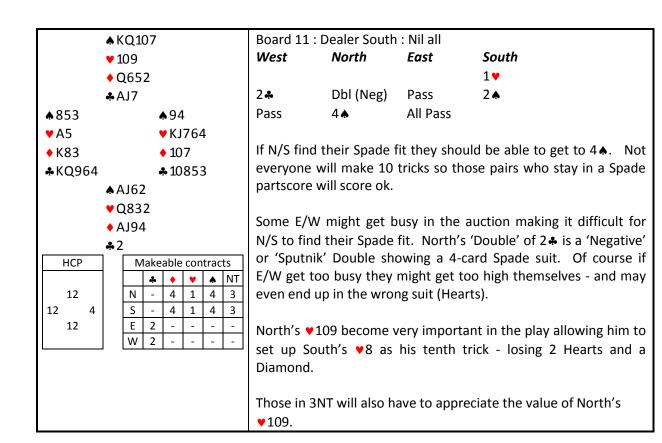


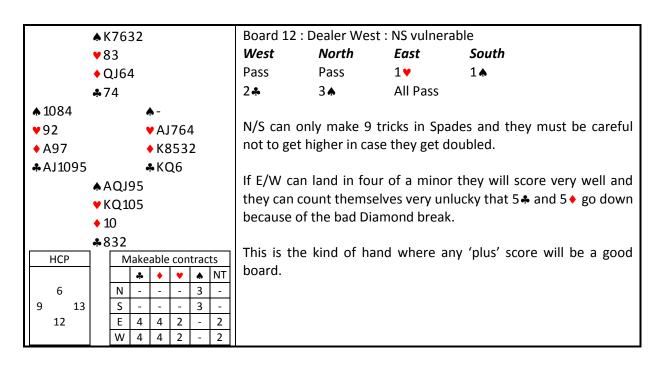
Board 8 : De	ealer West : N	Nil all		
West	North	East	South	
1♥	1♠	3♥	<b>4</b> ♠	All Pass
Another cor	mpetitive har	nd where bot	th sides can i	make an easy 11
tricks in the	ir respective	major suits.		
After West	opens 1♥,	North will	overcall 1♠	or if N/S play
Michaels or Ghesthem he will overcall 2♥ to show his 2 suiter.				
N/S will get to 4♠ very easily at all tables and then the real				
decisions will have to be made. Should E/W bid on to 5♥? If				
E/W bid 5♥ should N/S bid 5♠? If N/S bid 5♠ should E/W pass,				
double or b	id 6♥? And	if E/W bid 6	should N/S	pass, double or
bid 6♠?				
ICAL/C			90 1	

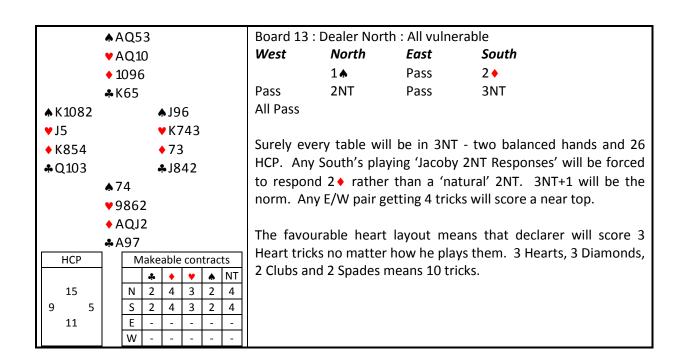
If N/S get to play in  $4 \spadesuit$  or  $5 \spadesuit$  they will get a lot of matchpoints and if E/W get to play in  $4 \checkmark$ ,  $5 \checkmark$  or  $6 \checkmark$ , they will get a lot of matchpoints. Fortune will favour the brave on this one.

