

# EBED



# Sim Pairs

**Commentary by Heather Dhondy**

**Friday**  
**6<sup>th</sup> September 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 Minibrige/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](http://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](mailto: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 style="margin: 0;">♠ 104 ♥ 106 ♦ 6543 ♣ Q8765</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ A3                      ♠ J92 ♥ 852                      ♥ AQJ9743 ♦ AKJ872                ♦ - ♣ K3                        ♣ J94</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ KQ8765 ♥ K ♦ Q109 ♣ A102</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>2</td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>9</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>14</td> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>- 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>- 5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		2	N	-	-	-	-	15	9	S	-	-	-	-		14	E	1	4	6	- 5			W	1	4	6	- 5	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : 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>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The choice for East is to open 3♥ or 4♥.</p> <p>If 4♥ is chosen, the auction will probably proceed along similar lines but one level higher. It is unimportant for East-West since the five level is safe for them.</p> <p>On a spade lead, declarer will win and dispose of two spades on the three top diamonds before probably taking a trump finesse. Later a club will be led to towards dummy, and one club ruff in dummy takes declarer to eleven tricks. There is no particular reason to drop the singleton king of trumps so eleven tricks look to be a normal result.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	4♥	Pass	3♥	3♠		All pass		
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																	
	2	N	-	-	-	-																																																	
15	9	S	-	-	-	-																																																	
	14	E	1	4	6	- 5																																																	
		W	1	4	6	- 5																																																	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																																																				
4♥	Pass	3♥	3♠																																																				
	All pass																																																						
<p style="margin: 0;">♠ AK73 ♥ A72 ♦ 754 ♣ 542</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 52                      ♠ Q1094 ♥ K85                      ♥ Q943 ♦ 932                      ♦ AKQ10 ♣ KQJ93                ♣ 10</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ J86 ♥ J106 ♦ J86 ♣ A876</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>11</td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>13</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>7</td> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>1 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>1 2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		11	N	-	-	-	-	9	13	S	-	-	-	-		7	E	3	2	2	1 2			W	3	2	2	1 2	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : 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>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>The contracts will vary between 1NT and 2♥. Those playing a strong no-trump with five-card majors will play 1NT on the auction 1♦-1NT. For those playing Acol, the West hand is too good for 1NT over 1♥, and rather good for 2♥ as well, so West will probably choose 2♣. This will result in the auction above leaving declarer in 2♥.</p> <p>Against 1NT by West, the best lead for North is a fourth highest spade. Now unless declarer rises with the queen, which is unlikely, declarer will probably be held to seven tricks. In 2♥ declarer will lose two trumps, two spades and a club to make exactly.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	2♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥	All Pass	2♦	Pass
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																	
	11	N	-	-	-	-																																																	
9	13	S	-	-	-	-																																																	
	7	E	3	2	2	1 2																																																	
		W	3	2	2	1 2																																																	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																																																				
2♣	Pass	1♥	Pass																																																				
2♥	All Pass	2♦	Pass																																																				

<p>♠ A4 ♥ QJ542 ♦ 83 ♣ AK84</p> <p>♠ Q86                      ♠ KJ52 ♥ 9863                      ♥ K10 ♦ 6542                      ♦ KJ109 ♣ QJ                              ♣ 1076</p> <p>♠ 10973 ♥ A7 ♦ AQ7 ♣ 9532</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>Pass</td> </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>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>3NT is not a good contract and that is not particularly surprising given the combined 24 count, but I still think that there will be plenty of pairs getting there. In practice it is almost certain to fail since to make it you need to cash the ♥A and duck a heart to East playing specifically for king doubleton. Given the favourable lie of the cards, 5♣ can also make, but that is an unlikely contract.</p> <p>I think the results will vary between those in a club part-score making overtricks and those in 3NT going down.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
			Pass																		
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠																		
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT																		
Pass	3NT	All Pass																			

