

Yeats Country Bridge Congress 2019

Pairs – First Session – Saturday 8th June 2019

A few comments on the boards you have just played to help you and your partner in the post-mortem. The system used doesn't really matter so I will assume Weak No-Trump, and 4-card majors. FOB.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 852 ♥ AK982 ♦ 32 ♣ 754</p> <p>♠ A7 ♠ 1063 ♥ Q10 ♥ J543 ♦ AQ1054 ♦ J96 ♣ AK106 ♣ J32</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ KQJ94 ♥ 76 ♦ K87 ♣ Q98</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>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-top: 5px; 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>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		7		19	3	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	3	3	1	-	-	W	3	3	1	-	-	<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>Dbl</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>If North leads his partner's Spade suit then West will be unable to make more than 6 tricks in his 2NT contract. The defence wins 7 tricks (4 Spades, 2 Hearts and a minor suit trick).</p> <p>Of course North might try a Heart lead and now West will end up with 10 tricks.</p> <p>West will be wary of making 'Take-out-Doubles' for fear East will start bidding Hearts. However if North responds anything other than 2♠ on the first round it might make it easier for West to start making winning penalty doubles.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♠	Dbl	2♠	Pass	Pass	2NT	All Pass		
HCP																																																													
7																																																													
19	3																																																												
11																																																													
Makeable contracts																																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	-	-	-	-	-																																																								
S	-	-	-	-	-																																																								
E	3	3	1	-	-																																																								
W	3	3	1	-	-																																																								
West	North	East	South																																																										
	Pass	Pass	1♠																																																										
Dbl	2♠	Pass	Pass																																																										
2NT	All Pass																																																												
<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A65 ♥ 96 ♦ K742 ♣ 7643</p> <p>♠ J8 ♠ 92 ♥ AKQ1087543 ♥ 2 ♦ - ♦ AJ109653 ♣ 108 ♣ AK9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ KQ10743 ♥ J ♦ Q8 ♣ QJ52</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>7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 5px; 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>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		7		10	12	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	-	1	-	S	2	-	-	1	-	E	-	3	5	-	1	W	-	3	5	-	1	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : 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>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>A really exciting hand and one where a lot of bad things can happen.</p> <p>If North doesn't lead a Spade then West will easily make 12 tricks. Surely every South will overcall 1♠ or 2♠ so the Spade lead will be marked. West has a nice hand for 'exclusion Blackwood' but how do you use 'Exclusion' in your partner's suit?</p> <p>So West is forced to either bash 6♥ or else settle for 4♥ and allow himself to be pushed to 5♥.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	1♠	4♥	4♠	Dbl	Pass	5♥	All Pass		
HCP																																																													
7																																																													
10	12																																																												
11																																																													
Makeable contracts																																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	1	-	-	1	-																																																								
S	2	-	-	1	-																																																								
E	-	3	5	-	1																																																								
W	-	3	5	-	1																																																								
West	North	East	South																																																										
		1♦	1♠																																																										
4♥	4♠	Dbl	Pass																																																										
5♥	All Pass																																																												

<p>♠ 98652 ♥ AK52 ♦ Q92 ♣ 4</p> <p>♠ 4 ♠ KQ1073 ♥ Q983 ♥ J4 ♦ 103 ♦ J865 ♣ Q109872 ♣ J5</p> <p>♠ AJ ♥ 1076 ♦ AK74 ♣ AK63</p>	<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>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</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>Some East might be tempted to 'Double' 3NT asking partner to lead a Spade but for such a double to work East's Spades would need to be a lot better than KQ1073 and he would also need some outside strength.</p> <p>There are 9 easy tricks for declarer in 3NT (2 Spades, 3 Hearts, 3 Diamonds and 2 Clubs). The eagle-eyed declarer's will find a way to make a 10th in either Spades or Diamonds (if East opens the suit first).</p>	West	North	East	South				1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
West	North	East	South																		
			1♣																		
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT																		
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT																		
All Pass																					

HCP	Makeable contracts																														
9	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</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>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	4	4	4	4	S	1	4	4	4	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	1	4	4	4	4																										
S	1	4	4	4	4																										
E	-	-	-	-	-																										
W	-	-	-	-	-																										
4 8																															
19																															

