



The Irish Bridge Union Autumn Simultaneous Pairs

Thursday & Friday 7th & 8th November 2019

Session Number : 7159

Commentary by Brian Senior

I hope you -and your partner- enjoyed the hands this evening and will agree, a little at any rate, with our commentators. We are fortunate to have Paul Delaney and Brian Senior to nudge us in a better direction next time. Our thanks to them and of course, thanks to you for participating in our annual Pairs Competition.

Being affiliated to an NIBU and/or CBAI club confers on one automatic membership of the IBU. Over the years the Irish Bridge Union has fostered and developed Schools, Under 21s and Under 25s Bridge playing while all the time coaching players to participate at the highest level in European and World Championships.

Naturally the work of the IBU Confederation requires finance, your participation in this competition is a great help in this regard.

Likewise taking part in our other events aids revenue, these competitions include;

- ◆ Inter-Regionals
- ◆ Inter County Teams Championships – O'Connor and Burke Trophies
- ◆ I B U Seniors Congress
- ◆ All Ireland Pairs Championship- Moylan Trophy
- ◆ All Ireland Teams Championship- Egan Trophy
- ◆ All Ireland Club Pairs – Intermediate & Novice
- ◆ All Ireland Club Pairs – Master grade

Again, many thanks for your support,

Jim O'Sullivan
I B U President



Board 1. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

♠	A Q J 6 5 3	
♥	9 2	
♦	Q 6 2	
♣	K 2	
♠	K 10 2	♠ 8 7 4
♥	Q 10 8 7 5 3	♥ 6 4
♦	A	♦ K 9 8 7 3
♣	10 6 3	♣ Q J 5
	♠ 9	
	♥ A K J	
	♦ J 10 5 4	
	♣ A 9 8 7 4	

A fairly straightforward deal with which to begin the session, sees North open 1♠ and rebid 2♠ over the 2♣ response. South has the other two suits covered and 13 HCP, enough for game, so the natural thing to do is to jump to 3NT, which will normally end the auction.

West will lead a heart round to declarer's jack and declarer can play three rounds of spades. There are 10 tricks now but no scope for any more.

Board 2. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

	♠ 7	
	♥ Q 10 5 4 2	
	♦ 10 8 4	
	♣ K J 6 4	
♠	K Q 4	♠ J 9 8 5 2
♥	K J 9 3	♥ A 7 6
♦	J 7 3	♦ K 5
♣	8 7 5	♣ Q 10 9
	♠ A 10 6 3	
	♥ 8	
	♦ A Q 9 6 2	
	♣ A 3 2	

After a pass from East N/S will start 1♦ – 1♥ – 1♠, back to North. I would bid 2♦ now, simple preference, but I have no doubt that many will prefer to bid 1NT. Either bid may end the auction. If so, there should be an overtrick in 2♦, while 1NT can be held to seven by a spade lead, and I certainly prefer that to a club. If East overcalls 1♠, E/W can compete, and that will force N/S to play in diamonds. E/W should can make 1♠ but may well be down one in practice.

Board 3. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

	♠ Q 5	
	♥ A 10 4	
	♦ J 7 2	
	♣ Q 10 6 5 2	
♠	9 8 2	♠ A J 10 7 6
♥	9 5 3	♥ Q J 2
♦	K 10 9 5	♦ A 4
♣	J 7 4	♣ K 8 3
	♠ K 4 3	
	♥ K 8 7 6	
	♦ Q 8 6 3	
	♣ A 9	

It is unclear how this partscore battle will end up. If South opens a weak NT East will double and, if that ends the auction, the opening lead will be crucial. A spade beats it, while a diamond lets it make. But someone may run from 1NT doubled. If so, E/W should make seven tricks in spades, while N/S can make 2♣ or maybe 2♥. Where South opens one of a suit, East will probably overcall in spades and may buy it in 2♠ down one or, occasionally, making.

