

EBED



Sim Pairs

Commentary by Brian Senior

Wednesday
4th 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. 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>♠ J5 ♥ 98 ♦ A1032 ♣ K7432</p> <p>♠ 82 ♠ AK106 ♥ AJ63 ♥ KQ74 ♦ K985 ♦ 64 ♣ A85 ♣ J96</p> <p>♠ Q9743 ♥ 1052 ♦ QJ7 ♣ Q10</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>7</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		8		-	-	-	-	-		12	13	-	-	-	-	-			7	1	1	3	1	2				1	-	3	1	1		<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <p>East has a weak no-trump and, having opened 1NT, it is hard to see any alternative auction to one in which West uses Stayman, finds that there is a 4-4 heart fit, and raises to 4♥.</p> <p>Where systemic requirements mean that East opens 1♣ or 1♦, South might scrape up a 1♠ overcall. West will now have to begin with a negative double but, once again, when East bids hearts in response, it seems normal for West to raise to game. Bidding to game is all very well, but making it is quite a different matter. If the defence gives declarer no help, there are two losers in each minor, and if South leads either a safe trump or the fourth-best spade the defence should be in control and defeat the contract by a trick. If, however, South kicks off with the queen of diamonds, there is a small possibility that declarer will be in a position to take a third-round ruffing finesse against the ten, and that would provide a parking place for one of the club losers. However, there is a lot of work to do, as declarer must also take two spade ruffs in the dummy, so even this may not be sufficient to allow the contract to come home.</p>
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																											
8		-	-	-	-	-																																											
12	13	-	-	-	-	-																																											
	7	1	1	3	1	2																																											
		1	-	3	1	1																																											
<p>♠ KJ6 ♥ 975 ♦ QJ1086 ♣ KQ</p> <p>♠ A ♠ Q109875 ♥ KJ6 ♥ Q1043 ♦ K432 ♦ - ♣ 98532 ♣ A106</p> <p>♠ 432 ♥ A82 ♦ A975 ♣ J74</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>12</td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>8</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>9</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		12		-	-	-	-	1		11	8	-	-	-	-	1			9	3	-	2	2	-				3	-	2	2	-		<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <p>East has the point-count and six-card suit appropriate for a weak 2♠ opening, but the rest of the hand’s distribution argues strongly against such a bid, with two outside first-round controls, four cards in the other major, and decent support should partner have long clubs. No, East does best to pass for now and see what makes sense as the auction progresses.</p> <p>There is a case for opening the West hand but personally I would pass, despite the favourable vulnerability, as the hand is borderline at best and why would I want to open in a nine-high suit and risk attracting a costly lead against a likely major-suit contract by North?</p> <p>So it will be North who will open at many tables, with a weak no-trump. Now East can compete, either with 2♠ or with a bid to show both majors such as a Landy 2♣. As it turns out, EW can make the same eight tricks with either major as the trump suit, so it may not matter too much which bid is chosen. Personally, with a two-card disparity between the suit lengths, I tend to treat the hand as a one-suiter unless the four-card suit is very strong and the six-carder weak.</p> <p>EW can make 2♥/♠ or 3♣. While NS can only make 1NT. North too would do best to pass – not a ridiculous option with only 12 HCP including a doubleton king-queen. I wonder if any tables will see the board passed out?</p>
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																											
12		-	-	-	-	1																																											
11	8	-	-	-	-	1																																											
	9	3	-	2	2	-																																											
		3	-	2	2	-																																											

<p>♠ KJ10743 ♥ 1054 ♦ 4 ♣ K52</p> <p>♠ Q8 ♠ 962 ♥ 9 ♥ AK862 ♦ A109832 ♦ KJ ♣ A743 ♣ J86</p> <p>♠ A5 ♥ QJ73 ♦ Q765 ♣ Q109</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <p>Again we have a number of borderline opening bids on this deal. There is no strong reason to upgrade South's flat 11 HCP to an opening bid, unless playing Precision, for example, where it is normal to open flat 11-point hands. West may open 1♦ but it is hardly compulsory at adverse vulnerability and in second seat, the place that all bidding is supposed to be at its soundest. Whether or not West opens, North has a weak 2♠ opening or overcall. If West passed, North's 2♠ will come back around and he will balance with 3♦ and probably play there, just making on careful play. Or South may compete to 3♠ for down one. If West opened 1♦, East is likely to bid 3♥ over the 2♠ overcall, and West will be stuck with rebidding 4♦ – better than 4♣, I think, with this disparity between the two suits. And East may raise that to game for down two and a pretty horrible match-point score.</p>																																																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>12</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>11</td> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	7		N	-	-	1	2	1	10	12	S	-	-	1	2	1			E	1	3	-	-	-		11	W	1	3	-	-	-	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
7		N	-	-	1	2	1																																										
10	12	S	-	-	1	2	1																																										
		E	1	3	-	-	-																																										
	11	W	1	3	-	-	-																																										

<p>♠ Q82 ♥ AJ1074 ♦ K43 ♣ 108</p> <p>♠ A543 ♠ J ♥ 53 ♥ Q982 ♦ 76 ♦ AQ952 ♣ K9732 ♣ QJ6</p> <p>♠ K10976 ♥ K6 ♦ J108 ♣ A54</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <p>There will be two passes to East, who has an effective 11-count. This time the hand is an automatic opening bid as the longest suit is a good one and East would be very happy to receive a diamond lead. South will overcall 1♠ and West should pass, though no doubt some will try 1NT. North has three-card spade support and 10 HCP plus a possible ruffing value, so is too good for a simple raise to 2♠, which would normally be treated as being mildly pre-emptive. Instead, North should cue-bid 2♦ to show a constructive spade raise, three or more spades and a good 9+ HCP – perfect for this hand. East has nothing to say and South has too little to be interested in game facing a passed hand so signs off in 2♠. That may well end the auction, but some Easts will look at their spade shortage and think that, as the opposition have stopped at the two level, their partner must have some high cards, and maybe there is a part-score on for EW. Though the hand is still the same minimum with which East opened the bidding, he may double for take-out, and West will respond 3♣. The balancing double is a big winner on this occasion, as 3♣ can be made, while 2♠ cannot be beaten. It is a brave action, though, when vulnerable.</p>																																																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>12</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>11</td> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	10		N	-	-	-	2	-	7	12	S	-	-	-	2	-			E	3	1	-	-	-		11	W	3	1	-	-	-	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
10		N	-	-	-	2	-																																										
7	12	S	-	-	-	2	-																																										
		E	3	1	-	-	-																																										
	11	W	3	1	-	-	-																																										

