

British Summer Sim Pairs



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Tuesday
23rd 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 Heather Dhondy.

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

<p>♠ K3 ♥ KJ92 ♦ J4 ♣ AJ1093</p> <p>♠ AJ965 ♠ 874 ♥ A75 ♥ 863 ♦ K7 ♦ A10965 ♣ 652 ♣ Q8</p> <p>♠ Q102 ♥ Q104 ♦ Q832 ♣ K74</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>13</td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>6</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>9</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		13	N	3	-	3	-	12	6	S	3	1	3	-		9	E	-	-	-	1			W	-	-	-	1	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>What do you respond to partner's 1♣ opening with the South cards? The text books will tell you to bid your cheapest four-card suit. However, there is a good case to respond 1NT with this hand and attempt to deprive the opponents of the chance to overcall a major at the one level. On this hand it might just work out well. If West feels unable to overcall 2♠, you will buy it there and score well if you play on hearts after a spade lead to the ten. Now when the opponents clear the spades, you might decide the club finesse is too risky. If you do it pays off handsomely and you could end up with ten tricks.</p> <p>If you respond 1♦, the opponents will be in and are likely to end up in 2♠. This will probably go one down but that should be a decent score for East-West.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♣	Pass	1♦	1♠	Pass	2♠	All pass				
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																									
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																					
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<p>♠ K6 ♥ 1053 ♦ 8542 ♣ 8642</p> <p>♠ J7 ♠ 985 ♥ AQ76 ♥ J2 ♦ AQ96 ♦ KJ107 ♣ Q109 ♣ J753</p> <p>♠ AQ10432 ♥ K984 ♦ 3 ♣ AK</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>3</td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>6</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>16</td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		3	N	-	-	2	3	15	6	S	-	-	2	3		16	E	2	2	-	-			W	2	2	-	-	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Although 3♠ is a very good contract it will be difficult for North-South to reach. North knows the ♠K is a good card, but it is the only high card in the hand and with just a doubleton North won't be very enthusiastic.</p> <p>3♦ can go down if two rounds of club are cashed followed by spades and a club ruff, but even without that, declarer is in some difficulty given the bad trump break.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♠	Dbl	Pass	2♦	2♥	3♦	All Pass		
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																									
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																					
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<p>♠ A7 ♥ K9642 ♦ 87 ♣ Q982</p> <p>♠ 863 ♠ KJ94 ♥ 85 ♥ Q10 ♦ 4 ♦ K9632 ♣ KJ107653 ♣ A4</p> <p>♠ Q1052 ♥ AJ73 ♦ AQJ105 ♣ -</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Do you make a call with the West hand after South opens 1♦? Despite the good suit I expect the vulnerability to put off most people. As it happens North-South are unlikely to get further than game under their own steam, so West will do well to stay quiet. All the cards are favourable for North-South so 12 tricks in a heart game will be a popular result.</p> <p>Those getting to slam will be lucky as it is a little fortunate, but there will be a few reaching it.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
West	North	East	South														
			1♦														
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♥														
Pass	4♥	All Pass															

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	9	N	-	4	6	3	4
4	13	S	-	4	6	3	4
	14	E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ QJ92 ♥ QJ54 ♦ 854 ♣ Q4</p> <p>♠ K5 ♠ 10764 ♥ K10 ♥ A972 ♦ KQ732 ♦ 10 ♣ A987 ♣ J1062</p> <p>♠ A83 ♥ 863 ♦ AJ96 ♣ K53</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Should East respond to 1♦ by partner? With this shape it is tempting to try to improve the contract, and when partner rebids two or three diamonds you just say sorry. If I held fewer than four points I don't think you can risk it, but with the East hand I would respond 1♥ and hope for the best. On the deal it pays dividends as partner has a second suit and you can happily pass 2♣.</p> <p>2♣ plays very well and declarer should emerge with ten tricks, losing just one trump, one spade and one diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣	All pass		
West	North	East	South										
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass										
2♣	All pass												

