

# EBED



# Sim Pairs

**Commentary by Mike Pomfrey**

**Monday**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019**

Welcome to the **English Bridge Education & Development (EBED)** Simultaneous Pairs.

The proceeds raised by this event will be used by EBED, **the national charity for the promotion and development of bridge**, in support of its objectives to promote the national learning program “**Bridge for All**” and especially to improve and develop the infrastructure for bridge teaching in England by expanding our support for EBTA – the **English Bridge Teachers Association**

EBED supplies “Bridge for All” teaching materials, organises Minibrige/Duplicate Bridge teacher training and club director training courses, administers the Junior Award Scheme and supports county organisations and individual volunteers at the local level to run youth events.

You can read more EBED’s activities in the current issue of English Bridge and at [www.ebedcio.org.uk](http://www.ebedcio.org.uk). If you wish to know more about EBED or to arrange a donation/legacy in favour of the charity, please contact us via [richard@ebedcio.org.uk](mailto:richard@ebedcio.org.uk)

Do please encourage your friends to come to play in these events which are open to all and raise vital funds for our work.

We thank you so much for your support!

Donna Wright  
Chief Executive

English Bridge Education & Development, Registered Charity No: 1153543

<p>♠ 1086 ♥ A53 ♦ KQ10862 ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ AK542            ♠ Q3 ♥ 108                ♥ K942 ♦ J975               ♦ A3 ♣ 74                 ♣ 109853</p> <p>♠ J97 ♥ QJ76 ♦ 4 ♣ AKJ62</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1283 478 1473"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11		N	-	1	1	-	-	8	9	S	-	1	1	-	-			E	-	-	-	1	1			W	-	-	-	1	1	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="478 873 957 985"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Once North decides to open this hand, quite reasonably in my view, it’s pretty well impossible for North-South to stop at a playable level. Some Souths might respond 2♣, planning to reverse into hearts but, as the hand isn’t quite worth forcing to game, I’d prefer 1♥.</p> <p>West has a reasonable overcall and now, with a minimum opening, North should pass, unless playing support doubles. Now what should South do? A takeout double? An off-centre 2NT? A nebulous 2♠?</p> <p>Whichever of those you choose, you’re booked for a minus score. If you can get away with losing only 50 points, I suspect you’ll score well.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass	Pass	?				
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<p>♠ 10943 ♥ AK9 ♦ 954 ♣ QJ3</p> <p>♠ K5                 ♠ J762 ♥ 643                ♥ Q8 ♦ 106                ♦ KQJ873 ♣ A109764        ♣ K</p> <p>♠ AQ8 ♥ J10752 ♦ A2 ♣ 852</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1921 478 2107"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>12</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	10		N	-	-	3	1	1	7	12	S	-	-	3	1	1			E	-	2	-	-	-			W	-	2	-	-	-	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="478 1512 957 1646"> <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>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>There are two feasible ways this auction might go. If South overcalls, North will show some interest, but his side should give up at the two level.</p> <p>Some might be reluctant to overcall on a jack high suit. I wouldn’t blame them but, if you pass, the auction will continue 1NT by West, 2♦ by East. You have to stick your neck out this time. After that start it’s possible that East will press on to 3♦. Now North-South will have to settle for a small plus or take their chances in 3♥, which will require some good guesswork.</p> <p>The moral is, even if you don’t much like your hand, it’s usually better to say what you have to say first time round, rather than give opponents the chance to get together.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass			
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<p>♠ 97 ♥ AKQ6 ♦ J8 ♣ J10973</p> <p>♠ Q854                  ♠ 1062 ♥ 854                    ♥ 72 ♦ KQ103                ♦ 97654 ♣ Q2                     ♣ 865</p> <p>♠ AKJ3 ♥ J1093 ♦ A2 ♣ AK4</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td></td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>After a couple of low-level battles the set springs to life. I've given a Puppet Stayman auction, in which South's 3♦ promises at least one four card major and North bids the one she hasn't got, which transfers the contract back to the strong hand.</p> <p>South has excellent controls and might be tempted to make a slam try over 3♠, but the modest trumps argue otherwise. North is still interested, however. You could just blast slam, though a check there aren't two aces missing is perhaps prudent.</p> <p>6♥ is cold except on a diamond lead, when you have to make the unlikely play of dropping the club queen. Funnily enough, making South declarer turns out to be a bad idea, as West has an obvious diamond lead but East doesn't.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
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Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥																		
Pass	6♥	All Pass																			

HCP		Makeable contracts			
11		♣	♦	♥	♠ NT
9	0	N	7	2	7 4 7
		S	7	2	7 4 7
		E	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-

