British Summer Sim Pairs



Monday 22nd July 2019

Welcome to the British Summer 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.

Prizes in 2019

Heat winners: There will no longer be a prize draw for the heat winners from each club. The budget for these prizes has been added to that for the overall winners.

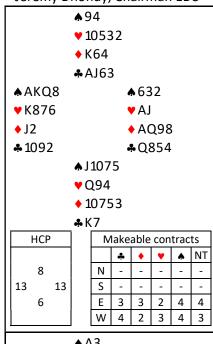
Overall winners: The overall winners of all Simultaneous Pairs events hosted by the English Bridge Union will each receive a cash prize of £100 per pair. This is an increase from £50 in 2018. The winners of the Bridge England Sims and the Club Stratified Sims will also receive this prize – these events were previously excluded from the prizes.

Host clubs: Every affiliated club which enters a heat of any EBU organised event, 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. 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. These aspects are unchanged from 2018.

This prize draw allows the EBU to redistribute some of the proceeds back to the clubs which have participated, and it is hoped it will be reinvested in providing services and activities for its members, or supporting a local cause of its choosing. You can find the full details, results and last year's prize winners at www.ebu.co.uk/sims/

Blue points are awarded to the top third of the field. Provisional master points are shown but the event is not finalised until all results are in and score corrections have been made. This usually takes about three weeks. It really helps us if you can keep your scorecard for that period. Clubs should keep travellers if still used.

Jeremy Dhondy, Chairman EBU



| Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-------------------------|------|--|--|--|--|--|
| West | South | | | | | | | |
| | Pass | $1NT^1$ | Pass | | | | | |
| 2 . *2 | Pass | 2 ♦ ³ | Pass | | | | | |
| 3NT | All Pass | | | | | | | |
| I | | | | | | | | |

- 1) 12-14.
- 2) Stayman, asking for 4-card majors.
- 3) Denying a 4-card major.

With 26 HCP and no fit anywhere, East-West should reach 3NT at just about every table. Holding a suit headed by the jack-ten without the eight or nine, it is normal to lead fourth highest rather than the jack. Declarer wins in dummy and does best to run the \$10. After doing this it is easy to make three spade tricks, two heart tricks, two diamonds and two clubs. A tenth trick comes about either with a winning view in the diamond suit or by squeezing South in spades and diamonds.

If South leads the \$\int J\$ at trick one, the fall of the \$\int 9\$ allows a finesse of the \$\int 8\$ on the third round and an easier path to ten tricks.

♠A3 ♥Q632 ◆QJ6 **♣**J873 ♣J6 **♦**Q10752 ♥AK1074 **9**5 ♦ A1094 ♦ 532 **♣**AK **4**965 **♠** K984 **y** J8 ♦ K87 ♣Q1042

| НСР | | Makeable contracts | | | | | |
|-----|---|--------------------|---|---|---|----------|----|
| | | | * | • | > | ^ | NT |
| 10 | | N | 1 | ı | - | ı | - |
| 9 | 2 | S | 1 | - | - | • | - |
| | | Е | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| | | 8 | ı | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |

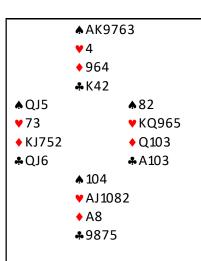
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| West | North | East | South | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|
| | | Pass | Pass | |
| 1♥ | Pass | Pass | Dble ¹ | |
| Rdble ² | Pass ³ | Pass | 1 🛦 | |
| Dble ⁴ | 2 ♣ ⁵ | All Pass ⁶ | | |

Board 2: Dealer East: NS vulnerable

- 1) Adding on three points (in the pass out seat) South finds a reopening double.
- 2) West shows a good hand by redoubling.
- 3) North has no one feature worth stressing.
- 4) West is worth one more effort and hates selling out to 1 .
- 5) North cannot stand 1 A doubled and must do something.
- 6) Having taken positive action three times already, West has done enough.

On the normal heart lead 2♣ should fail. West keeps playing hearts, allowing East to discard a diamond on the third round and subsequently score a diamond ruff. 2♥ ought to fail too; either the defenders keep playing clubs, in which case West lacks the time to make a long diamond, or they play spades, which allows the ♥6 to score on an overruff.



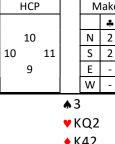
| Board 3 | : Dealer Sou | uth : EW vuli | nerable |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|----------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | | Pass |
| Pass | 2 ^ 1 | All Pass | |
| | | | |
| 1) In first | t or second | seat, a hand | l with a |
| | | | |

with an ace and two kings would be too strong.

With highly favourable trump position, making 2♠ is easy. It is not possible, however, to ruff a diamond in dummy and pick up the trumps for no loss. The defenders thus can make three clubs, a diamond and one other trick - but they may need to start with the inspired lead of a diamond.

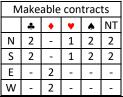
On the normal lead of the ♥K against 2♠, declarer wins in dummy and returns the ♥J, discarding a club. Then West has no good answer when declarer gets to dummy with the ◆A and leads the ♥10: ruffing waves goodbye to the defensive trump trick while discarding would allow declarer to dispose of a second club.

In a diamond contract the defenders have four top winners and can score a heart ruff for a fifth defensive trick.



