

# *Junior Squad*

## *Sim Pairs*

*Monday/Tuesday*

*3-4.02.2020*

*Thanks to our commentators:*

### **Andrew Robson**

Andrew must be the best-known contributor here, as a leading player, teacher, and writer. But it all started for him as a junior, when he featured on the Great Britain team which won the World Junior Championship in 1989.

### **Jason Hackett**

Jason won the 1994 European Junior Championship and the 1995 World Junior Championship on the Great Britain team. He's gone on to win all the major English events and to represent England many times at Open International level. He was a member of the winning Mossop team in the 2019 transnational European Open Teams.

### **Ben Norton**

Ben is a member of the current England Under-26 team, and has recently earned selection to the Open team in partnership with Mike Bell, making him the first player ever to achieve this double for England.

### **Michael Byrne**

Michael represented England many times in the Under-21 and Under-26 teams, and is now a leading player in the English Open game. He is in his fourteenth year as Squad Leader for the England U-21 team.

### **Giorgio Provenza**

Giorgio is a bridge teacher who especially enjoys the successes of his junior pupils. He has been squad leader for the Under-16 team since 2017. Please contact him with news of any children interested in taking their game to the next level.

### **Tom Paske**

Tom graduated from the Under-25 team in 2015. His partnership with Ed Jones has since gone from strength to strength, notably winning the 2019 transnational European Open Teams.

### **Shahzaad Natt**

Shahzaad signed off from junior bridge playing in partnership with Ben Norton in the England Under-26 team which finished a creditable eighth in the 2019 European Championships. We wish him every success in the Open game.

### **Mike Bell**

Mike played for the England junior team ten or so years ago, and was Giorgio's predecessor running the Under-16 squad. He's had successful partnerships with Michael Byrne and David Gold, and now plays in the Open game with Ben Norton.

Thank you for taking part in this Junior Squad Simultaneous Pairs. I hope you have enjoyed the event and will take pride in having supported our Junior International Teams and the Squad system which supports them.

2020 will see our Junior Teams (U16, U21, U26 Women, U26) play in the World Championships in Italy. The EBU provides funding for these teams and this event will help pay for it. Other important areas, such as development and teaching, also require support and that means that the international budgets are never as large as we would wish. We run the Junior teams as economically as possible: players, captains and coaches are unpaid and travel and accommodation are as cheap as we can make them, but money remains very tight.

I very much hope you will enjoy reading the expert commentary, which has been supplied by past and present Junior International players, captains, and coaches. You will see the names of many very well known players, teachers, and writers among them - photographs and biographies are on the EBU website.

I hope also that you will continue to support this event and encourage your club to continue to participate in the future.

Paul Barden  
Editor

<p>♠ Q1093 ♥ 9854 ♦ 9876 ♣ 8</p> <p>♠ 875                      ♠ 642 ♥ KQJ                      ♥ 72 ♦ A43                      ♦ QJ105 ♣ J1063                    ♣ AK42</p> <p>♠ AKJ ♥ A1063 ♦ K2 ♣ Q975</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;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">17</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>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>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		2	10	11	17	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	2	-	-	S	-	-	2	-	-	E	2	1	-	-	1	W	1	1	-	-	1	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all <span style="float: right;"><b>Andrew Robson</b></span></p> <table 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>If in doubt, it pays to respond to partner's one-level opener. If partner has a good hand – and in the era of weak twos, it could be really good, you may have a game. If partner is minimum, you may steal the contract from the opponents. After North's 2♥, South's 2NT shows about 17-18 (pass 2♥ with 15-16). North hurriedly signs off in 3♥, wishing she'd passed 1♥.</p> <p>West leads ♥K against 3♥, declarer ducking then winning ♥Q with ♥A. With ♦A sitting over ♦K there is no winning line. You'd probably cash four rounds of spades discarding a club (West correctly refraining from ruffing), then lead ♣8. East wins ♣K and switches to ♦Q, covered by ♦K and ♦A. West cashes ♥J and exits with a club, leaving you two down. To escape with one down, you had to run a diamond from dummy after cashing the spades, which looks unnatural to me. E-W +100.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	All pass	
HCP																																																											
2	10																																																										
11	17																																																										
Makeable contracts																																																											
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																						
N	-	-	2	-	-																																																						
S	-	-	2	-	-																																																						
E	2	1	-	-	1																																																						
W	1	1	-	-	1																																																						
West	North	East	South																																																								
	Pass	Pass	1♥																																																								
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT																																																								
Pass	3♥	All pass																																																									
<p>♠ J105 ♥ 97 ♦ 10853 ♣ 8763</p> <p>♠ Q82                      ♠ A93 ♥ KQ64                    ♥ J1083 ♦ A7                      ♦ KJ ♣ AQ54                    ♣ K1092</p> <p>♠ K764 ♥ A52 ♦ Q9642 ♣ J</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;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">17</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		1	12	17	10	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	-	-	-	S	-	1	-	-	-	E	4	-	5	2	4	W	4	-	5	2	4	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Andrew Robson</b></span></p> <table 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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>West uses Stayman, such an important convention at pairs, where the 4-4 fit usually plays a trick better than no trumps.</p> <p>In 3NT, you do not have the time (on a diamond lead) to set up your second spade trick (by leading towards ♠Q), and make only ten tricks. But in 4♥ the trumps give you control of the hand. South leads ♣J, you win and play trumps. South may win the second heart and return a third. You win, cash clubs and diamonds finishing in hand, and lead a spade towards ♠Q. If South ducks smoothly, you might decide to insert ♠8, playing to endplay North, should she hold, say, ♠K10xx. The plan is to let North win cheaply but then have to lead from her ♠K (or give a ruff-and-discard). This unlucky-expert play would hold you to ten tricks, South holding ♠K. Declarers with less imagination or better card reading make eleven, E-W +450.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All pass		
HCP																																																											
1	12																																																										
17	10																																																										
Makeable contracts																																																											
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																						
N	-	1	-	-	-																																																						
S	-	1	-	-	-																																																						
E	4	-	5	2	4																																																						
W	4	-	5	2	4																																																						
West	North	East	South																																																								
		1NT	Pass																																																								
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass																																																								
4♥	All pass																																																										

