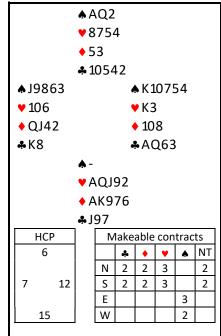
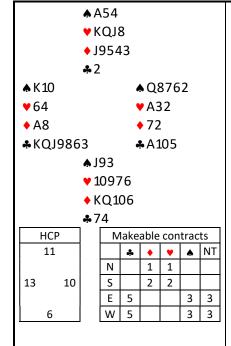
The analysis is based on 4-card Majors, Weak No-Trump (Strong NT mentioned), Transfers and Weak Two Openings in 3 suits. Rebecca O'Keeffe & Gilda Pender



Board 1 : Dealer North : Nil All				
West	North	East	South	
	Pass	1 🛦	2♠*	
3♠	4 💙	4 🖍	Χ	
Pass	Pass	Pass		

After a 1 \(\text{opening by East, South's 2 \(\text{\chi} \) bid will either show Hearts and a minor (Michael's) or Hearts and Diamonds (Ghestem). West has a poor hand but a 3 \(\text{\chi} \) bid feels right. With a known 9 card fit and a likely Spade lead, North may push for the game (this could be directly or when South doubles over 3 \(\text{\chi} \)) – winning when N/S can make 10 tricks or when E/W can too. Many Easts will bid 4 \(\text{\chi} \), opposite a weak partner with 5 spades and hearts lying well for declarer. North can find a X, having already shown their shape.

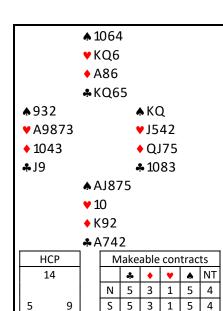
The play: the DK lead for count will lead to taking 2D, 1H and 1S. Note N/S will make 4H if they get a spade lead (which is likely).



Board 2 : Dealer East : NS Vulnerable				
West	North	East	South	
		Pass	Pass	
1 ♣	Χ	1♠	Pass	
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass	
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass	
Pass	Pass			

West has a very nice hand for the 2* rebid and could easily bid 3* if preferred. Once East shows interest in progressing, West will try for the 3NT game. North's X over the 1* opening is not without risk — minimum points, vulnerable and opposite a passed partner but the single club makes it hard to pass.

The play: 9 tricks on top after North leads a Heart. For those who end up in 54, good news in that they will get the same 600 score and will be able to set up the spades to get rid of any other loser.



Ε

W

12

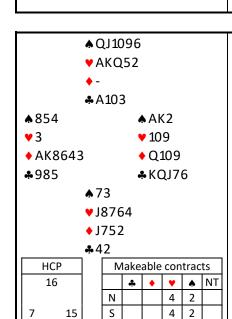
2

Board 3	: Dealer South	: EW Vulne	rable
West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT / 4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Partnerships that have a response of 3NT to a major available showing a 33(43) shape and 12-15 points will give a lot of information to their partner – who will be able to choose where to play – but with a singleton heart, South is likely to choose to play the contract in 4.

Those who bid slower and show 5/4 in the black suits give North the opportunity to choose to play in 3NT instead – not attractive in teams, but a potentially good score in pairs....

The lead of a diamond may deliver 3 tricks for the defence, but on any other lead North should be able to generate 11 tricks for a great score.



3 | 5

W 4 5

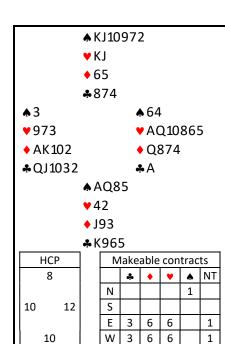
1

West	North	East	South
2◆*	4 ◆*	Χ	4♥
Pass	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	X	Pass	Pass
Pass			
Dautaana	برمام خمطة ممائط	: المسامم الم	الجمعنمم النبي

Board 4: Dealer West: All Vulnerable

Partnerships that play 2 ◆ as multi will miss the fun on this hand. After a weak two in Diamonds opening, North has the perfect bid of 4 ◆ to be able to show 5/5 in Majors and a game force hand. East is likely to double to show a good hand and South has an easy 4 ▼ bid.

