

# **British Autumn Sim Pairs**



**Thursday  
10<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

Welcome to the British Autumn 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 Julian Pottage.

This is your last chance in 2019 to qualify for prizes. The leading overall pair drawn for this event will win £100. Every club which enters a heat of any EBU organised event, excluding any participating unaffiliated English clubs, will be included in a random draw. One 'entry' in the draw is awarded for every ten tables (or part thereof) which take part in any single heat. The draw will be made at the AGM in November.

You can find all the full details (including detail of the revised prize structure), results and last year's prize winners at [www.ebu.co.uk/sims/](http://www.ebu.co.uk/sims/)

You can earn Blue points and they are awarded to the top third of the field. 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.

Jeremy Dhondy, Chairman EBU

<p>♠ Q973 ♥ AKQ3 ♦ AK2 ♣ 93</p> <p>♠ J652                      ♠ K104 ♥ 1087                      ♥ 54 ♦ 6                              ♦ J1084 ♣ KQ842                      ♣ J1076</p> <p>♠ A8 ♥ J962 ♦ Q9753 ♣ A5</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1249 188 1435"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>18</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="226 1249 469 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>4</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		18		6	5	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	4	5	2	3	S	-	4	5	2	3	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="478 801 957 974"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>1♥<sup>1</sup></td><td>Pass</td><td>2NT<sup>2</sup></td></tr> <tr><td>3♣<sup>3</sup></td><td>Pass<sup>4</sup></td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥<sup>5</sup></td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>5♦<sup>6</sup></td><td>Pass</td><td>6♥<sup>7</sup></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Those playing 5-card majors open 1♦.</li> <li>2) South is a bit good for a limit raise, so makes a game forcing Jacoby raise.</li> <li>3) It is unlikely that NS will decide to double – and West does want a club lead.</li> <li>4) It is good to have an agreement about what to do following intervention. I have had North pass as a waiting bid.</li> <li>5) South shows the minimum with a fast arrival jump to game.</li> <li>6) With 18 HCP North makes another try, showing the diamond control and denying controls in the black suits.</li> <li>7) Perhaps South should sign off, but doing so is hard with the ace in both black suits.</li> </ol> <p>The heart slam would make if both red suits split 3-2 and sometimes if West has a bare diamond honour. As the cards lie, the lead of either rounded suit defeats it.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2NT <sup>2</sup>	3♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4♥ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	5♦ <sup>6</sup>	Pass	6♥ <sup>7</sup>
HCP																																																													
18																																																													
6	5																																																												
11																																																													
Makeable contracts																																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	-	4	5	2	3																																																								
S	-	4	5	2	3																																																								
E	1	-	-	-	-																																																								
W	1	-	-	-	-																																																								
West	North	East	South																																																										
	1♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2NT <sup>2</sup>																																																										
3♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4♥ <sup>5</sup>																																																										
Pass	5♦ <sup>6</sup>	Pass	6♥ <sup>7</sup>																																																										
<p>♠ KQ53 ♥ 864 ♦ J1097 ♣ 43</p> <p>♠ 942                      ♠ A108 ♥ Q72                      ♥ J105 ♦ 6543                      ♦ 82 ♣ KJ7                      ♣ A9862</p> <p>♠ J76 ♥ AK93 ♦ AKQ ♣ Q105</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1937 188 2110"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="226 1937 469 2110"> <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>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		6		6	9	19		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	2	2	1	S	-	3	2	2	1	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="478 1489 957 1662"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥<sup>1</sup></td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2NT<sup>2</sup></td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♥<sup>3</sup></td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Those playing 5-card majors open 1♣.</li> <li>2) 18-19 in the modern style.</li> <li>3) Playing match-points North should probably pass. If bidding on, showing the 3-card heart support is sensible.</li> </ol> <p>3NT needs the ♣J onside and a bit more – on a club lead with a 5-3 split you could lose four club tricks and a spade even when you have a club stopper. With the ♣J offside, it should not make, although if East takes the ♠A early and fails to switch to a club, declarer would have nine tricks by means of three spades, four diamonds and two hearts. 3NT might also make if East bizarrely switches to the ♣A, which would then block the clubs.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3NT
HCP																																																													
6																																																													
6	9																																																												
19																																																													
Makeable contracts																																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	-	3	2	2	1																																																								
S	-	3	2	2	1																																																								
E	1	-	-	-	-																																																								
W	1	-	-	-	-																																																								
West	North	East	South																																																										
		Pass	1♥ <sup>1</sup>																																																										
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT <sup>2</sup>																																																										
Pass	3♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3NT																																																										

<p>♠ Q5 ♥ AJ84 ♦ AKQJ6 ♣ 43</p> <p>♠ 63                      ♠ J1042 ♥ KQ653                ♥ 109 ♦ 2                         ♦ 109543 ♣ AQJ72                ♣ K6</p> <p>♠ AK987 ♥ 72 ♦ 87 ♣ 10985</p>	<p>Board 3 : 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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>1NT<sup>1</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass<sup>3</sup></td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass<sup>4</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣<sup>5</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Dble<sup>6</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>1) 15-17 or maybe 15-18. With hearts well held, this is more descriptive than 2♦. 2) Transfer to spades. 3) West is too weak to bid at the three level at this point. 4) South might make a game try, 2NT presumably. 5) If South passed smoothly, West (looking at two good suits) may decide to compete. 6) South knows this is not making when North must have some hearts to bid 1NT.</p> <p>A spade contract plays much better than a no-trump contract partly because North's doubleton club helps stop the run of the clubs and partly because this gives South an entry to the long spades. Defending, however, is likely to prove more lucrative.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♥	1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass <sup>3</sup>	2♠	Pass	Pass <sup>4</sup>	3♣ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	3♥	Dble <sup>6</sup>	All Pass			
West	North	East	South																						
			Pass																						
1♥	1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♥ <sup>2</sup>																						
Pass <sup>3</sup>	2♠	Pass	Pass <sup>4</sup>																						
3♣ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	3♥	Dble <sup>6</sup>																						
All Pass																									

HCP		Makeable contracts	
17		♣   ♦   ♥   ♠   NT	
12      4		N   -   3   -   4   2	
7		S   -   3   -   4   2	
		E   -   -   1   -   -	
		W   -   -   1   -   -	