<p>♠ K ♥ AKQ9763 ♦ J654 ♣ 10</p> <p>♠ AQJ982      ♠ 10643 ♥ 108            ♥ J52 ♦ Q                ♦ 10973 ♣ K865           ♣ 94</p> <p>♠ 75 ♥ 4 ♦ AK82 ♣ AQJ732</p>	<p><b>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Andrew Robson</b></span></p> <table 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>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The adverse vulnerability puts East-West off from bidding higher – wisely so as 4♠ doubled would go two down for -500.</p> <p>Against 4♥, East leads to West’s ♠A, felling declarer’s bare ♠K. West may switch to ♦Q in the hope of scoring a ruff (should East be able to win the first heart). Declarer wins, draws trumps and, after cashing ♦J to confirm the suit is 4-1, must guess ♣K for her twelfth trick. The indications are that West holds ♣K. It appears he holds more clubs (with only three red cards to East’s seven); also East never bid, despite seemingly holding spade support, so probably has a very poor hand. You cross to ♣A and run ♣Q, the ruffing finesse securing a second club trick and a diamond discard. N-S +480.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♣	1♠	2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass	4♥	All pass																																	
West	North	East	South																																														
			1♣																																														
1♠	2♥	Pass	3♣																																														
Pass	4♥	All pass																																															
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>1</td> <td>S</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	13		N	4	5	6	-	1	12	1	S	4	5	6	-	1	14		E	-	-	-	2	-			W	-	-	-	2	-	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
13		N	4	5	6	-	1																																										
12	1	S	4	5	6	-	1																																										
14		E	-	-	-	2	-																																										
		W	-	-	-	2	-																																										

<p>♠ KQJ97 ♥ Q8 ♦ K72 ♣ QJ9</p> <p>♠ 85                ♠ A63 ♥ AJ107652      ♥ 4 ♦ Q8                ♦ AJ105 ♣ 73                ♣ A8642</p> <p>♠ 1042 ♥ K93 ♦ 9643 ♣ K105</p>	<p><b>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Jason Hackett</b></span></p> <table 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>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Hands with three suits of equal length do not play as well as hands with more shape. So even though the heart suit is strong enough to open 3♥, I’d consider it too dangerous at game all with the 7222 distribution, especially at pairs, and would prefer a 2♥ (or Multi 2♦) opening. Of course North will overcall 2♠ if possible, whereas 3♠ is an uncomfortable stretch, but not wrong, over 3♥. Those who keep their powder dry over 3♥ will be rewarded as spade contracts can be slaughtered by accurate defence. Heart lead and a heart ruff (playing back the ♥7 to indicate a mild preference rather than the ♥J or ♥10 which should show ♦K or singleton), then ♣A, club, win the trump ace and give a club ruff, then either ♦Q or a heart to kill the discard, restricts North to five tricks. Of course the hand plays well in hearts. If West wins the first spade, or ducks and gets a club shift, a heart needs to be played to the ace in order to take a diamond finesse and ditch a black suit loser.</p>	West	North	East	South	2♥	2♠	All pass																																									
West	North	East	South																																														
2♥	2♠	All pass																																															
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>13</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	14		N	-	-	-	-	-	7	13	S	-	-	-	-	-			E	2	2	4	2	-	6		W	2	2	4	2	-	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
14		N	-	-	-	-	-																																										
7	13	S	-	-	-	-	-																																										
		E	2	2	4	2	-																																										
6		W	2	2	4	2	-																																										

<p>♠ KJ976 ♥ 7 ♦ Q1032 ♣ AJ6</p> <p>♠ 2                ♠ AQ3 ♥ KQJ9654      ♥ 102 ♦ AK87            ♦ 9654 ♣ 10                ♣ K872</p> <p>♠ 10854 ♥ A83 ♦ J ♣ Q9543</p>	<p><b>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Jason Hackett</b></span></p> <table 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>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North will open 1♠, and South will make some sort of three-level spade raise (or 2♠ for those playing acol). West now has an easy 4♥ bid but It’s not so easy at these colours for north to save in 4♠.</p> <p>Those left to declare 4♥ will have a big decision at trick one when North leads a spade. Given the bad diamond break, the spade finesse is necessary as there will be no entry to ♣K after ♣A has been driven out. And in view of North’s opening bid, it’s right to take the finesse: if by some chance it fails, ♥10 is almost certain to be an entry to dummy. If the finesse loses and they cash ♣A at trick two, there will be two discards for your losing diamonds. And if they don’t cash it, you’ll be able to discard a club on ♠A and hope for diamonds 3-2 – you’ve lost nothing by trying the finesse.</p> <p>Those Norths bold enough to save in 4♠ should escape for one down, which may not be such a good board since some declarers will go one down in 4♥.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Pass	2♠	4♥	All pass																																						
West	North	East	South																																														
	1♠	Pass	2♠																																														
4♥	All pass																																																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>9</td> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11		N	1	-	-	3	-	13	9	S	1	-	-	3	-			E	-	3	4	-	2	7		W	-	3	4	-	2	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
11		N	1	-	-	3	-																																										
13	9	S	1	-	-	3	-																																										
		E	-	3	4	-	2																																										
7		W	-	3	4	-	2																																										

<p>♠ J64 ♥ J8765 ♦ AJ74 ♣ K</p> <p>♠ K1093      ♠ A752 ♥ KQ10      ♥ A93 ♦ K6      ♦ 932 ♣ Q642      ♣ AJ9</p> <p>♠ Q8 ♥ 42 ♦ Q1085 ♣ 108753</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Jason Hackett</b></p> <p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table 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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Weak no trumpers will have a simple Stayman auction to 4♠. If South leads a diamond that will ensure three tricks for the defence, but a club or heart looks more normal. If South doesn't lead a diamond, or if West declares, probably after a strong-no-trump auction starting with 1♣ by East, the battle will be for an overtrick.</p> <p>On a heart lead for example, declarer should win the lead, cash two high spades, play a club to the king and ace, cash the hearts, then go back to clubs. North must refuse to ruff and must keep at least one heart. Now when declarer throws North in with his trump winner, North must give a ruff and discard rather than open up the diamonds. The ruff and discard doesn't cost because declarer had a club loser to ruff in any case, so the result of best play will be ten tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All pass																																		
West	North	East	South																																														
		1NT	Pass																																														
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass																																														
4♠	All pass																																																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		10	13	13	4	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	1	-	-	-		S	-	1	-	-	-		E	2	-	2	4	2		W	2	-	2	4	3	
HCP																																																	
10	13																																																
13	4																																																
Makeable contracts																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																												
N	-	1	-	-	-																																												
S	-	1	-	-	-																																												
E	2	-	2	4	2																																												
W	2	-	2	4	3																																												

