

British Winter Sim Pairs



Wednesday
15th January 2020

Welcome to the British Winter Simultaneous Pairs. Thank you for playing. I hope you enjoy the event and also the commentary provided by a leading expert. The commentator for this set of hands is Paul Bowyer.

This is the start of the 2020 Simultaneous Pairs season, so it's a new year for prizes. Every host club will be entered in to a prize draw made at the AGM in November. So the club at which you have played today has a chance to win one of ten cash prizes of £250. The prize for the overall winners of each Sim Pairs is £100, and we wish you luck in trying to win it.

You can find all the full details, results and last year's prize winners at www.ebu.co.uk/sims/

You can earn Blue points and they are awarded to the top third of the field. Don't be too impatient for the results! Provisional results will appear quickly but they won't be finalised and nor will the Master Point awards until all results are in and score corrections have been made. This can take up to three weeks. It really helps us if you can keep your scorecard for that period. Clubs should keep the travellers if still used.

Coming up in February (4th & 6th) is the Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs. This year money raised will be to help support Junior Bridge. I hope you will support this event and look forward to you playing.

Ian Payn, Chairman EBU

<p>♠ J ♥ K9 ♦ K10943 ♣ 87532</p> <p>♠ KQ98532 ♠ A7 ♥ J76 ♥ 853 ♦ 82 ♦ J65 ♣ K ♣ AQJ94</p> <p>♠ 1064 ♥ AQ1042 ♦ AQ7 ♣ 106</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1249 188 1435"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="228 1249 470 1435"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		7		9	12	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	3	-	-	S	-	3	3	-	-	E	-	-	-	2	-	W	-	-	-	2	-	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="494 801 989 907"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <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> </tbody> </table> <p>The computer has produced some hard to predict deals for this evening's event, and none more so than the first few boards. Here, our old friend <i>Deep Finesse</i> tells us that North-South are the ones who can make the highest scoring contract in either diamonds or hearts. However, surely nearly all East-West pairs will play this hand in spades, the question being at what level and with what result. If the auction is a quiet one (as above) with North-South unable to get into the action then East is likely to make a lot of tricks in spades, especially on a passive trump lead. East can play off a lot of spades and then overtake the ♣K; if North has pitched one, declarer will make twelve tricks. After a club lead, East has a problem, but ten tricks are still makeable; declarer must overtake and play top clubs. When South ruffs, dummy can overruff, trumps can be drawn, ending in East, and a winning club cashed. Where West is declarer (maybe East opened 1♣ and South overcalled 1♥) a red-suit lead should see North-South cash five tricks in double quick time.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass												
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<p>♠ 10964 ♥ 752 ♦ J985 ♣ 52</p> <p>♠ Q3 ♠ 2 ♥ 864 ♥ AKJ109 ♦ Q4 ♦ 1032 ♣ AQJ873 ♣ K1094</p> <p>♠ AKJ875 ♥ Q3 ♦ AK76 ♣ 6</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1928 188 2114"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="228 1928 470 2114"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		1		11	11	17		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	4	-	4	-	S	-	4	-	4	-	E	4	-	4	-	-	W	4	-	4	-	-	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="494 1489 989 1697"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♥</td><td>Dble</td></tr> <tr><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>3♠</td></tr> <tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠?</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>5♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Dble</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Well, results on this one could be all over the place. The auction above is fanciful but not impossible. Some may prefer a quiet 1♠ overcall on the South cards rather than a double, but there is a lot of power in those cards and 1♠ risks getting Passed out. East-West may well bid to game in hearts – a contract which can make but only if declarer drops the ♥Q doubleton offside. If he takes the trump finesse he will go down. If North-South reach 4♠ (should North really bid 4♠, vulnerable?) then that will make, this time because the other red queen is also doubleton. At this vulnerability, East-West may take insurance in 5♣ doubled – this is either one down or two down depending on the view declarer takes in hearts. An impossible to predict series of results, but I suspect game will be made in both directions.