<p>♠ Q82 ♥ 107 ♦ AQJ987 ♣ 106</p> <p>♠ 106                    ♠ AJ9753 ♥ AKQ8632            ♥ - ♦ 5                        ♦ K3 ♣ J74                    ♣ KQ532</p> <p>♠ K4 ♥ J954 ♦ 10642 ♣ A98</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : 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>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>That looks like the world's most obvious 4♥ bid; if you play Texas openings 4♣ is a reasonable alternative.</p> <p>The outcome is all about the lead. Only a spade works for the defence; you set up a winner to go with your two aces and wait patiently for your trump trick. Some might start with the ace of diamonds, which is fatal as the losing spade goes away. A wishy-washy club is equally ineffective; if South takes it and switches to spades the favourable distribution enables declarer to discard a loser on the clubs. If South ducks, it's no better.</p> <p>I wonder what a computer simulation would recommend as North's lead. I'm afraid I'm for the diamond ace, with a spade a fairly distant second choice.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	4♥	All Pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>						
4♥	All Pass								

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

<p>♠ Q8753 ♥ KJ102 ♦ 974 ♣ 2</p> <p>♠ A                        ♠ KJ9 ♥ A8                     ♥ 97654 ♦ QJ1032              ♦ 5 ♣ KJ1095              ♣ 8643</p> <p>♠ 10642 ♥ Q3 ♦ AK86 ♣ AQ7</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>3♠?</td> </tr> </table> <p>All sorts of things might happen on this one, depending on the methods of both sides. After two passes, what should South open? If you are playing a strong no-trump, that's an obvious choice. And if West is allowed to bid 2NT to show a respectable minor two suiter, that is also clear. North can pass and compete with a takeout double after East's 3♣. South bids 3♠ and probably plays there for one down, unless the defence do anything silly.</p> <p>If your no-trump is weak you may be allowed to open 1♠, though I wouldn't recommend it in third seat. Too often partner will be on lead and do you want a spade lead? On the auction shown you have to bid 3♠ – better than conceding 470 or more – and arrive at the same point as the strong no-trumpers. Both opponents have some defence but neither is likely to double. How will 100 to East-West fare?</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	Pass	1♦	2♣	Dble	3♣	3♠?
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
	Pass	Pass	1♦										
2♣	Dble	3♣	3♠?										

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

<p>♠ Q5 ♥ 52 ♦ KJ942 ♣ AK54</p> <p>♠ A108                      ♠ K743 ♥ A76                        ♥ KQJ1094 ♦ 107                         ♦ 53 ♣ QJ872                    ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ J962 ♥ 83 ♦ AQ86 ♣ 1093</p>	<p>Board 6 : 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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>I can't see anything wrong with opening 1♥ as East. It's far too good for a weak two (and, with four spades, quite unsuitable). But you want to say something. Some Norths may overcall, which will persuade South to compete to the three level, but nothing will stop West taking the push to 3♥.</p> <p>As the cards lie, it's possible to make ten tricks in hearts. You need to play a club early, unblock the trumps from hand to preserve an entry to dummy on the third round, and use a ruffing finesse to pin South's 109x of clubs. It's not an inconceivable play if North bids. The extra 30 points will make a big difference to the match-points.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	All Pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
		1♥	Pass														
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass														
3♥	All Pass																

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
13	N -	2	-	-	-
11      9	S -	2	-	-	-
7	E 1	-	4	2	-
	W 1	-	4	2	-

<p>♠ J6 ♥ K106 ♦ AJ643 ♣ Q76</p> <p>♠ 975                        ♠ AQ10 ♥ AQ87                    ♥ J943 ♦ Q1075                   ♦ 8 ♣ A3                        ♣ KJ1052</p> <p>♠ K8432 ♥ 52 ♦ K92 ♣ 984</p>	<p>Board 7 : 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>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>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>This is one possible auction. Either partner may be tempted to have a bash at game, but it is pairs, not teams.</p> <p>The most challenging lead is a spade. Declarer probably finesses, South wins and returns the eight, indicating a possible entry in diamonds. The only way to make ten tricks is to play ace of clubs, a club to the jack and dispose of the third spade on the king of clubs before touching trumps. Even then you have to play a trump to the ace and a small one back to prevent a defensive trump promotion. That's a pretty unlikely sequence of plays if you are in a part score, but if you have pressed to game you may feel you have to go for it. The alternative line of playing for no-trump loser is a really long shot and, as we see, doomed to failure.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	All Pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
			Pass														
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass														
2♥	Pass	3♥	All Pass														

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
11	N -	1	-	-	-
12      11	S -	1	-	-	-
6	E 4	-	4	1	2
	W 4	-	4	1	2

<p>♠ AJ654 ♥ A10854 ♦ AJ ♣ 10</p> <p>♠ 10972                    ♠ KQ3 ♥ 7                         ♥ KJ63 ♦ 1032                    ♦ 7 ♣ KQ984                ♣ AJ652</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ Q92 ♦ KQ98654 ♣ 73</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</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>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>I know a lot of players who would overcall 2♣ on the East hand but it's a poor bid with good defence and a lousy suit. There's maybe more justification (but not much) for shading it to a 1NT overcall.</p> <p>Given a free run, is South worth a two-level response? Not these days, when the requirements are higher than in days of yore. But you will stress your suit on the next round, which gives North an interesting problem. Ace, jack is pretty good support and you have two outside aces and good shape. 5♦ is a decent contract but sadly you can't make it as South on a heart lead. You can avoid the ruff by rising with the ace and drawing trumps, but now you can't avoid a second club loser. North can make eleven tricks but try getting it played that way round! Funny old game.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass	?		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT														
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦														
Pass	?																

