

British Summer Virtual Sim Pairs



Tuesday
21st July 2020

Welcome to the 2020 British Summer Virtual 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 Sally Brock.

If you are playing this SIM at a virtual club other than your normal one encourage the committee at your main club to consider running a SIM or two.

You can find the full details and results at www.ebu.co.uk/sims/. You can earn Blue points in these Sim Pairs (in England) and they 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.

Ian Payn, Chairman EBU

<p> ♠ J1054 ♥ 95 ♦ KQ97 ♣ 1076 ♠ 98 ♠ KQ ♥ 832 ♥ AKQJ104 ♦ A652 ♦ J4 ♣ J983 ♣ AK5 ♠ A7632 ♥ 76 ♦ 1083 ♣ Q42 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="63 1030 470 1220"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>6</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>23</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		6		N	-	-	-	1	-	5	23	S	-	-	-	1	-			E	3	1	4	-	4	6		W	3	1	4	-	4	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="478 627 1037 795"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</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> </tbody> </table> <p>East has a minimum 2♣ opener and after West's raise should simply bid game. West has no reason to proceed. If South makes a passive lead of, say, a trump, declarer can make 11 tricks by drawing trumps in two rounds and playing the ♣A-K-x, setting up a club for a diamond discard, with the ♥8 as an entry.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass								
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<p> ♠ AK2 ♥ AKQ3 ♦ AK98 ♣ 102 ♠ 106 ♠ J984 ♥ J87 ♥ 1092 ♦ Q653 ♦ J42 ♣ 9754 ♣ AJ3 ♠ Q753 ♥ 654 ♦ 107 ♣ KQ86 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="63 1702 470 1892"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>23</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>7</td> <td>S</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		23		N	5	5	6	5	6	3	7	S	5	5	6	5	5			E	-	-	-	-	-	7		W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="478 1265 1037 1512"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Another 2♣ opener! This time it is held by North and the auction is similarly unexciting. South investigates the possibility of a spade fit but then does not have enough to do more than bid 3NT. According to Deep Finesse, North can make 12 tricks in NTs. Suppose East leads the ♥10. Declarer wins in hand and plays a club, East ducking, then returns to hand with a heart to play another club. If East ducks, declarer can succeed by simply ducking a club. So East wins and plays a third heart, which declarer wins and plays a fourth round of the suit. East throws a club and West a diamond. Declarer now plays three rounds of spades, forcing West to discard a diamond. Then declarer plays his top club, and East is squeezed in diamonds and spades.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
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<p>♠ K76 ♥ A76 ♦ 743 ♣ QJ54</p> <p>♠ Q852 ♠ AJ9 ♥ QJ98 ♥ K10432 ♦ 985 ♦ K6 ♣ AK ♣ 1086</p> <p>♠ 1043 ♥ 5 ♦ AQJ102 ♣ 9732</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW 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></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In absolute terms 4♥ is not such a bad game for EW, but it becomes bad after South doubles the transfer. East is just about worth a try with 2NT (though it would not be unreasonable at matchpoints to pass 2♥, expecting to lose two diamond tricks immediately). With a minimum opposite West signs off in 3♥. As long as neither defender broaches the spade suit, 9 tricks only can be made.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Dble	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	All Pass																								
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<p>♠ J103 ♥ AKQ106 ♦ J1076 ♣ 4</p> <p>♠ 985 ♠ KQ74 ♥ 54 ♥ 973 ♦ K842 ♦ 93 ♣ QJ87 ♣ 6532</p> <p>♠ A62 ♥ J82 ♦ AQ5 ♣ AK109</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All 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>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North's three 10s and good 5-card heart suit make his hand worth an opening bid. South bids 2♣ and North rebids 2♦. South has to bid 4th suit forcing in order to make sure the bidding reaches game, and North has to choose between 2NT and 3♥. My preference is for 2NT, keeping the bidding low (and it is nearly a spade stopper!). There seems no reason for South to try to play in hearts and a simple quantitative 4NT seems about right, and North is quick to pass. It looks as if declarer will make 11 tricks on any lead.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	4NT	All Pass																									
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<p>♠ AK74 ♥ K5 ♦ J8643 ♣ 87</p> <p>♠ J82 ♠ 965 ♥ 9763 ♥ Q102 ♦ 9 ♦ KQ1075 ♣ KQ1032 ♣ A4</p> <p>♠ Q103 ♥ AJ84 ♦ A2 ♣ J965</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : 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>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Maybe East will pass but the two 10s and the 5-card diamond suit make it worth a weak NT to me (and it is even easier to open 1♦ if playing strong NT). It looks as if that would silence everybody. As NS can make 8 tricks in NT, it all depends whether East can hold his losses to two down. A heart lead looks normal, and by the end of that trick North will know that his partner has only 4 hearts (the ♥3 is in dummy and declarer will surely play the ♥2), so he needs to look elsewhere. Maybe he will return a diamond to the king and ace and I guess South is likely to return a diamond. That will give declarer a second diamond trick to go with the 3 clubs he has on top. It is hard to see how the defence can manage to take 9 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1NT	All Pass																																		
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<p>♠ 76 ♥ 1062 ♦ J532 ♣ J1086</p> <p>♠ KJ432 ♠ A9 ♥ AQJ3 ♥ K98 ♦ 64 ♦ AKQ97 ♣ A3 ♣ 752</p> <p>♠ Q1085 ♥ 754 ♦ 108 ♣ KQ94</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : 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>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Maybe EW will reach slam, with their combined 31 points, but it is not really much of a contract. Hearts is the best suit to play in, so even not bidding a slam should score well if you play in hearts. There are various methods of bidding over a 1NT rebid. Here I have tried 2♦ (game forcing, as opposed to 2♣ which is invitational). East cannot show 4 hearts or 3 spades and as his diamonds are so good he bids them. West introduces hearts and East can see advantages in playing there even if a 4-3 fit. Suppose North leads a club. Declarer wins, plays the ♠A-K and ruffs a spade. When they don't break he needs hearts to break. He comes back to a trump and ruffs another spade. He now tries his top diamonds. South ruffs the third while declarer pitches a club. He ruffs South's club return, draws trumps and claims.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
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	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
2	-	-	-	-	-
15 16	-	-	-	-	-
7	3	6	7	6	5
	3	6	7	6	5