<p>♠ AQJ8 ♥ 95 ♦ K5432 ♣ Q3</p> <p>♠ 10975 ♠ K642 ♥ KJ ♥ A1076432 ♦ 109 ♦ A ♣ J10987 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ 3 ♥ Q8 ♦ QJ876 ♣ K6542</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>E/W will have done very well if they manage to bid 4♥. N/S have a good sacrifice in 5♦x-2 but like most sacrifices they will probably have to content themselves that they bid judged well even though the matchpoint result might not reflect that fact.</p> <p>6-4 shapes (and even more so 7-4 shapes) make a lot of tricks if partner can offer even honour doubleton support. East has the 7-4 shape and if N/S get together in Diamonds then that increases the likelihood that West will have some useful Heart support for East. 4♥ is a 'gutsy' bid but it is a well reasoned one</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♦	1♥	3♦	Pass	Pass	4♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South										
Pass	1♦	1♥	3♦										
Pass	Pass	4♥	All Pass										

HCP	Makeable contracts																														
12	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	-	-	-	S	-	3	-	-	-	E	1	-	4	4	3	W	1	-	4	4	3
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	-	3	-	-	-																										
S	-	3	-	-	-																										
E	1	-	4	4	3																										
W	1	-	4	4	3																										
5 15																															
8																															

<p>♠ 106 ♥ AJ97632 ♦ AQ94 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ 875 ♠ K92 ♥ KQ105 ♥ 4 ♦ K863 ♦ 10752 ♣ 53 ♣ KQ1062</p> <p>♠ AQJ43 ♥ 8 ♦ J ♣ AJ9874</p>	<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>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</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>A tough hand to bid. The first 2 rounds are pretty automatic. Opener's third round options are 3♥, 4♥, 3♦ (4th suit) and 3NT.</p> <p>Opener's fourth round options are 4♥, 4♦, 4♠ and 3NT. 4♠ and 3NT are good partnership bids – telling partner something he doesn't already know. In fact any North bidding 4♠ deserves 'Partner of the Year' award.</p> <p>Every finesse works for declarer in any contract so there are a lot of tricks to be made if declarer has the courage to go for them.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass																							
West	North	East	South																																								
	1♥	Pass	1♠																																								
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣																																								
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠																																								
Pass	4♥	All Pass																																									
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td>N</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8 8</td> <td>S</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11	N	4	3	5	5	4	8 8	S	4	3	5	5	4	13	E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-	
HCP	Makeable contracts																																										
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																					
11	N	4	3	5	5	4																																					
8 8	S	4	3	5	5	4																																					
13	E	-	-	-	-	-																																					
	W	-	-	-	-	-																																					

<p>♠ A63 ♥ 76532 ♦ 932 ♣ A6</p> <p>♠ J10952 ♠ KQ4 ♥ 104 ♥ AK98 ♦ J105 ♦ Q74 ♣ KQJ ♣ 853</p> <p>♠ 87 ♥ QJ ♦ AK86 ♣ 109742</p>	<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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>All roads lead to EW playing in 1NT or 2♠. A Club lead is normal against 1NT by East while a top Diamond lead is normal against a Spade contract by East.</p> <p>For the defence to get 5 tricks they need to establish 3 Diamond tricks to go with their 2 black aces.</p> <p>Some declarers will make 9 or 10 tricks if North does not find the Diamond switch when he gets in with the Ace of Clubs.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass																														
West	North	East	South																																								
		1NT	Pass																																								
2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass																																								
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8 14</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>	HCP	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	8	N	-	-	-	-	-	8 14	S	-	-	-	-	-	10	E	-	-	1	2	2		W	-	-	1	2	2	
HCP	Makeable contracts																																										
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																					
8	N	-	-	-	-	-																																					
8 14	S	-	-	-	-	-																																					
10	E	-	-	1	2	2																																					
	W	-	-	1	2	2																																					