♠ KQ54

♥J965



♦ K42 **♣**J98765 **♠**872 ♥A10873 ♦ AQ875 **♦**6 ♣AKQ10 ♠ AJ 1096

| HCP Makeable contra | | | | trac | ts | | | | |
|---------------------|---|----|----|------|----|---|---|---|----|
| | | | | | * | • | > | ٨ | NT |
| | 9 | | | N | - | - | - | - | - |
| 12 | | 13 | 13 | S | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 6 | 6 | | Ε | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| | | | | W | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 |

y 4 ♦J1093 **4**432

♠ KQJ108

♥A84 ♦ K1083 **\$**6 **♠**54 **♠**93 **♥**Q72 **v** 10653 ♦ QJ754 ♦ A962 **\$**984 **♣**J105 **♠**A762 ♥KJ9

| | | | | _ | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----|---|---|--------------------|---|---|---|---|----|
| Ī | | НСР | | | Makeable contracts | | | | | ts |
| Ī | | | | | | * | • | ٧ | ٨ | N. |
| ١ | | 13 | | | N | 7 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| ١ | 5 | | 5 | | S | 7 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 5 |
| ١ | | 17 | | | Ε | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ì | | | | | W | - | - | - | - | - |

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♣AKQ732

NT NT 6

Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

| west | North | East | South |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------|-------|
| 1♦ | Pass | 1♥ | Pass |
| 3 ♥ ¹ | Pass | 4 ♣² | Pass |
| 4 v ³ | All Pass | | |

- 1) A simple raise to 2♥ would be feeble. A 4♣ splinter would be too much.
- 2) East is well worth a cue bid.
- 3) News of club values facing the void does not improve West's hand.

Since the losing trick count (five losers facing six losers) suggests that a grand slam might be on, East-West are in danger of getting too high. Well done to those who identify the terrible duplication in clubs and stop safely in 4.

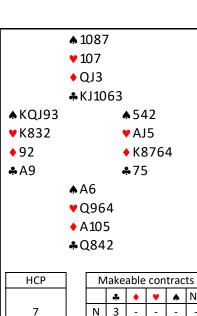
To stop the overtrick in 4♥ South may need to lead the ♠A and continue the suit. While it is normally unusual to start with an unsupported ace, spades is the unbid suit and East appears to have denied a spade control with the 4. cue bid. In practice, declarer might not see the need to discard three spades on the clubs and make only ten tricks anyway.

| Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|------|--------------|--|--|--|--|
| West | North | East | South | | | | |
| | 1♠ | Pass | $2NT^1$ | | | | |
| Pass | 3 ♣ ² | Pass | 5 ♦ ³ | | | | |
| Pass | 6 ♣ ⁴ | Pass | 7♠ | | | | |
| All Pass | | | | | | | |

- 1) Game forcing spade raise. You could make a 4 ♦ splinter planning to bid again.
- 2) A popular method for continuing after Jacoby is for opener to show a shortage.
- 3) Exclusion key card asking bid. Partner ignores the ♦A in reply.
- 4) Showing two working key cards and the ♠Q.

This time a grand slam really is on. The key to getting there is pinpointing that the missing ace is facing a void and therefore not an encumbrance. If you do not play an exclusion asking bid, this could be tricky.

The kindly breaks in the black suits mean that the whole world will make 13 tricks. Even if spades were 3-1 and clubs were 5-1, it would be possible to make all the tricks.

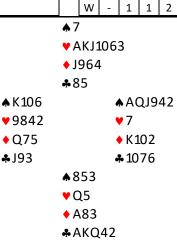


| Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|--|--|--|--|
| West | North | East | South | | | | |
| | | Pass | $1NT^1$ | | | | |
| 2 . *2 | 2NT ³ | Pass ⁴ | 3 ♣ ⁵ | | | | |
| All Pass | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

- 1) 12-14.
- 2) Landy, both majors.
- 3) Non-vulnerable and with strength in the minors, North competes and does so via Lebensohl 2NT.
- 4) Lacking four-card support for either major, the vulnerable East passes. If North passes, East would bid 2 ♦ to ask for West's better major.
- 5) This is a forced action playing Lebensohl.

On this competitive part-score deal, North-South may do well not to sell out to 2.

The way to make 2. is to draw trumps and spot what a big card the \$\infty\$8 is. Restricted choice principles indicate that North is twice as likely to have started with \$\infty\$10-x or \$\infty\$9-x than with \$\infty\$10-9-x and therefore that declarer should finesse the \$\infty\$8 on the third round.



S 3

13

12

НСР

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| Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|--------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| West | North | East | South | | | | |
| | | | 1 . | | | | |
| Pass | 1♥ | 2 ♠ ¹ | Dble ² | | | | |
| 3 ♠ ³ | 4♥ | All Pass | | | | | |

- 1) A weak jump overcall does so much more to disrupt the opponents than 1 \(\text{\alpha} \) would.
- 2) South has rather more than a minimum opener but no spade stopper.
- 3) Raising is risky but so is crossing the street. The ♠K makes it reasonable.

With the ◆J onside, East-West can profitably sacrifice in 4♠ doubled – but if it was offside, they would go down 800 and score very badly.

The 3-3 club split means that North-South can make twelve tricks via six hearts, a diamond and five clubs. A 3-3 club split is against the odds without any information about the opposing hands and the chance of it reduces when they bid vulnerable up to 3♠. If clubs were 4-2 and the defenders could dislodge the ◆A without losing a trick, the limit would be ten tricks. Someone would have to overbid quite a bit to reach a slam.

| | | | W | - | - | - | 2 | | |
|---|----------------|------------|--------------|----|-------------|--------------|---|--|--|
| _ | | ♠ K | 74 | | | | | | |
| | | ♥Q1082 | | | | | | | |
| | | • 1 | .053 | 3 | | | | | |
| | | . A | 74 | | | | | | |
| | ♠ Q32 | | | • | 10 | 965 | 5 | | |
| | ♥ AJ653 | | | • | K | | | | |
| | ♦ 92 | | | • | Ak | 8 | | | |
| | 4 1062 | | | • | ₽ K(| QJ9 . | 5 | | |
| | | ^ | J8 | | | | | | |
| | | y 9 | 74 | | | | | | |
| | | ♦ C | J J76 | 64 | | | | | |
| | | . 8 | 3 | | | | | | |

| Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------|-------|--|--|--|--|
| West | North | East | South | | | | |
| Pass | Pass | 1. | Pass | | | | |
| 1♥ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass | | | | |
| 2 ♣ ¹ | All Pass ² | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

- 1) Expecting East's first suit to be longer, West gives preference to it. With two losing diamonds, West cannot consider a 1NT rebid.
- 2) East is close to a 2NT game try.