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	14	N	5	2	4	3	3
5	11	S	5	2	4	3	3
	10	E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ 10 ♥ KJ ♦ Q1098732 ♣ A106</p> <p>♠ J53                      ♠ AQ9864 ♥ 7654                      ♥ Q98 ♦ K6                              ♦ 4 ♣ J753                      ♣ K82</p> <p>♠ K72 ♥ A1032 ♦ AJ5 ♣ Q94</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All pass</p> <p>What do you open with the North cards? The choices are between 1♦ and 3♦. In my opinion you have too much outside diamonds for a pre-empt, so I prefer to open 1♦, although it is a little thin. 5♦ is a better contract than 3NT, however at pairs it is not so clear since 3NT will make overtricks and outscore 5♦ if the diamond finesse is right. So, it is a guess, and with East being the one overcalling, it is a good gamble to try 3NT. Today is not South's lucky day, however, and provided the defence have managed to retain communication in spades the contract will be defeated.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♦	1♠	Dble	Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dble										
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT										

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

<p>♠ Q2 ♥ Q1074 ♦ AK985 ♣ K10</p> <p>♠ J843                      ♠ K1095 ♥ 96                              ♥ KJ832 ♦ J62                              ♦ 4 ♣ A973                      ♣ Q52</p> <p>♠ A76 ♥ A5 ♦ Q1073 ♣ J864</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>1♦</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>With a combined 25 count, North-South should be reaching 3NT.</p> <p>If it is played by South it will almost certainly fail, however played by North it is likely to make since either a heart or a spade lead gives a trick and now one club trick will give nine. Declarer doesn't even need to guess the clubs, leading them from dummy will suffice since if East gains the lead with the queen, any suit he plays will not give declarer a problem.</p> <p>It is much more likely to be played by North given the location of the high cards in hearts (the suit likely to be bid by the opponents) so I expect it to make more often than not with the odd pair missing game.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♦	1♥	2♥	Pass	3NT	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
	1♦	1♥	2♥										
Pass	3NT	All pass											

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	14	N	1	4	1	-	2
6	9	S	-	4	-	-	2
	11	E	-	-	-	2	-
		W	-	-	-	2	-

<p>♠ QJ10 ♥ 9654 ♦ KJ10 ♣ 763</p> <p>♠ A432                      ♠ K765 ♥ J                              ♥ KQ73 ♦ Q873                        ♦ A6 ♣ KJ54                        ♣ AQ10</p> <p>♠ 98 ♥ A1082 ♦ 9542 ♣ 982</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table 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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>4♠ will be a popular spot with the occasional pair trying 3NT. Eleven tricks should be made in spades even on a diamond lead through the queen. Declarer will cash two top spades and play four rounds of clubs discarding the diamond from the East hand.</p> <p>In 3NT declarer should always be held to ten tricks. If played by East on a diamond lead, declarer is quite likely to make only nine, losing two diamonds a heart and a spade.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
		1♥	Pass														
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass														
4♠	All Pass																

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	7		N	-	-	-	-
11		18	S	-	-	-	-
	4		E	5	4	3	5
			W	5	4	3	5

<p>♠ 1084 ♥ K82 ♦ J85 ♣ AK42</p> <p>♠ K6                              ♠ AQJ75 ♥ J1063                        ♥ 9754 ♦ A1092                        ♦ Q73 ♣ 963                            ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ 932 ♥ AQ ♦ K64 ♣ QJ1085</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table 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></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There are eight easy tricks for South in a no-trump contract unless West finds the imaginative ♠K lead, or even less likely ♦A followed by ♠K. The normal looking heart lead will hold declarer to eight tricks.</p> <p>However, if the contract is played by North, or if East gets a chance to overcall in spades, then five rounds of spades will cause North-South some discard problems. They don't want to come down to a doubleton diamond each in case they misguess when a diamond comes through. Now it really would be carnage! Instead North must throw a low club and a top club to keep communication in the suit and South will have to discard a diamond and then a winner in order to keep ♦K6.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1NT	Pass	2NT	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
			1NT										
Pass	2NT	All Pass											