<p>♠ A9 ♥ 653 ♦ 10943 ♣ AK54</p> <p>♠ QJ102 ♠ K86 ♥ AK982 ♥ J4 ♦ 65 ♦ AQJ82 ♣ 92 ♣ J106</p> <p>♠ 7543 ♥ Q107 ♦ K7 ♣ Q873</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <p>Another borderline opening bid, another pass. North may have ace-king, ace, but that is all and vulnerable against not is not the time to start getting frisky with flat 11-counts. East, however, has both a decent five-card suit and a twelfth point, so the hand is an automatic opening bid. If playing weak no-trump, that opening should be 1NT, not 1♦, treating the hand as balanced rather than single-suited. West is nearly worth an invitation to game and, indeed, if the response to Stayman shows that there is a fit, he should bid on. On this occasion, however, East responds 2♦, so West bids 2♥, scramble Stayman. As West could have had equal length in the majors for this sequence, and it is unclear which will play better when there is a 5-2 heart fit and 4-3 spades, East corrects to 2♠ and that ends the auction. The play and defence could get quite interesting, but double dummy declarer cannot be prevented from making nine tricks with either major as trumps. I suspect, however, that quite a number will be held to eight tricks after three rounds of clubs shortens the long-trump hand.</p>																																																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>12</td> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>7</td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11		N	1	-	-	-	-	10	12	S	1	-	-	-	-			E	-	2	3	3	1		7	W	-	2	3	3	1	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
11		N	1	-	-	-	-																																										
10	12	S	1	-	-	-	-																																										
		E	-	2	3	3	1																																										
	7	W	-	2	3	3	1																																										

<p>♠ J1075 ♥ A72 ♦ A94 ♣ J82</p> <p>♠ A62 ♠ KQ ♥ Q95 ♥ 864 ♦ K ♦ QJ108632 ♣ 1097654 ♣ 3</p> <p>♠ 9843 ♥ KJ103 ♦ 75 ♣ AKQ</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <p>There should be two passes to East, who has to decide whether to open 3♦ at adverse vulnerability or settle for a weak 2♦ or, if that isn't an option, a wet and feeble pass.</p> <p>You will gather that I do not approve of the pass, and you would be correct. Pre-empts cause problems for everyone and should be bid as often as is sensibly possible for that reason. Here, suppose that East passes, South will open a weak no-trump or if playing strong no-trump will open 1♣ and be able to limit his hand on the next round. NS may play in a spade part-score, but there is no danger of their getting too high because there is no pressure in the auction. But suppose that East opens 3♦, now South will have to double and, with 10 working HCP, will North not jump to 4♠ at many tables? That contract is doomed short of a serious defensive error. The difference – pressure. And a weak 2♦ opening doesn't quite get the job done, as North has room to follow an invitational sequence facing South's take-out double, and South declines the invitation very easily so they stop at a making level.</p>																																																		
<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr> </table>	HCP		10		9	8	13		<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <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>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	-	2	3	2		S	2	-	2	3	2		E	-	2	-	-	-		W	-	2	-	-	-	
HCP																																																			
10																																																			
9	8																																																		
13																																																			
Makeable contracts																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
N	2	-	2	3	2																																														
S	2	-	2	3	2																																														
E	-	2	-	-	-																																														
W	-	2	-	-	-																																														

<p>♠ Q7 ♥ K86432 ♦ K9 ♣ A98</p> <p>♠ KJ10832 ♠ 54 ♥ J95 ♥ A10 ♦ 1085 ♦ Q732 ♣ 4 ♣ QJ1052</p> <p>♠ A96 ♥ Q7 ♦ AJ64 ♣ K763</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <p>A weak no-trump from South, and will West overcall 2♠? He might do at a different vulnerability, but the hand is awfully weak to come in when vulnerable and most are likely to pass. North transfers to hearts and some will now simply commit to 4♥ as there is known to be at least an eight-card fit. Others will offer a choice of games by jumping to 3NT at their next turn. It's a close decision which approach is correct and either could win out on any given day. I would be inclined to commit to hearts because NS have only the bare combined strength to make game, and a trump suit gives a little more control of the play, whereas if North had, say, 15 HCP, it would be more likely that the same tricks might be available in no-trump as in hearts.</p> <p>On this occasion, 3NT is the place to play. The friendly heart position permits declarer to make five heart tricks by leading low to the queen then ducking on the way back, and there are 11 tricks in all – possibly even 12 if West makes the likely lead of the jack of spades.</p>																																																		
<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr> </table>	HCP		12		5	9	14		<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <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>3</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>2</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>	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	4	3	5	2	5		S	3	3	5	2	6		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-	
HCP																																																			
12																																																			
5	9																																																		
14																																																			
Makeable contracts																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
N	4	3	5	2	5																																														
S	3	3	5	2	6																																														
E	-	-	-	-	-																																														
W	-	-	-	-	-																																														

<p>♠ QJ4 ♥ K74 ♦ K965 ♣ Q64</p> <p>♠ 85 ♠ A10962 ♥ A1096 ♥ 5 ♦ AJ42 ♦ Q107 ♣ AJ2 ♣ 10853</p> <p>♠ K73 ♥ QJ832 ♦ 83 ♣ K97</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <p>Yet another weak no-trump opening – every hand seems to be either a weak no-trump or just short of being a 1NT opening. Anyway, West opens 1NT and East transfers to spades. Will South double to show hearts? If that is how the partnership plays double, and not as a double of 1NT, he may as well, as it is a pretty safe action and so is a cheap way into the auction.</p> <p>If South does double, West may pass to deny three spades, and North may compete with 3♥. That would probably end the auction, though if West is allowed by his agreements to make a penalty double he should do so as he can see four tricks in his own hand and the opposition have stopped short of game so partner rates to have a little something.</p> <p>A double of 3♥ is a big point winner, as the contract should be down two and the difference between +100 and +300 will be huge for EW given that their own contract of 2♠ rates to make for +110.</p>																																																		
<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> </table>	HCP		11		14	6	9		<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	1	-	-		S	-	-	1	-	-		E	2	1	-	2	1		W	2	2	-	2	1	
HCP																																																			
11																																																			
14	6																																																		
9																																																			
Makeable contracts																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
N	-	-	1	-	-																																														
S	-	-	1	-	-																																														
E	2	1	-	2	1																																														
W	2	2	-	2	1																																														

