

Improve your Bridge by reviewing these interesting deals from the club.

I am going to start posting one interesting hand from the club game each night in an effort to help you and your partner with your post-mortems. Fearghal

Regional Pairs – Southern Hotel Sligo – Sunday 3rd December 2017

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 83 ♥ 84 ♦ KQ1073 ♣ J632</p> <p>♠ AKJ97642 ♠ Q105 ♥ J ♥ AKQ532 ♦ 4 ♦ AJ ♣ AQ8 ♣ 94</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ - ♥ 10976 ♦ 98652 ♣ K1075</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></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15 16</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3</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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr> </table>	HCP		6	15 16	3	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	-	-	-	S	-	1	-	-	-	E	-	-	7	7	7	W	-	-	6	7	7	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">There is no problem in the play as there are 13 easy tricks available in Spades, Hearts or No-Trumps so the only problem is the bidding.</p> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Everyone will be in slam so the only question is how many will be in the Grand Slam? If you play Key Card Blackwood you will learn that your partner has the two red aces and the Queen of Spades. Then when you ask for Kings she will show the King of Hearts. You can count 12 tricks and there must be a 13th somewhere with all that shape.</p> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Even playing ordinary Blackwood you will be able to count the same top 12 tricks and should be confident enough to bid 7S.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT	Pass	6♥	Pass	7♠	All Pass		
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 95 ♥ K107543 ♦ 432 ♣ 83</p> <p>♠ AQJ864 ♠ 1073 ♥ 2 ♥ QJ8 ♦ 98 ♦ K75 ♣ AK107 ♣ J965</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K2 ♥ A96 ♦ AQJ106 ♣ Q42</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">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;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</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;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		3	7	14	16	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	2	-	-	S	-	2	2	-	-	E	3	-	-	3	3	W	3	-	-	3	-	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: center;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2♠</td> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>An interesting test for your bidding, your play and your defence!</p> <p>Quite a few E/W pairs will land in 4♠ - the contract is a reasonable one but it shouldn't be allowed to make and in fact there are clues from the poorly shaped East hand that E/W should be able to avoid 4♠.</p> <p>The contact goes down as long as N/S do not do anything silly. Declarer cannot avoid the loss of one Spade trick, one Heart trick and 2 Diamond tricks. And indeed declarer's big problem will be how to avoid losing a fifth trick to the Queen of Clubs for minus two!</p> <p>However declarer should be able to avoid losing a trick to the Queen of Clubs by using the Ten of Spades in dummy as her entry to dummy to take the Club finesse.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♦	2♠	All Pass		
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J5 ♥ Q1095 ♦ Q4 ♣ J9762</p> <p>♠ AK96432 ♠ Q107 ♥ A82 ♥ K ♦ 2 ♦ KJ9875 ♣ AQ ♣ K43</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 8 ♥ J7643 ♦ A1063 ♣ 1085</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;">6</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">17 12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</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>-</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>5</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>	HCP		6	17 12	5	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	5	1	6	6	W	2	5	1	6	6	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>West should be thinking of Slam as soon as he hears his partner open the bidding. East should raise his partner's jump shift response with Qxx support.</p> <p>East checks on Aces and when he discovers one missing he signs off in 6S. West doesn't need to check about the Queen of Spades – when we have 10 trumps we assume the trump Queen won't be an issue.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			1♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass		
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AQJ4 ♥ A63 ♦ AK64 ♣ AQ</p> <p>♠ K85 ♠ 106 ♥ K5 ♥ J10842 ♦ Q73 ♥ J1095 ♣ K10963 ♣ 87</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 9732 ♥ Q97 ♦ 82 ♣ J542</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;">24</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11 2</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3</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>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</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		24	11 2	3	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	3	3	5	3	S	3	3	3	5	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The trick here is to find your 4-4 Spade fit and play in 4♠ rather than in 3NT.</p> <p>If you just bid 2♣-2♦-2NT-3NT then you will miss your Spade fit and get a bad score because you will only make 9 tricks in 3NT compared to the easy 11 tricks in a 4♠ contract.</p> <p>It makes sense to use Stayman and Transfers here just as you would if partner had opened 2NT and now you can find your Spade fit easily enough....but make sure you tell your partner about your good idea!</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass			
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K105 ♥ 974 ♦ 10865 ♣ Q52</p> <p>♠ J86 ♠ Q743 ♥ Q10862 ♥ J5 ♦ K43 ♦ A7 ♣ 108 ♣ J9743</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A92 ♥ AK3 ♦ QJ92 ♣ AK6</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♣</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♦</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♠</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">21</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</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></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</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> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	5	8	N	2	3	1	1	3	6	8	S	2	3	1	1	3	21		E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>West leads a Heart and declarer has 7 top tricks. He gets his other 2 tricks from Diamonds. When you have to lose the lead twice it often pays to hold up on the opening lead even if you have two stoppers.</p> <p>If you hold up on the Heart lead, East won't have a third Heart left when he gets in with the Ace of Diamonds and now West's Heart suit will not be setup for him.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q3 ♥ A1094 ♦ 9754 ♣ 752</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 1074 ♠ A95 ♥ 863 ♥ KJ7 ♦ Q62 ♦ AK8 ♣ KJ83 ♣ AQ106</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ KJ862 ♥ Q52 ♦ J103 ♣ 94</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: left;">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">21</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: left;">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;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		6		6	21	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	3	2	2	1	3	W	3	2	2	1	3	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">West</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">North</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">East</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">2NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">East plays 3NT on a small Spade lead. Declarer wins the second or third round and can see 8 top tricks.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">His 9th trick can only come from the Heart suit. Since he can get only one shot at it he should play a Heart from dummy towards his King – hoping that North has the Ace. Playing the ♥J rather than the King hoping that North has the ♥Q is futile because if South has the Ace, declarer is down....so you have to assume North has the ♥A.</p>	West	North	East	South			2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ QJ1062 ♥ 83 ♦ Q10 ♣ J875</p> <p>♠ AK ♠ 753 ♥ QJ64 ♥ A72 ♦ 9432 ♦ A875 ♣ AKQ ♣ 1062</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 984 ♥ K1095 ♦ KJ6 ♣ 943</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;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">19</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</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 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;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		6	8	19	7	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	4	3	1	3	W	2	4	3	1	3	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : 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>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>West plays 3NT on the ♠Q lead. Declarer has 7 top tricks and needs two more. These two extra tricks will come from the Heart suit.</p> <p>Declarer could hope for a 3-3 Heart break but that would only be a 35% chance. A better chance is to hope that South has the King of Hearts (a 50% chance) and now declarer makes two extra Heart tricks with his Queen and Jack by simply leading twice from dummy towards his Queen and Jack.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 94 ♥ K73 ♦ QJ107 ♣ 10972</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AK10872 ♠ QJ6 ♥ J105 ♥ Q942 ♦ 942 ♦ A53 ♣ A ♣ QJ8</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 53 ♥ A86 ♦ K86 ♣ K6543</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">East</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">1♠</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">2♣</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">2♠</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">4♠</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">East has a difficult responding problem – in the old days 2NT would be the bid – but nowadays the 2NT response is used to show 12+ HCP and 4+ Spade support.</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">So East has to invent a 2♣ or a 2♦ response (2♥ is a definite no-no as it guarantees a 5-card Heart suit).</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">On the likely Diamond lead, declarer is facing the prospect of losing 2 Diamonds and 2 Hearts. However there is a cute way to make 10 tricks by using a technique known as the ‘Ruffing Finesse’. We need South to hold the ♣K.</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">Declarer wins the Diamond lead, cashes the ♣A, plays the ♠A and a Spade to dummy’s Jack. Now declarer takes the Ruffing Club Finesse by leading the ♣Q from dummy and letting it run (discarding a Diamond loser) if South does not cover. If South does cover, then declarer ruffs and gets back to dummy with ♠Q to cash the established ♣J for his 10th trick.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
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Acol Bridge Club – Monday 10th April 2017

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 6 ♥ AJ64 ♦ Q1062 ♣ K1097</p> <p>♠ K832 ♠ AQJ1095 ♥ 832 ♥ Q ♦ J87 ♦ 94 ♣ 842 ♣ AQJ5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 74 ♥ K10975 ♦ AK53 ♣ 63</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></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">16</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td></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 style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</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;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10		4	16	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	4	4	-	-	S	-	4	4	-	-	E	1	-	-	4	-	W	1	-	-	4	-	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : 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></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbf</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Most E/Ws will rest in a Spade partscore but if West makes any noise at all, East will bid 4♠.</p> <p>4♠ is a nice contract but if you are going to bid well you are also going to have to play well. To make 10 tricks, you are going to have to hope that North has the King of Clubs.</p> <p>Even so, you are going to have to get to dummy twice to take the Club finesse twice – so you will need two entries to dummy. The King of Spades is one and the ♠8 is a second – provided of course that you did not ruff the third round of Diamonds with the ♠5!</p>	West	North	East	South			1♠	Pass	Pass	Dbf	2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ KQJ5 ♥ J52 ♦ Q7 ♣ 10932</p> <p>♠ A64 ♠ 873 ♥ A973 ♥ Q ♦ K109 ♦ A865432 ♣ A74 ♣ J6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 1092 ♥ K10864 ♦ J ♣ KQ85</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;">9</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;">9</td> <td></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 style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		9		15	7	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	2	1	-	S	1	-	2	1	-	E	-	4	-	-	3	W	-	4	-	-	3	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW 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>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3NT is a good contract to be in – and if you find yourself in it you should realise that just making it will be an excellent result.</p> <p>If you give the hand a moment's thought you will see that after you cash the King and Ace of Diamonds you are going to be winning the third round of Diamonds with the 10 in your hand and you will be stranded from dummy's Diamond winners.</p> <p>One you spot the problem, the solution is to play a small Diamonds from both hands on the first round – now you can win 6 Diamond tricks in peace.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K965 ♥ 7 ♦ QJ ♣ K97432</p> <p>♠ 842 ♠ A7 ♥ K42 ♥ AQJ1065 ♦ 10643 ♦ A95 ♣ QJ6 ♣ A5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ QJ103 ♥ 983 ♦ K872 ♣ 108</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 20px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>19</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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		9		6	19	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	-	2	-	S	1	-	-	2	-	E	-	4	4	-	4	W	-	4	4	-	4	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Declarer has 9 top tricks and his 10th trick will come from the Club suit. Everyone will make 10 tricks here by simply taking the Club finesse but the really careful players will make 10 tricks by not taking the Club finesse.</p> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Best play is to win the Spade lead, draw two rounds of trumps (Ace and Queen) and then play Ace and another Club. You can then win the return and get to dummy with the King of trumps to cash the established Club winner.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J2 ♥ J6 ♦ 9764 ♣ AKQ73</p> <p>♠ 1093 ♠ AKQ65 ♥ A5 ♥ K9742 ♦ 10852 ♦ A ♣ J952 ♣ 64</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 874 ♥ Q1083 ♦ KQJ3 ♣ 108</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;">11</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5 16</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</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>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		11	5 16	8	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	1	-	-	-	S	1	1	-	-	-	E	-	-	3	4	2	W	-	-	3	4	2	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW 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>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>Most E/W's will rest in 1♠ or 2♠ - especially if some North's muddy the waters by opening 1♣.</p> <p>Nevertheless all declarers should make 10 tricks if they put their minds to it. The plan should be to ruff two Hearts in Dummy.</p> <p>Win the Diamond lead and cash AK♥ and ruff a Heart with the ♠10. This will be over-ruffed by North's Jack but you can later ruff your 4th Heart with the ♠9 and then draw trumps – losing 2 Club tricks and the ♠J.</p> <p>Ok those of you getting a Club lead from South will face a tougher guess at trick 3 – but you should still make 9 tricks even if you guess wrong.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 873 ♥ 10432 ♦ A73 ♣ Q53</p> <p>♠ 106 ♠ 942 ♥ J976 ♥ KQ5 ♦ 104 ♦ J982 ♣ J10976 ♣ AK4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AKQJ5 ♥ A8 ♦ KQ65 ♣ 82</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></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">19</td><td></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 style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</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>W</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</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> </table>	HCP		6		2	13	19		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	1	4	3	S	-	3	-	4	3	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	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></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>With 25 HCP and an 8 card Spade fit, N/S want to be in 4♠. South's 3♦ is a game forcing jump shift.</p> <p>Declarer probably loses the first three Club tricks and can see 9 easy tricks after that.</p> <p>If the Diamonds break 3-3 then declarer has her 10th trick in Diamonds. However the Diamonds are unlikely to break 3-3 so declarer needs to ruff her losing fourth round of Diamonds in dummy.</p> <p>The solution is to draw just 2 rounds of trumps and then play 3 rounds of Diamonds – if someone ruffs the third Diamond then the contract simply could not have been made – but as it happens nobody ruffs in and now declarer can ruff her losing Diamond in dummy. Well played if you played this way!</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass			
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<p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ A54 ♥ 85 ♦ AKQ82 ♣ AQJ</p> <p>♠ 97 ♠ KQJ102 ♥ J103 ♥ K964 ♦ 9543 ♦ 7 ♣ 10864 ♣ K95</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ 863 ♥ AQ72 ♦ J106 ♣ 732</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;">20</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">1 12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</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>2</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>1</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		20	1 12	7	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	4	1	2	4	S	2	4	1	1	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : 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></td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</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>All roads lead to 3NT by North. East leads the ♠K and declarer wins the third round of Spades (or the second if you prefer).</p> <p>Declarer has 5 Diamond tricks and 3 aces so she needs one more trick to make her contract. She has a choice of taking a Club finesse into the danger hand East or a Heart finesse into the safe hand West.</p> <p>So that's an easy decision – declarer takes the Heart finesse by leading a Heart to the Queen and makes her contract.</p>	West	North	East	South		2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A854 ♥ 8 ♦ 873 ♣ AKJ102</p> <p>♠ 6 ♠ Q103 ♥ QJ1062 ♥ K9754 ♦ A1092 ♦ QJ4 ♣ 983 ♣ 75</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ KJ972 ♥ A3 ♦ K65 ♣ Q64</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;">12</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td></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>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		12		7	8	13		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	-	-	4	3	S	5	-	-	6	5	E	-	1	3	-	-	W	-	1	3	-	-	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td style="text-align: right;">1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South is in 4♠ and gets the ♥Q lead. He can see oodles of tricks by way of Spades, Clubs and a Heart ruff and his only concern is that he doesn't lose 4 tricks.</p> <p>The only way he can lose 4 tricks is if East gets in with the ♠Q and switches to a Diamond through declarer's King. So declarer makes sure East does not get in with his ♠Q and he plays a Spade to the Ace and a Spade to his Jack – ending up with 12 tricks – well played.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AJ1032 ♥ 84 ♦ 972 ♣ K104</p> <p>♠ 75 ♠ Q9 ♥ AJ10 ♥ KQ96532 ♦ A85 ♦ 1043 ♣ AJ532 ♣ 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K864 ♥ 7 ♦ KQJ6 ♣ Q986</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;">8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14</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="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>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8		14	7	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	2	-	2	-	S	1	2	-	2	-	E	-	-	4	-	2	W	-	-	4	-	2	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : 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></td> <td></td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>East opens 3♥ and West can see a good chance of 9 tricks with at least two more chances of a 10th trick so he raises to 4♥.</p> <p>Some Souths might double 3♥ and now North might try the good sacrifice of 4♠x-2.</p> <p>In a 4♥ contract, East can see 9 tricks and he can also see the possible loss of 2 Spade tricks and 2 Diamond tricks.</p> <p>Declarer's 10th trick comes from establish dummy's fifth Club. Win the Diamond lead, play Ace of Clubs and ruff a Club, back to dummy twice more with the Jack and Ten of trumps to ruff 2 more Clubs and then up to the Ace of Hearts in dummy to cash the now good winning Club in dummy.</p>	West	North	East	South			3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 963 ♥ J72 ♦ J1093 ♣ QJ4</p> <p>♠ AKQJ108 ♠ 752 ♥ A6 ♥ K8 ♦ AK5 ♦ 874 ♣ 63 ♣ A9852</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 4 ♥ Q109543 ♦ Q62 ♣ K107</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;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">21</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td></td></tr> </table>	HCP		5	7	21	7	7		<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</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>Some might end up in 6♠ and the trick will be to make 12 tricks even if you are only in 4♠. On a Heart lead you will only make 11 tricks but on the more normal ♦J lead you can set up the Club suit and make 12 tricks.</p> <p>You win the Diamond lead, draw trumps and play a small Club from both hands. Now you can win the Diamond return, cash the Ace of Clubs and ruff a Club and get back to dummy's ♥K to cash your winning Clubs.</p>	West	North	East	South	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ QJ742 ♥ 87 ♦ 1085 ♣ KQ6</p> <p>♠ 65 ♠ A3 ♥ Q102 ♥ AKJ963 ♦ 932 ♦ A76 ♣ A10873 ♣ 54</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K1098 ♥ 54 ♦ KQJ4 ♣ J92</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;">8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">16</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td></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 style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8		6	16	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	-	1	-	S	-	1	-	1	-	E	2	-	4	-	3	W	2	-	4	-	3	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : 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></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>There will be some E/W pairs who won't get to game on this board.</p> <p>West can respond 1NT or 2♥ but 2♥ is better even with only 3-card support because you have a doubleton Spade.</p> <p>But even after a 1NT response, East can jump to 3♥ and then West has an easy 4♥ bid. Of course making 4♥ will take a bit of work – that Club suit needs to be established using dummy's Queen and 10 of trumps as entries to ruff the third round of Clubs and get to dummy to cash the good Clubs.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q10752 ♥ 982 ♦ J75 ♣ 62</p> <p>♠ K983 ♠ A64 ♥ 64 ♥ A53 ♦ AK3 ♦ Q62 ♣ A1087 ♣ KJ54</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J ♥ KQJ107 ♦ 10984 ♣ Q93</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;">3</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td style="text-align: center;">14</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td></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>-</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>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		3		14	14	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	5	3	2	3	4	W	5	3	2	3	4	<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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South leads the ♥K against 3NT (or the ♥10 if you insist on leading 4th best).</p> <p>Declarer has 8 top tricks. The 9th trick will come from the Club suit. Declarer starts by holding up his ♥A until the third round and then endeavour to establish his 9th trick in Clubs – all the while trying to keep South off lead.</p> <p>The mission is easily accomplished by simply playing a small Club towards the Ace and Ten of Clubs and finessing the ♣10. If North has the ♣Q and can produce another Heart then the Heart suit will have divided 4-4 and declarer loses only 3 Heart tricks and the 1 Club trick.</p> <p>On the actual lie of the cards, the Club finesse works and declarer's good play is rewarded with 10 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 853 ♥ Q1092 ♦ AK9 ♣ K94</p> <p>♠ AK976 ♠ QJ102 ♥ AJ64 ♥ K5 ♦ J4 ♦ 876 ♣ Q7 ♣ A865</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 4 ♥ 873 ♦ Q10532 ♣ J1032</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>12</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>3</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>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		12		15	10	3		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	-	-	-	S	-	2	-	-	-	E	-	-	1	4	2	W	-	-	1	4	2	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</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>West is in 4♠ and North starts off with Ace, King and a third round of Diamonds.</p> <p>Declarer has 8 top tricks, 5 Spades, 2 Hearts and 1 Club. His two extra tricks will come from ruffing two Hearts in dummy. It's a good plan and well done if you as far as making that plan.</p> <p>Sounds easy and looks easy – but looks can be deceptive. As in all hands where declarer has to organise a few ruffs in dummy, declarer must postpone the drawing of trumps (1 round is ok but two rounds would be fatal).</p> <p>So declarer ruffs the third round of Diamonds in hand and cashes the King of Hearts followed by the Ace of Hearts. Now he ruffs a Heart in dummy (and he may as well ruff with one of dummy's big trumps just in case South has only 2 Hearts also).</p> <p>Now declarer comes back to his hand with a trump and leads his last Heart (the Jack) from hand and ruffs it in dummy with a high trump – his 10th trick.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
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<p style="text-align: center;"> ♠ AQ6 ♥ AK86 ♦ 32 ♣ 10984 </p> <p> ♠ J432 ♠ K105 ♥ 7 ♥ QJ10954 ♦ AQJ87 ♦ 10964 ♣ J72 ♣ - </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> ♠ 987 ♥ 32 ♦ K5 ♣ AKQ653 </p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: right;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>North ends up in 3NT – one way or another – they have 25 HCP and even if E/W come in to the auction, N/S have the Hearts covered.</p> <p>Of course, if East leads a Diamond then declarer loses the first 5 Diamond tricks, but most Easts will lead the ♥Q.</p> <p>If declarer does get a Heart lead, he should be able to count 9 top tricks assuming the Clubs break 2-2 or 3-1. However, the really good declarers will be able to look deeper and see that there is a potential blockage on the 4th round of Clubs.</p> <p>The solution, is to follow the rule ‘play the high cards from the short hand first ’ and make sure to play the 10, 9 and 8 of Clubs under South’s Ace, King and Queen of Clubs. Now declarer can cash his 6 Club tricks in peace to go with his 2 Heart tricks and his Ace of Spades.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	3NT
West	North	East	South						
	1NT	Pass	3NT						