<p>♠ A92 ♥ AJ104 ♦ A432 ♣ A10</p> <p>♠ J53                      ♠ Q764 ♥ K973                    ♥ Q5 ♦ K765                    ♦ J8 ♣ 54                        ♣ Q9632</p> <p>♠ K108 ♥ 862 ♦ Q109 ♣ KJ87</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All 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>Pass</td> <td>1♥<sup>1</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>1) Strong no-trump players open 1NT. 2) South is maximum for the 1NT response and advances to game.</p> <p>Simon Cocheme wrote in the April issue of English Bridge about a player being endplayed at trick one. If North declares, as will happen if North-South play a strong 1NT opening, East here may know the feeling! Mind you, West does not have an easy opening lead either.</p> <p>Although declarer has only nine obvious tricks (two spades, two hearts when the double finesse works but the suit breaks 4-2, two diamonds and three clubs), the defenders are powerless to prevent an overtrick or two. Indeed, if they lead one of the pointed suits at trick one and switch to the other when in with the ♥Q, twelve tricks could result.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT <sup>2</sup>	All Pass			
West	North	East	South														
Pass	1♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1NT														
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT <sup>2</sup>														
All Pass																	

HCP		Makeable contracts	
17		♣   ♦   ♥   ♠   NT	
7      7		N   3   4   5   3   5	
9		S   3   4   5   3   5	
		E   -   -   -   -   -	
		W   -   -   -   -   -	

<p>♠ KJ3 ♥ K7543 ♦ Q3 ♣ A92</p> <p>♠ A87                      ♠ Q109542 ♥ Q                         ♥ AJ6 ♦ AKJ105                ♦ 86 ♣ J1076                ♣ K8</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ 10982 ♦ 9742 ♣ Q543</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : 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>1NT<sup>1</sup></td> <td>2♦<sup>2</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT<sup>3</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td colspan="3">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>1) With the poor hearts and values in each suit, this better expresses the hand than 1♥. 2) If you play natural overcalls, East bids 2♠. I have assumed Multi Landy, whereby 2♦ shows a single suited hand, normally a major. 3) Asking for more information and expecting East's suit to be hearts.</p> <p>North's opening bid has the unfortunate effect of enabling the opposing declarer to guess everything right. The defenders make just two tricks, a trump and the ♣A, and they might not make that if North ducks the first round of clubs or is slow ruffing in on the diamonds.</p> <p>East-West are unlikely to play in no-trumps. If they do, the lead to hold them to 10 tricks is an equally unlikely club, which takes out a vital entry to the East hand.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT <sup>1</sup>	2♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2NT <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
	1NT <sup>1</sup>	2♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass														
2NT <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3♠	Pass														
4♠	All Pass																

HCP		Makeable contracts	
13		♣   ♦   ♥   ♠   NT	
15      10		N   -   -   -   -   -	
2		S   -   -   -   -   -	
		E   3   5   1   5   4	
		W   3   5   1   5   4	

<p>♠ 76 ♥ K863 ♦ Q873 ♣ 973</p> <p>♠ AQ102      ♠ K854 ♥ J9            ♥ 74 ♦ J54            ♦ A1096 ♣ KJ82        ♣ AQ4</p> <p>♠ J93 ♥ AQ1052 ♦ K2 ♣ 1065</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>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>-</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>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		5	13	12	10	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	-	-	S	-	-	1	-	-	E	4	3	-	4	2	W	4	3	-	4	2	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT<sup>1</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣<sup>2</sup></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>1) 12-14 2) Stayman</p> <p>This is textbook deal for Stayman with two tricks more available in the suit contract because the defenders would have five heart tricks to cash against 3NT. Indeed, South may need to switch to a heart when in with the ♦K to stop 11 tricks.</p> <p>If South rather sportingly looks at the vulnerability and decides to overcall 2♥, it should still be possible to reach the spade game. West might make a takeout double or, if playing Lebensohl, follows the agreed method to show four spades while denying a heart stopper. If you are not playing any conventional system over 2♥, West cue bids 3♥ and East has an easy 3♠ bid over that.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
HCP																																																											
5	13																																																										
12	10																																																										
Makeable contracts																																																											
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																						
N	-	-	1	-	-																																																						
S	-	-	1	-	-																																																						
E	4	3	-	4	2																																																						
W	4	3	-	4	2																																																						
West	North	East	South																																																								
		1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass																																																								
2♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2♠	Pass																																																								
4♠	All Pass																																																										

<p>♠ AQ94 ♥ 52 ♦ AKQ865 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ 10863      ♠ 72 ♥ AQ107      ♥ 9643 ♦ 73            ♦ J2 ♣ AK8        ♣ Q9432</p> <p>♠ KJ5 ♥ KJ8 ♦ 1094 ♣ J1065</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>9</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>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		15	3	13	9	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	4	-	2	-	S	-	4	-	2	2	E	2	-	1	-	-	W	2	-	1	-	-	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Double</td> <td>Rdbl<sup>1</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣<sup>2</sup></td> <td>2♦<sup>3</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT<sup>4</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>1) The redouble is conventional, showing a one-suited hand and asking West to bid 2♣. Some may prefer to show clubs and another if system allows. 2) As requested. 3) North is too shapely to consider defending a low-level club contract. 4) With a club stopper and expecting any diamond finesse to succeed South pots 3NT.</p> <p>The only way to defeat 3NT is for the defenders to cash their club tricks and lead a heart through South's tenace. Given the bidding and what they can see in dummy, this should not prove too difficult to find. Defeating 3NT might be harder if North declares because then East might need to judge whether to switch to spades or hearts. With the ♥K-J inside, 2♣ doubled would make. 2♥ doubled fails on a club ruff.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1NT	Double	Rdbl <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♣ <sup>2</sup>	2♦ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3NT <sup>4</sup>	All Pass			
HCP																																																															
15	3																																																														
13	9																																																														
Makeable contracts																																																															
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																										
N	-	4	-	2	-																																																										
S	-	4	-	2	2																																																										
E	2	-	1	-	-																																																										
W	2	-	1	-	-																																																										
West	North	East	South																																																												
			Pass																																																												
1NT	Double	Rdbl <sup>1</sup>	Pass																																																												
2♣ <sup>2</sup>	2♦ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3NT <sup>4</sup>																																																												
All Pass																																																															