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

<p>♠ KQ82 ♥ 32 ♦ KQJ42 ♣ J5</p> <p>♠ 103                              ♠ A954 ♥ Q754                        ♥ J986 ♦ 1083                        ♦ 9 ♣ K864                        ♣ A1092</p> <p>♠ J76 ♥ AK10 ♦ A765 ♣ Q73</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table 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>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>What call do you make with the South cards after partner opens 1♦? Unless you are playing a method to show a forcing hand with support, you have little option but to bid 3NT. I personally like to play 2NT here to show a game forcing raise, just as Jacoby over one major. On this hand it doesn't matter since 3NT is where you want to play.</p> <p>The defence will need to be careful not to allow the tenth trick to be conceded. A heart looks the normal lead here from West since declarer may well have clubs on this auction but has denied a major. Now when East gains the lead with the ♠A, a heart through will be enough to hold declarer to nine tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♦	Pass	3NT	All pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
Pass	1♦	Pass	3NT										
All pass													

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	12		N	-	4	-	3
5		9	S	-	4	-	3
	14		E	1	-	1	-
			W	1	-	1	-

<p>♠ K963 ♥ J1052 ♦ Q ♣ K1094</p> <p>♠ QJ4                      ♠ 2 ♥ Q8                        ♥ A6 ♦ AJ7543                 ♦ 10986 ♣ 72                        ♣ AQJ863</p> <p>♠ A10875 ♥ K9743 ♦ K2 ♣ 5</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>4♦</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>This will be a highly competitive auction with North-South having a double major suit fit, and East-West a big diamond fit. However, neither side can make a game, so defending and collecting a plus score is likely to serve you well.</p> <p>For North-South there are nine tricks theoretically available, however there is the heart guess to be negotiated, so in practice many will make just eight tricks. In diamonds, the defence need to cash out their major suit tricks before declarer can dispose of them on clubs, but they get two opportunities (on opening lead and when in with the ♦K) so it shouldn't prove problematic.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	1♣	2♣	2♦	4♦	5♦	All pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
	Pass	1♣	2♣										
2♦	4♦	5♦	All pass										

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	9	N	-	-	3	3
10	11	S	-	-	3	3
	10	E	2	4	-	-
		W	2	4	-	-

<p>♠ - ♥ K109853 ♦ KJ8 ♣ A843</p> <p>♠ AK98765                ♠ Q1042 ♥ A                         ♥ J6 ♦ 932                      ♦ A76 ♣ J10                      ♣ Q975</p> <p>♠ J3 ♥ Q742 ♦ Q1054 ♣ K62</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>East-West are likely to out-compete North-South in the major suit battle and are right to do so as 4♥ is making.</p> <p>Defending 4♠, North-South will need to get going with their diamonds in time, before declarer sets up the clubs in dummy. They can get away with not leading a diamond, however, when they take the first club they must switch now to drive out the ace in time.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥	2♠	3♥	4♠	All Pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
		Pass	Pass														
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♥														
4♠	All Pass																

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

<p>♠ Q74 ♥ K4 ♦ 54 ♣ KJ10842</p> <p>♠ 95                        ♠ J63 ♥ 10985                 ♥ AJ63 ♦ J96                      ♦ KQ1072 ♣ Q653                 ♣ 9</p> <p>♠ AK1082 ♥ Q72 ♦ A83 ♣ A7</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>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>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Most people who play Acrol these days play a 2NT rebid facing partner's two-level reply as forcing to game. This hand is a good example of why since it allows room for the 5-3 spade fit to be located. If South had felt compelled to rebid 3NT, North would have no idea if South had four or five spades.</p> <p>In 4♠, declarer will need to set about taking a ruff in the short trump hand. Even if the defence lead trumps or switch to them, declarer can't be prevented from taking one ruff. Now the overtrick will depend on whether declarer is prepared to risk the club finesse.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
			1♠																		
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT																		
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠																		
All Pass																					

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	9	N	4	-	5	3
3	11	S	4	-	5	3
	17	E	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ K5 ♥ AK432 ♦ 973 ♣ A107</p> <p>♠ 1063                      ♠ AJ92 ♥ QJ105                    ♥ 98 ♦ 106                         ♦ K54 ♣ 9854                      ♣ Q632</p> <p>♠ Q874 ♥ 76 ♦ AQJ82 ♣ KJ</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : 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>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>What do you respond to partner's 1♥ opening with the South cards? With this shape, if you are strong enough to bid on over partner's 2♥ rebid, you should begin with your five-card minor and follow it up with your four-card spade suit. If you would be passing a 2♥ rebid, then give priority to your four-card major.</p> <p>Although 6♦ is makeable, it is a poor contract and I would expect few pairs to reach it. 3NT will be the normal spot and East is quite likely to lead the unbid suit, thereby resolving a guess, however communication is a bit tricky after the ♣J holds. Now a heart to the ace and a diamond finesse, but could West have ducked with the king? If you don't believe so, then you can unblock and cash the clubs before repeating the diamond finesse, but if West is a tricky player this could be a risky strategy.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦														
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠														
Pass	3NT	All pass															