<p>♠ J10 ♥ AKQ7 ♦ 865 ♣ QJ83</p> <p>♠ AQ4 ♠ 532 ♥ 83 ♥ J1096 ♦ AKQ7 ♦ J10932 ♣ A976 ♣ K</p> <p>♠ K9876 ♥ 542 ♦ 4 ♣ 10542</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td>5</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	13		N	-	-	-	-	-	19	5	S	-	-	-	-	-	3		E	-	5	2	1	3			W	-	5	2	1	3	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <p>I just mentioned agreements about doubles and here we are again. North opens 1NT, South bids 2♥, transfer, and what does West do? This time he would like to be able to show a penalty double of 1NT. He can double, or pass then double 2♠, but he needs to show three types of hand – hearts, take-out of spades, and penalty double of 1NT. One possibility is to play a 2♠ cue-bid for take-out, but some play this as promising a two-suiter, while it is also inflexible in that we cannot play for penalties, as we could by passing then doubling for take-out. Has your partnership got a clear agreement as to what the various bids and doubles mean here? Say that double would show hearts as on the previous deal. West will pass then may double 2♠ for take-out. East responds 2NT, two places to play, and converts West's 3♣ response to 3♦. That works out OK this time, but may not always do so – East may have only hearts and respond 3♥ to the double and be disappointed with dummy's trump support.</p> <p>With the ♠K inside, there are 11 tricks to be made in a diamond part-score. 3NT is also unbeatable, but you wouldn't really want to be in any game that required the spade finesse to win, given the auction. NS, of course, can make nothing.</p>
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
13		N	-	-	-	-	-																																										
19	5	S	-	-	-	-	-																																										
3		E	-	5	2	1	3																																										
		W	-	5	2	1	3																																										

<p>♠ AQ52 ♥ KQJ ♦ 1085 ♣ K85</p> <p>♠ 94 ♠ K103 ♥ A109742 ♥ 53 ♦ 42 ♦ QJ73 ♣ A103 ♣ J764</p> <p>♠ J876 ♥ 86 ♦ AK96 ♣ Q92</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>7</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	15		N	2	3	1	4	3	8	7	S	2	3	1	4	3	10		E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <p>West will open 2♥ after two passes and should North overcall 2NT? Certainly, if North does anything it should be 2NT rather than a take-out double with a 4-3-3-3 hand, but 2NT goes up to 18 HCP and this is a pretty uninspiring 15-count. Some may therefore pass and a making game is missed.</p> <p>If North overcalls 2NT, South may use Stayman then bid 4♠, and the double diamond finesse sees declarer home with 10 tricks.</p> <p>If North does not overcall, South may double, and now North can choose his poison but one or other of 3NT and 4♠ will be reached. That is part of the reason why North need not strain to overcall. If there is no game on, he may be just as happy defending as playing the contract, while if game is on South will reopen any time he has fewer than three hearts.</p> <p>If EW are left to play in 2♥, they should be down two for -200. That is OK so long as most NS are bidding and making game.</p>
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
15		N	2	3	1	4	3																																										
8	7	S	2	3	1	4	3																																										
10		E	-	-	-	-	-																																										
		W	-	-	-	-	-																																										

<p>♠ J7 ♥ AKJ5 ♦ A10942 ♣ 107</p> <p>♠ 9865 ♠ A4 ♥ 43 ♥ Q9876 ♦ J65 ♦ KQ3 ♣ KJ94 ♣ 865</p> <p>♠ KQ1032 ♥ 102 ♦ 87 ♣ AQ32</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>11</td> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	13		N	2	2	1	3	2	5	11	S	1	2	-	3	2	11		E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <p>South has only 11 HCP, but they are concentrated in the two long suits, where they are working overtime, so this is an automatic 1♠ opening. North responds 2♦, South has to rebid 2♠ as he is far too weak to bid a game-forcing 3♣, and North bids 3♥. South has no fit for either red suit, has already promised at least five spades, and has a double club stopper – 3NT is what is known as a no-brainer.</p> <p>If West leads the unbid suit, a club, that gives the ninth trick immediately – two clubs, four spades and three top red tricks. If West can find a non-club lead, however, the defence can just about hold declarer to eight tricks if they get the defence just right. A diamond to the queen, club through ducked, and a second club through when East gets in with either the ♥Q or, more likely, the ♠A. The defence comes to two clubs, a spade, a diamond, and a second red trick.</p> <p>I fancy 3NT to make more often than not, however, with even a fair proportion of those who avoid the club lead failing the get the subsequent defence right. If in doubt I always back the declarer – play is simply that much easier than defence as only one player is involved and he can see what he is trying to achieve and with what resources more clearly than can a defender.</p>
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
13		N	2	2	1	3	2																																										
5	11	S	1	2	-	3	2																																										
11		E	-	-	-	-	-																																										
		W	-	-	-	-	-																																										

<p>♠ A65 ♥ KQ964 ♦ J10632 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ QJ72 ♠ 98 ♥ A72 ♥ 85 ♦ K ♦ A54 ♣ 98532 ♣ AKJ1074</p> <p>♠ K1043 ♥ J103 ♦ Q987 ♣ Q6</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>12</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8</td> <td>E</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	10		N	-	2	2	-	-	10	12	S	-	3	2	1	-		8	E	4	-	-	-	3			W	4	-	-	-	3	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <p>Should North open the bidding? Probably not, although I am sure that some will. A 1♥ opening would be much more attractive if non-vulnerable, or even if the diamonds were AJxxx and the spades three low – high cards in the long suits are a big plus feature as those are the suits which will be most important in the play.</p> <p>If North passes, East will open 1♣ and West respond 1♠. Now North can show the other two suits, perhaps via a double, perhaps via an impossible 1NT overcall to confirm at least 5-5 shape. East will rebid the clubs, South compete in diamonds, and West raise clubs, perhaps to the four level as there is a likely 11-card fit to offset the possibly useless ♦K.</p> <p>East will never go on to game. West is a passed hand and there are too many potential losers if West cannot bid game himself – which West might do, for example, with ♥AKx and a small singleton diamond.</p> <p>4♣ is the limit of the hand, while South could make 3♦ if allowed to play there. This should be very rare, however, as West should always know about the big club fit. Everything changes, of course, if North opens 1♥, but East will overcall 2♣ and that should see West compete as high as is necessary.</p>
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
10		N	-	2	2	-	-																																										
10	12	S	-	3	2	1	-																																										
	8	E	4	-	-	-	3																																										
		W	4	-	-	-	3																																										