<p>♠ 9853 ♥ K1032 ♦ - ♣ AQ952</p> <p>♠ KQ      ♠ AJ1074 ♥ 8654      ♥ J9 ♦ AJ943      ♦ Q2 ♣ J8      ♣ K643</p> <p>♠ 62 ♥ AQ7 ♦ K108765 ♣ 107</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ben Norton</b></p> <p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table 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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>East has enough Pearson points (spades plus high-cards) to open in fourth seat, and South's ragged diamond suit hardly qualifies for a two-level overcall. North could enter with a take-out double of 2♦, but that could land his side in hot water on a misfit deal such as this. When East rebids his spades, West raises the suit. Lacking clairvoyance, South tries a black suit lead. A trump surrenders the impetus, so let's say he fishes out ♣10. North takes dummy's ♣J with ♣A and must find a way to co-ordinate two diamond ruffs. His best shot is probably to shift to ♥3 (♥10 would cost a trick), hoping South can divine the position. South can deliver two diamond ruffs, using his ♥AQ as entries. Having taken his ruffs, North then shifts to trumps, and declarer can't dispose of his slow club loser, so the defence gets +200.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠	All pass																														
West	North	East	South																																														
			Pass																																														
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass																																														
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass																																														
3♠	All pass																																																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		9	11	11	9	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	-	-	-		S	1	-	-	-	-		E	-	1	-	1	2		W	-	1	-	1	2	
HCP																																																	
9	11																																																
11	9																																																
Makeable contracts																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																												
N	1	-	-	-	-																																												
S	1	-	-	-	-																																												
E	-	1	-	1	2																																												
W	-	1	-	1	2																																												

<p>♠ KJ84 ♥ 4 ♦ K874 ♣ Q965</p> <p>♠ A1065      ♠ 92 ♥ KJ863      ♥ 105 ♦ 2      ♦ AQ109653 ♣ A108      ♣ 42</p> <p>♠ Q73 ♥ AQ972 ♦ J ♣ KJ73</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ben Norton</b></p> <p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table 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>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>The bidding is routine up to West's second turn. He could rebid 2♣ in an effort to find a fit – the hand is orientated towards suit play – but in practice he will probably pass. The North shape is ideal for a balancing double, if only that were take-out of hearts. The traditional method is for double to be penalties, showing long hearts. Thus East plays the hand in one no-trump. One should strive to lead passively against no-trump partials, but South has no safe lead here. He could try a spade, knowing East doesn't have length there, but a club is more mainstream. North captures dummy's ♣8 with ♣9 and continues the suit. With no entries to the long diamonds in hand, declarer should work on hearts, leading one to dummy's ten. When South wins and cashes ♣K, North should drop ♣Q as a suit preference signal for spades (and, coincidentally, an unblock). South then shifts to spades immediately, setting up a finesse position on the third round. The defence come to eight tricks: three spades, two hearts and three clubs.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	Pass	1NT	All pass																																								
West	North	East	South																																														
1♥	Pass	1NT	All pass																																														
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		9	6	12	13	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	-	-	1	1		S	2	-	-	1	1		E	-	2	1	-	-		W	-	2	1	-	-	
HCP																																																	
9	6																																																
12	13																																																
Makeable contracts																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																												
N	2	-	-	1	1																																												
S	2	-	-	1	1																																												
E	-	2	1	-	-																																												
W	-	2	1	-	-																																												

<p>♠ AK654 ♥ 2 ♦ QJ32 ♣ A94</p> <p>♠ 103                      ♠ Q98 ♥ AQJ97                  ♥ 8654 ♦ 106                        ♦ K9 ♣ KJ65                      ♣ 10832</p> <p>♠ J72 ♥ K103 ♦ A8754 ♣ Q7</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Ben Norton</b></span></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</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>Some would overcall 2♥ as West, aiming to put the major-suit game into the picture, but the hand is only worth one call and it's better to get both suits in. A 2♥ bid by North would be natural and forcing, so his jump to 3♥ is artificial, a splinter showing a good hand with short hearts and diamond support, forcing to game opposite the nine-plus shown by a two-level response. The spade fit is then located.</p> <p>East has a choice between the rounded-suits, but it doesn't matter which lead he plumps for in practice. Say he chooses a heart. West wins cheaply and gets off lead with a safe trump. North is a favourite to hold ♣A, so no heroics are called for here. Even if ♣A were with East, North would have to be 6=1=4=2 for a club shift to make any odds. On this passive defence, declarer has no way of avoiding a third loser.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♠	Pass	2♦	Dble	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
	1♠	Pass	2♦														
Dble	3♥	Pass	3♠														
Pass	4♠	All pass															

HCP		Makeable contracts				
14		♣   ♦   ♥   ♠   NT				
11	5	N	-	4	-	4 2
		S	1	5	-	5 3
		E	-	-	1	-
		W	-	-	1	-

<p>♠ 107432 ♥ 42 ♦ AK106 ♣ 53</p> <p>♠ AK985                      ♠ J ♥ AQ1086                  ♥ 953 ♦ 32                            ♦ QJ94 ♣ A                              ♣ KQJ92</p> <p>♠ Q6 ♥ KJ7 ♦ 875 ♣ 108764</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Michael Byrne</b></span></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>This auction is quite straightforward playing modern Acoll with a weak NT: East has enough to respond at the two level, then limits his hand with 2NT, allowing West to bid hearts again, reaching the best matchpoint game contract. Those playing a strong no trump will have a tougher time, East doesn't now have the values to bid two over one and should respond 1NT. West will probably force with 3♥, but that doesn't promise five hearts and 3NT is the likely contract. Although 4♥ might make eleven tricks if the defenders don't cash their diamonds this will be an obvious line of attack and making ten will require careful play. In 3NT by East the battle is to stop declarer getting to her tricks in the minors. Only an opening diamond lead ducked by North does that, leaving South with a later diamond exit.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
		Pass	Pass																		
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass																		
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass																		
3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass																		

HCP		Makeable contracts				
7		♣   ♦   ♥   ♠   NT				
17	10	N	-	-	-	-
		S	-	-	-	-
		E	4	3	4	2 3
		W	4	3	4	2 3

<p>♠ AKQJ1086 ♥ 8 ♦ 62 ♣ 843</p> <p>♠ 972                        ♠ 43 ♥ KJ974                  ♥ 1053 ♦ Q10                        ♦ 75 ♣ QJ9                        ♣ AK10752</p> <p>♠ 5 ♥ AQ62 ♦ AKJ9843 ♣ 6</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all <span style="float: right;"><b>Michael Byrne</b></span></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: right;">1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South will open 1♦ and North has a powerful spade suit and wants to insist upon playing in it. It is tempting to jump to 4♠ but this would make it hard to get to a slam, and there's no hurry when you hold the boss suit. The hand is not strong enough for 2♠, so 1♠ it is. East might come in with 2♣ or 3♣, then if South bids hearts and West raises clubs it will make it easier for North to have a bash at slam, three small clubs being a good holding when the opponents bid and raise the suit. If East-West remain silent then South should reverse into hearts, the powerful distribution more than making up for the paucity of points. Over this North should jump to 3♠ as a slam try, and then bid 5♠ over 4♦, demanding partner bid a slam with a club control (in the unbid suit). South bids slam as instructed, and North will make it easily so long as he does nothing too imaginative in diamonds.</p>				1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠	All pass			
			1♦																		
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥																		
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦																		
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠																		
All pass																					