<p>♠ 9763 ♥ K92 ♦ 8432 ♣ J8</p> <p>♠ AKJ4 ♠ 52 ♥ 3 ♥ 10874 ♦ AK10965 ♦ J ♣ Q3 ♣ 1097542</p> <p>♠ Q108 ♥ AQJ65 ♦ Q7 ♣ AK6</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Who knows? South is very balanced for his 3♥ bid and maybe he should pass. Maybe West will double 3♥ to try for (and succeed to get) the magic 200. It is not hard in defence for EW to collect two A-Ks and a spade ruff. Best defence against 3♦ is a trump lead but declarer can still hold his losers to a spade, a heart and 2 clubs.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♥	Dble	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	2♥	Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass			
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	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
4	-	-	2	-	-
17 1	-	-	2	-	-
18	1	3	-	2	-
	1	3	-	2	-

<p>♠ AKJ85 ♥ KJ76 ♦ 3 ♣ 742</p> <p>♠ 32 ♠ 1076 ♥ 853 ♥ AQ9 ♦ J10985 ♦ K762 ♣ J53 ♣ K86</p> <p>♠ Q94 ♥ 1042 ♦ AQ4 ♣ AQ109</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</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>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>If declarer gets everything right he can make 11 tricks in spades, losing just 2 hearts. But it is not clear why he should get everything right. A trump lead from East looks most likely. Declarer can draw trumps and play on hearts, but eventually he has to decide whether to take a diamond finesse, or a deep club finesse, playing for East to have both club honours. I can see no reason for him to do one rather than the other.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass			
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12	4	1	4	5	4
2 12	4	1	4	5	4
14	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ AK4 ♥ 96 ♦ K96 ♣ KQ1074</p> <p>♠ J ♠ 7 ♥ A103 ♥ KQ8754 ♦ Q10542 ♦ 873 ♣ J832 ♣ A65</p> <p>♠ Q10986532 ♥ J2 ♦ AJ ♣ 9</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Maybe some would bid 4♠ directly over the weak 2♥ overcall. But it looks as if all roads would lead there. Only if West leads a diamond does there seem to be any chance of declarer making overtricks. But if West does lead a diamond, declarer can win the ♦J, cash the ♦A, cross to a trump, discard a club on the ♦K, take a ruffing club finesse, eventually emerging with 12 tricks. A weak jump overcall at adverse vulnerability should show a pretty good suit, so I think the ♥A is a better lead.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♣	2♥	2♠	3♥	4♠	All Pass																															
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<p>♠ 106 ♥ 1042 ♦ 1064 ♣ AQ986</p> <p>♠ AKQJ83 ♠ 975 ♥ AJ ♥ 983 ♦ J73 ♦ 985 ♣ J3 ♣ K752</p> <p>♠ 42 ♥ KQ765 ♦ AKQ2 ♣ 104</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>A lot of close decisions here. Should South bid 3♥ with his nice-but-balanced hand? Or should he sell to 2♠. And should West choose to defend, and if so should he double to try for that magic 200. It takes good defence to defeat 3♥. West, I am sure, would start with two rounds of spades. He then needs to switch to a club to East's king (East's first spade should show how many he has, but the second should show suit preference). Then a third round of spades, giving a ruff-and-discard. Declarer ruffs in hand and plays the ♥K, but West wins and plays another spade, promoting a second trump tricks for the defence.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♥	Dble	2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass																									