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	14	N	3	6	4	4	5
3	10	S	3	6	4	4	5
	13	E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ J6 ♥ 10864 ♦ 65 ♣ Q10982</p> <p>♠ 95                              ♠ 108743 ♥ 953                            ♥ Q ♦ Q10984                      ♦ A73 ♣ KJ4                            ♣ A765</p> <p>♠ AKQ2 ♥ AKJ72 ♦ KJ2 ♣ 3</p>	<p>Board 13 : 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>What do you open with the South cards? Although it can sometimes be right to open 2NT with some less than perfect shapes, this one is too flawed. Firstly, you are really stacked in the majors and finding a fit there could be problematic, and, also the small singleton could leave you vulnerable in that suit. In either case, getting to game could depend on whether North dredges up a response. Ironically you might be more likely to end up in game if you open 1♥, since even if North doesn't respond, East will protect, and you will get another go.</p> <p>For those reaching 4♥, they will make either ten or eleven tricks depending on the diamond guess, since, even though you can discard diamonds from dummy on the spades, you will only be able to ruff one.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
	Pass	Pass	1♥														
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♣														
Pass	4♥	All pass															

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	3	N	2	-	5	2	4
6	10	S	2	-	5	2	4
	21	E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ 52 ♥ AQ105 ♦ Q103 ♣ J1084</p> <p>♠ AKQ6                      ♠ J843 ♥ J872                        ♥ K4 ♦ AJ82                        ♦ K75 ♣ Q                            ♣ K952</p> <p>♠ 1097 ♥ 963 ♦ 964 ♣ A763</p>	<p>Board 14 : 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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>I expect this hand to be played almost universally in 4♠ with ten tricks being made. The ♥A is well-placed however the diamond finesse fails. But there is little problem to the play since when diamonds are 3-3 there is only one ruff needed, so drawing three rounds of trumps doesn't present a problem.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
		Pass	Pass														
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass														
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass														

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	9	N	-	-	-	-
17	10	S	-	-	-	-
	4	E	1	4	2	4
		W	2	4	3	4

<p>♠ 42 ♥ AQ86 ♦ AQ4 ♣ AQ97</p> <p>♠ AKJ853      ♠ 106 ♥ K              ♥ 975 ♦ 953            ♦ KJ108 ♣ 1086          ♣ KJ42</p> <p>♠ Q97 ♥ J10432 ♦ 762 ♣ 53</p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>East-West have the minority of points, yet it is them who can make game with all cards very well placed. I don't expect many East-Wests to get there however unless they are pushed and perhaps believe they are sacrificing!</p> <p>In a heart contract, declarer will try both minor suit finesses, but neither will work and eight tricks are the limit of the hand.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♠	Dble	1NT	Pass	2♠	Dble	Pass	3♥	All Pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
			Pass																		
1♠	Dble	1NT	Pass																		
2♠	Dble	Pass	3♥																		
All Pass																					

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	18	N	-	-	2	- 1
11	8	S	-	-	2	- 1
	3	E	1	2	-	4 -
		W	2	2	-	4 -

<p>♠ 10643 ♥ A10742 ♦ 2 ♣ A92</p> <p>♠ A85              ♠ Q97 ♥ J5                ♥ KQ6 ♦ KJ1087        ♦ Q95 ♣ QJ6             ♣ 10843</p> <p>♠ KJ2 ♥ 983 ♦ A643 ♣ K75</p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>If West opens a weak 1NT that is likely to end the auction. On a heart lead, the defence can establish six tricks, and declarer seven, so there is little to be done by either side and +90 to East-West will be a popular result.</p> <p>If East-West are playing a strong no-trump, West will open 1♦. This allows North into the auction with a 1♥ overcall, and they may now win the auction in 2♥. There are two trumps, two spades and a club to lose, so it will make exactly for a very good result for North-South.</p> <p>A good hand for the pre-emptive effect of the weak NT.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1NT	All pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>						
1NT	All pass								