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Dble	2♣	Pass	3♣	3♠	4♥	4♠?	Pass	Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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<p>♠AQ1043 ♥AKQ ♦5 ♣QJ95</p> <p>♠K97652 ♠J8 ♥8 ♥942 ♦A1032 ♦K9864 ♣83 ♣K42</p> <p>♠None ♥J107653 ♦QJ7 ♣A1076</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>Well, <i>Deep Finesse</i> smugly informs us that North-South can make slams in two denominations – clubs and hearts. Both are poor contracts, though, as they need the club finesse to work and then some. However, it may be difficult locating the right game on this hand, let alone a dubious slam. Everything will be hunky dory if South deems his collection worth a weak 2♥, as North-South will surely bid as above. If South Passes as dealer, however, West may well open 2♠ and suddenly problems arise. North can't double (oh, for those long gone, heady days when all doubles were for blood!) and may well Pass, hoping for a vulnerable penalty. If East-West play in 2♠, <i>Deep Finesse</i> suggests that it will be defeated by at least three tricks, but a score of +300, or even +400, would be poor compensation for North-South with +480 available in hearts. What happens if North is allowed to open 1♠ after two Passes, as may happen somewhere? South may respond with an uneasy 1NT and then where is the auction headed?</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4♥	All Pass	2♥																																	
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<p>♠83 ♥K2 ♦Q62 ♣QJ10872</p> <p>♠4 ♠AJ10765 ♥A98763 ♥104 ♦108753 ♦AK ♣4 ♣963</p> <p>♠KQ92 ♥QJ5 ♦J94 ♣AK5</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>A very thin 3NT is available to North-South on this deal, and the auction above is one way they may reach it. Some players in the West seat may decide to start proceedings with a weak 2♥, leading to heaven knows where, possibly to South bidding 2NT after two Passes and North raising to game. If East opens 1♠ in third seat, South has a textbook 1NT overcall and West a clear-cut 2♥ bid. He is quite safe in bidding – by not doubling he is showing a weak hand with a long suit. Now North may take the view that his hand is either useless to his partner or worth a lot of tricks, so may as well blast 3NT. With the diamonds blocked, East-West cannot set them up and get to them, so are restricted to their four top tricks. South can always make six clubs and three major-suit winners, so 3NT romps home.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♠	1NT	2♥	3NT	All Pass																														
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<p>♠J84 ♥K74 ♦A86 ♣A1094</p> <p>♠1032 ♠AQ96 ♥A8 ♥1063 ♦KJ103 ♦Q52 ♣Q873 ♣KJ2</p> <p>♠K75 ♥QJ952 ♦974 ♣65</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>A match-point pairs part-score battle this one. North, if playing a weak no-trump, may open with his favourite toy (I wouldn't criticise a Pass, especially at the vulnerability) and South should seek refuge in hearts via a transfer. When 2♥ floats to him, West may well make a thin but typical pairs double, allowing East to steal the deal in 2♠. North-South shouldn't make a plus score on this deal; 2♥ has six losers (two spades, one heart, two diamonds and a club) and 2♠ should make for East-West. There will, though, be a considerable number of match-points between scores of 100 and 110 to East-West. You may note, incidentally, that neither side can make 1NT – at least according to <i>Deep Finesse</i>. Maybe so, but if North is left in that contract East has to find an opening lead. A low spade would be disastrous, giving declarer his contract with an overtrick for what should be a top score.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Dble	2♥	Pass	Pass		Pass	2♠	All Pass																									