East has a choice, play or defend? As North has at most 3 cards in the minors and we have a 9 card Diamond suit, it looks like N/S will make 10 tricks and 5 ♦ will go down one or two tricks, so bidding looks better. North now has a difficult decision. Those who choose to bid will be initially disappointed when it goes down one – but this disappointment will turn to delight when they discover that 5 ♦ makes!



Board 5 : Dealer North : NS Vulnerable

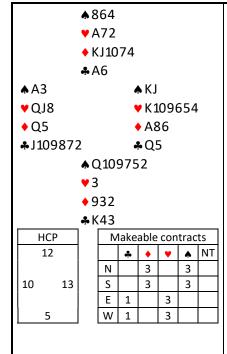
West North East South

2 ♠ 3 ♥ 3♠

4 ♥ Pass Pass Pass

It is not the most appealing weak two bid ever, but most Norths are likely to want to put pressure on their opponents and will find an opening bid. East has a tricky bid when North opens 2♠. Those brave enough to overcall 3♥ get rewarded and will find a nice game contract.

Over a 3 ♥ bid South has a difficult decision, 3 ♠ or 4? The majority are likely to bid 4 ♠ and on this hand it is likely to work out fine as West is likely to bid 5 ♥ where 12 tricks make but need a favourable lie of the cards. Those Wests who take the opportunity to double 4 ♠ will be well rewarded as N/S go down 3 for 800. Having 4 card trump support usually means bidding to the 4 level is standard, but adverse vulnerability, no singletons and a lot of losers may make this a hand for South to be more cautious!

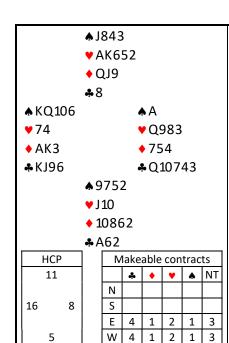


Board 6 : Dealer East : EW Vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
		1♥	2♠		
X	3♠	4♥	Pass		
Pass	Pass				

The 2♠ bid is marginal by South but at this vulnerability it is useful to disrupt your opponents! North is likely to bid 3♠ with three card support and A A K, but before you make this bid you need to decide what your action is over 4♥ (as your opponents will likely bid it).

Competing is absolutely essential in bridge and your aim should be to put as much pressure on your opponents as possible and be as awkward as you can. However, it also means thinking about how far to bid, how fast and what score you think your opponents might make....

The play: N/S need to ensure they setup their Diamond trick early enough in the play - otherwise it goes away on the long clubs.



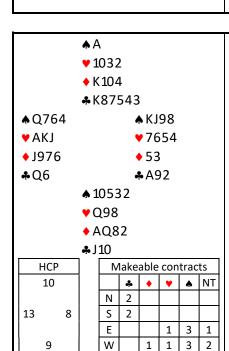
Board 7 : Dealer South : All Vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
			Pass		
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass		
Pass	Pass				

After several very competitive auctions, this is likely to be more straightforward and many pairs will be allowed to play in 1NT. A friendly lie of the cards provides 9 tricks for declarer but not many will bid the game.

However, some Norths will get in on the action (even opposite a passed partner) and bid 2 v over a 1 opening. This makes it more difficult for E/W, but interestingly it may also make it easier for them to reach 3NT.

Over a 2 bid, East is likely to pass and West may reopen with a double. East may now choose to show clubs and play there, but it is not inconceivable that 3NT may be bid given the heart suit of East.

South



1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass	
Those pl	laying weak N	IT will almost	certainly play th	e contract in
1NT from	n West. A sm	all club lead	from North and [Declarer will
make 7,	8 or 9 tricks	depending or	how brave they	are feeling

and whether and when they take the Heart finesse and if the

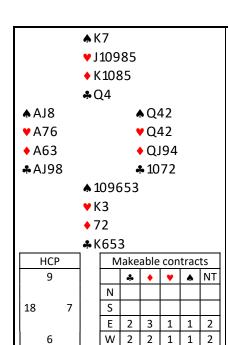
Board 8: Dealer West: Nil All

North

opposition cashes 4 diamond tricks.

West

Those playing strong NT find their spade fit and should make at least 9 tricks. This is likely to be a better score than the NT brigade as you don't have to worry about whether to take the heart finesse and have ruffing potential in both hands.