HCP		Makeable contracts			
13		♣	♦	♥	♠ NT
9	6	N	3	-	-
12		S	3	-	-
		E	-	4	2
		W	-	4	2

Acot Bridge Club – Monday 9th January 2017 – Using Stayman

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 109843 ♥ 5 ♦ 842 ♣ K986</p> <p>♠ AQ7 ♠ J5 ♥ J1064 ♥ KQ83 ♦ KJ973 ♦ A105 ♣ 3 ♣ QJ54</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K62 ♥ A972 ♦ Q6 ♣ A1072</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11 13</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</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		3	11 13	13	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	-	1	-	S	1	-	-	1	-	E	-	3	4	-	3	W	-	3	4	-	3	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>E/W have an 8-card Heart fit so they want go land in 4♥. East opens a weak no-trump and West uses Stayman.</p> <p>When West learns of the 4-4 Heart fit she can add on a few points for her singleton Club and just jump to 4♥.</p> <p>Once you start with the Ace of Diamonds there should be no problems in the play – even you accidentally find yourself in 3NT.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
HCP																																																										
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Acol Bridge Club – Monday 9th January 2017 – Rule of 15 again

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 10762 ♥ AJ1097 ♦ 3 ♣ K108</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ QJ ♠ K3 ♥ K632 ♥ 84 ♦ K862 ♦ AQ104 ♣ 942 ♣ QJ765</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ A9854 ♥ Q5 ♦ J975 ♣ A3</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;">8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td></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>1</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</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		8		9	12	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	3	5	3	S	-	1	3	5	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>For at least the third time in a matter of weeks, the 'Rule of 15' has cropped up again.</p> <p>Some Souths will open 1♠ and they will be very happy to land in 4♠. Other Souths might not open and at those tables the bidding will go Pass-Pass-Pass around to East.</p> <p>If East passes, she will get a good result and if she opens the bidding she will be annoyed to find her opponents winning the auction and making a contract.</p> <p>The 'Rule of 15' tells East that she should not open – the total of her points and the number of Spades she holds does not come to at least 15!</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J762 ♥ Q103 ♦ 9764 ♣ 74</p> <p>♠ 3 ♠ A104 ♥ K842 ♥ AJ765 ♦ 1053 ♦ AQJ ♣ AQJ98 ♣ 105</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ KQ985 ♥ 9 ♦ K82 ♣ K632</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;">3</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10 16</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</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>-</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>7</td><td>1</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	HCP		3	10 16	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	5	3	7	1	5	W	5	3	6	1	5	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : 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 style="text-align: center;">1♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Yes there are more scientific ways to bid the hand but when players overcall it tends to make bidding a little murkier.</p> <p>The play is the important part of this deal – if you are only in 4♥ and can make all 13 tricks that will still get you a good matchpoint result. Even 12 will score well.</p> <p>A good tip when deciding how to play 9-card fits missing the queen – like the Heart suit above – is to play for the ‘drop’ if you don’t have any side suit singletons or voids in either of your two hands but to take the finesse if you can see a singleton or void.</p> <p>In the present case, declarer can see a singleton Spade, so she tackles the Heart suit by cashing the King first and then finessing the Jack.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	1♠	4♥	All Pass		
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Acol Bridge Club – Monday 9th January 2017 – Don't Panic

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AKQ63 ♥ KQ ♦ AK ♣ A976</p> <p>♠ 10 ♠ J9 ♥ A72 ♥ J10985 ♦ Q943 ♦ J85 ♣ KQ432 ♣ 1085</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 87542 ♥ 643 ♦ 10762 ♣ J</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;">25</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11 3</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">1</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>2</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>3</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	11 3	1	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	-	6	3	S	-	2	-	6	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>North opens 2♣ showing 23+ HCP. This is game forcing – neither partner can pass until game is reached – the only exception is the sequence 2♣-2♦-2NT (responder is free to pass the 2NT rebid if she has 1 or less points).</p> <p>After 2♣-2♦, North can rebid a simple 2♠. This is 100% game forcing. South cannot pass. On this hand South has an easy raise to 4♠.</p> <p>12 tricks are easy once declarer ruffs 3 Clubs in dummy.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass			
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Phoenix Bridge Club – Wednesday 4th January 2017 – Rule of 15

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A76 ♥ 53 ♦ Q8654 ♣ A72</p> <p>♠ K85 ♠ 932 ♥ AK9 ♥ Q1087 ♦ 73 ♦ KJ ♣ J9543 ♣ K1086</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ QJ104 ♥ J642 ♦ A1092 ♣ Q</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></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td></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 style="text-align: center;">-</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;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</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;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</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;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</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;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10		11	9	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	4	-	3	-	S	-	4	-	3	-	E	2	-	-	-	-	W	2	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : N/S vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Pass</p> <p>The 'Rule of 15' appears again. When the bidding goes 'Pass-Pass-Pass' around to you, you should open only if your high card points added to the number of Spades you hold equals 15 or more.</p> <p>So when three passes arrive around to West, he should also 'Pass' because his hand does not meet the rule of 15 test – his points and his Spades only add to 14.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	Pass
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Phoenix Bridge Club – Wednesday 4th January 2017 - Unblocking

<p>♠ 109876 ♥ 875 ♦ Q6 ♣ 642</p> <p>♠ AKQJ ♠ 3 ♥ 964 ♥ 1032 ♦ J4 ♦ A108532 ♣ J1098 ♣ AKQ</p> <p>♠ 542 ♥ AKQJ ♦ K97 ♣ 753</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;">2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td></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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		2		12	13	13		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	3	2	2	2	3	W	3	2	2	2	3	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : 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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>E/W have 25 points – they don't have a major suit fit – so they want to end in 3NT.</p> <p>North leads the 10♠ and declarer counts his tricks – 4 Spades, 4 Clubs and the Ace of Diamonds is 9. The problem is that if declarer does not make a plan, he will find that after cashing the Ace, King and Queen of Clubs he has no ay back to his hand to cash the 4th Club!</p> <p>The 'pretty' solution is to cash four rounds of Spades – discarding the ♣AKQ from dummy. Now declarer can cash the 4 Club winners in his hand in peace. Well done Anne-Marie!</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
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Phoenix Bridge Club – Wednesday 4th January 2017 – (4441 hands)

<p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ K108 ♥ 762 ♦ Q109863 ♣ 10</p> <p>♠ J ♠ AQ752 ♥ KQJ5 ♥ A983 ♦ KJ75 ♦ - ♣ J985 ♣ AQ62</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ 9643 ♥ 104 ♦ A42 ♣ K743</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>4441 hands are always difficult to bid. There are various rules such as open the suit below the singleton, open the lowest, open the middle suit. There is another good school of thought which says not to open these 4441 shapes unless you have at least 14 points.</p> <p>If West passes then it will be easy for E/W to find their 4-4 Heart fit – indeed it is hard to fault any E/W pair who tries for the unlucky 6♥ on these cards.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
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Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass														
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HCP	Makeable contracts
5	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT
12 16	N - - - - -
7	S - - - - -
	E 5 1 5 4 3
	W 5 1 5 3 3

Acol Bridge Club - Monday 12th December 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J105 ♥ 106 ♦ 8653 ♣ 8762</p> <p>♠ 7 ♠ 98432 ♥ QJ852 ♥ K3 ♦ AKJ10 ♦ 4 ♣ Q94 ♣ AK1053</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AKQ6 ♥ A974 ♦ Q972 ♣ J</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rdbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>E/W can make 5♣ but will be lucky to bid to any makeable contract.</p> <p>As long as West does not 'Double' a 1♥ opening by South all will be ok.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass	1♠	Dbl	Rdbl	Pass	2♣	All Pass																												
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 1065 ♥ 752 ♦ 1092 ♣ A532</p> <p>♠ AKQJ3 ♠ 2 ♥ 43 ♥ AKQ106 ♦ 64 ♦ AKJ873 ♣ KJ109 ♣ Q</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 9874 ♥ J98 ♦ Q5 ♣ 8764</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;">4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td style="text-align: center;">19</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td></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>-</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>6</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>	HCP		4		14	19	3		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	6	6	6	6	6	W	6	6	6	6	6	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>E/W have 33 points – therefore they want to end in 6NT. After 1♠-2♦-3♣, East has probably heard enough and can just blast 6NT if she feels like it. West's 3♣ bid is game forcing so it shows 15+ and now West knows they have loads of points for slam.</p> <p>Of course she is still interested in a Grand Slam so it makes sense to continually slowly with 3♥.</p> <p>Another point of note is East's initial 2♦ response – don't jump-shift with two-suited hands. Another point of note – if you are going to miss slam make sure you bid 3NT – at least you will pick up a few matchpoints.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass	6NT	All Pass
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Acol Bridge Club - Monday 12th December 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AJ9 ♥ 654 ♦ Q1074 ♣ QJ6</p> <p>♠ 432 ♠ K6 ♥ K2 ♥ AQJ93 ♦ J9852 ♦ AK ♣ K84 ♣ 10952</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q10875 ♥ 1087 ♦ 63 ♣ A73</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></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td></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>-</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>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		10		7	17	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	3	4	1	2	W	4	3	4	1	2	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW 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>Pass</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>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Ok I don't like the bidding – but I can't think of any better sequence to get E/W to the only making game contract of 4♥?</p> <p>Declarer has a bit of work to do but with the two black aces well placed all declarer has to do is to lead towards her two black kings and then play for Clubs to be 3-3. So declarer makes 1 Spade, 5 Hearts, 2 Diamonds and 3 Club tricks.</p> <p>I would probably be in 3NT-1 myself!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ QJ5 ♥ K52 ♦ J863 ♣ K95</p> <p>♠ 10 ♠ AK876 ♥ A9874 ♥ J ♦ A74 ♦ K1095 ♣ A843 ♣ Q62</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 9432 ♥ Q1063 ♦ Q2 ♣ J107</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></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12 13</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</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>-</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>4</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10	12 13	5	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	4	3	3	3	W	4	4	3	3	3	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW 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></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>E/W have 25 points and no major suit fit – so they want to land in 3NT. Sounds easy but quite a few might flounder on the rocks.</p> <p>The first 3 bids are easy but then the waters start to muddy. East could just blast 3NT at her second turn but then she might miss a possible 5-3 Spade fit. The elegant solution is to use ‘Fourth-Suit-Forcing’.</p> <p>East bids 2♦ at her second turn asking West to describe her hand further. West could then say 2NT to show a Diamond stopper but a better bid is 3♦ which is known called ‘Fifth-Suit-Forcing’. The 3♦ bid tends to say I don’t have 3-card Spade support but I have the Ace of Diamonds and 3NT will be easier to play from your hand than mine.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass
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Acol Bridge Club - Monday 5th December 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J75 ♥ AQ7 ♦ 983 ♣ 9743</p> <p>♠ K10943 ♠ AQ6 ♥ 93 ♥ K1064 ♦ K74 ♦ AQJ5 ♣ KJ5 ♣ Q8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 82 ♥ J852 ♦ 1062 ♣ A1062</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;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10 18</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</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>-</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>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		7	10 18	5	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	5	3	5	4	W	2	5	3	5	4	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">East should rebid 2NT at her second turn. Nowadays this rebid shows 18-20 and is forcing to game. West can not pass. The big advantage of playing this 2NT as 18-20 is that it gives East-West plenty of room to investigate a possible 5-3 Spade fit and even investigate a possible 6♦ contract on occasions.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Of course if West knowingly decides to hide her 5th Spade and just raise 2NT to 3NT – then that is ok too – and if her partner can avoid a Heart lead her good matchpoint decision will be rewarded with 3NT+2.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ AQ8 ♥ Q72 ♦ AQ962 ♣ A5</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ KJ54 ♠ 92 ♥ J4 ♥ A9653 ♦ K108 ♦ 74 ♣ QJ92 ♣ 8763</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 10763 ♥ K108 ♦ J53 ♣ K104</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="padding: 2px;">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">18</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">11 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">7</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="6" style="padding: 2px;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="padding: 2px;"></th> <th style="padding: 2px;">♣</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">♦</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">♥</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">♠</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">E</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 style="padding: 2px;">W</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> </table>	HCP		18	11 4	7	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	5	2	3	5	S	1	5	2	3	5	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin: 5px 0;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px;">1♦</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">2NT</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">3NT All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin: 10px 0;">25 points and no major suit fit means 3NT. So there is no excuse for not being in 3NT.</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0;">There is no problem in the play with most declarers making 10 tricks even on a bad day.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT All Pass
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K1087 ♥ A ♦ 9762 ♣ J976</p> <p>♠ J632 ♠ Q ♥ KJ ♥ 108763 ♦ K54 ♦ AJ103 ♣ A843 ♣ KQ2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A954 ♥ Q9542 ♦ Q8 ♣ 105</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♣</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♦</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♠</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">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;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">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;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	8		N	-	-	-	1	-	12	12	S	-	-	-	1	-			E	3	2	2	-	2			W	3	2	2	-	2	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : 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 style="text-align: center;">1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Again disciplined bidding will keep E/W out of the doomed 3NT.</p> <p>West has a bad 12 points so should not be inclined to rebid more than 2NT on the second round. East with a dead minimum opening bid should not be accepting any game invitations.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	All Pass		
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J8754 ♥ K9 ♦ QJ2 ♣ K52</p> <p>♠ AQ2 ♠ K1093 ♥ J7 ♥ AQ4 ♦ K94 ♦ 8653 ♣ J9843 ♣ 106</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 6 ♥ 1086532 ♦ A107 ♣ AQ7</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></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td></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 style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</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;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</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;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10		11	9	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	2	-	-	S	-	-	2	-	-	E	1	1	-	2	1	W	1	1	-	2	1	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="padding-top: 10px;">Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Yes South should open third-in-hand with either 1♥ or 2♥ and that should end the auction – making 8 tricks and a good score for N/S.</p> <p>However if South passes, West should not give South another bite at the cherry – West should also pass. The ‘Rule of 15’ comes to West’s aid here – when deciding whether or not to open in fourth seat after 3 passes, you add the number of Spades you hold to the number of points you hold – if it comes to 15 or more, you open the bidding and if the total does not come to 15 you do not open the bidding.</p> <p>But if West does decide to open 1♣, she should then pass her partner’s 1♠ response – remember East was unable to open the bidding so E/W do not have 25 points. Normally a new suit response at the 1-level is forcing for one round but the response is not forcing after a third in hand or fourth in hand opening.</p> <p>But even if West raises the 1♠ response to 2♠, that should probably end the auction – although that East hand does get better looking every time I look at it so maybe it’s worth one more try with 3♠? Unlucky tonight.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass			
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 1042 ♥ Q52 ♦ K6 ♣ AKQ105</p> <p>♠ J8 ♠ Q653 ♥ AK73 ♥ 4 ♦ A983 ♦ Q54 ♣ 764 ♣ J9832</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AK97 ♥ J10986 ♦ J1072 ♣ -</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>North opens a Weak 1NT (if North thinks this hand is worth more than 14 then fair enough).</p> <p>The correct way to handle weak hands with 5-4 or 4-5 in the majors, is to use Stayman and then rebid the 5-card major if opener bids 2♦.</p> <p>So South is showing a weak hand (0-10 HCP), with 5 Hearts and 4 Spades. North is duty bound to pass 2♥.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass																															
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Phoenix Bridge Club - Wednesday 23rd November 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ KQ103 ♥ KQ ♦ 3 ♣ K108764</p> <p>♠ 8542 ♠ 76 ♥ 98753 ♥ J104 ♦ J954 ♦ 10862 ♣ - ♣ AJ52</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AJ9 ♥ A62 ♦ AKQ7 ♣ Q93</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;">13</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> <td></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>6</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		13		1	6	20		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	6	4	4	5	6	S	6	5	4	6	6	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">This is a hand where you would not mind having a bidding misunderstanding and staying out of slam. To make this slam, declarer has to lead a Club from dummy towards the Queen rather than from hand towards to King – good luck with that one.</p> <p>Both look equal to me. If you win a Heart lead in dummy, you might lead a Club to the Queen and make the contract. If you get a Diamond lead and win in hand, you might play a Club towards the King and go down.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT	All Pass	
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A7 ♥ KJ742 ♦ A764 ♣ A3</p> <p>♠ J964 ♠ Q1053 ♥ 10 ♥ A85 ♦ J92 ♦ KQ83 ♣ KJ982 ♣ 107</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K82 ♥ Q963 ♦ 105 ♣ Q654</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;">16</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">11</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td></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 style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</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;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</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;">-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		16		6	11	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	3	-	2	S	-	-	3	-	2	E	1	-	-	2	-	W	1	-	-	2	-	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>4♥ by North is a reasonable contract and indeed declarer can make 10 tricks by way of 4 Hearts, 2 Spades, Ace of Clubs, Ace of Diamonds and 2 Diamond ruffs in dummy.</p> <p>The key for declarer is to see the need to ruff 2 Diamonds in dummy before drawing trumps. Declarer needs 2 trumps in dummy to ruff her two Diamond losers.</p> <p>The other side of the coin is that East can defeat 4♥ by drawing 3 rounds of trumps - Ace and another trump on the opening lead and a third killing round of trumps when he is back on lead in Diamonds.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 5 ♥ KQ10986 ♦ Q63 ♣ AJ10</p> <p>♠ AKQJ7 ♠ 986 ♥ A53 ♥ J2 ♦ K52 ♦ A84 ♣ Q8 ♣ K7432</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 10432 ♥ 74 ♦ J1097 ♣ 965</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;">12</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">19</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td></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 style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</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;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		12		19	8	1		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	-	-	S	-	-	1	-	-	E	3	1	-	4	2	W	3	1	-	4	2	<p>Board 12 : 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>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Declarer has 10 tricks – 5 Spades, one Club, Ace and King of Diamonds, Ace of Hearts and a Diamond ruff in dummy (ya wha?) – yes a Diamond ruff in dummy.</p> <p>If North overcalls 2♥ then declarer should realise that she cannot ruff a Heart in dummy (because South will also be short of Hearts and be able to over-ruff). The solution is for declarer not to ruff the third round of Hearts but instead discard a Diamond from dummy on the third Heart.</p> <p>Now declarer will be able to ruff the third round of Diamonds in dummy for her 10th trick. This type of play is called a ‘loser on loser’ play – and is a very common technique.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	2♥	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 2 ♥ QJ1063 ♦ KJ2 ♣ Q865</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AKJ9765 ♠ Q108 ♥ AK ♥ 82 ♦ 4 ♦ 107653 ♣ KJ4 ♣ A92</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 43 ♥ 9754 ♦ AQ98 ♣ 1073</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;">9</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">19</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td></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 style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</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;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		9		19	6	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	-	-	S	-	-	1	-	-	E	1	1	-	6	3	W	1	1	-	6	3	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">2♣</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">2♦</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">2♠</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">3♠</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">4NT</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">5♣</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">6♠</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Some E/Ws will get to the good 6♠ slam here. Even if you only bid to 4♠ you will still get a good result if you can make 12 tricks.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Declarer has 11 top tricks and she could just simply rely on South holding the ♣Q for her 12th trick – but declarer has a better option – she can establish dummy’s 5th Diamond if she has the patience to keep ruffing Diamonds in her own hand while at the same time drawing trumps and using each of dummy’s trumps as entries to dummy.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">If you make 12 tricks here without any help from the defence – well done!</p>	West	North	East	South	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass		
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Phoenix Bridge Club - Wednesday 2nd November 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J76 ♥ A7 ♦ 109632 ♣ 874</p> <p>♠ 1083 ♠ A952 ♥ K1082 ♥ QJ3 ♦ QJ7 ♦ AK ♣ J52 ♣ Q1063</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ KQ4 ♥ 9654 ♦ 854 ♣ AK9</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;">5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">16</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td></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 style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</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;">1</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;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		5		7	16	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	-	-	-	S	-	1	-	-	-	E	1	-	2	1	2	W	1	-	2	1	2	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>As long as you don't get to 3NT here all will be well. Some might rebid 1♠ here but that should really be reserved for hands with 5+ Clubs.</p> <p>East can even open 1♠ (third in hand) and over the 1NT response from West, she should really pass, but if she fancies her hand then a simple invite to 2NT will suffice – asking partner to bid 3NT with 8-9 HCP.</p> <p>There are 8 tricks available in the play, 1 Spade, 3 Hearts, 3 Diamonds and a Club or two (but by that stage the defenders will have scored 5 tricks).</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	All Pass
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Phoenix Bridge Club - Wednesday 2nd November 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J54 ♥ AKQJ ♦ 82 ♣ K962</p> <p>♠ 73 ♠ Q986 ♥ 8752 ♥ 96 ♦ A6 ♦ KJ1054 ♣ J10854 ♣ A3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AK102 ♥ 1043 ♦ Q973 ♣ Q7</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;">14</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;">11</td><td></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>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</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		5	10	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	2	3	3	3	S	2	1	3	3	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : 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>Pass</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>All roads lead to 3NT by North. East should probably lead the ♦J (top of her internal sequence) – but a small Diamond works just as well tonight – as long as West returns his partner’s suit.</p> <p>East can win the Diamond return with her King and continue with the ♦J to force out the Queen and establish two Diamond winners for herself – with the Ace of Clubs as an entry.</p> <p>Unfortunately, E/W can’t beat 3NT – but holding declarer to just 9 tricks will be a great score for E/W.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A98 ♥ A72 ♦ AQJ ♣ A953</p> <p>♠ Q63 ♠ KJ10 ♥ Q84 ♥ K53 ♦ 843 ♦ K765 ♣ QJ72 ♣ 864</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 7542 ♥ J1096 ♦ 1092 ♣ K10</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;">19</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7 10</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</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>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</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		19	7 10	4	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	3	2	2	1	S	1	2	2	2	1	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>North will open 1♣ and be left there. Making 1♣ will be an average result but if the defence are not on the ball they might 'gift' declarer her 8th trick and a very good score for declarer.</p> <p>Declarer should lose 6 tricks (2 Spades, 2 Hearts, 1 Diamond and 1 Club). East will lead a Diamond and when partner can't play a card higher than the 8 that means declarer has ♦AQJ and East should know not to continue Diamonds when she gets back in.</p> <p>East should keep exiting on safe cards – cards that won't give declarer tricks she is not entitled to e.g. a trump or an inspired Spade switch.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♣
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Phoenix Bridge Club - Wednesday 2nd November 2016