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

<p>♠ 87 ♥ AJ753 ♦ K82 ♣ 763</p> <p>♠ KQ10954      ♠ 63 ♥ K9              ♥ Q1086 ♦ A6                ♦ QJ4 ♣ A82             ♣ J1095</p> <p>♠ AJ2 ♥ 42 ♦ 109753 ♣ KQ4</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Entries to dummy are problematic for declarer, however in practice North is endplayed on the opening lead. Either to give an entry or pick up the trumps for declarer. A club lead looks most likely, and declarer does best to play a club back.</p> <p>When declarer is in dummy for what might be the only time, playing a trump to the ten looks right and works on the actual hand. Now declarer has just one trick to lose in each suit, and 3♠ just making will be normal result.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	3♠	All pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
	Pass	Pass	Pass														
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass														
3♠	All pass																

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	8	N	-	-	-	-
16	6	S	-	1	-	-
	10	E	2	-	2	3 2
		W	3	-	2	3 3

<p>♠ K643 ♥ AKJ2 ♦ QJ5 ♣ 86</p> <p>♠ A752                      ♠ Q1098 ♥ 1073                      ♥ Q54 ♦ A83                         ♦ 97 ♣ J107                        ♣ Q953</p> <p>♠ J ♥ 986 ♦ K10642 ♣ AK42</p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>3NT will be a very popular contract on this combined 25 count. The ♠10 looks a normal lead and establishes three tricks in the suit for the defence. They can cash these when in with the ♦A, however, declarer has the remainder of the tricks without the need for any finessing.</p> <p>It is hard to see much deviation from this course of events.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
		Pass	Pass														
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT														
Pass	3NT	All Pass															

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	14	N	2	4	4	1	3
9	6	S	2	4	4	1	3
	11	E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ 10982 ♥ J73 ♦ 9 ♣ J9754</p> <p>♠ K                              ♠ 7654 ♥ AKQ1042                      ♥ - ♦ J842                             ♦ 107653 ♣ 108                              ♣ AKQ3</p> <p>♠ AQJ3 ♥ 9865 ♦ AKQ ♣ 62</p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Hmmm, I wonder what will happen on this board! The first round of the auction looks normal, but what should South do after East's double? You don't necessarily expect West to be passing, but it looks a possibility given your weak trump holding. You could try a redouble and hope that the opponents chicken out of penalising you, but West won't be deterred, and East should respect that. Also, partner is not going to save you since J73 is a perfectly respectable trump holding especially with a singleton outside. Unfortunately, West will begin with four rounds of trumps, and follow up with cashing some clubs. Now if East switches to a spade do you finesse?</p> <p>I think there will be a few penalties for North-South.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1♥	Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
			1♥										
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass										

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	2	N	1	-	-	2	1
13	9	S	-	-	-	1	-
	16	E	-	3	3	-	-
		W	-	3	3	-	-

<p>♠ 1043 ♥ A42 ♦ K763 ♣ 1093</p> <p>♠ A5                              ♠ KQJ86 ♥ KJ87                             ♥ 95 ♦ J2                                 ♦ Q84 ♣ K8752                        ♣ QJ4</p> <p>♠ 972 ♥ Q1063 ♦ A1095 ♣ A6</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Somehow East-West need to reach a no-trump part-score do score well on this hand. West might consider opening 1NT, or East might consider rebidding 2NT after 1♣-1♠-2♣.</p> <p>There are eight tricks possible in no-trumps and nine in clubs, although neither are guaranteed if the defence can put declarer to an early heart guess. However, both 3♣ and 2NT will make more often than not with the ten extra points going to 2NT.</p> <p>Top marks go to those who manage to play in a spade part-score as they will make nine tricks (subject to the possible heart guess above).</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣	All pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass										
2♣	Pass	3♣	All pass										

