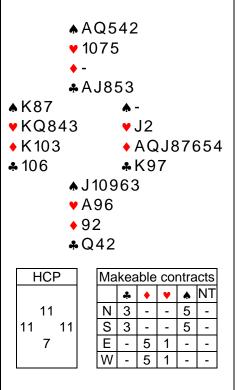
Some Food For Thought on Tonight's Hands - FOB

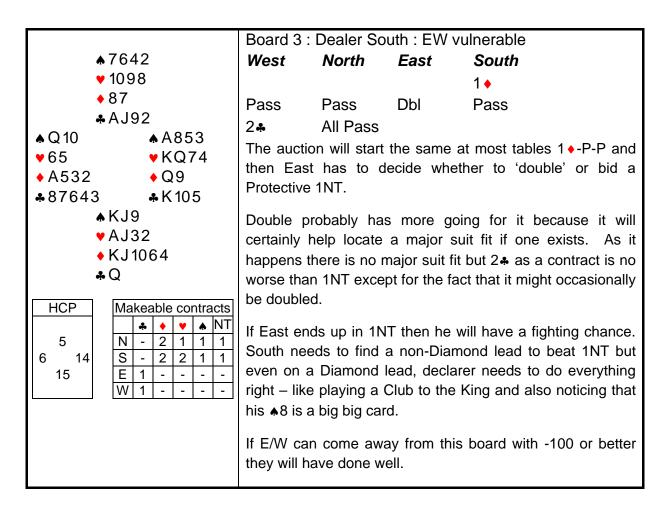
(Assuming Weak NT and 4-Card Majors)

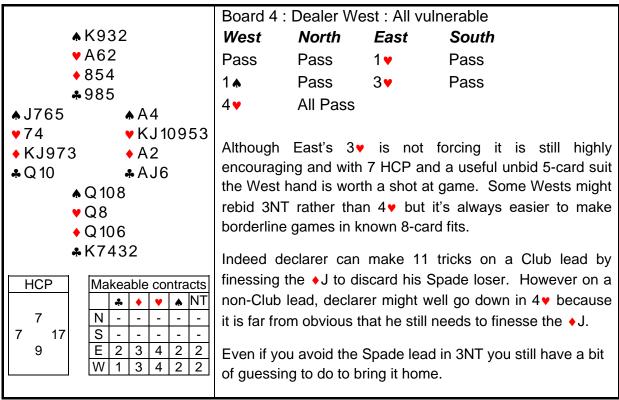


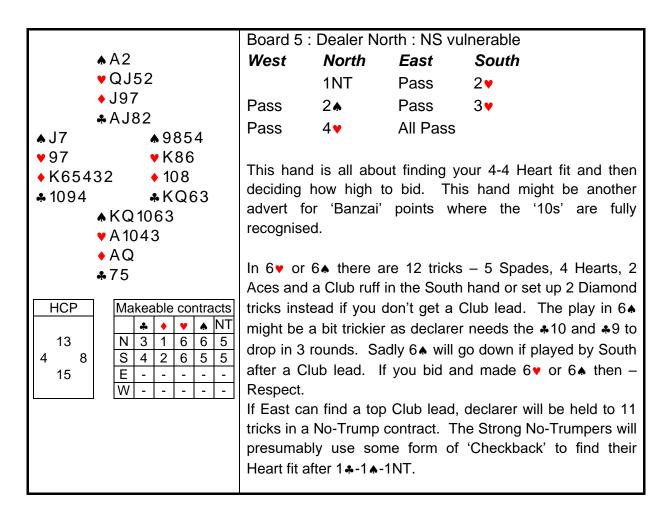
Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all West North East South 1♠ 5 🔶 5♠ 6 🔶 Dbl All Pass Fireworks on the very first board where once again fortune favours the brave. All tables will get to 5+ eventually but then the real decisions start. Should South Pass, Double or bid 5 A? After that, should E/W double $5 \bigstar$ or bid $6 \blacklozenge$?