<p>♠ J1076 ♥ 3 ♦ 4 ♣ AQ98542</p> <p>♠ 54 ♠ A3 ♥ 965 ♥ AJ104 ♦ K9876 ♦ AQJ52 ♣ 763 ♣ J10</p> <p>♠ KQ982 ♥ KQ872 ♦ 103 ♣ K</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: left;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Dbl</td> <td style="text-align: left;">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>What does North respond to South's 1♠ opening bid? 2♣? 3♠? 4♠? For sure North is not good enough to splinter and since he is going to play in 4♠ he may as well just respond 4♠.</p> <p>After 4♠ the pressure is on East who will find nearly impossible to pass with his good 17 count. Most East's will double 4♠ whenever 4♠ appears. West could try 5♦ and hope for a mis-defence to get out for -2 but most Wests will just pass 4♠x and hope East can beat it on his own.</p> <p>Sadly for the defence only declarer can beat 4♠ - dummy is high after drawing trumps and conceding 3 aces.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	4♠	Dbl	All Pass
West	North	East	South										
			1♠										
Pass	4♠	Dbl	All Pass										

HCP	
7 3 17 13	

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

<p>♠ 85 ♥ 1052 ♦ 642 ♣ KQJ93</p> <p>♠ J3 ♠ KQ10964 ♥ AQ9 ♥ K8764 ♦ KQ109 ♦ A7 ♣ 7642 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ A72 ♥ J3 ♦ J853 ♣ A1085</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: left;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">1NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♥</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">2♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3♥</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">3NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♥</td> <td style="text-align: left;">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Well done if you got to Slam on this board. Some East's when they see their Club void and hear their partner open the bidding will just wheel out 'Gerber' or 'Blackwood' and land in a lovely Slam. But will they bid the same next week when West's Clubs and Diamonds are inter-changed?</p> <p>This is a great Slam because East has a void in a suit where West has 4 small cards. If E/W have some way of finding out this wonderful news then they will happily bid the Slam – but until then most E/Ws will settle for their below average score making 12 tricks in 4♥ or 4♠.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South														
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass														
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass														
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass														

HCP	
6 12 12 10	

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

<p>♠ 1073 ♥ K2 ♦ 10863 ♣ Q863</p> <p>♠ AJ82 ♠ K94 ♥ 6 ♥ 1074 ♦ 954 ♦ AQ72 ♣ AJ1075 ♣ K42</p> <p>♠ Q65 ♥ AQJ9853 ♦ KJ ♣ 9</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>1NT</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>If East opens a Weak NT, South will probably content himself with a simple 2♥ overcall and now West has a problem. A 'negative' double is probably West's best bet but then there will be some East's who will leave it in hoping for the magic +200 if they can beat 2♥x.</p> <p>Unfortunately there are 8 top tricks in 2♥ for declarer (as long as declarer uses his one and only entry to dummy (♥K) to lead a Diamond towards his hand. Making 2♠, 2♠+1 or even 2♠+2 will score really well for E/W.</p> <p>Those E/Ws playing a Strong NT will have an easier job finding their Spade and Club fit.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1NT	2♥	Dbl	Pass	2♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South										
	Pass	1NT	2♥										
Dbl	Pass	2♠	All Pass										

HCP	Makeable contracts																														
5 10 12 13	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <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;">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 style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">E</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;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</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;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	2	-	-	S	-	-	2	-	-	E	4	4	-	4	-	W	4	4	-	4	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	-	-	2	-	-																										
S	-	-	2	-	-																										
E	4	4	-	4	-																										
W	4	4	-	4	-																										

<p>♠ AJ852 ♥ A ♦ KQ9 ♣ Q982</p> <p>♠ Q3 ♠ 10974 ♥ K104 ♥ J987653 ♦ J108743 ♦ - ♣ J6 ♣ 43</p> <p>♠ K6 ♥ Q2 ♦ A652 ♣ AK1075</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>'Hats Off' to any N/S pair who bid 7♣ - our commiserations if West found the killing Diamond lead. However if East made a 'Lightner' double then you have only yourselves to blame for not running to the unbeatable 7NT.</p> <p>With 32 HCP and fits in 3 suits, most tables will play in 6NT. 7NT is a bit risky but 7♣ is a really beautiful contract and only goes down because 'Lady Luck' is in a bad mood today and she put a Diamond void in East's hand.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠	Pass	6NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South																										
		Pass	1♣																										
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦																										
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠																										
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦																										
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠																										
Pass	6NT	All Pass																											