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



<p>♠ QJ632 ♥ Q9 ♦ J982 ♣ 83</p> <p>♠ AK8                      ♠ 1074 ♥ 8432                      ♥ 105 ♦ 64                              ♦ K107 ♣ K1064                      ♣ J9752</p> <p>♠ 95 ♥ AKJ76 ♦ AQ53 ♣ AQ</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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North-South will reach game in no-trumps or a major, but it is important to declare from the South hand to protect against a club lead through the AQ. In practice no-trump will be played from South as they are the one with the stopper in the fourth suit (clubs). Ten tricks are always there since on a club lead, a third diamond can be established. If the defence find a passive heart lead, declarer might be held to nine if they play on diamonds since East will gain the lead and switch to clubs. Instead declarer needs to play on spades since West has both the ace and king so East cannot gain the lead in time, but this is not an obvious line of play.</p> <p>In practice most declarers will be making ten tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
	Pass	Pass	1♥														
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♦														
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT														

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	6	N	-	4	3	4	2
10	4	S	-	4	4	5	4
	20	E	1	-	-	-	-
		W	1	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ K762 ♥ 75 ♦ K876 ♣ 973</p> <p>♠ QJ8                      ♠ A ♥ 93                        ♥ QJ1082 ♦ QJ42                      ♦ A10953 ♣ K1042                      ♣ QJ</p> <p>♠ 109543 ♥ AK64 ♦ - ♣ A865</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>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>4♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>This will be another competitive auction and most tables will finish in a part-score, with a few East-Wests venturing to 3NT. When the diamond finesse works, 3NT is nearly makeable, but the 4-0 break gives it too many handling problems.</p> <p>Meanwhile in diamonds, declarer will make nine tricks. With three top tricks in defence, the simplest way to ensure a fourth is by over-ruffing dummy in hearts. If North-South buy the contract in spades, declarer will need to take a good view in trumps to make nine tricks.</p> <p>I expect there to be few contracts making in either direction. A good hand to defend.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♥	1♠	Dble	3♠	4♦	All Pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
		1♥	1♠										
Dble	3♠	4♦	All Pass										

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	6	N	-	-	-	3	-
9	14	S	-	-	-	3	-
	11	E	-	3	2	-	2
		W	-	3	2	-	2

<p>♠ AQ3 ♥ J6 ♦ Q109543 ♣ Q6</p> <p>♠ 9854                      ♠ K72 ♥ K83                      ♥ Q10954 ♦ J72                        ♦ K86 ♣ K84                      ♣ J7</p> <p>♠ J106 ♥ A72 ♦ A ♣ A109532</p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There will be some variety here since neither the bidding nor the play are straight-forward. North has choices of rebid after 1♣-1♦-2♣. 2♦, 3♣ and 2NT are all possible. 3♣ is certain to locate an eight-card fit, so is the safest invite, however 2NT again will get you the match-points if you take a good view in the play.</p> <p>In 2NT declarer must hold up hearts to the third round and then view the clubs correctly, playing them from the South hand. The alternative of playing for the ♠K to be right and playing clubs from the North hand is fatal when the spade finesse fails.</p> <p>3♣ will make by picking up the trumps for one loser to go with two hearts and a spade.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
			1♣														
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣														
Pass	3♣	All Pass															

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	11	N	3	2	-	1	2
7	9	S	3	2	-	1	2
	13	E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ AK87 ♥ Q10962 ♦ 3 ♣ A97</p> <p>♠ J2                      ♠ Q64 ♥ 8                        ♥ AK743 ♦ 10964                ♦ QJ52 ♣ QJ10863            ♣ 2</p> <p>♠ 10953 ♥ J5 ♦ AK87 ♣ K54</p>	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>4♠ looks like a good contract to reach, however it unfortunately fails if the defence find their heart ruff.</p> <p>I expect some pairs to stop in a part-score in spades, and of those in 4♠ some will make, but the majority will fail since the singleton will be led in most cases despite the opening bid of dummy.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	4♠	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠														
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT														
Pass	4♠	All pass															