<p style="text-align: center;"> ♠ K43 ♥ K73 ♦ Q1064 ♣ 762 </p> <p> ♠ J1086 ♠ A2 ♥ J5 ♥ Q109 ♦ A972 ♦ KJ83 ♣ A103 ♣ QJ94 </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> ♠ Q975 ♥ A8642 ♦ 5 ♣ K85 </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;">8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td></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 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;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8		10	13	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	4	1	2	3	W	4	4	1	2	3	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>E/W can make 9 tricks but they really shouldn't bid beyond 1NT.</p> <p>South leads a small Heart and should really duck the Heart return from partner. If South does hold-up on the second round of Hearts, there is a big clue for declarer that South has the King of Clubs (and maybe also the ♦Q). Defenders hold up in these positions when they have no sure entry of their own and are hoping that their partner will get in and have a Heart to return.</p> <p>If declarer takes the Club finesse and the Diamond finesse, she will make 9 tricks, 1 Spade, 1 Heart, 3 Diamonds and 4 Club tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	All Pass
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Acol Bridge Club - Wednesday 24th October 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AKQ82 ♥ KQ9 ♦ 8 ♣ A952</p> <p>♠ 754 ♠ - ♥ 74 ♥ AJ852 ♦ Q652 ♦ AJ10973 ♣ K1063 ♣ QJ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J10963 ♥ 1063 ♦ K4 ♣ 874</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;">18</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5 13</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</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>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		18	5 13	4	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	-	3	1	S	1	-	-	3	1	E	-	4	1	-	-	W	-	4	1	-	-	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW 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>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>4♠ is a reasonable contract and if South makes any kind of squeak North will bid 4♠. But even on bad defence it has no chance...losing a Club, a Diamond and 2 Heart tricks.</p> <p>Some E/W's might get overboard. Some East's will have some sort of 2-suited gadget available like Michaels or Ghestem (3♣ showing 5+Hearts and 5+ Diamonds. The serious players might have the agreement that these gadgets are never used on 'intermediate' strength hands and so be able to avoid getting too high as E/W.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♠	2♦	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 3 ♥ A109632 ♦ 9 ♣ AK976</p> <p>♠ K985 ♠ AJ2 ♥ KQJ7 ♥ 54 ♦ K1032 ♦ J8764 ♣ 4 ♣ J32</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q10764 ♥ 8 ♦ AQ5 ♣ Q1085</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;">11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td></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>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		11		12	7	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	-	3	1	1	S	5	-	3	1	2	E	-	2	-	-	-	W	-	2	-	-	-	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW 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>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>If West decides to enter the auction there could be skin and hair flying. This is not a good time for E/W to bid and if they lose 200 or more it will be a bad result for them.</p> <p>N/S can make 5♣ but with only 21 points between them they will be unlikely to bid that high. Making 11 tricks in a Club partscore will still be a good result for N/S. The top scores will probably go to the North players who insist on playing in their 6-card Heart suits and end up playing in a Heart partscore making 9 tricks.</p> <p>North might even decide to simply rebid 2♥ at her first turn.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣	All Pass			
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J9632 ♥ A3 ♦ J107 ♣ Q83</p> <p>♠ KQ10 ♠ A87 ♥ J62 ♥ KQ10975 ♦ A862 ♦ K94 ♣ J75 ♣ K</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 54 ♥ 84 ♦ Q53 ♣ A109642</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;">8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">15</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td></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>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8		11	15	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	-	-	-	S	2	-	-	-	-	E	-	3	4	1	1	W	-	3	4	1	1	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">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>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>All roads lead to a 4♥ contract by E/W...26 HCP and a 9-card Heart fit.</p> <p>There should be no problem in the play, declarer winning 3 Spade tricks, 5 Heart tricks and 2 Diamond tricks.</p> <p>Being a past hand, West's 2NT response can't be one of these fancy new Heart raises. But even if West decides to respond 2♦, East will jump rebid 3♥ and we are back on track again.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 3 ♥ AQ10752 ♦ AJ5 ♣ K73</p> <p>♠ J97 ♠ 1065 ♥ 96 ♥ KJ43 ♦ K10 ♦ Q8764 ♣ AJ9654 ♣ 8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AKQ842 ♥ 8 ♦ 932 ♣ Q102</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;">14</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9 6</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</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>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>2</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		14	9 6	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	2	3	4	4	S	2	2	3	4	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>N/S have points for game but they have to avoid playing in Hearts this time. Those who try 3NT will hit the jackpot and those who try 4♠ will be equally delighted.</p> <p>Some South's will just blast into 4♠ on the second round of the auction. If North does happen to get a say in the matter, she should support her partner's Spades rather than repeat her own suit for a third time.</p> <p>The experienced Norths will appreciate that their partners will not be disappointed when they see the North hand as dummy....but North will be very disappointed if he gets the South hand as dummy.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K72 ♥ QJ9 ♦ 7 ♣ AK6542</p> <p>♠ A ♠ Q1095 ♥ K62 ♥ A7 ♦ AKQJ95 ♦ 1063 ♣ J107 ♣ Q983</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J8643 ♥ 108543 ♦ 842 ♣ -</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;">13</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">18 8</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">1</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>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		13	18 8	1	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	1	-	S	-	-	1	1	-	E	3	5	-	-	3	W	2	4	-	-	3	<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></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>E/W have 26 HCP and no major suit fit so they should be in 3NT. Too easy?</p> <p>There are many roads to 3NT. Unfortunately some E/Ws got lost along the way. Certainly West will want to play in No-Trump with her solid Diamonds and her only concern will be the lack of a Club stopper.</p> <p>As ever 5♦ is not where you want to be. You are better to just bid 3NT and hope for the best than to bid 5♦.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♦	2♣	Dbl	Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A82 ♥ A3 ♦ J92 ♣ AJ1075</p> <p>♠ QJ76543 ♠ K109 ♥ 94 ♥ QJ10752 ♦ 6 ♦ 753 ♣ 964 ♣ 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ - ♥ K86 ♦ AKQ1084 ♣ KQ82</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;">14</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">17</td><td></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>7</td><td>7</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>7</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		3	6	17		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	7	7	2	-	7	S	7	7	2	-	7	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>31 HCP and a 9-card fit in both minor suits - N/S should be in a slam somewhere.</p> <p>Even if South just uses 4♣ (Gerber) in response to 1NT, he will learn that his partner has the missing 3 Aces and can count at least 12 tricks in that case and bid 6♦...and where there are 12 tricks, there surely must be a 13th. Well done to anyone who bids the Grand Slam in Clubs, Diamonds or No-Trump.</p> <p>2♠ followed by 3♠ in the above auction is showing a slam going hand with both minor suits and a singleton or void in Spades. You wha?</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass	6♣	All Pass	
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ -</p> <p>♥ 1087532</p> <p>♦ 103</p> <p>♣ KJ942</p> <p>♠ AJ1032 ♠ K764</p> <p>♥ K4 ♥ 9</p> <p>♦ AK9 ♦ J65</p> <p>♣ 876 ♣ AQ1053</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q985</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ AQJ6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ Q8742</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♣ -</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15 10</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td></tr> </table> <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>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>	HCP		4	15 10	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	3	-	-	S	-	-	3	-	-	E	4	2	-	6	6	W	4	1	-	5	6	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>If you made 11 tricks here – very well played indeed! Some won't make 9 tricks.</p> <p>It is always good technique to lead towards high cards – even if your plan is to cash the Ace and King, you will be amazed at the nice things that happen if you start off by playing a small card towards your big card first – rather than just cash a big card.</p> <p>Even if your Ace of Clubs is ruffed at trick one, you will still make 10 tricks if you can keep your other losers to the King of Clubs and the Ace of Hearts. When you discover that South is void in Clubs it makes South a big favourite to have the Queen of Spades – so start by leading a low Spade to dummy's King and now you will be able to avoid losing a fourth trick to South's ♠Q.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q943 ♥ K3 ♦ 97 ♣ K9862</p> <p>♠ AKJ5 ♠ 6 ♥ 1076 ♥ AJ98542 ♦ AK ♦ QJ62 ♣ AQ73 ♣ 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 10872 ♥ Q ♦ 108543 ♣ J54</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 style="width: 50%;">8</td><td style="width: 50%;">8</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>3</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>-</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>3</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8	8	21	8	3		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	3	6	2	5	W	2	3	6	3	6	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">It is always good to have Aces and Kings opposite a long suit in partner's hand. Such is the case on this hand, West has bundles of Aces and Kings opposite his partner's long suit.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Robert and Kevin used Gerber 4♣ and on hearing his partner had 7 Hearts headed by the Ace, Robert could count 11 top tricks and at least three chances of a 12th trick (♠J, ♣Q or maybe a Queen in dummy). To protect his ♣AQ from attack on the opening lead, Robert bid 6NT rather than 6♥. Well done guys!</p>	West	North	East	South			3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass	6NT	All Pass		
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AK10 ♥ K1096432 ♦ - ♣ AQ2</p> <p>♠ 65 ♠ J42 ♥ - ♥ AQJ875 ♦ KJ10865 ♦ 2 ♣ 109865 ♣ J43</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q9873 ♥ - ♦ AQ9743 ♣ K7</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4 9</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">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>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		16	4 9	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	3	3	5	4	S	3	3	3	5	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North-South have 27 points and an 8-card Spade fit and yet very few will get to 4♠.</p> <p>The easy way to 4♠ is for South to respond a simple 1♠ to his partner's 1♥ opening bid and then when he repeats his Spades later on, he will have shown a 5-card suit and North will know to raise to 4♠.</p> <p>Having a void in partner's suit is always bad news and alarm bells should start ringing. While a 2♦ response is strictly correct, perhaps the alarm bell might persuade South to keep it low and start off with 1♠.</p> <p>North also has a void in his partner's suit and there should be another alarm bell ringing in his ear too.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 542 ♥ Q94 ♦ KQJ10 ♣ J73</p> <p>♠ AQJ10 ♠ 9763 ♥ K107 ♥ A8653 ♦ 64 ♦ A3 ♣ 9654 ♣ KQ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K8 ♥ J2 ♦ 98752 ♣ A1082</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;">9</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td></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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		9		10	13	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	-	4	4	2	W	1	-	4	4	2	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">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>1♠</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 style="margin-top: 10px;">There are 10 tricks available to E/W in either Hearts or Spades – so the trick is to actually bid to 4♥ or 4♠. To be fair, both players will be at fault if they don't get there – so both could make one more try.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Both players can deduct a loser from their hands because most of their points are in Aces and Kings.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Even if East only rebids 2♠, West is worth a raise to 3♠ or better still a 'Trial Bid' of 3♣ asking for help in Clubs. East will be delighted to be getting another chance to bid 4♠.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
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Acol Bridge Club – Monday 10th October 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 98 ♥ J74 ♦ 85 ♣ QJ10843</p> <p>♠ A4 ♠ Q653 ♥ KQ63 ♥ A95 ♦ AQJ72 ♦ K96 ♣ 75 ♣ K96</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ KJ1072 ♥ 1082 ♦ 1043 ♣ A2</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><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">16</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		4		16	12	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	5	5	2	5	W	1	4	4	1	4	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The bidding might also have gone 1NT-3NT but West probably should investigate about a possible 4-4 Heart fit in case there might be 6♥ on.</p> <p>But once West learns that there is not a 4-4 Heart fit, she should just call a halt to proceedings with 3NT.</p> <p>There will be some N/S pairs who might enter this auction – a very dangerous action when vulnerable – and if they get doubled they will lose at 500.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
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Acol Bridge Club – Monday 3rd October 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ QJ4 ♥ 75 ♦ QJ542 ♣ 1043</p> <p>♠ 1065 ♠ A2 ♥ KQJ103 ♥ A62 ♦ A873 ♦ K96 ♣ J ♣ K9752</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K9873 ♥ 984 ♦ 10 ♣ AQ86</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11</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" style="text-align: center;">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;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</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;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		6	14	11	9	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	2	4	-	2	W	1	2	4	-	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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>E/W have 25 HCP and an 8-card Heart fit so they should land in 4♥.</p> <p>East has a nice 1NT opening – a 5-card minor is allowed for a 1NT opening. West transfers with 2♦ and then bids 3♦ on the next round to show 5 Hearts and 4+ Diamonds and at least 11 HCP. East with 3-card Heart support and a maximum 1NT opening should jump straight to 4♥.</p> <p>Unfortunately East won't make 10 tricks – if anyone does make 10 tricks (against good defence) they are destined for great things. Even looking at all 4 hands it is not easy to see that East's Club suit provides the 10th trick.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass
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Acol Bridge Club – Monday 3rd October 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A1065 ♥ J1032 ♦ K ♣ A1096</p> <p>♠ KJ8742 ♠ Q93 ♥ Q ♥ K9875 ♦ 73 ♦ J94 ♣ 8753 ♣ Q2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ - ♥ A64 ♦ AQ108652 ♣ KJ4</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>7</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	6	14	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	6	7	4	1	7	S	6	7	4	1	7	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Yes you can make 7♦ or 7NT if you can correctly guess what to do in Clubs – even being in 6♦ or 6NT requires you to get the Club suit right. So if you don't bid a Slam on this board I wouldn't be too upset about it.</p> <p>However you should be upset if you ended up in 5♦ - with 26 HCP we don't want to be playing our game contracts in 5 of a minor – just bid 3NT or 4NT if you have to and hope for the best.</p> <p>If you guess to simply cash the Ace and King of Clubs you will make 13 tricks – otherwise you will make 11.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT	All Pass	
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Acol Bridge Club – Monday 3rd October 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AJ7 ♥ 986 ♦ J92 ♣ K532</p> <p>♠ 10854 ♠ KQ2 ♥ A105 ♥ Q2 ♦ AQ1083 ♦ K64 ♣ 4 ♣ AJ1098</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 963 ♥ KJ743 ♦ 75 ♣ Q76</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></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>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South might decide to overcall 1♥ at some point but nevertheless E/W with their 25 HCP should land in 3NT. Playing in a Diamond partscore or even 5♦ is not recommended practice with so many HCP between the two hands.</p> <p>On a Heart lead from either North or South, declarer has 2 Heart tricks provided he plays small from dummy.</p> <p>Then leading twice towards the King and Queen of Spades will yield a bundle of Spade tricks to go with 5 Diamond tricks – all in all the declarer should make maybe 10 tricks.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
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HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
9		N	-	-	-	-	-
10	15	S	-	-	-	-	-
	6	E	3	5	2	5	4
		W	3	5	2	5	4