HCP	Makeable contracts																														
16 7 1 16	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <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;">N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">E</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 style="text-align: center;">W</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> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	7	4	-	6	7	S	6	4	-	6	7	E	-	-	1	-	-	W	-	-	1	-	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	7	4	-	6	7																										
S	6	4	-	6	7																										
E	-	-	1	-	-																										
W	-	-	1	-	-																										

<p>♠ KJ1062 ♥ A4 ♦ 10543 ♣ A10</p> <p>♠ Q84 ♠ 7 ♥ J86 ♥ KQ10732 ♦ KQ86 ♦ AJ7 ♣ 974 ♣ KJ6</p> <p>♠ A953 ♥ 95 ♦ 92 ♣ Q8532</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</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		8	14	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	-	3	1	S	2	-	-	3	1	E	-	1	3	-	-	W	-	1	3	-	-	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Getting any kind of a plus score here will score very well. North can make 9 tricks in 3♠ if he guesses that West has the ♠Q. In practice North will get the trumps wrong and end up with 8 tricks.</p> <p>Bidding to 4♥ seems the right thing for E/W to do – if they make it then great and if they go off one then they only lose 100 and still beat the pairs making 2♠ and 3♠.</p> <p>In fact it takes an initial Club lead to beat 4♥ because the defence need to score a second Club trick to go with their 3 aces. On any other lead declarer is a step ahead of the defence and can draw trumps and discard a losing Club on the fourth round of Diamonds.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥	3♠	4♥	Dbl	All Pass	
HCP																																																																	
12																																																																	
8	14																																																																
6																																																																	
Makeable contracts																																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																												
N	2	-	-	3	1																																																												
S	2	-	-	3	1																																																												
E	-	1	3	-	-																																																												
W	-	1	3	-	-																																																												
West	North	East	South																																																														
			Pass																																																														
Pass	1♠	2♥	2♠																																																														
Pass	Pass	3♥	3♠																																																														
4♥	Dbl	All Pass																																																															

<p>♠ 72 ♥ AQ8 ♦ KQ973 ♣ K94</p> <p>♠ QJ5 ♠ 109643 ♥ K42 ♥ J1053 ♦ 85 ♦ 642 ♣ QJ865 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ AK8 ♥ 976 ♦ AJ10 ♣ 10732</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>2</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		14		9	5	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	4	2	1	4	S	3	4	2	1	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>With 26HCP and no major suit fit, every table will be in 3NT but not everyone will make 10 tricks.</p> <p>Declarer has an easy 9 tricks (2 Spades, 2 Hearts – via the Heart Finesse and 5 Diamonds). The ♣K will be his 10th if he can divine that East has the bare ♣A....so it looks like 9 tricks will be the norm.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
HCP																																																									
14																																																									
9	5																																																								
12																																																									
Makeable contracts																																																									
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																				
N	3	4	2	1	4																																																				
S	3	4	2	1	4																																																				
E	-	-	-	-	-																																																				
W	-	-	-	-	-																																																				
West	North	East	South																																																						
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT																																																						
All Pass																																																									

<p>♠ Q96 ♥ 74 ♦ K863 ♣ A1096</p> <p>♠ K ♠ AJ854 ♥ A92 ♥ QJ83 ♦ Q97 ♦ J54 ♣ KQJ743 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ 10732 ♥ K1065 ♦ A102 ♣ 82</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;">15</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</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>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		9		15	9	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	1	2	2	2	W	2	1	2	1	2	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</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>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>3NT is a reasonable contract – and most tables will land there - even 4♥ is a nice place to be – but today the expected 4-2 breaks in Clubs and Hearts mean that both contracts make only 8 tricks (34 Clubs, 2 Hearts and 2 Spades).</p> <p>However it will be cat and mouse between declarer and the defenders right up until the last trick and there will be many tables will declarer will win trick 13 to make his contract.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
HCP																																																																	
9																																																																	
15	9																																																																
7																																																																	
Makeable contracts																																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																												
N	-	-	-	-	-																																																												
S	-	-	-	-	-																																																												
E	2	1	2	2	2																																																												
W	2	1	2	1	2																																																												
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																																																														
	Pass	Pass	Pass																																																														
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass																																																														
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass																																																														
3NT	All Pass																																																																

