

# EBED



# Sim Pairs

**Commentary by Sally Brock**

**Monday**  
**30<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

Welcome to the **English Bridge Education & Development (EBED)** Simultaneous Pairs.

The proceeds raised by this event will be used by EBED, **the national charity for the promotion and development of bridge**, in support of its objectives to promote the national learning program **“Bridge for All”** and especially to improve and develop the infrastructure for bridge teaching in England by expanding our support for EBTA – the **English Bridge Teachers Association**

EBED supplies “Bridge for All” teaching materials, organises Minibrige/Duplicate Bridge teacher training and club director training courses, administers the Junior Award Scheme and supports county organisations and individual volunteers at the local level to run youth events.

You can read more EBED’s activities in the current issue of English Bridge and at [www.ebedcio.org.uk](http://www.ebedcio.org.uk). If you wish to know more about EBED or to arrange a donation/legacy in favour of the charity, please contact us via [richard@ebedcio.org.uk](mailto:richard@ebedcio.org.uk)

Do please encourage your friends to come to play in these events which are open to all and raise vital funds for our work.

We thank you so much for your support!

Donna Wright  
Chief Executive

English Bridge Education & Development, Registered Charity No: 1153543

<p>♠ AK9 ♥ AQ976 ♦ 107 ♣ 862</p> <p>♠ 54                      ♠ J10632 ♥ K1083                      ♥ - ♦ Q652                      ♦ AK9843 ♣ 953                      ♣ J7</p> <p>♠ Q87 ♥ J542 ♦ J ♣ AKQ104</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>9</td><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	13		N	5	-	6	1	1	5	9	S	4	-	6	1	1			E	-	3	-	-	-	13		W	-	3	-	-	-	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1♥</td><td>2♥</td><td>2♠</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td></tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>When East overcalls with a Michaels cue-bid, South needs to show game values and heart support. The easy way to do this is to bid 2♠, the opponent’s suit, as no-one would want to bid this naturally, when East has shown 5 cards or more in the suit. North is minimum with nothing much to add, so rebids a simple, passable, 3♥. But of course South has enough for game anyway, and so bids on. With heart length assumed to be with West, declarer should broach trumps by running the jack. When East shows out, the rest is easy. Well done to any East/Wests who find the 5♦ sacrifice.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	2♥	2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥				
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<p>♠ - ♥ K1075 ♦ J10874 ♣ A1083</p> <p>♠ A42                      ♠ KQJ9 ♥ 982                      ♥ AQJ63 ♦ AKQ92                      ♦ 53 ♣ 96                      ♣ Q7</p> <p>♠ 1087653 ♥ 4 ♦ 6 ♣ KJ542</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>15</td><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	8		N	3	-	-	-	-	13	15	S	3	-	-	-	-			E	-	2	2	1	2	4		W	-	3	3	1	2	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td></tr> </table> <p>After West’s 2-level response, East’s reverse into 2♠ shows extras and is forcing to game. So West just rebids a simple 3♥, which East raises to game with his minimum reverse. South’s normal opening lead would be a spade, and everyone (except North) would be surprised when North ruffed. Best defence now would be a low club to South’s ♣J and another spade ruff, then another club, to South’s ♣K, and a third spade ruff. Two down. However, even if North cashes the ♣A at trick two, 4♥ will still go one down.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
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<p>                     ♠ Q3                      ♥ Q73                      ♦ K109654                      ♣ Q9                      ♠ 109                      ♠ J8742                      ♥ KJ9                      ♥ 8654                      ♦ 82                         ♦ A7                      ♣ 876543                  ♣ K2                      ♠ AK65                      ♥ A102                      ♦ QJ3                      ♣ AJ10                 </p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>As the cards lie slam is cold for North/South, as long as South is declarer. Whatever West leads, declarer wins, knocks out the ♦A and takes the club finesse: 3 spades, 1 heart, 5 diamonds and 3 clubs. Playing weak NT, surely South will always declare, but those who play strong two-over-one responses will have to respond with 1NT as North. Now with North as declarer in NT, a heart lead from East would hold declarer to 11 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass																											
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<p>                     ♠ Q10                      ♥ 96                      ♦ Q987543                      ♣ 76                      ♠ 985                      ♠ AKJ632                      ♥ KQ1083                ♥ 7                      ♦ -                         ♦ AKJ                      ♣ J10984                ♣ AQ3                      ♠ 74                      ♥ AJ542                      ♦ 1062                      ♣ K52                 </p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>West is not worth a positive after East's 2♣ opening, but the good heart suit is worth showing when East shows a game-forcing hand with a long spade suit. Over the 3NT rebid West must make some show of strength. It is unlikely that the void is particularly useful, so I would recommend a straightforward jump to 5♠, just showing a hand too good to bid 4♠. Maybe East should pass this with a minimum but no-one does that in practice!</p> <p>With the ♥A right, South can do nothing. If he rises with the ♥A, there are two discards for declarer's clubs, while if he ducks, then declarer can succeed by giving up a club.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass																						