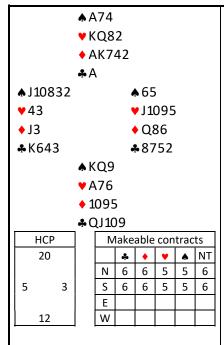
Board 9 : Dealer North : EW Vulnerable				
West	North	East	South	
	Pass	Pass	Pass	
1 .	Pass	1♦	Pass	
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass	
Pass	Pass			

One of those hands where you have the required combined 25 count, but are likely to go down in 3NT.

Any West that evaluates their hand as worth a 1NT rebid (15-17) due to the poor shape and poor intermediaries in all four suits will score well on this hand as partner will pass.

However, more likely is a 2NT rebid. If this shows 17/18 rather than 18/19, then you still have chances to stay at the two level, but most people are likely to be in 3NT.

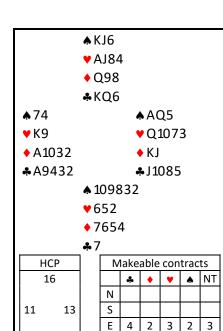
The play: Only 8 tricks for E/W and that includes reading Kx in Hearts with the South hand so scoring two heart tricks. On the HJ lead best to duck and upon winning the HK with the HA, then work on diamonds leading low from declarers hand.



Board 10 : Dealer East : All Vulnerable				
West	North	East	South	
		Pass	1NT	
Pass	2*	Pass	2♦	
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass	
Pass				

North has multiple choices when their partner opens. They may well bid 6NT direct over partner's 1NT opening with 20 HCP and a 5 card suit, but the possibility of finding a heart fit shouldn't be overlooked, so Stayman might be a better opening shot. When partner denies, 3 • indicates a diamond suit alongside the promised 4 card major. South is likely to settle for 3NT at which point North could invite with a 20 count opposite a possible 12 – but the fifth diamond makes 6 more attractive.

The play to 12 tricks is delicate giving up a club trick and then squeezing East so they cannot hold onto both the third diamond and the fourth heart. Count, count, count......



0

6

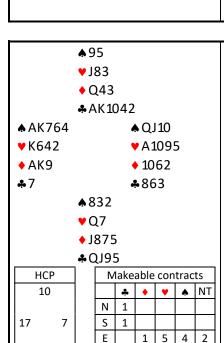
W 5 3 3 2 3

Board 11 : Dealer South : Nil All					
West	North	East	South		
			Pass		
Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass		
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass		
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass		

West could open on this hand, but with 11 points and 5/4 in clubs and diamonds, your rebid situation is limited (with 5/4 D & C then you get to show both suits but not here). So, pass may be a good option.

If you pass then North is likely to open 1 ♥, which will come round to West who is likely to bid a protective 1NT. East may now be interested and even though partner is a passed hand could well attempt 2NT which is likely to be accepted meaning E/W find their way to the winning 3NT game.

If West does open, then North is the one who is likely to overcall 1NT and then will struggle to avoid being doubled wherever they try and end up. Assuming they end in 2S, E/W can take 8 tricks in the defence as long as they set up heart tricks before declarer setups discards on the clubs, scoring a nice +500.



W

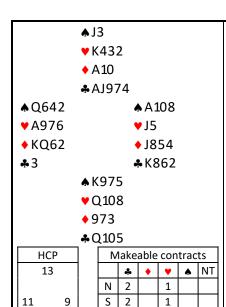
1 5 4 2

Board 12	: Dealer Wes	st : NS Vulne	rable
West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4 💙	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West has an awkward rebid and unless 2 ♥ is forcing in your partnership, 3 ♥ seems the sensible bid with 17HCP and a 5 loser hand. Partner has a nice fit for both suits but with no cue available settles for 4 ♥.

The play: Playing in our 4/4 fit, we have discards available in our 5/3 fit and score one more trick than those in 4♠.

TIP: Given the choice of two suits, playing in a 4-4 fit often produces more tricks than playing in the 5-3 alternative, as you can set up your long suit for discards.