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

<p>♠ 62 ♥ J10975 ♦ Q7652 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ K10 ♠ A9754 ♥ AQ432 ♥ 6 ♦ AJ9 ♦ K103 ♣ 532 ♣ AQ96</p> <p>♠ QJ83 ♥ K8 ♦ 84 ♣ K10874</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>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>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>What rebid do you make with the East cards after 1♠-2♥? You are not strong enough to reverse into 3♣ or rebid 2NT so are left with a simple 2♠ rebid despite the poor quality of your suit. West has a bit of a problem over this and could guess the final game contract by bidding 4♠ or 3NT, however it might be better to temporise with 3♦ and see what partner does next. When partner bids 3NT you are quite happy to pass that.</p> <p>There is a bit of guessing to be done in 4♠ or 3NT both in spades and diamonds. The percentage play in spades for three or four tricks is to lead low to the ten and on this occasion those who know their percentage plays will be rewarded.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	All pass
West	North	East	South														
	Pass	1♠	Pass														
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass														
3♦	Pass	3NT	All pass														

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	4	N	-	-	-	-	-
14	13	S	-	-	-	-	-
	9	E	4	3	3	5	4
		W	4	3	3	4	4

<p>♠ A965 ♥ J842 ♦ AQ62 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ KQJ102 ♠ 8743 ♥ AK65 ♥ 107 ♦ 7 ♦ J1095 ♣ A106 ♣ KQ3</p> <p>♠ - ♥ Q93 ♦ K843 ♣ J98742</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This looks a normal enough sequence and contract, but will declarer make ten or eleven tricks? There only appear to be two losers, a trump and a diamond. However, the bad trump and club breaks prove problematic. Declarer can be held to ten tricks in three different ways. Firstly, a singleton club lead enables North to get a ruff by underleading the ace of diamonds when in with the trump. Leading trumps means that declarer needs to come back to hand with a club to ruff the fourth heart and now cannot draw trumps without allowing the ruff to be taken. Finally playing diamonds repeatedly forces declarer down to fewer trumps than North. Given all this, any declarer who is allowed to make eleven tricks should score well.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
		Pass	Pass														
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass														
4♠	All Pass																

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	11	N	-	1	-	-
17	6	S	-	1	-	-
	6	E	-	-	1	4 3
		W	-	-	-	4 3

<p>♠ J ♥ KJ8763 ♦ AQ7 ♣ 842</p> <p>♠ AKQ2 ♠ 10765 ♥ Q542 ♥ 10 ♦ 62 ♦ K109853 ♣ Q105 ♣ KJ</p> <p>♠ 9843 ♥ A9 ♦ J4 ♣ A9763</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>The top spot for East-West is a spade part-score but it is hard to reach. West will open 1NT and North should intervene with 2♥ (depending on their chosen methods). Now, East is quite likely to attempt to play a diamond part-score. 3♦ may make unless the defence get their spade ruff, however those in spades will score better.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1NT	2♥	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
1NT	2♥	2NT	Pass														
3♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass														

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	11	N	2	-	2	-
13	7	S	2	-	2	-
	9	E	-	2	-	3 -
		W	-	2	-	3 -

<p>♠ 5432 ♥ J872 ♦ AK10 ♣ J10</p> <p>♠ Q8 ♠ 106 ♥ 643 ♥ AKQ9 ♦ Q954 ♦ 2 ♣ 9842 ♣ AQ7653</p> <p>♠ AKJ97 ♥ 105 ♦ J8763 ♣ K</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♣</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This hand will be competed fiercely, with both sides able to make their contract at the four level. North-South will need the diamond finesse but 4♠ is not too problematic as the trumps are kind. East-West do well to take the save in 5♣. They will be forced into dropping the singleton king of trumps since they can't get to dummy to take the finesse. That leaves declarer with just three losers for one down.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠	Pass	2♣	2♥	4♠	5♣	Dbl	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠														
Pass	2♣	2♥	4♠														
5♣	Dbl	All pass															