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<p>                     ♠ Q9                      ♥ 7                      ♦ K108                      ♣ AQ86543                      ♠ 82                      ♠ AJ107653                      ♥ 1086432                ♥ K                      ♦ J63                      ♦ Q754                      ♣ KJ                        ♣ 10                      ♠ K4                      ♥ AQJ95                      ♦ A92                      ♣ 972                 </p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>1♣</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South has a tricky choice of bid after East pre-empts with 3♠. The choice is between 3NT, 4♥ and double. Top-level advice (Bob Hamman, famously) in pre-emptive auctions is to bid 3NT when that is one of the possibilities. Here that works well (if a bit luckily). Declarer will probably make 13 tricks, unless East takes his ♠A at trick one.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♣	3♠	3NT	All Pass																																	
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<p>                     ♠AK73                      ♥742                      ♦QJ542                      ♣8                      ♠965            ♠Q104                      ♥AK5            ♥J106                      ♦AK98          ♦63                      ♣432            ♣AQ1076                        ♠J82                      ♥Q983                      ♦107                      ♣KJ95                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>9</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	10		N	-	-	-	-	14	9	S	-	-	-	-	7		E	2	2	1	1	1			W	2	2	1	1	1	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Although Deep Finesse may be able to make 1NT as West, my feeling is that a human may not do so well. Imagine a diamond lead to the ♦10 and ♦K. It looks normal now to take a club finesse. South wins and returns a diamond. Declarer ducks to North's ♦J and North continues with a low spade. Wouldn't you duck? And now the defence take four spade tricks.</p> <p>What does declarer discard on the fourth spade? Best is a club, and now North plays a heart and declarer takes three heart tricks. However, the defenders still come to a trick in one of the minors at the end.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	All Pass										
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 6 ♥ 97 ♦ Q1087 ♣ KQJ732</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AJ9872      ♠ KQ54 ♥ K1053      ♥ AQ6 ♦ 6            ♦ AK53 ♣ 108         ♣ 96</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 103 ♥ J842 ♦ J942 ♣ A54</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	8		N	-	-	-	-	8	18	S	-	-	-	-	6		E	-	1	4	5			W	-	1	4	5	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <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></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td colspan="3">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="margin: 0;">I like to pre-empt aggressively at favourable vulnerability when I don't have the majors. Here it doesn't really affect anything, as East/West will bid their laydown 4♠ whatever happens. After a club lead there are 11 tricks for the taking.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Dble	Pass	4♠	All Pass						
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ QJ76 ♥ AJ64 ♦ 6 ♣ K1064</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ K32            ♠ 109854 ♥ 5                ♥ Q1072 ♦ 32                ♦ KQ10 ♣ AQJ9875      ♣ 2</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ A ♥ K983 ♦ AJ98754 ♣ 3</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11		N	-	3	4	-	10	7	S	-	3	4	-	12		E	-	-	-	1			W	-	-	-	1	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <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></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td colspan="2">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="margin: 0;">It looks as if 4♥ might play rather badly with the 4-1 trump break offside, but in fact there is little the defence can do if declarer plays sensibly. It looks as if a low spade lead might be best, attacking declarer's entries. However, declarer wins and plays a club. West wins and doesn't have a good switch. Say he plays another club. Declarer plays dummy's king, ruffed and over-ruffed. Now declarer simply cross-ruffs, making the ♠A, ♦A and eight trump tricks. If West switches to a trump, it just makes it easier for declarer to establish diamonds.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♦	3♣	Dbl	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q10 ♥ QJ2 ♦ 10973 ♣ AK86</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ J76            ♠ AK5 ♥ A986         ♥ K10543 ♦ A62            ♦ KQJ ♣ Q93            ♣ J10</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 98432 ♥ 7 ♦ 854 ♣ 7542</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	12		N	-	-	-	-	11	17	S	-	-	-	-	0		E	2	2	4	2			W	2	3	4	2	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <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></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td colspan="3">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="margin: 0;">Boring East/West players might just give up on the penalty and bid the normal 4♥. But defending 2♠ should work better for East/West. With a balanced 11-count it would seem reasonable to double 2♠ for penalties, and why should East disagree with his strong 3-card trump holding. East/West should have no trouble in taking 3 trump tricks, 1 heart, 3 diamonds and 1 club, 3 down and -500.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1NT	Dble	2♠	Dble	All Pass		
