

EBED



Sim Pairs

Commentary by Mike Pomfrey

Thursday
16th May 2019

Welcome to the **English Bridge Education & Development (EBED)** Simultaneous Pairs.

The proceeds raised by this event will be used by EBED, **the national charity for the promotion and development of bridge**, in support of its objectives to promote the national learning program “**Bridge for All**” and especially to improve and develop the infrastructure for bridge teaching in England by expanding our support for EBTA – the **English Bridge Teachers Association**

EBED supplies “Bridge for All” teaching materials, organises Minibridge/Duplicate Bridge teacher training and club director training courses, administers the Junior Award Scheme and supports county organisations and individual volunteers at the local level to run youth events.

You can read more EBED’s activities in the current issue of English Bridge and at www.ebedcio.org.uk. If you wish to know more about EBED or to arrange a donation/legacy in favour of the charity, please contact us via richard@ebedcio.org.uk

Do please encourage your friends to come to play in these events which are open to all and raise vital funds for our work.

We thank you so much for your support!

Donna Wright

Chief Executive

English Bridge Education & Development, Registered Charity No: 1153543

<p>♠ Q95 ♥ K76 ♦ Q10753 ♣ 85</p> <p>♠ J87 ♠ A2 ♥ 1042 ♥ QJ95 ♦ A9 ♦ KJ86 ♣ AK764 ♣ J109</p> <p>♠ K10643 ♥ A83 ♦ 42 ♣ Q32</p>		<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3NT</td><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>South won't consider bidding with such poor playing strength and West, with a good five card suit, is just about worth game. South has no reason not to lead a spade.</p> <p>An intellectual, but ultimately fruitless question: do you play low from dummy, in case the lead is from 10 9, or the jack, should it be from KQ? As we can see, neither works.</p> <p>To make the contract, you just have to take finesses in both minors, a 25% chance. If either fails you are an extra one down compared with playing on hearts, a line which has no chance of making the contract. At match points, is there a case for cutting your losses? I bet very few do so, and they'll wish they hadn't this time.</p>		West	North	East	South		Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	All pass																																															
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<p>♠ 9 ♥ AQ752 ♦ 9 ♣ 1087653</p> <p>♠ K7632 ♠ AQJ10 ♥ K104 ♥ 96 ♦ A108 ♦ J7654 ♣ AJ ♣ Q9</p> <p>♠ 854 ♥ J83 ♦ KQ32 ♣ K42</p>																																																												
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<p>♠ KJ7 ♥ 64 ♦ QJ83 ♣ A976</p> <p>♠ 108 ♠ 96543 ♥ QJ853 ♥ K972 ♦ K10972 ♦ 6 ♣ 5 ♣ J82</p> <p>♠ AQ2 ♥ A10 ♦ A54 ♣ KQ1043</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>2NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4NT</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>I expect many players will upgrade the South hand, with its good five card suit. The ten of clubs just about tips it for me. 3♠ is a slam try in the minors and, although you are minimum in terms of points, the club suit and good controls tempt you to co-operate with 4♣. Some partnerships have more sophisticated responses to 3♠. 4♠ is North's only possible cue bid; now it should be a golden rule that, after a minor suit slam try, 4NT is always natural and non-forcing. That should be the end of matter.</p> <p>Against no trumps a high heart lead holds the contract to ten tricks; a low heart and West can be endplayed for eleven; a reckless diamond or passive spade and it's twelve. After a spade lead declarer should of course lead twice towards the queen of diamonds, not run it. Only a heart lead defeats 6♣.</p>	West	North	East	South				2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT																																												
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<p>♠ 5 ♥ 842 ♦ KJ987 ♣ KJ63</p> <p>♠ K76432 ♠ QJ ♥ K105 ♥ QJ76 ♦ 53 ♦ 62 ♣ 104 ♣ A9875</p> <p>♠ A1098 ♥ A93 ♦ AQ104 ♣ Q2</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>?</td></tr></table> <p>This is a very tough hand to bid, even if you are armed with this little tool. If a change of suit is forcing after a two level response – and it should be whatever your system – a jump in a new suit can be a Splinter bid, promising support for partner. Now South has a huge hand, even though much of it is in the wrong suit. South temporises by showing some heart support and now, with good spades and moderate clubs, 3NT looks a sensible choice for North.</p> <p>So far, so reasonable, but sooner or later someone is going to have to make a decision as to denomination and level. With hearts unkindly placed and the spade king offside you will have to be inspired to make a slam in hearts or no trumps, even though your auction has right-sided either contract. 6♣ makes easily enough but may not be a popular match point choice.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass	?																																												
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<div><div><div>♠ K104</div><div>♥ 4</div><div>♦ Q10874</div><div>♣ A874</div></div><div><div>♠ 93</div><div>♥ 752</div><div>♦ A92</div><div>♣ KJ953</div></div><div><div>♠ A72</div><div>♥ AK10863</div><div>♦ 65</div><div>♣ 102</div></div><div><div>♠ QJ865</div><div>♥ QJ9</div><div>♦ KJ3</div><div>♣ Q6</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>12</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		9	11	8	12	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	2	-	2	-		S	-	2	-	2	-		E	2	-	3	-	1		W	1	-	3	-	1	
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<div><div><div>♠ AQJ1062</div><div>♥ 742</div><div>♦ J82</div><div>♣ 4</div></div><div><div>♠ 98</div><div>♥ AK96</div><div>♦ A109</div><div>♣ Q1032</div></div><div><div>♠ K54</div><div>♥ QJ105</div><div>♦ K63</div><div>♣ 987</div></div><div><div>♠ 73</div><div>♥ 83</div><div>♦ Q754</div><div>♣ AKJ65</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>10</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		8	9	13	10	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	1	-		S	-	-	-	1	-		E	2	1	3	-	3		W	2	1	3	-	3	
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<div><div><div>♠ K1083</div><div>♥ K</div><div>♦ Q8653</div><div>♣ KJ7</div></div><div><div>♠ 54</div><div>♥ A9</div><div>♦ J1094</div><div>♣ A9843</div></div><div><div>♠ QJ96</div><div>♥ J8765</div><div>♦ AK7</div><div>♣ Q</div></div><div><div>♠ A72</div><div>♥ Q10432</div><div>♦ 2</div><div>♣ 10652</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>6</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		12	13	9	6	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	1	1		S	-	-	-	1	1		E	-	1	1	-	-		W	-	1	1	-	-	
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Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable			
West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	Dbl	3♥	Pass
Pass	3♠	All pass	