Acol Bridge Club – Monday 3rd October 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A5 ♥ KJ10 ♦ K6 ♣ AK10872</p> <p>♠ KJ4 ♠ Q9632 ♥ 54 ♥ A32 ♦ 943 ♦ QJ107 ♣ QJ954 ♣ 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 1087 ♥ Q9876 ♦ A852 ♣ 6</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;">18</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td></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>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</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		18		7	9	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	1	4	-	2	S	3	1	4	-	2	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>N/S have 26 HCP and an 8-card Heart fit so they should be in 4♥. Yes but it might not be that easy for N/S to know they have an 8-card fit especially if E/W can bid and support Spades.</p> <p>South is not strong enough to respond 2♥ on the first round and she can't respond 1NT without a stopper in the opponent's Spade suit. A 'Negative' double is an option if playing such a thing.</p> <p>However on the second round of the auction, South will have learned that his partner has a very good hand and also that he is short in Spades. South's 4♥ is a well reasoned bid.</p> <p>South will make 10 tricks if he remembers to ruff either a Diamond or a Spade in dummy.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠	Pass	2♠	2NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass			
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Acot Bridge Club – Monday 26th September 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 10542 ♥ 9742 ♦ 972 ♣ A6</p> <p>♠ 93 ♠ KQ876 ♥ AQ6 ♥ K ♦ K1085 ♦ AQ64 ♣ Q1052 ♣ J98</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AJ ♥ J10853 ♦ J3 ♣ K743</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;">4</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11 15</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</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>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		4	11 15	10	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	-	-	S	-	-	1	-	-	E	4	3	-	2	3	W	4	3	-	2	3	<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>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This board seems to be a defensive problem. Most Wests will land in 3NT and receive a Heart lead (ideally the 7 as the second highest from 4 small cards).</p> <p>Similarly most Wests will be allowed make 10 tricks for some unknown reason? Declarer should make 3 Heart tricks, 4 Diamonds and 2 Club tricks for 9 tricks. The defenders simply have to keep playing Hearts to keep declarer to 9 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
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Acol Bridge Club – Monday 26th September 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 94 ♥ 7 ♦ AKQJ108 ♣ Q973</p> <p>♠ Q875 ♠ J1032 ♥ Q42 ♥ J1093 ♦ 632 ♦ 97 ♣ A82 ♣ 1065</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AK6 ♥ AK865 ♦ 54 ♣ KJ4</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;">12</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">18</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>6</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>6</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	2	18		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	6	6	4	3	6	S	6	6	4	3	6	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW 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>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>The main point of this hand is that you should not end in 5♦. That would be unforgivable. Be in 3NT if you want but not 5♦.</p> <p>If you end up in 5♦ you should 6♦ because 5♦ is always a bad matchpoint score.</p> <p>South with 18 points opposite an opening bid should not allow the auction to stop in 5♦.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT	5♠	Pass	6NT	All Pass
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Acol Bridge Club – Monday 26th September 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J4 ♥ J873 ♦ J9 ♣ Q8763</p> <p>♠ AQ2 ♠ K106 ♥ AQ92 ♥ 64 ♦ K6432 ♦ AQ5 ♣ 9 ♣ AKJ104</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 98753 ♥ K105 ♦ 1087 ♣ 52</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;">5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td style="text-align: center;">17</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> </table>	HCP		5		15	17	3		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	6	7	5	6	7	W	6	7	5	6	7	<p>Board 17 : 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>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Bidding and making any slam here will be a good board for E/W because quite a few pairs will languish in 3NT.</p> <p>There are 12 tricks available if declarer attacks clubs by taking the Club finesse and there are 13 tricks available if declarer also takes the Heart finesse.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass	6NT	All Pass		
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Acol Bridge Club – Monday 19th September 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 10932 ♥ 3 ♦ 98643 ♣ K62</p> <p>♠ 4 ♠ AK5 ♥ J87542 ♥ KQ6 ♦ KQ ♦ 75 ♣ QJ105 ♣ A9743</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ QJ876 ♥ A109 ♦ AJ102 ♣ 8</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>- 3</td> <td>- 3</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>16</td> <td>S</td> <td>- 3</td> <td>- 3</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>3 -</td> <td>5 -</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>3 -</td> <td>5 -</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	3		N	- 3	- 3	-		9	16	S	- 3	- 3	-		12		E	3 -	5 -	2				W	3 -	5 -	2		<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>E/W have 25 HCP and a 9-card Heart fit – so they should be in 4♥ - Too easy?</p> <p>West has a lovely hand and the 6th Heart should encourage her to play in a Heart contract. Once East bids Hearts, East will know they have at least a 5-3 Heart fit.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♣	1♠	2♥	2♠	4♥	All Pass
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Acol Bridge Club – Monday 19th September 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A6 ♥ 32 ♦ AK5 ♣ Q97542</p> <p>♠ K97 ♠ J832 ♥ - ♥ AQJ654 ♦ QJ10873 ♦ - ♣ A1063 ♣ KJ8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q1054 ♥ K10987 ♦ 9642 ♣ -</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>- -</td> <td>- -</td> <td>- -</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>12</td> <td>S</td> <td>- -</td> <td>- -</td> <td>- -</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>1 -</td> <td>2 2</td> <td>2 2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>1 -</td> <td>2 2</td> <td>2 2</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	13		N	- -	- -	- -		10	12	S	- -	- -	- -		5		E	1 -	2 2	2 2				W	1 -	2 2	2 2		<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Not a nice hand to be declarer on – but the clues are all there – three players have voids in their partner's suit and that should be a big 'Alarm Bell' for them. The rule in these 'misfit' auctions is to bail out as soon as you can.</p> <p>If E/W can get out at the 2 level then they will score well but if the bidding proceeds beyond that it will be an horrific experience for declarer.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass
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Phoenix Bridge Club – Wednesday 27th April 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K94 ♥ 7 ♦ Q965 ♣ KJ982</p> <p>♠ AQ107 ♠ J652 ♥ KQ862 ♥ 4 ♦ 10743 ♦ AKJ ♣ - ♣ AQ1073</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 83 ♥ AJ10953 ♦ 82 ♣ 654</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;">9</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="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>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		9		11	15	5		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	4	3	5	4	W	1	4	3	5	4	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>If South passes then E/W will land in 4♠ and probably make 11 tricks - losing one Heart and one Spade trick.</p> <p>However if South opens a weak 2♥ - East will make a take-out double and West should convert this to penalties by passing.</p> <p>Good defence will hold declarer to 4 tricks for 2♥x-4 and 800 to E/W! Thank you for 'doubling'.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Dbl	2♥				All Pass
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Acol Bridge Club – Monday 18th April 2016

The 4-4 fit rules again

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J108 ♥ 42 ♦ KJ1043 ♣ Q87</p> <p>♠ 765 ♠ AK432 ♥ AJ107 ♥ KQ65 ♦ Q876 ♦ A95 ♣ 93 ♣ 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q9 ♥ 983 ♦ 2 ♣ AKJ10642</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: left;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		7		7	16	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	-	-	-	S	2	-	-	-	-	E	-	1	4	3	-	W	-	2	4	3	-	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</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>The trick is to find the 4-4 Heart fit here. The 5-3 Spade game has no chance but the 4-4 Heart game is easy because the Diamond losers go away on the Spade suit.</p> <p>In a 4♥ contract, declarer makes 4 Heart tricks in the West hand, 4 Spade tricks in the East hand, the ♦A and a Club ruff in the East hand.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	Pass	Pass	1♠	2♣	Dbl	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
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Acol Bridge Club – Monday 4th April 2016

Easy game to bid?

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K1054 ♥ AKQ643 ♦ A ♣ Q5</p> <p>♠ AQ82 ♠ 96 ♥ 5 ♥ 987 ♦ 8764 ♦ J102 ♣ AK102 ♣ J9843</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J73 ♥ J102 ♦ KQ953 ♣ 76</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;">18</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13 2</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</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>2</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		18	13 2	7	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	4	3	1	S	-	2	4	3	1	E	2	-	-	-	-	W	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>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North might even be tempted to open some sort of strong two but in any case N/S will get to 4♥ with 25 points and a 9 card Heart fit. South does best to raise to 2♥ on the first round but even if he responds 1NT, North will jump rebid his Hearts and N/S will be back in business again.</p> <p>There should be no problem in the play and most Norths will make 12 tricks if they get the ♦J lead (6 Hearts, 5 Diamonds and a Spade to the King. It takes a Club lead to hold declarer to 10 tricks.</p> <p>West is worth a 'take-out-double' of 2♥ showing opening points and shortness in Hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	2♥	Dbl	4♥	All Pass	
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Acol Bridge Club – Monday 4th April 2016

Bidding a Slam – select a solid trump suit.

<p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ 96 ♥ AKQ632 ♦ AKQ7 ♣ K</p> <p>♠ J873 ♠ Q ♥ 1097 ♥ J85 ♦ 982 ♦ 1065 ♣ A105 ♣ Q98642</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ AK10542 ♥ 4 ♦ J43 ♣ J73</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</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> </tbody> </table> <p>N/S can make 6♦ or 6♥ but not 6♠. When you are thinking of Slam you need to have a good trump suit. North has solid enough Hearts and by asking a few questions in the bidding he learns that South's Spades are not solid!</p> <p>The 2NT enquiry got a 3♠ response – which showed good Spades but not as good as AKQ of Spades (a 3NT response) and then when North used RKCB to ask for Aces he got a 5♥ which denied the ♠Q. So North knows that his Hearts are better than South's Spades.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass	
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Acol Bridge Club – Monday 4th April 2016

Pass Out or 6♥?

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A42 ♥ 97 ♦ KQJ85 ♣ J83</p> <p>♠ QJ983 ♠ K75 ♥ AK653 ♥ Q1084 ♦ - ♦ 643 ♣ 1074 ♣ AQ9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 106 ♥ J2 ♦ A10972 ♣ K652</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;">11</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10 11</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</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>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		11	10 11	8	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	-	-	-	S	-	2	-	-	-	E	1	-	6	5	-	W	1	-	5	5	-	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>At 11 of the 14 tables this board was 'Passed Out'. But in fact East can make 6♥!</p> <p>It is understandable that West might decide not to open a vulnerable 1♠ first in hand and it is equally understandable that nobody else at the table chose to open.</p> <p>Yet a 1♠ opening on the West hand is becoming more and more normal – 2 good 5-card suits. The West hand also conforms to the useful 'Rule of 20' – you add the number of points you have to the number of cards you have in your two longest suits and if it comes to 20 or more you are worth an opening bid.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
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Phoenix Bridge Club - Wednesday 30th March 2016

A 'surround' play

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A32 ♥ 1073 ♦ 109 ♣ AQ1094</p> <p>♠ 109864 ♠ 75 ♥ A62 ♥ KJ94 ♦ 875 ♦ 6432 ♣ 72 ♣ K63</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ KQJ ♥ Q85 ♦ AKQJ ♣ J85</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></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">19</td><td></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>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>3</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		10		4	7	19		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	3	2	2	2	S	4	3	2	2	2	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>Most Souths will get to 3NT and most Wests will lead the ♠10. Declarer wins the first trick and runs the ♣J into East.</p> <p>East wins and should see that if he returns a Spade declarer will make 3 Spade tricks and 4 Club tricks and some Diamond tricks.</p> <p>So East turns his attention to the Heart suit for tricks. A good trick for East is to assume to include any honour cards in dummy as being part of his own hand and lead accordingly! So East assumes the ♥10 is in his own hand and leads the ♥J. Now 3NT-1.</p> <p>Technically this play is known as a 'surround' play.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass	3NT
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Phoenix Bridge Club - Wednesday 30th March 2016

Don't set up the King and Queen for declarer

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q 10 9 7 ♥ 4 ♦ J 10 9 6 5 ♣ K 10 4</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ J 5 ♠ A K 6 4 ♥ A K J 8 6 ♥ Q 10 9 7 5 ♦ K Q 2 ♦ 8 ♣ J 9 5 ♣ A 3 2</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 8 3 2 ♥ 3 2 ♦ A 7 4 3 ♣ Q 8 7 6</p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">1♥</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">1♠</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">1NT</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">4♥</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Most declarers will make 12 tricks here on the ♦ J lead and some will even bid and make 6♥.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">The way to hold West to 11 tricks is for South to duck the Diamond lead at trick 1. True he gets no Diamond trick but he gets 2 Club tricks instead.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">It is nearly always right to hold on to your Ace in situations like this where you know the King and Queen are sitting over you.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass																								
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Phoenix Bridge Club - Wednesday 23rd March 2016

Avoiding the guess by using your head

<p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ J642 ♥ AKQJ97 ♦ A6 ♣ 4</p> <p>♠ KQ875 ♠ A1093 ♥ 64 ♥ 1083 ♦ KJ9 ♦ Q108 ♣ AJ3 ♣ K106</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ - ♥ 52 ♦ 75432 ♣ Q98752</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;">15</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14 9</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">2</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>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		15	14 9	2	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	2	2	-	-	S	1	2	2	-	-	E	-	-	-	4	-	W	-	-	-	4	-	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>E/W might decide to stay in 3♠ and that is a reasonable decision too. But the play is the thing.</p> <p>Declarer's first hurdle is to start with the ♠K first to cater for a 4-0 trump break in either hand. Then he draws trumps and knocks out the ♦A and cashes his two Diamond winners.</p> <p>He will then have learned that North has 6 Hearts, 4 Spades, 2 Diamonds and therefore only one Club. So he cashes the King of Clubs and leads a Club to the Jack in complete confidence. 10 tricks made.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	3♥	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
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A Throw in

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 54 ♥ 64 ♦ 1074 ♣ QJ6432</p> <p>♠ AJ73 ♠ KQ109862 ♥ A32 ♥ 9 ♦ 8632 ♦ AQ5 ♣ K5 ♣ A8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ - ♥ KQJ10875 ♦ KJ9 ♣ 1097</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;">3</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12 15</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</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>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	HCP		3	12 15	10	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	3	-	-	S	2	-	3	-	-	E	-	4	-	6	6	W	-	4	-	5	5	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW 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>1♠</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">South will probably pre-empt and muddy the waters for E/W so it will not be easy for them to get to 6♠. On the other hand most will be glad they are not in slam when they only make 11 tricks.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">However declarer can make 12 tricks by winning the Heart lead, drawing trumps, ruffing a Heart in hand, cashing the Ace and King of Clubs and exiting on a Heart to South – who will now find himself endplayed into leading a Diamond or giving declarer a ruff and discard. Well played.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♠	4♥	4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass
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Avoiding the guess by using your head

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AK6 ♥ 10954 ♦ K106 ♣ QJ8</p> <p>♠ Q10975 ♠ 84 ♥ Q7 ♥ KJ863 ♦ Q943 ♦ J72 ♣ 62 ♣ A43</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J32 ♥ A2 ♦ A85 ♣ K10975</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;">13</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td></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>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		13		6	9	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	1	1	1	3	S	3	2	1	1	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : 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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Some N/S's might decide to stay in 2NT and that is very reasonable. Those declarers that bid 3NT will have to play well at trick one!</p> <p>The solution is simple – rise with the Ace of Hearts from dummy when you get the small Heart lead. Now the defender's Heart suit will be blocked. Now declarer can knock out the ♣A in peace and make 4 Club tricks, 2 Diamond tricks and 2 Spade tricks and the Ace of Hearts.</p> <p>When East leads a small Heart he is saying that he does not have a sequence in Hearts so declarer knows that East has at least one Heart honour.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
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Avoiding the guess by using an endplay

<p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ QJ65 ♥ 8542 ♦ A9 ♣ K104</p> <p>♠ 10 ♠ 83 ♥ AKQ106 ♥ J7 ♦ Q74 ♦ K86532 ♣ 9762 ♣ Q85</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ AK9742 ♥ 93 ♦ J10 ♣ AJ3</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Some N/S's went down in 4♠ here because declarer failed to correctly guess which opponent held the ♣Q. Declarer can make 3 Club tricks and his contract if he correctly guesses who has that card.</p> <p>However declarer can avoid the Club guess by drawing trumps and ruffing the fourth Heart in his hand and then playing Ace and another Diamond. Now no matter which opponent wins the Diamond trick, they will be endplayed – being forced to open the Club suit or give declarer a ruff and discard. 4♠ made.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♠	2♥	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass																																
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Keeping the dangerous opponent off lead

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J10732 ♥ 962 ♦ K975 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ AQ5 ♠ K96 ♥ 74 ♥ A53 ♦ AJ10 ♦ 632 ♣ K10964 ♣ AJ83</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 84 ♥ KQJ108 ♦ Q84 ♣ Q52</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;">4</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14 12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</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>-</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>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		4	14 12	10	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	5	2	1	2	4	W	5	2	1	2	4	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>E/W will land in 3NT one way or another and declarer has 9 tricks even if he guesses the location of the ♣Q by way of 4 Clubs, 1 Diamond, 1 Heart and 3 Spades.</p> <p>The only problem is that N/S might get 5 tricks before declarer gets 9. The solution is to hold up the Ace of Hearts until the third round and then take the Club finesse into the safe North hand.</p> <p>Declarer can cash the ♣A first in case the Queen drops but then he should either play a Club to the 10 or run the Jack of Clubs. Declarer doesn't mind losing a Club trick to North because North won't have an Hearts left. If North does have a Heart left it means the Hearts are breaking 4-4 and declarer will only lose 3 Heart tricks and the ♣Q. 3NT made.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
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Keeping the dangerous opponent off lead