Board 4. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

	♠ 8 5 2	
	♥ A 2	
	♦ 8 6 4	
	♣ A Q 8 7 6	
♠	A J 6 4	♠ 10 9
♥	8 7 6 4	♥ 9 5
♦	7 3	♦ K 10 9 5 2
♣	10 9 3	♣ K 5 4 2
	♠ K Q 7 3	
	♥ K Q J 10 3	
	♦ A Q J	
	♣ J	

N/S are likely to get to 3NT at most tables. Playing Acol, South opens 1♥ and reverses into 2♠ over the 2♣ response. Lacking a diamond stopper or genuine preference for one of partner's suits, North bids 3♦ and South bids 3NT.

Playing a method where North has to respond 1NT, South again reverses into 2♠, North bids 3♣, and South ends the auction with 3NT.

Eleven tricks can be made on any defence.

Board 5. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S

	♠ A J 9 3	
	♥ Q J 10 6	
	♦ K J	
	♣ 10 9 8	
♠	Q 5	♠ 10 7 2
♥	8 7 2	♥ A 9 3
♦	Q 9 8 6 4	♦ 10 2
♣	J 3 2	♣ K Q 7 6 4
	♠ K 8 6 4	
	♥ K 5 4	
	♦ A 7 5 3	
	♣ A 5	

Anyone who has any doubts about the benefits of Stayman, take a look at this deal. If North opens 1NT and South raises to 3NT, a club lead means down one. Use Stayman, however, which is normal with the South cards, and you get to 4♣ and make an overtrick.

Those who open 1♣ as North will find the spade fit as a matter of routine, of course, using Checkback if it starts 1♣ – 1♦ – 1NT.

Board 6. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

♠	A K J 4 2	
♥	Q	
♦	9 8	
♣	K 10 5 4 2	
♠	Q 10 7	♠ 9 8
♥	A J 10 3 2	♥ K 7 6 5
♦	K 6 2	♦ A Q J 7
♣	A 8	♣ Q 7 6
	♠ 6 5 3	
	♥ 9 8 4	
	♦ 10 5 4 3	
	♣ J 9 3	

An easy game for E/W this time. If East opens 1NT, West will transfer to hearts and North can cuebid 2♥ to show spades and a minor. East has a good hand for hearts so bids 3♥, and West raises to game.

A 1♣ or 1♦ opening will see West respond 1♥ and North will either overcall 1♠ after a 1♣ opening, or may make some kind of two-suited overcall after a 1♦ opening. It should not matter, with E/W again ending up in 4♥+1.

Board 7. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

	♠ A 9 8 2	
	♥ 7 5	
	♦ Q 9	
	♣ A K J 10 2	
♠	K	♠ Q 6 4
♥	6 4 2	♥ A K Q J 10 3
♦	A J 3 2	♦ 10 8 4
♣	Q 8 7 5 3	♣ 6
	♠ J 10 7 5 3	
	♥ 9 8	
	♦ K 7 6 5	
	♣ 9 4	

E/W can make 4♥ by playing for North to hold a doubleton diamond honour. N/S have a paying save in 4♠ doubled. North opens 1♣, East overcalls 1♥, and West makes an unassuming cuebid to show a constructive heart raise. East can just bid game over that. South might bid 1♠ despite having only 4 HCP, though this would be more attractive were he not vulnerable. Or North might bid 2♠ over the 2♣ cuebid. Either would get them to 4♠.

Board 8. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

	♠ A Q	
	♥ K J 4 3 2	
	♦ A 7	
	♣ A Q 7 2	
♠	K 8	♠ 10 7 3
♥	Q 10 7 6	♥ 9 8 5
♦	Q 8 6 5 4	♦ 9 3
♣	9 5	♣ 10 8 6 4 3
	♠ J 9 6 5 4 2	
	♥ A	
	♦ K J 10 2	
	♣ J	

A 2NT opening is not perfect with 2-5-2-4 shape, but it is better than the alternative of 1♥. South will transfer to spades then show the diamonds and, when North fails to show enthusiasm for either suit, may settle for 6NT. That works well because, though all 13 tricks can be made thanks to the fortunate spade position,

6NT is where you would want to be and, at pairs, it offers the extra 10 points compared to 6♠.

