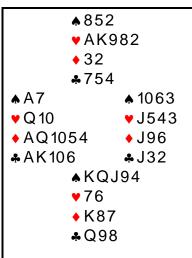
Acol-Phoenix Summer Dinner 19th June 2019

(Final Club Game of the year next Monday 24th June and Wednesday 26th June)



HCP

7

11

19

_	. 4J32					
Q	J9	4				
3						
8	7					
9	8					
lakeable contracts						
	*	•	•	^	Z	
7	-	-	-	-	-	

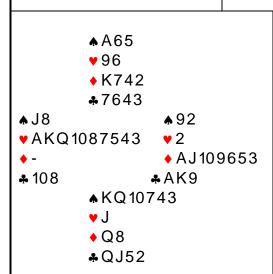
Board 1: Dealer North: Love all

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

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).

Of course North might try a Heart lead and now West will end up with 10 tricks.

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.



3

HCP			
7 10 12 11			

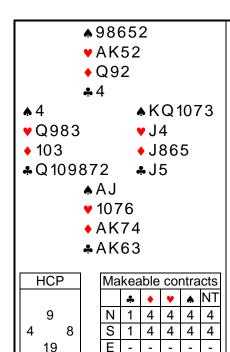
Makeable contracts					
	*	•	•	^	Z
Ν	1	•	•	1	•
S	2	•	•	1	
Е		3	5	-	1
W	-	3	5	-	1

Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
		1 ♦	1 ♠		
4 🕶	4 🛦	Dbl	Pass		
5♥	All Pass				

A really exciting hand and one where a lot of bad things can happen.

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?

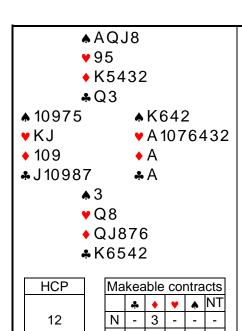
So West is forced to either bash 6♥ or else settle for 4♥ and allow himself to be pushed to **5**♥.



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

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.

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).



S - 3 -

E | 1 | - | 4 | 4 | 3

5

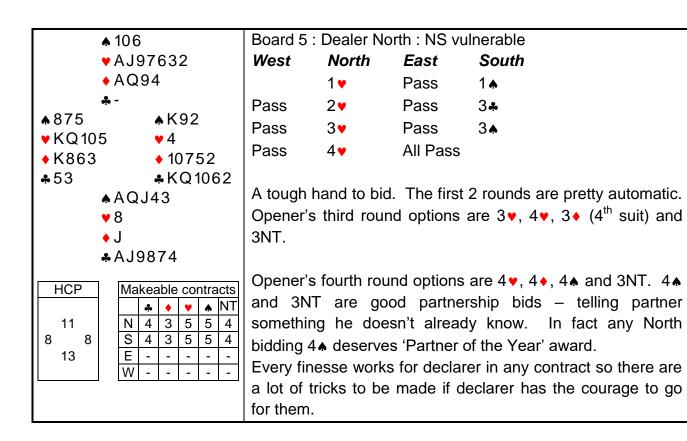
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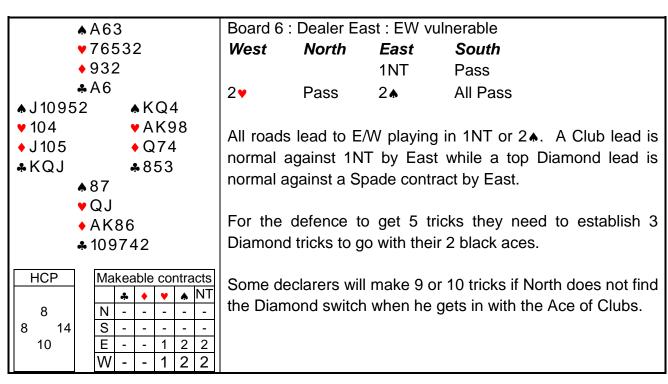
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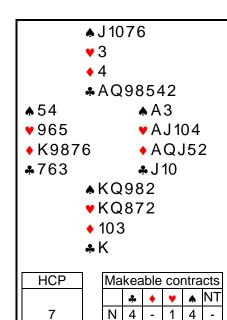
Board 4 : Dealer West : All Vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
Pass	1♦	1♥	3♦		
Pass	Pass	4♥	All Pass		

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.

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







S 4

Ε

3

17

13

4

1

2

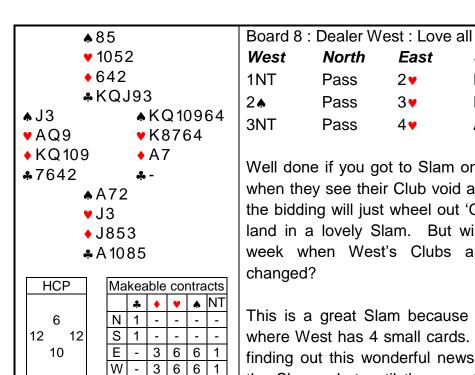
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Board 7: Dealer South: All vulnerable West North East South 1 🛦 Dbl All Pass Pass **4**

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**♠.

