

A few comments on the boards you have just played to help you and your partner in the post-mortem. The system used doesn't really matter - I will assume Weak No-Trump, and 4-card majors and will mention other systems where it becomes relevant. **Fearghal O'Boyle.**

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 9642 ♥ 86 ♦ AQJ104 ♣ J10</p> <p>♠ J                      ♠ AKQ53 ♥ AQ932              ♥ K1054 ♦ 72                      ♦ 863 ♣ K9875              ♣ A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 1087 ♥ J7 ♦ K95 ♣ Q6432</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">16</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">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>-</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>1</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8		10	16	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	3	1	5	4	2	W	3	1	5	4	2	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : 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>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>A 'big' board to start with. 6♥ by E/W is not unreasonable and indeed it will make if North doesn't find the killing Diamond lead. Still 4♥+2 should score well too.</p> <p>Both East and West will feel they have a lot more to show and yes 1♠-2♥-4♥ is a bit 'chicken' but what else can you do? Blackwood is not advisable with 2 Diamond losers and using it might also help the opponents to suggest a Diamond lead. East won't feel like splintering in Clubs with his singleton Ace and no values in Diamonds.</p> <p>Sometimes you can bid a hand so well that you end up with a bad score and this is one such hand. The good bidders will start cue-bidding and discover that they are missing the ♦AK and stop in 5♥ making on the nose but get a rotten score because they have just pinpointed the Diamond lead to their opponents.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J862 ♥ 1085 ♦ Q1085 ♣ Q9</p> <p>♠ 107                      ♠ AQ95 ♥ AQ743              ♥ - ♦ J42                      ♦ AK9763 ♣ 1083                      ♣ A65</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K43 ♥ KJ962 ♦ - ♣ KJ742</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">17</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">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>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		5		7	17	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	2	-	-	S	-	-	1	-	-	E	-	3	-	2	1	W	-	3	-	2	1	<p>Board 2 : 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>1♦</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Dbf</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>If South overcalls 1♥ he might find himself in 2♥ doubled. On the face of it E/W will be happy to catch N/S in 2♥ doubled but in practice South might make his contract. It looks like South can make 2♥ on a Diamond lead if he sets up his Club suit early on.</p> <p>This is not a hand where N/S want to be at the 3 level so it is not a good time for South to wheel out the 'Unusual 2NT' convention over a 1♦ opening bid showing Hearts and Clubs (the two lowest suits).</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	1♥	1NT	2♥	Dbf	All Pass
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Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

**West**      **North**      **East**      **South**

1♥            Pass            1♠            Pass

1NT          Pass            4NT           Pass

6NT          All Pass

Some Strong No-Trumpers might open 1NT and then all roads lead to 6NT. Those Strong No-Trumpers who open 1♥ might find themselves in the lower scoring Heart slam.

The Weak No-Trump openers will show their hand by opening 1♥ and rebidding 1NT and now East has an easy quantitative raise to 4NT inviting West to bid 6NT with a maximum 1NT rebid.

Whether you play in 6NT or 6H your problem will be where to get your 12<sup>th</sup> trick. A Club towards the Queen is one successful line but in practice simply cashing your red suit winners will put a lot of pressure on South leading to a possible Club endplay against him to force a lead into dummy's Spades.

♠ 52  
♥ 9752  
♦ J962  
♣ J108

♠ A94            ♠ KQ108  
♥ AKJ104        ♥ 863  
♦ Q8              ♦ AK  
♣ Q93            ♣ A654

♠ J763  
♥ Q  
♦ 107543  
♣ K72

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
2		N	-	-	-	-	
16	16	S	-	-	-	-	
6		E	6	1	6	6	
		W	6	1	6	6	

Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

**West**      **North**      **East**      **South**

1♣            3♥            Pass           Pass

Dbl           Pass           3♠            Pass

3NT          All Pass

A lot of decisions on this board. What does West open - 1♣ or 2NT? What does North overcall 1♥, 2♥, 3♥ or 4♥? What does West rebid at his second turn? Does East pass or bid at his second turn? And the biggie....what should North lead against 3NT or 4♠ or 5♣?

3NT will be a popular contract and the ♥K looks like a normal lead but sadly tonight it allows West to make 10 tricks in 3NT. If you managed to lead a small Heart from that North hand - Wow!