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<p>♠6 ♥Q52 ♦9853 ♣J9642</p> <p>♠AJ853 ♠K1092 ♥A109 ♥K6 ♦AJ106 ♦Q742 ♣Q ♣K107</p> <p>♠Q74 ♥J8743 ♦K ♣A853</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>East-West have an obvious contract of 4♠ on this hand. Yes, <i>Deep Finesse</i> says that 6♠ can make (and the improbable 6♦ as well), but the slams require a very favourable lie of the cards. Note that declarer has to locate the ♠Q – it's all so easy when you can see all four hands, less so for mortal declarers at the table. In practice, most players will record 4♠+1, losing to the ♣A and a trump, having failed to <i>Find the Lady</i>. What is North going to lead against 4♠, though? A singleton trump is not recommended for children, adults or anyone else, but does seem to hold a strange fascination for some players. If anyone does lead a spade then a grateful declarer will be off to a flyer. It's also possible that some Wests, playing in spades, will be allowed to sneak a club through to the singleton queen, avoiding a loser there. If that happens, West will have to avoid the trap of leading the ♦Q from dummy later in the hand; Doing so will generate a loser in that suit.</p>		West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass		3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass		Pass	Pass
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<p>♠J762 ♥AJ8643 ♦7 ♣73</p> <p>♠AK8 ♠543 ♥Q10 ♥K52 ♦K93 ♦QJ1054 ♣QJ862 ♣A4</p> <p>♠Q109 ♥97 ♦A862 ♣K1095</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td></td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>East-West have a fairly straightforward contract of 3NT on this deal, although a spade lead does make life awkward. Strong no-trumpers have it easy, bidding the hand in time-honoured fashion: 1NT – 3NT. Weak no-trumpers may not find it so easy if North decides to stick his oar into the auction with a weak 2♥ overcall. That makes the bidding awkward and some may not reach game at all. 3NT is best played from the West hand; it's especially easy on a heart lead. If East plays it, he has to duck one round of hearts and later duck a round of spades should the defence switch to those. If the defenders are less disobliging, declarer would have an armchair ride in setting up two spades, one heart, four diamonds and two clubs. Some Wests will make a carefree overtrick after a heart lead into the ♥Q10.</p>		West	North	East	South					Pass	1♣		2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass		3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass		Pass	Pass
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<p>♠AQJ53 ♥Q64 ♦K763 ♣K</p> <p>♠862 ♠K4 ♥K1097 ♥532 ♦2 ♦1085 ♣A9872 ♣J6543</p> <p>♠1097 ♥AJ8 ♦AQJ94 ♣Q10</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North-South have an obvious game contract on this deal, with 4♠ and 5♦ (by South) makeable. No one plays in five-of-a-minor in match-point pairs, so I suspect that the vast majority will play this in 4♠, reached by some minor variation of the auction above. With both major-suit kings lying badly for declarer, 4♠ can always be held to ten tricks. A club lead from East allows the defence to take three tricks via a ruff; West takes the ♣A and switches to his singleton diamond, later on getting securing a ruff to make his side's third trick. After a passive heart lead, declarer is in danger of defeat if he takes the finesse. West would take the ♥K and switch to his diamond and now North cannot avoid the loss of a trump, a heart, a diamond ruff and a club. Oops! The irony of the hand is that 6♠ is a better proposition than the slams that can make on Hands 3 and 6, for example, as it would make if the spade finesse succeeded.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass																											
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<p>♠6 ♥6 ♦A87432 ♣J8732</p> <p>♠Q107542 ♠A9 ♥Q984 ♥K107 ♦1095 ♦QJ6 ♣None ♣Q10964</p> <p>♠KJ83 ♥AJ532 ♦K ♣AK5</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>An impossible-to-predict hand, this one, as much depends on system, method and judgement. After a weak no-trump from East (not universal, I realise), South will double and West will rescue into 2♠. Now what? In old fashioned methods, a further double by either North or South is for penalties, so West may play 2♠ doubled, a fraught contract that should drift one down. However, many players do not play a second double as for penalties – so what should happen next? There all sorts of possibilities, few of them good for North-South. I can see all sorts of auctions ending in all sorts of unlikely contracts, with many pairs finding themselves in the doomed 3NT. What happens where East opens 1♣ (maybe not promising clubs)? South may double, he may overcall 1♥ – who knows? All the fun of the fair on this one. A plethora of final results with penalties in both directions.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Dble	2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass																											