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.

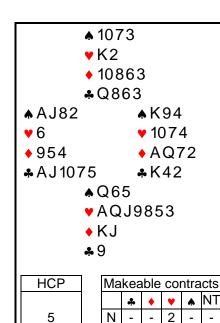
Sadly for the defence only declarer can beat 4♠ - dummy is high after drawing trumps and conceding 3 aces.



West North East South 1NT 2 🕶 Pass Pass 2♠ Pass 3♥ Pass 3NT Pass **4** • **All Pass**

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 interchanged?

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♠.



S

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4

4

E | 4

W 4

2

-

4

4

10

13

16

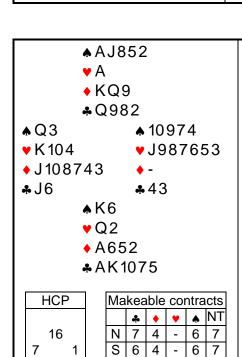
12

Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
	Pass	1NT	2♥		
Dbl	Pass	2♠	All Pass		

If East open s 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.

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.

Those E/Ws playing a Strong NT will have an easier job finding their Spade and Club fit.

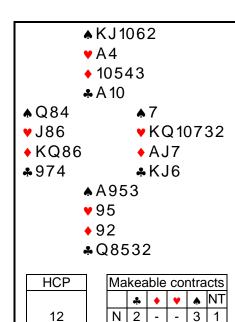


Ε

Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable				
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		

'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.

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.



S 2 -

E | - | 1 | 3

W - 1 3

3 1

8

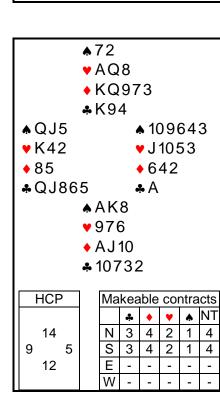
14 6

Board 11: Dealer South: Love all West North East South Pass Pass 1 🛦 2 🕶 2 Pass Pass 3♥ 3♠ **4** • Dbl All Pass

Getting any kind of a plus score here will score very well. North can make 9 tricks in 3 h if he guesses that West has the AQ. In practice North will get the trumps wrong and end up with 8 tricks.

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♠.

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.



Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

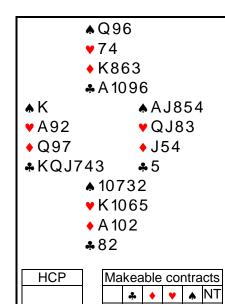
West North East South

Pass 1NT Pass 3NT

All Pass

With 26HCP and no major suit fit, every table will be in 3NT but not everyone will make 10 tricks.

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.



Ν

S

E 2

W 2

1 2 2

1 2

1

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2

9

7

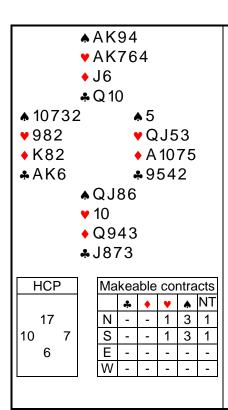
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15

	Board 13: Dealer North: All vulnerable					
	West	North	East	South		
		Pass	Pass	Pass		
	1.	Pass	1♠	Pass		
	3 ♣	Pass	3♥	Pass		
	3NT	All Pass	3			
ı						

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).

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.

