

♠ 42	♠ AJ1075
♥ K65	♥ AQ3
♦ AQ1082	♦ K7
♣ QJ8	♣ 752
♠ Q6	♠ K983
♥ 10982	♥ J74
♦ 64	♦ J953
♣ A10943	♣ K6

HCP	
12	14
6	8

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

Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all

West	North	East	South
1NT		All Pass	

East is close to a double of North's weak NT opening, and if he did so no doubt that would end the auction. Best defence should lead to a two-trick defeat. On this occasion it doesn't really matter whether East leads a high spade or his fourth highest. With so many values I would choose the jack, but with a weaker hand it can often pay to lead fourth highest in order to start unscrambling the suit when the layout is as here. If West manages to get the lead with the ♠Q it might not be obvious for him to switch to a heart rather than a club. Many weak no-trumpers these days play an escape mechanism and would have to either play in 1NT redoubled or remove themselves to a suit contract.

♠ J64	♠ 8532
♥ K104	♥ AQ82
♦ 9732	♦ A54
♣ Q84	♣ 103
♠ K	♠ AQ1097
♥ J765	♥ 93
♦ KQ86	♦ J10
♣ A762	♣ KJ95

HCP	
6	10
13	11

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

Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Dbl	1NT	3♥	All Pass

It seems to be normal for these days to open 1♠ with that South hand, though I am not sure how sound a proposition that is at unfavourable vulnerability in second seat. However, whatever happens it looks normal for E/W to arrive in a heart part score – too pushy to stretch for game at match-point scoring. Declarer should manage ten tricks, however. The defenders can't keep leading trumps without surrendering their trump trick, so in the fullness of time declarer can lose both his black suit losers, then take a trump finesse, cash the ace of trumps, and cross-ruff, allowing North to make his ♥K whenever he likes.

♠ 108
 ♥ KJ72
 ♦ 8764
 ♣ J105
 ♠ A2 ♠ KJ3
 ♥ 9643 ♥ 1085
 ♦ 32 ♦ KQJ109
 ♣ KQ983 ♣ 72
 ♠ Q97654
 ♥ AQ
 ♦ A5
 ♣ A64

HCP	
5	
9	10
16	

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

Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

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

South has a really tricky rebid after his partner's stretched 1NT response. The choices are: 2♠, 2NT or 3♠. I hate 3♠ with such a poor suit; 2NT could work well but if partner has a doubleton spade the 6-2 fit is likely to play better. My advice is that when in doubt at match-point scoring, always 'take the low road'. In practice, 2♠ is likely to make nine tricks because West will lead the ♣K.

♠ AJ10
 ♥ Q9
 ♦ Q76
 ♣ KQJ94
 ♠ 987 ♠ KQ63
 ♥ AK753 ♥ 64
 ♦ J ♦ A10984
 ♣ 10765 ♣ 83
 ♠ 542
 ♥ J1082
 ♦ K532
 ♣ A2

HCP	
15	
8	9
8	

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

Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♥
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

North is too strong for a weak no-trump so opens with his longest suit. East is worth an overcall and South has to choose between 1NT and bidding his poor four-card suit. I prefer 1♥ because of the low spot cards in diamonds – it is moderately likely partner has a doubleton diamond, and a lead through the dummy will mean only one diamond stopper. As the cards lie, 1NT plays a trick better when North is declarer.

♠ J104
 ♥ QJ8
 ♦ J102
 ♣ 8432
 ♠ A965 ♠ KQ
 ♥ AK1073 ♥ 642
 ♦ - ♦ Q984
 ♣ K1097 ♣ QJ65
 ♠ 8732
 ♥ 95
 ♦ AK7653
 ♣ A

HCP	
5	
14	10
11	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	6	1	5	2	1
W	6	-	5	1	1

Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

It is normal in the UK to play a jump rebid in a new suit after a two-level response as a splinter bid, and that is what West bids here. With three-card support for West's first suit, East has an easy 3♥ bid, and West proceeds with a 3♠ cue-bid. East could hardly be more minimum, so signs off in 4♥ and there the matter rests, and 11 tricks should be made in hearts. Although 6♣ can be made here, it is something of a miracle.