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<p>♠AKJ10952 ♥5 ♦8 ♣A763</p> <p>♠6 ♠Q743 ♥AKJ96 ♥Q8742 ♦J63 ♦7 ♣10984 ♣KQ2</p> <p>♠8 ♥103 ♦AKQ109542 ♣J5</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>5♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Another difficult to assess deal, this one. Some may try a light-hearted opening bid of 3NT on those South cards, although that's a little imprudent with a solid eight-card suit. If South does try that, North shouldn't stick it with an obvious hole in the heart suit – he should bid 5♦ himself. Played by South, 5♦ is not so obvious to defend. Declarer has eleven on top (eight diamonds and ace-king, ace), so the issue is about saving the overtrick. Having cashed the ♥A, West has to switch to his spade. If he leads a trump, South has it easy, drawing trumps, setting up the long spades with the aid of a ruffing finesse and accessing them with the ♣A. After a club switch declarer can, if he reads the hand right, squeeze the life out of East by running off all of his trumps. In the ending East either has to unguard his ♠Q or chuck the ♣KQ. If North declares 5♦ (a rare occurrence, I suspect, albeit a possible one) East may well lead the ♣K. Declarer can make twelve tricks legitimately if he runs off all eight trumps and catches East in a strip-squeeze-and-endplay. Not obvious at all.</p>	West	North	East	South				5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass																															
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<p>♠ A10 ♥ AQJ54 ♦ 1098 ♣ Q53</p> <p>♠ Q82 ♠ K7653 ♥ K73 ♥ 10 ♦ Q5 ♦ AK632 ♣ KJ642 ♣ 97</p> <p>♠ J94 ♥ 9862 ♦ J74 ♣ A108</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		13		11	10	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	-	-	S	-	-	1	-	-	E	2	3	-	4	-	W	2	4	-	4	1	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>On this deal there are marginal bidding decisions for both sides. It is possible, for instance, that North opens 1NT, leading to heaven knows where. Most Norths, though, will open 1♥ and now East has to decide whether to bid a quiet 1♠ or make a two-suited noise such as a <i>Michaels</i> 2♥ overcall to show spades and a minor. Whatever the upshot, East-West should buy the hand in spades, in a sensible part-score. Yes, we can all see that <i>Deep Finesse</i> says that game is available to East-West in spades, but it is a truly terrible contract. With a certain spade, heart and club loser, declarer has to divine the trumps (by playing low to the king and ducking the next round) and then guess the clubs correctly. Even then, he needs diamonds 3-3 to avoid having to ruff one on table, promoting South's ♠J. Anyone who reaches 4♠ and records 620 isn't allowed to claim misfortune on any deal for at least a year. Note that a score of 170 to East-West is likely to rake in a large number of match-points, although perhaps some North-South may concede 200 in an optimistic 3♥.</p>	West	North	East	South	2♠	1♥	1♠	2♥		Pass	Pass	Pass
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<p>♠ Q1074 ♥ 10 ♦ 9875 ♣ AQJ8</p> <p>♠ A982 ♠ KJ5 ♥ KQ2 ♥ A754 ♦ AKJ6 ♦ Q4 ♣ K4 ♣ 10965</p> <p>♠ 63 ♥ J9863 ♦ 1032 ♣ 732</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	HCP		9		20	10	1		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	3	4	3	4	4	W	3	5	3	5	5	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>All roads are likely to lead to 3NT on this deal, the auction above being just one way of arriving there. If North leads a black card, he surrenders a trick immediately, either by allowing the ♣K to score or by allowing West to pick up four spade tricks. Matters are more awkward for declarer after a passive diamond lead, giving nothing away. West can still make eleven tricks if he reads the hand accurately. First, he has to finesse the ♠J and then he should play off the four diamonds. Now he can try his luck in hearts, and can see the 5-1 split on the second round. Abandoning that suit, it is safe enough to cash the ♠K and play off the ♠A and exit with a spade. Now North has to lead a club, ensuring a club trick for the king, regardless of the location of the ♣A. There should be loads of scores of 460, but there will be some 430s as well.</p>	West	North	East	South	2NT	Pass	Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass	3♣	Pass		Pass	3NT	All Pass