Board 9. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

	♠ K J 10 5 2	
	♥ J 10 4	
	♦ 7	
	♣ J 10 5 3	
♠	A 8	♠ Q 9 7
♥	K Q 7 5	♥ 9 2
♦	K J 9 5	♦ A Q 6 4 2
♣	K 9 7	♣ 6 4 2
	♠ 6 4 3	
	♥ A 8 6 3	
	♦ 10 8 3	
	♣ A Q 8	

It might go three passes to West and if West opens a strong NT East should just raise to game – that diamond suit is worth more than just the 8 HCP. The contract is a lucky make, with all the key missing cards well placed for declarer. Some will be able to open 2♠, spades and a minor, while the friskier souls may open 2♠ just as a simple weak two (I would). That makes life harder and not all E/Ws will get to game.

Board 10. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

	♠ J 9 7 5	
	♥ Q 9 2	
	♦ 8 2	
	♣ K 9 8 5	
♠	2	♠ A K 10 4 3
♥	A J 10 3	♥ K 8 7 6
♦	A K Q 10 5	♦ 7 6
♣	A 10 3	♣ J 2
	♠ Q 8 6	
	♥ 5 4	
	♦ J 9 4 3	
	♣ Q 7 6 4	

East is just worth a 1♠ opening and will rebid 2♥ over the 2♦ response. Playing 2-over-1 GF, West could now raise to 3♥ to leave room for cuebidding and East can bid a non-committal 3♠. West may just ask for key cards now.

Playing Acol, West cannot agree hearts conveniently below game – 4♣ would show shortage, not the ace so may bid 4NT. Whatever the system, West should find that the ♥Q is missing and settle for 6♥, normally making exactly.

Board 11. Dealer South. Vulnerability None

♠	Q 10 6		
♥	J 6 5		
♦	10 4 2		
♣	A 7 4 2		
♠	9	♠	A J 8 2
♥	A 10 8 4 3	♥	K Q 9 7
♦	A 9 8	♦	K Q 7 3
♣	Q 10 9 5	♣	K
	♠	K 7 5 4 3	
	♥	2	
	♦	J 6 5	
	♣	J 8 6 3	

West is just short of an opening bid so East will get to open 1♦ or 1♥ according to system. 1♦ gets a 1♥ response and East can jump to 4♣, splinter, while a 1♥ opening sees West splinter with 3♣. Either bid should see partner drive to slam, and 12 tricks are made with no difficulty. 4♣ is not ideal when the singleton is the king, but the hand has too much potential to instead bid 3♥ or 4♥, making 4♣ the least bad bid rather than the best bid.

Board 12. Dealer West. Vulnerability N/S

	♠	K 8 4		
	♥	J 7 6 2		
	♦	10 9 8 2		
	♣	Q 6		
♠	10 5 2	♠	A Q J 9	
♥	A 10 9 3	♥	—	
♦	Q 7 4	♦	A K J 3	
♣	K 7 5	♣	A J 10 3 2	
	♠	7 6 3		
	♥	K Q 8 5 4		
	♦	6 5		
	♣	9 8 4		

As the cards lie, assorted grand slams are possible for E/W, but 6♣ is where you should want to be. After 1♣ – 1♥, most will jump to 2♠, GF. I'm not usually a fan of doing this when void in partner's suit but, if 1♠ would not be forcing, this hand is just too good to risk missing game. 2♠ works well as it permits West to give a forcing preference to 3♣, and E/W are off to the races. The club slam would be good even without dummy's heart ace.

Board 13. Dealer North. Vulnerability All

	♠	A 8		
	♥	A Q 9 8 7 3		
	♦	A 9		
	♣	J 7 6		
♠	K J 10 7 2	♠	Q 6 5	
♥	10	♥	K 4 2	
♦	Q 10 8 6 4	♦	J 3 2	
♣	4 3	♣	A 10 9 8	
	♠	9 4 3		
	♥	J 6 5		
	♦	K 7 5		
	♣	K Q 5 2		

This could prove to be a good deal for the five-card majorities, some of whom may bid the N/S hands very simply: 1♥ – 2♥ – 4♥. Playing Acol, it starts 1♥ – INT, and with such moderate heart intermediates, I would rebid only 2♥ so that game might be missed.