<p>♠ QJ5 ♥ QJ9 ♦ 92 ♣ KQJ105</p> <p>♠ 984            ♠ AK73 ♥ 743            ♥ K65 ♦ AKJ64        ♦ Q1053 ♣ 72            ♣ A4</p> <p>♠ 1062 ♥ A1082 ♦ 87 ♣ 9863</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>4</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>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		12	16	8	4	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	2	-	-	S	2	-	2	-	-	E	-	2	-	2	2	W	-	2	-	2	2	<p>Board 8 : 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>1NT</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♣<sup>1</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT<sup>2</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣<sup>3</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦<sup>4</sup></td> <td>All Pass<sup>5</sup></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>1) South does what East might have done on the previous deal, conventionally showing the lower of two suits. 2) 2♦ would be competitive while a jump to 3♦ would be forcing. If you play Lebensohl in this position you can show an invitational hand by going via 2NT. 3) As requested (East could bid something else with a very strong or shapely hand). 4) As planned, invitational with diamonds. 5) East has a pretty much minimum double and is a little worried about the clubs.</p> <p>The almost mirror-image distribution East-West means that they can make only eight tricks whatever the denomination they choose. After a club lead at trick one, the defenders will be able to cash a club and three hearts as well as making a spade trick. Possibly if declarer in 3♦ ducks the first club and then North fails to switch to a heart, an avoidance play in spades (lead twice from the West hand, covering North's card) would protect the ♥K.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	Dble	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	2NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3♦ <sup>4</sup>	All Pass <sup>5</sup>		
HCP																																																											
12	16																																																										
8	4																																																										
Makeable contracts																																																											
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																						
N	2	-	2	-	-																																																						
S	2	-	2	-	-																																																						
E	-	2	-	2	2																																																						
W	-	2	-	2	2																																																						
West	North	East	South																																																								
Pass	1NT	Dble	2♣ <sup>1</sup>																																																								
2NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass																																																								
3♦ <sup>4</sup>	All Pass <sup>5</sup>																																																										

<p>♠ A1063 ♥ AK76 ♦ J84 ♣ 94</p> <p>♠ 4 ♥ Q953 ♦ Q10952 ♣ Q107</p> <p>♠ K ♥ J1082 ♦ A7 ♣ AKJ832</p> <p>♠ QJ98752 ♥ 4 ♦ K63 ♣ 65</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>12</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>S</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		12		N	6	2	6	1	4	6	6	S	6	2	6	1	4	16		E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT<sup>1</sup></td> <td>Pass<sup>2</sup></td> <td>2♣<sup>3</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥<sup>4</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>1) 12-14 2) An overcall of a weak 1NT should be constructive. 3) Stayman, asking for 4-card majors. 4) North will need strong hearts and the ♠A for a slam to be good. Maybe South should make one slam try, perhaps with a natural 3♣ (if played as forcing) or a 3♠ splinter. Bidding 3♣ and then 4♥ actually describes the hand quite well.</p> <p>East is likely to lead a spade against a heart contract. Declarer is under little pressure and can take the trump finesse before ruffing the clubs good, making 12 tricks. A diamond lead is more challenging because then (fearing the loss of a heart and a diamond) you might well unblock the ♠K, cross to the ♥A and attempt to cash the ♠A for a diamond discard. West can ruff that and exit with a diamond, holding declarer to 10 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass <sup>2</sup>	2♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥ <sup>4</sup>	All Pass			
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																															
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																											
12		N	6	2	6	1	4																																																										
6	6	S	6	2	6	1	4																																																										
16		E	-	-	-	-	-																																																										
		W	-	-	-	-	-																																																										
West	North	East	South																																																														
	1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass <sup>2</sup>	2♣ <sup>3</sup>																																																														
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥ <sup>4</sup>																																																														
All Pass																																																																	
<p>♠ 964 ♥ QJ53 ♦ 943 ♣ KQ10</p> <p>♠ KQJ82 ♥ 6 ♦ KJ52 ♣ 732</p> <p>♠ 1075 ♥ AK92 ♦ Q10 ♣ J854</p> <p>♠ A3 ♥ 10874 ♦ A876 ♣ A96</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>10</td> <td>12</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		8		N	-	-	-	-	-	10	12	S	-	-	-	-	-	10		E	-	5	1	4	3			W	-	5	1	4	3	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT<sup>1</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥<sup>2</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass<sup>3</sup></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>1) 12-14 2) Transfer showing five or more spades. 3) Expecting East to give some sort of super acceptance with four-card support and knowing that match-point pairs scoring does not reward pushing for thin games, West decides to stop safely at a low level.</p> <p>The perfect fit (no heart values in the East hand facing West's shortage) combined with the friendly diamond layout (3-2 split and the ♦Q onside) mean that 10 tricks are available in a spade contract. Even if West invited game, East would decline the invitation, having only 12 points and a doubleton spade.</p> <p>Barring a signalling mix up, the defenders should manage to cash the first four tricks if East plays in a no-trump contract, though no doubt some pair somewhere will fail to cash out and allow declarer to make 10 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2♠	All Pass <sup>3</sup>				
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																															
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																											
8		N	-	-	-	-	-																																																										
10	12	S	-	-	-	-	-																																																										
10		E	-	5	1	4	3																																																										
		W	-	5	1	4	3																																																										
West	North	East	South																																																														
		1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass																																																														
2♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2♠	All Pass <sup>3</sup>																																																														
<p>♠ 10965 ♥ J10 ♦ A1074 ♣ A106</p> <p>♠ KQJ73 ♥ A76 ♦ 932 ♣ J3</p> <p>♠ A842 ♥ 98432 ♦ J5 ♣ K4</p> <p>♠ - ♥ KQ5 ♦ KQ86 ♣ Q98752</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>9</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		9		N	-	-	-	1	-	11	12	S	-	-	-	-	-	8		E	2	1	-	-	2			W	2	1	-	-	2	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠<sup>1</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT<sup>2</sup></td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>1) With such a good suit and being non-vulnerable West surely opens. 2) The misfit says to stay low.</p> <p>Superficially declarer has 8 tricks in 2NT (four clubs, three hearts and a diamond), though communications may be a problem – and you need to guess the clubs correctly (two-way finesse against the ♣10) in any case. On a normal heart lead the winning line is to take the first trick in dummy and lead a top spade, discarding a diamond. If you do not do that, you could lose a spade, two hearts, a diamond and two clubs for down one.</p> <p>3♣ goes down one if North scores a heart ruff because the defenders are always going to score two trumps, the ♦A and either a second diamond or the ♠A. Taking a diamond ruff may defeat 3♣ as well if South gets to ruff a diamond honour rather than the ♦8.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT <sup>2</sup>	All Pass
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																															
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																											
9		N	-	-	-	1	-																																																										
11	12	S	-	-	-	-	-																																																										
8		E	2	1	-	-	2																																																										
		W	2	1	-	-	2																																																										
West	North	East	South																																																														
			Pass																																																														
1♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♣	Pass																																																														
2♠	Pass	2NT <sup>2</sup>	All Pass																																																														