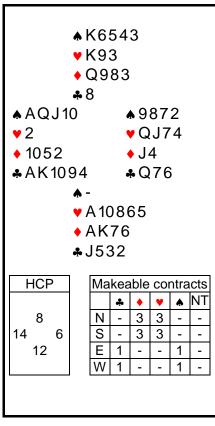
N/S will be haunted by such wise adages as 'the 5-level belongs to the opponents' or 'never sacrifice at Nil-All' and so there will be a lot good N/S pairs conceding $5 \bullet x$. Those N/S pairs who don't like to be pushed around will bid $5 \bullet$, take the Spade finesse, make their contract and wonder what all the fuss is about. It is practically impossible for N/S to know that there are 21 trumps and 22 tricks available. If they knew that then bidding $5 \bullet$ would be a win-win proposition for them.

	Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable		
▲ A Q 10	West North East South		
♥AJ7432	2♠ Pass		
• 84	Pass 3 Pass 4 All Pass		
♣AJ ♠53 ♠J87642	4v is a reasonable contract and most pairs will reach it		
▼K109 ¥6	even if East tries to spoil the party by opening or		
◆A109765 ◆K	overcalling.		
♣ 92 ♣ KQ875	South has a nice hand and if his partner can find a vulnerable 3 vovercall then South should take a rosy view		
▲ K9			
♥ Q85	of his King of Spades, Queen of Hearts and QJ of		
◆QJ32	Diamonds. It turns out that the most important card in		
* 10643	South's hand is the #10 - worthless to most of us - so		
HCP Makeable contracts	maybe it's a good advert for David Jackson's Banzai Point		
	In practice N/S will make 10 tricks at most tables because it		
8 <u>E 1 - 1 -</u>	takes a Diamond lead to beat 4♥ and quite a few Easts will		
W 1 - 1 - 1 -	lead a black suit.		
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	In practice N/S will make 10 tricks at most tables becau takes a Diamond lead to beat 4 v and quite a few East		







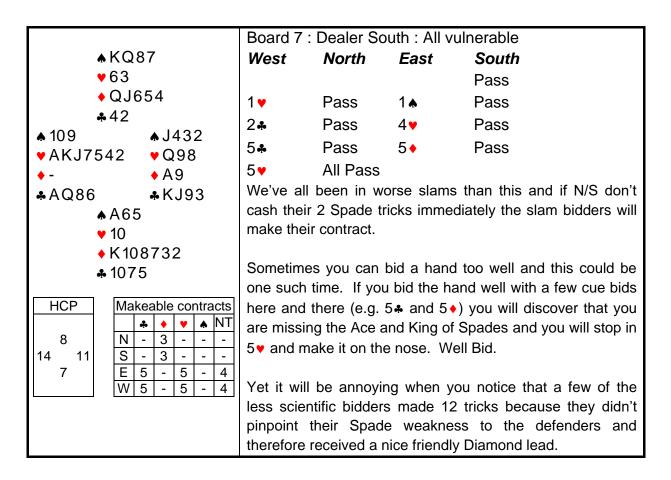


Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable				
West	North	East	South	
		Pass	1 🗸	
Dbl	1 🔺	Pass	2*	
Pass	3♥	Pass	4 🗸	
All Pass				

4♥ might be a bit pushy for N/S tonight but on another night it would roll home – the 4-1 trump break means that only a handful of declarers will make 10 tricks.

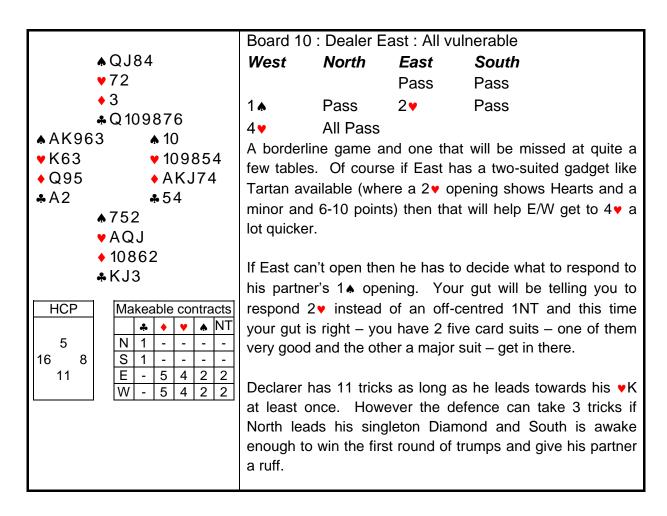
To beat the contract West has to lead his singleton trump – which is normally a bad lead. However every West in the world will make the normal lead of a top Club. Declarer can now make 10 tricks by way of a crossruff – winning 2 Diamond tricks and a trick with each of his 8 trumps.