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W

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3

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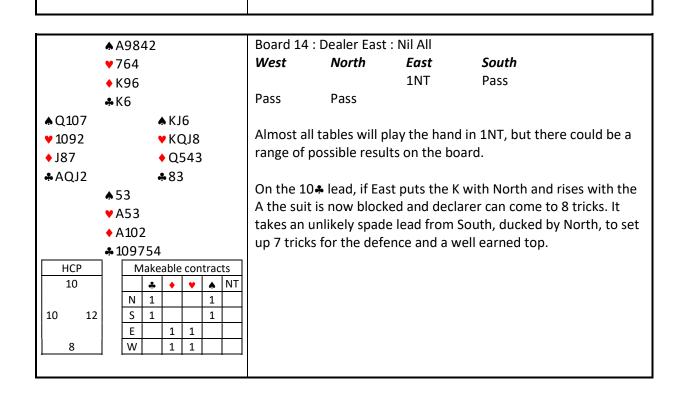
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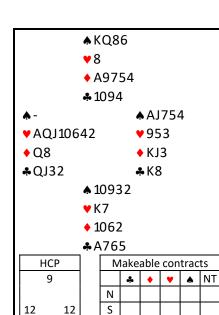
Board 13	: Dealer Nor	th : All Vulne	erable	
West	North	East	South	
	1♣	Pass	1 🛦	
Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass	
Χ	Pass	2♦	3♣	
Pass	Pass	Pass		

Inevitably when you open 1.4 on the North hand, your partner makes life difficult and you're left thinking it might have been better to open a slightly off centre 1NT. On the hand, your 2.4 rebid is not allowed to win the day and E/W find their diamond fit.

South has a difficult decision to make over 2 ♦ but may well decide that 3 ♣ is the right bid to make.

On the expected • lead, it is likely that North will score 8 tricks for minus one, but a better score than E/W scoring 9 tricks in diamonds – except of course if East finds a skinny pairs X.





7

20

Board 15 : Dealer South : NS Vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
			Pass		
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass		
2.	Pass	3NT	Pass		
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass		
1					

West could bypass bidding 2♣, but it is likely to be better to show your second suit – though it would be a very sad day if partner passed...

On this hand, 4 v is likely to be the standard contract across the room, with easy 11 tricks once the heart finesse works.

			\$ 8	;					
			♥ J	874	12				
			♦ 6432						
			. 8	63					
	♠ J75					Q2	109	642	<u> </u>
	y Q		v 1065						
	109	75	♦ AJ						
	♣ AQ7	752				⊩ K4	ļ		
			^	к3					
			• A	K9	3				
			♦ K	Q8					
	♣ J109								
	HCF)	Makeable contracts						
	1				*	•	٧	٨	NT
				N		1	2		1
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П			ı	-	2	1	ı	ا م	ı

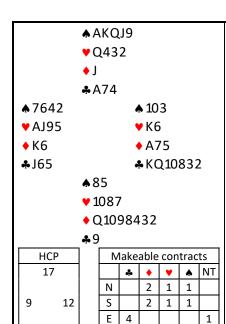
E 3 1 5 1 4

W 3 1 5 1 4

Board 16 : Dealer West : EW Vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
vvest	NOTUI	Eust	South		
Pass	Pass	2♠	X		
3♠	Pass	Pass	Χ		
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass		
Pass					

Third in hand, some players may choose not to bid 2♠ at adverse vulnerability, while others will assume it is exactly the right time to make life difficult for the opponents. The obvious double from South and West can get in on the action and bid 3♠. South won't let this auction go without a fight and North is likely to bid 4♥ with no defensive values. The vulnerability is likely to put E/W off competing further.

East will have to find the inspired lead or switch of the CK in order to knock 4♥, otherwise one of the club losers disappears on the Spade winner and declarer wraps up 10 tricks.



W 4

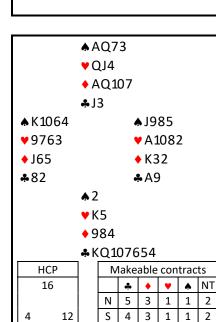
2

1

Board 17 : Dealer North : Nil All					
West	North	East	South		
	1♠	2♣	Pass		
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠		
3♣	Pass	Pass	Pass		

When $2 \clubsuit$ comes back around to North, options are to X (for takeout) or bid $2 \blacktriangledown$. With only 1 card in diamonds and South unlikely to have a penalty pass of the $2 \clubsuit$ overcall, the $2 \blacktriangledown$ bid feels best. South converts back to $2 \spadesuit$ preferring to play in the guaranteed 5/2 fit and West (having previously passed) can now bid $3 \clubsuit$ with minimal values.