As is often the case a three-card raise is West’s best choice in a competitive auction. North is rather too good for a simple raise, so falls back on a double. With six hearts East should definitely bid one more and North decides that one side or the other is favourite to make nine tricks in something. It’s too close for anyone to double.

3♥ would make if you guess the clubs right. How about 3♠? A heart to the king and the ten of clubs back looks a reasonable defence for East-West. Now declarer is on the horns of a dilemma. If you play on trumps East will duck the first round, take the second and play a third, leaving South with five losers. If you try to knock out the ace of diamonds first, West ducks the first round and the defence get a ruff. It looks as though 3♠ should always fail, but where will the match points go?

Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable			
West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣
Pass	2♠	All pass	

I’d like to feature a modern development that is rapidly gaining popularity.

Not all of us would open the South hand, second in hand and vulnerable, but let’s say we do. West doesn’t have a suitable bid now (though a few brave souls might overcall on a four-card suit). A jump response in a major can be used to show a six-card suit and some 4-8 points. The method has two benefits; first, it gives a more compact range to uncontested auctions like 1♣–1♠–2♣–2♠; this is now played as around 9-11. The immediate jump response also gives you a better chance to buy the contract when opponents might have competed.

2♠ should go one down; on a heart lead West should overtake and fire back a trump, but it’s a good result for North-South when opponents can make nine tricks in hearts or, very fortunately, in no trumps.

Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all			
West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	All pass	

What a horrible hand to have as East. You have plenty enough to bid, but your longest suit is dreadful, the hand might play better in spades and you have fair defensive values. I would be inclined to pass and hope to get involved later.

Unfortunately, by the time it is later the opponents have bid both our suits and there’s nothing to do but pass again. Now South has a decision to make; even if a change of suit is theoretically forcing it looks wise to pass, so 1♠ it is.

A high trump lead looks normal; then, when West gets in with ♥A, another trump will cut down declarer’s cross-ruff. I suspect it will need an inspired view in clubs to make 1♠ on best defence.