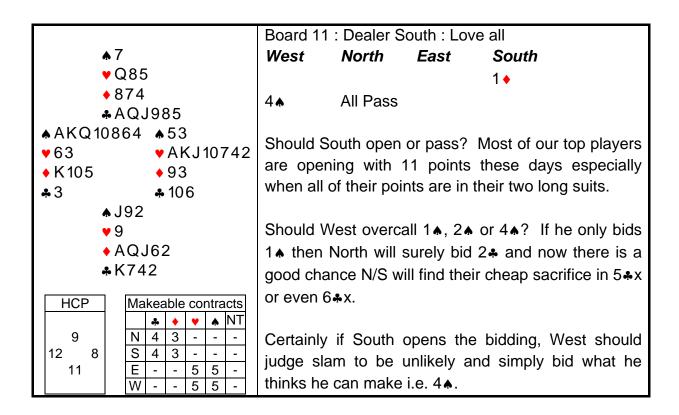
On the E/W side 4 would roll home on another night too but the offside 5-0 break is just too much to handle.

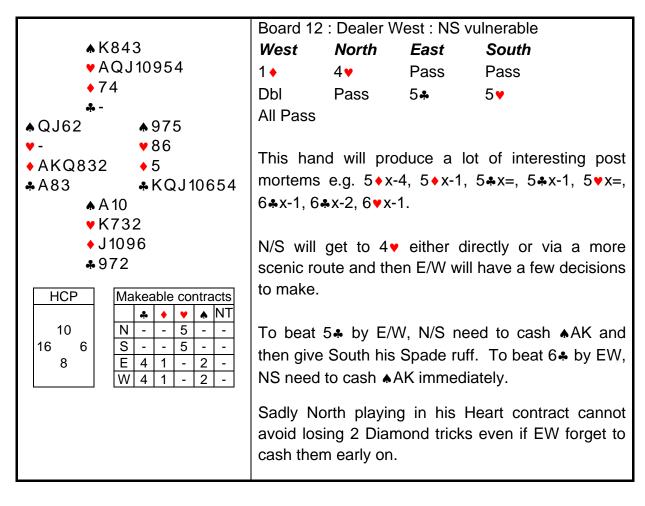


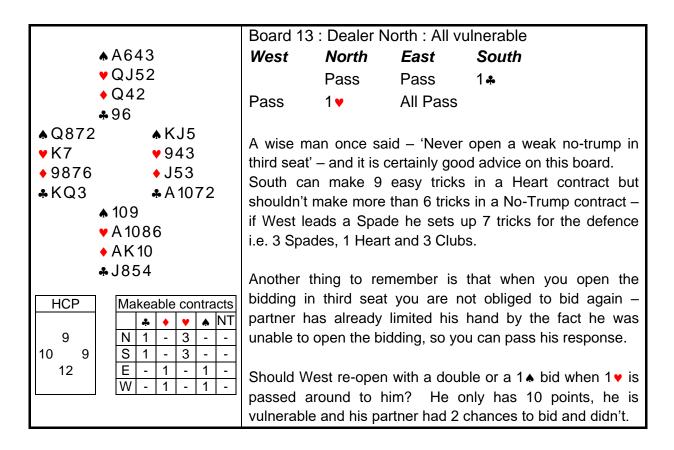
		Board 8 :	Dealer W	est : Love	All
♦ K7		West	North	East	South
♥AKQJ97		Pass	2*	Pass	2•
	◆ J		3♥	Pass	3♠
♣AQ82 ▲1053 ▲986	റ	Pass	4*	Pass	4 •
♥653 ♥842		Dbl	4NT	Pass	5*
◆AQ83 ◆107		Pass	6♥	All Pass	i
♣ 943 ♣ K5	-	Some Sou	uths will co	nvert to 6N	T to protect their ♦K – it's a
▲AQJ4 ♥ 10 ♦K954 ♣J1076		good bid but tonight there just ain't 12 tricks to be had in			
		No-Trump. The only makeable slam is 6♥ if played by			
		South because West is faced with a Morton's Fork dilemma			
		at trick 1. If he cashes his ♦A he gives declarer his 12 th trick and if he doesn't he doesn't get it at all.			
HCP Makeable co	HCP Makeable contracts		ne doesn	t ne doesn	t get it at all.
* * *	▲ NT	Those who	o plav 2 🌢 🤅	as their stro	ng opening might be able to
20 N 5 3 5 6 3 S 5 3 6	5 5 5 5				ose who play 2 ♣ -2NT-3♦ as
11 E		•			ppy – until South decides to
W		convert 6	to 6NT.	North goes	down in 6v if East can find
	a small Diamond lead (not the +10). I imagine there were				
	probably some clues in the bidding to help East find the				
		killing Dia	mond lead.		