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

<p>♠ K10973 ♥ 10 ♦ J8 ♣ KQJ95</p> <p>♠ Q542 ♠ A8 ♥ KJ2 ♥ Q864 ♦ A106 ♦ K52 ♣ 872 ♣ A1063</p> <p>♠ J6 ♥ A9753 ♦ Q9743 ♣ 4</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>I would expect a variety of actions here as several are quite close. Firstly, some will not open 1♠ with the North cards, especially if they have a weak two-suiter in their armoury. If they do, then East will double, but what does South do? The hand is too weak for a change of suit at the two-level, and 1NT is not attractive with the singleton club, so they will probably pass. West might bid 1NT or 2NT in response, but if they bid 1NT should North show the clubs? It looks tempting with the shape and the quality of the second suit. However, it might prove an unwelcome surprise lead against a No Trump contract and the hand is very minimum to take two actions facing a partner that can't bid.</p> <p>Although the hand is a horrible misfit for North-South, they are only one down in 2♠, and given 1NT goes well for East-West, they will score reasonably.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Dbl	Pass	1NT	All pass		
West	North	East	South										
	1♠	Dbl	Pass										
1NT	All pass												

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

<p>♠ AKJ1053 ♥ K4 ♦ KJ ♣ AK5</p> <p>♠ Q76 ♠ 8 ♥ A83 ♥ 762 ♦ A953 ♦ Q876 ♣ J64 ♣ Q10987</p> <p>♠ 942 ♥ QJ1095 ♦ 1042 ♣ 32</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>How do you play an opening bid of 2♦, ♥ or ♠ in fourth seat? Some people play that they show a weak two bid that is just a little stronger than in other positions, in other words a hand that they would not wish to pass out but are just looking to play there. However, there is a case to play them as a strong opening. The chances are increased that you will have a good hand, and hands such as this one can be awkward since you clearly don't have game in your own hand if partner has nothing, but are worried about opening 1♠ for fear of being passed out there (as indeed you would be on this hand).</p> <p>The best the defence can do against 4♠ is to switch to a low diamond when in with the ♥A and hope for a misguess in both diamonds and trumps, which is actually not unlikely. There will be several going down in game.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass			
West	North	East	South																		
		Pass	Pass																		
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT																		
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠																		
All Pass																					

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

<p>♠ Q9542 ♥ 7 ♦ K4 ♣ K9854</p> <p>♠ AKJ83 ♠ 7 ♥ J6 ♥ K1085 ♦ 8752 ♦ A109 ♣ AJ ♣ Q10632</p> <p>♠ 106 ♥ AQ9432 ♦ QJ63 ♣ 7</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This hand is a bit of a trap and those who go quietly (or double their opponents) will do well since there is nothing making above the one-level. I would expect the sequence above to be pretty common and the contract is not a happy one. The defence do best to cash their two hearts and switch to a diamond, establishing two tricks for their side in that suit. If they switch to the singleton club, declarer can win and cash two top trumps before playing a second club; now the diamond losers will disappear from declarer's hand, and the contract will escape for one down. On a low diamond switch the contract will probably go two down. Since to make this switch you are playing partner for the king, a low one is the right switch rather than the queen.</p>	West	North	East	South				2♥	2♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South										
			2♥										
2♠	All Pass												

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

<p>♠ K84 ♥ 1073 ♦ KJ9 ♣ KQJ2</p> <p>♠ J732 ♠ AQ109 ♥ J6 ♥ 52 ♦ AQ63 ♦ 10842 ♣ 1094 ♣ 875</p> <p>♠ 65 ♥ AKQ984 ♦ 75 ♣ A63</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>All pass</p> <p>Most pairs will be in 4♥ on this hand, with a handful trying 3NT. If the defence lead a club to 4♥, declarer will need to decide whether to discard a diamond or a spade on the fourth club after drawing trumps. If they discard a spade they will make eleven tricks and score well since declarer will have no chance for the overtrick if the defence choose to lead a diamond from the East hand and get a spade switch, or lead a spade from the West hand if played by South.</p> <p>Against 3NT the defence must find a diamond lead and switch to the ♠J. If they do this, they will defeat the contract for a great score, but if they don't find this defence they will score very badly.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
West	North	East	South										
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦										
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥										