The play in 2 % is easy. Declarer can unblock the \checkmark K early, take two top diamonds, ruff the third round and cash the \checkmark A. If at some point declarer leads a sneaky \diamondsuit 9, South must be alert and either cover with the \diamondsuit J or go up with the \diamondsuit A.

The play in a no-trump contract would be straightforward. Declarer would have time to knock out the *A to make two hearts, two diamonds and four clubs for eight tricks. In a spade contract the defenders should get three spades, the *A and one other trick.

| Makeable contracts | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|----------|----|--|--|
| | * | • | > | ^ | NT | | |
| N | - | 2 | - | - | - | | |
| S | - | 2 | - | - | - | | |
| Е | 3 | - | - | 2 | 1 | | |
| W | 3 | - | - | 2 | 1 | | |

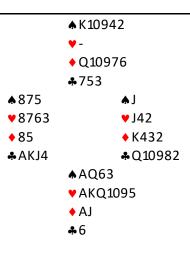
Makeable contracts

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6 3 6

6 | 3 | 6 |

1



| Board 9: | Dealer Nor | th : EW vuli | nerable |
|----------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | Pass ¹ | Pass | 1 ♥ ² |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 4 ♣³ |
| Pass | 4♠ | Pass | 5 ♦ ⁴ |
| Pass | 6 ♠ ⁵ | All Pass | |

- 1) Those playing Lucas will open the North hand.
- 2) Benjamin 2♣ might make it hard to find a spade fit. It is hard to catch up after 1♥.
- 3) Spade raise with short clubs
- 4) South's hand (three losers) is much better than it might be.
- 5) With a fifth spade, no club wastage and possibly useful diamonds North accepts.

HCP Makeable contracts 2 6 5 6 7 8 5 6 6 2 20 W 1

Although my auction ends in a slam, many tables will see North-South stop in game. While it gives North-South extra bidding options, West should probably double 4. With the ♥J short and the ♦K onside, the defenders need to cash their club winner at trick one if they are not to lose it.

♥ AKJ104 ♦ A10984 **\$**7 **♠** AKJ1053 **♠**64 **v** 2 ♥Q765 **♦** Q2 ♦ KJ765 **♣**8542 **♣**AQ **♠**972 **983 ♦**3 **♣**KJ10963

♠Q8

- Board 10: Dealer East: All vulnerable West North East South 1NT¹ **Pass 2**♥² **3**♥³ Pass **Pass 4**♠⁴ All Pass
- 1) 12-14. Protecting the club tenace makes this quite attractive.
- 2) Transfer to spades.
- 3) North has a good hand. With such good hearts the direct overcall seems better than trying to show the hand as two suited.
- 4) West would have only invited game but 3 \(\text{\alpha} \) now sounds merely competitive. Double, which East would leave in, would work much better.

grabs the AA to play a second spade, which allows West to play a third round.

With only 23 HCP between them, East-West will surely stop in a part-score.

| | N | Makeable contracts | | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------|---|---|---|----|--|
| | | * | • | * | ٨ | NT | |
| | Ν | 1 | - | 1 | ı | - | |
| 12 | S | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | |
| | Ε | - | 1 | - | 2 | 2 | |
| | W | ı | 1 | ı | 2 | 2 | |

The computer defeats 4♠ by two tricks: ♦A, diamond ruff, heart to North and a club switch. After the more normal heart lead declarer has the chance to get out for one down, though taking a finesse in either black suit might result in a three-trick defeat. 3♥ goes down two if East leads a spade, West switches to a trump and then East

| | 44 KJOJ- | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | ♥ K763 | |
| | ♦ 983 | |
| | . 7 | |
| ^ A8 | | ♠ Q732 |
| ♥ A542 | | ♥ QJ10 |
| ♦ KQ106 | | ♦ J74 |
| . K96 | | ♣ J104 |
| | ♠ 109 | |
| | y 98 | |
| | ♦ A52 | |

♣AQ8532

▲ K 1654

| Board 11: | Dealer Sou | th : Love all | |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | | 1♣ |
| 1NT | All Pass ¹ | | |

1) For North to bid 2♠ would be a big gamble.

If North leads a spade, declarer can make 10 tricks by putting up the ♠Q at trick

one and running the ♥Q at trick two. This removes North's entry before the spades are ready to run. Whether you would actually put up the ♠Q is another matter! If you win the first spade with the ace, you would need to take the inspired view to attack hearts from hand to arrive at nine tricks. If, as seems more normal, you play on diamonds, South takes the ◆A and returns a spade; then you have to duck to shut out the suit and end up losing two spades, a heart and two

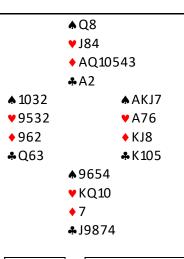
On an initial club lead the defenders simply make one trick in each suit.