♠ 75  
♥ KQ107543  
♦ 3  
♣ K42

♠ KQ8            ♠ 10943  
♥ A                ♥ J96  
♦ KQ7            ♦ A105  
♣ AQ10873      ♣ J96

♠ AJ62  
♥ 82  
♦ J98642  
♣ 5

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
8		N	-	-	2	-	
20	6	S	-	-	2	-	
6		E	4	2	-	2	
		W	4	2	-	2	

♠ 8763  
 ♥ 53  
 ♦ J106  
 ♣ A764

♠ 4                      ♠ KQ9  
 ♥ Q986                ♥ AJ107  
 ♦ AKQ3                ♦ 984  
 ♣ KQ103              ♣ 852

♠ AJ1052  
 ♥ K42  
 ♦ 752  
 ♣ J9

HCP	
5	
16	10
9	

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

Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
4♥	All Pass		

Some South's might open 1♠ in 3<sup>rd</sup> seat – the Spade suit is good but the fact that you are 5332 and vulnerable should dissuade South from opening with only 8 HCPs.

The 1♠ opening might succeed in keeping E/W out of game but it might be at the cost of losing 500 in 3♠x.

In practice 4♥ by E/W will be an easy make because to defeat it South has to find a Club lead and then North has to withhold his ♣A at trick 1 so that he can win the second round of Clubs and give his partner a Club ruff.

♠ K1084  
 ♥ J2  
 ♦ KJ6  
 ♣ A852

♠ 9                      ♠ QJ32  
 ♥ K1094              ♥ A865  
 ♦ A                      ♦ 9742  
 ♣ KQ109764        ♣ J

♠ A765  
 ♥ Q73  
 ♦ Q10853  
 ♣ 3

HCP	
13	
12	8
7	

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

Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

4♥ is a reasonable contract by E/W and they can be pleased with their bidding if they get there. One way to excite West is for East to respond 1♥ rather than 1♦ initially.

Hopefully those good bidders who bid to 4♥ won't be so unlucky as to run into world class defenders who manage to find the winning defence to beat the contract i.e. Club lead to the Ace, ♣8 return (suit preference for Spades) and then South underleads his ♠A to put North in with the ♠K to receive a second Club ruff.