HCP		Makeable contracts						
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	13		N	4	1	4	1	2
8		6	S	4	1	4	1	2
	13		E	-	-	-	-	-
			W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ A52 ♥ AK8 ♦ K6 ♣ K9876</p> <p>♠ 1064 ♠ KQJ97 ♥ 763 ♥ J4 ♦ AQ4 ♦ J10972 ♣ J532 ♣ 10</p> <p>♠ 83 ♥ Q10952 ♦ 853 ♣ AQ4</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This is another tough hand to bid. What does South do after partner opens 1♣ and East overcalls 1♠? Despite the partial club fit, it looks a little light for a 2♥ response, so I would double. Now North has a problem after West raises to 2♠. To bid 3NT potentially wrong-sides the contract if partner holds Qx, and also rules out other options when holding just a single stopper. A more flexible action is to double. You still have the option to try 3NT over partner's call and you will have expressed more doubt.</p> <p>When partner responds 3♥, having already implied four cards in hearts with the double, that should show a five-card suit and North is happy to raise. There is little problem to the play, and declarer will emerge with twelve tricks when the ♦A is inside, outscoring those in 3NT.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♣	1♠	Dbl	2♠	Dbl	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
	1♣	1♠	Dbl														
2♠	Dbl	Pass	3♥														
Pass	4♥	All pass															

HCP		Makeable contracts						
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	17		N	6	-	6	-	5
7		8	S	6	-	6	-	5
	8		E	-	1	-	1	-
			W	-	1	-	1	-

<p>♠ A1052 ♥ J985 ♦ Q103 ♣ 43</p> <p>♠ 98643 ♠ J ♥ Q106 ♥ AK43 ♦ K5 ♦ A9762 ♣ Q108 ♣ A95</p> <p>♠ KQ7 ♥ 72 ♦ J84 ♣ KJ762</p>	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>East-West are likely to get this auction to themselves, but they will end up in a variety of contracts. Those who opt for the four-three heart fit will score best since nine tricks cannot be stopped.</p> <p>For those in 2NT, only a lead of the unbid suit (clubs) from the North hand will defeat it. Declarer will need to lose a diamond in order to establish the suit, and the defence will be able to take four spade tricks to go with their club and diamond.</p> <p>3♦ can also make when trumps divide, but may well fail if the defence don't touch the clubs, as declarer will probably misguess by playing low to the nine.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass		
West	North	East	South																		
		1♦	Pass																		
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass																		
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass																		
3♦	All Pass																				

HCP		Makeable contracts						
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	7		N	-	-	-	-	-
7		16	S	-	-	-	-	-
	10		E	2	3	3	2	2
			W	1	3	3	2	1

<p>♠ A62 ♥ 105 ♦ 3 ♣ KJ109752</p> <p>♠ 83 ♠ KQJ105 ♥ AQ4 ♥ K98632 ♦ QJ4 ♦ K8 ♣ AQ863 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ 974 ♥ J7 ♦ A1097652 ♣ 4</p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: right;">North</td> <td style="text-align: right;">East</td> <td style="text-align: right;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The West hand is borderline for 3NT over a 3♦ opening by South, and that might drive East-West too high as the East hand has plenty of potential. There is a real danger here that East-West will go overboard, and the diamond ruff will prevent either major suit contract making at the five-level. Those finding a way to stop at the four level will probably get a decent result.</p>	West	North	East	South				3♦	Pass	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
			3♦														
Pass	Pass	4♦	Pass														
4♥	All Pass																

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

<p>♠ AQ10853 ♥ 765 ♦ K ♣ J82</p> <p>♠ K ♠ J764 ♥ AQJ9 ♥ 104 ♦ Q10743 ♦ J65 ♣ 953 ♣ KQ106</p> <p>♠ 92 ♥ K832 ♦ A982 ♣ A74</p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: right;">North</td> <td style="text-align: right;">East</td> <td style="text-align: right;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">1♦</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2♠</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Dbl</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3♦</td> <td style="text-align: right;">All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>What call do you make with the North cards over West's 1♦ opening? Ten points is at the top end of a weak jump overcall, however the ♦K singleton may not be pulling its weight, and you are allowed to be maximum once in a while! This may well buy you the contract unless West makes a sporting reopening double, which is not a clear-cut action. In 2♠ the natural club lead should be ducked, but accurate defence should still beat the contract. A heart switch followed by a return to clubs by West drives out the entry to dummy before declarer can unblock the diamonds. In 3♦, declarer needs to guess clubs correctly and South does best to duck smoothly when one is led to the king, however if there has been a weak jump overcall, declarer should get it right.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	3♦	All pass
West	North	East	South										
1♦	2♠	Pass	Pass										
Dbl	Pass	3♦	All pass										

HCP		Makeable contracts						
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	10		N	-	-	-	1	-
12		7	S	-	-	-	1	-
	11		E	1	3	-	-	-
			W	1	3	-	-	-