<div><div><div>♠ A3</div><div>♥ 96</div><div>♦ A108732</div><div>♣ KQ6</div></div><div><div>♠ KJ109</div><div>♥ 53</div><div>♦ K95</div><div>♣ A974</div></div><div><div>♠ 8654</div><div>♥ K74</div><div>♦ Q4</div><div>♣ J852</div></div><div><div>♠ Q72</div><div>♥ AQJ1082</div><div>♦ J6</div><div>♣ 103</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>10</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</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><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		13	6	11	10	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	4	4	1	4		S	-	4	5	1	5		E	1	-	-	-	-		W	1	-	-	-	-		<div>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</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>?</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Well, what a coincidence! This is the other side of the coin from board 10. In traditional methods, South's range can be quite large, especially at match points when a major part score may get a significantly better result than a minor. Armed with our new tool, however, South is known to be 9-11 and North may find a raise. The cards lie very well for North-South and game in hearts is easy.</p> <p>But there's yet another possible scenario. West has a highly respectable 11 count and, at the vulnerability, would be justified in upgrading the hand to a weak no-trump. Unless 2♦ would be natural, North has to pass. South is there with 2♥ and I guess we are in much the same situation as before. But this time 2♥ certainly has a wide range; even vulnerable you have to compete against 1NT on a good deal less than that. It's not easy to visualise that game is a decent bet.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	?						
HCP																																																																					
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<div><div><div>♠ 32</div><div>♥ AJ92</div><div>♦ A843</div><div>♣ KQ3</div></div><div><div>♠ A764</div><div>♥ K874</div><div>♦ J102</div><div>♣ 102</div></div><div><div>♠ K1085</div><div>♥ 1053</div><div>♦ K6</div><div>♣ AJ95</div></div><div><div>♠ QJ9</div><div>♥ Q6</div><div>♦ Q975</div><div>♣ 8764</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>7</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		14	11	8	7	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	2	-	-	1		S	1	2	-	-	1		E	-	-	1	1	-		W	-	-	1	2	-		<div>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>This time there may be rather more unanimity in the contract. Whatever your methods, 1NT looks the likely resting place, usually played by North.</p> <p>A spade will be most players' choice of lead; West wins and probably returns the suit. Declarer should play on diamonds, which lie very well. East might drop the king under North's ace, so West can get in to play a club through. Even so, declarer should comfortably come to a spade, two hearts, three diamonds and a club for the contract.</p> <p>No doubt there will more variations than I can foresee, but 90 to North-South looks a pretty average result.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	All pass													
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<div><div><div>♠ 872</div><div>♥ 1095</div><div>♦ K75</div><div>♣ Q965</div></div><div><div>♠ K94</div><div>♥ K7643</div><div>♦ Q</div><div>♣ 8732</div></div><div><div>♠ 3</div><div>♥ AQJ82</div><div>♦ J106432</div><div>♣ A</div></div><div><div>♠ AQJ1065</div><div>♥ -</div><div>♦ A98</div><div>♣ KJ104</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>15</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		5	12	8	15	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	4	-	-	4	-		S	4	-	-	4	-		E	-	3	5	-	1		W	-	3	5	-	1		<div>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♥</td><td>Dbl</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♥</td><td>Dbl</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>5♠</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>This is a bit more lively than 1NT passed out. Lots of talking points here. First, would you warp the East hand by opening the shorter suit to make your rebid easier? I think you should be sparing in such action, but if ever there's a case this is it. Second, do you overcall or double as South? General wisdom is that, when you are short in opener's suit, it's better to overcall and double for takeout later. This time your hand and suit quality are so strong I don't think it makes much difference.</p> <p>Finally, should South sell out to 5♥? Not likely! Surely one side can make five of something. 5♠ would be too unilateral so you have to double, putting North in the spotlight. It's tough, but with three trumps and two honours in the minors I'm sure the percentage action is to bid on. Who knows, maybe East will bid another heart.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Dbl	4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥	Dbl	Pass	5♠	All pass	
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<p>♠ 7 ♥ AJ ♦ AKJ764 ♣ A754</p> <p>♠ J8543 ♠ 106 ♥ 8765 ♥ Q10943 ♦ 85 ♦ 1093 ♣ J3 ♣ K96</p> <p>♠ AKQ92 ♥ K2 ♦ Q2 ♣ Q1082</p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>5♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6NT</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>I'm afraid I don't have a definitive view on how to bid this one. I'm sure 2NT is the best rebid for South and, with such a good hand, North should rebid diamonds rather than complicate matters with 3♣. Don't bid bad suits on good hands is an old adage. After that North is just fishing for a possible grand in diamonds but eventually realises that South has such a lot in spades that there is probably a club loser. If you settle for a small slam you naturally go for the higher scoring one.</p> <p>7♦ would make on a 4-3 spade break or an unlikely squeeze so consider yourself a little unlucky if you took the plunge.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠	Pass	6NT	All pass																																	
West	North	East	South																																																										
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Pass	6NT	All pass																																																											
<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>16</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</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><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		17	5	2	16	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	6	6	2	5	6		S	6	6	1	4	6		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>This one needs good judgment from both North and South. If you are tempted to make a pre-emptive raise to 3♥ as North, should this be part of your methods, think again. You hand is queen high and 4441 shape is notoriously fickle in terms of playing strength.</p> <p>That turns the spotlight on South. True, you have 17 points, but they are not as good as they might be. Neither jack may be pulling its weight, your trump suit is flimsy and so many values in your short suit are bad news. Just look at your losing trick count.</p> <p>I don't suppose many pairs will call it a day in a heart part score but it will earn you a bushel of match points. 3NT is a lucky make, using heart entries to take two club finesses, but I can't see anyone trying that contract.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥	All pass	
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<p>♠ 9542 ♥ QJ94 ♦ 8 ♣ Q842</p> <p>♠ A103 ♠ KQ8 ♥ K75 ♥ 10 ♦ Q9762 ♦ J10543 ♣ 65 ♣ K1073</p> <p>♠ J76 ♥ A8632 ♦ AK ♣ AJ9</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1♥</td><td>1♠</td><td>2♣</td></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>4♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>5♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>6♥</td></tr><tr><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Once upon a time, a jump to game by opener in his own suit implied some fit for partner's suit. That's less true these days and certainly not in this competitive auction. Even so, South has a very good hand opposite what should be a strong suit and a slam try seems in order. North will surely co-operate and South is duly tempted.</p> <p>On a natural spade lead you might play a diamond to the ace and take a club finesse immediately to dispose of the spade loser. The bidding and lead make East a strong favourite to hold the ♣K. Having done so you may or may not drop the ♥Q for an overtrick. A plausible alternative line is to cash two top trumps first; if the queen doesn't drop you have to try for the discard. This time you have an easy thirteen tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	1♠	2♣	2♠	4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥	All pass																																											
West	North	East	South																																																										
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E	-	-	-	-	-																																																								
W	-	-	-	-	-																																																								