<p>♠ AK94 ♥ AK764 ♦ J6 ♣ Q10</p> <p>♠ 10732 ♠ 5 ♥ 982 ♥ QJ53 ♦ K82 ♦ A1075 ♣ AK6 ♣ 9542</p> <p>♠ QJ86 ♥ 10 ♦ Q943 ♣ J873</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;">17</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</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>1</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</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		17		10	7	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	3	1	S	-	-	1	3	1	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>4♠ is a reasonable contract for N/S and it's hard to imagine even any conservative N/S pair who won't get there eventually – even if North only rebids 3♠ there will be very few Souths who will not accept the invitation?</p> <p>Sadly the only hope for declarer is that after cashing the ♣AK that West fails to find the killing Diamond switch – allowing declarer to discard a losing Diamond (or 2) on the ♣J.</p> <p>But even on this defence it takes very good play to crossruff your way to 10 tricks.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
HCP																																																													
17																																																													
10	7																																																												
6																																																													
Makeable contracts																																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	-	-	1	3	1																																																								
S	-	-	1	3	1																																																								
E	-	-	-	-	-																																																								
W	-	-	-	-	-																																																								
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																																																										
		Pass	Pass																																																										
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠																																																										
Pass	4♠	All Pass																																																											

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 842 ♥ A865 ♦ Q94 ♣ Q93</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AQ9 ♠ J1073 ♥ 974 ♥ Q2 ♦ 107 ♦ AJ53 ♣ AJ1064 ♣ K72</p> <p style="margin: 0;"> ♠ K65 ♥ KJ103 ♦ K862 ♣ 85</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;">11 11</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</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>4</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8	11 11	10	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	2	1	4	3	W	4	2	1	4	3	<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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Throw in? Open 1♠? After 3 passes, does East 'Throw it in' or open the bidding?</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">The 'Rule 15' is a good guide for East here....if points plus his number of Spades is 15 or more he opens....so he open 1♦ or 1♠ if he wants. Having opened in 3rd or 4th seat there is no obligation on East to find a rebid.....but if he does rebid he will be well rewarded today as today he can make game on 22 HCP.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣	All Pass		
HCP																																																										
8																																																										
11 11																																																										
10																																																										
Makeable contracts																																																										
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																					
N	-	-	-	-	-																																																					
S	-	-	-	-	-																																																					
E	4	2	1	4	3																																																					
W	4	2	1	4	3																																																					
West	North	East	South																																																							
			Pass																																																							
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass																																																							
2♣	All Pass																																																									

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ A93 ♥ Q10652 ♦ Q92 ♣ K4</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q8752 ♠ 1064 ♥ 98 ♥ 3 ♦ 53 ♦ KJ1086 ♣ J1093 ♣ Q865</p> <p style="margin: 0;"> ♠ KJ ♥ AKJ74 ♦ A74 ♣ A72</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;">11</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3 6</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">20</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>3</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		11	3 6	20	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	3	6	1	5	S	1	2	5	1	5	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : 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>Pass</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>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">6♥ is a great contract – if played by North. It would be very cruel indeed if South also bids to 6♥ only to get the killing Diamond lead!</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">North opening 1♥ seems to be the only way to right-side the contract?</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass	5NT	Pass	6♥	All Pass			
HCP																																																																		
11																																																																		
3 6																																																																		
20																																																																		
Makeable contracts																																																																		
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																													
N	1	3	6	1	5																																																													
S	1	2	5	1	5																																																													
E	-	-	-	-	-																																																													
W	-	-	-	-	-																																																													
West	North	East	South																																																															
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT																																																															
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣																																																															
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣																																																															
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♥																																																															
All Pass																																																																		

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ A ♥ J75 ♦ K1063 ♣ AKJ82</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 10742 ♠ QJ83 ♥ Q ♥ K94 ♦ AQJ72 ♦ 85 ♣ Q65 ♣ 10973</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ K965 ♥ A108632 ♦ 94 ♣ 4</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;">16</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</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>3</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>5</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		16		11	6	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	2	5	1	4	S	3	2	5	1	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<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>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Rdbl</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">North's 'Redouble' above is a 'Support Redouble' showing 3-card Heart support for South.</p> <p>4♥ is a good contract to get to and there are 11 tricks available – losing one Heart trick and one Diamond trick.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♣	Pass	1♥	Dbl	Rdbl	2♠	4♥	All Pass			
HCP																																																													
16																																																													
11	6																																																												
7																																																													
Makeable contracts																																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	3	2	5	1	4																																																								
S	3	2	5	1	4																																																								
E	-	-	-	-	-																																																								
W	-	-	-	-	-																																																								
West	North	East	South																																																										
	1♣	Pass	1♥																																																										
Dbl	Rdbl	2♠	4♥																																																										
All Pass																																																													