<p>♠ J10 ♥ 10983 ♦ A96 ♣ AK109</p> <p>♠ K9863 ♠ 52 ♥ KJ ♥ AQ52 ♦ 84 ♦ KQ732 ♣ J542 ♣ Q6</p> <p>♠ AQ74 ♥ 764 ♦ J105 ♣ 873</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: right;">North</td> <td style="text-align: right;">East</td> <td style="text-align: right;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">1NT</td> <td style="text-align: right;">All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>East-West probably do best to allow 1NT to be peacefully passed out since otherwise they are likely to exchange a plus score for a minus score. Against 1NT East will lead a diamond which North can win cheaply. Whether declarer pays three rounds of clubs, or takes a spade finesse, West will be back in to clear the diamonds while partner still has an entry in hearts. The best declarer can do is to cash out for six tricks. If East or West do venture into the auction, they will find that their hands are mis-fitting and will need to stop below two spades to achieve a plus score.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	All pass	
West	North	East	South						
	1NT	All pass							

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

<p>♠ AKQ952 ♥ A97 ♦ 42 ♣ K2</p> <p>♠ J73 ♠ 108 ♥ J106 ♥ Q543 ♦ AQJ10 ♦ 7653 ♣ J95 ♣ 763</p> <p>♠ 64 ♥ K82 ♦ K98 ♣ AQ1084</p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>6♠ by South is a decent contract, and those who reach it will have done well, but it is important to get it played by South since a diamond lead will defeat it if played by North. It needs the trumps to break and then clubs to be no worse than four-two, plus a few five-ones with fortunate singletons.</p> <p>Played by South, West needs to lead ♦A to get any tricks at all.</p> <p>If the auction begins 1NT-3♠, then there is a danger that if it is North that uses Blackwood, a 5♦ response showing one ace/keycard will be doubled for the lead.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South														
		Pass	1NT														
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠														
Pass	4♠	All Pass															

HCP		Makeable contracts						
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	16		N	5	2	3	5	5
10		2	S	6	3	4	6	6
	12		E	-	-	-	-	-
			W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ 965 ♥ A532 ♦ AKQ ♣ J75</p> <p>♠ AQ104 ♠ J72 ♥ Q1084 ♥ 96 ♦ J54 ♦ 98762 ♣ K3 ♣ 642</p> <p>♠ K83 ♥ KJ7 ♦ 103 ♣ AQ1098</p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This is a likely auction to a popular contract. The number of tricks made will depend on the opening lead. Only a spade lead will stop eleven tricks as the suit can be cashed when in with the ♣K. On any other lead (including the likely heart lead) declarer will wrap up eleven tricks in straight-forward fashion.</p> <p>Those playing a strong NT may get a rather unlucky bad board since West will be put off a heart lead when the auction goes 1♣-1♥-1NT-3NT. Now a spade lead looks a lot more attractive.</p>	West	North	East	South				1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South														
			1NT														
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦														
Pass	3NT	All Pass															

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

<p>♠ Q7 ♥ 74 ♦ AKJ109632 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ J1052 ♠ K9 ♥ K8 ♥ A10963 ♦ 85 ♦ Q4 ♣ 75432 ♣ AQ108</p> <p>♠ A8643 ♥ QJ52 ♦ 7 ♣ K96</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>What do you open with the North cards? 4♦ is an option, as is 1♦. Second in hand, I would be more tempted by 1♦ since 3NT could easily be the right contract. The reason why second seat is not a great place to pre-empt is because, with your right-hand opponent having passed, the probability that your side has the majority of the points is increased.</p> <p>On this hand, the advantage of opening 1♦ is to avoid getting too high. In a diamond contract you have your eight trump winners plus the ♠A and that's all. Those stopping low enough to achieve a plus-score will do well.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♦	1♥	1♠	Pass	2♦	Dbl	Pass	2♥	3♦	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
Pass	1♦	1♥	1♠														
Pass	2♦	Dbl	Pass														
2♥	3♦	All pass															