Declarer will likely make 9 tricks losing 2 spades, 1 club and a Diamond ruff.



Ε

W

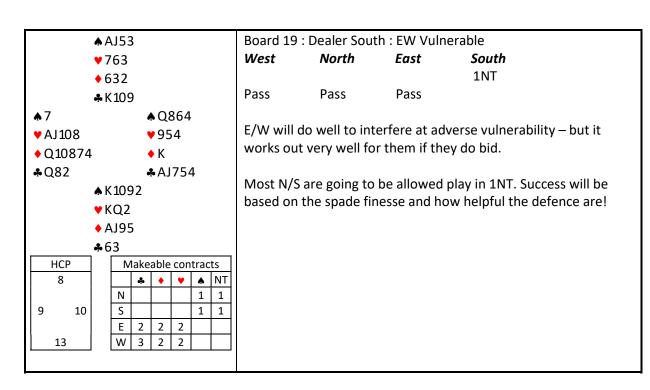
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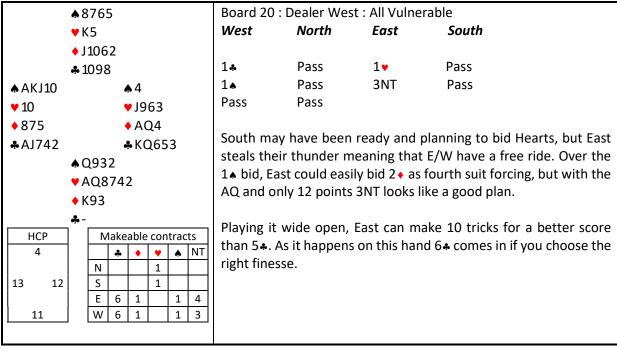
Board 18	3 : Dealer East	: NS Vulner	able
West	North	East	South
		1NT	Pass
Pass	X	Pass	Pass
2♥*	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

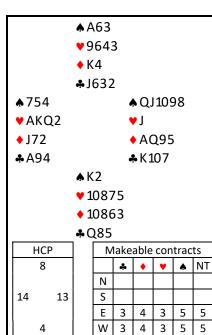
*Hearts and Spades

This will not be a flat board. Over East 1NT opening, partnerships with a natural 2* overcall available won't be able to resist bidding. Some South bidders may even venture a 3* pre-emptive overcall.

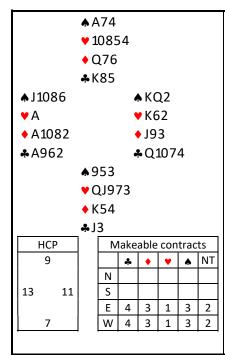
If South does overcall, will North (with the best hand at the table) be able to pass? 3NT declarer by North will be played a few times and likely making 10 tricks. East defenders who start their defence with the A \checkmark and continue a \checkmark , knocking out the entry to the club suit, should do the Lotto this weekend.







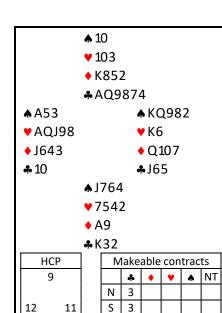
Board 21 : Dealer North : NS Vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
	Pass	1♠	Pass		
2*	Pass	2♦	Pass		
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass		
to bid 2 v a best bid av what partr has anothe	and with 3NT vailable is the ner does nex er decision to	Γ likely to α e 'white lie tt. Fortunat o make – 3	deny a major, '' bid of 2 & – j tely, partner b NT or 4 & ?	opens 1. Not able potentially the ust waiting to see ids 2. and West	
3NT might lead! 3NT	well appeal	especialrded and s	ly as you are e	r fit, but in pairs expecting a Heart ne same 11 tricks	



West	North	East	South		
		Pass	Pass		
1 •	Pass	2NT	Pass		
Pass	Pass				
Sadly, partner will pass the 2NT bid, but it is the right call as Declarer should make only 8 tricks losing 3H, 1S and 1C trick.					