♠AJ973

♥J32

♦3

♣AJ75

♠Q105

♥K94

♦AJ1086

♣Q2

♠K86

♥A6

♦KQ754

♣K86

♠42

♥Q10875

♦92

♣10943

HCP	
11	15
12	2

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

Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1♦	Pass

3NTAll pass

Many of us play a jump to 3NT over a major suit opening to show a raise to game with primary support and no shortage. It makes a lot of sense to do this in the minors as well. But even if you have no such agreement, try to think of a better response for West; I can't.

This time you get an unexpected bonus. If South were on lead to 3NT a heart looks the normal choice, and it gets the defence off to a good start. Even if South chooses a black suit it does no immediate harm to the defence, though North will have a hard time discarding on five rounds of diamonds.

But with North on lead a heart seems a highly unlikely choice; West will very probably be gifted a tenth trick at once.

♠J

♥Q98

♦AK76542

♣54

♠AQ63

♥A532

♦Q

♣AQ86

♠K9754

♥1064

♦J93

♣J2

♠1082

♥KJ7

♦108

♣K10973

HCP	
10	5
18	7

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

Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♣	3♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	3♠	All pass

That's a pretty top-heavy pre-empt for North at the vulnerability but, with partner having passed, it looks sensible. To quote the late Terence Reese "a pre-empt that is known to be weak is a blunt sword". After two passes West has a clear reopening double and East can hardly do more than 3♠.

The momentum of the auction is such that West can't tell whether partner has a little something or nothing, or how many spades he has. It looks reckless to me to bash game, which is a slightly fortunate make.