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<p>♠ Q876 ♥ J8 ♦ A103 ♣ K1084</p> <p>♠ AKJ9 ♠ 532 ♥ K62 ♥ 9754 ♦ Q94 ♦ KJ87 ♣ 532 ♣ A9</p> <p>♠ 104 ♥ AQ103 ♦ 652 ♣ QJ76</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Neither side can make 1NT, according to Deep Finesse. So any plus score should score well. With West in 1NT, North needs to lead a club, which as well as setting up 3 club tricks for the defence, knocks a vital entry out of the dummy. Declarer plays on diamonds, but North ducks two rounds before winning the ♦A and cashing club tricks, leaving South on lead. A heart now leaves declarer with no chance of more than 6 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1NT	All Pass																																
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<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		10	8	13	9	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	-	-	-	S	1	-	-	-	-	E	-	2	1	1	-	W	-	2	1	1	-
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W	-	2	1	1	-																																						

<p>♠ Q984 ♥ J ♦ J763 ♣ KJ107</p> <p>♠ J105 ♠ K63 ♥ K853 ♥ 109742 ♦ 942 ♦ AK ♣ 954 ♣ AQ6</p> <p>♠ A72 ♥ AQ6 ♦ Q1085 ♣ 832</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : 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>Pass</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>At adverse vulnerable neither North or South would be happy to reopen, so at most tables I would expect East to buy the hand in 2♥ (strong no-trumpers will probably open the East hand 1NT and play there). It looks as if declarer will lose only 2 spades, 2 hearts and a club in either hearts or NTs. Declarer's best chance of an overtrick on a diamond lead is to cash both diamonds, play a heart to dummy (South must duck), ruff a diamond and exit with a heart. South can cash his hearts and exit with a club. Declarer wins two club tricks and exits with a club. However, a careful North will exit with the ♠9, ducked to dummy's ♠J, and now the defenders must still make 2 spade tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South										
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass										
2♥	All Pass												

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

<p>♠ J10862 ♥ K62 ♦ K105 ♣ A8</p> <p>♠ AQ7 ♠ 94 ♥ AQ53 ♥ 9 ♦ 7 ♦ AQJ8632 ♣ 75432 ♣ K106</p> <p>♠ K53 ♥ J10874 ♦ 94 ♣ QJ9</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : 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></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Some Norths might open the bidding, but this works better for the strong no-trumpers who would open 1♠ than the weak no-trumpers who would normally open a weak NT. Whether North opens or not, the East hand looks like a good contender for a vulnerable 3♦ opening or overcall. That is likely to buy the contract and it looks as if there are 10 tricks there on any lead.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	3♦	All Pass
West	North	East	South						
	Pass	3♦	All Pass						

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
11	N	-	-	-	-
12 10	S	-	-	-	-
7	E	4	4	1	1
	W	4	4	2	1

<p>♠ 10 ♥ K9843 ♦ AK6 ♣ Q986</p> <p>♠ AQJ73 ♠ 85 ♥ Q ♥ 52 ♦ QJ1098 ♦ 7532 ♣ 103 ♣ AJ542</p> <p>♠ K9642 ♥ AJ1076 ♦ 4 ♣ K7</p>	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</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>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Although South has only 11 HCP, the two 5-card majors make it well worth an opening 1♠ – silencing West. When North responds 2♥, South should jump to game with his good distribution. Suppose East leads a diamond. Declarer should win in hand and play a small club. If East goes in with the ace, declarer can discard two spades on the minor-suit winners; if East ducks, then declarer can discard the other club loser on his top diamond. Either way declarer should make 11 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass			
West	North	East	South														
		Pass	1♠														
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥														
All Pass																	