<p>♠ A8 ♥ KQ1064 ♦ 7 ♣ QJ982</p> <p>♠ 10972 ♠ K5 ♥ - ♥ AJ9732 ♦ AQ10983 ♦ 52 ♣ 1053 ♣ AK7</p> <p>♠ QJ643 ♥ 85 ♦ KJ64 ♣ 64</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>15</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>7</td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	12		N	-	-	-	-	-	6	15	S	-	-	-	-	-		7	E	2	5	1	3	2			W	2	5	2	3	2	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <p>North will open 1♥ and that will surprise East more than a little. Well, East can do nothing at this point and South responds 1♠. If West passes, North rebids 2♣ and South gives preference to 2♥. That comes round to East and, unless he has a very clear agreement with partner, he will pass and collect at least a couple of hundred on defence. Yes, it would be nice to be able to double, and maybe as partner is pretty well marked with a void he should be able to work out that East cannot have a take-out double – but would you risk it?</p> <p>Some Wests will overcall 2♦ and now North passes. It will take a certain degree of discipline from East, with 15 HCP facing a vulnerable two-level overcall, not to blast 3NT. Mind you, while that fails by a trick at double dummy, I can well imagine North getting into difficulties after the ♥8 is led to his queen and declarer's ace. The defence could get quite interesting.</p> <p>Double dummy, EW can make 5♦, though I suspect than 10 tricks will be the more frequent outcome in a diamond contract, and can also make 2NT, a curiosity is that Deep Finesse tells us that EW can also make 3♠ – not that they will ever play there.</p>
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
12		N	-	-	-	-	-																																										
6	15	S	-	-	-	-	-																																										
	7	E	2	5	1	3	2																																										
		W	2	5	2	3	2																																										

<p>♠ A1096 ♥ Q6 ♦ A76 ♣ KJ107</p> <p>♠ KQ742 ♠ 85 ♥ A9743 ♥ K10 ♦ 2 ♦ J1053 ♣ 42 ♣ AQ865</p> <p>♠ J3 ♥ J852 ♦ KQ984 ♣ 93</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>7</td> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	14		N	-	1	-	-	2	9	10	S	-	1	-	-	2		7	E	1	-	2	1	-			W	1	-	2	2	-	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <p>There will be two passes to West. In any other position West would pass, but I think most players would open 1♠ in third seat when non-vulnerable. That catches North just shy of what is needed for a 1NT overcall, though I know some players will bid 1NT anyway. If they do so, East will double and South may stand it due to having seven HCP – he may even redouble if that is for blood in his methods. Either way, West will run to 2♥ – he can make eight tricks with either major as trumps.</p> <p>If North does not overcall, East will respond 2♣ and give preference to 2♠ over West's 2♥ rebid, ending the auction.</p> <p>And if West does not open in third seat? North can open 1NT and, after two passes, West can do something to show both majors. This hand really shows why it is a good idea to play some sort of an artificial defence to an opposing 1NT opening. Natural methods simply do not cater to this hand-type at all, and sometimes partner will have a strong preference for one of our suits over the other if given a choice.</p>
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
14		N	-	1	-	-	2																																										
9	10	S	-	1	-	-	2																																										
	7	E	1	-	2	1	-																																										
		W	1	-	2	2	-																																										

<p>♠ 10862 ♥ K94 ♦ AK10 ♣ J107</p> <p>♠ 73 ♠ AK4 ♥ 873 ♥ AJ102 ♦ 95 ♦ 7632 ♣ K98652 ♣ 43</p> <p>♠ QJ95 ♥ Q65 ♦ QJ84 ♣ AQ</p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <p>South opens a weak no-trump and West passes. North may use Stayman, which gets his side to the doomed 4♠, or may just raise invitationaly to 2NT by whatever route the system requires. I am inclined to favour the latter approach, as the four-card major is a weak one and North is 4-3-3-3 with useful intermediates in every suit, all of which points towards no-trump. Indeed, it is those intermediates which make the hand worth an invitation at all – turn all the tens and nines into small cards and I would prefer to pass 1NT rather than go in search of a what will surely be a close game at best.</p> <p>South will of course accept the game invitation and spotlight will turn to West. A club lead gives the contract for certain. Declarer plays on spades and later hearts and there is nothing East can do to prevent nine tricks. But on a heart lead declarer just has too much to do. At some point West will have to get in with the ♣K as East can return the suit after winning a spade trick, and now a second heart through will give East three tricks in the suit and the defence six in all.</p>
--	---

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

<p>♠ J ♥ QJ8532 ♦ J9764 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ A108764 ♠ Q5 ♥ 109 ♥ K4 ♦ 32 ♦ AQ10 ♣ J43 ♣ AKQ1052</p> <p>♠ K932 ♥ A76 ♦ K85 ♣ 986</p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <p>Non-vulnerable, West might open with a weak 2♠ bid. Vulnerable, most players are likely to pass. But now North can open with a pre-empt. There are only four working HCP in the hand, but anyone with red blood in their veins will surely open either 2♥ or even 3♥ if feeling frisky.</p> <p>There is no point in East making a one-suited take-out double of either 2♥ or 3♥, and the hand is far too good for a mere 2NT over 2♥, so East must close his or her eyes and overcall 3NT. If that ends the auction, nine tricks are easy and, double dummy, eleven are possible. Should West convert to spades? Well, that is not a trivial decision by any means, because if East is more balanced 4♠ could easily be the better spot. However, one factor is, does West have the ability to transfer to spades facing a 3NT overcall? Certainly, a spade contract would be much more attractive if played by East. Most of us either don't know if we play transfers here or are vague and lacking in confidence on the matter, so I'd expect most Wests to pass out 3NT.</p> <p>For what it's worth, 4♠ can be made from either side of the table, with an overtrick if played by East as North never gets in.</p>
--	--