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AK9862 ♥ K84 ♦ 8 ♣ A42</p> <p>♠ J4 ♠ 3 ♥ J102 ♥ AQ9 5 ♦ 97543 ♦ KQJ102 ♣ QJ10 ♣ 987</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q1075 ♥ 763 ♦ A6 ♣ K653</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>14</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>9</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>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		14		5	12	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	-	-	4	3	S	2	-	-	3	3	E	-	3	1	-	-	W	-	3	1	-	-	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>All Norths will end up in 4♠ (2NT here shows a raise to 3♠). All Easts will lead the ♦Q. Declarer has 9 tricks. His 10th trick will come from the fourth if the Clubs break 3-3 and if you can keep West off lead. If West gets in he will lead the ♥J through declarer and declarer will lose 3 Heart tricks for 4♠-1.</p> <p>The solution is to duck the ♦K lead! Now declarer can discard a Club on the ♦A, draw trumps and set up the 4th Club by playing Ace, King and ruffing the third round of Clubs in hand.</p> <p>Declarer has successfully established dummy's last Club by playing 3 rounds of Clubs without letting West in - if you found this play at the table - you are destined for great things!</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Dbl	2NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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The Ace of Trumps is very powerful in defence

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J54 ♥ KQJ642 ♦ Q3 ♣ J2</p> <p>♠ AQ762 ♠ K109 ♥ 53 ♥ A109 ♦ 8764 ♦ J10952 ♣ 103 ♣ 65</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 83 ♥ 87 ♦ AK ♣ AKQ9874</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">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;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: left;">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>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		10	8	6	16	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	-	3	-	1	S	4	-	3	-	1	E	-	1	-	2	-	W	-	1	-	2	-	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Quite a few Norths were allowed to make 10 tricks and more in 4♥.</p> <p>But a little bit of deep thinking should help E/W solve the puzzle and defeat 4♥. East just has to duck the first round of trumps. Then he can win the second round with his Ace and cash 3 Spade tricks for 4♥-1.</p> <p>When you hold the Ace of Trumps as a defender you have immense control over the timing of the play.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				1♣	1♠	2♥	2♠	3♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
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I just need a Heart fit and one ace to make all 13 tricks.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J9543 ♥ - ♦ 109854 ♣ KJ9</p> <p>♠ AKQ876 ♠ 2 ♥ AKQ93 ♥ J7654 ♦ 2 ♦ A73 ♣ A ♣ 8762</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 10 ♥ 1082 ♦ KQJ6 ♣ Q10543</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">22</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>7</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>7</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		5	5	22	8	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	3	-	-	-	S	2	3	-	-	-	E	-	-	7	5	4	W	-	-	7	5	4	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>West has a huge hand and should be thinking of 6♥ or 6♠ as soon as he picks up his cards. Then when hears that his partner has a Heart suit and the Ace of Diamonds he can bid the Grand Slam.</p> <p>To make 13 tricks, you just draw trumps and set up a fourth Spade trick by ruffing 2 Spades in the East hand. Making 4 Spade tricks, 5 Heart tricks, 2 minor suit aces and two Spade ruffs.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass	7♥	All Pass		
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The 'old' Dummy Reversal trick

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 872 ♥ 10987 ♦ KJ96 ♣ 102</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ KQ5 ♠ A43 ♥ J543 ♥ AKQ62 ♦ A85 ♦ 2 ♣ AK7 ♣ Q863</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ J1096 ♥ - ♦ Q10743 ♣ J954</p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>7♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Not everyone will bid 7♥ but you should be in 6♥ or 6NT if not. 32 HCP, a good 5-4 Heart fit and a bit of shape.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">The 13th trick comes from reversing the dummy....i.e. treating the East hand as the dummy hand and ruffing 2 Diamonds there. Now you make 4 trump tricks, 3 Spade tricks, 3 Club tricks, the Ace of Diamonds and 2 Diamond ruffs in the East hand.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass	5NT	Pass	6♥	Pass	7♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South																						
		1♥	Pass																						
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass																						
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass																						
5♥	Pass	5NT	Pass																						
6♥	Pass	7♥	All Pass																						

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
4		N	-	-	-	-	-
17	15	S	-	-	-	-	-
		E	6	1	7	5	6
		W	6	1	7	5	6

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Protecting against a 4-0 break in either hand

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q9543 ♥ 98532 ♦ KQ8 ♣ -</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ - ♠ AJ7 ♥ AKQ64 ♥ J10 ♦ 109742 ♦ AJ ♣ A76 ♣ KQ10952</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ K10862 ♥ 7 ♦ 653 ♣ J843</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 style="width: 50%;">7</td> <td style="width: 50%;">16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>4</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>7</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>7</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>7</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		7	16	13	4	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	1	-	S	-	-	-	1	-	E	7	4	5	-	7	W	7	4	5	-	7	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Not everyone will bid this 'Grand Slam' but on the other hand there should be nobody in 5♣ either!</p> <p>3NT will be popular and as long as you make all 13 tricks the board won't be a complete disaster. The only problem on the hand is how to play the Club suit.</p> <p>Correct play is to start by cashing the King or Queen of Clubs first. Now you can cater for a 4-0 break in either hand.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	7♣	All Pass		
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Signal your partner something he doesn't know.

♠ Q 10 9
 ♥ 10 7 5 2
 ♦ K
 ♣ AKQJ3
 ♠ 8 4 ♠ AKJ7 2
 ♥ J 8 6 ♥ 3
 ♦ J 10 9 7 2 ♦ Q 6 5 4
 ♣ 8 6 4 ♣ 9 7 2
 ♠ 6 5 3
 ♥ AKQ 9 4
 ♦ A 8 3
 ♣ 10 5

HCP	
15	
2	10
13	

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

Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all

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

4♥ is a normal contract and if East overcalls 1♠ he will get a Spade lead and win the first three tricks. On the third Spade there is no point at all in West discarding a Club to tell partner he doesn't like Clubs.

East already knows from looking at dummy that West doesn't like Clubs. Tell him something he doesn't already know by discarding a Diamond (preferably the ♦ J telling East that you don't like Diamonds either!

Now East will find the killing defence of a fourth round of Spades. South can ruff high but if he does he will not be able to draw trumps without losing a trick to West's Jack of Hearts.

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If you want a lead through dummy – put partner on lead.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AKQ96 ♥ J32 ♦ 76 ♣ 1082</p> <p>♠ 52 ♠ 43 ♥ AKQ75 ♥ 104 ♦ 5432 ♦ 1098 ♣ AQ ♣ J96543</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J1087 ♥ 986 ♦ AKQJ ♣ K7</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></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td></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 style="text-align: center;">-</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;">-</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;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</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>W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</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> </table>	HCP		10		15	1	14		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	2	-	S	-	-	1	2	1	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>Some N/S's will get to 4♠ which is a reasonable contract.</p> <p>East leads his partner's suit and West wins the first two tricks with the Queen and Ace of Hearts. West knows that he can cash a third Heart and that the ♣A will be the fourth trick for the defence.</p> <p>But West should also see that he can organise a fifth trick for the defence if he can get East to ruff the third Heart and lead a Club through Dummy's King.</p> <p>So instead of cashing the third high Heart, West leads a small Heart forcing his partner to ruff the trick. It won't be too difficult for East to find the Club switch at trick 4. 3♠-1. Well done to anyone who managed to find this defence!</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	1♥	1♠	Pass	3♠
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1♥	1♠	Pass	3♠																																																		

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If declarer is going to make his contract – switch to another suit.

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ K53 ♥ KQJ1072 ♦ K2 ♣ Q7</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ J107 ♠ AQ86 ♥ 953 ♥ 84 ♦ A754 ♦ QJ983 ♣ 865 ♣ 103</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 942 ♥ A6 ♦ 106 ♣ AKJ942</p>		<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">2♥</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">4♥</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px;">All Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">East leads the top card of his Diamond sequence (♦Q). West wins with the Ace and knows from his partner's opening lead that declarer has the ♦K.</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">With the good Club suit in dummy, West can see that the only hope for the defence is in the Spade suit so he switches to the ♠J. Ouch!</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">E/W win the next three Spade tricks for 4♥-1.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	2♥	Pass	1♣	Pass	4♥	Pass	3♥	Pass		All Pass																										
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Finessing twice with AJ10.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q3 ♥ J984 ♦ KQ9753 ♣ 4</p> <p>♠ 9754 ♠ AJ102 ♥ Q53 ♥ AK762 ♦ J ♦ 8 ♣ AQJ86 ♣ 973</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K86 ♥ 10 ♦ A10642 ♣ K1052</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10 12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</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;">4</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;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8	10 12	10	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	4	-	-	-	S	-	4	-	-	-	E	4	-	4	4	1	W	4	-	4	4	1	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</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>Most E/W's will get to 4♠. 22 HCP and fits in two suits and extra points for their singletons.</p> <p>It's not an easy hand to play because you could lose 2 trump tricks, a Heart trick, a Diamond and a Club trick.</p> <p>The Club finesse is working so we have no Club loser and the Spade honours are divided so we have only one Spade loser if we finesse twice in Spades by leading towards the AJ10 and finessing and then leading towards the AJ again and finessing if he have to.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
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Acol Bridge Club - Monday 7th March 2016

2NT response showing 11-12 with stoppers

<p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ QJ9653 ♥ J2 ♦ K72 ♣ J5</p> <p>♠ A4 ♠ K82 ♥ K863 ♥ 5 ♦ Q643 ♦ AJ85 ♣ Q96 ♣ AK1083</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ 107 ♥ AQ10974 ♦ 109 ♣ 742</p>	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>East opens 1♣ and whether South overcalls 1♥ or 2♥ (weak) - West has a 2NT response available to show 11-12 HCP and a Heart stopper.</p> <p>West with 15 points is delighted to raise to 3NT. On the inevitable Heart lead, declarer has 9 top tricks and can make 3 more Diamond tricks if he is inspired and brave enough to run the ♦Q.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	2♥	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
West	North	East	South										
		1♣	2♥										
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass										

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
8	-	-	-	-	-
11 15	-	-	-	-	-
6	6	6	2	2	6
	6	6	2	2	6

Acol Bridge Club - Monday 29th February 2016

3NT not 5 of a minor.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A6 ♥ 42 ♦ KQ972 ♣ A943</p> <p>♠ 9432 ♠ KJ108 ♥ KQ1063 ♥ J985 ♦ 104 ♦ 85 ♣ K8 ♣ 1075</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q75 ♥ A7 ♦ AJ63 ♣ QJ62</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> <th colspan="5" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♦</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</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></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</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> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts												13		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	8	5	N	4	4	1	1	3			S	4	4	1	1	3			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : 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>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>With 27 points, N/S should be in game and as always with a minor suit fit that game should be 3NT.</p> <p>South can respond 3NT directly over the 1♦ showing 13-15 points and no 4-card major or he can respond 2♣ first and then bid 3NT next time.</p> <p>Declarer makes 9 tricks by running the ♣Q, making 5 Diamond tricks, 2 Club tricks and two aces.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																																
13		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																												
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Acol Bridge Club - Monday 22nd February 2016

AK support as good as 3 card support.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q7 ♥ J975 ♦ 8643 ♣ KQ6</p> <p>♠ J109432 ♠ AK ♥ 64 ♥ K1083 ♦ KQ2 ♦ 975 ♣ J8 ♣ 10973</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 865 ♥ AQ2 ♦ AJ10 ♣ A542</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7 10</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>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8	7 10	15	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	2	1	-	-	S	1	2	1	-	-	E	-	-	-	2	1	W	-	-	-	2	-	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>South opens 1♣ and West is surely worth a non-vulnerable 1♠ overcall. North makes a 'negative double' showing his 4-card Heart suit.</p> <p>If East had 3-card Spade support he would raise to 2♠. But surely AK doubleton is as good as 3-card support any day of the week. If East raises to 2♠ there are 8 easy tricks to be made.</p> <p>Some N/S pairs will chance No-Trump even without a Spade stopper but they will not be able to make more than 6 tricks because West will win 6 Spade tricks eventually and he has a Diamond entry to get in to cash them.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♣	1♠	Dbl	2♠	All Pass
HCP																																																						
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S	1	2	1	-	-																																																	
E	-	-	-	2	1																																																	
W	-	-	-	2	-																																																	
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Acol Bridge Club - Monday 22nd February 2016

How is your defence?

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 4 ♥ AQ ♦ J9543 ♣ AQJ83</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 8752 ♠ A 1093 ♥ K9542 ♥ J 106 ♦ K ♦ A62 ♣ 1076 ♣ K94</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ KQJ6 ♥ 873 ♦ Q1087 ♣ 52</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> <th colspan="5" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td>N 2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td>S 2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E -</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W -</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	14	12	N 2	3	-	-	-	6	8	S 2	3	-	-	-			E -	-	1	-	-			W -	-	1	-	-	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin: 0;">All Pass</p> <p style="margin: 0;">N/S have 22 points so they will just play in a partscore and with a nice 5-4 Diamond fit they should play in 2 or 3♦.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Should East 'double' the 1♦ opening bid? No.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Some N/S pairs will play in No-Trump but E/W should win at least 7 tricks in defence limiting N/S to no more than 6 tricks. The defence should win 1 Spade, 3 Hearts, 2 Diamonds and 1 Club trick.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♦
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																	
14	12	N 2	3	-	-	-																																																	
6	8	S 2	3	-	-	-																																																	
		E -	-	1	-	-																																																	
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Deduct a loser if all your points are Aces and Kings.

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ J643 ♥ 9 ♦ J107 ♣ KQ875</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ K9 ♠ 72 ♥ AKQ74 ♥ 8532 ♦ A983 ♦ Q64 ♣ 103 ♣ J942</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AQ1085 ♥ J106 ♦ K52 ♣ A6</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠ All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Not an easy game for N/S to bid and if it is bid there will be many Wests who will double it but try as he might West can only win 3 tricks.</p> <p>North needs to invite with his 8 loser hand and South needs to deduct a loser because 11 of his 14 points are in Aces and Kings.</p> <p>Some Wests will get to play in a Heart contract but they should only manage to win 8 tricks there.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♠	2♥	3♠	Pass	4♠ All Pass
West	North	East	South										
		Pass	1♠										
2♥	3♠	Pass	4♠ All Pass										

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

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How do you find the Spade lead?

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ J853 ♥ J ♦ K765 ♣ A872</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 72 ♠ A6 ♥ AK1096 ♥ 87532 ♦ AQ109 ♦ J2 ♣ 65 ♣ KQJ4</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ KQ1094 ♥ Q4 ♦ 843 ♣ 1093</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Even if East only responds 3♥, West will go to 4♥ anyway.</p> <p>A Spade lead sets up a Spade trick for the defence. On a non-Spade lead, declarer can discard his Spade loser on a Club and make 11 tricks and maybe even 12 tricks if North leads a Diamond (what I would lead!).</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass																																		
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<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		9	11	13	7	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">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;">1</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;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> </table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	1	-	S	-	-	-	1	-	E	2	3	4	-	2	W	2	3	4	-	2
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W	2	3	4	-	2																																						

Acol Bridge Club - Monday 22nd February 2016

1♠-2♥ shows 5 Hearts.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 4 ♥ AKQ852 ♦ J983 ♣ 32</p> <p>♠ Q973 ♠ 62 ♥ - ♥ 9743 ♦ Q1072 ♦ AK54 ♣ A10654 ♣ J97</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AKJ1085 ♥ J106 ♦ 6 ♣ KQ8</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 style="text-align: center;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</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;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</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;">-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		10	8	8	8	14		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	4	3	3	S	-	-	4	3	3	E	2	2	-	-	-	W	2	2	-	-	-	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>South opens 1♠ and North responds 2♥. This 2♥ response guarantees a 5-card Heart suit. So now South can support with 3-card Heart support.</p> <p>And because South has more than a minimum opening bid he can raise to 4♥ (with a minimum hand he would raise to 3♥).</p> <p>A trump lead is best for the defence but it's hard to find fault with the obvious Ace of Diamonds lead which means declarer gets to ruff a few Diamonds in dummy and make maybe 11 tricks.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass			
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			1♠																																																										
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥																																																										
All Pass																																																													

Phoenix Bridge Club - Wednesday 17th February 2016

Bid with points.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A43 ♥ J7642 ♦ 965 ♣ J10</p> <p>♠ KQ1065 ♠ J8 ♥ Q9 ♥ 10 ♦ KQ43 ♦ AJ1082 ♣ Q9 ♣ A7543</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 972 ♥ AK853 ♦ 7 ♣ K862</p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>If South decides to open or even overcall then E/W might be tempted to sell out to 3♥ by N/S. However West can either open 1♠ or overcall 1♠ and in either case East can introduce his Diamond suit and the Diamond fit will have been found.</p> <p>In a Spade contract West can make 9 tricks and +140 and in Diamond contract East can make 10 tricks and +130. No-trumps will not be a success for E/W – even if South leads a small Heart!</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦	All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass														
3♦	All Pass																

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
6	-	-	3	-	-
14 10	-	-	3	-	-
10	2	4	-	3	-
	W	2	4	-	3

Phoenix Bridge Club - Wednesday 17th February 2016

Take-Out-Double 16+ HCP

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q96 ♥ J74 ♦ 6 ♣ J76532</p> <p>♠ AJ108 ♠ 73 ♥ Q65 ♥ K109 ♦ AJ4 ♦ Q10752 ♣ 1098 ♣ AQ4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K542 ♥ A832 ♦ K983 ♣ K</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;">4</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12 11</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</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>-</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>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		4	12 11	13	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	4	2	3	4	W	2	4	2	3	4	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : 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>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South will open 1♥ or 1♦ and West with a flat 12 should pass – even with a flat 14 he should pass. A take out double by West would show 16+ HCP or else a hand with 11-15 HCP AND no more than 2 cards in the suit bid by South.</p> <p>East can bid a ‘Protective’ 1NT in the passout seat showing a balanced hand with 11-14 HCP (obviously 11 after passing originally).</p> <p>There are 10 tricks available if declarer remembers that South opened the bidding! But any plus score will be a good board for E/W.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass	
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Weak two opening and a non-invitational raise.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ QJ62 ♥ J3 ♦ 92 ♣ J10864</p> <p>♠ AK83 ♠ 954 ♥ Q95 ♥ AK10642 ♦ J1085 ♦ K63 ♣ 32 ♣ 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 107 ♥ 87 ♦ AQ74 ♣ AKQ95</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>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>15</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>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		5		10	10	15		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	-	-	-	-	S	3	-	-	-	-	E	-	-	3	-	-	W	-	-	2	-	-	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Dbl</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>If E/W are playing 'weak twos' then East has a perfect 2♥ opening (6 card Heart suit and 6-10 HCP).</p> <p>South will probably bid his Club suit. West with 3-card Heart support and raise to 3♥ - this is not an invitation.</p> <p>North might decide to support Clubs by bidding 4♣ - this is not an invitation either. West should double this but 4♣x-1 (100 to E/W) will still be a poor return for E/W when they could have made 140 in a 3♥ contract.</p>	West	North	East	South			2♥	3♣	3♥	4♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass		
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Responding when the opponents bid your suit