♠ 106
 ♥ A862
 ♦ A9
 ♣ K7632
 ♠ Q53 ♠ AKJ42
 ♥ J5 ♥ Q107
 ♦ Q743 ♦ 82
 ♣ A954 ♣ J108
 ♠ 987
 ♥ K943
 ♦ KJ1065
 ♣ Q

HCP	
11	
9	11
9	

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

Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1♠	Pass
2♠	Dbl	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

Taking the low road and making sure of plus scores is a winning policy at match-points. After East opens 1♠ and West raises to 2♠, North is barely worth a takeout double but it generally pays to get into the auction whenever possible. South has a suitable hand but should restrict his ambition to finding the best part score. In this sequence South's 2NT just shows two places to play. When he converts 3♣ to 3♦ he now promises four hearts, and North corrects to the higher-scoring strain. To make even 3♥ declarer needs to lose his three black suit losers, cash the ♥AK and then take the ruffing diamond finesse.

♠ J1084
 ♥ J92
 ♦ 8
 ♣ KJ876
 ♠ AK72 ♠ Q6
 ♥ Q103 ♥ AK875
 ♦ 9765 ♦ QJ2
 ♣ 42 ♣ Q95
 ♠ 953
 ♥ 64
 ♦ AK1043
 ♣ A103

HCP	
6	
9	14
11	

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

Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

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

There are a lot of close decisions to be made here. In my view that South hand, with its good controls and a good five-card suit, is worth an upgrade, so opens 1NT. This will be passed round to East who also has a close decision. It could be right to double, particularly since East has an honour in every suit so would welcome any opening lead. The problem with double is when N/S remove 1NT. If East now bids 2♥, West will surely bid something his side cannot make, because East has such a collection of 'soft' cards. Better in my view to bid 2♥ in the first place and hope for the best.

♠ AQ2
 ♥ J72
 ♦ 95
 ♣ Q8632
 ♠ J87543 ♠ K106
 ♥ 94 ♥ 10653
 ♦ 3 ♦ Q10764
 ♣ J1054 ♣ A
 ♠ 9
 ♥ AKQ8
 ♦ AKJ82
 ♣ K97

HCP	
9	
2	9
20	

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

Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all

West	North	East	South
2♠	Pass	3♠	Dble
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Yes, I know that West hand is terribly weak to open 2♠, but 6-4 shape is very powerful and first in hand non-vulnerable it pays to try to disrupt your opponents auction. East raises to 3♠ and South doubles. On this particular deal North has an easy 3NT and South doesn't quite have enough to bid on, but another time ...

♠ A7	
♥ QJ86	
♦ AQ82	
♣ QJ7	
♠ J1042	♠ 8653
♥ A954	♥ 102
♦ J7	♦ K964
♣ 1043	♣ 982
♠ KQ9	
♥ K73	
♦ 1053	
♣ AK65	

HCP	
16	
6	3
15	

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

Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

North rebids 2NT, generally showing 15-19 these days, so it seems reasonable for South to raise to 4NT. However, with a near-minimum North has no reason to proceed. As it is, with hearts 4-2 and the diamond finesse wrong, 11 tricks can only be made because the ♦ J drops doubleton.

♠ 84	
♥ K76	
♦ Q86532	
♣ 96	
♠ 1032	♠ AQ6
♥ AQ984	♥ 32
♦ 10	♦ AKJ7
♣ AK103	♣ Q875
♠ KJ975	
♥ J105	
♦ 94	
♣ J42	

HCP	
5	
13	16
6	

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

Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Those with sophisticated methods might find a way to play in 6♣ from the East hand, a contract which can be made if declarer plays on diamonds at the end rather than spades. But a more practical approach settles for 3NT at match-points. The percentage play in that heart suit is to start by play small to dummy's eight, intending to later play to the queen. Here the eight draws an immediate reward and no doubt 12 tricks will be made after a spade lead.

♠ J10764	
♥ -	
♦ J10972	
♣ K92	
♠ 53	♠ A982
♥ J87652	♥ Q104
♦ Q3	♦ 865
♣ 876	♣ AJ5
♠ KQ	
♥ AK93	
♦ AK4	
♣ Q1043	

HCP	
5	
3	11
21	

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

Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all

West	North	East	South
			2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

One normally needs a six-card suit for this auction after a 2NT opening. However, here North can't really bid his second suit because that would be a slam try, and doesn't really want to suggest 3NT with a void in a side suit. 4♠ looks to be a safer bet. 3NT would be a disaster if the ♦ Q didn't drop, as declarer would never be able to reach the dummy.