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

<p>♠ 106 ♥ A10874 ♦ KQJ9 ♣ AQ</p> <p>♠ A8543 ♠ QJ2 ♥ 3 ♥ J6 ♦ 104 ♦ 6532 ♣ K9863 ♣ 10542</p> <p>♠ K97 ♥ KQ952 ♦ A87 ♣ J7</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <p>North opens 1♥ and South has a good game-raise with five-card trump support, far too good to actually bid 4♥ directly. For most regular partnerships, the artificial game or better raise is 2NT, but there are so many different versions of this bid that it is difficult to cover what everyone will be doing.</p> <p>Say that we play an essentially natural structure over 2NT. With a sound opening North rebids 3♦ to show at least 5-4 distribution, and South, not ashamed of his hand, marks time with 3♥. If North had a shortage, he could show it now – see how this approach is better than the one where opener shows a shortage immediately over 2NT, as this way we can show both shortage and a second suit? As he has no shortage but does have extra values, North bids 3NT, showing 2-5-4-2, and South can cue-bid 4♦. That is good news for North, but he has already shown a decent hand so, with weak hearts and holes in both black suits, he signs off in 4♥, trusting South to go with significant extras. Though South has excellent trumps, he has little else to spare so passes 4♥ and that is that.</p> <p>As it turns out, slam is only on the position of the ♠A – unlucky – but had South been 2-5-3-3 with the same high cards it would have needed two missing cards to be well-placed, making it a very poor bet.</p>
--	---

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

<p>♠ KJ2 ♥ AK95 ♦ A1053 ♣ 74</p> <p>♠ 4 ♠ Q76 ♥ 742 ♥ QJ1083 ♦ 76 ♦ KQJ ♣ AQJ10932 ♣ 85</p> <p>♠ A109853 ♥ 6 ♦ 9842 ♣ K6</p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <p>Should East open the bidding? Well, I'm sure some will, but if I did open, I'd have to choose 1NT as I'm not prepared to treat the hand as a single-suiter by opening 1♥ and repeating the suit, and it just doesn't feel like a 1NT opening to me. If East passes, South opens a weak 2♠, West passes as an overcall would give partner quite the wrong idea about the high-card strength of the hand, and North should either just blast 4♠ or, facing an aggressive pre-emptor, ask with 2NT and only bid game if South shows a non-minimum. On this occasion South should indeed show a non-minimum. True, the hand contains only seven HCP, which might be considered to be bottom half of the range for a vulnerable weak two opening, but 6-4 shape is worth something extra, and I would evaluate the hand as being worth more like a good eight points for its extra playing potential. Played by South, the ♣K is protected such that a club loser can be got rid of on the ♥K. Declarer still needs to get the trumps right to succeed and it may not be obvious to do so. Those who both bid and make game should score very well.</p>
--	--

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
15		N	-	3	-	3	-
7	11	S	-	4	-	4	3
		E	2	-	1	-	-
		W	2	-	1	-	-

<p>♠ AQ73 ♥ QJ7 ♦ AJ95 ♣ 75</p> <p>♠ - ♠ J10985 ♥ A64 ♥ K952 ♦ K8432 ♦ Q6 ♣ KQ642 ♣ A10</p> <p>♠ K642 ♥ 1083 ♦ 107 ♣ J983</p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <p>When West opens 1♦, North has the wrong shortage for a take-out double and is a point shy of the requirements for a 1NT overcall. No doubt some will try both of those calls, but pass is the only way in which to avoid distorting the picture given to partner. When East responds 1♠, North should be well pleased not to be involved in this auction. West rebids 2♣ and East has a horrible rebid problem. Not wishing to give jump preference on a doubleton, East will probably stretch to bid 2NT, a point light of what he would like to hold. West should not be thrilled at the prospect of partner declaring in no-trumps so should repeat the clubs, suggesting a weak two-suiter, and East will give preference to 3♦, ending the auction. There are three trump losers in 3♦, but the clubs can be ruffed out – declarer wins the likely heart lead in dummy and plays on clubs immediately ace, king and a low one for a ruff. This follows the sound old principle that one should look after the side suit first and does no harm if clubs were 3-3 all along. After taking the ruff, declarer plays the queen of diamonds. And is in control, conceding just the three trump tricks and one heart; +110.</p>
---	--

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

<p>♠ KQ83 ♥ 952 ♦ J92 ♣ 764</p> <p>♠ 1097 ♠ J52 ♥ A76 ♥ K1043 ♦ 8743 ♦ Q5 ♣ K83 ♣ AJ102</p> <p>♠ A64 ♥ QJ8 ♦ AK106 ♣ Q95</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <p>Though the East hand contains a couple of tens alongside its 11 HCP, it would be foolish to open 1NT in third seat when vulnerable. If I had a gun pointed at my head and was told I had to open something, I would choose 1♥ with the intention of passing any response – hopefully, having bypassed everything else, partner will have five diamonds if the response is 2♦. However, I would pass – All Vul. Is not the time for heroics. So, South will get to open 1♦ and will rebid 1NT over the 1♠ response. And that will be that, unless East doubled the 1♠ response for take-out – he does, I suppose, have both unbid suits. South's 1NT can be held to seven tricks if the defence takes its tricks immediately – heart lead and switch to jack of clubs, I suppose is possible – but few will find that, preferring a passive lead round to a strong no-trump type, and that will see declarer cash his eight top tricks once the ♦Q puts in an appearance, for +120. NS can also make 2♦ but only 1♠ – the defence cashes eight tricks then the thirteenth club allows a trump promotion to create a sixth defensive winner. Meanwhile, EW can make seven tricks in a heart contract, but that is all, so they are well out of the auction.</p>
--	--