HCP		Makeable contracts				
10		♣   ♦   ♥   ♠   NT				
9	7	N	-	6	-	6 1
		S	-	6	-	6 1
		E	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ 874 ♥ AQ986 ♦ 10 ♣ K942</p> <p>♠ AKJ                      ♠ Q105 ♥ K2                        ♥ 10753 ♦ AQ9842                ♦ K63 ♣ Q8                        ♣ 753</p> <p>♠ 9632 ♥ J4 ♦ J75 ♣ AJ106</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Michael Byrne</b></span></p> <table 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>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>West has a strong hand with broken diamonds and tenaces or potential tenaces in every suit, and 2NT will be the popular choice of opening bid. (It certainly gets my vote, but to be honest I just enjoy playing the hands). The 2NT opening will get raised to 3NT, perhaps via Stayman on the way. Fortunately Stayman won't tip off the lead as North will still lead his fourth best heart, expecting dummy to hold a spade suit. That will be ten easy tricks, and I hope everyone remembered to start diamonds in technically correct fashion of low to the King? (You can cope with 4-0 only if South has J1075), Any South who doubles Stayman will score an enormous goal, the defence cashing four club tricks then putting a heart through for two down. Anyone opening 1♦ will see North's 1♥ overcall get passed back to them. They might bid diamonds or no trumps now, but it's probably too late to bid and make game.</p>	West	North	East	South	2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass																																								
West	North	East	South																																														
2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass																																														
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td>5</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	9		N	3	-	1	1	-	19	5	S	3	-	1	1	-			E	-	3	-	-	1			W	-	3	-	-	1	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
9		N	3	-	1	1	-																																										
19	5	S	3	-	1	1	-																																										
		E	-	3	-	-	1																																										
		W	-	3	-	-	1																																										

<p>♠ AQ5 ♥ J85 ♦ A1086 ♣ K53</p> <p>♠ K86                      ♠ J1032 ♥ 6                        ♥ A10942 ♦ QJ92                    ♦ 74 ♣ A9876                ♣ J4</p> <p>♠ 974 ♥ KQ73 ♦ K53 ♣ Q102</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Giorgio Provenza</b></span></p> <table 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>1NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The cards could not lie better for North-South, with spades, diamonds and clubs all behaving nicely. On ♥10 lead North should end up with nine tricks, although only a very aggressive view by South would get to 3NT. Should East bid over 1NT to show the majors? Against a weak NT it usually pays off to compete aggressively; in this case though the vulnerability suggests prudence even to the most optimistic overcallers (and I know a few of them!). If East does bid and North-South have good agreements, a double of the artificial bid by South will show cards and interest in penalties, and North will double West's 2♠ bid for blood. It takes a small diamond lead and a trump switch to beat West's 2♠ by two – hard to find – but any other plausible lead should get minus one and plus 200 for North-South, which should be a good score.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	All pass																																									
West	North	East	South																																														
	1NT	All pass																																															
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>6</td> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</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> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	14		N	1	2	2	1	3	10	6	S	1	2	2	1	3			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
14		N	1	2	2	1	3																																										
10	6	S	1	2	2	1	3																																										
		E	-	-	-	-	-																																										
		W	-	-	-	-	-																																										

<p>♠ K8 ♥ A7 ♦ 876 ♣ AJ10652</p> <p>♠ Q9752                ♠ AJ10 ♥ KQ43                ♥ J986 ♦ Q52                    ♦ K109 ♣ 4                        ♣ Q83</p> <p>♠ 643 ♥ 1052 ♦ AJ43 ♣ K97</p>	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all <span style="float: right;"><b>Giorgio Provenza</b></span></p> <table 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Some Easts might like their hand and open the bidding (good intermediates, but poor shape). If they don't, West should open in third seat (partner is a passed hand, so they won't push you too high and North is bound to open the bidding if you pass, so you want to throw in your suit while you have the chance). East can show a maximum pass and support in spades by cue bidding the overcaller's suit and South can double that to show tolerance for a club lead. Whether West ends up with nine or ten tricks depends on guessing the Jack of diamonds.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♠	2♣	3♣	Dble	3♠	All pass																																		
West	North	East	South																																														
		Pass	Pass																																														
1♠	2♣	3♣	Dble																																														
3♠	All pass																																																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>11</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	12		N	2	-	-	-	2	9	11	S	2	-	-	-	2			E	-	-	4	4	-			W	-	-	4	4	-	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
12		N	2	-	-	-	2																																										
9	11	S	2	-	-	-	2																																										
		E	-	-	4	4	-																																										
		W	-	-	4	4	-																																										

<p>♠ A2 ♥ 9873 ♦ 10963 ♣ A97</p> <p>♠ K1083      ♠ J765 ♥ 542          ♥ AQJ ♦ Q75          ♦ K ♣ 642          ♣ KQJ53</p> <p>♠ Q94 ♥ K106 ♦ AJ842 ♣ 108</p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Giorgio Provenza</b></span></p> <table 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>1♣</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Another example of an Unassuming Cue Bid by North to show support for partner's suit and a good hand. The two defensive tricks and the vulnerability would make me prefer this bid to a more preemptive 3♦. East jumps to 3♠ anyway to invite game, but West has nothing at all to spare.</p> <p>With three aces to lose and ♥K offside this hand will come down to playing the spades for one loser. There are two lines that offer the same theoretical chances; running the Jack or small to the eight. With this lie of the cards they will both succeed.</p> <p>When in with ♠A North needs to switch to hearts to make sure declarer won't be able to pitch hearts on clubs in time to avoid a loser. The dummy screams for that, so it should be found by most.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦	1♠	2♣	3♠	All pass																																				
West	North	East	South																																														
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦																																														
1♠	2♣	3♠	All pass																																														
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		8	17	5	10	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th colspan="2">NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td colspan="2">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td colspan="2">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td colspan="2">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td colspan="2">-</td> </tr> </table>	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	2	1	-	-		S	-	2	1	-	-		E	2	-	-	3	-		W	2	-	-	3	-	
HCP																																																	
8	17																																																
5	10																																																
Makeable contracts																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																												
N	-	2	1	-	-																																												
S	-	2	1	-	-																																												
E	2	-	-	3	-																																												
W	2	-	-	3	-																																												