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<p>♠ 8 ♥ KJ10943 ♦ KQ84 ♣ Q4</p> <p>♠ 976542      ♠ AKJ10 ♥ 72            ♥ A ♦ A              ♦ 10976532 ♣ 10862        ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ Q3 ♥ Q865 ♦ J ♣ AKJ973</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="138 535 251 703"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="284 535 511 703"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		11		4	12	13		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	4	-	-	S	2	-	4	-	-	E	-	3	-	5	-	W	-	3	-	5	-	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="527 115 974 220"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2♠</td><td>3♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>5♥</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♠</td><td>Dble</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="4">All Pass</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>I know that spade suit is terrible, but 6-4 distribution is good and West should really open that hand 2♠ at favourable vulnerability. North/South bid hearts and East keeps bidding spades. South thinks the hand is his and so doubles the final contract, but 5♠ is cold.</p> <p>Say North leads a heart. Dummy wins, diamond to the ♦A, spade to ♠A and a diamond. Say South ruffs and plays clubs. Declarer has enough entries to ruff out the diamonds. It doesn't help South not to ruff either – then declarer makes an overtrick!</p>	West	North	East	South	2♠	3♥	4♠	5♥	Pass	Pass	5♠	Dble	All Pass			
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<p>♠ A10985 ♥ K1095 ♦ KQ ♣ 108</p> <p>♠ KQJ7            ♠ 42 ♥ QJ6              ♥ 4 ♦ 10983            ♦ A764 ♣ KQ                ♣ AJ7643</p> <p>♠ 63 ♥ A8732 ♦ J52 ♣ 952</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="138 1165 251 1333"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="284 1165 511 1333"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		12		14	9	5		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	2	-	-	S	-	-	2	-	-	E	3	3	-	-	2	W	3	3	-	-	2	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="527 745 974 829"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>1♠</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>3NT</td><td colspan="3">All Pass</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Although 3NT isn't really there for East/West, I would expect it to make at some tables, and it looks to be a normal contract. Although East's overcall is on the light side vulnerable, it looks OK to me, and what else could West bid?</p> <p>The spotlight then falls on North. What should he lead? On a black-suit lead declarer is home. A heart lead leads to a simple one down, but a diamond (maybe an obscure choice) should be OK too. On a diamond lead, declarer wins, runs his clubs, and plays a spade. Provided the defenders have discarded carefully, they should then be able to come to 2 diamonds, 2 hearts and a spade.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	2♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass						
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<p>♠ AQ ♥ 10 ♦ K1085 ♣ Q106543</p> <p>♠ 1098            ♠ J6432 ♥ KJ9             ♥ AQ6 ♦ 97                ♦ A432 ♣ AKJ98        ♣ 2</p> <p>♠ K75 ♥ 875432 ♦ QJ6 ♣ 7</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="138 1795 251 1963"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="284 1795 511 1963"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <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>-</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>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		11		12	11	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	-	-	-	2	1	W	-	-	-	2	1	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="527 1375 974 1522"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>4♣</td><td colspan="3">All Pass</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Maybe East should not open the bidding with such a poor suit, but the distribution and two aces would tempt me. However, this time fortune favours the disciplined, as declarer has little chance of making his contract, with 3 spades and a diamond to lose for certain.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	4♣	All Pass		
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<p>♠ 3 ♥ Q9843 ♦ Q32 ♣ K1094</p> <p>♠ A76                      ♠ KJ52 ♥ 652                        ♥ 107 ♦ AJ765                     ♦ K109 ♣ Q5                         ♣ AJ82</p> <p>♠ Q10984 ♥ AKJ ♦ 84 ♣ 763</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>7</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>3 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>3 2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	7		N	-	-	-	-	11	12	S	-	-	-	-	10		E	1	4	-	3 2			W	1	4	-	3 2	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Those who choose to upgrade the West hand to an opening bid will be punished, as East is likely to raise to game and North has an easy heart lead. Those with more discipline, however, will pass, hear East open 1NT, and make a simple raise to 2NT (maybe via 2♣ or 2♠ depending on system). Now East is likely to lead a spade and if declarer guesses diamonds there are at least nine tricks (ten if he dares the club finesse) for the taking. When it looks as if one defender has led a 5-card suit, then there is a strong case for playing the other to hold a missing honour in a different suit.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT	All Pass		