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

<p>♠ K109863 ♥ J97 ♦ J82 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ Q                      ♠ AJ2 ♥ 106532                ♥ 4 ♦ KQ5                    ♦ 109763 ♣ AK86                   ♣ QJ92</p> <p>♠ 754 ♥ AKQ8 ♦ A4 ♣ 10543</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>This time we have a normal, albeit minimum, weak two. South isn't quite worth a game try and West has an obvious double. I strongly recommend using the Lebensohl convention in these auctions. East's 3♦ shows a respectable hand, whilst 2NT, asking partner to bid 3♣, which you convert to 3♦, would be weaker.</p> <p>As the auction goes, East has a tricky decision. You have some defence to 3♠ but also a decent prospect of making ten tricks in something. Despite the 4-1 club break, it should be possible to succeed in 4♣.</p> <p>Only a heart ruff beats 3♠ by a trick so East needs to take the push to get a decent score.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	3♦	3♠	Pass	Pass	4♣	All Pass																										
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<p>♠ AK4 ♥ KJ863 ♦ AK106 ♣ 3</p> <p>♠ Q52                      ♠ 6 ♥ 9                            ♥ Q742 ♦ J9832                    ♦ Q75 ♣ J964                      ♣ AK872</p> <p>♠ J109873 ♥ A105 ♦ 4 ♣ Q105</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>East's hand is not wonderful but we'd all open. South's is very far from wonderful but we're only young once. North promptly raises to game and you mutter under your breath "haven't you seen my weak jump overcalls before?" but all should be well.</p> <p>You can't ruff a club in dummy without ensuring there's a trump loser, not that you'd be likely to play West for Qxx anyway. However, East's opening bid and spade shortage should guide you towards finding the queen of hearts.</p> <p>Is there a case for crossing to dummy early and leading the jack of hearts, repeating the finesse and making eleven tricks for what should be a shared top? As it happens, on a club lead East has a hard time at trick two anyway, so there may be a few 650's.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♣	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass																															
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<p>♠ AQJ32 ♥ Q102 ♦ 32 ♣ 985</p> <p>♠ K                            ♠ 97 ♥ A65                        ♥ KJ987 ♦ QJ104                    ♦ AK85 ♣ AK732                    ♣ Q6</p> <p>♠ 108654 ♥ 43 ♦ 976 ♣ J104</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>As East, on the first round I slightly prefer a double to 2♥ (and in some players' methods 2♥ would not be forcing). You do have a fifth heart, but also a good hand that might play well in any of three suits.</p> <p>It looks reasonable for South to pre-empt, though this may have the effect of pushing East-West into a dodgy slam, which will make with the cards favourably placed. West's double just shows a good hand and East has a difficult bid now. 4♥ suggests the fifth trump and maybe implies extra values.</p> <p>If you are going to play in game only, clearly you want to be in hearts for the best match-point score, though 6♦ is the safer slam.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♣	1♠	Dble	3♠	Dble	Pass	4♥	All Pass																										
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<p>♠AQ65 ♥9 ♦QJ1063 ♣KQ7</p> <p>♠J732                      ♠K8 ♥A5                          ♥K10832 ♦A874                        ♦K92 ♣982                          ♣AJ10</p> <p>♠1094 ♥QJ764 ♦5 ♣6543</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : 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>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>?</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>An unusual situation, but one that has an air of inevitability on this hand. North has a normal opening bid and East a very solid overcall. I wouldn't shade it to a 1NT overcall; despite the good intermediates you have only one diamond stopper so you shouldn't upgrade the hand. South clearly has nothing to say and, so long as West doesn't think too long, North is bound to reopen. Partner must have heart length and, for all you know, may be itching to defend 1♥ doubled.</p> <p>South has a horrible choice now; do you pass, expecting them to make it, or bid your far from robust club suit (or even a cheaper 1♠)? Whatever you choose, you'll be lucky to avoid at least minus 200, even if nobody doubles. Can East-West spring the trap and collect a really juicy penalty?</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♦	1♥	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	2♣	?			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
Pass	1♦	1♥	Pass														
Pass	Dble	Pass	2♣														
?																	