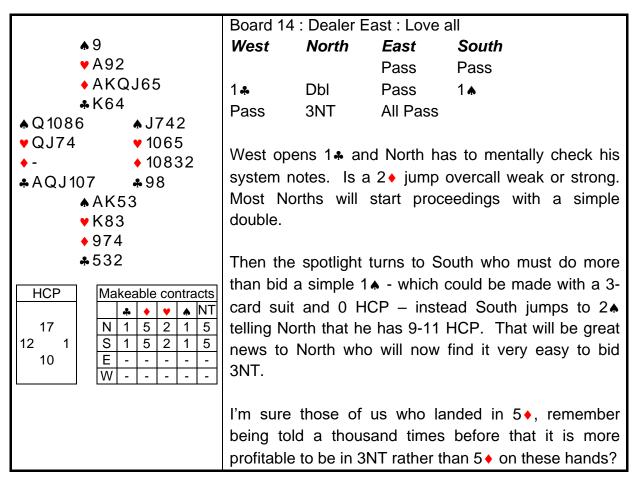
	Board 9 :	Dealer No	rth : EW v	ulnerable
♠863	West	North	East	South
♥ 9876		Pass	1 🔶	1 🗸
◆ J 106	Dbl	2¥	Pass	Pass
Q83	Dbl	Pass	3	Pass
▲KQ54 ▲A109	3NT	All Pass		
♥AK ♥3	-		E/W have	some chance of having a
 ◆ AQ7 ◆ 98543 ◆ 10762 ◆ AKJ5 	conversation and maybe landing in one of 4 makeable slams. If E/W are not going to bid slam then they should			
♣J72				
♥QJ10542	play their 30 point game in 3NT to pick up a lot of matchpoints.			
◆ K2				
* 94				
				will even get the ball rolling
HCP Makeable contracts				by South is a nice +800 for
3 N	E/W DUT N	ot many E/v	v will let the	e auction die in 2♥.
18 12 <u>S</u>	West sho	uld ha sar	iously think	king about slam when he
7 <u>E 6 6 3 6 6</u>			•	ng and especially when he
W 6 6 3 6 6	discovers the 5-3 Diamond fit as well as the 4-4 Club fit.			
	Fortune favours the brave once again because tonight both			
	minor suit	finesses ar	e working.	-