<p>♠ 108 ♥ 1043 ♦ A986 ♣ AKJ9</p> <p>♠ A9642      ♠ 7 ♥ K5          ♥ AQ876 ♦ KQ10      ♦ J754 ♣ 852          ♣ 643</p> <p>♠ KQJ53 ♥ J92 ♦ 32 ♣ Q107</p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Tom Paske</b></span></p> <table 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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>I personally prefer to open 1NT when holding a 5-card major rather than open 1♠ and being forced to rebid a suit such as A9642 when partner responds at the two level. After 1NT, East transfers to hearts and South competes with 2♠. West might double that for penalties, in search of a good matchpoint score, but there's no guarantee that it's going off, nor that you would have made 2♥.</p> <p>In practice 2♠ will drift one off so long as West starts with ♥K, losing three hearts, one diamond and two spades. Whereas 3♥ makes for East-Wise unless the defence starts off with four rounds of clubs, promoting a trump trick. So doubling 2♠ could be necessary to get a good score on the board.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠	All pass																																			
West	North	East	South																																														
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass																																														
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠																																														
All pass																																																	
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		12	7	12	9	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th colspan="2">NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td colspan="2">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td colspan="2">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td colspan="2">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td colspan="2">-</td> </tr> </table>	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	-	1	-		S	1	-	-	1	-		E	-	2	2	-	-		W	-	2	2	-	-	
HCP																																																	
12	7																																																
12	9																																																
Makeable contracts																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																												
N	1	-	-	1	-																																												
S	1	-	-	1	-																																												
E	-	2	2	-	-																																												
W	-	2	2	-	-																																												

<p>♠ QJ2 ♥ AQ54 ♦ 10954 ♣ 106</p> <p>♠ A87      ♠ 10543 ♥ 10863    ♥ KJ9 ♦ QJ6      ♦ 32 ♣ A84      ♣ Q975</p> <p>♠ K96 ♥ 72 ♦ AK87 ♣ KJ32</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all <span style="float: right;"><b>Tom Paske</b></span></p> <table 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>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>This is your bread-and-butter hand when playing pairs: hands like this will dictate a large portion of your score. Here West will lead a heart against 1NT. If they lead the eight, which is standard in England, it will give away the location of the King making it likely declarer will come home with eight tricks so long as they guess the club suit, making two spades, two hearts, three diamonds and a club. If declarer is going to guess hearts and clubs right, the defence has to build a trick in the black suits to hold him to seven. They can do that in spades by leading the suit at trick one, so that East's long spade can be set up before her heart entries can be knocked out. Or in clubs by leading ♣8 through North, then leading ♣Q from West to pin the ten – an intrafinesse by the defence.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT	All pass																																							
West	North	East	South																																														
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT																																														
All pass																																																	
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		9	6	11	14	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th colspan="2">NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td colspan="2">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td colspan="2">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td colspan="2">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td colspan="2">-</td> </tr> </table>	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	3	1	1	1		S	1	3	1	1	1		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-	
HCP																																																	
9	6																																																
11	14																																																
Makeable contracts																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																												
N	1	3	1	1	1																																												
S	1	3	1	1	1																																												
E	-	-	-	-	-																																												
W	-	-	-	-	-																																												

<p>♠ J62 ♥ KJ5 ♦ AQ7 ♣ 8732</p> <p>♠ K543                      ♠ AQ109 ♥ 87432                    ♥ A109 ♦ 85                            ♦ K42 ♣ 105                        ♣ 964</p> <p>♠ 87 ♥ Q6 ♦ J10963 ♣ AKQJ</p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Tom Paske</b></span></p> <table 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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>When East opens 1NT, West has a textbook hand for garbage Stayman, and East-West get to 2♠. Despite North-South being able to make three of either minor there is no safe way for them to get into the auction . In my view it would be too dangerous to enter over 2♠ when the strength of the 2♣ bidder it is still not known.</p> <p>A club lead is clear against 2♠ but you will come to only five tricks and a disappointing -110.</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 colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>13</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11		N	3	3	-	-	1	3	13	S	3	3	-	-	1			E	-	-	2	2	-			W	-	-	2	2	-	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
11		N	3	3	-	-	1																																										
3	13	S	3	3	-	-	1																																										
		E	-	-	2	2	-																																										
		W	-	-	2	2	-																																										

<p>♠ A52 ♥ Q10963 ♦ 94 ♣ KQ6</p> <p>♠ 108643                    ♠ KJ97 ♥ AK7                        ♥ 5 ♦ AK10                      ♦ 652 ♣ 108                        ♣ J7543</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ J842 ♦ QJ873 ♣ A92</p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Shahzaad Natt</b></span></p> <table 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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The auction could go a million different ways. Some Wests will open 1♠, which will usually result in their playing a spade partial. Double-dummy, game can be made in both no trumps and spades by leading a spade to the king on the first round of the suit, but in practice most Wests will lose two spade tricks. This is a minor irritation in a spade contract: so long as West ruffs two losers in dummy or establishes the clubs he should emerge with nine tricks for +140 and an excellent score. But a spade misguess will be absolutely fatal in no trumps. North will lead a heart and, when South wins the Queen of spades, he will knock out West's last heart stop. When in with the spade ace, North-South will be able to take three hearts, two spades and three clubs for two off.</p> <p>At tables where North overcalls in hearts, East may double, allowing her side to find the spade fit. Any North-South pair allowed to play in a heart partscore will get a huge score – nine tricks are there for the taking in a number of ways.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1NT	All pass																																						
West	North	East	South																																														
			Pass																																														
1NT	All pass																																																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>5</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11		N	-	-	3	-	-	14	5	S	-	-	3	-	-			E	2	-	-	4	3			W	2	-	-	4	3	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
11		N	-	-	3	-	-																																										
14	5	S	-	-	3	-	-																																										
		E	2	-	-	4	3																																										
		W	2	-	-	4	3																																										

<p>♠ K942 ♥ J754 ♦ J102 ♣ AQ</p> <p>♠ Q5                            ♠ J863 ♥ K63                        ♥ A982 ♦ Q5                            ♦ A94 ♣ J109873                  ♣ K5</p> <p>♠ A107 ♥ Q10 ♦ K8763 ♣ 642</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Shahzaad Natt</b></span></p> <table 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>1NT</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Some Wests will choose to transfer to 3♣; however, with reasonable values, a relatively balanced hand and a likely entry in hearts, I would pass 1NT. It is likely that the values in the side suits will enable East to make 1NT without even playing on clubs. If you were to remove any of West's high cards, then I would prefer to transfer.</p> <p>South will lead a diamond against 1NT. East will be delighted when dummy's Queen holds the trick. He will be even more pleased when he discovers he has five club tricks. North-South need to be moderately careful not to throw too many hearts on the run of the clubs. I believe most pairs will manage this; +150 will be a good score for East-West and +180 will be close to a top.</p> <p>It takes a heart lead to defeat 3♣, which might be found if North is on lead. There is some potential for ten tricks if North leads a spade and South shifts to a diamond but even a trump shift will require North to be careful: a red suit return is required now, otherwise North will be squeezed in the majors for an embarrassing +130.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1NT	All pass																																								
West	North	East	South																																														
Pass	Pass	1NT	All pass																																														
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>12</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11		N	-	1	-	-	-	8	12	S	-	2	-	-	-			E	2	-	1	-	1			W	2	-	1	-	1	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
11		N	-	1	-	-	-																																										
8	12	S	-	2	-	-	-																																										
		E	2	-	1	-	1																																										
		W	2	-	1	-	1																																										