<p>♠ Q9875 ♥ - ♦ K98 ♣ A9852</p> <p>♠ J64                      ♠ K103 ♥ AJ643                  ♥ 975 ♦ Q2                        ♦ 763 ♣ K73                      ♣ QJ104</p> <p>♠ A2 ♥ KQ1082 ♦ AJ1054 ♣ 6</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass<sup>1</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>1) Second seat vulnerable is not the time for a light opening bid. 2) North would really want 10 or 11 points to rebid 2NT.</p> <p>If you view it right, you can make 11 tricks in a diamond contract. You may need to keep leading high hearts when you get the lead in hand to pin the ♥9. You can take ruffing finesses against West's heart honours, just losing a spade and a heart. Because you need to take ruffs in dummy, you cannot end up taking a losing finesse into the ♦Q.</p> <p>The lead of either minor definitely defeats 3NT – as would a heart if North declares. In a no-trump contract, declarer will have less reason to pick up the diamond suit and so might make only seven tricks.</p> <p>A spade contract yields nine tricks without too much difficulty.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	All Pass <sup>2</sup>			
West	North	East	South														
Pass	Pass <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1♥														
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦														
All Pass <sup>2</sup>																	

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
9	N 3	5	2	3	2	
11      6	S 3	5	2	3	2	
14	E -	-	-	-	-	
	W -	-	-	-	-	

<p>♠ K1072 ♥ AK843 ♦ Q6 ♣ 64</p> <p>♠ Q843                      ♠ - ♥ QJ                        ♥ 1097 ♦ 1054                      ♦ AKJ873 ♣ KQ85                      ♣ 10973</p> <p>♠ AJ965 ♥ 652 ♦ 92 ♣ AJ2</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♦<sup>1</sup></td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>1) It is close whether East should make a weak jump overcall. Passing would be unwise with the strength concentrated in one suit knowing that South is likely to declare a spade contract. Bidding obstructs the North-South bidding and directs the lead.</p> <p>The defenders ought to make two diamonds, a club and a heart against a spade contract. Even a club lead (ducked) and continuation is good enough for four tricks because even though they lose their second diamond trick, declarer cannot pick up the trumps.</p> <p>In fact if, as is quite likely, declarer lays down the ♠A at trick four (after two diamonds and a club switch), it will prove impossible to pick up the trumps and even 3♠ fails.</p> <p>With the ♣A-J and onside and the ♦Q short onside, even the unluckiest guessers will make 10 tricks if they declare a diamond contract East-West.</p>	West	North	East	South	3♦	1♥	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	2♠		3♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South										
3♦	1♥	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	2♠										
	3♠	All Pass											

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
12	N -	-	3	3	1	
10      8	S -	-	3	3	1	
10	E 3	4	-	-	-	
	W 3	4	-	-	-	

<p>♠ AKQ2 ♥ 2 ♦ AQ1072 ♣ 1082</p> <p>♠ J97                        ♠ 864 ♥ A107643                ♥ K98 ♦ K9                        ♦ 83 ♣ AQ                        ♣ KJ764</p> <p>♠ 1053 ♥ QJ5 ♦ J654 ♣ 953</p>	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥<sup>1</sup></td> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>1) Holding six hearts West makes a pre-emptive raise to the three level. This should not be a game try (unless specifically agreed) because so many other bids can do that.</p> <p>North may find the defence against a heart contract a bit frustrating. Those who cash three top spades and exit passively in one of the rounded suits in the hope of getting a diamond lead through will still be waiting. Declarer cashes the ♥A, unblocks the clubs, crosses to the ♥K and lead clubs from the top (with clubs 3-3, it comes to the same thing if declarer cashes the two top trumps first and then overtakes the ♣Q with the ♣K on the second round of clubs). West gets one diamond away while South follows to the third round of clubs and another while South ruffs the fourth round with a natural trump winner.</p> <p>3♦ goes down because there is no entry to the South hand to take the trump finesse.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥		Pass	Pass	3♥ <sup>1</sup>	Dble	2♥	Pass		All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
1♥		Pass	Pass														
3♥ <sup>1</sup>	Dble	2♥	Pass														
	All Pass																

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
15	N -	2	-	1	-	
14      7	S -	2	-	1	-	
4	E 1	-	1	-	-	
	W 1	-	2	-	1	

<p>♠ J10732 ♥ AJ ♦ Q875 ♣ Q10</p> <p>♠ A85                      ♠ 96 ♥ 8532                      ♥ K1074 ♦ AJ92                      ♦ - ♣ K9                         ♣ A875432</p> <p>♠ KQ4 ♥ Q96 ♦ K10643 ♣ J6</p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT<sup>1</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT<sup>2</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣<sup>3</sup></td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>1) 12-14 2) This is conventional, asking West to bid 3♣, indicating a weak hand with a long minor. In the old days East would bid 2♣ and then (unless West shows four hearts) 3♣. 3) As instructed – East would convert to 3♦ if holding long diamonds.</p> <p>The friendly layout (clubs 2-2, hearts 3-3 and the ♥A onside) means that you can make 11 tricks in a club contract. You discard a spade on the ♦A and at some point, lead towards the ♥K – indeed, with the ♥A doubleton, even those who burn West's entries and end up having to lead hearts from the East hand can make 11 tricks.</p> <p>The same favourable layout makes 11 tricks possible in a heart contract too. You play exactly two rounds of trumps, leaving South with a master trump.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♣ <sup>3</sup>	All Pass																																		
West	North	East	South																																														
			Pass																																														
1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass																																														
3♣ <sup>3</sup>	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;">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		10	7	12	11	<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>1</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	1	-	1	-		S	-	1	-	1	-		E	5	-	5	-	3		W	5	-	5	-	3	
HCP																																																	
10	7																																																
12	11																																																
Makeable contracts																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																												
N	-	1	-	1	-																																												
S	-	1	-	1	-																																												
E	5	-	5	-	3																																												
W	5	-	5	-	3																																												

<p>♠ 10842 ♥ 85 ♦ A10732 ♣ 65</p> <p>♠ A965                      ♠ QJ73 ♥ A106                      ♥ Q43 ♦ 64                         ♦ K95 ♣ 10872                      ♣ KJ3</p> <p>♠ K ♥ KJ972 ♦ QJ8 ♣ AQ94</p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass<sup>1</sup></td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT<sup>2</sup></td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>1) In third seat vulnerable and with poor intermediates and lifeless shape, East does not risk a 1NT opening. 2) Having passed previously, East could hardly be stronger. The hand is too flat for a reopening double, the four-card spade suit notwithstanding.</p> <p>The defenders need to be a bit careful in defending a heart contract because declarer might make three hearts, four diamonds and two clubs for 140 if given the chance. One way to prevent this is to keep playing spades, shortening South's trumps. Playing on clubs to set up a winner for themselves in the club suit is another way.</p> <p>If North-South somehow find their diamond fit, the play there also offers its challenges. Declarer has only three inescapable losers (two aces and the ♦K) but there is work to do and the defenders should make at least one more trick.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass <sup>1</sup>	1♥	Pass	Pass	1NT <sup>2</sup>	2♣	Pass	2♥	All Pass																																	
West	North	East	South																																														
Pass	Pass	Pass <sup>1</sup>	1♥																																														
Pass	Pass	1NT <sup>2</sup>	2♣																																														
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;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		4	12	8	16	<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>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	3	2	-	-		S	-	3	2	-	-		E	-	-	-	2	-		W	-	-	-	1	-	
HCP																																																	
4	12																																																
8	16																																																
Makeable contracts																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																												
N	-	3	2	-	-																																												
S	-	3	2	-	-																																												
E	-	-	-	2	-																																												
W	-	-	-	1	-																																												