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

<p>♠A6 ♥QJ5 ♦J53 ♣KQ1072</p> <p>♠87                              ♠109542 ♥2                                ♥10843 ♦A7642                        ♦Q10 ♣A8543                        ♣J9</p> <p>♠KQJ3 ♥AK976 ♦K98 ♣6</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : 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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This might look a somewhat contrived auction but there's method in its madness. Assuming your system allows you to transfer to hearts and continue with a forcing 2♠, that seems a clear choice. Now what should North do? You have a pretty good hand in support of hearts and it may be a good idea to show where your outside strength lies. Imagine South with short diamonds, rather than clubs, and you may be in the slam zone. South is not encouraged and the auction subsides.</p> <p>As it happens, the lucky diamond position means you make as many tricks in no-trumps as in hearts, but I don't suppose many will try 3NT.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
	1NT	Pass	2♦																		
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠																		
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT																		
Pass	4♥	All Pass																			

HCP	Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
13	N	3	3	5	4	5
8      3	S	3	3	5	4	5
16	E	-	-	-	-	-
	W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠KJ10975 ♥Q753 ♦2 ♣82</p> <p>♠6                                ♠842 ♥KJ104                        ♥2 ♦K976                        ♦AJ543 ♣10765                        ♣AQ43</p> <p>♠AQ3 ♥A986 ♦Q108 ♣KJ9</p>	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</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>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Unlike board 12, this time most players will overcall 1NT as South, despite the modest holding in the opponent's suit. West has decent support, and says so, and it's difficult to imagine North doing anything other than bidding game in spades.</p> <p>Sadly, the opponents' aggression has made it impossible to get the contract played the right way round. With East on lead the singleton heart should sink 4♠. You have to win, and because East has three trumps you must draw them all. When you play on clubs, East can duck the first round, leaving no parking place for the second heart loser.</p> <p>Even so, the defence has to get everything right, and I suspect many Norths will be allowed to bring home 4♠.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♦	1NT	3♦	4♠	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
		1♦	1NT										
3♦	4♠	All Pass											

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

<p>♠ 7543 ♥ A7 ♦ AKJ94 ♣ K6</p> <p>♠ KQ10986      ♠ J ♥ K9              ♥ J62 ♦ 2                ♦ Q873 ♣ J1075          ♣ Q9432</p> <p>♠ A2 ♥ Q108543 ♦ 1065 ♣ A8</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>6</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	15		N	-	5	5	-	4	9	6	S	-	5	5	-	4			E	1	-	-	1	-			W	1	-	-	1	-	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1♥</td></tr> <tr><td>3♠</td><td>4♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td></tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South has a marginal opening bid, but it tends to be right to get your retaliation in first. West has other ideas, however. At the vulnerability, with a good suit and 6-4 shape, it's worth at least 3♠. You might even regret not going all the way to 4♠, which goes for no more than 500; indeed, the defence will do very well to get that much.</p> <p>4♥ is an easy make for North-South if you guess right in trumps. On a spade lead it looks as though East-West will come to one trick in each major and can wait patiently for their diamond. But wait a moment; the computer can make eleven tricks! It took me a while to work it out but try this. Win the spade and advance the queen of hearts. Assuming West covers, win and play a heart to the ten. Now West never gets in to cash a spade; the loser eventually goes away on a diamond.</p> <p>If declarer should do that to you, make sure you hold your cards better in future.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♥	3♠	4♦	Pass	4♥
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																										
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																						
15		N	-	5	5	-	4																																																					
9	6	S	-	5	5	-	4																																																					
		E	1	-	-	1	-																																																					
		W	1	-	-	1	-																																																					
West	North	East	South																																																									
			1♥																																																									
3♠	4♦	Pass	4♥																																																									