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

<p>♠ 10542 ♥ AJ1053 ♦ 1052 ♣ 4</p> <p>♠ 97                      ♠ AKJ83 ♥ Q2                      ♥ K74 ♦ A64                      ♦ Q3 ♣ QJ8632                ♣ A109</p> <p>♠ Q6 ♥ 986 ♦ KJ987 ♣ K75</p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>Pass</td> <td>1♠</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>3NT by East is a normal contract to reach and is only put under threat by a heart lead. Declarer needs to cut communication in hearts by ducking twice and then North can switch to diamonds.</p> <p>On a diamond lead, declarer has little problem since this can be run round to the queen and the clubs established. The defence have some uncomfortable discards to find, and unless North keeps all four spades, baring the ♥A, declarer might even wrap up the rest. There will be tables where twelve tricks are made.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
	Pass	1♠	Pass														
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass														
3NT	All pass																

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

<p>♠ K2 ♥ AJ83 ♦ A53 ♣ AJ107</p> <p>♠ 9763                      ♠ AJ8 ♥ 1052                      ♥ KQ74 ♦ Q4                        ♦ 9762 ♣ 9865                      ♣ K3</p> <p>♠ Q1054 ♥ 96 ♦ KJ108 ♣ Q42</p>	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This is not a happy hand for those playing a weak no-trump as East-West. East will go at least three down in 1NT<sup>x</sup>, and there is no better contract since it is possible to take 2♥ and 2♠ four down.</p> <p>What should West do after partner's 1NT is passed by South? You can sense a double coming, given your lack of values, and there is a case to attempt to muddy the waters with Stayman. It is a complete bluff of course, but it might just help you to get away with it, depending on whether North-South are on firm ground with their agreements.</p> <p>Those escaping without being penalised will score well.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1NT	Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
		1NT	Pass										
Pass	Dble	All Pass											

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
	17	N	4	4	2	3	4
2	13	S	4	4	2	3	4
	8	E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ Q108 ♥ A8543 ♦ 3 ♣ AQ92</p> <p>♠ 6                      ♠ AK7532 ♥ Q9                      ♥ 102 ♦ AJ86                    ♦ KQ942 ♣ 1087643                ♣ -</p> <p>♠ J94 ♥ KJ76 ♦ 1075 ♣ KJ5</p>	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>What call do you make with the East cards over North's 1♥ opening? One possibility is 2♥, showing spades and a minor – at least 5-5. If your suit lengths were reversed, I would recommend this without hesitation. However, when you have six spades, you are going to be able to out-compete your opponents in hearts and if you show spades first, followed by your second suit, you will locate the 6-2 fit. Note that if you overcall 1♠, and the auction comes back to you at the four level, a rebid of 4♠ should imply a two-suiter.</p> <p>There is nothing to the play on this board after two rounds of hearts, and those who reach 4♠ will do well when the trumps are 3-3.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥	Pass	Pass	3♦	3♥	5♦	All Pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
			Pass																		
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥																		
Pass	Pass	3♦	3♥																		
5♦	All Pass																				

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	12		N	-	-	1	-
7		12	S	-	-	1	-
	9		E	-	5	-	4
			W	-	5	-	4

<p>♠ 106 ♥ A93 ♦ Q6 ♣ AK10752</p> <p>♠ Q932                    ♠ AKJ87 ♥ Q107542                ♥ J86 ♦ 1097                    ♦ 5 ♣ -                         ♣ Q943</p> <p>♠ 54 ♥ K ♦ AKJ8432 ♣ J86</p>	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North-South have the values for game, but no game is making. 5♦ is unlucky and only fails because West is void in clubs and able to ruff.</p> <p>In theory, North-South do best to defend since no game is making, however the defence to 4♠ is tricky, and may not be found. If declarer is allowed to draw trumps and establish hearts the contract will make, so instead the defence must attack dummy's entries by forcing club ruffs. Whoever said that when the opponents sacrifice with their combined fifteen count you should double and lead a trump? On this hand you must make them take ruffs in the short trump hand. No one said it was an easy game!</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♣	1♠	2♦	4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble	All pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
Pass	1♣	1♠	2♦														
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble														
All pass																	

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	13		N	4	2	-	2
4		11	S	4	3	-	2
	12		E	-	-	3	3
			W	-	-	3	3