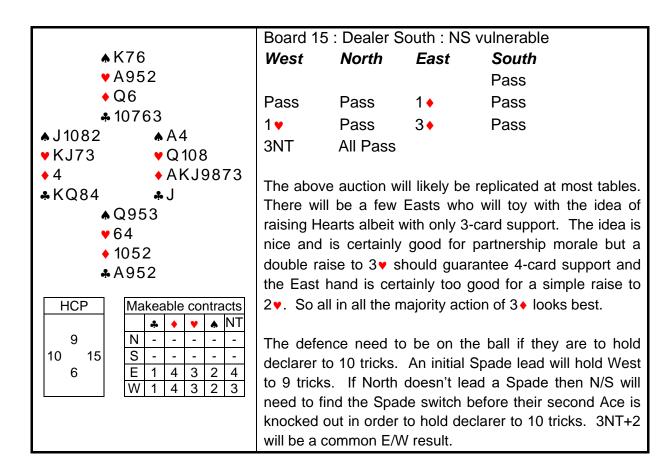


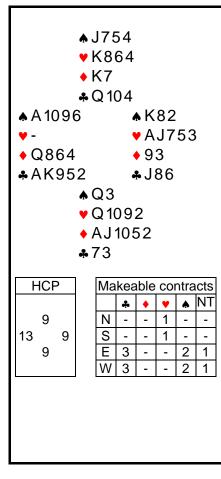








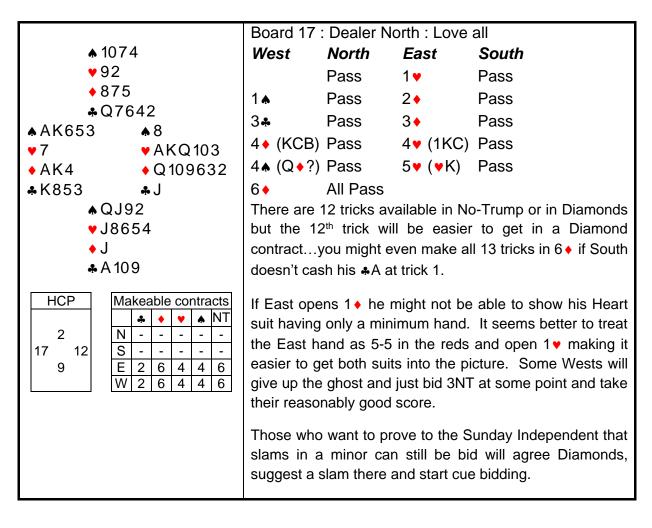


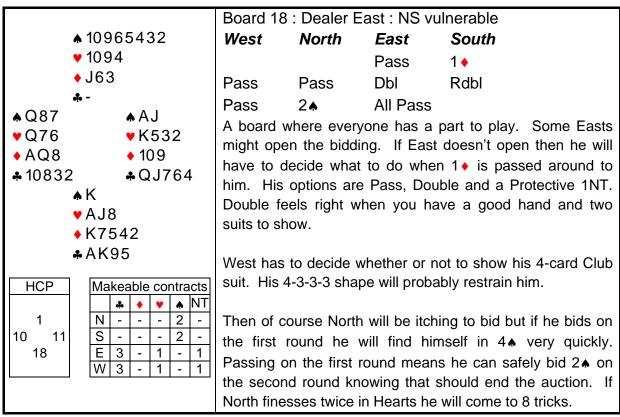


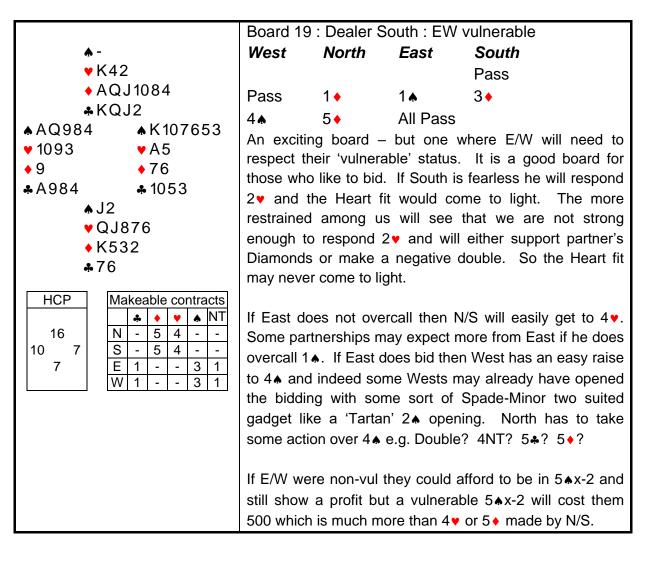
Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
1♣	Pass	1 🗸	Pass		
1♠	Pass	2*	All Pass		