<p>♠ KQJ9 ♥ 4 ♦ 10742 ♣ Q1064</p> <p>♠ 1063              ♠ A ♥ KJ1063          ♥ A8752 ♦ 8653              ♦ AKJ9 ♣ 7                   ♣ A82</p> <p>♠ 87542 ♥ Q9 ♦ Q ♣ KJ953</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>20</td><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>-</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>-</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	8		N	2	-	-	1	-	4	20	S	2	-	-	1	-			E	-	7	7	-	5			W	-	7	7	-	5	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>4♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>6♥</td><td>All Pass</td></tr> </table> <p>Eek! West may feel she's rather pushed the boat out, raising all the way to game on such slender values. But East has a huge hand; I can't think of any scientific way of discovering whether partner has the right cards so I'd be inclined just to punt a slam.</p> <p>West will be amazed to find her hand is just what partner wants to see, and the favourable diamond position makes thirteen tricks a doddle.</p> <p>Anyone for a Michaels 2♥ overcall for South? Not for me, even at favourable vulnerability, with your main suit eight high. It shouldn't affect East-West's bidding but will surely encourage North to save in 6♠. That's cheap, even if the defence find their club ruffs – not easy. You rarely get many match-points for a sacrifice at the slam level unless it costs less than a game score; this time it may be worth it.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	4♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																										
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																						
8		N	2	-	-	1	-																																																					
4	20	S	2	-	-	1	-																																																					
		E	-	7	7	-	5																																																					
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<p>♠ KQJ8 ♥ KQ6 ♦ 9862 ♣ K2</p> <p>♠ A2                ♠ 75 ♥ A10854          ♥ J72 ♦ AQJ53           ♦ 1074 ♣ J                  ♣ Q10874</p> <p>♠ 109643 ♥ 93 ♦ K ♣ A9653</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>3</td><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	14		N	1	-	-	4	-	16	3	S	1	-	-	4	-			E	-	3	3	-	1			W	-	3	3	-	1	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr> <tr><td>Dble</td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Hmm. Why have North-South missed their cold game? In my view North is actually too good for a weak no-trump, with only six losers (some might add one for an aceless hand). South is not to blame; despite the excellent shape you need perfect cards opposite even to have a chance.</p> <p>Funnily enough, you might get to game in a weird manner after this start. West has plenty to spare for a double of the transfer bid and was planning to bid again at the three level. Maybe she won't be put off by North's show of strength. If West does try 4♦ on the next round, East will correct to hearts. South may well "sacrifice" in 4♠, be doubled and earn an undeserved top.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	2♥	Dble	3♠	All Pass	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																										
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																						
14		N	1	-	-	4	-																																																					
16	3	S	1	-	-	4	-																																																					
		E	-	3	3	-	1																																																					
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West	North	East	South																																																									
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<p>♠ A85 ♥ K972 ♦ J32 ♣ J84</p> <p>♠ J764                      ♠ Q102 ♥ 4                              ♥ Q5 ♦ 1094                        ♦ KQ765 ♣ Q10752                    ♣ A96</p> <p>♠ K93 ♥ AJ10863 ♦ A8 ♣ K3</p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS 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>Pass</td> <td>?</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>This hand is somewhat reminiscent of the last. East has a very sound weak no-trump and South perhaps an over-sound overcall. Should South do anything else? The vulnerability argues against a thin double and the suit is a bit straggly for a jump to 3♥. Now, despite the good trump support, North has an awful lot of losers and may well give up. Another game missed!</p> <p>If East-West are playing a strong no-trump the tempo of the auction will be quite different. After 1♦-1♥ North will raise, perhaps pre-emptively to 3♥, especially if West ventures an ultra-thin double. That will surely persuade South to bid game.</p> <p>I've no idea how many pairs will bid game, either by the rapier or the bludgeon.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	?	1NT	2♥
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>						
Pass	?	1NT	2♥						

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

<p>♠ J84 ♥ A10643 ♦ 75 ♣ KQ5</p> <p>♠ KQ73                      ♠ 5 ♥ K95                        ♥ Q872 ♦ A108                        ♦ Q9643 ♣ J106                        ♣ A93</p> <p>♠ A10962 ♥ J ♦ KJ2 ♣ 8742</p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : 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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>?</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Some tough decisions here. Again, the weak no-trump provokes the opposition into competing. South backs in with an Aspro-type 2♦, showing spades. In multi-Landy the bid will be 2♠ (and even Aspro-ers might ignore the feeble clubs).</p> <p>You can't blame East for not selling out to 2♠ but it gives West a real headache. You have some defence to spades and don't much fancy trying to make anything at the three level, so it's tempting to play for penalties.</p> <p>As we can see, 2♠ should make in comfort. The best East-West can hope for is not to be doubled in 3♦. Mind you, there are plenty of defences that let through 3♦.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1NT	Pass	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Dble	Pass	?			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
1NT	Pass	Pass	2♦														
Pass	2♠	Dble	Pass														
?																	

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

<p>♠ 10654 ♥ Q ♦ AQ962 ♣ 763</p> <p>♠ 832                        ♠ K97 ♥ K107653                ♥ A984 ♦ 54                        ♦ KJ8 ♣ AK                        ♣ J104</p> <p>♠ AQJ ♥ J2 ♦ 1073 ♣ Q9852</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : 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>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>What an annoying hand! East shows a balanced raise with four card heart support and it looks obvious for West to retreat to hearts. However, looking at both hands it's clear that, whatever you decide to play in, East should be declarer to protect the tenaces in spades and diamonds.</p> <p>A spade lead, not at all unlikely, will sink 4♥ by West. Any other lead and you can set up a discard on the diamonds. East would have had an easy ride in 3NT. Should 4♥ fail, I hope East is suitably sympathetic. No dark mutterings about partners who hog the contract!</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1♥	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
1♥	Pass	3NT	Pass										
4♥	All Pass												