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ KJ8 ♥ AQ1032 ♦ AK7 ♣ K10</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q7654 ♠ 109 ♥ 64 ♥ K95 ♦ 10983 ♦ J65 ♣ J5 ♣ A9876</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ A32 ♥ J87 ♦ Q42 ♣ Q432</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;">20</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</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>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		20		3	8	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	4	5	3	5	S	2	4	5	3	5	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<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>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Do you open 1♥ or 2NT or something else. Nowadays everyone opens 2NT even with a 5-card major. Holding 29 HCP North-South should be in 3NT even if they do discover their 8-card Heart fit.</p> <p>Declarer has an easy 11 tricks whether he plays in 3NT or 4♥ - losing just 2 tricks to the ♥K and the ♣A.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
HCP																																																													
20																																																													
3	8																																																												
9																																																													
Makeable contracts																																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	3	4	5	3	5																																																								
S	2	4	5	3	5																																																								
E	-	-	-	-	-																																																								
W	-	-	-	-	-																																																								
West	North	East	South																																																										
		Pass	Pass																																																										
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT																																																										
All Pass																																																													

<p>♠ 3 ♥ J107 ♦ A8765 ♣ J543</p> <p>♠ 1065 ♠ AQ9872 ♥ AK ♥ 85 ♦ 9432 ♦ K ♣ A1062 ♣ K987</p> <p>♠ KJ4 ♥ Q96432 ♦ QJ10 ♣ Q</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;">11 12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</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>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>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		6	11 12	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	2	-	-	S	-	-	2	-	-	E	3	1	-	4	2	W	3	1	-	4	2	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" 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> <tr> <td>Pass</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>4♠</td> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Not everyone will reach 4♠ but then not everyone will make 10 tricks either.</p> <p>4♠ is a nice contract and West hold Ace-King and an Ace and 3 card Spade support should make some move toward game.</p> <p>To make 10 tricks, declarer has to read the Q as being a singleton and then finesse against North for the ♣J. To be fair – you should be kicking yourself if you don't read the ♣Q as a singleton.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♥	Pass	2♥	2♠	3♥	4♠	All Pass		
HCP																																																										
6																																																										
11 12																																																										
11																																																										
Makeable contracts																																																										
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																					
N	-	-	2	-	-																																																					
S	-	-	2	-	-																																																					
E	3	1	-	4	2																																																					
W	3	1	-	4	2																																																					
West	North	East	South																																																							
			1♥																																																							
Pass	2♥	2♠	3♥																																																							
4♠	All Pass																																																									

<p>♠ A97 ♥ J942 ♦ 652 ♣ 1082</p> <p>♠ 32 ♠ 1084 ♥ 53 ♥ AKQ8 ♦ AQJ7 ♦ 93 ♣ AKJ96 ♣ Q754</p> <p>♠ KQJ65 ♥ 1076 ♦ K1084 ♣ 3</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></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15 11</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</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>5</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		5	15 11	9	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	5	3	4	2	2	W	5	3	4	1	2	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" 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 style="text-align: center;">1♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>If you end up in 3NT you better hope you can avoid a Spade lead or that if you do get a Spade lead that the defence get themselves blocked.</p> <p>However our opponents at this level won't give us presents like that and since neither of us has a Spade stopper we reluctantly decide not to play in 3NT and instead bid 5♣. There are 11 easy tricks with the aid of the Diamond finesse.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♣	Pass	1♥	1♠	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass
HCP																																																										
5																																																										
15 11																																																										
9																																																										
Makeable contracts																																																										
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																					
N	-	-	-	-	-																																																					
S	-	-	-	-	-																																																					
E	5	3	4	2	2																																																					
W	5	3	4	1	2																																																					
West	North	East	South																																																							
1♣	Pass	1♥	1♠																																																							
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass																																																							
3♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass																																																							