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
12	N	1	-	5	1
12 5	S	1	-	5	1
11	E	-	2	-	-
	W	-	2	-	-

<p>♠ 87 ♥ 1094 ♦ Q975 ♣ AK106</p> <p>♠ K9542 ♠ 106 ♥ AJ8 ♥ 6532 ♦ A82 ♦ J6 ♣ 97 ♣ J8543</p> <p>♠ AQJ3 ♥ KQ7 ♦ K1043 ♣ Q2</p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</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>For me, the South hand is a 1♠ opener, but some would prefer 1♦ (and others a strong NT). The North hand is just about worth a 2-level response and South rebids a forcing 2NT, which North raises to game. West has a pretty horrible choice of opening lead – I would opt for a spade as it is my longest suit and nothing else looks any better. It looks natural for declarer to win in hand and lead a diamond to dummy and a second diamond. With the cards as they are it is now a question of whether declarer can engineer an overtrick.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South														
			1♠														
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT														
Pass	3NT	All Pass															

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

<p>♠ 106 ♥ AJ104 ♦ J1093 ♣ Q98</p> <p>♠ KQ7 ♠ 942 ♥ 532 ♥ Q976 ♦ A864 ♦ Q2 ♣ A42 ♣ J653</p> <p>♠ AJ853 ♥ K8 ♦ K75 ♣ K107</p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : 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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South has a very close decision as to whether or not to double 1NT. I like to double in 4th seat when I have something in every suit, so that I can help whatever partner leads. That just about swings it for me, and it should reap its just rewards. Some might have to run from 1NT but there is nowhere to run this time. I imagine North would lead the ♦J covered by the ♦Q, ♦K and ♦A. Now maybe a heart to the ♥10, ♥Q and ♥K. It is hard to see declarer making any more than 2 spades and his 2 aces.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass			
West	North	East	South										
1NT	Pass	Pass	Dble										
All Pass													

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
8	N 2	3	2	2	3
13 5	S 2	3	2	2	3
14	E -	-	-	-	-
	W -	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ 83 ♥ 64 ♦ J8763 ♣ AKJ3</p> <p>♠ KQ102 ♠ AJ764 ♥ J7 ♥ AKQ82 ♦ A94 ♦ 5 ♣ Q1085 ♣ 62</p> <p>♠ 95 ♥ 10953 ♦ KQ102 ♣ 974</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</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>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>A little frisson of excitement as EW think about going for a slam, but a cue-bid or two establishes that there is no club control. But has South been listening to the bidding too? On South's natural diamond lead, declarer can discard 3 clubs and make 12 tricks anyway. A club lead is necessary to hold declarer to 11 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South																		
	Pass	1♠	Pass																		
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass																		
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass																		
4♠	All Pass																				

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
9	N -	2	-	-	-
12 14	S -	2	-	-	-
5	E 1	-	5	5	4
	W 2	-	5	5	5

<p>♠ AK104 ♥ 74 ♦ 643 ♣ 8653</p> <p>♠ Q97 ♠ J532 ♥ AQ2 ♥ K1098 ♦ AK9875 ♦ Q2 ♣ 7 ♣ KJ2</p> <p>♠ 86 ♥ J653 ♦ J10 ♣ AQ1094</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>10</td><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	7		N	2	-	-	-	-	15	10	S	2	-	-	-	-			E	-	3	2	3	-	8		W	-	3	2	2	-	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>West has a tricky rebid: 2♦ or 3♦? Or should be raise hearts? Anything could be right and the hand could work well for some people with fancy bits of system. After the more aggressive 3♦ rebid, East seems to have a clear 3NT bid. What should South lead? I'm sure most would go for their good 5-card club, but declarer will soon be claiming at least 10 tricks. A spade lead works somewhat better – if North switches to a club, then South a spade and North another club, the defenders will soon have 7 tricks lined up in front of them.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																														
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																										
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<p>♠ Q862 ♥ 8 ♦ KQ82 ♣ A543</p> <p>♠ J93 ♠ K ♥ AQ965 ♥ KJ7432 ♦ AJ9 ♦ 753 ♣ J9 ♣ 872</p> <p>♠ A10754 ♥ 10 ♦ 1064 ♣ KQ106</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>7</td><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11		N	4	3	-	4	-	13	7	S	4	3	-	4	-			E	-	-	2	-	1	9		W	-	-	2	-	1	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>If West opens 1♥ the auction is very different because North makes a take-out double and East would undoubtedly bid 4♥. South bids 4♠ and EW are helpless – they pass and lose 420 or bid 5♥ and lose 500 (though the defenders have to be careful to play diamonds or declarer might be able to eliminate the black suits and then endplay North). It works better for a weak NT. East transfers and West shows a maximum with a heart fit. This might buy the hand but an intrepid North doubles and South should take the low road and not punish his partner. -170 is perhaps the best score EW can hope for.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	3♠	All Pass			
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																																						
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																																		
11		N	4	3	-	4	-																																																																	
13	7	S	4	3	-	4	-																																																																	
		E	-	-	2	-	1																																																																	
9		W	-	-	2	-	1																																																																	
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Pass	Dble	Pass	3♠																																																																					
All Pass																																																																								