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

<p>♠ 1084 ♥ 72 ♦ J984 ♣ J1065</p> <p>♠ 976 ♠ J3 ♥ K83 ♥ AQ10964 ♦ 10532 ♦ AQ6 ♣ Q98 ♣ 32</p> <p>♠ AKQ52 ♥ J5 ♦ K7 ♣ AK74</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <p>When East opens 1♥, South is far too strong to overcall so starts with a double. West may well raise to 2♥, just to be awkward – the vulnerability is in his favour – and East may re-raise to 3♥ to take away even more bidding space, knowing that facing West’s weak raise it is a racing certainty that South is going to bid again.</p> <p>At tables where the auction starts as I suggest, South should continue with 3♠, showing five or six spades and a hand too good for an initial overcall. While North is pleased to have three-card trump support, two jacks are hardly sufficient to go on to game as partner’s bidding is strong but not forcing, and 3♠ will usually end the auction.</p> <p>There should be no problem in coming to nine tricks, North having a fourth-round club entry to allow declarer to lead towards the ♦K.</p> <p>Of course, neither the 2♥ nor 3♥ raise will happen at every table. If the bidding has reached only 2♥ when it comes back to South, he may bid only 2♠ but, if EW then compete to 3♥, may double to show extra values. North will then bid 3♠ and that should be that.</p>																																																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>13</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>20</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		2		N	3	1	-	3	-	5	13	S	3	1	-	3	-		20	E	-	-	2	-	-			W	-	-	2	-	-	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																											
2		N	3	1	-	3	-																																										
5	13	S	3	1	-	3	-																																										
	20	E	-	-	2	-	-																																										
		W	-	-	2	-	-																																										

<p>♠ 63 ♥ J92 ♦ QJ109 ♣ Q1087</p> <p>♠ Q1074 ♠ KJ985 ♥ K83 ♥ AQ1064 ♦ K875 ♦ A43 ♣ K2 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ A2 ♥ 75 ♦ 62 ♣ AJ96543</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <p>East opens 1♠ and South overcalls either 2♣ or 3♣ . A weak 3♣ is less likely when holding two aces. West would have had a limit raise to 3♠ without the overcall but may feel that the three kings are all well-placed over most of the missing high cards so upgrade and drive to game. In particular, if the overcall was at the three level, West may bid 4♠ because he would sometimes have to bid 3♠ under pressure so that partner will fail to bid game on a borderline hand.</p> <p>If West shows a full raise to game, East may cue-bid clubs in search for a slam. 6♠ is cold if EW can get there, but will West be willing to co-operate when holding no key-cards? West cannot know that the ♥K is gold-dust and that it doesn’t matter that the ♣K is wastepaper. It’s a tough hand and those pairs who can bid to slam and know what they are doing will richly deserve the barrel full of match-points they will win.</p>																																																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>14</td> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>9</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		6		N	1	-	-	-	-	11	14	S	1	-	-	-	-		9	E	-	4	5	6	2			W	-	4	5	6	2	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																											
6		N	1	-	-	-	-																																										
11	14	S	1	-	-	-	-																																										
	9	E	-	4	5	6	2																																										
		W	-	4	5	6	2																																										

<p>♠ 10 ♥ J8 ♦ KQ854 ♣ Q6532</p> <p>♠ J532 ♠ A76 ♥ K1096 ♥ 7543 ♦ 1072 ♦ AJ93 ♣ 87 ♣ 94</p> <p>♠ KQ984 ♥ AQ2 ♦ 6 ♣ AKJ10</p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <p>This time it is NS who have a tough bidding problem. South will open 1♠ and North respond 1NT and now South is likely to jump to 3♣ , game-forcing. What should North bid?</p> <p>The obvious answer is, looking at five-card club support, raise clubs, but that takes the partnership past the only making game, which is 3NT played by North – a diamond lead beats it if the contract is played by South. Mindful of the form of scoring, North may try 3♦ , giving South an opportunity to bid 3NT if he can do so, and that is exactly what happens, as what else is South going to do with this hand?</p> <p>Some may stretch to make a two-over-one response on the North cards. If so, they should choose 2♣, as they are worth only one bid and partner can bid 2♦ over 2♣ but will sometimes not be strong enough to bid 3♣ over 2♦. South loves clubs, of course. In my partnerships South could jump to 3♦ as a splinter bid, showing a strong hand with diamond shortage and four-plus clubs. North will bid a quick 3NT over that, but South may well bid on as he has quite a bit to spare. There is a real danger of getting too high after the 2♣ response, perhaps deservedly so as a potential misfit should not be stretching over the 1♠ opening.</p>																																																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>9</td> <td>S</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>19</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		8		N	4	2	1	3	3	4	9	S	4	2	1	3	2		19	E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																											
8		N	4	2	1	3	3																																										
4	9	S	4	2	1	3	2																																										
	19	E	-	-	-	-	-																																										
		W	-	-	-	-	-																																										

<p>♠ AQJ3 ♥ 1098 ♦ 64 ♣ K1098</p> <p>♠ 1098 ♠ K754 ♥ AQ63 ♥ K ♦ Q93 ♦ AK1085 ♣ AJ4 ♣ 732</p> <p>♠ 62 ♥ J7542 ♦ J72 ♣ Q65</p>	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <p>I thought it was a while since we'd seen a weak no-trump opening, but that it was West holds on this deal. East will use Stayman in hope of finding a spade fit, but West will show the wrong major and East have to settle for a jump to 3NT. With diamonds behaving there are nine top tricks and the play will be about the overtrick. North will presumably lead a black suit against 3NT. If the ten of clubs, South will play the queen and declarer would like to win the ace and cash the ♥K then cash his red-suit winners before playing a spade up, but entries don't permit him to do that. If he wants to lead a spade towards the king, he has to do so before cashing all the diamonds. That will dissuade many declarers from doing so, and who can blame them?</p> <p>However, declarer can just cash out while watching North's discards then exit with a black card and North will have to give a trick to either the ♣J or ♠K as long as declarer has read the ending correctly.</p> <p>Of course, life is much simpler if North has led the ace or queen of spades at trick one.</p>
--	--

HCP		Makeable contracts					
10			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
13	13	N	-	-	-	-	-
4		S	-	-	-	-	-
		E	2	5	2	4	3
		W	2	5	2	4	4