Some North's might double on the first round and this might keep E/W out of 4♥.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 97 ♥ Q10975 ♦ A9764 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ KQ32            ♠ J854 ♥ K3                ♥ 6 ♦ Q5                ♦ J1032 ♣ KQJ106        ♣ 8542</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A106 ♥ AJ842 ♦ K8 ♣ 973</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">16</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; 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>3</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</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>	HCP		10		16	2	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	5	-	2	S	-	3	5	-	2	E	2	-	-	-	-	W	2	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1♥</td></tr> <tr><td>Dbl</td><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>South will open 1♥ and West will have a choice of calls, Double, 1NT and 2♣. Double is the best option whenever you have two suits to show and one of them is an unbid major. North will bid 4♥ regardless of whether he counts points or losers and the bidding will be quickly back to West again.</p> <p>If E/W can get away undoubled in 4♠-4 or 5♣-3 they will score extremely well.</p> <p>Those of you who learned your bridge from the 'Bones of Bridge' will recall learning that with 2 tricks opposite an opening bid you have enough to double 4♠ for penalties – so E/W won't get away undoubled at your table.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				1♥	Dbl	4♥	All Pass	
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J7 ♥ Q1043 ♦ AJ102 ♣ AQJ</p> <p>♠ 962                ♠ AQ843 ♥ KJ5                ♥ 76 ♦ Q953                ♦ K764 ♣ K103                ♣ 52</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K105 ♥ A982 ♦ 8 ♣ 98764</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; 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>5</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		15		9	9	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	1	5	1	3	S	5	1	5	1	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td><td>1♠</td><td>Dbl</td></tr> <tr><td>2♠</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td></tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>This will be a testing auction for the 'Strong No-Trump' openers whether or not East comes in because the Heart fit might not come to light. On the other hand, the 1♦ openers will find it hard to avoid 4♥. If East decides to bid 1♠, our good old friend, the 'negative double' will get the 4-4 Heart fit into the picture and South with a super 8 loser hand is certainly worth a raise to 4♥ no matter what North rebids.</p> <p>The only point in doubt is whether declarer makes 11 tricks or 10. This is not the time for declarer to decide to run the Queen of trumps from dummy.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	Pass	1♦	1♠	Dbl	2♠	3♥	Pass	4♥
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<p>♠ A9 ♥ KQJ85 ♦ QJ3 ♣ J98</p> <p>♠ -                      ♠ KQJ86542 ♥ 10932                ♥ 7 ♦ AK9542              ♦ 876 ♣ 653                    ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ 1073 ♥ A64 ♦ 10 ♣ AKQ1042</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="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>5</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		14		7	6	13		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	-	5	-	5	S	6	-	6	-	5	E	-	-	-	2	-	W	-	-	-	2	-	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>What will East overcall after the 1♥ opening by North? 1♠, 2♠, 3♠ or 4♠? For sure if East were not vulnerable he would overcall 4♠ but given that he is vulnerable he might well decide to be more cautious and bid at most 3♠.</p> <p>Quite a few East's will be let make 9 tricks and this will be a great score for them even if they are in 4♠x-1 because N/S have an easy 11 tricks in a 4♥ contract. To hold East to 8 tricks, N/S have to negotiate 2 Diamond ruffs for South to go with their 3 other tricks – which means South has to find one of North's two entries (♥K or ♣J).</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♥	3♠	4♥
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<p>♠ 764 ♥ J9742 ♦ J8 ♣ 864</p> <p>♠ 82                      ♠ 1095 ♥ 853                    ♥ KQ6 ♦ Q652                  ♦ AK93 ♣ AQJ5                  ♣ 932</p> <p>♠ AKQJ3 ♥ A10 ♦ 1074 ♣ K107</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="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>3</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		2		9	12	17		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	3	4	1	-	1	W	3	4	1	-	1	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>The Weak No-Trump openers will probably miss their Diamond fit. On the other hand they might get to play and make 1NTx or they might find the courage to double N/S in whatever contract they run to. South does best to double if East opens a Weak No-Trump. West with his 9 HCP will be quite happy with this and North will most likely run to 2♥. It won't be obvious to double this contract but still if E/W can put it 2 down then 200 will score very well indeed. However E/W need to lead trumps before they let South in if they are to hold South to only 6 tricks in his 2♠ contract.</p> <p>If East opens 1♦, some South's will bid 1♠ and some will double. West might redouble or he might raise Diamonds but I'm pretty sure most Souths will find it hard not to repeat their Spades.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1NT	Dbl	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
HCP																																																									
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J 10 9 8 ♥ A Q J 10 9 5 ♦ 4 ♣ 10 3</p> <p>♠ A Q 7                      ♠ K 6 2 ♥ K 7 4                      ♥ 6 ♦ A 7 3                      ♦ K Q 9 5 ♣ A J 9 8                      ♣ Q 6 5 4 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 5 4 3 ♥ 8 3 2 ♦ J 10 8 6 2 ♣ K 7</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">18</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</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>6</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8		18	10	4		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	6	4	-	3	1	W	6	4	1	5	5	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Well done if you bid and made 6♣</p> <p>Once again – not a time to be in 5♣ - and if you do find yourself in 5♣ they say you may as well bid 6♣ because 6♣ might make and even if it goes down you weren't getting many matchpoints for making 5♣ anyway.</p> <p>There are 12 easy tricks in a Club contract with the help of the winning Club finesse and a Diamond ruff in the West hand for the 12 trick. As long as North doesn't lead a Heart and South doesn't discard two Diamonds, West will make no more than 11 tricks in a No-Trump contract.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♣	1♥	3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
HCP																																																													
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E	6	4	-	3	1																																																								
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K 6 ♥ A K 8 ♦ K Q 10 7 ♣ K 7 6 2</p> <p>♠ A 8 4 2                      ♠ 9 ♥ 3                              ♥ J 10 9 6 2 ♦ A 4 2                      ♦ 9 8 6 5 ♣ 10 8 5 4 3                      ♣ A Q 9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q J 10 7 5 3 ♥ Q 7 5 4 ♦ J 3 ♣ J</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">18</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</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>1</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		18		8	7	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	3	1	S	-	-	1	3	1	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>N/S have 25 HCP and an 8-card Spade fit – so you would expect them to land in 4♠. Sadly this beautiful contract goes down if West leads his singleton Heart and later finds his partner's Club entry to get his Heart ruff.</p> <p>Even if N/S are able to arrange for North to play the hand, East too has an obvious Heart lead.</p> <p>Those N/S who manage to stop in 3♠ will score well but to be fair there are no warning signs to help N/S stay out of game.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass			
HCP																																																																	
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All Pass																																																																	

Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable

**West**      **North**      **East**      **South**

                 Pass      1NT      Pass

2♦      Pass      2♥      All Pass

This seemingly innocuous board could decide the winner. E/W seemed destined to get a bad result because N/S have two ways to get a good score – either by bidding and collecting 110 or better in Spades or Diamonds or by passing and collecting 200 or better from E/W going down.