<p>♠ Q6 ♥ K83 ♦ J982 ♣ Q1084</p> <p>♠ A7542 ♠ J8 ♥ 6542 ♥ AQ107 ♦ Q43 ♦ K107 ♣ 6 ♣ AK95</p> <p>♠ K1093 ♥ J9 ♦ A65 ♣ J732</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: left;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♣</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1NT</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Playing a Weak NT, East will open 1♣ and rebid 1NT. Now West has to decide whether or not to try for game opposite 15-17. Trying for game with only 6 HCP looks a bit too pushy so E/W will probably sign off in 2♥.</p> <p>Playing a Strong NT, East will open 1NT and again West is faced with the same decision about trying for game or signing off in a partscore. Should he use Stayman or use Transfers. If he transfers he will find himself in 4♥.</p> <p>To make 1 tricks you will have to hope North has the ♦J – today he does.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
	Pass	1♣	Pass														
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass														
2♥	All Pass																

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
8		-	-	-	-	-
6	17	-	-	-	-	-
9		1	2	4	3	2
		1	2	4	3	2

<p>♠ K865 ♥ 109 ♦ J105 ♣ 10863</p> <p>♠ AQ1074 ♠ J2 ♥ A863 ♥ KQ4 ♦ KQ62 ♦ A943 ♣ - ♣ KJ95</p> <p>♠ 93 ♥ J752 ♦ 87 ♣ AQ742</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: left;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1NT</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♠</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3NT</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6♦</td> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>The 6♦ bid isn't as crazy as it looks. West has shown 5 Spades and 4 Hearts and East's 3NT must therefore show 2 Spades and 3 Hearts – so there is a 90% chance that East has 4 Diamonds.</p> <p>Most will try their luck in 3NT and make 10 tricks on a Club lead. East can make 12 tricks in 4♠.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass	6♦	All Pass		
West	North	East	South																		
		1NT	Pass																		
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass																		
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass																		
6♦	All Pass																				

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
4		-	-	-	-	-
15	14	-	-	-	-	-
7		1	6	5	6	4
		1	6	5	5	4

<p>♠ K76 ♥ A93 ♦ AQ103 ♣ K76</p> <p>♠ 832 ♠ J ♥ KQ87 ♥ J642 ♦ K7 ♦ 8652 ♣ AQ98 ♣ J1054</p> <p>♠ AQ10954 ♥ 105 ♦ J94 ♣ 32</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>6</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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		16		14	3	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	5	-	6	5	S	-	5	-	6	5	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	1	-	-	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbf</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Getting to 4♠ will be a good result and making 12 tricks will bring in most of the matchpoints. If you bid this game you will be happy and if you don't you won't but it's hard to know who to blame.</p> <p>Most Souths will open a weak 2♠ and North will either raise to 4♠ or make an Ogust enquiry 2NT. If South treats his hand as minimum then North might not bid 4♠.</p> <p>It's probably fair to say that North with his 2 Aces and 2 Kings is worth a raise to 4♠. The ♦Q and ♦10 are also worth more than their face value.</p> <p>Equally South's hand is not really minimum either.</p>	West	North	East	South				2♠	Dbf	2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
HCP																																																													
16																																																													
14	3																																																												
7																																																													
Makeable contracts																																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	-	5	-	6	5																																																								
S	-	5	-	6	5																																																								
E	1	-	-	-	-																																																								
W	1	-	1	-	-																																																								
West	North	East	South																																																										
			2♠																																																										
Dbf	2NT	Pass	3♦																																																										
Pass	4♠	All Pass																																																											

<p>♠ A8753 ♥ 10954 ♦ 105 ♣ K5</p> <p>♠ Q6 ♠ KJ92 ♥ KQ83 ♥ AJ ♦ Q63 ♦ AK94 ♣ Q762 ♣ J83</p> <p>♠ 104 ♥ 762 ♦ J872 ♣ A1094</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</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>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		7		11	17	5		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	3	2	3	3	4	W	3	2	3	3	4	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>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>Will every table be in 3NT+1?</p> <p>Whether you play weak or strong no-trump you cannot end anywhere other than 3NT.</p> <p>Declarer has 10 tricks, 3 Spades (once the ♠10 drops), 4 Hearts, and 3 Diamond tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
HCP																																																													
7																																																													
11	17																																																												
5																																																													
Makeable contracts																																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	-	-	-	-	-																																																								
S	-	-	-	-	-																																																								
E	3	2	3	3	4																																																								
W	3	2	3	3	4																																																								
West	North	East	South																																																										
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass																																																										
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass																																																										
3NT	All Pass																																																												