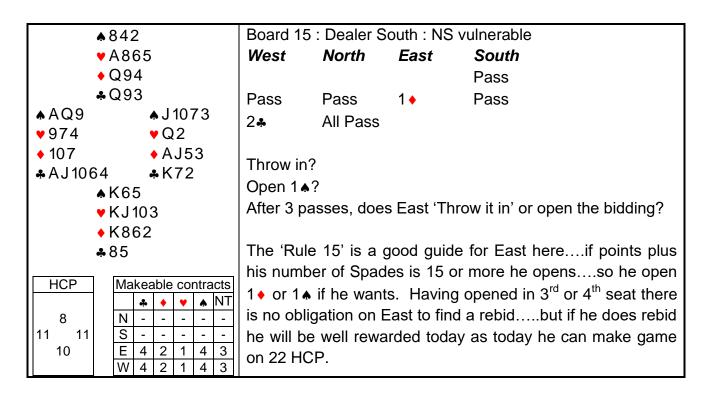


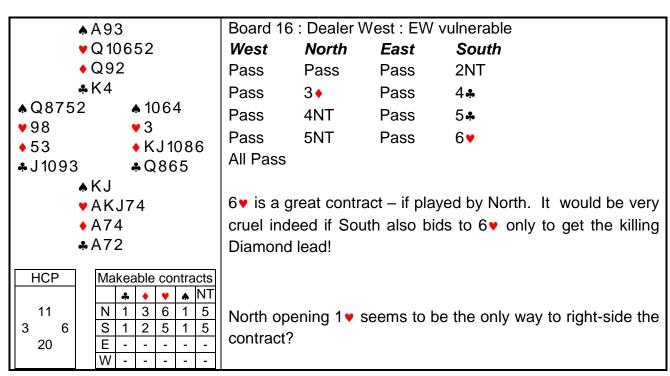
Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all				
West	North	East	South	
		Pass	Pass	
Pass	1♥	Pass	1 ♠	
Pass	4 ♠	All Pass		

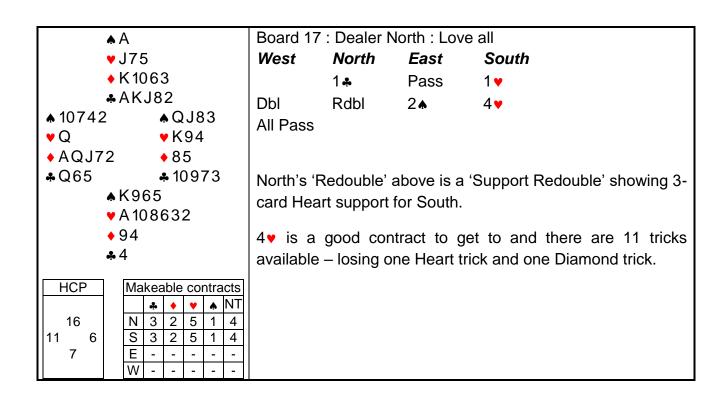
4♠ is a reasonable contract for N/S and it's hard to imagine even any conservative N/S pair who won't get there eventually – even if North only rebids 3♠ there will be very few Souths who will not accept the invitation?

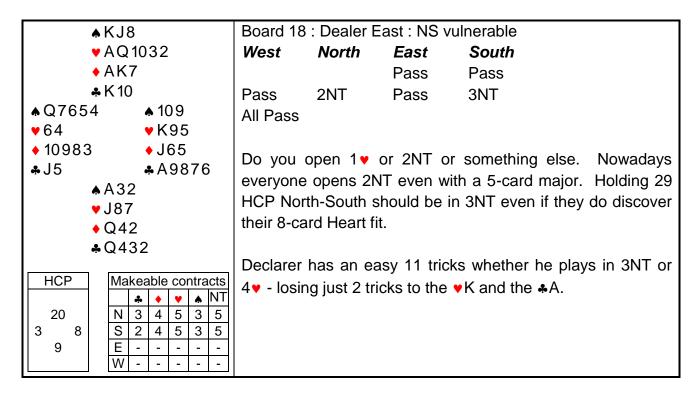
Sadly the only hope for declarer is that after cashing the *AK that West fails to find the killing Diamond switch – allowing declarer to discard a losing Diamond (or 2) on the *J.

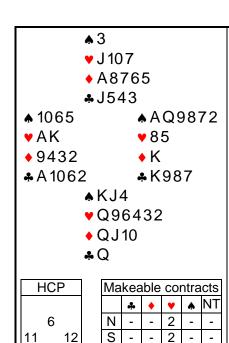
But even on this defence it takes very good play to crossruff your way to 10 tricks.











Е

3 1

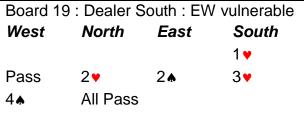
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11

2

4

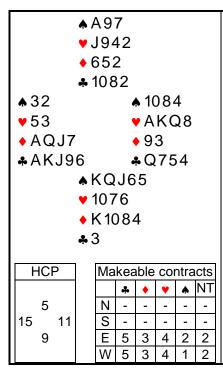
4 2



Not everyone will reach 4 but then not everyone will make 10 tricks either.

4♠ is a nice contract and West hold Ace-King and an Ace and 3 card Spade support should make some move toward game.

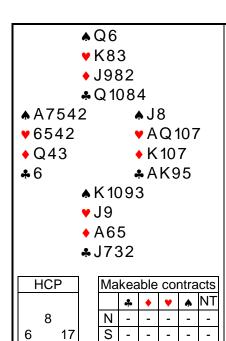
To make10 tricks, declarer has to read the Q as being a singleton and then finesse against North for the *J. To be fair – you should be kicking yourself if you don't read the *Q as a singleton.



Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable				
West	North	East	South	
1♣	Pass	1♥	1 ♠	
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	
3 ♣	Pass	5 .	All Pass	

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.

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.



E 1 2 4

W 1 2 4 3 2

9

3 2

Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable			
West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

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♥.

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.

To make 1 tricks you will have to hope North has the ullet J – today he does.