Of course, West might join in with his five-five shape, but that would be more likely were E/W not vulnerable. 4♣ doubled would be down three – one too many at this vulnerability.

Board 14. Dealer East. Vulnerability None

	♠	Q 8 6 3		
	♥	K Q 6 2		
	♦	4 3		
	♣	9 7 6		
♠	A 4	♠	K 5 2	
♥	7 3	♥	J 9 8	
♦	J 9 7 5	♦	A K 8 2	
♣	K J 10 4 2	♣	Q 5 3	
	♠	J 10 9 7		
	♥	A 10 5 4		
	♦	Q 10 6		
	♣	A 8		

Many will open the East hand with a weak NT, and usually play there for an easy +120. A natural 1♦ opening may be raised to 3♦ for +110. N/S can compete effectively in the majors, making 2♠ or 1/2♥, depending on whether the defensive spade ruff is found.

N/S may get into the auction via a take-out double if East has to open 1♣. At this vulnerability, the best at which to declare on a competitive partscore deal, most experts would double.

Board 15. Dealer South. Vulnerability N/S

	♠	Q J 4		
	♥	K Q 9 8 2		
	♦	—		
	♣	K J 10 8 7		
♠	K 6 5	♠	A 10 7 3 2	
♥	J 10	♥	A 5 4	
♦	K Q 8 7 3	♦	A J 2	
♣	Q 9 6	♣	A 5	
	♠	9 8		
	♥	7 6 3		
	♦	10 9 6 5 4		
	♣	4 3 2		

E/W can make 11 tricks in spades, or do even better on defence should North bid too much at adverse vulnerability. West has a borderline opening. Say he bids 1♦ and North overcalls 2NT, clubs and hearts, if East starts with a double N/S may be caught for –800. If West passes North will open 1♥ and there is no longer any danger of the penalty. East will usually show the spades and get to 4♣.

Board 16. Dealer West. Vulnerability E/W

♠ 7 5 4	
♥ A K Q 6 4	
♦ K 9 7	
♣ A 10	
♠ Q 10 3	♠ A K J 8 2
♥ 9 5	♥ 10 8 7
♦ Q 8 6 2	♦ 10
♣ 9 8 5 4	♣ K Q J 7
♠ 9 6	
♥ J 3 2	
♦ A J 5 4 3	
♣ 6 3 2	

The deal belongs to N/S, who make 3♥, though they would need to be careful to beat 3♠ should E/W compete to that level. N/S can hold spades to eight tricks either by leading trumps to prevent a heart ruff, or by threatening to take a club ruff themselves. If North opens 1♥, East will overcall, South may raise to 2♥, and North make a game try, which South will decline. If North opens 1NT, East will overcall 2♠ and the hearts may sometimes be lost.

Board 17. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

♠ K Q	
♥ A 8 7 5 3	
♦ K 8 5	
♣ Q 7 6	
♠ A 8 4 2	♠ J 9 7 3
♥ J 9 2	♥ K Q 10
♦ 7 4	♦ A 9
♣ A 10 8 3	♣ K 9 5 2
♠ 10 6 5	
♥ 6 4	
♦ Q J 10 6 3 2	
♣ J 4	

This one belongs to E/W in either 2♠ or 3♣, but will they manage to get there? If North opens 1NT he will usually be left to play there and should make seven tricks, while if South transfers to 3♦ that too will shut out E/W, though 3♦ should be down a trick. Even where North opens 1♥, neither East nor West has an automatic bid, though many Easts will double and find the spade fit. Plus 110 E/W may score very well.

