

EBED



Sim Pairs

Commentary by Paul Bowyer

Tuesday
8th September 2020

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

The proceeds raised by this event will go to EBED, the national charity for the promotion and development of duplicate bridge. Particularly, in the past few challenging months staff at EBED have worked hard to improve and develop the infrastructure for bridge teaching in England by launching the new e-learning portal EBS (English Bridge School), and to provide support for EBTA – the English Bridge Teachers Association – in order to enable its members to teach bridge online.

EBED also supplies “Bridge for All” teaching materials, organises 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 about EBED’s activities in the current issue of English Bridge and at www.ebedcio.org.uk. If you wish to arrange a donation in favour of the charity, please do so at www.ebedcio.org.uk/donate. 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 sincerely thank you thank you for your support.

Giorgio Provenza

Chief Executive

English Bridge Education & Development, Registered Charity No: 1153543

<p>♠ K862 ♥ J952 ♦ J2 ♣ A105</p> <p>♠ AQ4 ♠ J109753 ♥ K84 ♥ A76 ♦ A874 ♦ Q ♣ Q74 ♣ K83</p> <p>♠ None ♥ Q103 ♦ K109653 ♣ J962</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="76 1249 491 1438"> <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>9</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>10</td> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>6</td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		9		N	1	2	-	-	-	15	10	S	1	2	-	-	-			E	-	-	1	3	3		6	W	-	-	1	3	3	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="507 846 981 981"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The computer has produced some entertaining deals for today’s event that will lead to some highly unpredictable results. Here is a case in point. East-West have a combined 25 points and yet the obvious game (4♠) has four apparently inescapable losers (one spade, one heart, and two clubs). Maybe someone will make 4♠, who can say?</p> <p><i>Deep Finesse</i> tells us that 3NT makes. Indeed so, but only because the diamonds are can be isolated and the two entries (the ♣A and the ♠K) lie in the opposite hand. I can’t construct a sequence that arrives in that spot, although doubtless some will reach it. By the way... what was the opening bid on that East hand? It looks more like a weak two than a 1♠ opener to me, although some will disagree.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass				
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<p>♠ A65 ♥ J876 ♦ K986 ♣ 75</p> <p>♠ J1082 ♠ 4 ♥ AK92 ♥ Q104 ♦ 32 ♦ AQJ54 ♣ 1064 ♣ AK82</p> <p>♠ KQ973 ♥ 53 ♦ 107 ♣ QJ93</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="76 1890 491 2074"> <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>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>16</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8</td> <td>W</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		8		N	-	-	-	-	-	8	16	S	-	-	-	-	-			E	4	3	4	2	3		8	W	4	3	4	2	3	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="507 1496 981 1653"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>An interesting hand this, especially at match-point pairs. After the 1♦ – 1♥ start (did anyone overcall 1♠, vulnerable? Yuk), East is too good to raise to 2♥ so marks time with 2♣, hoping West doesn’t Pass it. West should give false preference to 2♦ and now East bids 2♥ to show a 1-3-5-4 pattern with around 15-16 points. Perfect! The question is – what does West do with that information? At match-points it looks right to Pass as bidding thin games is losing strategy; making ten tricks is sure to do well. 3NT can make with the diamond finesse working, but do you want to be in it?</p> <p><i>Deep Finesse</i> tells us 4♥ can make, but then <i>Deep Finesse</i> can see all four hands. Played single dummy this is an awkward hand to manage in hearts, so a plus score (maybe 140) is not going to score badly.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	Pass		
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<p>♠ J75 ♥ J10763 ♦ Q983 ♣ K</p> <p>♠ 943 ♠ Q6 ♥ K84 ♥ A52 ♦ 4 ♦ 10652 ♣ AJ8643 ♣ 10952</p> <p>♠ AK1082 ♥ Q9 ♦ AKJ7 ♣ Q7</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>7</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>6</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>19</td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	7		N	-	4	3	4	4	8	6	S	-	4	3	4	4		19	E	2	-	-	-	-			W	2	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This is a rare deal in the hands tonight in that the results are likely to be consistent. Almost everyone sitting North-South will surely reach 4♠ and make it. West will presumably lead his singleton diamond and now it's simply a case of avoiding a trump loser.</p> <p>With the actual spade layout, it's hard to see anyone not succeeding, whether they lead the ♠J off the dummy at trick two or play a spade to the ♠10. Anyway, a string of scores of 420 to North-South?