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<p>♠ AK7 ♥ K7 ♦ Q10986 ♣ 954</p> <p>♠ 9652 ♠ J843 ♥ 6 ♥ 984 ♦ K ♦ AJ52 ♣ AKQ10762 ♣ J3</p> <p>♠ Q10 ♥ AQJ10532 ♦ 743 ♣ 8</p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: left;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">4♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> <td style="text-align: left;">3♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>Another hand where it's to impossible guess the results. South has just about the right amount to venture 3♥, first in hand, vulnerable, although I can see some preferring 1♥. After the pre-empt – who knows? West may try 4♣ and give up if North tries 4♥; he may steal the deal in clubs if North decides he doesn't have enough for a raise. Note that 4♣ has no chance after a heart lead or after the lead of three rounds of spades and the ♥A switch. What about 4♥? Well, <i>Deep Finesse</i> smugly tells us that it can be beaten. Yes, but only if (wait for it!) West leads the ♦K, which East overtakes to give his partner a diamond ruff. Now West underleads the ♣AKQ to his partner's ♣J and East gives his partner a second ruff. (Yes, all right, cashing the ♦K at trick one and underleading the clubs at trick two works just as well, but neither defence is going to be found often, if at all). If any East-West did find this defensive play, there could well be a stewards' enquiry.</p>	West	North	East	South	4♣	4♥	All Pass	3♥																																				
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<p>♠ K98542 ♥ J6 ♦ J ♣ J752</p> <p>♠ Q1073 ♠ 6 ♥ 9 ♥ AQ108543 ♦ A97542 ♦ K ♣ K9 ♣ AQ43</p> <p>♠ AJ ♥ K72 ♦ Q10863 ♣ 1086</p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: left;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♥</td> <td style="text-align: left;">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>The bidding is difficult to predict on his hand, although it may be as brief as the auction above. However, it goes, it is surely going to end in 4♥ at most tables. With what result, though? <i>Deep Finesse</i> says that you can make 5♥, but “can” is not a synonym for “should”. If South starts off with the ♠A against 4♥ in response to his partner's weak two it all looks easy to East. Suppose, though, South switches to a diamond at trick two. It looks natural to take that in hand, play a club to the table and attempt to cash the ♦A. When North ruffs that, declarer's eleventh trick evaporates. Provided North hangs grimly onto his ♣Jxxx as declarer runs his trumps, the defence will score a spade, a heart and a club. The way to make eleven tricks is to take the ♦K at trick two and to lay down the ♥A followed by the queen. Obvious enough – but only if you are <i>Deep Finesse</i> and can see all four hands.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	2♣	4♥	All Pass																																				
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<p>♠ K85 ♥ AQ108 ♦ A97 ♣ J32</p> <p>♠ Q ♠ A9763 ♥ K2 ♥ J943 ♦ J85432 ♦ 6 ♣ AKQ5 ♣ 1074</p> <p>♠ J1042 ♥ 765 ♦ KQ10 ♣ 986</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: left;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>The above auction is a quiet one to a workaday part-score, but it may be a lot more exciting at many tables tonight. West has 15 points – should he allow North to steal the deal in 1NT? Well, what's the alternative? Double is a possibility but is seriously flawed with a third of the points wrapped up in three cards, a singleton queen and a doubleton king. A bid, then? Well, 2♦ would be fine, but only if it were natural. The vast majority of pairs play such a bid as ASTRO, ASPRO, ASPTRSO, Multi-Landy or somesuch convention, so bidding naturally is not available to them. As it happens, Passing works out very badly for East-West; if East leads a low spade (and who wouldn't?) and declarer plays low from dummy (as he should), North is in line to make three spades, three diamonds and two hearts (should he risk the finesse). 120 to North-South is sure to score well. If West plays in 2♦ he may scrape home with the 3-3 diamond break – 90 to his side would be a good score. Where North-South are playing a strong no-trump it's not easy to guess how the auction will go.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass																																				