<p>♠ - ♥ J10854 ♦ AKQJ3 ♣ K65</p> <p>♠ A10854 ♠ KJ962 ♥ A72 ♥ 93 ♦ 10985 ♦ 72 ♣ J ♣ Q983</p> <p>♠ Q73 ♥ KQ6 ♦ 64 ♣ A10742</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>6</td><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	14		N	5	3	6	-	1	9	6	S	5	3	6	-	1			E	-	-	-	2	-	11		W	-	-	-	2	-	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Should EW get into the auction? West does not have an opening bid, and I don't think East is worth a vulnerable overcall. South bids his 5-card suit and West has no real reason to bid now. North bids his second suit and South jumps to 3♥, invitational. North has no reason to bid more than game with such poor trumps so simply settles for 4♥. Although slam makes as the cards lie, it needs clubs 4-1 with West holding a singleton honour – hardly with the odds.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																														
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																										
14		N	5	3	6	-	1																																																									
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Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥																																																													
Pass	4♥	All Pass																																																														

<p>♠ Q1065 ♥ Q10874 ♦ AJ ♣ K4</p> <p>♠ AJ943 ♠ K7 ♥ AK3 ♥ J652 ♦ KQ93 ♦ 872 ♣ Q ♣ 10832</p> <p>♠ 82 ♥ 9 ♦ 10654 ♣ AJ9765</p>	<p>Board 21 : 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>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>I would be tempted to open that North hand with a weak NT, but its probably not such a good idea with 4-5 in the majors. South responds 1NT and West is too good to do anything but double (take-out of hearts). East bids his clubs, South passes (hopefully!) and West bids his 5-card suit. No-one has any reason to bid on and declarer will have to play well to make his partscore.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	1NT	Dble	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
	1♥	Pass	1NT														
Dble	Pass	2♣	Pass														
2♠	All Pass																

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
12	N 2	-	-	-	2
19 4	S 2	-	-	-	2
5	E -	-	1	2	-
	W -	-	2	2	-

<p>♠ 9853 ♥ AJ8 ♦ K984 ♣ 65</p> <p>♠ J7 ♠ AK ♥ K76542 ♥ Q93 ♦ 5 ♦ Q632 ♣ KQ104 ♣ J872</p> <p>♠ Q10642 ♥ 10 ♦ AJ107 ♣ A93</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : 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>1NT</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>All very tricky. East's weak 1NT opening looks clear. Many people these days play 'Multi Landy', whereby a 2M overcall shows five in that major with a 4-card or longer minor. That South hand seems to fit the bill non-vulnerable. Then West has to decide how much to bid. Lebensohl would apply here for some people but it is not clear that that helps much. Either West bids 2NT as a preliminary to showing a non-forcing hand but when North bids 3♠ West can't show his suit without bidding game anyway. Maybe he should bid 3♥, but then what does he do over 3♠? If he bids 4♥ North may double and get a magic 200.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	2♠	3♥	3♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South										
		1NT	2♠										
3♥	3♠	All Pass											