Despite the poor Diamond suit quality there are many good players who advocate taking some sort of action over 1NT with the South hand – the only off putting factor is the vulnerability.

The strong no-trumpers will open 1♣ with the East hand and then rebid 1NT. It's then a matter of style as to whether or not West rebids his Hearts. The wise advice is not to torture yourself every time you face this problem – just decide once what you are going to do and then do it every time.

♠ AK2  
 ♥ Q743  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ Q10965  
 ♠ J86      ♠ 753  
 ♥ J9852      ♥ K6  
 ♦ J98      ♦ AQ2  
 ♣ A4      ♣ KJ872  
 ♠ Q1094  
 ♥ A10  
 ♦ K107654  
 ♣ 3

HCP	
11	
7	13
9	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	3	1	3	1
S	1	3	1	3	1
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all

**West**      **North**      **East**      **South**

                 Pass      1NT

Pass      3NT      All Pass

All roads lead to 3NT played by South and then it's only a question of whether it's +1 or +2. I can't see any road to +3 but as they say in the best of Bridge circles 'There's always one'.

Declarer starts with 9 top tricks and a 10<sup>th</sup> will come from Diamonds. It's not immediately obvious where the 11<sup>th</sup> trick will come from. However 4 rounds of Spades will put East under a lot of pressure.

Also take note that with a minimum of 29 HCP and a 4333 shape we are always going to play in 3NT – hence there is no point in 'leaking' information to the opponents by using Stayman.

♠ K52  
 ♥ AKQ7  
 ♦ Q103  
 ♣ K63  
 ♠ 10864      ♠ 73  
 ♥ 9      ♥ J8654  
 ♦ 865      ♦ AJ97  
 ♣ QJ875      ♣ 102  
 ♠ AQJ9  
 ♥ 1032  
 ♦ K42  
 ♣ A94

HCP	
17	
3	6
14	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	3	4	5	5
S	3	3	4	5	5
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 4 ♥ A983 ♦ KJ764 ♣ QJ4</p> <p>♠ AK975      ♠ 2 ♥ 5              ♥ KQJ1064 ♦ Q8532        ♦ 10 ♣ 53              ♣ AK1072</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ QJ10863 ♥ 72 ♦ A9 ♣ 986</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 50%;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 50%;"> <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>3</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		11		9	13	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	3	1	4	-	2	W	3	1	4	-	2	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>4♥ won't be everyone's cup of tea but it's worth bearing in mind that in the long run it pays to bid 6-5 shapes - "Six-Five Come Alive".</p> <p>West might prefer if East re-opened with a take-out-double but it's hard to fault East for bidding one or both of his suits with such playing strength. 4♣ (Leaping Michaels) showing Hearts and Clubs is a handy tool to have. If not playing this convention East will either bid 3♥ or better still 4♥.</p> <p>To hold East to 10 tricks, N/S need to lead an early round of trumps or failing that North needs to ruff the second Spade with the 8 or 9 or else don't ruff the second Spade at all.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	4♣	2♠	4♥	All Pass		Pass
HCP																																																									
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S	-	-	-	-	-																																																				
E	3	1	4	-	2																																																				
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4♥	All Pass		Pass																																																						

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J ♥ J1062 ♦ Q96 ♣ A9432</p> <p>♠ A76              ♠ K2 ♥ AQ97            ♥ K53 ♦ A102             ♦ KJ843 ♣ J108             ♣ KQ7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q1098543 ♥ 84 ♦ 75 ♣ 65</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 50%;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td style="text-align: center;">15</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 50%;"> <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>4</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8		15	15	2		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	6	5	1	6	W	4	6	5	1	6	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>If declarer can guess which defender holds the ♦Q he can make 12 tricks. Despite his 7222 shape, the vulnerability will tempt most Souths into the auction and not surprisingly South's chosen call will be declarer's only clue as to the location of the ♦Q.</p> <p>If South decides to make a pre-emptive 3♠ overcall then declarer should place ♦Q with North and make 12 tricks. However if South decides to only bid 2♠ then the odds favour placing South with the missing ♦Q – especially if North shows up with the ♣A.</p> <p>Bridge is a great game.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1♥	Pass	2♦	3♠	3NT	Pass	4NT	All Pass
HCP																																																									
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1♥	Pass	2♦	3♠																																																						
3NT	Pass	4NT	All Pass																																																						