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

<p>♠ 87652 ♥ K754 ♦ J5 ♣ 94</p> <p>♠ A109 ♠ Q ♥ Q109 ♥ 8632 ♦ 1086 ♦ A432 ♣ AQ73 ♣ J1086</p> <p>♠ KJ43 ♥ AJ ♦ KQ97 ♣ K52</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There are five inescapable losers in a spade contract when the ♣A is with West. However, it will be very hard to stop at the two-level. I suspect all will not be lost for North-South, however, if they go one down in 3♠, since I expect there will be several going overboard to 4♠.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
	Pass	Pass	1♠														
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT														
Pass	3♠	All pass															

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

<p>♠ K1075 ♥ AJ ♦ A3 ♣ A8753</p> <p>♠ AQ8 ♠ J94 ♥ 5432 ♥ Q10987 ♦ 1075 ♦ KQJ8 ♣ 1094 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ 632 ♥ K6 ♦ 9642 ♣ KQ62</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>3NT by North-South is a slightly pushy contract, holding just 24 points between the two hands. However, it is pretty much just on the location of the ♠A, since there are eight top tricks (unless clubs are 4-0). On this occasion, aggression pays off when the ♠A is onside. Despite the slight shortage of values, I expect many pairs to reach game on an auction similar to that given above.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥	2♣	2♥	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South																		
		Pass	Pass																		
Pass	1♣	1♥	2♣																		
2♥	2♠	Pass	2NT																		
Pass	3NT	All Pass																			

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	16	N	4	1	-	3
6	10	S	4	1	-	3
	8	E	-	-	1	-
		W	-	-	1	-

<p>♠ 853 ♥ K ♦ K3 ♣ AK97632</p> <p>♠ 2 ♠ AQJ64 ♥ 10842 ♥ 9765 ♦ AQJ4 ♦ 10852 ♣ Q1085 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ K1097 ♥ AQJ3 ♦ 976 ♣ J4</p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dbf</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>As with the previous hand, I would expect several pairs to reach 3NT on the combined 24 count. On this occasion, aggression doesn't pay off as the clubs divide very poorly, and it stands no chance. If North stops in 3♣, it can be made on any lead. If a heart is chosen, declarer must rise with the ace to capture the king in hand and remain in dummy to cash more hearts and discard some losing spades or diamonds. On a spade or diamond lead, West may get a spade ruff but that is with a trump trick, and, provided declarer can restrict the losers to two trumps and two aces, the contract will make.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠	Dbf	Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South																		
			Pass																		
Pass	1♣	1♠	Dbf																		
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT																		
Pass	3NT	All Pass																			

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	13	N	3	-	-	1
9	7	S	3	-	-	1
	11	E	-	2	-	-
		W	-	2	-	-