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<p>♠ 104 ♥ 104 ♦ 852 ♣ AQJ862</p> <p>♠ AJ7632                    ♠ Q95 ♥ QJ87                      ♥ A3 ♦ J3                          ♦ KQ1094 ♣ 3                            ♣ K54</p> <p>♠ K8 ♥ K9652 ♦ A76 ♣ 1097</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>7</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>14</td> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>4 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>4 2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	7		N	1	-	-	-	9	14	S	1	-	-	-	10		E	-	4	2	4 2			W	-	4	2	4 2	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</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>That West hand is maximum for a weak 2-bid and some might not like it because of the chunky heart suit on the side. I like to get into the auction whenever I can, so I like the 2♠ opening. Different pairs will have different methods here, but if East makes any sort of invitational bid, West will accept. However the defence goes, I can see no way for them to take more than three tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
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<p>♠ J96 ♥ K ♦ J10973 ♣ K864</p> <p>♠ K4                         ♠ A108532 ♥ Q764                     ♥ AJ9832 ♦ Q654                     ♦ - ♣ J72                        ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ Q7 ♥ 105 ♦ AK82 ♣ A10953</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>11</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> <td>5 -</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> <td>5 -</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	8		N	2	3	-	-	8	11	S	2	3	-	-	13		E	-	-	6	5 -			W	-	-	6	5 -	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>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>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Yes, I know East has only 11 high card points but surely it must be right to jump in hearts when partner needs no points at all for 4♥ to have a play. I guess I'll regret it if partner turns out to be 5-5 in the minors. With West's actual hand, he may well pass 2♥ if that is all East bids on the second round. As it is, with only a little bit of luck (the heart finesse), 6♥ makes.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
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<p>                     ♠ A3                      ♥ A832                      ♦ 42                      ♣ Q9854                      ♠ J96                      ♠ 754                      ♥ K54                      ♥ J107                      ♦ KQ5                      ♦ 1097                      ♣ KJ103                      ♣ A762                      ♠ KQ1082                      ♥ Q96                      ♦ AJ863                      ♣ -                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>5</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</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> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	10		N	2	4	3	4	2	13	5	S	2	4	4	4	2	12		E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>With both spades and diamonds breaking 3-3, 4♠ makes, but it is much against the odds and North/South should be content to play in a part-score. Although North has 10 high card points, 2♠ is a better rebid than 2NT – with poor spot cards the hand is much more suited to suit play.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	All Pass			
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<p>                     ♠ 7                      ♥ K85                      ♦ J965                      ♣ A10632                      ♠ Q86                      ♠ AJ54                      ♥ AJ1073                      ♥ 9642                      ♦ 874                      ♦ AKQ                      ♣ J4                      ♣ 75                      ♠ K10932                      ♥ Q                      ♦ 1032                      ♣ KQ98                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>14</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	8		N	2	1	-	-	-	8	14	S	2	1	-	-	-	10		E	-	-	2	1	1			W	-	-	2	1	1	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Maybe South would bid 2♠ over East's fourth-in-hand 1NT opener. Some people play that this shows 5 spades with a 4-card or longer minor, in which case North would probably ask for the minor and North/South would play 3♣, presumably losing the obvious five tricks. East/West do better that way than if they find their heart fit.</p> <p>If West declares hearts, then presumably North will lead his singleton spade and the defence is easy; if East declares 3♥ then South is likely to lead a top club. Best is for North to overtake and switch to a spade, and now 3♥ must also go one down.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥	All Pass		