<p>♠ 74 ♥ AJ1094 ♦ A964 ♣ AK</p> <p>♠ 832                      ♠ 1095 ♥ Q3                        ♥ 8752 ♦ K875                      ♦ J32 ♣ QJ75                      ♣ 842</p> <p>♠ AKQJ6 ♥ K6 ♦ Q10 ♣ 10963</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT<sup>1</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6NT<sup>3</sup></td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>1) 15-17 in the modern style – showing the strength and stoppers is more descriptive than introducing the second suit. 2) Counting at least one extra point for the running spade suit, South is worth inviting a slam. An alternative is 2♣ if played as Checkback. 3) The strong five-card heart suit means that North is unquestionably at the higher end of the 15-17 range.</p> <p>This deal is mainly about the bidding. Ideally you want to be in a slam and be in no-trumps. Most declarers will take the winning view in the heart suit, playing West for the ♥Q, and make all 13 tricks. If you are shooting for a top and decide to finesse the other way, you will get a poor score. Indeed, if you get a diamond lead from East at trick one and misguess that suit as well, you might make only 11 tricks for a terrible score.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass	6NT <sup>3</sup>	All Pass																																	
West	North	East	South																																														
	1♥	Pass	1♠																																														
Pass	1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>2</sup>																																														
Pass	6NT <sup>3</sup>	All Pass																																															
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		16	1	8	15	<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>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	5	6	7	7	7		S	5	6	7	7	7		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-	
HCP																																																	
16	1																																																
8	15																																																
Makeable contracts																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																												
N	5	6	7	7	7																																												
S	5	6	7	7	7																																												
E	-	-	-	-	-																																												
W	-	-	-	-	-																																												

<p>♠ KJ2 ♥ A53 ♦ QJ76 ♣ K102</p> <p>♠ A96                      ♠ 107 ♥ K86                      ♥ 109742 ♦ A9432                    ♦ K108 ♣ A8                        ♣ 754</p> <p>♠ Q8543 ♥ QJ ♦ 5 ♣ QJ963</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 573 188 763"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="228 573 470 763"> <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>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		14		15	3	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	-	-	3	-	S	3	-	-	3	-	E	-	2	2	-	-	W	-	2	2	-	-	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="491 129 970 309"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠<sup>1</sup></td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♦<sup>2</sup></td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="4">All Pass</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>1) Having passed previously and hating to let West play in 1♦, South can reopen. 2) North cue bids to show a sound spade raise.</p> <p>With the breaks friendly and the onside, the defenders will be doing well to hold a spade contract to nine tricks. Indeed, the only way to do it could be more West to start with the ♣A and another club. It is then possible to come in with ♠A, underlead the ♦A to East's ♦K and score a club ruff. I suspect the play will go that way at only a small minority of tables.</p> <p>Holding a club contract to nine tricks is a much easier task because East is the one with the doubleton spade and West is the one with plenty of entries.</p> <p>In a heart contract, a minor-suit lead, particularly a diamond, could allow nine tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	Pass	1♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2♠	All Pass			
HCP																																																																	
14																																																																	
15	3																																																																
8																																																																	
Makeable contracts																																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																												
N	3	-	-	3	-																																																												
S	3	-	-	3	-																																																												
E	-	2	2	-	-																																																												
W	-	2	2	-	-																																																												
West	North	East	South																																																														
		Pass	Pass																																																														
1♦	Pass	Pass	1♠ <sup>1</sup>																																																														
Pass	2♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2♠																																																														
All Pass																																																																	
<p>♠ KJ92 ♥ QJ1042 ♦ 96 ♣ 62</p> <p>♠ A7643                    ♠ Q85 ♥ 765                      ♥ K9 ♦ 103                      ♦ AKJ4 ♣ QJ7                      ♣ AK103</p> <p>♠ 10 ♥ A83 ♦ Q8752 ♣ 9854</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 1256 188 1447"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="228 1256 470 1447"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>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>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		7		7	20	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	-	-	S	-	-	1	-	-	E	3	2	-	2	2	W	2	2	-	2	1	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="491 817 970 996"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>2NT<sup>1</sup></td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>3♥<sup>2</sup></td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>3NT<sup>3</sup></td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠<sup>4</sup></td><td>All Pass</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>1) 20-22. For some, East has a different way to show a balanced 20. 2) Transfer showing at least five spades. 3) Offering a choice of games. 4) With three spades and a doubleton, East prefers the suit game.</p> <p>Despite their 27 HCP, East-West will struggle to achieve a plus score.</p> <p>4♠ could go two down if South leads a club and North goes in with the ♠K on the first trump lead to switch to the ♥Q. The tricky part is that the defenders need not to cash their second heart winner but instead play a second round of clubs.</p> <p>3NT also goes two down on a club lead but declarer has eight tricks on a diamond lead.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4♠ <sup>4</sup>	All Pass
HCP																																																																	
7																																																																	
7	20																																																																
6																																																																	
Makeable contracts																																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																												
N	-	-	1	-	-																																																												
S	-	-	1	-	-																																																												
E	3	2	-	2	2																																																												
W	2	2	-	2	1																																																												
West	North	East	South																																																														
			Pass																																																														
Pass	Pass	2NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass																																																														
3♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♠	Pass																																																														
3NT <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4♠ <sup>4</sup>	All Pass																																																														
<p>♠ 109864 ♥ K105 ♦ J652 ♣ K</p> <p>♠ Q752                    ♠ AKJ ♥ Q974                    ♥ A62 ♦ A                        ♦ Q10874 ♣ 10643                   ♣ A8</p> <p>♠ 3 ♥ J83 ♦ K93 ♣ QJ9752</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 1928 188 2119"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="228 1928 470 2119"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		7		8	18	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	3	3	4	3	W	1	3	3	4	3	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="491 1489 970 1646"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td><td>Pass<sup>1</sup></td></tr> <tr><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>2NT<sup>2</sup></td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>1) Vulnerable you need more playing strength than this for a weak jump overcall at the three level. 2) 18-19 in the modern style.</p> <p>If South leads a 'normal' ♣Q, declarer has a variety of ways of coming to nine tricks. It is not good enough, however, to win the first trick and play the hearts in such a way that South acquires a heart entry (which playing low to the queen, with or without cashing the ace first would so create).</p> <p>If South leads an inspired low club, declarer needs to see through the backs of the cards (or get some help from the defenders) to make nine tricks. An avoidance play in hearts would be insufficient because the defenders make two tricks in each rounded suit as well as the ♦K.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass <sup>1</sup>	1♥	Pass	2NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3NT	All Pass						
HCP																																																																	
7																																																																	
8	18																																																																
7																																																																	
Makeable contracts																																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																												
N	-	-	-	-	-																																																												
S	-	-	-	-	-																																																												
E	1	3	3	4	3																																																												
W	1	3	3	4	3																																																												
West	North	East	South																																																														
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass <sup>1</sup>																																																														
1♥	Pass	2NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass																																																														
3NT	All Pass																																																																