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

<p>♠ QJ52 ♥ A962 ♦ 863 ♣ 108</p> <p>♠ 1083                      ♠ 9 ♥ K853                      ♥ Q104 ♦ AJ75                        ♦ 94 ♣ 96                            ♣ AK75432</p> <p>♠ AK764 ♥ J7 ♦ KQ102 ♣ QJ</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>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>A number of different things could happen on this one. First of all, what would you open as East? There are good arguments for 3♣. After all, you have a decent seven card suit, nothing in spades and opponents are vulnerable. On the other hand, you are a bit good and one opponent has passed. I would certainly open 3♣ in third seat, possibly in first but I'm less keen in second.</p> <p>Choosing 1♣ may actually work out badly for your side. When you auction comes back to you are you going to venture 4♣? Might not partner expect more? If you had started with 3♣ South is likely to overcall and, who knows, North might scrape up a raise to 4♠, which should go two down.</p> <p>Normal defence beats 3♠ but plus 100 for E/W will score a lot worse than 130.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	1♣	1♠	Dble	3♠	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
	Pass	1♣	1♠										
Dble	3♠	All Pass											

HCP		Makeable contracts			
7		♣	♦	♥	♠ NT
8	9	N	-	-	2 -
		S	-	-	2 -
		E	4	-	1 - 1
		W	4	-	1 - 1

<p>♠ K ♥ QJ1086543 ♦ 103 ♣ J10</p> <p>♠ QJ9                        ♠ 7642 ♥ 72                            ♥ - ♦ 742                        ♦ AKJ85 ♣ A9864                      ♣ Q732</p> <p>♠ A10853 ♥ AK9 ♦ Q96 ♣ K5</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>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This auction develops a momentum of its own. East has a perfectly good opening bid and South plenty to spare for an overcall. There seems to be a regular theme with this set, with a player having to choose between a value showing 1NT overcall or a modest suit. I wouldn't choose 1NT this time with such mediocre diamonds. Now, whether or not West bids, North will surely mention hearts and South bids game.</p> <p>4♥ looks to be a make, but will everyone make it? East takes two top diamonds and switches to a club. Might declarer get it wrong? It's just possible, especially if West has managed to keep quiet.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♦	1♠	1NT	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
		1♦	1♠														
1NT	2♥	Pass	4♥														
All Pass																	

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

<p>♠ K986 ♥ 1043 ♦ 42 ♣ A953</p> <p>♠ A72                        ♠ QJ103 ♥ AJ2                        ♥ KQ76 ♦ J65                        ♦ Q108 ♣ KQ86                      ♣ J7</p> <p>♠ 54 ♥ 985 ♦ AK973 ♣ 1042</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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Despite its 15 points, that West hand is a good deal worse than some 13 and 14 pointers we've seen earlier. However, most bridge players show far more reluctance to downgrade a hand than to upgrade it, so the inevitable 3NT is reached. The question is, will it be made?</p> <p>An inspired diamond lead sinks it at once, assuming South finds the obvious duck (without a meaningful hesitation, please!). A spade lead is no good as declarer can win and attack clubs. What about a passive heart? 3NT should make now. Win in the West hand and play a low club. North can't afford to take the ace so the jack wins and now you can switch to spades before the defenders get their suit going.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
			Pass														
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass														
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass														

HCP		Makeable contracts			
7		♣	♦	♥	♠ NT
15	11	N	-	-	- -
		S	-	-	- -
		E	1	1	2 2 2 2
		W	1	1	2 2 2 2

<p>♠ K1098 ♥ 2 ♦ Q109863 ♣ 102</p> <p>♠ J643                      ♠ Q75 ♥ A863                      ♥ Q9754 ♦ 42                            ♦ AK7 ♣ Q63                        ♣ J5</p> <p>♠ A2 ♥ KJ10 ♦ J5 ♣ AK9874</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>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This is only one of many possible auctions. North shouldn't try a weak 2♦ with four good spades on the side, so East gets first dibs. In first or second seat that looks more like a weak no-trump than 1♥, but in third seat it's too dangerous. In any case, you plan to pass any response to 1♥.</p> <p>With good hearts, 1NT is a better choice for South than a wet 2♣. West is there, of course, and so is North. After the opening bid is raised, double should be played as takeout even when partner shows a strong balanced hand. So, South takes it out; you don't much like partner's correction but are stuck with it.</p> <p>Bet you wish you'd insisted on no-trumps. On a heart lead you make nine tricks unless East makes the highly unlikely play of withholding the queen.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	1♥	1NT	2♥	Dble	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
Pass	Pass	1♥	1NT														
2♥	Dble	Pass	3♣														
Pass	3♦	All Pass															

HCP	Makeable contracts																														
5 7      12 16	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	3	-	1	2	S	3	3	-	1	2	E	-	-	1	-	-	W	-	-	1	-	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	2	3	-	1	2																										
S	3	3	-	1	2																										
E	-	-	1	-	-																										
W	-	-	1	-	-																										