♠ K82
 ♥ J105
 ♦ K542
 ♣ Q86
 ♠ AJ10 ♠ Q93
 ♥ A9643 ♥ K8
 ♦ A107 ♦ QJ8
 ♣ A3 ♣ K10742
 ♠ 7654
 ♥ Q72
 ♦ 963
 ♣ J95

HCP	
9	11
17	3

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

Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Not much to the bidding but the defenders have to be on their toes to hold declarer to ten tricks. I imagine most Norths will lead a diamond which declarer will win in dummy and perhaps take a spade finesse. If that loses (it may work better for North to duck) and North continues spades, declarer will now surely play the ♥K and another heart, ducking if South plays low. Another spade followed by declarer cashing his hearts puts pressure on North, but he can afford to discard a club and a diamond and declarer will make just ten tricks.

♠ 3
 ♥ A10864
 ♦ J85
 ♣ AQ64
 ♠ 972 ♠ AKQJ64
 ♥ Q ♥ J95
 ♦ Q10963 ♦ A
 ♣ K1075 ♣ J32
 ♠ 1085
 ♥ K732
 ♦ K742
 ♣ 98

HCP	
11	16
7	6

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

Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1♥	1♠	3♥
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

If South woodenly leads a low heart, 4♠ will roll home. A trump lead or a club will beat the game easily. Alternatively, it is often right, with a weak hand, to lead an unsupported honour in the partnership suit. Here the ♥K is an intelligent lead. South hopes that he will retain the lead and a sight of dummy will help him decide what to do. North's card at trick one should have suit preference overtones, and when he plays the ♥4, South should switch to a club.

♠ AJ103
 ♥ AK5
 ♦ 7643
 ♣ K10
 ♠ Q984 ♠ K76
 ♥ Q ♥ J974
 ♦ KQJ95 ♦ A102
 ♣ AQ4 ♣ 876
 ♠ 52
 ♥ 108632
 ♦ 8
 ♣ J9532

HCP	
15	8
16	1

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

Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all

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

North's take-out double of the 1♦ opening is far from ideal, but neither is passing with such a good hand. While East would bid 1♥ without the double, it doesn't usually pay to bid such a poor suit when North has doubled. Although South has very little in terms of high-card points, he has good distribution and should compete at Love All. West has too much to pass, and a competitive raise to 2NT looks about right. At match-points it generally pays to err on the side of underbidding, so with nothing much more than already promised East should pass. Nine tricks are there if declarer reads it right: after a heart lead and continuation, the run of the diamonds catch North in a stripsqueeze.

♠AJ85
 ♥1054
 ♦A932
 ♣A10
 ♠KQ ♠72
 ♥AK9732 ♥QJ86
 ♦- ♦KJ864
 ♣J9865 ♣32
 ♠109643
 ♥-
 ♦Q1075
 ♣KQ74

HCP	
13	
13	7
7	

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

Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♥	Dble	3♥	4♠
5♥	Dble	All Pass	

A tricky competitive deal – and my proposed sequence doesn't arrive at the right spot! Just like the previous hand, North is not ideal for a take-out double, but he has four spades and no values in hearts so it pays to get into the auction and hope partner doesn't bid clubs. East has decent playing strength and is a little good for 3♥ – on some days I might bid 4♥. With a distributional hand it pays to bid up, so South tries 4♠ and West bids on to 5♥, expecting it either to make or be a good sacrifice. North's final double looks routine, as does everybody's pass. As you can see this goes 300 down, while N/S can make 11 tricks in spades.

♠108
 ♥Q9642
 ♦A3
 ♣AJ42
 ♠J763 ♠42
 ♥J73 ♥A105
 ♦KQ92 ♦108764
 ♣97 ♣1083
 ♠AKQ95
 ♥K8
 ♦J5
 ♣KQ65

HCP	
11	
7	4
18	

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

Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

A long and subtle sequence. The first four bids look clear. With a minimum hand and a doubleton spade it is better for North to bid 2♣ than 2NT (this should never be 3-card support – with that either raise immediately or jump to 3♥ now). South shows club support and North's 3♦ implies something in the suit. South shows the doubleton heart honour and North shows the full diamond stopper. However, with such good spades and knowing that North's diamond stopper is probably only A♦ at best, South opts for the major-suit game. Well bid.