♠ A875  
 ♥ 92  
 ♦ AQ103  
 ♣ A54  
 ♠ 9632      ♠ K  
 ♥ KQ8      ♥ A10654  
 ♦ K9754      ♦ J8  
 ♣ 2      ♣ J10983  
           ♠ QJ104  
           ♥ J73  
           ♦ 62  
           ♣ KQ76

HCP	
14	
8	9
9	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	2	-	4	2
S	2	2	-	4	2
E	-	-	1	-	-
W	-	-	1	-	-

Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	1NT	All Pass	

Those playing a Weak No-Trump will probably buy the hand in 1NT and make 7 tricks – losing 5 Heart tricks and the King of Spades. Surely nobody will cash the ♠A and drop the singleton King?

Those brave Easts who bid 2♥ will score well when they end up with 7 or 8 tricks.

The Strong No-Trumpers will find their Spade fit either by responding 1♠ or by making a ‘Negative’ double if East overcalls 1♥. 4♠ is a very reasonable contract. North is worth a raise to 3♠ and South will be only too delighted to accept the invitation.

Sadly this contract will go down in real life because no declarer will take the anti-percentage play of playing for the singleton ♠K.

So maybe the ‘Weak No-Trump’ gets lucky.

♠ A102  
 ♥ J76  
 ♦ QJ76  
 ♣ A73  
 ♠ QJ86      ♠ 7  
 ♥ 543      ♥ AQ92  
 ♦ K932      ♦ A8  
 ♣ 65      ♣ KJ10842  
           ♠ K9543  
           ♥ K108  
           ♦ 1054  
           ♣ Q9

HCP	
12	
6	14
8	

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

Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	All Pass

This board is about ‘style’. Some players are disciplined while others fly by the seat of their pants. Everyone can find a bid on this hand if they want to. However the disciplined players will score better this time.

The vulnerability and poor Spade quality should dissuade South from entering the auction. It’s also a matter of style as to whether West should respond 1♦ or 1♠. Maybe it’s a good idea when you know that you will only have one bid that you use your one bid to show your major suit? North will want to bid but he won’t have the unbid major and he holds the dreaded 4333 shape so he passes. East is not worth a reverse bid of 2♥ so he is forced to rebid 2♣. The ball will be quickly back in North’s court and he will hate this decision even more. There is a wise Bridge adage: When you’re ‘fixed’ – stay ‘fixed’. Nonetheless there will be some N/S pairs in 2♠ - a contract that is not without prospects.

<p>           ♠ KJ85            ♥ A876            ♦ 1093            ♣ 102              ♠ A32                ♠ 976            ♥ K9                 ♥ 1043            ♦ Q752             ♦ K8            ♣ J953             ♣ AQ764              ♠ Q104            ♥ QJ52            ♦ AJ64            ♣ K8         </p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>The 'Strong No-Trumpers' might get their own back this time because they will find their Heart fit and consequently play in a part-score and make an easy 9 tricks.</p> <p>Is East worth a 2♣ overcall over 1NT? 5332 shapes shouldn't get you excited.</p> <p>Those Souths who open a Weak No-Trump will probably win the auction and while there are also 8 or 9 tricks available in No-Trump, the defenders should be able to cash their 6 tricks (4 Clubs, a Diamond and a Spade) before declarer cashes his 8 or 9.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1NT
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>						
			1NT						

  

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
8	-	2	3	2	1
10    9	-	2	3	2	1
13	1	-	-	-	-
	W	1	-	-	-

<p>           ♠ 109654            ♥ 98432            ♦ KJ            ♣ K              ♠ 873                ♠ AKQ2            ♥ 6                 ♥ AK            ♦ 10432            ♦ AQ7            ♣ A7542            ♣ J1096              ♠ J            ♥ QJ1075            ♦ 9865            ♣ Q83         </p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</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>6NT and 6♣ both make because North happens to hold precisely ♦KJ which means that West's ♦10 becomes the precious 12<sup>th</sup> trick. Will any declarers block the Club suit?</p> <p>Hopefully there won't be any E/W pairs in 5♣ - it's always a bad matchpoint score.</p> <p>If N/S were not vulnerable they might start toying with E/W by bidding and raising Hearts to the 4-level.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass														
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass														
3NT	All Pass																

  

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
7	-	-	1	-	-
4    23	-	-	1	-	-
6	6	5	-	4	6
	W	6	5	-	4