HCP 16 10

НСР

14 10

| Makeable contracts | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|----|--|
| | * | • | * | ٨ | NT | |
| N | 1 | - | - | - | - | |
| S | 1 | - | - | - | - | |
| Ε | - | - | 2 | 1 | 3 | |
| W | - | - | 2 | 1 | 3 | |



| Board 1 | 2 : Dealer W | /est : NS vu | ılnerable |
|---------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Pass | 1♦ | Dble ¹ | 1 ♠ ² |
| Pass | 2♦ | $2NT^3$ | All Pass |
| | | | |

- 1) With 19 HCP, East is too strong for a 1NT overcall.
- 2) South chooses to ignore the double.

Board 13: Dealer North: All vulnerable

East

1NT¹

North

Pass

to the three level anyway.

All Pass⁴

3) East follows through trying to show a hand too strong for a 1NT overcall.

A no-trump contract plays surprisingly well because the fall of the AQ gives dummy an entry with the ♠10 and because the defenders will struggle to avoid making helpful leads. Even so, you may need to take an inspired view in the club suit to make nine tricks.

Assuming that they are not going to bid and make game, East-West do best to defend 2 ♦ doubled. They can score two spades, a heart, two trumps and a club to collect the magic 200.

A defensive cross-ruff means that 2♥ by West does not make.

South

2) For many pairs 2 ♦ would be conventional. The shapely hand justifies the jump

The North-South hands fit very well and East's opening bid will help an opposing declarer in guessing which way to play the spade suit. If diamonds are trumps,

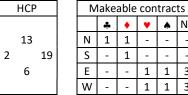
entries are not a problem. You can use the ♣A as an entry for running the ◆J and the AK as an entry for running the AJ. If spades are trumps, after two rounds of

hearts, the best declarer can do is ruff the second heart low in dummy and lead

 $3 \diamond^2$

3) Going to the four level is pushy but West does have a good suit. 4) South has a decent two-way hand but cannot really do more.

With the ◆A offside as expected, 4♣ quietly goes one off.



♦ KJ103 **109762** ♠ NT

1

3

West

4.³

1) 12-14.

♦ J4

| . | A10 |
|------------------|---------------|
| \$ 8 | ♠ Q762 |
| ♥ Q53 | ♥AKJ8 |
| ♦ 95 | ♦ K7 |
| ♣ KQJ9843 | . 762 |
| ^ / | \954 |
| Y 2 | 1 |
| ♦ | AQ108632 |
| . 5 | 5 |
| | |

НСР

10

♦863

♥ K105

13

| N | Makeable contracts | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| | ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT | | | | | | |
| N | - | 6 | 1 | 5 | 3 | | |
| S | - | 6 | 1 | 5 | 3 | | |
| Ε | 3 | - | - | - | - | | |
| W | 3 | - | - | - | - | | |

- Board 14: Dealer East: Love all ♠QJ2
 - West North East South 1♥ Pass $2 \checkmark^1$ Dble² Pass Pass **3**♥³ Pass 3♣ All Pass

dummy's other low spade to the jack.

♦ Q87 **♣**K1032 **∧** K74 ♥AQ863 ♦ J10543

♦ A9

♣AJ **♣**Q74 **A** A 1095

942

- **♥**J7
- ♦ K62
- **4**9865

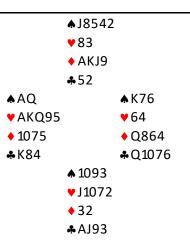
| | НСР |) | |
|---|-----|----|--|
| 9 | 8 | 15 | |

| Makeable contracts | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|----|--|
| | * | • | > | ٨ | NT | |
| Ν | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | |
| S | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | |
| Ε | - | 1 | 2 | - | 2 | |
| W | - | 1 | 2 | - | 1 | |

- 1) West has what a election commentator might describe as a 3-way marginal! 2, 2♥ and 1NT are all possible responses.
- 2) Having passed previously, South competes the part-score.
- 3) With a fifth heart and knowing it normally pays to declare at love all, East takes the push. The defensive &Q is the one clue to do otherwise.

With both the ♠A an the ♣K offside, 3♥ fails by a trick; the losers are three spades, one diamond and a club.

3. (doubled) goes two off if East scores a third-round diamond ruff with a low trump and later scores the &Q on the fourth round of diamonds. A no-trump contract plays better from the East seat because the lead of either pointed suit is potent if West declares.



HCP

9 18

6

7

| J93 | 3 | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|-----|------|----|--|
| | | | | | | |
| Ν | lake | able | con | trac | ts | |
| | * | • | * | ٨ | Т | |
| N | - | - | - | 1 | - | |
| S | - | - | - | 1 | - | |
| Ε | 2 | 2 | 2 | - | 3 | |
| | . – | | | | | |

- **♦**85 ♥QJ10762 ♦ K532 **4**
- **♠**A632 **♠** QJ107 ♥AK5 **9**3 **♦**94 ◆ A.17 **♣**KQ62 ♣A1093 **∧** K94
 - **y**84 ♦ Q1086 **♣**J875

| | HCF |) | N | Makeable contracts | | | | |
|----|-----|----|---|--------------------|---|---|----------|----|
| | | | | * | • | ٧ | ^ | N. |
| | 6 | | N | - | - | - | - | - |
| 16 | | 12 | S | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 6 | | Ε | 5 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| | | | W | 5 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 5 |

5 6 1 6 **↑** 10542 ♥Q10 ♦ J62 **♣**K973

♠ NT

- **♠**A876 **♠** KJ93 **985** ♥AK4 **♦**87 ♦ KQ105 **♣**J652 **.**84 **♠** Q
 - **♥**J7632 ♦ A943 **♣**AQ10

| НСР |] |
|-----------------|---|
| 6 5 16 13 | |

| | Makeable contracts | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| | | ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT | | | | | | | |
| | N | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | | | |
| ĺ | S | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | | | |
| | Ε | - | 1 | - | 3 | 2 | | | |
| | W | - | 1 | - | 3 | 2 | | | |

| Board 15 | 5 : Dealer Sc | outh : NS v | ulnerable |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | | Pass |
| 1♥ | Pass ¹ | 1NT | Pass |
| 3NT ² | All Pass | | |

- 1) Vulnerable and with a poor suit a 1 h overcall is not obvious.
- 2) With 18 points in high cards and a decent 5-card suit, West makes the slightly aggressive jump raise.