<p>♠ 102 ♥ Q65 ♦ AK85 ♣ KJ43</p> <p>♠ AQJ94      ♠ 8763 ♥ A1042      ♥ J87 ♦ 94            ♦ 10763 ♣ Q5            ♣ A9</p> <p>♠ K5 ♥ K93 ♦ QJ2 ♣ 108762</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Shahzaad Natt</b></span></p> <table 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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>For those playing Landy or Multi-Landy West has a clear 2♣ call to show both majors. While methods such as Asptro frequently allow you to compete with more hands, they do poorly when you are dealt both majors. It is normal to anchor to the shorter suit, which will mean East-West will play in a silly 2♥.</p> <p>A club lead will go the Queen, King and Ace, and East should play a spade to the Queen and cash the Ace (the King is known to drop since North opened 1NT). Now is the time to get off play with a minor suit. The defenders are now obliged to cash their tricks in the minors and force dummy with a diamond. Declarer ruffs carefully with the nine. Sadly there is no elimination that works and unless the defence willingly present declarer with a ruff and discard he will emerge with eight tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	All pass																																				
West	North	East	South																																														
	1NT	Pass	Pass																																														
2♣	Pass	2♠	All pass																																														
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>5</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>9</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		13		N	3	2	-	-	-	13	5	S	3	2	-	-	-		9	E	-	-	1	2	1			W	-	-	1	2	1	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																											
13		N	3	2	-	-	-																																										
13	5	S	3	2	-	-	-																																										
	9	E	-	-	1	2	1																																										
		W	-	-	1	2	1																																										

<p>♠ A1085 ♥ 7 ♦ 109853 ♣ QJ10</p> <p>♠ KQJ7      ♠ 9632 ♥ AK4      ♥ 86 ♦ 762      ♦ AQJ ♣ K92      ♣ 8643</p> <p>♠ 4 ♥ QJ109532 ♦ K4 ♣ A75</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Mike Bell</b></span></p> <table 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>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The first couple of rounds of the auction are fairly clear. North may be tempted to double 2♠, which will be touch-and-go – North leads his singleton, wins ♠A, and switches to diamonds. Declarer must refuse the finesse or North will get two heart ruffs for one off and a great score. If North passes, South should probably press on, despite her meagre values – the danger is small, non-vulnerable. On ♠K lead, declarer should win and run ♣Q. If East gives count and West is ready to duck in tempo, declarer has to choose between repeating the finesse and leading towards ♦K, and is likely to go wrong. Otherwise 3♥ should make.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♥	1NT	Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥	All pass																											
West	North	East	South																																														
		Pass	1♥																																														
1NT	Pass	Pass	2♥																																														
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass																																														
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥																																														
All pass																																																	
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>7</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>10</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		7		N	-	-	3	-	-	16	7	S	-	-	3	-	-		10	E	-	-	-	2	-			W	-	-	-	2	-	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																											
7		N	-	-	3	-	-																																										
16	7	S	-	-	3	-	-																																										
	10	E	-	-	-	2	-																																										
		W	-	-	-	2	-																																										

<p>♠ 875 ♥ K94 ♦ 875 ♣ J832</p> <p>♠ 94      ♠ AK106 ♥ 7632      ♥ J5 ♦ A93      ♦ KJ102 ♣ 10964      ♣ A75</p> <p>♠ QJ32 ♥ AQ108 ♦ Q64 ♣ KQ</p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Mike Bell</b></span></p> <table 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>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>On this board all four hands are balanced, no one has an eight-card fit, the points are evenly split and both sides are vulnerable, so defending will tend to score better than declaring. If North competes to 2♥ over 2♣ then East should pass – West will get a chance to bid again, so there's not much upside to taking a second call on the hand.</p> <p>Double-dummy, 2♣ is one off, but that requires a low club lead from J832. More likely North will lead a plain suit. Now declarer gets a heart ruff in dummy, then if she plays the strong hand for ♦Q she can score three diamonds, two spades and three trumps.</p> <p>If South buys the contract in 2♥, routine defence takes it two off, giving East-West a very good score.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♥	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	2♣	All pass																																		
West	North	East	South																																														
			1♥																																														
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass																																														
2♣	All pass																																																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>16</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>16</td> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		4		N	-	-	-	-	-	4	16	S	-	-	-	-	-		16	E	1	2	1	1	1			W	1	2	1	1	1	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																											
4		N	-	-	-	-	-																																										
4	16	S	-	-	-	-	-																																										
	16	E	1	2	1	1	1																																										
		W	1	2	1	1	1																																										

<p>♠ 6 ♥ 9863 ♦ Q7543 ♣ 875</p> <p>♠ 10852      ♠ KQ93 ♥ 7542      ♥ AKQJ10 ♦ J96      ♦ 82 ♣ AJ      ♣ K4</p> <p>♠ AJ74 ♥ - ♦ AK10 ♣ Q109632</p>	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all <span style="float: right;"><b>Mike Bell</b></span></p> <table 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>1♥</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Over West's weak raise to 3♥, most Easts will bid 4♥, though ♣K4 might give them pause for thought. Similarly, it's far from clear they should double 5♣, but I'd expect 5♣ to score well for North-South even undoubled. There's one point in the play – on a spade lead declarer has to play to ruff three spades before touching trumps.</p> <p>A quiet raise to 2♥ by West may work better. East will make a 2♠ trial bid, South may try 3♣ and now West can bid 3♥, showing a hand that isn't worth accepting but has enough in its favour to not want to defend 3♣ either. Now North-South will be unlikely to reach game.</p> <p>Over East's 2♠ trial bid, I do not think West should raise to 3♠. First, his hand isn't worth an accept; second, East would think he held 4-3 in the majors, making her likely to choose 4♠ on a 4-4 fit instead of 4♥ on the 5-4 fit.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	2♣	3♥	Pass	4♥	Dble	Pass	5♣	Dble	All pass																																
West	North	East	South																																														
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♣																																														
3♥	Pass	4♥	Dble																																														
Pass	5♣	Dble	All pass																																														
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		2	18	6	14	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th colspan="2">NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	5	2	-	-	-	-	S	5	2	-	-	-	-	E	-	-	1	2	1	-	W	-	-	1	2	1	-
HCP																																																	
2	18																																																
6	14																																																
Makeable contracts																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																												
N	5	2	-	-	-	-																																											
S	5	2	-	-	-	-																																											
E	-	-	1	2	1	-																																											
W	-	-	1	2	1	-																																											