<p>♠ J ♥ 872 ♦ AQ987 ♣ AJ105</p> <p>♠ A52                      ♠ 1086 ♥ AKQJ94                ♥ 653 ♦ 1052                    ♦ K63 ♣ 8                         ♣ K642</p> <p>♠ KQ9743 ♥ 10 ♦ J4 ♣ Q973</p>	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This hand will be a part-score battle between the majors. Neither contract is making at the three level, so if the auction gets that high you should be defending (preferably doubling them for that all-important pairs score of +200). However, the defence to both three-level contracts is tricky.</p> <p>In a spade contract West must begin with the singleton. If a top heart is cashed first, declarer will have the communication to hand to draw trumps. On a club lead, declarer wins and play a trump, but West can win and switch to diamonds, forcing an entry in partner's hand in time to get a club ruff.</p> <p>In a heart contract the defence need to get going with diamonds at trick one to remove declarer's entry to the ♣K.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♦	Pass	1♠	2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠	All pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
	1♦	Pass	1♠														
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠														
All pass																	

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	12		N	3	1	-	3
14		6	S	3	1	-	2
	8		E	-	-	2	2
			W	-	-	2	2

<p>♠ AK10985 ♥ 654 ♦ 4 ♣ AJ10</p> <p>♠ J3                      ♠ 64 ♥ K932                  ♥ AQJ7 ♦ K1062                 ♦ Q985 ♣ 764                    ♣ Q83</p> <p>♠ Q72 ♥ 108 ♦ AJ73 ♣ K952</p>	<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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Rdble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>4♠ is an excellent contract, but the hard part is getting there with your combined 22 count. The likelihood is that there will be three passes to North, since there is nothing to recommend opening any of the other three hands. Now when North opens 1♠, East will double to attempt to steal the part-score. Unfortunately, this may well backfire since North-South will win the auction in spades and now declarer is much more likely to take the right view in clubs.</p> <p>I expect most pairs to make eleven tricks, but not all will be in game.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Dble	Rdble	2♥	2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
		Pass	Pass																		
Pass	1♠	Dble	Rdble																		
2♥	2♠	Pass	3♠																		
Pass	4♠	All Pass																			

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	12	N	5	-	-	5 3
7	11	S	5	-	-	5 3
	10	E	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ KQ976 ♥ AQ5 ♦ 106 ♣ 432</p> <p>♠ A3                      ♠ 82 ♥ K96432                ♥ J87 ♦ AQJ                     ♦ K9832 ♣ A7                      ♣ KQ10</p> <p>♠ J1054 ♥ 10 ♦ 754 ♣ J9865</p>	<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>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Somehow East-West are going to arrive in 4♥, and the vulnerability will preclude any North-Souths contemplating a save in 4♠.</p> <p>There are two trumps to lose, but the ♠3 can be discarded on the third round of clubs. Now when a trump is played off dummy, and the ten appears, there will be just the ace and queen to lose.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♥	1♠	2♦	3♠	Dble	Pass	4♥	All Pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
			Pass														
1♥	1♠	2♦	3♠														
Dble	Pass	4♥	All Pass														

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	11	N	-	-	-	1 -
18	9	S	-	-	-	1 -
	2	E	-	4	5	- 3
		W	1	5	5	- 3

<p>♠ J4 ♥ AQJ3 ♦ KJ1064 ♣ 93</p> <p>♠ 7653                    ♠ A1092 ♥ K954                   ♥ 76 ♦ Q932                   ♦ 5 ♣ A                        ♣ Q87654</p> <p>♠ KQ8 ♥ 1082 ♦ A87 ♣ KJ102</p>	<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>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>On the auction given above, West will begin with a major suit. A heart looks worse, but if declarer is careful, eleven tricks can always be made, even on a spade lead when all finesse are working.</p> <p>The percentage play in diamonds is to cash the ace and finesse West for the queen since this will also pick up the suit when it breaks 4-1, as it does here. However, there is plenty of finessing to do and it is important to play the ten of hearts early to ensure you have entries to take them all. The defence will end up having to either give you an extra entry to hand in spades or take the working finesses for you.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT	All pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣														
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT														
All pass																	

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	12	N	2	4	4	1 5
9	6	S	2	4	4	1 5
	13	E	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-