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

<p>♠ Q1075 ♥ 74 ♦ Q92 ♣ Q1043</p> <p>♠ 632 ♠ A84 ♥ 653 ♥ J1098 ♦ AK1075 ♦ 64 ♣ 82 ♣ A976</p> <p>♠ KJ9 ♥ AKQ2 ♦ J83 ♣ KJ5</p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>I would probably bid as above, hoping that my two 10s would be enough to justify the slight overbid. Not this time. It is not difficult for West to lead his fourth-highest diamond, and declarer has no chance of making more than 7 tricks. A good hand for underbidders.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South														
			1♥														
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT														
Pass	3NT	All Pass															

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

<p>♠ J984 ♥ 8543 ♦ K74 ♣ K9</p> <p>♠ 1062 ♠ AKQ5 ♥ AKQ6 ♥ J ♦ Q32 ♦ J985 ♣ AQ4 ♣ 7632</p> <p>♠ 73 ♥ 10972 ♦ A106 ♣ J1085</p>	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>The bidding looks straightforward enough. But what should North lead? Again, he has an unenviable choice. I would go for the most passive choice of a heart, which at least on the layout doesn't give anything away. It also puts declarer in dummy and if he plays either minor to his queen he will be struggling to make more than 9 tricks – and if starts with a club he might not make his contract at all.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
West	North	East	South										
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass										
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass										

HCP	Makeable contracts																														
7 17 11 5	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	3	3	3	3	4	W	3	4	3	3	4
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	-	-	-	-	-																										
S	-	-	-	-	-																										
E	3	3	3	3	4																										
W	3	4	3	3	4																										

<p>♠ K732 ♥ J62 ♦ 98 ♣ A984</p> <p>♠ AQJ8 ♠ 1065 ♥ Q95 ♥ K1073 ♦ 10654 ♦ AK7 ♣ QJ ♣ K52</p> <p>♠ 94 ♥ A84 ♦ QJ32 ♣ 10763</p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : 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>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Maybe West should bid only 2NT at matchpoints scoring, but I would expect most to be in game. Much may depend on how declarer plays the heart suit. Which minor should South go for as an opening lead? Perhaps a club is more passive, and more awkward for declarer after he wins either trick 1 or 2 in dummy with a club honour. A heart to the ten works well; a heart to the king less so.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
	Pass	1NT	Pass														
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass														
3NT	All Pass																

HCP	Makeable contracts																														
8 12 13 7	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	2	3	3	3	W	1	2	4	3	3
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	-	-	-	-	-																										
S	-	-	-	-	-																										
E	1	2	3	3	3																										
W	1	2	4	3	3																										

<p>♠ Q753 ♥ KQ10 ♦ 1054 ♣ K93</p> <p>♠ J1082 ♠ K6 ♥ 92 ♥ 8643 ♦ AJ7 ♦ Q82 ♣ 10872 ♣ AQ65</p> <p>♠ A94 ♥ AJ75 ♦ K963 ♣ J4</p>	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : 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></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>The ♠J lead looks most likely, covered by the ♠Q, ♠K and ♠A. It looks as if West must gain the lead in time to switch to a club, holding declarer to 1 spade, 4 hearts and 1 trick in each minor.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1NT
West	North	East	South						
		Pass	1NT						

HCP	Makeable contracts																														
10 6 11 13	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	1	1	1	S	-	1	1	1	1	E	2	-	-	-	-	W	2	-	-	-	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	-	1	1	1	1																										
S	-	1	1	1	1																										
E	2	-	-	-	-																										
W	2	-	-	-	-																										

<p>♠ K76 ♥ KJ104 ♦ K96 ♣ A74</p> <p>♠ Q84 ♠ AJ932 ♥ A ♥ 63 ♦ QJ8753 ♦ 4 ♣ Q85 ♣ K10963</p> <p>♠ 105 ♥ Q98752 ♦ A102 ♣ J2</p>	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</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>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>Maybe EW are being rather feeble here, but the West hand looks a bit light for a 3♦ overcall. And if he passes, if East really supposed to bid anything over 4♥, tempting as it is. 4♥ goes a quiet 1 down. Well done to those EWs who manage to get into the auction. Some good guessing could see East making as many as 11 trick in spades, though bad guessing could easily see him down as well.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4♥	All Pass	2♥
West	North	East	South						
Pass	4♥	All Pass	2♥						

HCP	Makeable contracts					
14	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
11 8	N	-	-	2	-	-
7	S	-	-	2	-	-
	E	5	3	-	5	-
	W	5	3	-	5	-