Possessing a combined 25 HCP East-West are likely to reach 3NT. If North overcalls 1. East might make a negative double (a king empty holding may be better as dummy), in which case West declares.

Whether they 3NT makes seems more debatable. Since A-J-9-x is a dangerous lead, especially in a minor, the opening lead is likely to be a spade whoever declares. With hearts 4-2 and the *J offside, it takes an inspired line to come to nine tricks after a spade lead. While the ♥J-10 and ♦A-K are onside, declarer is unlikely to play for such layouts.

Board 16: Dealer West: EW vulnerable West North South East 3 **v**¹ $4 \wedge^2$ 1♠ **Pass** All Pass

- 1) Weak jump overcall; I am happy with 3 ♥ at favourable vulnerability.
- 2) East is almost worth bidding 4♥ to show a good 4♠ bid.

It should not matter whether West opens a strong no-trump or one of a black suit – the final contract should be 4.

With trumps 3-2 and the ♠K onside, it is easy to draw trumps for no loser. What is the best way to play the clubs (assuming North does not lead the suit at trick one, which solves the guess)? If North has made a pre-emptive overcall in hearts, you will already have a big clue that any club length is with South. Without such a clue, you should make a discovery play, ruffing the third round of hearts in dummy before you tackle clubs. When South shows out on the third round of hearts, you cash a top club from the West hand first and then take the AA, leaving you a marked finesse on the third round.

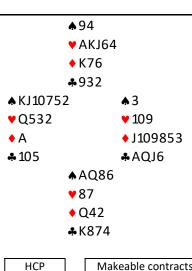
Board 17: Dealer North: Love all West North East South 1 🛦 1 Dble² Pass $2 \wedge^3$ All Pass4

- 1) Those playing a strong 1NT will open 1NT. A few will open 1.
- 2) With such terrible hearts, South prefers a takeout double to a 2♥ overcall.
- 3) With a 10-loser hand, it would be pushy to bid 3♠ playing 4-card majors.
- 4) Since the double does not promise great club support, North goes quietly.

In a spade contract the defenders should take four tricks. As well as a heart and two clubs, North scores the \$10 by overruffing dummy.

A no-trump contract (if East opens a strong no-trump and South fails to overcall) offers only eight tricks. The inability to ruff in the West hand makes entries a problem. On a heart lead, declarer's winning options on getting in are to lead the \clubsuit 9 or a top diamond.

A heart contract North-South yields seven tricks unless perhaps East scores a club ruff.



11 10

11

HCP

7

22

♠9

8

| | N | lake | able | con | trac | ts |
|--|---|------|------|-----|----------|----|
| | | * | • | > | ^ | NT |
| | N | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| | S | 2 | - | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| | Ε | - | 1 | - | • | - |
| | W | - | 1 | - | - | - |

Board 18: Dealer East: NS vulnerable West North East South 3 **♦**¹ All Pass²

- 1) Looking at 10 cards in the minors and the favourable vulnerability, East cannot
- 2) With the ◆ K not pulling full weight, North cannot really stretch to bid 3 ♥.

The strongest defence against 3♦ is a heart lead and a trump switch. If, as seems quite plausible, declarer uses the ◆A entry for running the ♣10, South does best to duck. The defenders then score a ruff (or an overruff) as well as two tricks in each red suit and one in each black suit.

If East passes as dealer, West (being in third seat), may open a weak 2 . This should fail by two tricks after a top heart lead and a club switch. If North mistakenly continues hearts, this sets up the ♥Q and allows declarer to escape for one down.

Despite holding the majority of the high card points, North-South with their balanced hands and being vulnerable are unlikely to declare.

♠ 10832 ♥Q643 ♦ K9643 AK96 **♠**Q7 **♥**AK87 **♥**J10952 A ♦ Q752 **♣**KJ72 ♣Q10 **♦**J54 **♦** J108 ♣A986543

Makeable contracts S 4 4

Board 19: Dealer South: EW vulnerable West North East South 3♣

3NT¹ All Pass

1) The club holding strongly suggests 3NT despite the risk of missing a major-suit fit.

A 3NT overcall of an opposing pre-empt necessarily covers a wide variety of hands. Without the 3♣ opening, you would not mind being in 6♥ on the East-West cards. The ♥Q will fall singleton or doubleton just over half the time. With it, the chance of a club ruff shoots up, as does the chance of finding North with the guarded ♥Q. Indeed if South is on lead and starts with the AA, the limit in a heart contract is ten tricks because North can score a club ruff at trick two and make the ♥Q later.

In a no-trump contract, the defenders can clearly score the ◆K and the ♣A. There is a danger that North, trying to protect three suits, will have to make a losing discard and allow declarer to take the remainder. A spade switch helps to break up any squeeze.

6 2 1 2 W 2 1 5 1 **♠** A1062 **♥** AJ42 ♦ Q65 **♣**Q4 **♦**J8753 **¥**865 ♥Q109

♦ A1087 ♦ KJ93 ♣AJ1082 ♣K **♠**KQ4

> **♥** K73 **42 ♣**97653

HCP Makeable contracts ♠ NT **♣** ♦ Ν 13 9 10 S 8 2 4 1 W 2 4

Board 20: Dealer West: All vulnerable West North East South 1NT¹ All Pass² Pass

1) 12-14.