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<p>                     ♠ K974                      ♥ J974                      ♦ AK109                      ♣ 4                      ♠ A103                      ♠ J865                      ♥ 62                      ♥ AKQ108                      ♦ 54                      ♦ QJ6                      ♣ AKQJ103                      ♣ 6                      ♠ Q2                      ♥ 53                      ♦ 8732                      ♣ 98752                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>13</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11		N	-	-	-	-	14	13	S	-	-	-	-	2		E	5	1	5	4	5			W	5	1	5	4	5	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Rdbl</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</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>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Some Easts might just respond 1♥ after the double, but with North/South vulnerable it seems reasonable for East/West to allow for the possibility of collecting a penalty. When North/South escape to 1♦, it seems reasonable for East to insist on game: first he forces to game, then shows five hearts. West's 3♠ can't be a 4-card suit (he would have bid that over 2♦) so must just show a stopper and East bids 3NT.</p> <p>If North doesn't take his diamonds immediately, he might well not make them at all, as declarer can make 12 tricks outside diamonds – and he probably would dare to take that heart finesse on the bidding.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♣	Dble	Rdbl	1♦	Pass	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass
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<p>♠ J5 ♥ Q764 ♦ KQ843 ♣ 84</p> <p>♠ 9762      ♠ Q8 ♥ AK108      ♥ J ♦ J1062      ♦ A95 ♣ 5      ♣ KQ109632</p> <p>♠ AK1043 ♥ 9532 ♦ 7 ♣ AJ7</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>12</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	8		N	-	-	2	1	1	8	12	S	-	-	2	1	1	12		E	2	1	-	-	-			W	2	1	-	-	-	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Brave Norths might reopen with a double when 2♣ is passed to them, but with West having promised four hearts, and the vulnerability unfavourable, it could turn out very badly. As it is the aggressive action works well as 2♣ makes exactly on the expected spade lead, while 2♥ seems to make as well.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♣	1♠	Dble	Pass	2♣	All Pass								
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<p>♠ 96 ♥ J9743 ♦ 43 ♣ J874</p> <p>♠ 32      ♠ 1075 ♥ Q10      ♥ A652 ♦ AK108      ♦ QJ97 ♣ KQ632      ♣ A9</p> <p>♠ AKQJ84 ♥ K8 ♦ 652 ♣ 105</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>11</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	2		N	-	-	-	-	14	11	S	-	-	-	-	13		E	3	4	1	1	1			W	3	4	1	-	1	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>I know some people might overcall 2♣ with that West hand, and might not even think there was anything wrong with it; but in my view most experts would not recommend it, vulnerable, with such a poor 5-card suit. Partner is still there and has to choose between double and 1NT in the balancing seat. I don't like 1NT without a stopper unless there is no alternative. When South bids 2♠, the old-fashioned style was to play double as penalties, but these days such doubles are usually played as take-out (usually without the other major), hence East's choice of 3♦, which is the best final contract. Mind you, on trump leads, the old-fashioned East/West would collect 300 from 2♠ doubled.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass	Dble	2♠	Dble	Pass	3♦	All Pass						
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<p>♠ 1098432 ♥ AQ75 ♦ 2 ♣ 108</p> <p>♠ J      ♠ K76 ♥ 42      ♥ K10963 ♦ KQJ8765      ♦ A94 ♣ A93      ♣ 75</p> <p>♠ AQ5 ♥ J8 ♦ 103 ♣ KQJ642</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>6</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>10</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	6		N	2	-	-	4	-	11	10	S	2	-	-	3	-	13		E	-	4	-	-	2			W	-	4	-	-	2	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>4♠ makes played by North (no heart lead), but with less than half the points in the pack, it is a bit pushy at match-points. After the 1♦ overcall, double by North would show both majors – and maybe is what North could bid, but with a 2-card disparity it is more normal to bid 1♠. 1♠ does not necessarily show a 5-card suit, so it is reasonable for South to rebid the good 6-card club suit. On the next round, however, he is happy to show 3-card support, which encourages North to bid on over 3♦.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♣	1♦	1♠	Dble	2♣	2♦	Pass	Pass	2♠	3♦	3♠	All Pass	
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<p>♠ 5 ♥ Q1083 ♦ QJ854 ♣ J54</p> <p>♠ K10964      ♠ A8 ♥ 762          ♥ KJ5 ♦ 1096         ♦ K73 ♣ K3            ♣ Q10976</p> <p>♠ QJ732 ♥ A94 ♦ A2 ♣ A82</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="138 535 251 703"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="284 535 503 703"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		6		6	13	15		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	1	-	-	S	-	2	1	-	-	E	1	-	-	2	2	W	-	-	-	1	1	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="527 115 998 220"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>I think it is very close whether South should double the weak NT or pass. Here pass works much better. Whether or not East/West make 2♠ is also close, but I would rather not defend it doubled, which is the likely outcome of doubling 1NT in the first place. Mind you, if you double 1NT maybe West would declare 2♠.</p> <p>In that case the defence should prevail on the ♦Q lead. If declarer covers, North continues with another diamond and a diamond ruff, and now 2♠ must go down, losing two more aces and a sure trump trick. If declarer doesn't cover the diamond, then a low heart switch will result in an extra defensive trick in that suit.</p> <p>But when East is declarer in 2♠, South has a truly terrible opening lead problem.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass								