<p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ 2 ♥ AJ9 ♦ 96 ♣ Q1098753</p> <p>♠ A985 ♠ J ♥ Q86 ♥ K43 ♦ 1087 ♦ AKQJ532 ♣ AJ2 ♣ K6</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ KQ107643 ♥ 10752 ♦ 4 ♣ 4</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;">7</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td></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 style="text-align: center;">-</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;">-</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;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		7		11	17	5		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	2	-	S	-	-	-	2	-	E	2	6	2	-	6	W	2	6	2	-	6	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♦</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>East opens 1♦ (or a strong 2♦ if you are playing strong two openings). If East didn't have the two side Kings he would have a perfect 3NT opening bid.</p> <p>South will bid something – maybe 3♠ but sometimes 1♠ and now West with 11 points must respond.</p> <p>2NT showing 11-12 points and a stopper in Spades seems to fit the bill. Over 2NT, East with 7 tricks in his own hand can raise to 3NT.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			1♦	1♠	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
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11 points and 6-card suit worth a slam opposite 2NT opening

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AK76 ♥ J107643 ♦ 7 ♣ K3</p> <p>♠ J2 ♠ 108543 ♥ Q5 ♥ 98 ♦ KQ632 ♦ 1098 ♣ 10972 ♣ 854</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q9 ♥ AK2 ♦ AJ54 ♣ AQJ6</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>7</td> <td>3</td> <td>7</td> <td>5</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>0</td> <td>S</td> <td>7</td> <td>3</td> <td>7</td> <td>5</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11		N	7	3	7	5	7	8	0	S	7	3	7	5	7			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North has a 6-card suit and 11 HCP so he is worth a slam opposite his partner's 2NT opening bid. By transferring to Hearts and then bidding his Spades he hears his partner bid 4♥ showing 3-card Heart support.</p> <p>6♥ is safer than 6NT because 6♥ will make even if you run into a bad Heart break.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass	
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27 HCP – Bid Game

<p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ QJ108 ♥ 108 ♦ AK7 ♣ J842</p> <p>♠ AK6 ♠ 932 ♥ KJ94 ♥ AQ2 ♦ 864 ♦ J1032 ♣ KQ9 ♣ A107</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ 754 ♥ 7653 ♦ Q95 ♣ 653</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Some E/W pairs missed game on this board?</p> <p>Missing 3NT is one thing – but landing in a Heart contract is even a bigger mystery?</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass																																
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Asking for Kings means 'we have all the Keycards'

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K653 ♥ 532 ♦ Q7642 ♣ 3</p> <p>♠ 8 ♠ AQJ ♥ 109874 ♥ AKQJ6 ♦ AJ ♦ 1098 ♣ AKQJ6 ♣ 94</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 109742 ♥ - ♦ K53 ♣ 108752</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">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;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		5	17	15	3	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	6	2	7	-	6	W	6	2	7	-	7	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : 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>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>West opens 1♥ - the higher of two 5-card suits. East is immediately interested in slam. 1♠ is probably the 'expert' bid but the rest of us will probably ask for Aces.</p> <p>The 4NT is RKCB and the 5♥ response shows 2 key cards without the ♥Q. When East uses 5NT to ask for Kings she is saying that E/W have all 5 keycards and the ♥Q.</p> <p>Hearing this, West can bid 7♥ because she knows any losers in her partner's hand can be disposed of.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass	5NT	Pass	7♥	All Pass		
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Phoenix Bridge Club - Wednesday 27th January 2016

Lead your partner's suit.

<p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ KJ6 ♥ AQ862 ♦ 73 ♣ A97</p> <p>♠ Q1054 ♠ A9 ♥ J975 ♥ 43 ♦ 8 ♦ AQJ10542 ♣ 8642 ♣ J5</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ 8732 ♥ K10 ♦ K96 ♣ KQ103</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px; margin-top: 10px; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px; margin-top: 10px; 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>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		14		3	12	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	-	4	3	2	S	3	-	4	3	2	E	-	1	-	-	-	W	-	1	-	-	-	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Double</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>East might bid 2♦ or 3♦ but whatever he bids, West should lead his singleton Diamond even if it is against 3NT. 3NT will make if West doesn't lead his partner's suit.</p> <p>Some N/S pairs might prefer to play in their 5-2 Heart fit and that contract is unbeatable on any lead. So the trick is to bid it. South might think about treating his ♥K10 as being as good as 3-card support or North might try 4♥ anyway when South isn't able to bid 3NT initially over the 3♦ overcall.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	3♦	Double	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT All Pass
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4♠ or 3♠?

<p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ QJ532 ♥ J83 ♦ 62 ♣ A94</p> <p>♠ K6 ♠ 109 ♥ AK74 ♥ 952 ♦ J5 ♦ K9743 ♣ Q8652 ♣ J103</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ A874 ♥ Q106 ♦ AQ108 ♣ K7</p>	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There are 10 easy tricks here for N/S once you finesse the ♦Q but many Norths will pass the 3♠ invitation.</p> <p>The North hand is well worth a raise to 4♠ with its 8 HCP, a 5-card trump suit and a doubleton Diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♦	Dbl	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass																													
West	North	East	South																																										
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Stay Low on a Misfit

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ AK102 ♥ - ♦ KQJ1082 ♣ 543</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ J ♠ Q987654 ♥ J8754 ♥ 10 ♦ A76 ♦ 954 ♣ AK87 ♣ 96</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 3 ♥ AKQ9632 ♦ 3 ♣ QJ102</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♣</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♦</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♠</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</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;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</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;">-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	13		N	2	1	1	-	2	13	2	S	2	1	1	-	2			E	-	-	-	1	-			W	-	-	-	1	-	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♥</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin: 0;">On perfect defence South can be held to just 7 tricks in a Heart contract.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Once South says he has 7 or 8 Hearts, North needs to put the brakes on especially looking at 3 small Clubs.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Any N/S to get a plus score on this board will do very well because most N/S pairs will be losing 200, 300 and more.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	4♥
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33 HCP means 6NT

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ J96532 ♥ Q9862 ♦ 7 ♣ 5</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ A4 ♠ KQ8 ♥ AK73 ♥ J5 ♦ 965 ♦ AK842 ♣ AK84 ♣ QJ2</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 107 ♥ 104 ♦ QJ103 ♣ 109763</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♣</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♦</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♠</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	3		N	-	-	-	-	-	18	16	S	-	-	-	-	-	3		E	5	5	4	2	6			W	5	5	4	2	6	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin: 0;">The bidding might not be as fast as this – maybe some pairs will check for Aces first – but the bottom line is that as soon as one player discovers that his side has at least 34 HCP he should be thinking of 6NT.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">East's jump shift response shows 16+ HCP so West knows they have 34+ points. Even if East only responds 1♦, West will rebid 2NT showing 18-20 and now East will know they have 34+ points.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Hopefully if N/S bid 7♠ against you – you will remember to double?</p>	West	North	East	South	1♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	6NT	All Pass		
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One for the over-bidders.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K85 ♥ J76 ♦ Q107 ♣ 8632</p> <p>♠ 742 ♠ AJ963 ♥ Q3 ♥ 109 ♦ 42 ♦ K986 ♣ AKQ1054 ♣ J7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q10 ♥ AK8542 ♦ AJ53 ♣ 9</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;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</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;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</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;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</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> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		6	9	11	14	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	4	-	-	S	-	3	4	-	-	E	2	-	-	2	-	W	2	-	-	1	-	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Well done to any N/S getting to 4♥ on this one. There are 10 tricks there with 1 Spade, 6 Hearts and 3 Diamonds but even getting to 3 Hearts if E/W compete to 2♠ or 3♣ might be difficult for South.</p> <p>South's double is 'take-out' in case North better Clubs and wanted to leave West in 2♣ doubled. 2♦ by South at his second turn is ok too. A jump by South to 3♥ is a bit of an over bid – but even that won't get North to bid 4♥.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				1♥	2♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	2♥	All Pass	
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The Principle of Restricted Choice.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J ♥ QJ743 ♦ K93 ♣ A1087</p> <p>♠ AKQ983 ♠ 52 ♥ 65 ♥ AK1098 ♦ 42 ♦ A1075 ♣ Q92 ♣ 53</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 10764 ♥ 2 ♦ QJ86 ♣ KJ64</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		11	11	11	11	7	7	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	1	-	-	-	S	2	1	-	-	-	E	-	-	1	4	3	W	-	-	1	4	3	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Another hand where it nearly impossible to bid game and some might even drop matters in 2♠.</p> <p>However at the end of the night the 4♠ bidders will probably go down as they will need to read the cards very well to make 10 tricks. For a start they will have to play North for the ♥QJ and finesse the ♥10 when they get a chance. They will also have to read North's ♠J as a singleton and finesse the ♠9 on the second round. So 9 tricks should be made at most tables.</p> <p>Making only 8 means we only made our top tricks and didn't really give the hand our best shot.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠	All Pass		
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Acol Bridge Club - Monday 25th January 2016

How good are your Opening Leads?

<p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ AK6 ♥ AK ♦ KQ106 ♣ Q843</p> <p>♠ Q9842 ♠ J53 ♥ 104 ♥ 82 ♦ 982 ♦ A543 ♣ 1076 ♣ KJ52</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ 107 ♥ QJ97653 ♦ J7 ♣ A9</p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">West</td> <td style="text-align: left;">North</td> <td style="text-align: left;">East</td> <td style="text-align: left;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>6♥ played by North is unbeatable because East cannot attack North's weakest suit Clubs.</p> <p>But even if South plays 6♥, how many of us would find the killing Club lead to defeat the contract? Any lead could be right but the winners found the Club and put 6♥ off one.</p> <p>On any other lead, declarer can draw trumps and knock out the ♦A to make 12 easy tricks. The Club lead however sets up a Club trick for East that he can cash when he gets in with the ♦A.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
West	North	East	South										
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦										
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥										

HCP	Makeable contracts				
21	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
2 9	N 3	4	6	2	6
8	S 3	4	5	2	5
	E -	-	-	-	-
	W -	-	-	-	-

Phoenix Bridge Club - Wednesday 20th January 2016

Adding points for distribution.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A95 ♥ AJ10762 ♦ 7 ♣ Q83</p> <p>♠ J8642 ♠ K1073 ♥ K3 ♥ 98 ♦ KQ ♦ J9852 ♣ AJ107 ♣ 65</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q ♥ Q54 ♦ A10643 ♣ K942</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;">11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td></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>2</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		11		14	4	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	1	5	-	2	S	3	1	5	-	2	E	-	-	-	1	-	W	-	-	-	2	-	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>Even though N/S have only 22 HCP they should bid to 4♥. North is certainly worth a 1♥ opening and once he repeats his suit to show 5, South will know to bid game with his 3-card support and singleton Spade.</p> <p>Declarer should lose 2 Club tricks and that's all. He makes 11 tricks by ruffing 2 Spades in dummy and taking the Heart finesse.</p> <p>West might think about bidding but his Spade suit is poor and it is generally not a good idea when the opponents bid 1x-2y.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
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Second Hand Low.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J42 ♥ 543 ♦ AJ10 ♣ AQ74</p> <p>♠ K10973 ♠ A8 ♥ 10987 ♥ KJ ♦ Q63 ♦ 98754 ♣ 8 ♣ J932</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q65 ♥ AQ62 ♦ K2 ♣ K1065</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> <th colspan="5" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♣</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♦</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♠</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</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></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</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> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	12		N	3	3	2	1	4	5	9	S	3	3	2	1	4	14		E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<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>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All N/S pairs should get to 3NT – 26 HCP and no major suit fit. Hopefully nobody will bid 5♣!</p> <p>West might lead the ♠10 and hopefully nobody will play the Jack from dummy! Declarer is guaranteed a Spade trick if he plays low from dummy – no matter how the Ace and King are divided.</p> <p>The kind Heart break means that declarer can make 1 Spade trick, 2 Heart tricks, 3 Diamond tricks and 4 Club tricks for 3NT+1.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	2NT	Pass	1NT	All Pass			3NT
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13 HCP opposite a reverse.

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ J10762 ♥ K10652 ♦ 1097 ♣ -</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 8 ♠ AQ53 ♥ QJ7 ♥ 8 ♦ A54 ♦ KQJ62 ♣ KQJ1032 ♣ A97</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ K94 ♥ A943 ♦ 83 ♣ 8654</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>6♣ and 6♦ are great contracts although the bad break in Clubs means that 6♦ can be defeated with a Club ruff.</p> <p>If you are not going to bid slam then you should be in 3NT (not 5♣ or 5♦).</p> <p>6NT is not a great slam but if you bid it you might make it because both North and South might talk themselves out of a Heart lead.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass		
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HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
4	-	-	2	-	-	
13 16	-	-	2	-	-	
7	6	4	-	-	5	
	W	6	5	-	-	5

Acol Bridge Club - Monday 18th January 2016 – (HiLo Night)

A side suit void is priceless.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ Q543</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ AJ42</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♣ KQJ82</p> <p>♠ KQ95 ♠ 108642</p> <p>♥ J9 ♥ 86</p> <p>♦ K1086 ♦ 973</p> <p>♣ 1097 ♣ 654</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AJ73</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ AK1072</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ Q5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♣ A3</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>7</td> <td>4</td> <td>7</td> <td>4</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>7</td> <td>5</td> <td>7</td> <td>4</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		13		9	0	18		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	7	4	7	4	7	S	7	5	7	4	7	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>7♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>North opens 1♣. South does best not to jump shift when he has two suits to show – a simple 1♥ response is best. Now North shows his support and with his 5 loser hand he should jump to 4♥. North might also consider rebidding 3♠ (a splinter bid) showing 4 card Heart support and a singleton or void in Spades.</p> <p>South can nearly bid 7♥ at this point but he checks for aces by bidding 4NT (Roman Keycard Blackwood). North's 6♥ response shows one keycard and a void in Spades. Declarer has at least 13 easy, 5 Hearts, 5 Clubs, ♦A, ♠A and a Spade ruff.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	6♥	Pass	7♥	All Pass			
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Acol Bridge Club - Monday 18th January 2016 – (HiLo Night)

8 trumps – 8 tricks

<p>♠ 85 ♥ AJ872 ♦ AQ ♣ QJ52</p> <p>♠ AQJ92 ♠ K76 ♥ KQ10 ♥ 63 ♦ 7543 ♦ K1062 ♣ 6 ♣ K743</p> <p>♠ 1043 ♥ 954 ♦ J98 ♣ A1098</p>		<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>West</i></th> <th><i>North</i></th> <th><i>East</i></th> <th><i>South</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North opens 1♥ and this is passed around to West who overcalls with 1♠. North might bid 2♣ now but East should raise his partner to 2♠ holding 3 card Spade support.</p> <p>With an 8-card trump fit we cannot sell out to N/S.</p> <p>West makes 8 tricks losing 2 Hearts, 2 Diamonds and a Club.</p>				<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		1♥	Pass	Pass	1♠	2♣	2♠	All Pass																												
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9 card major suit fit should be trumps

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AQ103 ♥ 1073 ♦ AJ9 ♣ AKQ</p> <p>♠ 54 ♠ J8 ♥ AQJ654 ♥ - ♦ K83 ♦ Q10752 ♣ 42 ♣ 1098765</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K9762 ♥ K982 ♦ 64 ♣ J3</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;">20</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10 3</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td></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>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		20		10 3		7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	2	5	3	S	-	-	2	4	3	E	-	1	-	-	-	W	-	1	-	-	-	<p>Board 18 : 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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Once N/S find their Spade fit they should play in Spades and with 27 HCP between them they should be in 4♠.</p> <p>Of course if West opens a weak 2♥ it might make it harder for N/S to find their fit and gauge how high to go.</p> <p>A diamond lead from East will hold declarer to 9 tricks in 3NT as long as West plays her King (third hand high).</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	2♥	Dbl	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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Pass	4♠	All Pass																																																											

Draw a few trumps before discarding a loser.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ KQJ953 ♥ A4 ♦ 852 ♣ AK</p> <p>♠ 84 ♠ 1072 ♥ K10832 ♥ QJ9 ♦ KQ109 ♦ A63 ♣ 104 ♣ J863</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A6 ♥ 765 ♦ J74 ♣ Q9752</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;">17</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td></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>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		17		8	8	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	-	-	4	3	S	3	-	-	4	3	E	-	1	2	-	-	W	-	1	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>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>N/S should get to 4♠ one way or another. If N/S play Acol Two's it's hard to argue with North if he decides to go down that route.</p> <p>The bidding isn't really the problem on this board – it's the play. East will probably lead the ♥Q and now North is looking at 4 possible losers (1 Heart and 3 Diamonds).</p> <p>If he tries to cash 3 Club tricks before drawing trumps, West will ruff the third Club and declarer will go down. South maximises his chances if he cashes the Ace and King of Clubs and then draws 2 trumps ending in dummy. Now he can cash the ♣Q and discard one of his losers.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
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Diamonds won't always break 3-3.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 873 ♥ 10432 ♦ A73 ♣ Q53</p> <p>♠ 106 ♠ 942 ♥ J976 ♥ KQ5 ♦ 104 ♦ J982 ♣ J10976 ♣ AK4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AKQJ5 ♥ A8 ♦ KQ65 ♣ 82</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></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">19</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 style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</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>W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</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> </table>	HCP		6		2	13	19		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	1	4	3	S	-	3	-	4	3	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>4♠ is where N/S want to be. If South has a Strong 2♠ opening available that will do nicely here. But it won't really matter because South will get to 4♠ even after a simple 1♠ opening. But the play's the thing! West leads the ♣J and E/W take the first 2 Club tricks and continue with a third round of Clubs, ruffed by declarer.</p> <p>Did anyone make 4♠? If declarer counts his tricks he will see that he needs 4 Diamond tricks. To make 4 Diamond tricks he needs the E/W Diamonds to break 3-3 and if they are not breaking 3-3 he needs to be able to ruff the 4th round of Diamonds in dummy.</p> <p>The solution is to draw just two rounds of trumps and then play A,K and Queen of Diamonds. If everyone follows to three diamonds he can draw trumps and cash the 13th Diamond in peace.</p> <p>If the Diamonds do not break 3-3 (as here) he needs the player with the doubleton Diamond to also have no more than 2 trumps. Now declarer can ruff the 4th round of Diamonds in dummy for his all important 10th trick.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass			
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Keeping a trump in dummy.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AQ732 ♥ 10 ♦ J54 ♣ 8632</p> <p>♠ J4 ♠ 1065 ♥ 85 ♥ AKQ763 ♦ A10632 ♦ 8 ♣ QJ54 ♣ AK7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K98 ♥ J942 ♦ KQ97 ♣ 109</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="padding: 2px;">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">16</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="6" style="padding: 2px;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="padding: 2px;"></th> <th style="padding: 2px;">♣</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">♦</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">♥</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">♠</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">N</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">S</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">E</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">W</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		7		8	16	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	1	-	S	-	-	-	1	-	E	2	1	4	-	2	W	2	1	4	-	2	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>If East opens a Strong 2♥ showing 8 playing tricks then West will surely be able to reckon on his own hand producing a further 2 tricks and he bids 4♥. Even after a 1♥ opening, West will respond 1NT and now East will either jump to 4♥ or make a jump shift response of 3♣.</p> <p>South leads the King of Diamonds. If trumps break 3-2 declarer can count 11 tricks (6 Hearts, 1 Diamond and 4 Clubs). But if trumps are 4-1 (which will happen 28% of the time) and he draws trumps he will lose 3 Spade tricks and a trump trick for one down.</p> <p>The way to guarantee 10 tricks is to duck the first round of trumps. Now the opponents can only cash 2 Spade tricks and a Trump trick and declarer makes 10 tricks in comfort.</p>	West	North	East	South			2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
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Find your 4-4 Fit.