<p>♠ AK4 ♥ 874 ♦ A65 ♣ AK85</p> <p>♠ 96                            ♠ Q1082 ♥ 9                              ♥ AQJ106532 ♦ QJ10987                    ♦ 4 ♣ 9763                        ♣ -</p> <p>♠ J753 ♥ K ♦ K32 ♣ QJ1042</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>4♥</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>This is surely how it would go at teams. At pairs South has a difficult decision over 4♥ but 5♣ looks a reasonable two-way bet. Even if you pass, North will double, and you'll probably take out insurance.</p> <p>Sadly, it's the wrong choice. In 4♥ East has no entry to table so will drop the singleton king of trumps, but it will become obvious to the defenders to keep three spade winners.</p> <p>5♣ looks equally doomed. I suppose it's just possible for the defence to go astray but it shouldn't be too difficult for East to keep the right cards.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♣	4♥	5♣
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>						
	1♣	4♥	5♣						

HCP	Makeable contracts																														
18 3      9 10	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	1	-	3	-	S	4	1	-	3	-	E	-	-	3	-	-	W	-	-	3	-	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	4	1	-	3	-																										
S	4	1	-	3	-																										
E	-	-	3	-	-																										
W	-	-	3	-	-																										

<p>♠ 4 ♥ J5 ♦ KQ1097 ♣ Q10876</p> <p>♠ Q73                            ♠ KJ8652 ♥ AK7632                      ♥ 8 ♦ A4                              ♦ J62 ♣ 93                              ♣ A54</p> <p>♠ A109 ♥ Q1094 ♦ 853 ♣ KJ2</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>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>4♠                      All Pass</p> <p>Some Wests might just invite game opposite a weak two, but East will show good values and the obvious game is reached. For my money, with decent trumps and a source of tricks on the side, West is worth game.</p> <p>Anyone for 4NT as North? You might have a decent save but it looks a wild gamble. And they haven't made 4♠ yet.</p> <p>But they will. It looks to me as though as though South needs to lead a diamond to kill dummy's entry and to hold it to ten tricks. My choice would be a heart which does no good at all. Declarer wins, ruffs a heart and plays the king of spades, eventually establishing enough discards to make an important overtrick.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			2♠	Pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>						
		2♠	Pass						

HCP	Makeable contracts																														
8 13      9 10	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	1	-	-	-	S	2	1	-	-	-	E	-	-	2	4	-	W	-	-	2	4	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	2	1	-	-	-																										
S	2	1	-	-	-																										
E	-	-	2	4	-																										
W	-	-	2	4	-																										

<p>♠ KQ103 ♥ 82 ♦ K7 ♣ J8532</p> <p>♠ 852                      ♠ J9764 ♥ 9753                      ♥ 4 ♦ 9654                      ♦ A1083 ♣ K4                          ♣ AQ10</p> <p>♠ A ♥ AKQJ106 ♦ QJ2 ♣ 976</p>	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;"></th> <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></td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Hey ho. It's difficult to criticise anyone's actions but I'm afraid it's the wrong contract. Would North be justified in trying 3NT at his second turn? It looks more like a 4♥ bid to me.</p> <p>One other auction is a faint possibility. If your 2NT rebid over a one level response is 18-19 or thereabouts, a 3NT rebid becomes redundant. Many players use it to show a strong source of tricks but less than the expected point count. It's usually played after a minor suit opening but may have some merit here.</p> <p>Unless the defenders have a serious accident both 3NT and 4♥ will make exactly nine tricks.</p>		West	North	East	South					1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
	West	North	East	South																	
				1♥																	
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass	3♥																	
Pass	4♥	All Pass																			

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
9	11	N	3	-	3	1	3
3	17	S	3	-	3	1	3
		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ 1086543 ♥ 1072 ♦ Q108 ♣ 9</p> <p>♠ 7                          ♠ AKQJ ♥ AQJ5                      ♥ K ♦ J432                      ♦ 765 ♣ K875                      ♣ AQJ102</p> <p>♠ 92 ♥ 98643 ♦ AK9 ♣ 643</p>	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;"></th> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Plenty of scope for using your pet toys here (and for accidents). Some will open as West, but minimum 4-4-4-1 hands don't pull their weight unless you find a good fit. Assuming West passes, East has the values for 2NT, though that strikes me as a poor choice with such concentrated values.</p> <p>Anyway, suppose it starts pass-1♣. What now? You could make a (poor) case for 1♦, a better one for 1♥, perhaps 2♥ as a fit jump. I quite like 3♠, clearly a splinter bid. Theoretically you might miss a heart fit but, with both opponents silent, partner is strong favourite to have spades rather than hearts. Now, from East's side, it's just possible for West to have two red aces and the king of clubs but, as Bob Hamman always said: "don't play me for the perfect hand, partner, I never have it".</p> <p>3NT will make ten tricks on a diamond lead, all thirteen otherwise.</p>		West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
	West	North	East	South												
	Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass												
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass													

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
2	20	N	-	-	-	-	-
11	7	S	-	-	-	-	-
		E	4	3	3	2	4
		W	4	3	3	2	4