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<p>♠ 62 ♥ 104 ♦ KJ1054 ♣ 9842</p> <p>♠ KJ753          ♠ Q1094 ♥ 6                ♥ AQ853 ♦ 876             ♦ 92 ♣ K1053         ♣ QJ</p> <p>♠ A8 ♥ KJ972 ♦ AQ3 ♣ A76</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="138 1165 251 1333"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="284 1165 503 1333"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		4		7	11	18		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	3	1	-	2	S	2	3	1	-	2	E	-	-	-	3	-	W	-	-	-	3	-	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="527 745 998 913"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td></tr> <tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>Dble</td></tr> <tr><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Dble</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Does West have a 1♠ overcall at adverse vulnerability? Questionable, but it works OK this time. If West passes, surely so will East, and they will defend 1♥, probably just making. When West overcalls 1♠ they reach 3♠, making nine tricks.</p> <p>South has done well to push them that high: he doubled 2♥ to show a good hand and then pushed on with a take-out double of 2♠, finding the diamond fit and pushing East/West to 3♠.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass	2♥	Dble	2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	3♦	3♠	All Pass
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<p>♠ J3 ♥ J982 ♦ K92 ♣ AQ75</p> <p>♠ Q974          ♠ K10 ♥ KQ7          ♥ 64 ♦ J765          ♦ A10843 ♣ K2            ♣ J1098</p> <p>♠ A8652 ♥ A1053 ♦ Q ♣ 643</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="138 1795 251 1963"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="284 1795 503 1963"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		11		11	8	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	2	1	-	S	1	-	2	1	-	E	-	2	-	-	1	W	-	2	-	-	1	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="527 1375 998 1480"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td><td>All Pass</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In reality, this board may well be passed out at most tables, but I couldn't think of much to write about a pass-out!</p> <p>It is not unreasonable for West to open 1♦, intending to pass whatever partner bids (here's hoping partner is not on lead!). Here North passes and East has a normal 3♦ raise, silencing everyone. It looks to be a straightforward one down, on a deal where any negative score is likely to be poor.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	3♦	All Pass								
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<p>                     ♠Q1085                      ♥AQ86                      ♦Q2                      ♣A52                      ♠762                      ♠K94                      ♥743                      ♥J1052                      ♦10976                  ♦K8                      ♣984                      ♣KQJ7                      ♠AJ3                      ♥K9                      ♦AJ543                      ♣1063                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>14</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>13</td> <td>S</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</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> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	14		N	4	4	4	4	0	13	S	4	4	4	4			E	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <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>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This doesn't look as if it is the most interesting board of the session. Declarer just has to take some finesses, and will surely make 4 spades, 3 hearts, 2 diamonds and 1 club.</p>	West	North	East	South				1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
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<p>                     ♠J743                      ♥K109                      ♦-                      ♣AJ10874                      ♠Q962                      ♠K108                      ♥6532                      ♥8                      ♦Q9764                  ♦AK10532                      ♣-                              ♣963                      ♠A5                      ♥AQJ74                      ♦J8                      ♣KQ52                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>10</td> <td>S</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>7</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	9		N	6	-	6	1	4	10	S	6	-	7	1			E	-	5	-	-			W	-	5	-	-	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♦</td> <td>5♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>I like the idea of opening something above the 1-level with that East hand, in third seat at favourable vulnerability. I would open a weak 2♦ if I was playing it; otherwise I'd probably try 3♦. There's no harm in having a bit more than you've shown when facing a passed partner. South would overcall 2♥ and West would surely do something exuberant – 5♦ looking fairly normal. Not enough to silence North here but enough to stop him making any sort of slam try. As it is North/South miss what should be a fairly easy slam.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	2♦	2♥	5♦	5♥	All Pass					