<p>♠ AQJ3 ♥ J986 ♦ K10 ♣ A84</p> <p>♠ 8654      ♠ K2 ♥ A54      ♥ K102 ♦ J2      ♦ A63 ♣ J973      ♣ Q10652</p> <p>♠ 1097 ♥ Q73 ♦ Q98754 ♣ K</p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Andrew Robson</b></span></p> <table 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>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>After East refrains from an unsound two-level overcall, South is best raising 1♥ to 2♥ – more helpful than the dustbin 1NT, while 2♦ would be a big overstatement of her values. North passes 2♥ (2NT would show about 17-18) and now, paradoxically, it is safer for East to act – North-South have limited their hands and have also implied a heart fit. South's 3♦ shows her 3♥-6♦ shape and there matters rest.</p> <p>Only a spade lead beats 3♦ genuinely, by setting up a spade ruff. On West's likely ♣3 lead, declarer wins ♣K and may play West for ♦J, expecting her to hold more diamonds. Wrong in that respect, but right to play her for ♦J. You now rate to make nine tricks, losing a spade, two hearts and a diamond. N-S +110. If South had judged to pass 3♣, put off bidding by her defensive bare ♣K, North might have gambled a penalty double – the magic +200 should ensue.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	3♣	3♦	All pass																																			
West	North	East	South																																														
	1♥	Pass	2♥																																														
Pass	Pass	3♣	3♦																																														
All pass																																																	
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		15	12	6	7	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th colspan="2">NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	3	2	3	-	-	S	-	2	2	3	-	-	E	2	-	-	-	-	-	W	2	-	-	-	-	-
HCP																																																	
15	12																																																
6	7																																																
Makeable contracts																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																												
N	-	3	2	3	-	-																																											
S	-	2	2	3	-	-																																											
E	2	-	-	-	-	-																																											
W	2	-	-	-	-	-																																											

<p>♠ 973 ♥ 7 ♦ KQ1065 ♣ A865</p> <p>♠ K62      ♠ Q1054 ♥ 854      ♥ AKJ9 ♦ A92      ♦ J843 ♣ K1032      ♣ 4</p> <p>♠ AJ8 ♥ Q10632 ♦ 7 ♣ QJ97</p>	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Jason Hackett</b></span></p> <table 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 colspan="2">All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>East has three possible openings, pass, 1♦ or 1♥ for those playing four-card majors. Those who pass (often a good way to deal with light 4441s is to pass and hope you get the chance to make a take-out double of your short suit) may find the hand is passed out unless South opens a fruity heart, leading to a very close 1NT contract by North which should go one off on accurate defence, but may make. Those Easts who open 1♦ will get a 1♥ overcall. This gives West has an awkward problem unless special methods are in use: pass would work best as South would be left to go down in 1♥ (probably one down). Easts who open 1♥ give West another problem, best solved with a 1NT response – that contract should make. If East opens and West follows traditional Acol methods and responds 2♣ he will be strolling towards Richard's meadow. [<i>perhaps a reference to the Battle of Wakefield in 1460 - Ed</i>]</p> <p>Any North-South pair who find a way to get to a making partscore in clubs has done very well.</p>	West	North	East	South			All pass																																									
West	North	East	South																																														
		All pass																																															
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		9	11	10	10	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th colspan="2">NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</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>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	1	-	-	-	-	S	3	1	-	-	-	-	E	-	-	1	1	1	-	W	-	-	1	1	1	-
HCP																																																	
9	11																																																
10	10																																																
Makeable contracts																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																												
N	2	1	-	-	-	-																																											
S	3	1	-	-	-	-																																											
E	-	-	1	1	1	-																																											
W	-	-	1	1	1	-																																											

<p>♠ 9864 ♥ AK843 ♦ K42 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ 105                      ♠ AK3 ♥ Q107652                ♥ J9 ♦ -                             ♦ AJ1097 ♣ K6543                    ♣ 1098</p> <p>♠ QJ72 ♥ - ♦ Q8653 ♣ QJ72</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ben Norton</b></p> <p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table 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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Who knows what's right on the West hand. Some would pass, others would preempt to 3♥ with their wild distribution. The middle ground is a weak 2♥. Should South protect with a double to contest the partscore? Well, North is known to hold at least five hearts and will likely pass it, and South has no defence to speak of against that. Change all the quacks for two aces and it would be a different matter.</p> <p>North should seek to score his small trumps by way of a force, not by ruffs. He therefore leads his own long suit, spades. Declarer wins in dummy and works on his side-suit, running ♠10 to North's ♣A. Back comes another spade, won in dummy, and ♣9 goes to ♣J, ♣K and a ruff. Declarer ruffs the spade continuation and gives up a club. North ruffs that, in case South lacks the ♣7, then lays down the ♥AK to draw dummy's trumps. Declarer takes the next spade force, draws the trump and surrenders another club. Declarer's hand is good for one down.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	2♥	All pass		
West	North	East	South										
			Pass										
2♥	All pass												

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
14	N	-	2	-	3	2
5      13	S	-	2	-	3	2
8	E	2	-	1	-	-
	W	2	-	1	-	-

<p>♠ Q5 ♥ QJ6 ♦ Q6 ♣ AJ10864</p> <p>♠ K96                      ♠ AJ10832 ♥ K542                    ♥ 97 ♦ AJ10743                ♦ K95 ♣ -                            ♣ Q5</p> <p>♠ 74 ♥ A1083 ♦ 82 ♣ K9732</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Michael Byrne</b></p> <p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table 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>1♦</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>4♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>An exciting hand here as East-West can make slam in two suits on the very favourable lie of spades and diamonds. 1♦ will be the opening bid and most North players will overcall 2♣, the ♠10 putting their mind at rest rather more than the load of queens they have outside. East will bid 2♠ and now the paths diverge as South has to decide how many clubs to bid. There will be votes for 3♣, 4♣ or 5♣ and this might shut out West or push him into something. Certainly over a 3♣ bid West might bid only 3♠ and it's not impossible East might pass that, devaluing the club queen.</p> <p>If South bids 4♣ then West will probably bid 4♠ and we are in game. If South jumps to 5♣ then East-West might bid on, although they do best to double and take the money; +800 will score very well even if slam is cold.</p> <p>I think most will make twelve tricks, even though declarer has to "guess" the spades – in practice a club lead will push her into doing the right thing.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	2♣	2♠	4♣	4♠	All pass		
West	North	East	South										
1♦	2♣	2♠	4♣										
4♠	All pass												