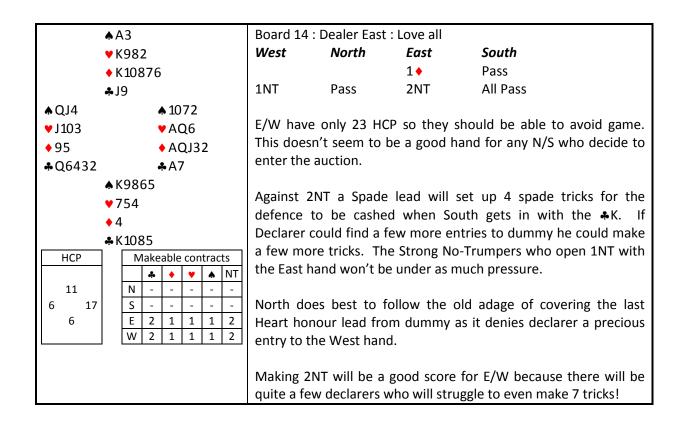


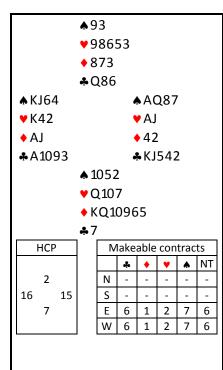










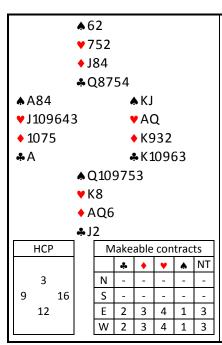


Board 15: Dealer South: NS vulnerable West North East South 2 ♦ (weak) 2NT Pass 3. Pass 3♠ Pass 4NT (RKCB) Pass 5 • (0 or 3) Pass 6♠ All Pass

This hand is all about guessing who has the ♣Q. If you are in NT you will make 12 tricks if you guess right and 7 tricks if you guess wrong! If you are in Spades you will make 13 tricks if you guess right and 11 if you guess wrong.

So if you're not going to be in Slam it makes sense to be in Spades where you are guaranteed +450 even if you are a bad guesser.

But maybe it's not a complete guess? If South shows long Diamonds in the auction there might be a slight clue that he is short in Clubs thus making North a more likely player to hold the \$Q . Certainly if declarer plays his major suits first he will get 100% proof that South is short in Clubs.



Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable

West North East South

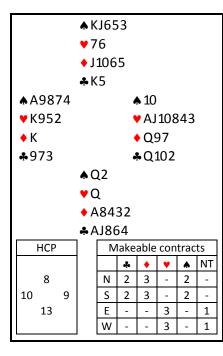
2 ♥ Pass 2NT 3 ♣

Dbl Pass 4 ♥ All Pass

This hand could cause problems for both sides. South has to decide whether or not to show his Spade suit and E/W have to decide whether to double South in his Spade contract or bid 3NT or 4 themselves. 4 will be a popular contract but it is not an easy make.

The ◆10 is an important card for declarer because it stops N/S from cashing 3 Diamond tricks. So if declarer can resist the temptation to play a Diamond to the King - sooner or later South will have to concede a Diamond trick to declarer.

Those in 3NT will make 9 tricks - even on a Spade lead - unless they get a little 'entry' help from their friends.

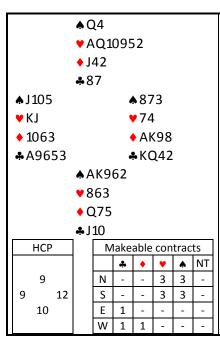


Board 17: Dealer North: Love All West North East South Pass 2♥ Pass 3♥ All Pass If East opens a Weak 2 in Hearts, South will be stuck for a bid. 2NT would show 16-18 balanced.

North might expect a 4-card Spade suit if South 'doubles' and

West should raise Hearts and maybe 3 Hearts is enough given that North is already a 'passed hand'. It will not be easy for N/S to get back into this auction but if they do then 3♠x-1 or 4♦x-1 will be good results for them.

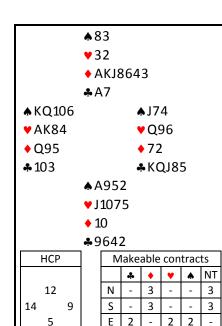
There will be a few E/W pairs allowed to make 10 tricks in Hearts because timing will be everything for the N/S defence....they need to score either 3 Club tricks or 2 Club tricks and a Club ruff and not every N/S pair will achieve this aim.



Board 18: Dealer East: NS vulnerable West North East South 1NT **Pass** All Pass Pass 2 💙

Most N/S pairs will win this auction and play in a major suit partscore. They will make either 9 or 11 tricks depending on whether E/W cash their 4 minor suit winners immediately or not.

There may even be some N/S pairs who get to 4♥ or 4♠. If West is on lead this won't be a good time to lead a trump and if East is on lead - he will lead the Ace and King of Diamonds and now he needs to trust that his partner cannot ruff the third Diamond and instead switch to a Club.