<p>♠ AJ108 ♥ 93 ♦ KJ42 ♣ AJ9</p> <p>♠ 4                      ♠ Q32 ♥ KJ52                  ♥ 1084 ♦ 63                      ♦ AQ85 ♣ K106542              ♣ Q83</p> <p>♠ K9765 ♥ AQ76 ♦ 1097 ♣ 7</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>1NT<sup>1</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble<sup>3</sup></td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠<sup>4</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>1) 12-14 2) Stayman; if North denies a major, South can rebid 2♠. 3) A club lead is likely to be safe against either a spade or a no-trump contract. 4) With the known 5-4 fit, game is within reach.</p> <p>When North declares a spade contract, the defenders cannot start with two diamonds followed by a diamond ruff. This gives declarer a chance, though with the ♦Q and ♥K both offside it will be essential to take the winning view in trumps. Perhaps if you think West has a lot of clubs you will place East with trump length and make the winning decision. A little unluckily, the majority will lose a trump trick and go down.</p> <p>If declarer guesses the spades right, East will need to lead a heart at some point to hold a no-trump contract to eight tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♣ <sup>2</sup>	Dble <sup>3</sup>	2♠	Pass	3♠ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
	1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♣ <sup>2</sup>														
Dble <sup>3</sup>	2♠	Pass	3♠ <sup>4</sup>														
Pass	4♠	All Pass															

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
14	N -	2	1	4	2
7      10	S -	2	1	3	2
9	E 3	-	-	-	-
	W 3	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ A ♥ 75432 ♦ KQJ53 ♣ 102</p> <p>♠ K9876                  ♠ Q5 ♥ Q                      ♥ AJ10986 ♦ 108642              ♦ A7 ♣ AK                    ♣ J98</p> <p>♠ J10432 ♥ K ♦ 9 ♣ Q76543</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>2♥<sup>1</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble<sup>2</sup></td> <td>Pass<sup>3</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣<sup>4</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>1) Spades and a minor. You can be weak for the bid at this vulnerability. 2) West doubles to show values. This does not show hearts – you raise if you have support. 3) North is happy for South to introduce a minor. 4) With six clubs, it is worth raising the level. North could have bid 2♠ if not wishing to hear a 3♣ bid.</p> <p>If North leads a club against 3NT, declarer has an easy ride. Win the first trick perforce and lead the ♥Q overtaking with the ♥A – you do this because dummy seems short of entries rather than in the expectation of dropping the ♥K. In any case, on the bidding North cannot have ♥K x.</p> <p>A diamond lead makes life trickier, though with the ♠Q unexpectedly an entry all is well.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♥	2♥ <sup>1</sup>	Dble <sup>2</sup>	Pass <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3♣ <sup>4</sup>	3NT	All Pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
		1♥	2♥ <sup>1</sup>														
Dble <sup>2</sup>	Pass <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3♣ <sup>4</sup>														
3NT	All Pass																

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
10	N -	-	-	-	-
12      12	S -	-	-	-	-
6	E -	3	5	3	4
	W -	3	5	3	4

<p>♠ AKQ102 ♥ 107 ♦ Q1062 ♣ 97</p> <p>♠ 73                      ♠ J954 ♥ 53                      ♥ J98642 ♦ J753                  ♦ K4 ♣ QJ852              ♣ A</p> <p>♠ 86 ♥ AKQ ♦ A98 ♣ K10643</p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Dble<sup>1</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠<sup>2</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>1) South would not have rebid 2NT without the overcall and the hand has not suddenly got better. The double shows extra values but no other clear-cut bid. 2) North must jump (or cue bid) to show extra values and create a game force.</p> <p>East's overcall gives West a safe lead against 3NT, although it may also help declarer work out who has the ♦K. Declarer is likely to lose precisely three tricks: a spade, a diamond and a club. On some lines it is possible to endplay East but only after losing a long heart instead of a spade. You would not expect East to have long spades together with long hearts in any case.</p> <p>The spade game also yields 10 tricks but scores only 620 and gives fewer match-points.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1♣	Pass	1♠	2♥	Dble <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
			1♣																		
Pass	1♠	2♥	Dble <sup>1</sup>																		
Pass	3♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3NT																		
All Pass																					

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
11	N 4	4	2	4	4
4      9	S 4	4	2	4	4
16	E -	-	-	-	-
	W -	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ Q1084 ♥ KQ10 ♦ A1097 ♣ A4</p> <p>♠ 9632                      ♠ KJ75 ♥ J8                              ♥ 932 ♦ KQ54                        ♦ J3 ♣ J53                            ♣ Q876</p> <p>♠ A ♥ A7654 ♦ 862 ♣ K1092</p>	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT<sup>1</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥<sup>2</sup></td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>1) If (recommended) you play 2NT as forcing, North can show a balanced raise by bidding 2NT at this point and supporting hearts later. 2) Following through the plan – the initial response promised five hearts, so North knows of a 5-3 fit.</p> <p>You can make 11 tricks in a heart contract in a variety of ways. One is via a cross-ruff, ruffing two clubs in the North hand and three spades in the South hand. Another route is by ruffing one club and doing something with the diamonds to score a second diamond trick. If West leads a spade and East fails to duck, a subsequent ruffing finesse against the ♠K opens up the possibility of 12 tricks.</p> <p>With no ruffs possible, the limit in a no-trump contract is 10 tricks – and you might need to run the ♣10 to make even that.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥ <sup>2</sup>	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥														
Pass	2NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3NT														
Pass	4♥ <sup>2</sup>	All Pass															