</p> <p>I suppose that there may be a rogue pair or two who play this one in 3NT. If so, they may emerge with ten tricks and a top score of 430 points.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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<p>♠ 93 ♥ AK43 ♦ 64 ♣ A10742</p> <p>♠ AQ872 ♠ K10654 ♥ 1096 ♥ 7 ♦ 85 ♦ AKQ1097 ♣ QJ9 ♣ 8</p> <p>♠ J ♥ QJ852 ♦ J32 ♣ K653</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>12</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11		N	3	-	3	-	-	9	12	S	3	-	3	-	-		8	E	-	5	-	5	-			W	-	5	-	5	-	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>4♣*</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A competitive deal this one, with East-West having a laydown eleven tricks in spades. North had better cash his two aces PDQ or West will make twelve.</p> <p>Quite how the bidding will go is hard to say – the auction above is just one of many possibilities. 4♣ is a splinter, trying to provoke a cue-bid from West. Maybe Blackwood is just as good – after all, East just needs West to hold five spades and two aces for slam to be a good prospect. Even if the “Old Black” were wheeled out, East-West could bail out safely at the five-level.</p> <p>North-South would do well if they could steal the deal somehow in 5♥ or 5♣ doubled as it would cost only 500 points. East-West are unlikely to let them play there, however, and I'm predicting a raft of 650s to East-West.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♣	1♦	1♥	1♠	2♥	4♣*	Dble	4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
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<p>♠AJ84 ♥Q72 ♦Q43 ♣AQ9</p> <p>♠K109 ♠Q63 ♥J ♥A863 ♦9865 ♦AK2 ♣K8763 ♣542</p> <p>♠752 ♥K10954 ♦J107 ♣J10</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="76 562 199 752"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="236 562 491 752"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		15	13	7	5	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	3	1	1	S	-	-	2	1	1	E	2	1	-	-	-	W	2	1	-	-	-	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="507 152 981 331"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>For a part-score deal where no one can make very much there may be a lot of bidding on this one. Once again, system comes into this as it depends if East opens with a weak no-trump or not. If he does, that will float to North, who probably does best to Pass and rack up 200 or so after a heart lead. If he doubles, West will rescue into clubs (maybe after some conventional wriggle manoeuvre) and South will probably end up in 2♥.</p> <p>Against 2♥, West does best to lead the ♠10, but is unlikely to find that. After any other lead South can make four hearts, three clubs a spade and a diamond for an overtrick and a decent match-point score of 140 points.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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<p>♠A72 ♥KQJ1097 ♦KJ8 ♣10</p> <p>♠QJ10954 ♠86 ♥3 ♥A8652 ♦104 ♦965 ♣AK63 ♣J75</p> <p>♠K3 ♥4 ♦AQ732 ♣Q9842</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="76 1200 199 1391"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="236 1200 491 1391"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		14	5	10	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	5	5	-	3	S	2	5	5	-	4	E	-	-	-	1	-	W	-	-	-	1	-	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="507 801 981 981"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North-South have a choice of games here with 3NT and 4♥ both being playable. After South opens the bidding many North's will settle for 4♥ in the manner described above, although some might bid 3♠ on the second round and Pass 3NT.</p> <p>3NT is always going to make at least ten tricks (yes, I know <i>Deep Finesse</i> says North could be held to nine tricks – that's if East leads the ♣J. How likely is <i>that</i>?) and 4♥ is going to make at least eleven. That suggests loads of 450s and 430s, but extra overtricks may well be the order of the day if the defenders aren't sharp and neglect to cash out their tricks. There are certain to be some 480s, 460s and even 490s around on the scoresheet tonight.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♦	1♠	2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass			
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<p>♠2 ♥Q106 ♦QJ106 ♣98652</p> <p>♠9873 ♠Q1054 ♥AJ9543 ♥K72 ♦3 ♦A5 ♣K3 ♣J1074</p> <p>♠AKJ6 ♥8 ♦K98742 ♣AQ</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="76 1839 199 2029"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>17</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="236 1839 491 2029"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		5	10	8	17	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	4	-	-	1	S	1	4	-	-	1	E	-	-	2	1	-	W	-	-	2	1	-	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="507 1451 981 1630"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A competitive part-score deal with many possible auctions and consequently many possible results. The textbooks say that you shouldn't open hands such as West's with a weak 2♥ – because of the four-card spade suit – but I'm willing to bet that a number of Wests make a bonfire of such textbooks and open 2♥ (or a multi 2♦) tonight.