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<p>♠ 42 ♥ Q5 ♦ Q1054 ♣ KQ1063</p> <p>♠ 87 ♠ 95 ♥ A98743 ♥ KJ62 ♦ AK2 ♦ J873 ♣ 92 ♣ 754</p> <p>♠ AKQJ1063 ♥ 10 ♦ 96 ♣ AJ8</p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>At first glance this looks a trivial hand; North-South have the easiest ten tricks imaginable in spades and West has three obvious tricks to cash to ensure no overtricks. So, the entire country will play in 4♠ making on the nose? Not so fast. Firstly, there are tables where West may neglect to take his three top tricks, maybe trying to cash two hearts early. In these cases, South will make an overtrick. More importantly, the vulnerability is right for East-West to advance to the five-level, as a sacrifice, as they have an easy eight tricks; 5♥ doubled costs only 500 against 620 for 4♠. Who, though, should take the push after the auction above? West looks to have too much defence and East too many losers. Somebody undoubtedly will, and it's the winning action. If any South goes on to 5♠, West is sure to beat that with his three top tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♠	2♥	Dble	3♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass																													
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<p>♠ Q10843 ♥ 53 ♦ A762 ♣ A6</p> <p>♠ A72 ♠ KJ65 ♥ Q9842 ♥ 106 ♦ 3 ♦ KQJ ♣ Q1093 ♣ 8742</p> <p>♠ 9 ♥ AKJ7 ♦ 109854 ♣ KJ5</p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North-South should play this one in a diamond part-score, reached after a number of possible bidding sequences. Bidding and rebidding that diamond suit is repulsive, so maybe South should "manufacture" a 2♣ rebid as in the auction above. Maybe the author is just being fanciful; make up your own minds. Whatever the bidding (and some will be allowed to rebid 1NT by their systems) the result should be the same; North-South should play this one in 3♦. Nine tricks are makeable, says <i>Deep Finesse</i>. Indeed so, South should cash the ♦A, play three rounds of clubs, ruffing the last and play three rounds of hearts, ruffing the last. East overruffs, draws the last trump leaving South with a spade, a heart and two diamonds to lose. Variations? Well, West may well lead a heart at trick one, allowing South to make an overtrick.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass																													
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<p>♠ J962 ♥ None ♦ J104 ♣ Q98543</p> <p>♠ Q843 ♠ K ♥ Q973 ♥ 10865 ♦ A962 ♦ Q83 ♣ 6 ♣ KJ1072</p> <p>♠ A1075 ♥ AKJ42 ♦ K75 ♣ A</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Another awkward deal, with results (perhaps) varying far and wide. Should North accept his fate and Pass out 1♥? I suspect fatalists will and optimists won't. 1♥ should make on the nose (although <i>there's many a slip twixt cup and lip</i>) for a score of 80. What if North tries to improve matters with a 1♠ response? Now he is sure to play the hand in game. At first glance 4♠ is a more desirable contract than 1♥, but the distribution is not kind. The combination of a 4-1 trump break and a 5-1 club break means that there is too much work to do, and nine tricks is the limit. That's the theory, anyway. The practice may be different and somebody, somewhere is sure to bid and make 4♠ on the North-South cards.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass	Pass																															
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<p>♠ AK943 ♥ AQ8752 ♦ J ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ Q108 ♠ 5 ♥ 106 ♥ K94 ♦ Q863 ♦ AK10542 ♣ 9862 ♣ Q43</p> <p>♠ J762 ♥ J3 ♦ 97 ♣ AKJ105</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>It doesn't look too hard for North-South to bid this one to a major-suit game, especially with a 5-4 spade fit. After 1♦ and two Passes (assuming West doesn't make a playful diamond raise, that is) North might bid 2♦ to show both majors. South has plenty to jump to 3♠ and North can easily advance to game. In practice, South is going to lose a heart, a diamond and a trump, to bring the game home on the nose. Yes, <i>Deep Finesse</i> says eleven tricks are available in spades. Of course they are – just play a spade to the ♠9. Easy enough, if you can see all the cards.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	Pass	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass																											
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<p>♠ AK6 ♥ Q32 ♦ KQ105 ♣ 975</p> <p>♠ None ♠ Q108543 ♥ K10865 ♥ A4 ♦ 742 ♦ AJ3 ♣ J8432 ♣ 106</p> <p>♠ J972 ♥ J97 ♦ 986 ♣ AKQ</p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></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>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North-South may well play this one in 3NT as they have two balanced hands and 25 points between them. Played by North it is an unfortunate contract as the critical diamond honours lay offside and repeated spade leads give East-West the tempo. Although dummy wins a cheap trick with the ♠7 at trick one, declarer's joy is short lived. Every time East gets in he shoots down another spade stopper, leaving North with three spades, two diamonds and three clubs as his only tricks. Variations may occur where East deems his hand worth a 2♣ overcall, vulnerable. Here, North-South may be able to get at that if playing penalty doubles. 2♣ doubled should cost at least 500 points.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass																							