Board 22: Dealer East: EW Vulnerable

TIP: 4-4-4-1 hands are some of the most difficult to bid in bridge. The best strategy is to start with a minor (typically 1♦ unless this is your singleton in which case bid 1.). This allows you to find a fit where possible, but it also means that if you end up having to be slightly less than truthful about the shape of your hand, then you are not lying about your major suit holding....



E W

8

2 3 3

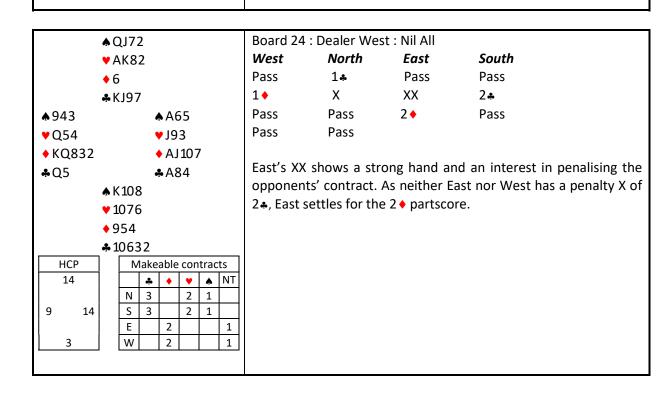
2 3 3

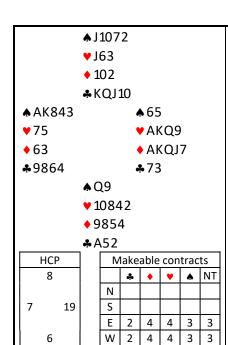
Board 23 : Dealer South : All Vulnerable						
West	North	East	South			
			Pass			
1♥	2*	2.	3♣			
4	Pass	Pass	Pass			

North doesn't have a great 2* overcall, but the 6-card suit and major shortage makes it just worth the bid.

The club shortage and nice controls will encourage West to bid the 4 a game. If the defence work out a diamond ruff is needed, then the game is always minus one.

If no diamond ruff, then East should win the right trump in hand (with the two trump honours) and the fall of the 10 from the North hand is the only indication that a finesse of the 9 through South is needed to pick up the 4:1 trump break.

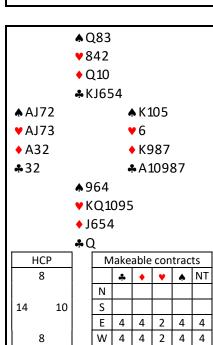




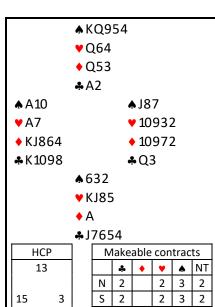
Board 25 : Dealer North : EW Vulnerable					
West North		East	South		
	Pass	1 ♦	Pass		
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass		
2♠	Pass	3 . *	Pass		
3♦	Pass	5♦	Pass		
Pass	Pass				

Over the reverse 2, West is forced to bid again — and nothing is really appealing. You can't bid 2NT, as this would promise a club stop. You could bid 3, and give partner simple preference. You could bid 2, to show a fifth spade (though some partnerships will assume this shows 6) — or you could bid 3, which is fourth suit forcing, but is your hand good enough?

Over a 2* response, partner is likely to ask for a * stopper and when West denies the * stop will East will likely bid 5*. The defence to defeat 5*? Lead a diamond and when declarer ruffs the third Heart in dummy there is no easy return back to their hand to draw trumps.



Board 26 : Dealer East : All Vulnerable						
West	North	East	South			
		Pass	Pass			
1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass			
3NT and	. •	od score, bu	be worth a stro t most will ope	ong NT will reach n a weak 1NT		