</p> <p>If West does open 2♥, East should raise the ante to 3♥, giving South problems. That player might double and remove North's 4♣ to 4♦, landing on a pinhead. Or, just possibly, North might Pass the take-out double and defend 3♥ doubled for one down. Quite a few will play in the reasonable 5♦ down one, I suspect, beaten only because the club finesse fails.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥	2♦	2♥	2♠	3♥	Pass	Pass	4♦	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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<p>♠ A ♥ A42 ♦ KJ1097 ♣ J1042</p> <p>♠ K74 ♠ 1098632 ♥ KQ106 ♥ J73 ♦ 432 ♦ Q6 ♣ KQ5 ♣ 63</p> <p>♠ QJ5 ♥ 985 ♦ A85 ♣ A987</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>13</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>3</td> <td>S</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		13		N	4	4	1	-	3	13	3	S	4	4	2	-	3	11		E	-	-	-	1	-			W	-	-	-	1	-	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North-South should probably play this one in a nice simple club part-score, reached after the bidding above. 3♣ isn't entirely safe after a heart lead (unlikely from that East hand) as declarer is in danger of losing two hearts, a diamond and two trumps. However, there are ways of getting rid of a heart loser after the ♠10 lead and, of course, declarer can always guess the diamonds correctly.</p> <p>I suspect that many will reach 3NT on this hand by some route or another. <i>Deep Finesse</i> smugly points out that it can make, but then <i>Deep Finesse</i> can see that the ♦Q drops doubleton. If declarer (be that North or South) takes the normal line of finessing through West, then the game will surely fail, maybe by two tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣	All Pass					
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<p>♠ J53 ♥ AJ54 ♦ J4 ♣ K1096</p> <p>♠ Q987 ♠ K1042 ♥ 93 ♥ 102 ♦ K10876 ♦ Q953 ♣ J8 ♣ 543</p> <p>♠ A6 ♥ KQ876 ♦ A2 ♣ AQ72</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> <td>S</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		10		N	6	-	5	-	5	6	5	S	6	-	5	-	5	19		E	-	-	-	1	-			W	-	-	-	1	-	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Well, the computer has dished up a near unbiddable hand. 6♣ on the 4-4 fit makes as trumps are 3-2; declarer can ditch a diamond loser from dummy on the fifth heart and obtain a ruff in dummy as the twelfth trick. Meanwhile, there are two certain losers if the hand is played in hearts. Trap hands like this were a regular feature of Bidding Challenges in 1970s and 1980s Bridge Magazines; it has taken nigh on 40 years to see one in the flesh.</p> <p>Can anyone reach 6♣? Strong Club pairs might, but I can't see anyone playing a natural system getting there. I can see a few playing in the hopeless 6♥, though, after a 1♥ – 3♥ start to the auction. So, an interesting challenge to all of you system freaks out there – can you find a way to the only making slam?</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
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<p>♠ KQ1092 ♥ Q8 ♦ K1042 ♣ A3</p> <p>♠ 8763 ♠ A4 ♥ A2 ♥ 10975 ♦ AQ7 ♦ 85 ♣ 10742 ♣ KQJ85</p> <p>♠ J5 ♥ KJ643 ♦ J963 ♣ 96</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>14</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		14		N	-	3	2	2	-	10	10	S	-	3	2	2	-	6		E	3	-	-	-	1			W	3	-	-	-	1	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Another one of these competitive part-score deals with uncertain outcomes. Not that the quiet auction above is at all competitive but some (many?) Easts will stick their oar in with a lead-directional overcall of 2♣ and now things may get interesting.</p> <p>East-West can make 3♣, losing a trick in each suit, and North-South can make 3♦, amusingly also being able to hold their losses to a trick in each suit. Absolute par is, therefore, for East-West to bid to 4♣, get doubled and go one down for 100 points to North-South. Will that happen often? Virtually never, I reckon. The most common score will be 110 points to North-South for 2♠ or 3♦ making, I predict. We shall see.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	All Pass	
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<p>♠ A1076 ♥ AQ65 ♦ 8 ♣ 10873</p> <p>♠ 95 ♠ KQ843 ♥ J1097432 ♥ None ♦ KJ6 ♦ Q104 ♣ 4 ♣ AKJ62</p> <p>♠ J2 ♥ K8 ♦ A97532 ♣ Q95</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>15</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>10</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		10		N	-	-	-	-	-	5	15	S	-	-	-	-	-		10	E	-	-	1	2	-			W	-	-	1	2	-	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Do you open that West hand as dealer at favourable vulnerability? Most will, and many will try 3♥ rather than the more modest weak two suggested above. This time, though, is not the right one for buccaneering tactics as North-South can make nothing and seven tricks is the limit for East-West in hearts after a diamond lead and second-round ruff.</p> <p>I suspect that East-West will record various minus scores from heart contracts, many from playing in 3♥ having opened that. Some Easts may attempt to improve the situation by rescuing 3♥ into heaven-knows-what and only succeed in sinking deeper in the mire.</p> <p>A top score for anyone succeeding in making a plus score on the East-West cards and a well-above average score for a modest -50? That's my prediction, anyway.</p>	West	North	East	South	2♥	Pass	Pass	Pass				