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<p>♠ AQJ953 ♥ KJ ♦ A973 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ K42 ♠ 10 ♥ A974 ♥ 10832 ♦ K842 ♦ Q65 ♣ 103 ♣ K9754</p> <p>♠ 876 ♥ Q65 ♦ J10 ♣ QJ862</p>	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North-South should arrive in 4♠ on this hand whether South responds 2♠ or the dampening 1NT. Declarer should be able to time the hand to dump one diamond loser on dummy's ♥Q and ruff another on the table. With trumps 3-1 there are insufficient entries to finesse trumps twice, so it appears as though North should lose a spade, a heart and a diamond. Whether that means that 420 will be a universal score to North-South remains to be seen – it will certainly be a very common one.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass																														
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<p>♠ Q82 ♥ 43 ♦ AJ63 ♣ Q1064</p> <p>♠ 105 ♠ K9764 ♥ QJ10652 ♥ A ♦ 10 ♦ KQ952 ♣ KJ32 ♣ A8</p> <p>♠ AJ3 ♥ K987 ♦ 874 ♣ 975</p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>East-West have part-scores available in all four strains on this deal – what they have to do is to avoid going overboard. After the 1♠ opening bid, West has little alternative but to respond 1NT on his shapely 7 points. East can only bid his second suit and West can take the opportunity to show his hearts. What now, East? Well, West has been asked for preference between diamonds and spades and has bid hearts – the hand reeks of a misfit and it appears West has six (conceivably seven) hearts. Best, I think, is to Pass while the level is low. Optimists will doubtless press on with 3♦, getting reluctant 3♠ preference from West. 2♥ looks easy, and – in practice – may well make an overtrick. 3♠ looks dodgy, despite <i>Deep Finesse's</i> assurance that nine tricks are available. 140 to East-West will score well as, I suspect, there will be some minus scores from overbidders.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	Pass																									
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<p>♠ A ♥ QJ108 ♦ K7 ♣ KQJ872</p> <p>♠ 853 ♠ K1094 ♥ K76432 ♥ 9 ♦ 102 ♦ J984 ♣ 105 ♣ A963</p> <p>♠ QJ762 ♥ A5 ♦ AQ653 ♣ 4</p>	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North-South have a misfit on this deal, but loads of points (29 in total); in these circumstances it is best to play the hand in 3NT and try to make a ton of tricks on power. With communications in tatters, though, “a ton” may become just nine. East has nothing obvious to lead and does best to lead a diamond. That makes life very awkward for North, should he take it in hand he lacks the entries to set up the clubs, should he take it on table the diamonds become horribly tangled. It is, though, difficult for East-West to find the precise series of plays to hold North-South to nine tricks, so 3NT with an overtrick or two becomes the most likely result.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass																						
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<p>♠ 109832 ♥ 82 ♦ Q862 ♣ 93</p> <p>♠ Q6 ♠ KJ ♥ KJ73 ♥ AQ965 ♦ J103 ♦ 95 ♣ 8752 ♣ AKJ6</p> <p>♠ A754 ♥ 104 ♦ AK74 ♣ Q104</p>	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Another part-score deal with lots of interest. Playing a weak no-trump, South should open his favourite toy and North should seek refuge in spades via a transfer. East should double 2♥, whether playing that as lead-directing or showing a double of a weak no-trump (15+ points). Now, South knows of a nine-card spade fit and that East-West are likely to compete and so pre-empt the auction with 3♠. It may appear that he does well to steal the deal as eight tricks are available for just one off. Is that a good score? Maybe not. Many East-West pairs will play this in 4♥, especially at those tables where South, playing a strong no-trump, opens 1♦. 4♥ is not unreasonable, but is doomed to lose a spade, two diamonds and a club for one off. How many making contracts were recorded tonight? Not many, I suspect.</p>	West	North	East	South				1NT	Pass	2♥	Dble	3♠	Pass	Pass	Pass																											