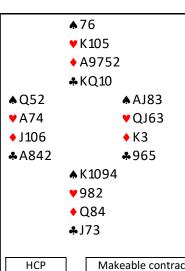
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2

2) East is too weak to overcall 2, whether it shows just spades or spades and a minor. West might double if that shows the minors (cannot be for penalties by a passed hand).

On a seemingly normal spade lead North can escape for one down in 1NT by cashing four spade tricks and two hearts. West will surely discard at least one heart, warning declarer off taking the heart finesse in an attempt to make the contract.

If East-West find their diamond fit, they should score 130. The ♥J is onside, the ♣Q is short, and North's opening bid gives a declarer a big clue about who to play for the ◆Q. If North-South play a strong 1NT, East might overcall 1♠, in which case South bids 1NT. If West starts with the &J, the defenders will struggle to cash all their tricks and declarer might escape for one down.



| | | | * | • | ٧ | ٨ | |
|-----|------------|-----|------|------------|-----|------|---|
| СР | | N | 1ake | able | con | trac | t |
| | | | | | | | |
| • | ♣ J | 73 | | | | | |
| | ♦ C | (84 | | | | | |
| • | y 9 | 82 | | | | | |
| • | ۸K | 109 | 94 | | | | |
| 342 | | | 4 | •96 | 55 | | |
| 06 | | | • | K 3 | 3 | | |
| 4 | | | • | Q J | 163 | | |

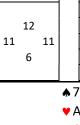
Board 21: Dealer North: NS vulnerable West North East South 1NT¹ All Pass

1) 12-14.

If North-South play a strong no-trump, they might bid 1 ◆ -1 ♠ -1 NT — but if East stretches slightly to double 1♦, West will take some action.

Normally 1NT fails by one trick, the defenders scoring two spades, three hearts and one trick in each minor. It could go two off if East decides to lead a spade and declarer decides to put up dummy's king because then the defenders score three spade tricks rather than two.

If East, noticing the favourable vulnerability, decides to make a Landy 2. to show the majors, West will bid 2 ♦ to ask for further information and East will bid 2 ♥, it being normal to show the lower suit with equal length. 2♥ should scrape home but could fail if South gets in at the right moment to give North a spade ruff.



AQJ108

♥ J

| Makeable contracts | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| | ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT | | | | | | | | |
| N | - | 2 | - | - | - | | | | |
| S | - | 2 | - | - | - | | | | |
| Ε | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | | | | |
| W | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | - | | | | |

♥A92 ♦ AQ973 **♣**AKQ5 **♠**93 ♥KQ643

♦ J8652 ♦ K4 **♣**J2 **♣**7643

- **♠** K6542
- **10875**
- **10**
- **4**1098

Board 22: Dealer East: EW vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------|-------------------|------|--------------|
| | | Pass | Pass |
| 1 ♠¹ | Dble | 1NT | Pass |
| 2♦ | Pass ² | 2♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Dble ³ | Pass | 3 ♥ ⁴ |
| All Pass | | | |

- 1) A weak 2 perhaps describes the hand better. It is close.
- 2) Double here sounds more takeout than penalty.
- 3) North cannot just double once and then pass throughout.
- 4) The vulnerability will tempt South to pass.

| Makeable contracts | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT | | | | | | | | |
| Ν | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | |
| S | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | |
| Ε | - | - | - | - | - | | | |
| W | - | ı | - | - | 1 | | | |

It is hard to predict the outcome on this misfitting part-score deal. Since East-West are vulnerable, North-South are likely to score better defending than declaring.

2 doubled could go for 800, West effectively scoring five trump tricks but nothing else. The lack of defensive communications means that 3♥ should make.

AQ54 ♥A10853 **107 ♣**A8

♦J9832 **♦** K76 **y**92 **♥** J4 ♦ Q95 ♦ AK6432

- **♣**J103 **.**76 **♠** 10
 - **∀** KQ76 **♦** J8
 - ♣KQ9542

| | НСР | |] |
|---|----------|----|---|
| 5 | 14 11 | 10 | |

| Makeable contracts | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| | ♣ ♦ ∀ ♠ NT | | | | | | | | |
| Ν | 5 | - | 5 | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| S | 5 | - | 5 | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Ε | - | - | - | • | - | | | | |
| W | - | - | - | - | - | | | | |

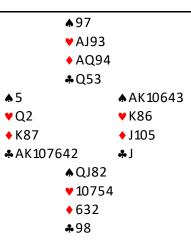
Board 23: Dealer South: All vulnerable West North East South 1. 2 **v**¹ Pass 2 • **1** 🔻 Pass 4 💙 All Pass

1) South cannot really jump to 3♥ with an aceless 11 count!

This is likely to be one of the flattest boards of the session, with a lot of scores of 650.