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
15	N	3	4	5	2	4
7      7	S	3	4	5	2	4
11	E	-	-	-	-	-
	W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ J82 ♥ A9764 ♦ - ♣ KQ754</p> <p>♠ 9754                      ♠ K106 ♥ K2                              ♥ QJ10 ♦ A63                            ♦ J542 ♣ J1093                        ♣ A82</p> <p>♠ AQ3 ♥ 853 ♦ KQ10987 ♣ 6</p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥<sup>1</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>1) With three low trumps, South exercises some caution.</p> <p>Some pairs will be going overboard here. The fact that you cannot make game even with all suits splitting favourably and with two of the three key missing high cards (the ♠K and ♦A) where you would want them tell you that game is a poor contract. Even 3♥ can fail on a trump lead, which the great dealer in the sky as made easy for East to find with the Q-J-10 combination.</p> <p>To defeat 3♥ West needs to overtake the ♥Q with the ♥K. East can then draw all of dummy's trumps when in with the ♣A and so prevent any club ruffs. If declarer ducks the first heart and the first club lead comes from dummy, West might need to play the ♣3 – but declarer will probably take the ruffing diamond finesse and attack clubs from hand.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥ <sup>1</sup>	All Pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
	1♥	Pass	2♦														
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥ <sup>1</sup>														
All Pass																	

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
10	N	2	1	2	1	1
8      11	S	1	1	2	1	1
11	E	-	-	-	-	-
	W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ KJ3 ♥ AJ983 ♦ 82 ♣ KQ4</p> <p>♠ 108764                      ♠ 5 ♥ K7                              ♥ 64 ♦ AKJ103                        ♦ Q765 ♣ 9                                ♣ J108653</p> <p>♠ AQ92 ♥ Q1052 ♦ 94 ♣ A72</p>	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>1NT<sup>1</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠<sup>2</sup></td> <td>3♥<sup>3</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>1) 12-14 2) Spades and a minor; I guess you might make the same bid even if it did not promise a second suit. 3) If you play Lebensohl, 3♥ is forcing. If you do not, you double or (hoping that South has a diamond stopper or that West has only four diamonds) bash 3NT.</p> <p>The lead against a heart contract is crucial. If South declares, West will easily find a top diamond lead, enabling the defenders to cash the first two tricks. If North declares, East might well lead the singleton spade.</p> <p>At teams declarer might reject the trump finesse after a spade lead, avoiding a ruff if East has ♥K-x. At match-points declarer will surely take the trump finesse, so scoring 12 tricks (four spades, five hearts and three clubs).</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	1NT <sup>1</sup>	2♠ <sup>2</sup>	3♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4♥	All Pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
		Pass	1NT <sup>1</sup>														
2♠ <sup>2</sup>	3♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4♥														
All Pass																	

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

<p>♠ J105 ♥ AK86 ♦ J ♣ AK865</p> <p>♠ KQ74                      ♠ A986 ♥ Q54                        ♥ 73 ♦ K7                            ♦ A10952 ♣ QJ103                      ♣ 94</p> <p>♠ 32 ♥ J1092 ♦ Q8643 ♣ 72</p>	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : 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>1NT<sup>1</sup></td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass<sup>2</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥<sup>4</sup></td> <td>All Pass<sup>5</sup></td> <td>2♦<sup>3</sup></td> </tr> </table> <p>1) 12-14 2) With 8 points including two aces and a useful 5-card suit, East is happy to be dummy in 1NT doubled. 3) South, with only 3 HCP, does not fancy defending. 4) North would like to have five hearts for this bid but suspects few match-points will be on offer in a diamond contract. 5) East cannot really make a takeout double even if it would be for takeout.</p> <p>North-South should score well if they locate their 4-4 heart fit. The most effective lead is a trump. Declarer needs to play on clubs quickly, taking two ruffs in the South hand to set up the suit. The defenders just score three spades and a diamond at the end.</p> <p>With South unable to gain the lead to give North a diamond ruff, 3♠ makes East-West.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT <sup>1</sup>	Dble	Pass <sup>2</sup>	Pass	Pass	2♥ <sup>4</sup>	All Pass <sup>5</sup>	2♦ <sup>3</sup>
West	North	East	South										
1NT <sup>1</sup>	Dble	Pass <sup>2</sup>	Pass										
Pass	2♥ <sup>4</sup>	All Pass <sup>5</sup>	2♦ <sup>3</sup>										

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

<p>♠ Q32 ♥ A108652 ♦ 107 ♣ AK</p> <p>♠ KJ965                      ♠ A ♥ -                              ♥ KJ73 ♦ 9653                        ♦ AQ82 ♣ 8652                        ♣ J743</p> <p>♠ 10874 ♥ Q94 ♦ KJ4 ♣ Q109</p>	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : 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>1♥</td> <td>1NT<sup>1</sup></td> <td>Pass<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥<sup>3</sup></td> <td>Dble<sup>4</sup></td> <td>Pass<sup>5</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Redble<sup>6</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♥<sup>7</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>1) 15-17. Passing is a reasonable alternative but makes it easy for South to bid spades. 2) 8 HCP is not quite enough to double. Raising to 2♥ would be normal if you play 5-card majors but could be silly if North had a strong no-trump hand. 3) Transfer showing at least five spades. 4) North has more hearts than previously shown and is not completely minimum. 5) East's pass denies 3-card spade support. 6) West redoubles asking East to complete the transfer. 7) If South reads North's double as showing extra hearts, it is sensible to compete to 3♥.</p> <p>The lack of defensive communications and the friendly diamond layout mean that North can make 3♥ even without starting trumps low to the nine.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass <sup>2</sup>	2♥ <sup>3</sup>	Dble <sup>4</sup>	Pass <sup>5</sup>	Pass	Redble <sup>6</sup>	Pass	2♠	3♥ <sup>7</sup>	All Pass			
West	North	East	South																		
Pass	1♥	1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass <sup>2</sup>																		
2♥ <sup>3</sup>	Dble <sup>4</sup>	Pass <sup>5</sup>	Pass																		
Redble <sup>6</sup>	Pass	2♠	3♥ <sup>7</sup>																		
All Pass																					

HCP		Makeable contracts					
13			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
4	15	N	-	-	3	1	2
		S	-	-	3	1	2
		E	2	2	-	-	-
		W	2	2	-	-	-

<p>♠ AQJ8754 ♥ KQ94 ♦ - ♣ A7</p> <p>♠ 106                        ♠ K ♥ AJ7                        ♥ 10863 ♦ AQ10652                ♦ 93 ♣ 102                        ♣ KQ9863</p> <p>♠ 932 ♥ 52 ♦ KJ874 ♣ J54</p>	<p>Board 29 : 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></td> <td>1♠<sup>1</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦<sup>2</sup></td> <td>3♠<sup>3</sup></td> <td>All Pass<sup>4</sup></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>1) If you play Benjamin, you may prefer 2♣ despite the higher risk of losing a heart fit. 2) Even if South's pass was a little slow, this seems obvious. 3) North has a lot of options here: double, 2♥ or even 3♦ (whatever that means). Repeating the 7-card suit seems safe and sensible. 4) Since raising 1♠ to 2♠ would not have been ridiculous, South can consider bidding 4♠ – but West's 2♦ overall warns that the ♦K-J could be wastepaper.</p> <p>West's overcall may deflect East from a club lead. Declarer ruffs and leads the ♥K. If West takes the ♥A and switches to a trump, declarer is liable to put up the ♠A lest East win with the ♠K and play a second trump. As the cards lie, rising with the ♠A fells the ♠K and results in 10 tricks (it is not 11 – West gets to overruff the fourth round of hearts with the ♠10). If East leads a club at trick one, 11 tricks are possible if you guess right; West does not have enough trumps to ruff the ♣J and overruff the fourth round of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	Pass	2♦ <sup>2</sup>	3♠ <sup>3</sup>	All Pass <sup>4</sup>	
West	North	East	South										
	1♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	Pass										
2♦ <sup>2</sup>	3♠ <sup>3</sup>	All Pass <sup>4</sup>											