<p>♠ AJ10753 ♥ 7 ♦ AJ65 ♣ 84</p> <p>♠ 2 ♠ KQ94 ♥ Q43 ♥ A65 ♦ K72 ♦ Q984 ♣ AKQJ103 ♣ 92</p> <p>♠ 86 ♥ KJ10982 ♦ 103 ♣ 765</p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <p>With all the high cards concentrated in the long suits and 6-4 shape, the North hand is much too good for a weak two bid, even if we play the range as up to 10. North should open 1♠ therefore.</p> <p>That will sometimes be passed round to West, who may bid 3♣ – a jump overcall is intermediate in pass-out seat remember, because it doesn't make sense to pre-empt when you could just pass the deal out. East has an easy 3NT bid over 3♣ and can arrange an overtrick easily enough.</p> <p>But I would respond 1NT on the South cards, despite holding only four HCP. Getting to hearts would make this hand worth somewhat more than its raw point-count, while bidding anything will often make it harder for the opposition to get together when the deal belongs to them.</p> <p>On this deal, a 1NT response as South takes away West's intermediate jump, because now 3♣ would be weak. That should not inconvenience EW all that much – West can either double or overcall 2♣, and East has plenty for game to be reached, but on another day one of East and West will have a more borderline decision and the 1NT will dissuade them from taking the more optimistic option so that a game could be missed.</p>
---	--

HCP		Makeable contracts					
10			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
15	11	N	-	-	-	-	-
4		S	-	-	-	-	-
		E	5	3	1	2	4
		W	4	3	1	2	4

<p>♠ 10865 ♥ 1072 ♦ A3 ♣ QJ94</p> <p>♠ KJ3 ♠ Q92 ♥ AQ9 ♥ 85 ♦ 874 ♦ KJ962 ♣ A832 ♣ K76</p> <p>♠ A74 ♥ KJ643 ♦ Q105 ♣ 105</p>	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <p>There will be two passes to West who has a weak no-trump. It is hard to see anyone having anything to say over 1NT. Yes, South could overcall 2♥, I suppose, but that would be a lot more attractive at a different vulnerability on such a flat hand with so many potential losers.</p> <p>As the cards lie, it is EW who can come to the majority of the tricks in a heart contract, seven to NS six, so any South who does bid and plays in 2♥ will score very poorly for -200.</p> <p>If West plays in 1NT, North is likely to lead the ♣Q. Declarer will win in hand to play on diamonds, putting in either the nine or jack and losing to South. If South returns the ♣10, declarer will duck and South switch to a low heart. Declarer may put in the nine so that North will win and can knock out the ♣K and have a club to cash when in with the ♦A. That holds the contract to seven tricks.</p> <p>But declarer may risk putting in the queen on the heart switch as he will fear North winning and knocking out the ♣K before the diamonds have been established – he doesn't know that the ♦A is doubleton so may fear being cut off from the diamonds. The ♥Q scores and the diamonds are cleared. This time North does not have a club to cash but can return a heart instead and that sets up South's suit. Declarer still has only seven tricks – three diamonds, two clubs and two hearts.</p>
--	--

HCP		Makeable contracts					
7			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
14	9	N	-	-	-	-	-
10		S	-	-	-	-	-
		E	2	3	1	2	1
		W	2	3	1	2	1

<p>♠ Q109 ♥ 973 ♦ J7632 ♣ Q4</p> <p>♠ AJ863 ♠ K542 ♥ 6 ♥ K52 ♦ A85 ♦ K109 ♣ A985 ♣ 1063</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ AQJ1084 ♦ Q4 ♣ KJ72</p>	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <p>South opens 1♥, West overcalls 1♠, and North's soft values really do not justify a bid, even if facing a five-card 1♥ opening. East however, has a fair hand in support of spades. A bit good for a simple raise to 2♠, East may cue-bid 2♥ to show a sound spade raise if he has nothing more sophisticated in his armoury. South may take the easy option of doubling to show good hearts, but I would bid 3♥ instead, as I know I'm going to compete over 2♠ so may as well bid now and take space away from my opponents. After all, those hearts are pretty chunky and South also has 6-4 shape to add to the potential playing power of the hand.</p> <p>Facing a constructive spade raise, West would have liked to have space to make a game try. That is taken away from him by the 3♥ bid, and he may just guess to bid 4♠. If so, the 3♥ bid will have worked very nicely because 4♠ is doomed. In fact, declarer has to be careful to set up an extra club trick to avoid a diamond loser or the contract will be two down.</p> <p>NS can make 3♥, while 3♠ is the limit for EW. In theory, the absolute par result on the deal is 4♥ doubled down one for -100 NS.</p>																																																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>9</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	5		N	-	-	3	-	1	13	9	S	-	-	3	-	1			E	1	1	-	3	-			W	1	1	-	3	-	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
5		N	-	-	3	-	1																																										
13	9	S	-	-	3	-	1																																										
		E	1	1	-	3	-																																										
		W	1	1	-	3	-																																										

<p>♠ Q72 ♥ J7 ♦ Q9854 ♣ 743</p> <p>♠ J943 ♠ A10 ♥ A6 ♥ 1053 ♦ AJ10 ♦ 63 ♣ A1098 ♣ KQJ652</p> <p>♠ K865 ♥ KQ9842 ♦ K72 ♣ -</p>	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <p>A good balanced 14 HCP, with well-placed tens and nines such that some would upgrade the hand and treat it as being worth 15 HCP. After all, that ten of diamonds in particular adds significantly to the chances of developing tricks in the suit.</p> <p>Most will open a weak no-trump and East may just blast 3NT, gambling that the clubs will provide a lot of quick tricks. As it turns out, there are nine top tricks and the lie of the cards means that an overtrick is always possible.</p> <p>Where West does judge to upgrade, most will open 1♠ and East will of course respond 2♣. Despite the four-card club support, West's correct rebid is 2NT – he was treating the hand as a balanced 15 points and that is what must be shown. If West rebids 3♣, that will show a minimum opening with five spades, which could cause difficulties if East shows spade support.</p> <p>And finally, for those who open 1♣ with this type of hand, I would assume that they also play inverted minor-suit raises so that East can respond 2♣, invitational plus. West will show the weak no-trump type and soon be in 3NT.</p>																																																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>10</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	5		N	-	1	2	-	-	14	10	S	-	2	2	-	-			E	5	-	-	-	4			W	5	-	-	-	4	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
5		N	-	1	2	-	-																																										
14	10	S	-	2	2	-	-																																										
		E	5	-	-	-	4																																										
		W	5	-	-	-	4																																										