Board 18. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

♠ 9 8 4	
♥ 9 7 3	
♦ Q 10 6 5 3	
♣ 4 2	
♠ Q 5	♠ 10 7 6 3 2
♥ Q 8	♥ A K 6
♦ 9 7 4 2	♦ K J
♣ A J 7 5 3	♣ Q 9 8
♠ A K J	
♥ J 10 5 4 2	
♦ A 8	
♣ K 10 6	

If East opens 1NT and South doubles, West will be content but North will run to 2♦. That goes down, but the E/W will need to either double or get the spade ruff for down two if they are to score well. E/W can make any of 2♠, 2NT and 3♠.

If East opens 1♠, South may overcall 1NT and West double. North again runs to 2♦ and now can E/W catch them with a penalty double to earn themselves a very good score?

Board 19. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

♠ A 9 4 3	
♥ 8 7	
♦ A 6	
♣ Q J 10 7 4	
♠ K 7 5	♠ Q J 6
♥ 6 5 3 2	♥ A K J 9 4
♦ K 3	♦ J 7
♣ A K 8 2	♣ 6 5 3
♠ 10 8 2	
♥ Q 10	
♦ Q 10 9 8 5 4 2	
♣ 9	

South opens 3♦ – completely automatic at this vulnerability – and West, while minimum for this action, is likely to double. East jumps to 4♥ and South leads the singleton club. The defence simply needs to avoid leading diamonds at any stage and will come to two of those plus one trick in each black suit for down one. Indeed, it could be even better than that, as declarer may well finesse into the queen of hearts given the pre-emptive opening, and will then be down two.

Board 20. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

♠ 8 7	
♥ 3	
♦ Q J 8 7 6 5 2	
♣ K 7 4	
♠ A J 10 4	♠ 5 2
♥ 10 5 4 2	♥ K J 7
♦ A	♦ 10 9 4
♣ A Q 9 5	♣ 10 8 6 3 2
♠ K Q 9 6 3	
♥ A Q 9 8 6	
♦ K 3	
♣ J	

West opens 1♣ and it is North's turn to pre-empt with 3♦. If that ends the auction, it should be made easily enough, but of course West is likely to make a reopening double, hoping that partner has a penalty pass. East does not have a penalty pass, but does have five-card club support, so has an easy 4♣ response to the double.

Alas, while nobody is likely to be able to find a double, even down two undoubled is too much. But might South take the push to 4♦, for down one?

Board 21. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S

♠ 7 4 3	
♥ 10 9 7 2	
♦ 6 5	
♣ Q 6 3 2	
♠ A 6 5 2	♠ 9 8
♥ K J 5	♥ A 8 6 4 3
♦ 8 7	♦ J 9 4 3 2
♣ A 9 8 5	♣ 4
♠ K Q J 10	
♥ Q	
♦ A K Q 10	
♣ K J 10 7	

N/S make 2NT or 3♣, E/W make 2♥. Unless East can open a weak two-suited bid there will be two passes to South. Some will open 2NT – which I hate with a singleton. I would open 1♣.

2NT works fine today, ending the auction and probably making exactly after a low lead in the black suit nearer West's thumb. 1♣ not only scores less well if it ends the auction, but it also allows East to overcall and E/W to get to hearts, though East should really pass as a 1♥ overall will so often help N/S to get to spades, even at game level.

Board 22. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

♠ Q 10 9 3	
♥ Q J 8 5	
♦ Q 2	
♣ Q 9 8	
♠ 8 2	♠ J 6 5 4
♥ K 6 4	♥ A 10 3
♦ K J 8 3	♦ 9 6 4
♣ K J 6 4	♣ 5 3 2
♠ A K 7	
♥ 9 7 2	
♦ A 10 7 5	
♣ A 10 7	

South will show 15-17 balanced and North invite game, via Stayman if the opening bid was 1NT. South should decline the invitation, though his two tens make life very tough for the defence and 3NT would usually be made if was bid. Plus 150 may therefore prove to be below average.