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
12	N	2	-	-	-	-
11      10	S	2	-	-	-	-
7	E	-	6	1	6	-
	W	-	6	1	6	-

<p>♠ J1092 ♥ 2 ♦ 9843 ♣ AJ92</p> <p>♠ A8743                    ♠ K5 ♥ K7                        ♥ AQ1095 ♦ J752                      ♦ K106 ♣ Q10                        ♣ 853</p> <p>♠ Q6 ♥ J8643 ♦ AQ ♣ K764</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Giorgio Provenza</b></p> <p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table 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>Pass</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>In modern Acol it is recommended to open 1NT on all 5-3-3-2 hands within range, even with a 5-card major. Is West's hand worth a game try after transferring to spades? If partner has spade support and a maximum, you probably want to have a shot at game. However, you don't want to play in 3NT opposite a maximum with two spades, nor in 3♠ rather than 2♠ when she has a minimum with three. The odds at matchpoints favour passing 2♠, in my opinion.</p> <p>In a strong-NT environment, after 1♥ – 1♠, 1NT West will face a similar decision; Kx facing partner's 5-card suit might convince some to push on here, with no luck.</p> <p>Some Souths will risk a two-suited overcall after 1NT by East. At these colours it wouldn't be my choice with those pitiful suits, but it might pay off here, finding the club fit. I suspect we will find a bit of everything in the bridgemates.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	All pass
West	North	East	South										
	Pass	1NT	Pass										
2♥	Pass	2♠	All pass										

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
6	N	3	-	-	-	-
10      12	S	3	-	-	-	-
12	E	-	-	1	-	-
	W	-	-	1	-	-

<p>♠ A1053 ♥ K106 ♦ K93 ♣ KQ7</p> <p>♠ 97 ♥ J742 ♦ J107 ♣ J942</p> <p>♠ QJ842 ♥ Q ♦ A842 ♣ A105</p> <p>♠ K6 ♥ A9853 ♦ Q65 ♣ 863</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>15</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>13</td> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>9</td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		15		N	1	1	2	1	2	3	13	S	1	1	2	1	2			E	-	-	-	-	-		9	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all <span style="float:right"><b>Tom Paske</b></span></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>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>When you are in protective position a 1NT overcall shows less than in direct position, but a 4333 15-count is still comfortably in range. Partner will transfer to hearts and that is where it will end.</p> <p>East has a natural spade lead against 2♥. Despite a 4-1 trump break the contract will be safe – you will make two spades, four hearts, and a trick in each minor. It will once again be a question if you can engineer an extra trick from somewhere. East will come under some pressure on four rounds of hearts but should survive with careful discarding.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♠	Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	All pass	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																															
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																											
15		N	1	1	2	1	2																																																										
3	13	S	1	1	2	1	2																																																										
		E	-	-	-	-	-																																																										
	9	W	-	-	-	-	-																																																										
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																																																														
		1♠	Pass																																																														
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦																																																														
Pass	2♥	All pass																																																															
<p>♠ 9842 ♥ 9764 ♦ K10 ♣ 853</p> <p>♠ AKJ10 ♥ Q83 ♦ 9876 ♣ A6</p> <p>♠ 76 ♥ A1052 ♦ QJ543 ♣ 74</p> <p>♠ Q53 ♥ KJ ♦ A2 ♣ KQJ1092</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>7</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>16</td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		3		N	2	-	-	-	-	14	7	S	2	-	-	-	-			E	-	4	2	2	-		16	W	-	4	2	2	-	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable <span style="float:right"><b>Shahzaad Natt</b></span></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>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>West should not overcall 1♠ on a four-card suit when there is a good alternative available. East should respond to the double with 1♥ for two reasons: firstly hearts is a major suit, and secondly it allows him to compete easily in diamonds later. Since North passed over the double South should bid a cautious 2♣. West has a minimum without a heart fit so he passes and East balances with 2♦. If either North or South bids 3♣ after that West should compete with 3♦ or could double.</p> <p>The play in 3♦ is not that interesting. Declarer makes ten tricks if he risks an early space finesse, nine if he doesn't. In 3♣ East-West can challenge declarer: after two top spades and a ruff, East must shift to a low heart to make declarer guess the suit before he can place the other high cards. North-Souths who score -100 will be above average. Those who received this defence or were doubled will score -200 and a bottom.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1♣	Dble	pass	1♥	2♣	Pass	Pass	2♦	All pass
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																															
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																											
3		N	2	-	-	-	-																																																										
14	7	S	2	-	-	-	-																																																										
		E	-	4	2	2	-																																																										
	16	W	-	4	2	2	-																																																										
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																																																														
			1♣																																																														
Dble	pass	1♥	2♣																																																														
Pass	Pass	2♦	All pass																																																														
<p>♠ A43 ♥ QJ92 ♦ J10763 ♣ 4</p> <p>♠ K109 ♥ K10 ♦ 9842 ♣ AQJ7</p> <p>♠ Q8 ♥ 87643 ♦ AK ♣ K1062</p> <p>♠ J7652 ♥ A5 ♦ Q5 ♣ 9853</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>12</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>7</td> <td>W</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		8		N	-	-	-	-	-	13	12	S	-	-	-	-	-			E	5	1	3	1	3		7	W	5	1	3	1	3	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable <span style="float:right"><b>Mike Bell</b></span></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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>3NT isn't a great contract, but most will bid it, and many will make it. East is clearly worth 2NT (but no more); and West will accept with her good 13-count. In fairness, you'd expect oppo to lead a spade given your combined hands, solving the guess for the ♠J, and the contract is then simply on the position of the ♥A.</p> <p>In practice, North will lead a diamond. The correct card to lead is a low one – there are many positions where either partner or dummy has a singleton or doubleton honour where you need to keep your jack and ten for the later rounds of the suit. Here, the ♦J lead gives declarer the chance to establish her ♦8 to win the fourth round of the suit, but she may not discover in time that South's ♦Q is dropping.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	All pass	3NT	All Pass		
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																															
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																											
8		N	-	-	-	-	-																																																										
13	12	S	-	-	-	-	-																																																										
		E	5	1	3	1	3																																																										
	7	W	5	1	3	1	3																																																										
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																																																														
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass																																																														
2♥	Pass	2NT	All pass																																																														
3NT	All Pass																																																																