North-South have no reason to bid a slam with two fast losers. East, if on lead, will surely start with one top diamond and then cash the other at trick two. If West is on lead (perhaps North-South play transfer response to a 1.4 opening), East will surely have overcalled in diamonds and again the opening lead should be a diamond. On any other lead, 13 tricks (a spade, a ruff, five hearts and six clubs)

Despite their sort of two-suit fit in the pointed suits, East-West are not close to having a profitable sacrifice available.



| | - | | _ | | | | |
|-------|----------|----|------|------|-----|------|----|
| HCP | | N | lake | able | con | trac | ts |
| | | | * | • | ٧ | ٨ | NT |
| 13 | | N | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 12 12 | | S | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 3 | | Ε | 3 | 1 | - | 2 | - |
| | | W | 4 | 2 | ı | 2 | 1 |
| | ^ | K9 | 64 | | | | |

y -♦ K5432 ♣AJ7 **♠**Q32 **♦J1087 ¥**873 **♥**QJ52 **♦** J98 **•** 6 **\$**10943 **♣**K865 **♠** 5 ♥AK10964

> ♦ AQ 107 **♣**Q2

НСР Makeable contracts 1 3 1

| | | | | * | • | ٧ | ٨ | NT |
|-----------------|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 15 | | | N | 3 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| | 7 | | S | 3 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 15 | | | Ε | - | - | - | - | - |
| | | | W | - | ı | ı | ı | ı |
| ♠ Q10962 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

▼A97 ♦ AJ7 **♣**K5 **♠**J87 ♠AK43 **♥**6543 **♥**KQ102 **4 ♦** 10932 **♣**QJ632 **.**4 **♠**5 **y** J8 ♦ KQ865

♣A10987

| | НСР | 1 | |
|---|----------|----|--|
| 4 | 14 10 | 12 | |

| N | Makeable contracts | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|------------|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| | * | ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT | | | | | | |
| N | 2 | 3 | - | 1 | 2 | | | |
| S | 2 | 3 | - | 1 | 2 | | | |
| Е | - | - | - | - | - | | | |
| W | - | - | - | - | - | | | |

Board 24: Dealer West: Love all West North East South Pass¹ **1*** **1** Pass 3**♠**² 2* Pass All Pass

- 1) Looking at a doubleton spade, North cannot make a takeout double.
- 2) East is slightly heavy for this invitational jump. The fact that West is non-vulnerable and that match-point scoring does not reward pressing for game suggests caution.

3 fails by a trick with two spades, two diamonds and a heart to lose. At least this is better than 3NT, which goes three off on a heart lead from South.

East-West do best to play in a club partial. If (as surely will be the case), West declares, ten tricks are available by a Morton's fork. Declarer wins the spade lead in dummy, comes to hand with a trump and leads a low heart. If North goes in with the ace, West can get to discard one diamond on a spade and another (when North has to furnish dummy with an entry after winning the third round of trumps) on the ♥K. If North does not take the ♥A, the ♥Q goes on a spade and declarer can set up a diamond eventually.

Board 25: Dealer North: EW vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------------------------|------|------------------|
| | 1♠ | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | 3 ♦ ¹ | Pass | 4NT ² |
| Pass | 5 ♣ ³ | Pass | 7♦ |
| All Pass | | | |

- 1) With 15 HCP and two 5-card suits, North is worth the high reverse rebid.
- 2) South cannot easily check on a club control. It is OK to raise to 4♦ and then bid 4NT over 4♠ but that does help with the club situation.
- 3) 0 or 3 key cards, clearly 3 in this instance.

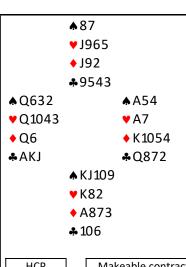
The grand slam in diamonds is a good contract. It makes more or less whenever hearts are 4-3 or trumps are 2-2 and also has a good chance if East has a doubleton heart honour. The play just requires a modicum of care. You need to set up the heart suit while South still has an entry. If the opening lead is the ♠J, you can win, cross to the A, ruff a heart, draw trumps ending in the South hand and play hearts from the top, ruffing the fourth round. You can get back to the long hearts with a spade ruff.

| Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--|--|
| West | North | East | South | | |
| | | 1 ♥ ¹ | 2 • ² | | |
| Pass | 3NT ³ | All Pass | | | |

- 1) Those playing 5-card majors open 1 ♦. I generally open 1 ♦ myself on such hands even when playing 4-card majors but cannot bring myself to do so on a 10-high suit.
- 2) An unusual 2NT would show both suits but propel the auction to the three level.
- 3) North might show the spades en route. Facing a vulnerable 2-level overcall North is never going to stop out of game.

In 3NT, after an opening heart lead or a spade lead and a heart switch, the defenders have five tricks ready to cash while declarer has only eight. Declarer runs the diamonds in the hope that East is trying to protect three suits. When West shows out on the second round of diamonds, it becomes evident that the club length is there and thus that the squeeze is not going to work.

If South manages not to overcall, North-South can stop safely in a part-score.



| Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|------|----------|--|--|--|
| West | North | East | South | | | |
| | | | Pass | | | |
| 1NT ¹ | Pass | 3NT | All Pass | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1 \ 1 2 1 1 | | | | | | |

1) 12-14.

East-West, having 27 HCP and no fit, should reach 3NT at just about every table. If North-South play a mini NT, South opens in front of West, which may result in some sort of doubled contract.

With both the ♠K and ♠J favourably placed, the most likely number of tricks for declarer to make in a no-trump contract is ten: two spades, two hearts, two diamonds and four clubs. The definite blockage in clubs and the likely blockage in hearts (after fourth highest ♥5 from North won by South's ♥K) mean that there is some danger of getting in the wrong hand and making only nine.

Both 2 ♦ doubled and 2 ♥ doubled could go for 800.



| Makeable contracts | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
| | ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT | | | | | |
| N | - | - | - | - | - | |
| S | - | - | - | - | | |
| Ε | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | |
| W | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |

♠ Q74 ♥ AKJ3 ♦ K964

♣A9

♦J10 ♥97 ♦J105 **♠** AK63 ♥62

◆J105◆A832◆QJ7653◆K42

♦9852

- ♥Q10854
- Q7
- **4** 108

| west | North | East | Souti |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--------|--------------|
| Pass | 1 ♥ ¹ | Double | 2 ♥ ² |
| Pass ³ | $2NT^4$ | Pass | 3♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

- 1) Those playing a strong no-trump will open 1NT.
- 2) With 5-card support, South is certainly worth the raise despite only four HCP.
- 3) If West has a Lebensohl 2NT available (to differentiate a constructive 3.4 bid from a competitive one) that would be an option.
- 4) It is marginal whether North is worth a game try in spite of the 17 HCP.