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<p>♠ 65 ♥ AQ1084 ♦ Q96 ♣ 1097</p> <p>♠ AKJ10873 ♠ Q942 ♥ K2 ♥ J ♦ A8 ♦ 10432 ♣ K6 ♣ AQ82</p> <p>♠ None ♥ 97653 ♦ KJ75 ♣ J543</p>	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>A baby-slam is available on this deal for East-West – “baby-slam” meaning that the play is trivial. Even after a diamond lead, declarer draws trumps, dumps his diamond loser on the ♣Q and concedes a heart. Easy stuff. What about the bidding? Well, assuming that you open 1♠ on the West cards, 3♠ looks to be perfectly normal on the East cards. Isn't West now tailor-made for Blackwood of whatever variety you favour? When there is an ace off the hand, West settles for the small slam. Some may start with a strong 2♠ on the West cards but that would only make matters even easier. A plethora of scores of 980 to East-West?</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass																										
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<p>♠ 85 ♥ K1093 ♦ AQ3 ♣ Q1097</p> <p>♠ J1096 ♠ A2 ♥ 86 ♥ A754 ♦ 52 ♦ KJ96 ♣ J6542 ♣ AK3</p> <p>♠ KQ743 ♥ QJ2 ♦ 10874 ♣ 8</p>	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>A horrible little hand, with East likely to be disappointed in the outcome of the auction (and the play). Some intrepid Norths may open that balanced 11-count, vulnerable, leading to heaven knows where. Most tables, though will have East opening 1♥ or 1♦ according to preference. Some Souths may overcall 1♠, whereupon North may try 1NT, which will work well for his side. Not that +90 to North-South will rake in the match-points. Many will play at the one-level by East (in 1♥ or 1♦) and will struggle to make any headway. There may well be penalties of 200 for a poor match-point score. Some may even open 2NT on the East cards, a bid which should suffer a deserved fate of down plenty.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass	Pass																																
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<p>♠ 109765 ♥ A8 ♦ K109 ♣ Q75</p> <p>♠ AK2 ♠ 43 ♥ Q542 ♥ K1093 ♦ A7 ♦ Q6532 ♣ 6432 ♣ J10</p> <p>♠ QJ8 ♥ J76 ♦ J84 ♣ AK98</p>	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South has an ultra-minimum opening bid of 1NT and that should silence West. Some might Pass on those North cards, but the odds suggest that it is right to remove to a five-card major. Here, bidding 2♥ and passing the forced 2♠ allows South to settle in a makeable part-score, losing a heart, two diamonds and two spades.</p> <p>Yes, East-West can make 3♥ if declarer gets everything right – but how are they supposed to get in the auction? Even if North-South are playing a strong no-trump and South opens 1♣ it's not easy.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass																											
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<p>♠ K8762 ♥ QJ ♦ AJ9 ♣ 973</p> <p>♠ A1095 ♠ J43 ♥ K4 ♥ 976532 ♦ Q86 ♦ K ♣ Q842 ♣ AK5</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ A108 ♦ 1075432 ♣ J106</p>	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This is a deal where four cautious players could well throw the thing in. However, this is match-point pairs, and people have paid their table money – so why not bid something? After two Passes North may try 1♠, intending to Pass any response. A 1NT reply isn't particularly welcome, but North can hardly do anything but Pass. East doesn't want to allow his opponents to steal the deal, so chances his arm with 2♥ and scoops the pool that way. Hearts plays all right for East-West with the 3-2 break and the ace of trumps lying well. Declarer can scramble nine tricks for a decent match-point score of 140 points.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	Pass																								
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<p>♠ A72 ♥ KQJ9 ♦ Q93 ♣ 1063</p> <p>♠ KJ ♠ 9854 ♥ 7643 ♥ 105 ♦ AJ752 ♦ K ♣ J9 ♣ AQ8754</p> <p>♠ Q1063 ♥ A82 ♦ 10864 ♣ K2</p>	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>We finish not with a bang but with a whimper – in a miserable part-score of 1NT. East has an obvious low club lead and the defenders are always poised to take seven tricks. North can call for the ♣K and cash four hearts, but after that he is struggling. Ace and another spade gives West the lead, but a low diamond allows East to take the rest. In truth it's hard to see North-South getting a plus score on these cards – yes, they can make 2♥ but how many pairs are going to bid that? Even strong no-trumpers are going to bid 1♣ – 1♠ – 1NT and suffer the same fate as weak no-trumpers.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass																																	
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