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ QJ9 ♥ Q104 ♦ Q1042 ♣ 764</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 8643 ♠ A1075 ♥ A872 ♥ K3 ♦ K7 ♦ A953 ♣ K52 ♣ A83</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ K2 ♥ J965 ♦ J86 ♣ QJ109</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;">7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">15</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td></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 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;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</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;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		7		10	15	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	3	3	5	2	W	4	3	3	5	2	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : 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></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</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 style="margin-top: 10px;">Strangely, good players might easily miss their 4-4 Spade fit here because they will more than likely rebid 1NT with the East hand rather than 1♠ which tends to show 5+ Diamonds.</p> <p>But these good players need to be playing some convention such as Checkback or XY No-Trump to then find their Spade fit.</p> <p>3NT has no hope but 4♠ makes if declarer ducks the first round of trumps and then cashes the Ace of trumps on the second round but she does not play a third round. Now declarer goes about the business of ruffing 2 Diamonds in dummy. North can take her winning trump whenever she wants.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
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Keeping the dangerous opponent off lead.

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ K72 ♥ KJ852 ♦ 83 ♣ Q86</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AQ6 ♠ J104 ♥ A93 ♥ 76 ♦ AJ4 ♦ KQ95 ♣ K973 ♣ A1054</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 9853 ♥ Q104 ♦ 10762 ♣ J2</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;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</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 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;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		9	10	18	3	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	4	1	3	3	W	4	4	2	4	3	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW 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>1♣</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>E/W have 28 HCP and no major suit fit so they will land in 3NT. North leads his 4th highest Heart.</p> <p>Declarer holds up the Ace of Hearts until the third round. Now all declarer has to do is keep North off lead. So declarer avoids the Spade finesse!</p> <p>Instead declarer looks to the Club suit for his 9th trick. The solution is to lead a Club to the 10 at trick 4. Now the Club suit will provide 3 tricks and North will have been successfully kept off lead.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♣	1♥	3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
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Leading low for a finesse.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AJ974 ♥ A4 ♦ AQ2 ♣ K63</p> <p>♠ K ♠ 1083 ♥ 9862 ♥ QJ103 ♦ 10873 ♦ 964 ♣ QJ95 ♣ 1074</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q652 ♥ K75 ♦ KJ5 ♣ A82</p>		<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South's 2NT shows 4-card Spade support, a maximum hand and a 4-3-3-3 shape. North bids 6♠.</p> <p>The only trick to the hand is that declarer has to be careful NOT to lead the Queen of Spades when he comes to tackle the Spade suit. If he leads the Queen East will get a trick with his 10 of Spades and the contract will go down as declarer has to lose a Club trick as well.</p>	West	North	East	South				1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	6♠	All Pass																																		
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Safety Play.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J985 ♥ A764 ♦ J9 ♣ KJ8</p> <p>♠ K63 ♠ AQ1074 ♥ K52 ♥ 93 ♦ 7653 ♦ AKQ4 ♣ 754 ♣ A9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 2 ♥ QJ108 ♦ 1082 ♣ Q10632</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></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">19</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td></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>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10		6	19	5		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	2	-	-	S	2	-	2	-	-	E	-	5	-	4	3	W	-	5	-	4	4	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>East's 3♦ is a jump shift showing 19 HCP and forcing to game. E/W get to 4♠ by this or other routes.</p> <p>Those declarers who cash the Ace and Queen of Spades will go down because they must now lose a trump trick to North.</p> <p>The successful declarers will recognise the importance of cashing the Ace (or Queen) and then winning the second trump with the King. Those declarers will then be able to notice South showing out on the second round of Spades and be in a position to lead the third round of Spades through North, finessing the 10 if North plays low.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
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Another Safety Play

<p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ QJ3 ♥ Q952 ♦ A76 ♣ A54</p> <p>♠ 82 ♠ A9754 ♥ J764 ♥ 10 ♦ 982 ♦ 10543 ♣ J1096 ♣ 832</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ K106 ♥ AK83 ♦ KQJ ♣ KQ7</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: right;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>N/S have 34 HCP so they should be in 6NT.</p> <p>The only problem is the Heart suit. Declarer should cash the Ace and King of Hearts and now when he notices East showing out on the second round he will be able to lead through West on the third round of Hearts and finesse the 9 if West plays low.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	6NT																																				
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Second Hand Low from Dummy at Trick One.

<p> ♠ K1054 ♥ 1092 ♦ AQ108 ♣ A4 ♠ AJ872 ♠ 93 ♥ 43 ♥ KJ876 ♦ J932 ♦ 7 ♣ 92 ♣ Q7653 ♠ Q6 ♥ AQ5 ♦ K654 ♣ KJ108 </p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>3NT will be the popular choice – although anyone getting to 6♦ deserves to make it and get their top.</p> <p>Anyone in 3NT will make 12 tricks if they let the Heart lead run around to their 10 or if they run the Heart 10 themselves if they don't get a Heart lead. A Spade to the 10 will also garner that all important 12th trick.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	3NT																																				
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Bid 'em high – Play 'em well!

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ AJ87 ♥ A73 ♦ J86 ♣ K43</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q1096 ♠ K5432 ♥ QJ ♥ 642 ♦ AQ1053 ♦ 9 ♣ 72 ♣ Q1095</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ - ♥ K10985 ♦ K742 ♣ AJ86</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;">13</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11 5</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</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>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		13	11 5	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	3	4	-	3	S	4	3	5	-	3	E	-	-	-	1	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding-right: 10px;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding-right: 10px;">East</td> <td style="text-align: center;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-top: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding-top: 5px;">2♥</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding-top: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding-top: 5px;">3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-top: 5px;">Dbl</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding-top: 5px;">4♥</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding-top: 5px;">All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">N/S should get to 4♥ here – 24 HCP, a 5-3 fit and a lot of shape.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Even with West's lead directing double, East would lead his singleton Diamond. Declarer loses the first 3 tricks but now has 10 tricks....1 Spade, 5 Hearts, 1 Diamond, 2 Clubs and a Club ruff.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦	Dbl	4♥	All Pass	
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Getting to game after the opponents open.

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ K95 ♥ KQ874 ♦ QJ6 ♣ Q4</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ J8642 ♠ AQ107 ♥ 1095 ♥ AJ6 ♦ 85 ♦ AK4 ♣ A73 ♣ K102</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 3 ♥ 32 ♦ 109732 ♣ J9865</p> <table border="1" style="margin: 5px 0; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">21</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin: 5px 0; 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>-</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	HCP		13		5	21	1		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	-	4	5	5	W	2	-	4	5	5	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px;">1♥</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Dbl</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">1♠</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">3♠</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">4♠</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">All Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">E/W have 26 HCP and a 5-4 Spade fit so they should get to 4♠. However when North opens 1♥ and maybe rebids 2♥ it might get a bit muddy for West.</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">East does best to start off with a double and maybe keep doubling if North bids again. Most pairs play that an initial 2NT overcall by East would be the 'Unusual No-Trump' showing 5-5 in the two lowest unbid suits (the minors).</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">In response to the double West bids 1♠ and when East raises to 3♠, West should be delighted to accept the game invitation with his near maximum 5 HCP.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Dbl	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
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Benjamin Two Club Opening.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 3 ♥ AKQ732 ♦ K876 ♣ AK</p> <p>♠ 82 ♠ QJ1095 ♥ 109 ♥ J6 ♦ A ♦ QJ1094 ♣ QJ987432 ♣ 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AK764 ♥ 854 ♦ 532 ♣ 106</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;">19</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7 7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</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>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</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		19	7 7	7	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	5	3	5	S	-	3	5	3	5	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-	<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>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </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>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>6♥ is a very reasonable contract and if the Spades broke kinder there would be 12 easy tricks. As it is, a Spade lead beats the contract as it removes a much needed entry to dummy. Nevertheless most Easts will lead their singleton Club and now declarer can draw trumps, cash the other top Club and go to dummy with a Spade to lead a Diamond towards his King.</p> <p>West wins but now has to give declarer a ruff and discard and 12 tricks.</p> <p>The 2♣ opening shows a hand with 8 playing tricks – the old fashioned Acol Strong Two. South responds 2♦ as a relay bid and North shows his real suit i.e. Hearts. South should be able to visualise maybe 3 Spade tricks and a Club ruff in his hand so Slam should enter his head at least briefly.</p> <p>However 4♥+2 will score well – especially as there will be some who won't even get to Game!</p>	West	North	East	South		2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
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2♥ response promising 5 Hearts.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ KQJ65 ♥ A109 ♦ 4 ♣ KQ103</p> <p>♠ A1072 ♠ 984 ♥ 64 ♥ K73 ♦ 9652 ♦ AJ873 ♣ 864 ♣ 52</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 3 ♥ QJ852 ♦ KQ10 ♣ AJ97</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4 8</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</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>5</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>4</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		15	4 8	13	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	1	4	3	4	S	4	1	4	3	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : 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>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Another interesting hand. Certainly N/S should not be in 5♣.</p> <p>The Heart fit should come too light when South responds 2♥ guaranteeing a 5-card suit. North will jump to 4♥ to show 3+ card support and more than a minimum opening.</p> <p>South might even consider slam at this point.</p> <p>A few lost souls might try 3NT and land on their feet this time. Hats off to any pair who find their Heart fit and still decide to play in 3NT with their magic 28HCP.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
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Unassuming Cue Bid.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 107 ♥ 975 ♦ K64 ♣ J6532</p> <p>♠ K86 ♠ QJ5432 ♥ KJ83 ♥ AQ102 ♦ 92 ♦ J8 ♣ A1094 ♣ Q</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A9 ♥ 64 ♦ AQ10753 ♣ K87</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;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</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 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>S</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>E</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		4	12	11	13	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	2	-	-	1	S	1	2	-	-	1	E	-	-	4	4	-	W	-	-	4	4	-	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>E/W can make 10 tricks in Hearts or Spades but bidding game may not be obvious.</p> <p>Any West who doubles 1♦ on the first round is to be applauded and that will certainly entice East to bid game in one of his suits.</p> <p>If 1♦ is passed round to East he does better to bid his suits one at a time than to make a take out double. West shows his good Spade raise by making an 'unassuming cue bid' of 3♦. Even still East might chicken out in 3♠.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♦	Pass	Pass	1♠	2♦	3♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass
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Acol Bridge Club Monday 30th November 2015

Don't overbid Mis-Fitting hands.

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ J10 ♥ A962 ♦ A9754 ♣ Q3</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AK7 ♠ 932 ♥ KQJ754 ♥ - ♦ 8 ♦ K10632 ♣ 962 ♣ AJ875</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q8654 ♥ 1083 ♦ QJ ♣ K104</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;">11</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td></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 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;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		11		13	8	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	2	2	1	1	W	4	2	2	1	1	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">1♥</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">1NT</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">2♥</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">All Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Misfits are always potential traps. The best advice on these hands is to get out early. Somebody has to give in and the sooner the better.</p> <p>Taken on their own, both players (East and West) have nice hands but when they hear their partner's first bid they need to pull back – the 1♥ opening is not good news for East and East's 1NT response should dampen any ambitions that West may have had.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	All Pass		
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Acol Bridge Club Monday 30th November 2015

Do overbid with Fitting hands (but not tonight).

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q753 ♥ KJ42 ♦ KQJ53 ♣ -</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ J1062 ♠ AK984 ♥ 1097 ♥ A85 ♦ 96 ♦ A82 ♣ K1072 ♣ A9</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ - ♥ Q63 ♦ 1074 ♣ QJ86543</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">19</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		12	19	4	5	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px;">1♠</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">2♠</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">4♠</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Not everyone will get to 4♠ and everyone will be glad they didn't. But 4♠ is a nice contract to be in most nights – but the 7-0 Club break means that you can't get to dummy tonight to run the Jack of Spades to catch North's Queen.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">If you are lucky enough to find yourself in 3NT then you will be able to enter dummy without being ruffed and now you will be able to catch North's Queen of Spades and make 9 tricks with ease.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
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West	North	East	South																
		1♠	Pass																
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Acol Bridge Club Monday 30th November 2015

Nice contract but bad break beats it.

♠ AQJ8 ♥ K2 ♦ 652 ♣ J965 ♠ 92 ♥ 10743 ♦ AQ973 ♣ K4 ♠ 764 ♥ QJ96 ♦ J ♣ Q10872 ♠ K1053 ♥ A85 ♦ K1084 ♣ A3		Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all West North East South Pass Pass 1NT Pass 2♣ Pass 2♠ Pass 3♠ Pass 4♠ All Pass																																															
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Where's the 'Two'?

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q4 ♥ A1093 ♦ Q9652 ♣ Q2</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">♠ AJ9753 ♥ KQJ ♦ K104 ♣ 8</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">♠ K62 ♥ 8 ♦ AJ73 ♣ KJ964</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 108 ♥ 76542 ♦ 8 ♣ A10753</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <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" style="text-align: center;">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;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> </table>	♠ AJ9753 ♥ KQJ ♦ K104 ♣ 8	♠ K62 ♥ 8 ♦ AJ73 ♣ KJ964	HCP		10	12	14	4	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	4	1	5	5	W	2	4	1	5	5	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <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>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The bidding is not recommended but it actually happened and it is not unheard of for players to bid slams that are destined to go down. As they say – it's not over til the fat lady sings! The defenders still have to beat this contract.</p> <p>North leads the ♣Q, declarer overs with the King and South wins with the Ace. South thinking (or hoping) that his partner had led the singleton ♣Q returned a Club and now declarer played extremely well and made her small slam.</p> <p>But how could South know that it was declarer and not his partner that had the singleton Club? Well for a start he could ask himself why declarer with a supposed doubleton 8 and 2 of Clubs and followed to trick one with the 8 rather than the 2?</p> <p>Secondly he could reason that if declarer really had a doubleton 82 of Clubs she might not have covered the Queen lead with the King - to put South to the test to see if South would overtake the Queen with his Ace or not?</p> <p>The evidence is there – if South took a moment to weigh it up at trick one – that it is declarer who has the singleton Club and not North.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass		
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Phoenix Bridge Club Wednesday 25th November 2015

Finding your 5-3 fit.

<p>♠ J10854 ♥ A ♦ 10964 ♣ KJ8</p> <p>♠ Q72 ♠ K6 ♥ 972 ♥ KQ1064 ♦ J ♦ K852 ♣ Q96542 ♣ 107</p> <p>♠ A93 ♥ J853 ♦ AQ73 ♣ A3</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;">9</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> <td></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>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>6</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>6</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		9		5	11	15		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	5	1	6	4	S	1	5	1	6	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Some E/Ws will talk N/S out their Spade fit but North should trust her partner. South will either double (not a good choice) or bid 1NT (good choice) and North will be able to force to game with a jump to 3♠.</p> <p>South will make at least 10 tricks in 4♠ losing at a Spade and two Diamonds.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	Pass	Pass	1♥	1NT	2♥	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass			
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Namyats.

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 986 ♥ 108 ♦ AKQ854 ♣ 72</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ K1072 ♠ Q43 ♥ AKQJ9532 ♥ 64 ♦ - ♦ J73 ♣ 6 ♣ AJ953</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AJ5 ♥ 7 ♦ 10962 ♣ KQ1084</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>9</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>10</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>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>6</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		9	8	13	10	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	3	-	-	-	S	1	3	-	-	-	E	-	-	6	3	-	W	-	-	6	3	-	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="padding: 5px;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="padding: 5px;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="padding: 5px;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="padding: 5px;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">4♣</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">4♦</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">4♥</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">5♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">5♥</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">All Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">E/W can make 12 tricks in a Heart contract by finessing the ♠10 at some point. But they won't be let have the auction all their own way.</p> <p>Some Easts might open with an Acol 2♥ showing 8 playing tricks. A nice bid is 4♣ showing a solid 7 or 8 card Heart suit and slam interest (similarly a 4♦ opening shows solid Spades – a convention called NAMYATS).</p> <p>However N/S will spoil the party by competing in Diamonds and E/W will do well to buy the hand at all.</p> <p>6NT is not a good contract by E/W!</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				Pass	4♣	4♦	4♥	5♦	5♥	All Pass		
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Acol Bridge Club Monday 23rd November 2015

Shape is everything

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 10 ♥ 108543 ♦ Q987 ♣ KJ5</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AQ98743 ♠ KJ52 ♥ A ♥ KJ9762 ♦ AJ63 ♦ 4 ♣ 4 ♣ 87</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 6 ♥ Q ♦ K1052 ♣ AQ109632</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></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15 8</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</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>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		6	15 8	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	2	-	-	-	S	2	2	-	-	-	E	-	-	3	6	-	W	-	-	3	6	-	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">West</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">North</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">East</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">4♠</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">All Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Not surprisingly this 23 point slam won't be bid too often. Declarer will make 12 tricks if North leads a Club and will make all 13 tricks if North doesn't find the Club lead.</p> <p>East shouldn't really open a weak 2♥ when she has 4 cards in the other major. Some Souths will open 1♣ but a pre-empt in 3rd seat is often made with 8-12 points.</p> <p>As long as declarer doesn't draw more than one round of trumps, there is nothing to the play.</p>	West	North	East	South	4♠	Pass	Pass	3♣		All Pass		
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Acol Bridge Club Monday 9th November 2015

Do we run or not from 1NT Doubled?