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A7 ♥ AKJ72 ♦ K9743 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ Q432      ♠ K95 ♥ 108      ♥ Q93 ♦ Q8      ♦ J10 ♣ AJ963      ♣ Q10542</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J1086 ♥ 654 ♦ A652 ♣ K8</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</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>If any brave E/Ws get into auction they will find themselves a nice 5♣x-3 sacrifice losing only 500 instead of 620.</p> <p>On the other hand there will be some N/S pairs who will struggle to get to 4♥. Of course North won't always be sure that South really has 3 card Heart support – after all South's 2♥ might just be 'false preference'. Maybe South should muster up a 3♥ rebid?</p> <p>In 4♥ declarer has an easy road to 10 tricks (4 Hearts, 5 Diamonds and 1 Spade).</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
	1♥	Pass	1♠														
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥														
Pass	4♥	All Pass															

  

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
15	-	4	4	1	2	
9      8	-	4	4	-	2	
8	2	-	-	-	-	
	2	-	-	-	-	

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 985 ♥ J8754 ♦ AK ♣ KJ7</p> <p>♠ 63      ♠ Q4 ♥ 6      ♥ K1032 ♦ 8632      ♦ 10975 ♣ AQ9852      ♣ 1064</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AKJ1072 ♥ AQ9 ♦ QJ4 ♣ 3</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></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>Another unlucky board for some N/S pairs. South is worth a 4♣ rebid (splinter) over his partner's 2♥ response but that probably locks N/S into playing in an inferior 6♥ contract. Playing in a Heart contract, N/S cannot avoid losing the ♣A and a Heart trick. Meanwhile, playing in a Spade or a No-Trump contract declarer can establish dummy's ♣K for his 12<sup>th</sup> trick without the need to also lose a Heart trick.</p> <p>Well done if you found a route to 6♠. Even when the Spade fit comes to light, it is still conceivable that we should play in Hearts and keep Spades as our side suit to take care of any minor suit losers.</p> <p>If you managed to bid to 6NT – I'm pretty sure you scored 100%.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
		Pass	1♠														
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥														
All Pass																	

  

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
12	2	3	5	6	6	
6      5	2	3	5	6	6	
17	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	

♠ KQ10  
 ♥ 76  
 ♦ J2  
 ♣ K97654  
 ♠ 7543      ♠ J86  
 ♥ K92      ♥ QJ8543  
 ♦ 9754      ♦ KQ  
 ♣ QJ      ♣ A10  
 ♠ A92  
 ♥ A10  
 ♦ A10863  
 ♣ 832

HCP	
9	
6	13
12	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	2	-	-	-
S	3	2	-	-	-
E	-	-	2	1	1
W	-	-	2	1	1

Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
			1NT
Pass	Pass	2♥	All Pass

3♣ by N/S is the easiest contract in the world to play but it is not so easy to land there. In hindsight there are ways to get there but at the table it won't be so obvious. They say 'Pairs is a bidder's game' and this hand supports that theory. Those brave Easts who bid 2♥ and those brave Norths who bid 3♣ will be well rewarded.

Strong No-Trump players might get to 3♣ after a 1♦ opening. 2 over 1 players won't find it easy to land in 3♣ either. Weak No-Trump players will have a way to get to 3♣ if they are so inclined but they might be happy to take their chances in 1NT and then over 2♥ it takes great courage to bid a vulnerable 3♣ now.

Hopefully West won't make the disastrous lead of the ♦9 if South ends up in a No-Trump contract.

♠ 1092  
 ♥ K9765  
 ♦ K1052  
 ♣ 9  
 ♠ K73      ♠ AJ54  
 ♥ QJ10      ♥ 832  
 ♦ A96      ♦ Q87  
 ♣ AQ86      ♣ K104  
 ♠ Q86  
 ♥ A4  
 ♦ J43  
 ♣ J7532

HCP	
6	
16	10
8	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	2	-	1	3	3
W	2	-	1	3	3

Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Every table will be in 3NT played by West and all Norths will lead a small Heart to South's Ace. South will return a Heart and North will either win and play a third Heart or duck the Heart return and wait in the bushes.

Making 9 tricks will be a huge result for E/W and most likely those that do will have received a little help from the defence. On paper declarer has 9 tricks by way of 3 Spade tricks, 1 Heart trick, 1 Diamond trick and 4 Club tricks.