<p> ♠ Q632 ♥ A1082 ♦ Q7 ♣ K62 ♠ A9 ♥ Q943 ♦ 1062 ♣ AQJ5 ♠ KJ875 ♥ K765 ♦ AJ9 ♣ 9 ♠ 104 ♥ J ♦ K8543 ♣ 108743 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>11</td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>12</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>4</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>3 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>4 3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		11	N	-	-	-	-	13	12	S	-	-	-	-		4	E	-	2	4	3 3			W	-	2	4	4 3	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>4♥ by East will be a popular contract on the auction above, and despite the bad trump break will make more often than not.</p> <p>On a club lead, declarer will probably finesse, on the grounds that even if it fails, the ♦J9 will be discarded on the top clubs. North will win and probably play a diamond. Declarer should win with the ace and cross to the ♠A to discard the diamonds on dummy's clubs. Then a spade to hand, spade ruff, diamond ruff, and another spade ruff takes declarer to eight tricks. North has only trumps remaining and does best to ruff in with the eight when a minor suit card is played from dummy. However, declarer will over-ruff and play the last spade. The defence are helpless. If South ruffs, declarer over-ruffs and North will make only the ace and ten. If South doesn't ruff then neither does dummy and North will be end-played.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass		
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																									
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																					
	11	N	-	-	-	-																																																					
13	12	S	-	-	-	-																																																					
	4	E	-	2	4	3 3																																																					
		W	-	2	4	4 3																																																					
West	North	East	South																																																								
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass																																																								
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass																																																								
4♥	All pass																																																										
<p> ♠ Q2 ♥ J95 ♦ J32 ♣ Q10954 ♠ AK109854 ♥ 6 ♦ 4 ♣ AJ76 ♠ 763 ♥ AK83 ♦ 9865 ♣ K2 ♠ J ♥ Q10742 ♦ AKQ107 ♣ 83 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>6</td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>10</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>12</td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>6 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>6 2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		6	N	-	1	2	-	12	10	S	-	1	2	-		12	E	2	-	-	6 2			W	2	-	-	6 2	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>6♠ is a very good contract but is hard to reach. In practice I expect the auction to follow that given above at many tables. However, if South decides it is time to take another action at this favourable vulnerability, the opponents might now get pushed into slam.</p> <p>If North does not find a diamond lead, West should make all thirteen tricks. On the likely heart lead (given the auction above) declarer should draw one round of trumps before attempting to ruff two clubs in dummy and throwing the diamond on the other top heart.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	All pass						
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																									
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																					
	6	N	-	1	2	-																																																					
12	10	S	-	1	2	-																																																					
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<p> ♠ K82 ♥ 2 ♦ Q1073 ♣ KQ985 ♠ J1095 ♥ Q63 ♦ KJ98 ♣ A7 ♠ AQ76 ♥ A10984 ♦ A ♣ J103 ♠ 43 ♥ KJ75 ♦ 6542 ♣ 642 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>10</td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>15</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>4</td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>5 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>5 5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		10	N	-	-	-	-	11	15	S	-	-	-	-		4	E	2	1	4	5 3			W	2	1	5	5 5	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table> <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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A straight-forward natural auction will get East-West to 4♠ which will be a very popular contract. The number of tricks made will depend on the opening lead and how the hearts are tackled.</p> <p>If the singleton heart is led, declarer needs to rise with the ace, cross to the ♣A and finesse trumps to make eleven tricks. This looks to be putting too many eggs in one basket so in practice declarer will probably play low to trick one and make ten tricks.</p> <p>On the ♣K lead declarer may well make eleven tricks by drawing trumps and playing a second club. A heart will be discarded on the third club and declarer will then lead towards the ♥Q.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																									
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																					
	10	N	-	-	-	-																																																					
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<p>♠ A10942 ♥ 852 ♦ QJ7 ♣ K2</p> <p>♠ J6 ♠ KQ5 ♥ K63 ♥ AJ4 ♦ AK98 ♦ 10632 ♣ Q964 ♣ J83</p> <p>♠ 873 ♥ Q1097 ♦ 54 ♣ A1075</p>	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>The East hand is a marginal invite over 1NT so there will be pairs in one, two and three No Trumps. The likely spade lead gives declarer two options. Playing diamonds from the top is likely to result in seven tricks, assuming they come in for three tricks. If, however, declarer is in 2NT, they will need to play on clubs instead and guess well. Given the length in spades is with North, the natural way to play clubs is for South to hold the length, and hence is more likely to hold the jack. So a club to the ten followed by a spade is likely. Now when declarer leads the ♣8 off dummy, South should cover, and declarer is still on a guess as to whether the clubs are three-three or four-two.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	Pass	2NT	All Pass
West	North	East	South						
1NT	Pass	2NT	All Pass						

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	10	N	-	-	-	1	-
13	11	S	-	-	-	1	-
	6	E	2	3	-	-	2
		W	2	3	1	-	1

<p>♠ Q9 ♥ AQ984 ♦ K432 ♣ 103</p> <p>♠ 10762 ♠ K84 ♥ 3 ♥ J752 ♦ Q1085 ♦ A ♣ J852 ♣ AKQ76</p> <p>♠ AJ53 ♥ K106 ♦ J976 ♣ 94</p>	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Lots of possibilities for this auction. Firstly, do you open the North hand? It's borderline but I would – just. Secondly, what would you overcall with the East hand? The possibilities are 2♣, for which you are quite strong and a club short ideally, or 1NT, which is tempting at pairs, but is not ideal. On this hand it is better to play in clubs as 1NT is likely to go down on a heart lead, provided South doesn't switch to spades after three rounds of hearts which would give declarer their seventh trick. Even if it is let through, those in clubs will make nine tricks and outscore them.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	2♣	Dbl	3♣	All pass		
West	North	East	South										
Pass	1♥	2♣	Dbl										
3♣	All pass												

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	11	N	-	1	2	-	1
3	17	S	-	1	2	-	1
	9	E	3	-	-	1	-
		W	3	-	-	1	-