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 10932 ♥ 53 ♦ 8643 ♣ AQ4</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 7654 ♠ KJ ♥ K84 ♥ QJ92 ♦ K92 ♦ Q107 ♣ 952 ♣ K1087</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AQ8 ♥ A1076 ♦ AJ5 ♣ J63</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="padding: 2px;">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">12</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">16</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="6" style="padding: 2px;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="padding: 2px;"></th> <th style="padding: 2px;">♣</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">♦</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">♥</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">♠</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">N</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">S</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">E</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">W</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		6		6	12	16		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	2	1	3	2	S	1	2	1	3	2	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">West</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">North</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">East</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">1NT</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">1NT</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">Dbl</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">All Pass</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">East opens 1NT (12-14) and South doubles. All doubles of 1NT are penalty.</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">West has nowhere to go so he may as well stand his ground in 1NTx. If West can get somehow scramble 6 tricks and get out for one down than that should be a good score for E/W.</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">In general when your shape is 4-3-3-3 you stand your ground when your partner is doubled in 1NT.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	1NT	Dbl
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Acol Bridge Club Monday 9th November 2015

Responding to a 3NT opening

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ AJ754 ♥ K963 ♦ 932 ♣ 4</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q ♠ 63 ♥ J2 ♥ Q74 ♦ AKQJ10765 ♦ 8 ♣ 87 ♣ KJ96532</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ K10982 ♥ A1085 ♦ 4 ♣ AQ10</p> <table border="1" style="margin: 5px auto; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin: 5px auto; 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>-</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8		13	6	13		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	5	6	-	S	1	-	5	6	-	E	-	2	-	-	-	W	-	2	-	-	-	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Most Wests will open 3NT – showing a solid minor suit and nothing outside their suit.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">East will know that West's minor is Diamonds (it can't be Clubs) and if East has stoppers in the other 3 suits he passes the 3NT opening.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">East doesn't have a Spade stopper so he knows 3NT cannot be made so he bids 4♣ knowing that West will convert to his real minor 4♦ and there they will play and make 8 tricks.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Of course N/S can make 11 or 12 tricks in their own major suit but may find it difficult to bid.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Some E/W pairs arrived got seriously overboard her and lost 1400 and more.</p>
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Third-in-Hand Preempt

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 96432 ♥ 652 ♦ A9 ♣ Q92</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AK10 ♠ Q875 ♥ Q9 ♥ KJ1073 ♦ K64 ♦ 83 ♣ A10843 ♣ KJ</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ J ♥ A84 ♦ QJ10752 ♣ 765</p> <table border="1" style="margin: 5px 0; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">16</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin: 5px 0; 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>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		6		16	10	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	3	1	2	4	3	W	3	1	2	4	3	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">3NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>In third seat, partner having passed as dealer, there is always a temptation to do something mischievous to make life a bit difficult for the last player. Some players open light and others open pre-empts on 6-card suits.</p> <p>South might decide to open 3♦ on this hand in third seat. If he were dealer or second in hand he wouldn't. But in third seat – anything goes!</p> <p>West may as well just bid 3NT over this. The pre-empt will get North off to a good lead for her side – Ace and another Diamond and now declarer has to guess whether South has the Ace of Hearts or the Queen of Clubs. Declarer will probably play North to have the ♥A and play on Hearts at trick 2 and go two light as a result.</p> <p>The other declarers who don't get the Diamond lead or who are lucky enough to play a Club to the Jack will make 9 or 10 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	3♦		3NT	All Pass	
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Phoenix Bridge Club Wednesday 28th October 2015

Running from 1NT

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ AK ♥ K986 ♦ Q9 ♣ A8642</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 97543 ♠ QJ6 ♥ 75 ♥ QJ43 ♦ 8754 ♦ K632 ♣ 53 ♣ QJ</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 1082 ♥ A102 ♦ AJ10 ♣ K1097</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>16</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>12</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>7</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>7</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		16		0	12	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	7	4	6	4	7	S	7	4	6	4	7	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">West</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">North</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">East</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">Dbl</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">1NT</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;"></td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;"></td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">All Pass</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">1NT doubled minus 6 or 7 when the defenders make 12 or 13 tricks! Ouch!</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Of course West should not have passed the 1NT opening and definitely shouldn't have left 1NT doubled in when it came back to her.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Playing transfers West responds 2♥ to the opening 1NT and passes when East bids 2♠. Even if West does pass the first time, she needs to have some system to help her run from 1NT when she knows she is trouble. Something like 'Transfers on' or 'Helvic' or 'Transfer Helvic'.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Of course nothing is really any good on this hand but there were pairs who out in 2♠-3 for a great score to E/W. Some N/S pairs bid 6♣ and well done to them!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Dbl	1NT	Pass			All Pass	
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Phoenix Bridge Club Wednesday 21st October 2015

5-3 major suit fit safer than 3NT when you have minimum points for game.

<p>♠ J105 ♥ K7532 ♦ K6 ♣ AQ5</p> <p>♠ KQ2 ♠ A964 ♥ 1094 ♥ J8 ♦ J107 ♦ 9532 ♣ J987 ♣ K43</p> <p>♠ 873 ♥ AQ6 ♦ AQ84 ♣ 1062</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7 8</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</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>2</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		13	7 8	12	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	2	4	2	3	S	1	2	4	2	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<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></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Quite a few pairs missed their Heart fit here. Whether N/S are playing Transfers or not, North will show his 5-card Heart suits and points for game and let South make the final decision. Holding 3-card Heart support, South should convert to the Heart game.</p> <p>3NT should be held to 9 tricks if East switches to a low Spade when in with the King of Clubs.</p>	West	North	East	South				1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass			
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Good considered disciplined bidding

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 765 ♥ QJ52 ♦ J ♣ Q9862</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ KQ104 ♠ J98 ♥ K98 ♥ 6 ♦ Q752 ♦ AK963 ♣ J5 ♣ AK73</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ A32 ♥ A10743 ♦ 1084 ♣ 104</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		6		11	15	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	5	-	3	2	W	2	5	-	3	2	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">5♦ is a comfortable make but if N/S keep quiet then E/W should be able to land in 3NT played by West. North has no reason to lead a Heart if South keeps quiet and if North doesn't lead a Heart, West might make 3NT+2.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Even 4♠ is a well bid contract. Yes it should go down but some Souths won't have the patience to beat it and might cash their ♥A too soon.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Of course if East ends up in 3NT, he will have bid the hand poorly and will deserve the Heart lead to go minus 1.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
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One point for a doubleton

<p>♠ KQ3 ♥ 85 ♦ 7543 ♣ 9532</p> <p>♠ J109 ♠ 862 ♥ KQ1063 ♥ J9742 ♦ K62 ♦ Q ♣ J8 ♣ K1076</p> <p>♠ A754 ♥ A ♦ AJ1098 ♣ AQ4</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">19</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		5	6	10	19	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <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>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>4♠ is a nice contract but not many will get there. If E/W get to 4♥, South will do best to 'double' and put it 3 or 4 down for a top. Even if E/W bid 3♥, South should 'double'!</p> <p>5♦ makes if declarer remembers to take the Club finesse while in dummy.</p> <p>North is worth a 2♦ response because he has 5 HCP and one more point for the doubleton Heart and 4-card Diamond fit. Hopefully no North responded 1NT?</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♦	1♥	2♦	3♥	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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Lead towards unsupported honours.

<p> ♠ KQJ7 ♥ AK96 ♦ Q74 ♣ A2 ♠ 32 ♠ 1054 ♥ - ♥ Q1032 ♦ A983 ♦ J1065 ♣ KQJ10986 ♣ 53 ♠ A986 ♥ J8754 ♦ K2 ♣ 74 </p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; 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>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		19		10	3	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	4	3	1	S	-	-	4	4	1	E	2	1	-	-	-	W	2	1	-	-	-	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Most tables got to 4♥ one way or another but quite a few went down in that contract. If you cash the Ace and King of Hearts and lead a heart toward the Jack you will lose only one Heart trick.</p> <p>I imagine that those who went down, ran the Jack of Hearts from hand losing to the Queen and still had to lose a second heart trick to the 10 later.</p> <p>Some North's might just bid 3NT over the 3♣ opening and that will work too if you have agreed to play Stayman and Transfers over that!</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			Pass	Pass	3♣	Dbl	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
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The 'Negative' double in operation

♠ KQ6543 ♥ 6543 ♦ 2 ♣ 95 ♠ AJ107 ♠ 82 ♥ K7 ♥ AJ102 ♦ AK874 ♦ Q109 ♣ K6 ♣ A842 ♠ 9 ♥ Q98 ♦ J653 ♣ QJ1073		Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all West North East South 1 ♦ 1 ♠ Dbl Pass 3NT All Pass																																																			
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Opener's Reverse

<p> ♠ QJ92 ♥ Q10953 ♦ 9 ♣ A92 ♠ AK8 ♠ 643 ♥ 8 ♥ J762 ♦ KJ863 ♦ 1042 ♣ QJ74 ♣ 865 ♠ 1075 ♥ AK4 ♦ AQ75 ♣ K103 </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;">9</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</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		9		14	1	16		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	1	5	4	2	S	2	1	5	5	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>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>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Only 2 N/S pairs reached 4♥ on this board. Over South's 1NT rebid (15-17), North has enough to reverse into 2♠ showing her 5 Hearts and 4 Spades and interest in game.</p> <p>This allows South to show her 3 card Heart support and the good 4♥ game is bid. Even if you lose a trump trick to the Jack you still make 10 tricks for a good score.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
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Always 3NT never 5♦

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q6 ♥ QJ ♦ AKQ10942 ♣ 104</p> <p>♠ A984 ♠ K753 ♥ 96532 ♥ K8 ♦ 8 ♦ J653 ♣ A93 ♣ 762</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J102 ♥ A1074 ♦ 7 ♣ KQJ85</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; 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>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</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	3	2	-	3	S	3	3	2	-	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </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>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There are many different ways to bid this hand but as long as you do not end up in 5♦ all will be well.</p> <p>When you are playing an ordinary club matchpoint pairs game - you should go out of your way to play in 3NT rather than in 5 of a Minor. For one thing you get the same score +600 for making 9 tricks in 3NT as for making 11 tricks in 5♦ and secondly you will often find that you will make 10 or 11 tricks in 3NT beating all the pairs in 5♦ even if they make 13 tricks!</p> <p>In 3NT, declarer needs to abandon the Diamond suit when she learns of the 4-1 split and instead knock out the Club Ace – making 1 Spade trick, 1 Heart trick (maybe 2), 3 Diamond tricks and 4 Club tricks).</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
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Phoenix Bridge Club – Wednesday 14th October 2015

Patience is a virtue

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ A 10932 ♥ Q653 ♦ 82 ♣ 72</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 86 ♠ Q54 ♥ A1087 ♥ J92 ♦ 7643 ♦ Q ♣ J63 ♣ KQ9854</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ KJ7 ♥ K4 ♦ AKJ1095 ♣ A10</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">19</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">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;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</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>W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</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> </table>	HCP		6	10	5	19	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	6	2	6	6	S	-	6	2	6	6	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="margin: 10px auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">1♠</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">3♥</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">4♠</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">All Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">3♠</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Most pairs missed their Spade fit here. If declarer can figure out who has the ♠Q she will make 12 tricks in 6♦, 6♠ or 6NT.</p> <p>The trick to finding the Spade fit is to have a jump to 2NT rebid here as showing 18-19 HCP (forcing to game). This gives North plenty of room to introduce her second suit below 3NT and by implication tell her partner that she has at least 5 Spades.</p> <p>Bidding slam here is a bit of an overbid – so you should end up in 4♠ or 3NT but NOT in 5♦.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♠
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Acol Bridge Club – Monday 12th October 2015

The value of the 4-4 fit.

<p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ AQJ764</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♥ -</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♦ AJ8</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♣ KJ97</p> <p>♠ 53 ♠ 102</p> <p>♥ K432 ♥ AQ1085</p> <p>♦ K1062 ♦ Q753</p> <p>♣ 643 ♣ 102</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ K98</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♥ J976</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♦ 94</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♣ AQ85</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px; margin-top: 10px; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px; margin-top: 10px; 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>7</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>7</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		16		6	8	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	7	1	1	6	4	S	7	1	1	6	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <p>There is only a combined 26 HCP in the N/S hands, yet there are 12 easy tricks in a 6♠ contract, losing one diamond and ruffing the third diamond in dummy for the 12th trick. Not surprisingly only one pair got to 6♠ and maybe at most tables E/W started bidding Hearts to muddy the waters even more for N/S.</p> <p>But the ‘Slam’ signs are all there, N/S have 8+ card fits in two suits, including AKQJ of both suits, an Ace in a third suit and a void in the fourth (opponent’s) suit.</p> <p>The other interesting point is that the hand shows the value of playing in a 4-4 fit rather than a 5-3 fit or even a 6-3 fit. This is because playing in the 4-4 Club fit allows to discard 3 red suit losers on your 6-3 side Spade suit, allowing you make a Grand Slam in Clubs. When the 6-3 Spade suit is trumps you have no such discards coming from the 4-4 side Club suit.</p>
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Support Doubles

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q4 ♥ KQ5 ♦ K1052 ♣ KQ107</p> <p>♠ 1098752 ♠ A6 ♥ J4 ♥ 1083 ♦ AQ97 ♦ J8643 ♣ 9 ♣ J64</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ KJ3 ♥ A9762 ♦ - ♣ A8532</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; 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><th>N</th><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><th>S</th><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><th>E</th><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><th>W</th><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		15		7	6	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	6	-	6	-	5	S	6	-	6	-	5	E	-	2	-	-	-	W	-	2	-	-	-	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : 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></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>Amazingly very few N/S pairs found their Heart fit, with most pairs landing in a Club contract,</p> <p>Landing in Clubs isn't so bad as long as you land in 6♣. Remember in a matchpoint pairs game it is rarely right to play in 5♣ and certainly isn't right to just blast into it without at least exploring other game contracts like 4♥ or even 3NT.</p> <p>North's 'double' here is a 'Support Double' showing 3 card Heart support for partner and now the Heart fit comes to light.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♣	Pass	1♥	1♠	Dbl	Pass	4♥
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Phoenix Bridge Club – Wednesday 7th October 2015

The value of Suit Texture

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 64 ♥ A965 ♦ KQJ5 ♣ 632</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AK107 ♠ J83 ♥ 2 ♥ KQJ1073 ♦ 42 ♦ 96 ♣ AKQ954 ♣ 87</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q952 ♥ 84 ♦ A10873 ♣ J10</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>7</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	10		-	-	-	-	-	16	7	-	-	-	-	-	7		-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table style="margin-top: 10px; 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>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Everyone will make 10 tricks here but not many will bid to 4♥.</p> <p>Both players have a lot in reserve – West has all her points in Ace and Kings and she has all her points in her two long suits - yet it's hard to fault her for not rebidding a game forcing 2♠ on the second round to show a hand worth 19+.</p> <p>Equally well East's hand is worth a lot more than 7 points because she too has all her points in her long suit. Yet again it's hard to fault her for not bidding the invitational 3♥ bid at her second turn showing 11-12.</p> <p>West might consider rebidding 3♣ over 2♥ and if so East will be glad at another chance to bid 4♥. Some West's might even rebid 3♣ over 1♥ and again this should prompt a 4♥ rebid from East.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	All Pass
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Phoenix Bridge Club – Wednesday 7th October 2015

1♥ or 4♥

<p>♠ K832 ♥ J105 ♦ K98 ♣ K85</p> <p>♠ J954 ♠ - ♥ 7 ♥ AKQ9843 ♦ J654 ♦ A73 ♣ AQ102 ♣ 763</p> <p>♠ AQ1076 ♥ 62 ♦ Q102 ♣ J94</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">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;">-</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>W</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> </table>	HCP		10	13	8	9	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Some will open 1♥, some will open a Strong 2♥, others might even open a Strong 2♣.</p> <p>But 4♥ seems about right because you know it's where you want to end up and the opening does describe the hand pretty well about 8 playing tricks but not very strong in defence.</p> <p>If you open 1♥ the opponents will be in 3♠ before you know it and you will probably end up bidding 4♥ anyway. However if they go onto 4♠ they will get out for 3 down doubled (-500) and a good sacrifice against your 620.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	4♥	All Pass
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Slam Bidding

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 82 ♥ J8654 ♦ 83 ♣ 9532</p> <p>♠ AQ1096 ♠ K754 ♥ A732 ♥ Q ♦ AJ7 ♦ KQ1052 ♣ 4 ♣ K86</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J3 ♥ K109 ♦ 964 ♣ AQJ107</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="padding: 2px;">HCP</th> <th colspan="5" style="padding: 2px;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> <th style="padding: 2px;">♣</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">♦</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">♥</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">♠</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">15 13</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> </table>	HCP	Makeable contracts						♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	1	-	-	-	-	-	15 13	-	-	-	-	-	11	1	6	-	6	5		-	6	-	6	2	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">1♦</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">2♠</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">3♠</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">4NT</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">5♣</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">6♠</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">All Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">East opens 1♦ her longest suit. If South passes, West should respond 1♠. A good tip – ‘Do not Jump-Shift with 2 suited hands’. Over a 1♠ response, East should rebid 3♠ because she has more than a minimum – adding 2 points for her singleton Heart – or better still showing a 6 loser hand.</p> <p>If East just gives a single raise – then West might just bid 4♠ and miss the Slam. But even with a single raise, that West hand is worth a lot more than just a simple raise to 4♠.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♦	2♣	2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣	Dbl	6♠	All Pass		
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She has 5 good trumps, she has 3 aces, she has a singleton in the opponent's suit and she knows that her side also has a 5-3 Diamond fit.

West checks for Keycards and discovers that she is missing one Keycard so she stops in a small slam. There is nothing to the play and everyone makes at least 12 tricks.

Is South worth a 2♣ overcall – yes she is – her hand passes the Suit Quality Test. If she doesn't overcall she won't get Club lead and declarer will make 13 tricks! Maybe 6♠ would be easier to bid if South doesn't come in?

So how many of the 20 tables bid the Slam? Not one – so don't feel too bad.

Acol Bridge Club – Monday 5th October 2015

Disciplined Bidding

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 652 ♥ AK8765 ♦ 43 ♣ 62</p> <p>♠ A983 ♠ QJ107 ♥ QJ2 ♥ 1093 ♦ AK6 ♦ 975 ♣ AJ7 ♣ 1085</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K4 ♥ 4 ♦ QJ1082 ♣ KQ943</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; 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><th>N</th><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><th>S</th><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><th>E</th><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><th>W</th><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		7		19	3	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	1	1	-	-	-	E	-	-	1	1	1	W	-	-	1	1	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></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>A number of E/W's bid too high on this one e.g. 4♠-4 and worse. Is South worth an opening bid? Yes – she has 11 HCP and 2 good five card suits.</p> <p>West doubles to show her good hand. North responds 1♥. Now East is off the hook. East does not have to bid. If North had passed then East would have had to bid. So if East does bid here, she is saying that she wants to bid and that she has 7+ HCP.</p> <p>South rebids 2♣ showing her second suit and now West can either 'double' again to show her very good hand or bid 2NT to show 19+.</p> <p>If you managed to stay at or below 2NT by E/W – then you did well and you got a good % score.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♦	Dbl	1♥	Pass	2♣	2NT	All Pass		
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AQ9 ♥ 9865 ♦ 7 ♣ A7543</p> <p>♠ 765432 ♠ K8 ♥ J7 ♥ K10432 ♦ Q104 ♦ A62 ♣ 82 ♣ KQ6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J10 ♥ AQ ♦ KJ9853 ♣ J109</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">10</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">3</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">15</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">12</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; 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>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</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		10		3	15	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	2	-	1	1	S	3	2	-	-	1	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♦</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>Another hand where 'pass' is the winning call.</p> <p>East opens 1♥ and South overcalls 2♦ and this comes back to East. The best bid is 'pass' and surprisingly that was the call chosen by the vast majority of players.</p> <p>It is very tempting to want to bid again with the East hand but there is no good bid available. If East bids 2♥ she will go at least 2 down and give away 200. If she was short in Diamonds she would make a 'take-out double' but she has too many Diamonds so she has no option but to pass. Sometimes being forced to pass is no bad thing.</p> <p>If South makes her 2♦, E/W lose only 90 and if they can defeat 2♦ they will score 50.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♥	2♦
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