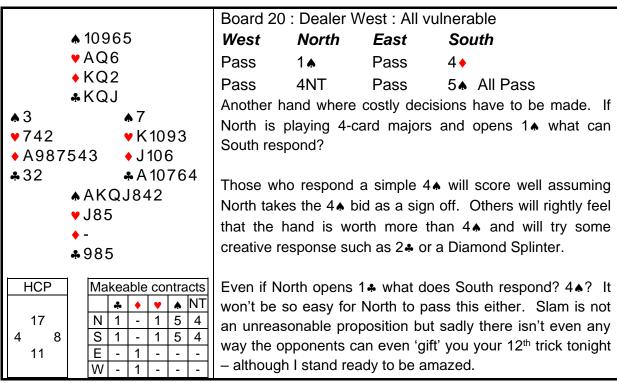
A straightforward hand to bid for a change although some East's might run into bother at their second turn. West is showing 5 Clubs and 4 Spades in a hand of up to a bad 17 points. East is being asked to choose between the black suits. The simple option is to choose the 5-3 Club fit but it is not unreasonable to choose the 4-3 Spade fit by raising to $2 \bigstar$.

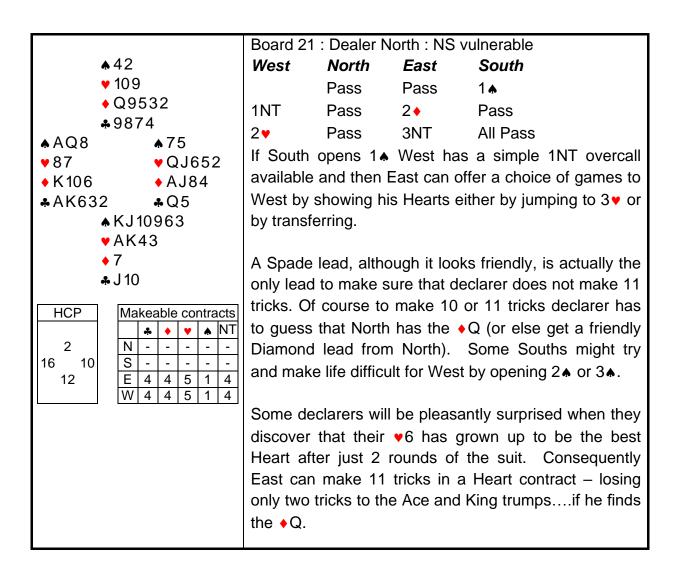
Bidding 2♥ in these situations should show a decent 6 card suit in a weak hand. The actual East hand above is definitely not what a 2♥ rebid should look like. Any declarer who manages to make 9 tricks in 2♣ or 8 tricks in 2♠ will have played the hand very well indeed. Declarer can only afford to play one round of trumps before embarking on a sort of cross-ruff play culminating in ruffing a lot of Hearts in hand.

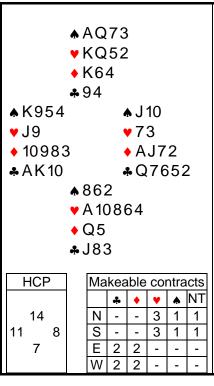












Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
		Pass	Pass		
Pass	1NT	Pass	2•		
Pass	3*	Pass	3♦		
Pass	3♥	All Pass			
4♥ is a bit pushy on the N/S cards but if the defence slips up the contact will sneak home. East can go wrong by playing his ♦A on thin air and West can go wrong by discarding 2 of his small Spades.					
The Weak No-Trumpers will get to 3♥ (or 4♥) played by North while the Strong No-Trumpers will have South at the helm. South is just a tad too weak to be tempted by the above auction where North has broken the transfer showing 4-card Heart Support, a maximum opening bid and a doubleton Club. If South had the ♦A instead of the ♦Q he would accept North's invite. 3♦ is a 'Re-Transfer'.					