Board 23. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

♠ Q 6 5 3	
♥ J 6	
♦ A 10 8	
♣ K Q 10 6	
♠ K J 9 4	♠ A 2
♥ 5	♥ K 9 7 4
♦ J 6 3	♦ Q 9 7 5 4
♣ A 8 7 5 4	♣ 9 2
♠ 10 8 7	
♥ A Q 10 8 3 2	
♦ K 2	
♣ J 3	

South has a classical, albeit completely maximum, weak 2♥ opener. Though West is short in hearts, it would be too aggressive to come in on only 9 HCP, so 2♥ will normally end the auction. However, if South opens a multi then passes the 2♥ pass or correct response, West might well double for take-out.

That would work out badly for E/W as, while 2♥ is cold and might make an overtrick, 3♦ is down two for -200 and a very poor score.

Board 24. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

♠ Q 9 6 4	
♥ J 10	
♦ K Q 10 7 5	
♣ K 7	
♠ A K 10	♠ 8 7 5 2
♥ A 8 4 3 2	♥ K 5
♦ A 6 2	♦ 9 8
♣ 9 8	♣ A Q J 3 2
♠ J 3	
♥ Q 9 7 6	
♦ J 4 3	
♣ 10 6 5 4	

A strong NT is raised to game via Stayman, while a 1♥ opening gets a 1♠ response and rebids 1NT, also raised to game. North might bid 2♦ over a 1♥ opener, and now East will double then raise West's 2NT response to game, so it appears that all roads lead to 3NT played by West. Declarer will duck until the third round of diamonds then play on clubs to create four tricks there and nine in all. 4♠ also makes so gets the top matchpoint score.

Board 25. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

♠ Q 8 7 5	
♥ Q 10 8 3	
♦ 9	
♣ K J 9 4	
♠ A 10 4 3	♠ K 9
♥ 2	♥ J 7 5 4
♦ K 10 7 4 3 2	♦ A Q 8 6
♣ 8 2	♣ A Q 7
♠ J 6 2	
♥ A K 9 6	
♦ J 5	
♣ 10 6 5 3	

6♦ makes but is slightly sub-par – if trumps are 3-0 you may have trouble taking two spade ruffs. If the opposition are always going to lead hearts against 3NT, 5♦ is therefore where you would like to be. In practice, South should lead the ♥A against 3NT and cash out the suit for -600 while 5♦ makes the overtrick for 620.

A 1♦ opening from East may well see a diamond contract reached, but after a strong NT few pairs have good methods for West's handtype.

Board 26. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

♠	A J 10 3 2		
♥	9 6 2		
♦	8 7		
♣	Q 7 5		
♠	K 9 6 5	♠	4
♥	K Q 8 4 3	♥	A 7 5
♦	J	♦	A K 9 6 5 4 2
♣	A K 9	♣	3 2
	♠	Q 8 7	
	♥	J 10	
	♦	Q 10 3	
	♣	J 10 8 6 4	

E/W begin 1♦ – 1♥ – 2♦. Some Wests will bid 3NT and play there, plus one after a spade lead, others will rebid 2♣ and get heart preference. Even 6♥ can be made, so to reach 4♥ rather than 3NT is a big point-earner. In 6♥, declarer gains the lead and plays ♦A then ruffs a diamond, draws trumps ending in dummy, and runs the diamonds, basically requiring two 3-2 breaks, so a little under 50%. I'd be happy to settle for 4♥+2.

Board 27. Dealer South. Vulnerability None

	♠	8 6 4 3 2		
	♥	Q 5 3		
	♦	10 9 5 4 2		
	♣	—		
♠	A Q	♠	9 7 5	
♥	J 9 7 6 2	♥	K 10	
♦	7 6	♦	K Q 8	
♣	K 10 4 3	♣	A Q 7 5 2	
	♠	K J 10		
	♥	A 8 4		
	♦	A J 3		
	♣	J 9 8 6		

South opens, possibly with a weak NT, but it is E/W who have game on, either 3NT or 5♣. If West can show hearts and another, he will be a lot happier about overcalling than if he can only show hearts. Some will pass and pass again when North transfers to spades and South completes the transfer. 2♣ can be made for a very good N/S result. If West overcalls 2♥, East may raise or try 2/3NT. West will pass an invitational raise or 2NT, so 3NT is the big winner.