<p>♠ Q109 ♥ K432 ♦ A96 ♣ 854</p> <p>♠ A863 ♠ KJ54 ♥ 8 ♥ A1065 ♦ Q105 ♦ K872 ♣ Q10962 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ 72 ♥ QJ97 ♦ J43 ♣ AK73</p>	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>East-West are very unlikely to reach game even though ten tricks are possible on a favourable lie of the cards. The likely club lead will probably be followed by a trump switch given the singleton club in dummy. Declarer can now draw trumps ending in hand and discard a red card on the queen of clubs, establishing the suit. Now there is just one diamond to come. I expect 170 to East-West to be a fairly normal result.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass		Pass	2♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South										
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass										
	Pass	2♠	All Pass										

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	9	N	-	-	-	-	-
8	12	S	-	-	-	-	-
	11	E	2	3	1	4	1
		W	2	3	1	4	1

<p>♠ 75 ♥ AJ9542 ♦ AJ43 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ K108642 ♠ QJ9 ♥ Q ♥ K6 ♦ Q52 ♦ K96 ♣ 865 ♣ J10943</p> <p>♠ A3 ♥ 10873 ♦ 1087 ♣ AKQ2</p>	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>West will probably be itching to get into the bidding at some stage, but East-West do best to allow their opponents to play in 4♥ as the save in 4♠ is too expensive. Will ten or eleven tricks be made in hearts? A diamond lead gives eleven simply. However, on a different lead, declarer will draw a round of trumps, cash the black suit winners and ruff one to hand before exiting with a trump. West will lead back the other black suit and they are now eliminated. This allows declarer to cross to dummy in trumps and lead a diamond to the jack. The diamonds are now frozen, so the defence are endplayed. However, this depends on guessing the location of the nine of diamonds since, if it is with West, declarer must take a double finesse in the suit.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥	3♠	4♥	All Pass	
West	North	East	South														
		Pass	1NT														
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥														
3♠	4♥	All Pass															

HCP		Makeable contracts						
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	10	N	1	3	5	-	1	
7	10	S	1	3	5	-	1	
	13	E	-	-	-	-	-	
		W	-	-	-	-	-	

<p>♠ 63 ♥ 943 ♦ AK73 ♣ J1063</p> <p>♠ Q109 ♠ AKJ875 ♥ AQJ7 ♥ K8652 ♦ 965 ♦ J ♣ Q72 ♣ K</p> <p>♠ 42 ♥ 10 ♦ Q10842 ♣ A9854</p>	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>I hope there are not too many Souths who are tempted to bid 2NT after 1♠. At this vulnerability the save is too expensive, but I expect North to be tempted into it if the call is made. In my opinion it is a bad bid. You don't want to save, and you will just tell your opponents about the distribution which may help them in the play.</p> <p>On this hand there is no problem to the play at all in hearts or spades, although if declarer plays in hearts, the defence will need to cash their two tricks immediately to stop twelve tricks being made.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South																		
			Pass																		
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass																		
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass																		
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass																		

HCP		Makeable contracts						
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	8	N	3	3	-	-	-	
11	15	S	3	3	-	-	-	
	6	E	-	-	5	5	1	
		W	-	-	5	5	1	

<p>♠ A97 ♥ J85 ♦ K1053 ♣ 862</p> <p>♠ Q8 ♠ K654 ♥ 943 ♥ KQ62 ♦ Q7 ♦ A98 ♣ AJ10975 ♣ K4</p> <p>♠ J1032 ♥ A107 ♦ J642 ♣ Q3</p>	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>3NT is slightly light on values but will probably be reached on the auction above. When clubs come in for six tricks it will make most of the time since the only lead to beat it is a diamond, and South's spades look to be a more tempting choice of unbid suits.</p> <p>The diamond lead establishes three tricks in the suit for the defence to go with their two aces. Any other lead loses a tempo for the defence, meaning declarer can establish the nine tricks needed before the defence can set up their five.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass		
West	North	East	South														
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass														
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass														
3NT	All pass																

HCP		Makeable contracts						
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	8	N	-	1	-	-	-	
9	15	S	-	1	-	-	-	
	8	E	3	-	2	-	2	
		W	3	-	2	1	2	