<p>♠ A ♥ K63 ♦ KQ1053 ♣ AK108</p> <p>♠ Q98642 ♠ K53 ♥ J10954 ♥ 872 ♦ 4 ♦ A98 ♣ 5 ♣ 7432</p> <p>♠ J107 ♥ AQ ♦ J762 ♣ QJ96</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		19		3	7	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	6	-	-	2	S	5	6	-	-	2	E	-	-	1	1	-	W	-	-	1	1	-	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Most N/Ss will find their way to 3NT. If West leads his 4th highest of his longest and strongest (♠6) then declarer will go two down but only if East wins the first round of Diamonds, cashes his ♠K and continues with his third Spade. If East ducks even one round of Diamonds then declarer will have 9 top tricks and she will immediately cash out and go home.</p> <p>If North is declarer in 3NT or even 6NT then West is unlikely to find the Spade lead and 12 tricks will roll in.</p> <p>Minor suit slams are always very hard to bid and our sympathies go to the 6♣ bidders who have always been told that 4-4 fits play better than 5-4 fits – they really do not deserve to down on a cruel Diamond lead.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	6♦	All Pass	
HCP																																																																	
19																																																																	
3	7																																																																
11																																																																	
Makeable contracts																																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																												
N	5	6	-	-	2																																																												
S	5	6	-	-	2																																																												
E	-	-	1	1	-																																																												
W	-	-	1	1	-																																																												
West	North	East	South																																																														
	1♦	Pass	2NT																																																														
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦																																																														
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT																																																														
Pass	6♦	All Pass																																																															

<p>♠ 42 ♥ K1062 ♦ A7 ♣ 109753</p> <p>♠ J98 ♠ AQ10753 ♥ AQJ3 ♥ 84 ♦ 64 ♦ QJ105 ♣ J864 ♣ K</p> <p>♠ K6 ♥ 975 ♦ K9832 ♣ AQ2</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		7		9	12	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	2	2	-	-	S	3	1	2	-	-	E	-	-	-	2	-	W	-	-	-	2	-	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3♠ is a 'Barrage' bid – not an invitation – designed to make it more difficult for N/S to enter the auction. If East passed 2♠ then South would make a 'Take-Out-Double' and North would get to a making 3♣ contract. If East then bid 3♠ there would be a good chance he would be doubled and lose the dreaded -200. By bidding 3♠ immediately, East increases his chances of him not being doubled.</p> <p>On another day, the ♠K and ♥K would swap places and now 4♠ would be unbeatable.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass
HCP																																																									
7																																																									
9	12																																																								
12																																																									
Makeable contracts																																																									
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																				
N	3	2	2	-	-																																																				
S	3	1	2	-	-																																																				
E	-	-	-	2	-																																																				
W	-	-	-	2	-																																																				
West	North	East	South																																																						
		1♠	Pass																																																						
2♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass																																																						

♠ AK
 ♥ AK873
 ♦ J10
 ♣ AJ104
 ♠ QJ2 ♠ 765
 ♥ J2 ♥ Q64
 ♦ Q643 ♦ AK92
 ♣ KQ82 ♣ 763
 ♠ 109843
 ♥ 1095
 ♦ 875
 ♣ 95

HCP	
20	
11	9
0	

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

Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

What should North open? 1♥ seems too timid. The hand has 7 controls and requires so very very little from South to make 4♥ a good contract e.g. a 4th Heart in the South hand and 4♥ is practically on ice.

Most will try 2NT and go 2 down if South passes or 2 down in 3♠ if South transfers into Spades.

Today those who open 1♥ or a good old fashioned 2♥ will score best – but the 2♣ opener's might get out in 3♥ when South gives a 'second negative'. To beat 3♥ East has to find a trump switch from Q64 – not an easy task.