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<p>                     ♠9                      ♥J832                      ♦AQ5                      ♣Q10976                      ♠KQJ                      ♠1032                      ♥K1054                  ♥Q97                      ♦J976                      ♦84                      ♣J8                        ♣AK432                      ♠A87654                      ♥A6                      ♦K1032                      ♣5                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>9</td> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</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> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	9		N	1	2	1	2	11	9	S	1	2	1	3			E	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It could be right for South to rebid 2♦ with such poor spades, but, particularly at match-points, it usually works best to rebid the 6-card suit. With spades 3-3 there is nothing East/West can do to beat 2♠ – indeed, declarer should make an overtrick.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠	All Pass			
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																									
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																					
9		N	1	2	1	2																																																					
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<p>                     ♠Q1094                      ♥J98                      ♦1073                      ♣K107                      ♠AK65                  ♠J73                      ♥K2                      ♥A3                      ♦AJ854                 ♦KQ6                      ♣96                       ♣AJ432                      ♠82                      ♥Q107654                      ♦92                      ♣Q85                 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="138 535 251 703"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="284 535 511 703"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <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>6</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		6	15	15	4	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	5	6	1	5	5	W	5	6	1	5	5	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="527 115 998 283"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></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>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It would be pushy to bid slam on these two hands, but not completely ridiculous. It is tempting to proceed with the West hand when partner has shown suitability with 3♦. Here, making 12 tricks really depends on a 3-3 club break with maybe the extra chance of the ♠Q dropping doubleton. It is important to play in diamonds rather than NT. All in all, I would rather stop in the safe haven of 3NT, making 11 tricks when North has the ♠Q.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass
HCP																																																															
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<p>                     ♠K1082                      ♥1082                      ♦K9                      ♣AKQ4                      ♠QJ943                 ♠6                      ♥5                         ♥Q94                      ♦J864                    ♦AQ532                      ♣J53                      ♣10987                      ♠A75                      ♥AKJ763                      ♦107                      ♣62                 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="138 1165 251 1333"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>12</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="284 1165 511 1333"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</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> </tbody> </table>	HCP		15	8	5	12	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	-	6	2	5	S	4	-	5	3	2	E	-	1	-	-	-	W	-	1	-	-	-	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="527 745 998 892"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</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> </tbody> </table> <p>No real need for North to have any further ambition facing a minimum opener with a 6-card suit. It looks as if most declarers would make 10 tricks as there seems to be no reason to get hearts right, and there are 2 losers outside trumps. However, anyone leading the ♠Q from the West seat might end up extremely sorry with that choice, as it might enable a particularly ambitious declarer to make all 13 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass					
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<p>                     ♠K10954                      ♥A62                      ♦10642                      ♣A                      ♠Q73                     ♠82                      ♥10                       ♥QJ543                      ♦KQ9                    ♦J53                      ♣K109852              ♣Q64                      ♠AJ6                      ♥K987                      ♦A87                      ♣J73                 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="138 1795 251 1963"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>13</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="284 1795 511 1963"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		11	6	10	13	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	4	3	4	3	S	-	4	3	4	3	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="527 1375 998 1522"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <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>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Both 3NT and 4♠ make for North/South, with the latter the more attractive option – as when it makes it will score more, and when it goes down it doesn't score so badly. However, the natural play in spades will pick up the suit for no loser, and now 3NT is better as it is now cold, while 4♠ still needs something good to happen in the red suits.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass							
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