It's a different story if North were to bid 1♦ only. East should dredge up a 1♠ response, promising five cards if a double would show four, and West will surely commit her side to game.

♠K43

♥A83

♦Q108432

♣9

♠108

♥K972

♦K65

♣A832

♠Q9652

♥Q6

♦J97

♣QJ7

♠AJ7

♥J1054

♦A

♣K10654

HCP	
9	8
10	13

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

Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	All pass	

No, I wouldn't open a weak 2♦ as North, should that be part of our system. You have a poor suit and far too much in the majors; it's easy to visualise hands for partner which would pass 2♦ when game is on in a major. It's worth mentioning that pre-emptive bids in second seat should be reasonably pure; once an opponent has passed you are more likely to make life difficult for partner than for the bad guys.

Assuming North passes, the auction starts normally. On the next round North has a choice between rebidding diamonds, trying 1NT or maybe 4th suit which will get South to declare 1NT. I'd rather play this one in 1NT than diamonds; should you scramble an overtrick it will be gold dust. The computer's best score is 110 in 2♥ but that looks to be a somewhat unlikely spot, and rather hairy to play.

<p>♠ 74 ♥ QJ9632 ♦ 102 ♣ K43</p> <p>♠ 95 ♥ K1087 ♦ Q874 ♣ A106</p> <p>♠ Q1062 ♥ 5 ♦ AK653 ♣ J87</p> <p>♠ AKJ83 ♥ A4 ♦ J9 ♣ Q952</p>	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>Dbl</td><td>Redbl</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>If East passes over North's weak two, so should South. It doesn't pay to press for thin games at pairs. Just imagine partner with a pure weak two of KQJxxx and nothing else and you'll see how unlikely game is.</p> <p>But East may not pass; it's only 10 points, opposite a passed partner, but it's all in the right place and a reasonable bet, in my view. The auction now gets quite lively, South suggests a penalty, but North doesn't like it, quite rightly as 3♦ can be made.</p> <p>3♥ will be just the one down if declarer takes the right view in trumps or takes a spade finesse and forces West to waste a possible trump trick to prevent a discard. Either of these plays is more than plausible on the bidding.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	2♥	Dbl	Redbl	Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass	3♥	All pass																																																	
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<p>♠ K976 ♥ K8743 ♦ 8 ♣ Q109</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ Q6 ♦ AK6542 ♣ A652</p> <p>♠ QJ432 ♥ J2 ♦ QJ73 ♣ 84</p> <p>♠ A105 ♥ A1095 ♦ 109 ♣ KJ73</p>	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♦</td><td>1♠</td><td>Dbl</td><td>2♠</td></tr><tr><td>4NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>6♥</td><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Oh I say. As West you toy with opening with a game forcing bid but decide that, with this shape, you'd better give yourself as much bidding space as possible. Surprise, surprise, opponents bid and support spades and partner shows four hearts.</p> <p>The question now is: is 4NT unequivocally RKC for hearts? After all, hearts are your side's last bid suit (by implication). I think it should be; what else but a massive heart fit would inspire you to leap into the stratosphere? If you had a huge minor two suiter, wouldn't you just bid a large number of clubs?</p> <p>Partner has two aces and, for good measure, trumps are 2-2 so thirteen tricks roll in.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠	Dbl	2♠	4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥	All pass																																														
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<p>♠AQJ5 ♥AKQ87 ♦1072 ♣J</p> <p>♠109742 ♠863 ♥64 ♥953 ♦A85 ♦KQJ4 ♣1085 ♣Q93</p> <p>♠K ♥J102 ♦963 ♣AK7642</p>	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>After the excitement of the last hand, it's time to sit down with a mug of cocoa. South's isn't much of a hand but, having opened, you are well advised to show support for partner's major rather than rebid your own minor. North might be tempted to go more slowly, hoping for a miracle fit but, as Bob Hamman always says: "don't play me for the perfect hand, partner, I never have it".</p> <p>Another downside of the slow approach is that you might help the defence. This time East has an obvious lead anyway, they take their three diamond tricks and we get on with the next hand.</p> <p>Even if South rebids those clubs it is easy to get to 4♥.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All pass																																	