♠J83
 ♥A1074
 ♦J4
 ♣Q872
 ♠A2 ♠K10754
 ♥K8 ♥J62
 ♦Q986 ♦A10
 ♣KJ1063 ♣954
 ♠Q96
 ♥Q953
 ♦K7532
 ♣A

HCP	
8	
13	8
11	

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

Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all

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

It is okay for South to open light in third seat with that hand. The only problem will be if partner responds 2♣ and that is unlikely. Some might overcall 2♣ with the West hand but I don't like overcalling at the two level without a six-card suit. When North bids 1♥ East comes in with 1♠ and South raises to 2♥. Now West can show his values with a competitive double, implying a club suit and a doubleton spade. East has no wish to go to the three level, so rebids his five-card spade suit and there they are.

Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

West North East South

Pass Dble Pass 3♣

Pass 3♥ Pass 3NT

All Pass

Lebensohl is widely played at club level and it is just for this type of hand. After East's weak 2♥ opening is passed round to North, he doubles and South can bid 3♣ to show values (with fewer points he would bid 2NT, showing a very poor hand). Now North can bid 3♥ to ask for a stopper (or even 3♠) and South can bid 3NT with his double stopper.

♠AK754
 ♥76
 ♦A107
 ♣AK7
 ♠J1093 ♠862
 ♥J ♥AK9842
 ♦KJ9654 ♦32
 ♣Q3 ♣52
 ♠Q
 ♥Q1053
 ♦Q8
 ♣J109864

HCP	
18	7
8	7
7	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	5	1	2	3	4
S	5	1	2	3	5
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

West North East South

Pass 4♦ Pass 4♠

All Pass

Some might prefer to open the South hand 1♣, and in that case North would be declarer, but the outcome would be the same. After the actual 1♠ opening the North hand is just worth a splinter bid of 4♦, which should show fewer than opening values. It is hard to see declarer making other than 11 tricks.

♠K9873
 ♥QJ98
 ♦J
 ♣K53
 ♠Q6 ♠A2
 ♥10754 ♥632
 ♦A10762 ♦Q954
 ♣74 ♣J1062
 ♠J1054
 ♥AK
 ♦K83
 ♣AQ98

HCP	
10	7
6	17

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

Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

West North East South

Pass 1♣ 1♠ Dble

3♠ Dble Pass 4♥

All Pass

Not a good time to take the aggressive action. After East overcalls 1♠, it looks reasonable to make a negative double on the South hand. But now West bids a preemptive 3♠ and North must bid something with his 17-count. 3NT could be right, but with only a single stopper a competitive double looks better and South bids his five-card suit. However, the ♠A lead and a club switch (and here, where everyone knows South has a singleton spade, East's card at trick one should be suit-preference) leads to two down.

♠K76
 ♥Q53
 ♦AKQ
 ♣QJ82
 ♠A542 ♠QJ1098
 ♥76 ♥K109
 ♦109542 ♦8
 ♣K7 ♣A1063
 ♠3
 ♥AJ842
 ♦J763
 ♣954

HCP	
17	10
7	6

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

♠ Q73
 ♥ 953
 ♦ AKQ943
 ♣ 7
 ♠ AKJ
 ♥ A6
 ♦ J6
 ♣ J109654
 ♠ 8642
 ♥ Q1072
 ♦ 10
 ♣ AK83
 ♠ 1095
 ♥ KJ84
 ♦ 8752
 ♣ Q2

HCP	
11	
14	9
	6

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

Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♦	Dble	3♦
Pass	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

West's final decision is quite close, and it might easily be better for him to opt for the part score at match-points. It is going to end up as a battle of the heart spots. North leads a top diamond and South plays the two suggesting a heart switch. But which heart should North switch to? Whichever he chooses, declarer can set up a long heart for a spade discard.

♠ J72
 ♥ A3
 ♦ AJ1096
 ♣ Q104
 ♠ K85
 ♥ Q52
 ♦ Q5
 ♣ A9862
 ♠ AQ64
 ♥ K874
 ♦ K742
 ♣ 3
 ♠ 1093
 ♥ J1096
 ♦ 83
 ♣ KJ75

HCP	
12	
11	12
	5

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

Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

4-4-4-1 hands are a nightmare, particularly those with a singleton black suit. There is a reasonable case for opening them 1NT and hoping for the best. Here that would lead to a contract of 2NT, probably on a heart lead. With North holding A-x and spades 3-3, eight tricks can be made fairly easily. However, those who open 1♥ have to rebid 2♦, strongly suggesting five hearts, and now the 4-3 heart fit is reached. Mind you, careful handling should result in nine tricks in this contract for a good score.