The trick of course is to find a way to win 4 Club tricks. All will be easy if South discards two of his Clubs but if he doesn't I don't see many declarers finding the winning line of cashing a top Club from hand and unblocking the ♣10 from dummy in preparation for a finesse against South's Jack.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q62 ♥ KQ4 ♦ KQ ♣ J9754</p> <p>♠ A108743    ♠ 5 ♥ A6            ♥ J852 ♦ 975            ♦ A10832 ♣ AK            ♣ 1083</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ KJ9 ♥ 10973 ♦ J64 ♣ Q62</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <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>4</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		13		15	5	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	4	2	2	2	W	1	4	2	2	2	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>E/W need to play this board in 2♠ where they can make 8 easy tricks – losing 2 Spades, a Heart and 2 Diamonds.</p> <p>The only other way for E/W to get rich is by doubling N/S in 1NT or 2♥ and collecting 300. Doubling N/S in 2♣ might be good enough but an inspired declarer might decide to lead a Club through the West hand on the first round of the suit and escape for only one down.</p> <p>If West does find a double of 1NT then East should leave it in.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1NT	Pass	Pass	2♠	All Pass		
HCP																																																									
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<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																																																						
	1NT	Pass	Pass																																																						
2♠	All Pass																																																								

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q43 ♥ 843 ♦ Q984 ♣ A85</p> <p>♠ K1098765    ♠ J ♥ 62            ♥ AQJ105 ♦ 2              ♦ KJ1065 ♣ 1063        ♣ KQ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A2 ♥ K97 ♦ A73 ♣ J9742</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">17</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <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>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8		3	17	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	-	-	2	S	2	-	-	-	2	E	-	1	1	1	-	W	-	1	1	1	-	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Any plus score will score nicely on this board. There is no reason for East to open anything other than 1♥. Some Souths will make a ‘take-out-double’ and others will chose the textbook approved ‘pass’.</p> <p>A few years ago a 3♠ response here would show the same sort of hand as a 3♠ pre-emptive opening bid but nowadays 3♠ shows support for Hearts and a singleton or void in Spades. However whatever 3♠ means, West doesn’t really have a ‘vulnerable’ version of it.</p> <p>Certainly there should be no reason for E/W to be any higher than 2♠ and indeed 2♠ will make at some tables because North might not feel like leading an early trump from his particular holding. Another good tip: Any tricks you give away by leading trumps when a trump lead is required will come back to you 100 fold in other ways.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♥	All Pass
HCP																																																					
8																																																					
3	17																																																				
12																																																					
Makeable contracts																																																					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																
N	2	-	-	-	2																																																
S	2	-	-	-	2																																																
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W	-	1	1	1	-																																																
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																																																		
		1♥	All Pass																																																		

Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all

**West North East South**

1♣ 1♣

1♠ Dbl 2♣ Pass

2♦ 2♥ 4♠ All Pass

A very competitive board. It seems whoever wins the auction wins the board. Neither side will be expecting to make game but because both sides have double fits they can both make buckets of tricks.

After 1♣ and a 1♠ overcall North needs to get his Heart suit into the picture. Some pairs play 2♥ as non-forcing here and if that is the case then this is the perfect time to respond 2♥. Otherwise North has to make a negative double and hope to get a chance to bid 2♥ on the next round.

East is interested in game if West has the upper range for his 1♠ overcall and East's 2♣ is an 'Unassuming Cue Bid' showing a good Spade raise and asking West if he has a good 1♠ overcall. West's 2♦ rebid shows his second suit and also says that he was serious about his 1♠ overcall. If E/W play Michael's or Ghestem then East will have even more inferences available.

♠ 8  
 ♥ K98542  
 ♦ 986  
 ♣ K86  
 ♠ K10964      ♠ AQJ72  
 ♥ AQ            ♥ 76  
 ♦ K7432        ♦ QJ5  
 ♣ 10            ♣ 753  
 ♠ 53  
 ♥ J103  
 ♦ A10  
 ♣ AQJ942

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
6		N	4	-	4	-	1
12	10	S	4	-	4	-	1
	12	E	-	3	-	4	-
		W	-	3	-	4	-

Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

**West North East South**

Pass 1♦ Pass 1♥

Pass 3♠ Pass 4NT

Pass 6♥ All Pass

N/S have 32 HCP and a 10 card Heart fit so getting to 6♥ should not be too difficult. Indeed 6♥+1 will be a common result because if the defence don't cash their ♣A at trick one they won't get any second chances.