<p>♠ K73 ♥ A76 ♦ 97 ♣ Q8732</p> <p>♠ 1096 ♠ J42 ♥ J82 ♥ 1093 ♦ KJ1084 ♦ AQ32 ♣ K10 ♣ A94</p> <p>♠ AQ85 ♥ KQ54 ♦ 65 ♣ J65</p>	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>It all depends on whether East opens light in third seat. If he passes, I imagine South will open 1NT, everyone will pass, and West will lead a diamond, holding declarer to 6 tricks. If East opens 1NT and South leads a major, then declarer should go 2 down for 100. If East opens, say, 1♦ in 3rd seat, then South might double and NS reach 3♣, which might well score 110.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
West	North	East	South						
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT						

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

<p>♠ 10642 ♥ J87 ♦ K104 ♣ 982</p> <p>♠ A7 ♠ KQ98 ♥ 953 ♥ AK2 ♦ QJ3 ♦ A72 ♣ KQ1064 ♣ A73</p> <p>♠ J53 ♥ Q1064 ♦ 9865 ♣ J5</p>	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : 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>6NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The only slam of the set. There are more or less 12 tricks on top (after declarer has taken a diamond finesse – whether it wins or loses). However, once the diamond finesse wins, declarer can actually make an overtrick. It is probably too complex to go into here, but it would repay study. Declarer runs the clubs and takes a diamond finesse. Both North and South come under pressure, and both must unguard one of the red suits at the end.</p>	West	North	East	South	6NT	Pass	2NT	Pass		All Pass		
West	North	East	South										
6NT	Pass	2NT	Pass										
	All Pass												

HCP	Makeable contracts					
4	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
12 20	N	-	-	-	-	-
4	S	-	-	-	-	-
	E	7	4	4	6	7
	W	7	4	5	6	7

<p>♠AQ6 ♥93 ♦K8 ♣AKJ762</p> <p>♠954 ♠1073 ♥AQJ10 ♥K764 ♦A93 ♦J10754 ♣Q95 ♣10</p> <p>♠KJ82 ♥852 ♦Q62 ♣843</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		17		13	4	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	-	-	4	2	S	4	-	-	4	2	E	-	1	2	-	-	W	-	1	2	-	-	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There look to be 5 top tricks to take against 3NT, but it might not be as easy as all that. Suppose East leads a diamond. Dummy does not look at all threatening. Is there really a reason for West to win his ace and switch to hearts? If he does not do that declarer will surely get clubs right and make 11 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1NT	Dble	2♦	Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
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<p>♠103 ♥93 ♦K9853 ♣J432</p> <p>♠2 ♠AQ7654 ♥Q862 ♥A107 ♦AJ102 ♦Q74 ♣AQ85 ♣6</p> <p>♠KJ98 ♥KJ54 ♦6 ♣K1097</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		4		13	12	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	3	3	3	3	W	1	3	3	3	3	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</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>4441 hands are the bane of my life – neither balanced nor with suits to bid. With a singleton minor I much prefer treating them as balanced, but if I open 1NT with a singleton major that never seems to turn out well. After East bids 4th suit forcing, the raise shows 4-card support (in the old days when FSF was not game-forcing it was needed to show any good hand, but those days are past). East’s spades don’t look good enough to play facing a singleton or void, so he goes for the NT game. It is not a thing of beauty, however, and declarer will have to take some good views to succeed.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass
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<p>♠J ♥K98762 ♦A5 ♣Q983</p> <p>♠A82 ♠KQ964 ♥- ♥AJ10 ♦J108764 ♦Q2 ♣K1074 ♣AJ6</p> <p>♠10753 ♥Q543 ♦K93 ♣52</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10		8	17	5		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	2	-	-	S	-	-	2	-	-	E	4	4	-	4	4	W	4	4	-	4	4	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : 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>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Even those playing a weak 2♦ should refrain from opening one with such a poor suit at unfavourable vulnerability. At favourable vulnerability North is a bit good for a pre-empt so I would reluctantly concur with the 1♥ opening. After the 1♠ overcall and 2♥ raise, West has to do something to show some enthusiasm and East is happy to proceed to game. I guess South has no reason to avoid a heart lead, and now careful handling should be able to restrict losers to 1 spade and 2 diamonds. Of course, some NSs will sacrifice (especially if South bid 3♥ over 1♠ – a good shot playing a 5-card major system).</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥	3♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass
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