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<p>♠K732 ♥10 ♦K1065 ♣10765</p> <p>♠J106 ♠AQ85 ♥KJ8643 ♥A97 ♦Q9 ♦872 ♣A8 ♣432</p> <p>♠94 ♥Q52 ♦AJ43 ♣KQJ9</p>	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Dbl</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>3♥</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>South might double on the first round, which could lead to a number of possible auctions. If that happens, unless playing a support redouble, to show three-card spade support, West should pass with a minimum opener.</p> <p>Assuming South passes, it's a much closer decision for West than on the previous hand whether to support spades or rebid hearts, both being majors. If East has a limited hand with only four spades a 2♥ rebid works best; if East has five spades, we may wish we'd supported them.</p> <p>On this auction North's 2NT passes the buck back to South. East will clearly go to 3♥ anyway. The cards lie so well for East-West that, amazingly, eleven tricks are possible on the right view in trumps, but few will venture to game.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	2NT	3♥	All pass																																
West	North	East	South																																														
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<p>♠654 ♥QJ983 ♦2 ♣Q754</p> <p>♠108 ♠QJ972 ♥K76 ♥A ♦10843 ♦KQ96 ♣AJ92 ♣1083</p> <p>♠AK3 ♥10542 ♦AJ75 ♣K6</p>	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Dbl</td></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>?</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Only a trivial little part score hand, but a lot of possible auctions, even leaving aside the possibility of North throwing in a weak semi-two suited opening.</p> <p>Assuming North passes, what would you say as South over East's opening bid? Some might try 1NT, which strikes me as a horrible choice with no spade intermediates; you could easily be walking into a big penalty. Despite the less than ideal shape, a double is more appealing.</p> <p>The next two bids are fairly normal; East would be well advised to give up but it's just possible that West may have another go. Would double suggest this sort of shape? If so, East bids 3♦ and South has a problem. We have reasonable defence but we are by no means certain we can beat 3♦. If you pass North will probably take the "safe" option of bidding another heart, which trump leads can defeat.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♠	Dbl	1NT	2♥	Pass	Pass	?																																			
West	North	East	South																																														
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<p>♠ Q7 ♥ AQ1092 ♦ J432 ♣ 53</p> <p>♠ J2 ♥ J853 ♦ AQ10765 ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ 6543 ♥ 76 ♦ K98 ♣ K762</p> <p>♠ AK1098 ♥ K4 ♦ - ♣ AJ10984</p>		<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♣</td></tr><tr><td>3♦</td><td>3♥</td><td>4♦</td><td>I hate you!</td></tr></table> <p>South starts out with fond hopes of describing this hand at his leisure, but opponents have other ideas. It's OK for West to pre-empt despite having four hearts. Should partner have a fit for hearts, North-South would probably outbid you in spades. It's riskier to make an off-centre pre-empt with four spades on the side.</p> <p>As it goes, North is just about worth a bid and East continues the interference. Now, should 4♠ by South promise five cards? I think so as, if North can't stand spades, you are really out on a limb. With only four spades you can double 4♦.</p> <p>Even so, it's tough for North to pass 4♠. The play is interesting; if West leads a diamond you can play ace and jack of clubs. Now if the defenders continue to force in diamonds you play on cross-ruff lines. An alternative, but really hair-raising line, is to draw trumps and rely on getting both spades and hearts right for eleven tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♣	3♦	3♥	4♦	I hate you!																																																			
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<p>♠ 83 ♥ AQ753 ♦ AJ ♣ 10762</p> <p>♠ J1076 ♥ 104 ♦ 7532 ♣ A85</p> <p>♠ 2 ♥ K62 ♦ K109864 ♣ QJ4</p> <p>♠ AKQ954 ♥ J98 ♦ Q ♣ K93</p>	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td></tr><tr><td>Dbl</td><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>South is too weak to overcall on the first round but decides to ignore Lady Macbeth and to protect next time. Now, what does double mean by West? Is it a strong penalty suggestion or just a hand too strong to sell out to 2♠? On your actual hand you'd like it to be the former but I'm not sure that's right in theory.</p> <p>Let's say East agrees to defend 2♠ doubled and West leads ♣ Q. It holds and your best continuation is probably ♥J. South finesses, disposes of a loser, and should come to seven tricks for a decent result.</p> <p>West could have made 3♥, after a few twists and turns along the way. Why did you pass my double, partner? Surely you didn't think it was for penalties, says results merchant West.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠	Dbl	All pass																																																		
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