2

2

2

Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

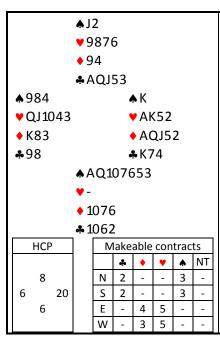
\*\*West\*\* North East South\*\*
Pass

1NT 2 ◆ All Pass

N/S can make 9 tricks in 3 ◆ and they can make the same 9 tricks in 3NT (7 diamond tricks and two black aces).

It's hard to imagine E/W winning the auction but if they do it will probably be in clubs. There they will be held to 8 tricks if N/S play 3 rounds of diamonds or if North manages to get a spade ruff.

East is not good enough to bid 3♣ over North's 2♠ overcall. If East really wants to bid he would need to be playing a convention such as 'Lebensohl' where he bids 2NT requiring West to bid 3♣ which East then passes.



Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

West North East South

Pass Pass 2NT Pass

3 ◆ Pass 4 ◆ Pass

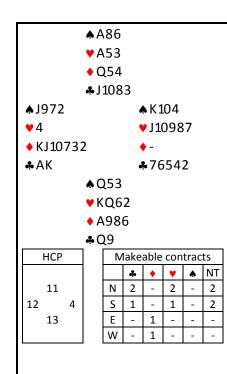
4 ▼ All Pass

E/W can make 11 tricks in 4 ▼ losing a trick to

E/W can make 11 tricks in 4♥ losing a trick to each of the black aces. East has a tricky opening bid....2♣ is probably the correct bid but on this particular hand all roads lead to 4♥ even if you only open 1♦!

Hopefully there won't be any E/W's in 6♥ missing 2 aces!

Of course there will be many courageous N/S pairs in  $4 \pm x$ . This contract can be made double dummy unless West leads finds the unlikely trump lead to beat it!



Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

West North East South

Pass Pass 1 ◆

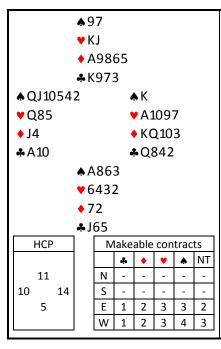
Pass 2NT Pass 3NT

All Pass

All roads lead to 2NT or 3NT by N/S. Some South's might open a weak No-Trump and get a 2NT invite from North. It doesn't matter on this hand but it often pays not to open a weak No-Trump third-in-hand vulnerable.

South has a judgement call to make with his 13 count — is it a good 13 or a bad 13? It's a close call - the bad feature is the doubleton ♣Q and the good feature is the ◆986.

Unfortunately the pairs who decide to stop in 2NT will probably get a bad matchpoint score as most declarers will make 9 tricks. It looks like it takes precisely the \$9\$ lead to beat 3NT by South and precisely the \$4\$ lead to beat 3NT by North!

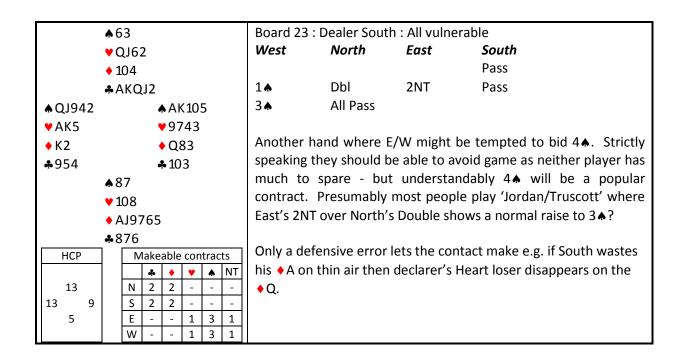


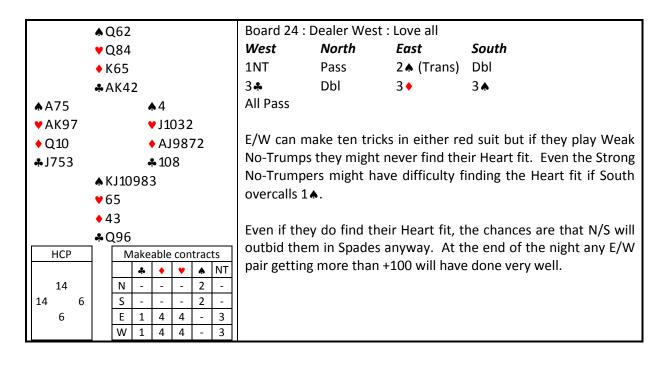
Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable				
West	North	East	South	
		1♦	Pass	
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass	