There are also 12 tricks available in 6NT but only 12.

♠ -  
 ♥ QJ85  
 ♦ AK874  
 ♣ KQJ10  
 ♠ 96432      ♠ QJ107  
 ♥ 3            ♥ 74  
 ♦ J962        ♦ 103  
 ♣ 932         ♣ A8764  
 ♠ AK85  
 ♥ AK10962  
 ♦ Q5  
 ♣ 5

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
16		N	3	5	6	3	6
1	7	S	3	5	6	3	6
	16	E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AQ5 ♥ A8 ♦ AKJ74 ♣ 742</p> <p>♠ 64                      ♠ KJ9872 ♥ Q10972                ♥ KJ54 ♦ 98                        ♦ 6 ♣ AJ108                 ♣ 63</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 103 ♥ 63 ♦ Q10532 ♣ KQ95</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <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>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		18		7	8	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	3	-	-	2	S	1	3	-	-	1	E	-	-	3	3	-	W	-	-	3	3	-	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This hand is all about the opening lead. N/S have the values for 3NT and if E/W can't get the Heart suit into the auction then they are probably doomed to leading a fatal Spade.</p> <p>On a Spade lead from East, declarer has time to set up his 9<sup>th</sup> trick in Clubs. On a Heart lead, declarer has 8 tricks if he plays for one down by setting up a Club trick but only 7 tricks if he tries to win his 8<sup>th</sup> trick by taking the Spade finesse.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♦	1♠	3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
HCP																																																									
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J106 ♥ A86 ♦ KQ10 ♣ K1032</p> <p>♠ 53                      ♠ AQ94 ♥ J9732                ♥ Q104 ♦ 543                    ♦ 762 ♣ Q86                   ♣ J74</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K872 ♥ K5 ♦ AJ98 ♣ A95</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <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>5</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		13		3	9	15		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	4	2	4	4	S	4	4	2	4	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Every table will land in 3NT – the Strong No-Trump openers will have South as declarer and the Weak No-Trump openers will have North as declarer.</p> <p>It is difficult to see how the defenders can win more than 3 tricks but if they do they will earn themselves a huge matchpoint score.</p> <p>Equally it is hard to see how declarer can make more than 10 tricks but if he does he will score 90%+ on the board. One way for declarer to make 11 tricks would be if East led a Club or a Spade or if East failed to cover the ♠J when it was led from the North hand.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	1♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
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<p>♠ KQ73 ♥ AQ952 ♦ K32 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ 108                      ♠ A54 ♥ K43                      ♥ J107 ♦ Q96                      ♦ A54 ♣ AJ864                  ♣ K973</p> <p>♠ J962 ♥ 86 ♦ J1087 ♣ Q102</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="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>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		14		10	12	4		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	1	3	-	S	-	1	1	3	-	E	2	-	-	-	1	W	2	-	-	-	1	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Gay Keaveney will probably be the only one in 2♠ on this board as he is one of the few players still playing his favourite convention 'Flannery' (a 2♥ opening showing 4 Spades and 5 Hearts and 11-15 points). The rest of us will either be going down in a Heart contract or watching the opponents make 2♣ or 1NT against us.</p> <p>Of course there is a very real chance that E/W might get too high on this board. East with his minimum 4333 shape is not really worth a take-out-double on first round and then if West does protect with a 1NT or a 2♣ overcall, East should remember that West was unable to open as dealer.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass		
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<p>♠ QJ42 ♥ 983 ♦ 432 ♣ J104</p> <p>♠ K10976                  ♠ A3 ♥ Q10742                  ♥ 65 ♦ 5                              ♦ QJ9876 ♣ 82                            ♣ AK3</p> <p>♠ 85 ♥ AKJ ♦ AK10 ♣ Q9765</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		4		5	14	17		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	-	-	1	S	1	-	-	-	1	E	-	2	2	2	-	W	-	1	2	2	-	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>East opens 1♦ and South has an easy 1NT overcall showing 16-18 and a good holding in Diamonds.</p> <p>If left to play there declarer has 7 tricks (2 Hearts, 2 Diamonds and 3 Clubs). If West leads a Heart then declarer makes 8 tricks.</p> <p>Of course, West may like to try his hand in 2 of a major and as it happens as long as he uses the two Club entries in the East hand to lead twice towards his ♥Q he will come to 8 tricks in either contract. Do any of you have an agreement that a raise of opener's minor after a 1NT overcall shows both majors?</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	1♦	1NT	All Pass			
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