Ε

W

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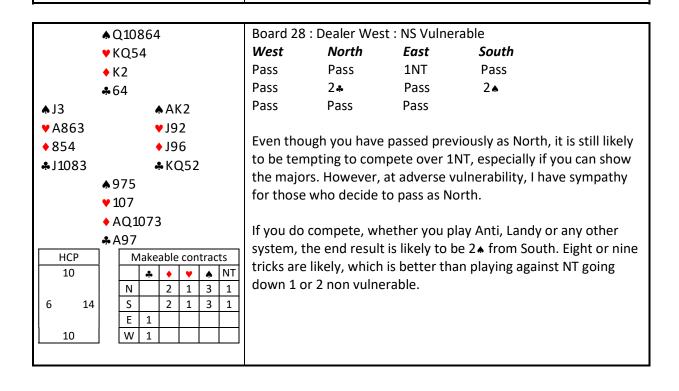
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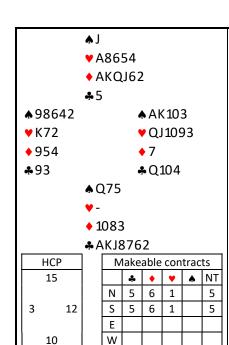
2

Board 27	: Dealer Sou	th : Nil All			
West	North	East	South		
			Pass		
1•	1♠	Pass	2*		
Pass	Pass	Pass			
Some Souths may bid a 2 ◆ (cue bid) in support of partner's spades but the ♠632 are not that appealing.					

A trump lead is needed to reduce the diamond ruffs available in dummy but the •10 lead feels natural. Plus 170 will be a popular score by North.

Maybe South should have found the 2 ◆ cue bid!

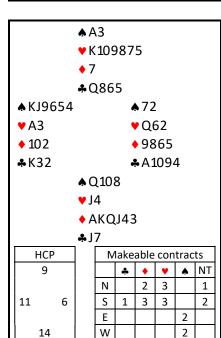




Board 29 : Dealer North : All Vulnerable					
West North East S					
	1♦	1♥	2♣		
2♥	Pass	Pass	Χ		
Pass	Pass	Pass			

East will either X or overcall 1♥. Over West's 2♥ bid, North may be wondering whether a double is penalties or take out? Partnership agreement on this sort of bidding would be great to have but can be difficult.

If North passes, will South reopen with a X? Those that do will be in the money as North will happily pass - and may be so delighted that they buy the next round!



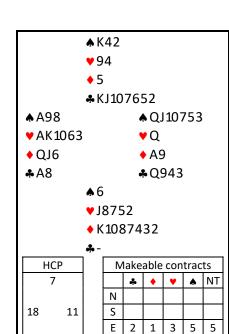
West	North	East	South			
		Pass	1♦			
1♠	X	Pass	2♦			
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass			
Pass						
Another hand where partnership agreement is						
interference is a double followed by a suit stronge						
terature a characteristic of						

Board 30: Dealer East: Nil All

essential. Over r or weaker than bidding the suit initially?

Some partnerships play 2 level responses after an overcall as nonforcing, but not this N/S.

North is not strong enough to respond 2♥ initially. X followed by the 2♥ bid shows the weaker hand with 6+ hearts.



4

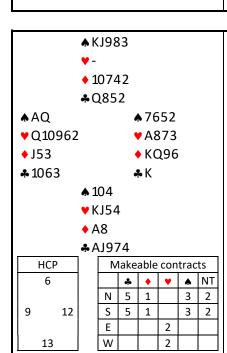
W 2 1 2 5 5

Board 31 : Dealer South : NS Vulnerable						
West	North	East	South			
			Pass			
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass			
2NT	Pass	3♣*	Pass			
3♠	Pass	4 🔷	Pass			
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass			
5♥	Pass	6♠	Pass			
Pass	Pass					

Any Souths for a 3 ◆ pre-empt opening? Not with those hearts!

E/W who settle for game will get a good score on the board as many will strive for more.

When 5 ♦ shows 1KC, West asks about the trump Q and 6 ♠ shows the trump Q and no side kings. With the unfortunate heart suit distribution and the missing Ks badly placed, not enough discards are available and declarer will likely make 11 tricks.



Board 32 : Bealer West : EW Vallierable						
West	North	East	South			
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass			
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass			
Pass	Χ	Pass	2NT			
Χ	Pass	3♥	Χ			
Pass	Pass	Pass				

Board 32: Dealer West: EW Vulnerable

East may well pass with a terrible 12 count, opposite a passed partner and vulnerable playing a pairs competition. But we came to play, so this East opens!

This leads to an active auction ending with a X that shows we all paid our entry fee.

Diamond lead is best for the defence. In many cases, 9 tricks will be made.