♠ Q109832
 ♥ 1086
 ♦ 10
 ♣ K65
 ♠ KJ
 ♥ KJ5
 ♦ 8765
 ♣ J1073
 ♠ 6
 ♥ AQ42
 ♦ AJ432
 ♣ 842
 ♠ A754
 ♥ 973
 ♦ KQ9
 ♣ AQ9

HCP	
5	
9	11
	15

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

Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Again, some would prefer some other opening bid on the South hand, which may work out better here. After 1♠, it seems reasonable for North to jump to game with his six-card support. Some Easts might make a take-out double but it is far from clear that you want partner to bid at the five level with this collection. If West leads a diamond it might not be so obvious for East to switch to a heart – he should try the ♥A, asking for an attitude signal, but here West can hardly play the ♥J as he doesn't know that East holds the ♥Q. The percentage shot is surely for East to continue the suit, but some declarers might sneak home in their game. The ♣J lead makes the defence easier.

♠ QJ972
 ♥ 4
 ♦ Q75
 ♣ A543
 ♠ K65
 ♥ J1098
 ♦ 8432
 ♣ 97
 ♠ A104
 ♥ KQ72
 ♦ J96
 ♣ J106
 ♠ 83
 ♥ A653
 ♦ AK10
 ♣ KQ82

HCP	
9	
4	11
16	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	5	3	1	4	2
S	5	3	1	4	2
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♥	1NT
2♥	4♠	All Pass	

It often works well to open 1♥ in third seat with a hand such as East's, intending to pass whatever partner responds. Although his poor heart spots make a 1NT uncomfortable for South, he must bid something with 16 HCP. West goes for a quiet raise and what North does now depends on system. However, it seems to me that 4♠ is a sensible shot with a good five-card suit, singleton heart and plenty of values. Whether or not declarer succeeds in this game would seem to depend on how declarer guesses spades. If he guesses right he will make 11 tricks (to hold declarer to ten tricks for certain, East needs to lead a club), but if he guesses wrong he will go down as he will lose control.

♠ 32
 ♥ 92
 ♦ K1093
 ♣ Q9654
 ♠ KJ8754
 ♥ 8765
 ♦ A2
 ♣ J
 ♠ 9
 ♥ Q43
 ♦ QJ7
 ♣ AK10832
 ♠ AQ106
 ♥ AKJ10
 ♦ 8654
 ♣ 7

HCP	
5	
9	12
14	

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

Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	Dble
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

The cards lie badly for E/W here. Any N/S pairs who get into the auction and buy the hand may well lose out to the 200s scored by those who defend instead. 2♣ might get out for one down, while 2♠ looks to go two down. Maybe West should pass 2♣, but it is tempting to rebid that six-card major at match-points.

♠ AKJ53
 ♥ 4
 ♦ 98732
 ♣ 95
 ♠ Q74
 ♥ AKQ82
 ♦ 5
 ♣ K1073
 ♠ 962
 ♥ J1076
 ♦ KQ
 ♣ QJ64
 ♠ 108
 ♥ 953
 ♦ AJ1064
 ♣ A82

HCP	
8	
14	9
9	

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

Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	All Pass

West opens 1♥ in third seat and North has to choose between a simple 1♠ overcall and some sort of two-suited bid. Personally, I much prefer 1♠ but it doesn't work very well here. East bids 2♠ showing a good raise to 3♥ and it doesn't look attractive for South to enter the bidding at this stage. West has a decent enough hand but his spade holding doesn't look promising, so he settles for a game try of 3♣, and East, with a minimum hand for the bidding so far, settles for the part score. This will go one down easily enough, but N/S are cold for 5♦. Perhaps there is something in that two-suited overcall idea after all.

Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all

West North East South

3♣

Pass Pass Dble Pass

3♦ All Pass

Despite the bad trump break, West should make 3♦. No doubt the defence will start with a club to the ace and the ♣Q back, covered and ruffed. If North reads this as a suit preference signal he should underlead his ♠A next (it is extremely unlikely that either South or West has a singleton). Declarer goes up with the king and to succeed has to cross to hand and play a diamond towards dummy. He then needs to abandon trumps and cash his four heart tricks, discarding a spade, before cross-ruffing so that West just makes two more trump tricks to go with the tricks already made.