HCP		Makeable contracts					
16			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
11	8	N	-	-	-	4	2
		S	-	-	-	4	3
		E	1	1	-	-	-
		W	1	1	1	-	-

<p>♠AJ8 ♥J1073 ♦3 ♣KJ1042</p> <p>♠Q10752      ♠K93 ♥Q              ♥6542 ♦KQJ62        ♦A854 ♣76              ♣Q3</p> <p>♠64 ♥AK98 ♦1097 ♣A985</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="63 571 183 750"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="223 571 470 750"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		10		10	9	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	-	5	-	2	S	5	-	5	-	2	E	-	3	-	1	-	W	-	3	-	1	-	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="486 123 965 280"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass<sup>1</sup></td></tr> <tr><td>1♠<sup>2</sup></td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠<sup>3</sup></td><td>Dble<sup>4</sup></td></tr> <tr><td>3♠<sup>5</sup></td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>1) With good controls and reasonable intermediates, some will open the South hand. 2) Although West might prefer a diamond lead if North declares, bidding the major seems normal. A weak 2♠ would make it harder to mention the diamonds later. 3) Downgrading the hand with the doubleton queen and poor spot cards, a simple raise is enough. 4) Having passed and suspecting that East-West are about to stop in 2♠, South acts. 5) At love all West is keen on declaring (whoever goes down does so at 50 a trick).</p> <p>3♠ goes two down if North scores two diamond ruffs, which does not seem so unlikely.</p> <p>North-South do better declaring. If hearts are trumps and the lead is not a spade, 12 tricks are possible by ruffing two diamonds in the North hand and felling both rounded suit queens. 11 tricks are the limit in a club contract whatever the lead.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass <sup>1</sup>	1♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2♠ <sup>3</sup>	Dble <sup>4</sup>	3♠ <sup>5</sup>	All Pass		
HCP																																																													
10																																																													
10	9																																																												
11																																																													
Makeable contracts																																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	5	-	5	-	2																																																								
S	5	-	5	-	2																																																								
E	-	3	-	1	-																																																								
W	-	3	-	1	-																																																								
West	North	East	South																																																										
		Pass	Pass <sup>1</sup>																																																										
1♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2♠ <sup>3</sup>	Dble <sup>4</sup>																																																										
3♠ <sup>5</sup>	All Pass																																																												
<p>♠J64 ♥73 ♦A1098 ♣K1043</p> <p>♠83              ♠AK97 ♥K862          ♥A10 ♦Q                ♦J76532 ♣Q97652       ♣8</p> <p>♠Q1052 ♥QJ954 ♦K4 ♣AJ</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="63 1243 183 1422"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="223 1243 470 1422"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		8		7	12	13		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	1	3	S	-	-	-	1	3	E	1	1	-	-	-	W	1	1	-	-	-	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="486 795 965 907"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>2♦</td><td>1♥<sup>1</sup> All Pass<sup>2</sup></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>1) Holding so many values in the minors, some will open 1NT. 2) Bidding 2♥ would show a 6-card suit. A takeout double, if available, would be more attractive if South had a third club because North is quite likely to bid those. As the cards lie, North would leave in 2♦ doubled.</p> <p>Suppose South leads the ♥Q against 2♦. Declarer wins in hand, plays three rounds of spades, cashes the ♥K and ruffs a heart. Now declarer does best to exit with a club. South needs to let North win this and switch to the ♦10 and continue trumps. After taking the ♦K, South cashes the ♠Q and exits with something that North does not ruff. Declarer then has to lose the last two tricks to North's trump tenace for one down. There is scope for sure to let 2♦ make.</p> <p>So long as they play in no-trumps, North-South should score rather better by declaring.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	2♦	1♥ <sup>1</sup> All Pass <sup>2</sup>								
HCP																																																													
8																																																													
7	12																																																												
13																																																													
Makeable contracts																																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	-	-	-	1	3																																																								
S	-	-	-	1	3																																																								
E	1	1	-	-	-																																																								
W	1	1	-	-	-																																																								
West	North	East	South																																																										
Pass	1NT	2♦	1♥ <sup>1</sup> All Pass <sup>2</sup>																																																										
<p>♠10743 ♥QJ97 ♦8 ♣J964</p> <p>♠85              ♠QJ9 ♥AK54          ♥6 ♦Q765          ♦KJ102 ♣AK7            ♣108532</p> <p>♠AK62 ♥10832 ♦A943 ♣Q</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="63 1915 183 2094"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="223 1915 470 2094"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		4		16	7	13		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	2	-	S	-	-	-	2	-	E	1	3	-	-	2	W	1	3	-	-	2	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="486 1467 965 1556"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>All Pass</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>East should come to eight tricks in 1NT. On what will be a normal spade lead after the auction given, the defenders will score three spades and a diamond for sure. Declarer can knock out the ♦A but cannot set up any clubs without conceding one, which gives the defenders a fifth trick.</p> <p>On an initial heart lead (likely if West opens a strong 1NT and plays there), declarer make eight tricks by giving up a club (because the defenders would make two tricks in each major and one in each minor first) and the way to do it is via a winning spade guess.</p> <p>If West does open a strong 1NT, South may well come in with a Landy 2♣ to show both majors. North-South could play in hearts if that happens. A trump lead or, more likely, a club lead and a trump switch causes declarer a real problem. A spade contract plays much better. The defenders can cash two hearts, take two heart ruffs and a club – but that is all they get because the ♠10 becomes an entry and declarer can fell West's remaining club honour with two ruffs.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	Pass	1NT	All Pass								
HCP																																																													
4																																																													
16	7																																																												
13																																																													
Makeable contracts																																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	-	-	-	2	-																																																								
S	-	-	-	2	-																																																								
E	1	3	-	-	2																																																								
W	1	3	-	-	2																																																								
West	North	East	South																																																										
1♥	Pass	1NT	All Pass																																																										