Board 28. Dealer West. Vulnerability N/S

	♠	J 5 2		
	♥	J		
	♦	A Q 10 9 7 5 3		
	♣	Q 9		
♠	K Q 10	♠	9 8 7 4	
♥	10 8 7 3	♥	A K Q	
♦	K J 8	♦	6 4	
♣	4 3 2	♣	A K 7 6	
	♠	A 6 3		
	♥	9 6 5 4 2		
	♦	2		
	♣	J 10 8 5		

North opens 3♦ and East has little option but to double. West could pass or bid hearts, but the popular and successful choice will be 3NT. On this layout, a diamond lead will just give an over-trick. On a non-diamond lead, declarer should get spades right and, though he needs to watch out for his communications, should be able to come to nine tricks on any defence – possibly needing to endplay North to give a late diamond trick on some lines of defence.

Board 29. Dealer North. Vulnerability All

	♠	8		
	♥	K J 7 6 5		
	♦	Q 9		
	♣	K J 8 6 2		
♠	Q J 10 7 5 3	♠	A 9 6	
♥	Q 10 2	♥	A 9	
♦	7 5 2	♦	K J 10 8 3	
♣	3	♣	10 9 4	
	♠	K 4 2		
	♥	8 4 3		
	♦	A 6 4		
	♣	A Q 7 5		

North has a borderline opening bid. Personally, I would open the hand at Love All but not at Game All. If North does open 1♥, he will almost certainly end up in 4♥, whether or not East overcalls – another borderline decision.

A diamond lead would let that through, while a club gives the possibility of West getting two ruffs to beat the contract. If North passes as dealer, East will open and N/S may then compete in hearts but West outbid them in spades, where nine tricks can be made.

Board 30. Dealer East. Vulnerability None

	♠	10 9 8 3 2		
	♥	7 6 5		
	♦	8		
	♣	A 10 9 2		
♠	A K J 5	♠	Q	
♥	Q J 8	♥	10 9 4 3	
♦	J 10 3	♦	A K 6 4 2	
♣	J 6 5	♣	K Q 7	
	♠	7 6 4		
	♥	A K 2		
	♦	Q 9 7 5		
	♣	8 4 3		

East opens 1♦ and West responds 1♠. East may rebid INT if in range, and be raised to game, or may rebid the diamonds and now West will declare 3NT. It probably makes little difference who becomes declarer, with nine tricks the most likely outcome from either side of the table.

Board 31. Dealer South. Vulnerability N/S

♠	Q J 10 9 4	♠	8
♥	Q 10 6 4	♥	K 3
♦	A 9	♦	10 8 7 5 4 2
♣	6 5	♣	Q 10 7 2
♠	7 6 5 3 2		
♥	J 9 8 2		
♦	Q		
♣	J 9 3		
	♠ A K		
	♥ A 7 5		
	♦ K J 6 3		
	♣ A K 8 4		

N/S have a thin slam but it will be rare to see it reached, and it is not such a great contract anyway. South opens 2NT and North does whatever the system requires of him to show this shape. For me, that is simple Stayman followed by 3♥ over the 3♦ response, Smolen, showing five spades and four hearts. South will sign off in 3NT due to the lack of an eight-card major-suit fit, and that will be that.

Board 32. Dealer West. Vulnerability E/W

♠	9	♠	J 8 7 3
♥	K Q J 3	♥	10 9 7 2
♦	K J 6 3 2	♦	A 7
♣	J 7 2	♣	10 9 6
♠	K 10 6 5 2		
♥	A 4		
♦	8 5 4		
♣	K 5 4		
	♠ A Q 4		
	♥ 8 6 5		
	♦ Q 10 9		
	♣ A Q 8 3		

Most Norths will open 1♦ and an uncultured South may respond 3NT. Better in theory is to bid 2♣ then 2♠ as a NT probe over the 2♦ rebid. That gets North to bid 2NT 3♣, but he will bid 3NT at his next turn. Uncultured beats better in theory today, as a spade is lead whoever is declarer, but from West this gives a trick while from East it does not. Even with a trick on the lead, however, 3NT should fail by a trick.

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