♠AJ98
♥10952
♦AJ52
♣2

♠102
♥Q43
♦Q8764
♣K85

♠K753
♥AKJ6
♦K103
♣109

♠Q64
♥87
♦9
♣AQJ7643

HCP	
10	14
7	9

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

Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

West North East South

1♦ Pass 1NT Dble

2♣ Pass 3♣ 3♠

All Pass

South is strong enough to start with a double and then bid spades. It is tempting for North to bid game holding an ace but it is not nearly enough. Remember that South could have doubled again with a really strong hand. So the controlled auction ends up in 3♠ which should make exactly unless the defenders broach hearts.

♠764
♥A854
♦763
♣1065

♠Q
♥Q73
♦AK1084
♣J987

♠982
♥J62
♦J95
♣AQ43

♠AKJ1053
♥K109
♦Q2
♣K2

HCP	
4	8
12	16

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

Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable

West North East South

Pass Pass 4♦ 4♠

Pass 5♣ Pass 5♥

Pass 6♠ All Pass

An interesting auction for N/S. To start with, what action should South take over 4♦? 4♠ is hardly ideal but he should bid something and 4♠ is the only real choice. Now North as a passed hand really has to move as he is so suitable. He could bid 5♠, but 5♣ is better because he needs South to have fitting cards in clubs. Because his clubs are so suitable South can afford to cooperate a little bit with a 5♥ cue-bid, and that is enough for North to bid the good slam. On a heart lead, the slam is cold unless there is a void about.

♠A1072
♥652
♦3
♣AJ742

♠984
♥KQJ103
♦A4
♣953

♠5
♥98
♦KQ1097652
♣106

♠KQJ63
♥A74
♦J8
♣KQ8

HCP	
9	5
10	16

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

<p>♠ J82 ♥ J10842 ♦ KJ ♣ QJ5</p> <p>♠ AK97 ♠ 104 ♥ K95 ♥ AQ6 ♦ 1095 ♦ 8632 ♣ A107 ♣ K863</p> <p>♠ Q653 ♥ 73 ♦ AQ74 ♣ 942</p>	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">West</td> <td style="width: 15%;">North</td> <td style="width: 15%;">East</td> <td style="width: 15%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Not a very exciting deal. It looks as if West will generally become declarer in 1NT and North will surely lead a heart. Declarer will surely play on clubs, and it is hard for him to go wrong. It looks as if eight tricks will be made around the room – but there are usually some who manage to be different!</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass																																
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<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		9	9	14	8	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	2	2	2	2	W	2	2	2	2	2
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<p>♠ AJ102 ♥ J87 ♦ Q1063 ♣ Q7</p> <p>♠ K73 ♠ 6 ♥ KQ652 ♥ 94 ♦ 98 ♦ KJ7542 ♣ KJ2 ♣ A1063</p> <p>♠ Q9854 ♥ A103 ♦ A ♣ 9854</p>	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">West</td> <td style="width: 15%;">North</td> <td style="width: 15%;">East</td> <td style="width: 15%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The East hand is difficult. Technically he doesn't have the nine points required for a two-level response, but it doesn't look very suitable for 1NT either. I'd prefer to owe partner a point and bid my decent six-card suit. South is suitable for a take-out double and North is happy to bid 2♠. It doesn't look as if anyone has any reason to bid again. With North declarer on a heart lead declarer can be held to eight tricks; if South declares he can always make an overtrick.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦	Dble	Pass	2♠	All Pass																											
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<p>♠ KQJ96 ♥ KQ8 ♦ K ♣ Q985</p> <p>♠ 432 ♠ 1087 ♥ AJ102 ♥ 973 ♦ A98 ♦ QJ752 ♣ A62 ♣ 74</p> <p>♠ A5 ♥ 654 ♦ 10643 ♣ KJ103</p>	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">West</td> <td style="width: 15%;">North</td> <td style="width: 15%;">East</td> <td style="width: 15%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There are a lot of defences to 1NT out there. My favourite is one where 2♣ shows both majors, 2♦ a single-suited major, and 2♥/2♠ shows a five-card suit along with a four-card or longer minor. With an ace-less hand I prefer the 2♠ overcall to a double of 1NT. However, on the actual lie 4♠ makes and no doubt an initial double would get you there. Best defence is to start with diamonds to try to force declarer, but as West has all the entries and only three diamonds, the defence cannot succeed.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	2♠	All Pass																																			
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