If North opens a strong 1NT and South transfers into hearts, North will make some sort of super acceptance. All ways on, North-South will find it difficult to stop in 2♥. In fact, 3♥ makes unless East starts with a club. On the defence of the ace-king of spades followed by a spade ruff, North's club loser goes away on the fourth spade.

3♣ fails if South scores a diamond ruff.

Board 29: Dealer North: All vulnerable

♠Q92

♥ AK10

◆ 10653

4 1053

♠ A87

♦K54

♥762

y J93

◆ AKQ • K972 ◆J872 **♣**AQ8

♦J1063

- ♥Q854
- Q854 • 94
-
- **♣**J64

| | НСР | , | |
|----|-----|----|--|
| 16 | 9 | 11 | |

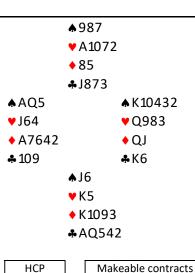
| M | Makeable contracts | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
| | ♣ ♦ ♥ A NT | | | | | |
| N | - | - | - | - | 1 | |
| S | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Е | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | |
| W | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | |

WestNorth
PassEast
PassSouth
Pass1♣¹Pass2NT²Pass3NTAll Pass

- 1) Those playing a strong no-trump will open 1NT.
- 2) If you do not respond 2NT with a 4333 type, you are never going to.

While the range for a 1NT opening will not affect the final contract, it may well impact which of East and West becomes declarer. If East declares, possession of two spade honours to one in hearts may well persuade South to lead a spade. If North declares, the bidding is likely to have suggested a major-suit lead, in which case North will probably try a top heart to see how things lie.

With clubs breaking kindly, East-West have ten top tricks in 3NT. The only realistic way they make just nine tricks is if the defenders cash the first four tricks by running the heart suit. I would not like to bet which of 600 and 630 will be the more common score!



5

13

НСР

13

11

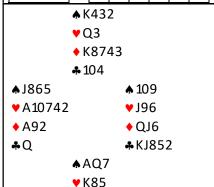
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11

| Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| West | North | East | South | | |
| | | Pass ¹ | 1NT ² | | |
| Pass | Pass | 2 ♣ ³ | Dble ⁴ | | |
| Rdble⁵ | 3 ♣ ⁶ | All Pass | | | |
| | | | | | |

- 1) The devalued Q-J doubleton means the East hand is clearly not worth opening.
- 2) 12-14. This avoids having to open 1 and rebid 2 on a 5-card suit.
- 3) Landy, both majors (East would also take action if playing an Astro variant).
- 4) Double of the artificial bid shows the suit doubled.
- 5) West would have bid 2♦ without the double (to ask East to choose) but now 2♦ would be natural.
- 6) North is going to compete to 3. anyway so does so before East bids spades.

3♠ makes from the East seat even on a heart lead. This is because (unless North switches to a club, East puts up the ♣K and South subsequently underleads the ♣A), North lacks the entries to give South a heart ruff and play a club through. With the ◆A offside, 3♣ fails even though the rest of the layout is friendly for declarer.



105

♣A9763

1) 12-14 – this has come up a lot tonight!

Board 31: Dealer South: NS vulnerable

East

2 **v**⁴

2) Landy, both majors.

North

 $2 \stackrel{3}{\bullet}$

West

2 *²

3) After West shows the majors, this is clearly natural rather than a transfer.

South

1NT¹

All Pass⁵

- 4) East does not have great support but does not want to defend 2 ♦ either.
- 5) The vulnerable North cannot really do anything more.

Since East-West have a better fit and the vulnerability in their favour, they are likely to buy the contract.

2♥ should be down a trick. One way is for the defenders making two spades,

2 should be down a trick. One way is for the defenders making two spades, a heart, a diamond, a ruff and a club. Another possibility is to keep leading trumps, in which case the defenders can cash three spade tricks to go with one trick in each other suit.

1NT fails on a normal low heart lead.

Board 32: Dealer West: EW vulnerable

♣953
✔AJ874
◆J5
★K96
♣Q106
◆K62
◆Q105
◆AK10984
♣AK872
◆93
◆Q6

♣QJ32

Α

WestNorthEastSouthPassPass1 ◆ ¹1 ♠1NT2 ♠All Pass²

- 1) In third seat, East would open 3 ♦ at other vulnerabilities.
- 2) East cannot really do more at adverse vulnerability.

We finished with a third competitive part-score deal. East-West have a nine-card diamond fit and can make nine tricks while North-South have an eight-card spade fit and can make eight tricks, all of which will keep Larry Cohen very happy!

The vulnerability makes it difficult for East-West to compete to the three level, though they need to score well. If diamonds were 3-1, they might go one down — but it most unlikely that anyone would double and North-South would probably be able to make 3 .

Just in case anyone has not heard of Larry Cohen, and the Law of Total Tricks that he publicised, the theory is that the number of total number of tricks available on a deal is the same as the total number of trumps.

| НСР | | | | |
|-----|---------|----|--|--|
| 9 | 9 12 | 10 | | |

| Makeable contracts | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|----|--|
| | * | • | ٧ | ٨ | NT | |
| N | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | - | |
| S | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | - | |
| Ε | - | 3 | - | - | 1 | |
| W | ı | З | ı | ı | 1 | |