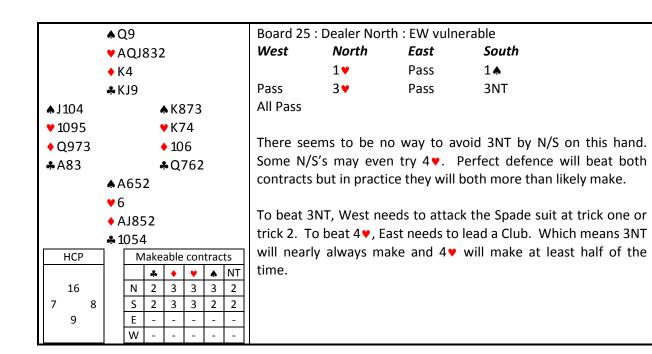
It's hard to stay out of game on this hand but those that do will probably score very well. This will be a testing hand for defenders.

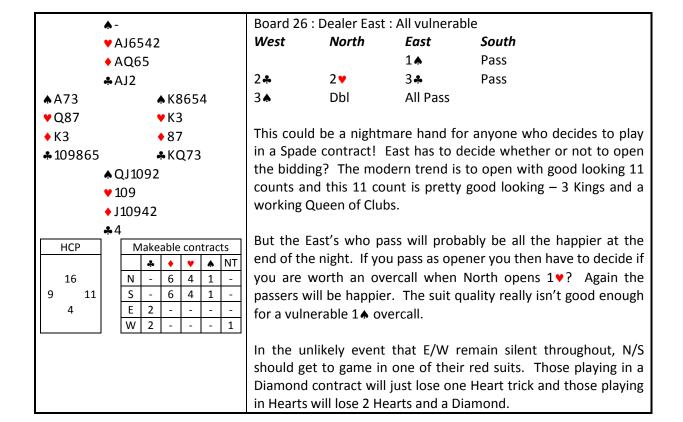
4. by West is probably the easier game to make because North can't attack Clubs or Hearts successfully from his side of the table.

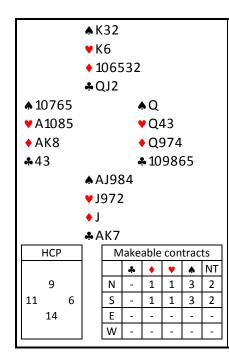
3NT by East will go down if South finds a small Club lead. 4♠ by East will go down if South leads a Heart or a Club.









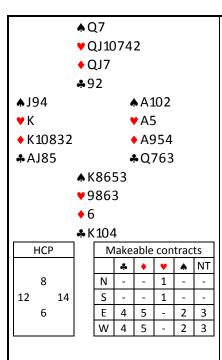


Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all				
West	North	East	South	
			1♠	
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	
Dbl	All Pass			

4♠ is a reasonable contract although a few N/S pairs might decide not to bid it. If it is bid then some West's might also reasonably decide to double it.

However it takes an unlikely trump lead to beat 4. and in practice a top Diamond lead will prove too irresistible to most Wests thereby allowing declarer organise 10 tricks for himself.

If declarer can avoid the trump lead he will be able to ruff 2 Hearts in dummy to go with 4 trump tricks, the King of Hearts and 3 Club tricks.



Board 28	: Dealer Wes	st : NS vulne	rable
West	North	East	South
1♦	1♥	2♥	3♥
Pass	Pass	3NT	All Pass
East's 2	will have v	various mea	nings. In tl

East's 2 will have various meanings. In the old days it was asking for a Heart stopper but nowadays it tends to show good support for opener's suit. But no matter what it means it must be showing a good hand.

3NT has 9 tricks: 1 Spade trick, 2 Heart tricks, 4 Diamonds and 2 Club tricks. Any declarer making overtricks probably bamboozled South out of his club trick?

5 • appears to have 3 losers but one of these will disappear when you endplay North with the third round of Diamonds.

The adverse vulnerability should prevent any adventurous N/S's from taking the costly sacrifice in 4♥x-3.