<p>♠ KJ10974 ♥ 4 ♦ KQ85 ♣ 105</p> <p>♠ Q65 ♠ 832 ♥ 9765 ♥ A1083 ♦ 10432 ♦ AJ9 ♣ J3 ♣ 987</p> <p>♠ A ♥ KQJ2 ♦ 76 ♣ AKQ642</p>	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <p>North has a tricky hand – 1♠, 2♠, 3♠, pass? All would have their supporters. Let's go for a heavy weak 2♠ because of the vulnerability, but nobody who chooses something different should feel that they have done something wrong.</p> <p>For most people, a 3♣ response would be natural and forcing, so would be the obvious choice on the South cards, and now what could be more natural than that North should bid 3♦? Of course, North might also do that with a diamond fewer, just to show signs of life, but that's by the by.</p> <p>South might worry a little about communications between the two hands, but there is the prospect of running the clubs and he does have a very solid heart holding, so 3NT should have play and that is the obvious call to make.</p> <p>A diamond lead is the most effective for the defence as it not only establishes a second defensive winner immediately, but also takes out dummy's entry to the king of spades. And a diamond is a very plausible lead on the auction, rather than lead up to declarer's heart holding. Nothing, however, can threaten the success of the contract, and some declarers will come to an overtrick.</p>																																																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>9</td> <td>S</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	9		N	5	4	3	4	4	3	9	S	5	3	3	4	4			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
9		N	5	4	3	4	4																																										
3	9	S	5	3	3	4	4																																										
		E	-	-	-	-	-																																										
		W	-	-	-	-	-																																										

<p>♠AQ62 ♥J10542 ♦432 ♣8</p> <p>♠KJ1054 ♠9873 ♥A86 ♥Q7 ♦QJ ♦1087 ♣Q43 ♣KJ75</p> <p>♠- ♥K93 ♦AK965 ♣A10962</p>	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <p>South opens 1♦ and West overcalls 1♠. Though North has a double spade stopper, it is normal to make a negative double to show the hearts. There may be opportunities to get the spade stoppers into the game later, depending on how things progress.</p> <p>East can raise partner's spades – non-vulnerable a pre-emptive raise to 3♠ is quite attractive, and certainly makes life more difficult for South on the actual deal. Had East bid only 2♠, South would have had an easy double and North would have responded 3♥ to show the fifth card – North's double of 1♠ of course strongly suggested four hearts. But over the 3♠ raise South has to be brave. He may still double, or may bid 4♣, but his distribution is such that he should not be scared to bid at this level even with only 14 HCP.</p> <p>The cards lie well for NS, who can make either 4♥ or 5♦, though whether they can get there unless they are pushed is another matter with only 5-3 trump fits and a combined 21 HCP. Far from EW being able to make a spade part-score, it is NS who can make 2♠.</p>																																																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>6</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	7		N	2	5	4	2	2	13	6	S	2	5	4	2	2			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
7		N	2	5	4	2	2																																										
13	6	S	2	5	4	2	2																																										
		E	-	-	-	-	-																																										
		W	-	-	-	-	-																																										

<p>♠KQ8763 ♥Q7 ♦AKJ5 ♣3</p> <p>♠1042 ♠J9 ♥5 ♥KJ9862 ♦108743 ♦Q92 ♣AQJ5 ♣104</p> <p>♠A5 ♥A1043 ♦6 ♣K98762</p>	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <p>South opens 1♣ and few Wests will overcall on that ten-high diamond suit. North will respond 1♠ and South repeat the clubs. Now, does your partnership play a 2♦ rebid from North as forcing – or is it even natural, as some tournament pairs play it as an artificial force – or does North have to jump to 3♦ to force South to bid again?</p> <p>Over a jump to 3♦, South will probably bid 3NT on the ♥A10xx, and if so that will be the final correct.</p> <p>The trouble is that 3♦ cramps the auction too much to allow for proper exploration. If 2♦ is forcing, there is room for South to show the heart stopper but for North to bid 3♠ over that and South now raises to 4♠, the correct contract on these hands. Of course, South could have bid 3♠ instead of 3NT over 3♦, but then maybe North would have been 5-5 and 3NT would have been the better game.</p> <p>You will gather that I prefer to play 2♦ as forcing here – in which case it may as well be artificial to allow for the maximum of subsequent options. You give up only the possibility of playing in 2♦, which is rarely a great hardship.</p> <p>An overtrick is possible in 4♠, while 3NT can be held to nine tricks.</p>																																																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	15		N	3	1	2	5	3	7	7	S	3	2	2	5	3			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
15		N	3	1	2	5	3																																										
7	7	S	3	2	2	5	3																																										
		E	-	-	-	-	-																																										
		W	-	-	-	-	-																																										

<p>♠K7432 ♥KJ3 ♦K ♣A542</p> <p>♠Q109 ♠86 ♥A8 ♥Q10764 ♦1097652 ♦A3 ♣106 ♣Q983</p> <p>♠AJ5 ♥952 ♦QJ84 ♣KJ7</p>	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <p>I wouldn't recommend opening a weak 2♦ on that West suit when vulnerable, much as I love to pre-empt, so North will get to open 1♠. South responds 2♦ and North is not strong enough to do other than repeat the weak spade suit. Now South will support spades, the only question being whether to invite game or bid game.</p> <p>With no ruffing value and, for the believers in that faith, a nine-loser hand, I think that 3♠ is enough, but that the majority will bid 4♠. I'd be happy to be proved wrong. Will North go on to game over a 3♠ raise? That is another good question, as North has an above minimum hand in terms of high cards, but a bad trump suit. Again, I suspect that most will go on to game, so that only a small minority will stop in a safe part-score.</p> <p>If the defence kicks off with two rounds of hearts, 4♠ will be defeated. On any other lead, there is a possibility to set up diamond winners for heart discards, and now the contract should succeed. Should East lead a heart? Yes, why not? Hearts and clubs are the unbid suits and there is no reason to prefer a club over a heart.</p> <p>Those who stopped off in 3♠ should score very well. I wonder if they will?</p>																																																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>8</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	14		N	2	1	2	3	2	6	8	S	2	1	2	3	2			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
14		N	2	1	2	3	2																																										
6	8	S	2	1	2	3	2																																										
		E	-	-	-	-	-																																										
		W	-	-	-	-	-																																										