<p>♠ J4 ♥ 5 ♦ 1032 ♣ K765432</p> <p>♠ AQ9863                      ♠ 1075 ♥ 10                              ♥ AJ9862 ♦ 864                              ♦ AQJ ♣ QJ8                              ♣ 10</p> <p>♠ K2 ♥ KQ743 ♦ K975 ♣ A9</p>	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;"></th> <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>3♣</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </table> <p>A repulsive pre-empt, a normal overcall and can South resist a double? You'll wish you hadn't, as 3♥ is cold (and you might push them into spades).</p> <p>Let's try a different start. North passes and East opens 1♥. Some Souths might overcall 1NT; I'm not keen with five hearts and minimum values. If South passes, West has an interesting option. It has become popular among experienced players to play weak jump shifts in the majors, showing about 4-8 points and a decent six card suit. This one is a little too strong, so you start with 1♠, planning to rebid 2♠ to show around 9-11. East's hand suddenly improves and she duly raises to game.</p> <p>A heart lead against 4♠ causes problems. The route to eleven tricks, far from obvious, is to win and draw trumps via a finesse. The unexpected club position enables you to pick up the suit for one loser.</p>		West	North	East	South			3♣	3♥	?
	West	North	East	South							
		3♣	3♥	?							

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
4	12	N	1	-	-	-	-
9	15	S	1	-	-	-	-
		E	-	1	3	5	3
		W	-	1	3	5	3

<p>♠ 5 ♥ K98 ♦ AKJ9743 ♣ 97</p> <p>♠ K987                      ♠ AJ102 ♥ Q52                        ♥ J7643 ♦ Q6                            ♦ 105 ♣ AK64                       ♣ 83</p> <p>♠ Q643 ♥ A10 ♦ 82 ♣ QJ1052</p>	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : 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></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>?</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South doesn't quite have an opening bid; West is full value for a weak no-trump and 3♦ looks a good practical choice for North. At love all, playing pairs, I would be tempted to double as East (for takeout, of course). West will bid 3♠ and there the case may rest. As you can't draw trumps before playing on hearts, it looks as though 3♠ will fail, but -50 will be a decent score. Should South have gone on to the makeable 4♦? Difficult.</p> <p>If East passes in tempo, will any South have a pot at 3NT? It will fail on a spade lead, or a top club and a spade switch, but you never know.</p> <p>I can foresee a whole raft of scores on this one.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	Pass	1NT	3♦	?	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
		Pass	Pass										
1NT	3♦	?											

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
11		N	1	4	-	-	1
14	6	S	1	4	-	-	1
		E	-	-	2	2	-
	9	W	-	-	2	2	-

<p>♠ 1096 ♥ J108 ♦ J10 ♣ J8754</p> <p>♠ Q873                      ♠ AK52 ♥ K52                        ♥ 74 ♦ 863                         ♦ Q9754 ♣ K62                        ♣ 109</p> <p>♠ J4 ♥ AQ963 ♦ AK2 ♣ AQ3</p>	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS 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></td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>2NT will be a popular choice of opening bid, but it should work out badly this time. If West leads her suit South has some nasty discards to make and the contract is likely to fail. A passive diamond lead would suit declarer, who can come to four hearts, three diamonds and a club for the contract.</p> <p>Hearts is a far more comfortable spot. If South opens 1♥ the auction is likely to continue: pass, pass, double, redouble, 1♠. South won't let that lie, of course, and may be forced up to 3♥, which will make in comfort. If East-West try to outbid them in spades it will take exceptional defence to double and collect 300. It looks to me as if North-South have to get at their three diamond tricks and then engineer a trump promotion by repeated heart leads.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				2NT	All Pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
			2NT										
All Pass													

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
3		N	3	-	3	-	1
8	9	S	3	-	3	-	1
		E	-	2	-	1	-
	20	W	-	2	-	1	-

<p>♠ J1084 ♥ J3 ♦ 1097 ♣ J1032</p> <p>♠ K75                        ♠ 62 ♥ Q95                        ♥ 10764 ♦ QJ654                     ♦ A3 ♣ 64                           ♣ AQ975</p> <p>♠ AQ93 ♥ AK82 ♦ K82 ♣ K8</p>	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Despite the vulnerability, East should open in third seat to help partner, expecting to finish up defending the contract. South has a normal double and West a normal 1♦. Some Wests might choose an unwise 1NT but only if they haven't seen our third hand openings before.</p> <p>South doubles again and North is forced to say something. Despite the 19 points, a raise to 2♠ is quite enough opposite a partner who is sure to be screamingly weak. North subsides gratefully and is pleasantly surprised to find it plays very comfortably for nine tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	1♣	Dble	1♦	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
Pass	Pass	1♣	Dble																		
1♦	Pass	Pass	Dble																		
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠																		
All Pass																					

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