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<p>♠ KJ732 ♥ A4 ♦ AK7 ♣ J42</p> <p>♠ 1086 ♠ A9 ♥ 9 ♥ KJ108762 ♦ J8643 ♦ 10 ♣ A983 ♣ K106</p> <p>♠ Q54 ♥ Q53 ♦ Q952 ♣ Q75</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>16</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>11</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8</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> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		16		N	-	1	-	2	3	5	11	S	-	1	-	2	3		8	E	-	-	2	-	-			W	-	-	2	-	-	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A deal of many marginal decisions, this one. The above suggestion is a cautious one but is not that unreasonable; North shouldn't really bid on at match-point pairs after South has scraped up a 2♠ response. Should East compete further with 3♥? Well, possibly so, but North should double competitively when that reaches him and South, holding a trump trick, should Pass that. 200 (the famous "kiss of death" score) would be the result and North-South would end up with most of the match-points.</p> <p>Now, 3NT is a make on the North-South cards with the ♥K lying well for North-South. Is it biddable? It might be reached if North opens a strong no-trump, even after East intervenes with 2♥ (or some conventional manoeuvre). Still, 3NT bid and made will not be that common a result on the North-South cards.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♠	2♥	2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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<p>♠ 1087 ♥ K3 ♦ Q10876 ♣ Q32</p> <p>♠ KQJ93 ♠ A642 ♥ A862 ♥ J97 ♦ 4 ♦ A953 ♣ J105 ♣ 76</p> <p>♠ 5 ♥ Q1054 ♦ KJ2 ♣ AK984</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>7</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>9</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>13</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		7		N	2	3	-	-	-	11	9	S	2	3	-	-	-		13	E	-	-	1	3	1			W	-	-	1	3	1	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Another competitive part-score deal where East-West would do well to steal the deal in spades. After South opens 1♣ and West overcalls 1♠ North has an awkward call. If South hasn't promised clubs North is in a hole, but if South has guaranteed the suit North can make a raise to 2♣. East now should support spades and can do so to the level of the known number of trumps. With a nine-card spade fit, East should bid 3♠, silencing the opposition.</p> <p>North does best to lead trumps against 3♠ and now West has to work for his contract. He has eight easy tricks (five spades, one heart, one diamond and a club ruff on the table) so needs to manufacture a second heart trick. He can do this if he reads the position and makes use of the heart pips, leading low from hand and later finessing through South. Quite how this is managed will be left as an exercise for the reader.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	2♣	3♠	All Pass			Pass	1♣
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																											
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<p>♠ 94 ♥ QJ2 ♦ AK10632 ♣ 94</p> <p>♠ 32 ♠ J8 ♥ 109874 ♥ 53 ♦ 7 ♦ J9854 ♣ AK765 ♣ QJ82</p> <p>♠ AKQ10765 ♥ AK6 ♦ Q ♣ 103</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="76 562 491 752"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>5</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		10		N	-	3	1	5	2	7	5	S	-	3	1	5	2	18		E	2	-	-	-	-			W	2	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="499 152 1525 369"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This is another trap hand, straight from the pages from a bidding competition (cf Board 10). This one has thirteen top tricks with two top losers, another common theme amongst 1970s Bidding Challenge setters. Can North-South stay out of a slam after South opens 2♣? They ought to be able to, if they can cue-bid their way to the right level. Of course, they may be either helped or hindered by intervention (should West come in with something or other over 2♣? Possibly).</p> <p>Anyway, in the sequence above, Everything up to 4♠ is natural, 5♦ accepts spades as trumps and is a cue-bid, as is 5♥. 5♠ is a sign-off, denying club control, and South reluctantly Passes. Did anyone slip a slam through, played by North?</p>	West	North	East	South				2♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠	All Pass	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																																							
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<p>♠ 6 ♥ 103 ♦ AJ109842 ♣ 853</p> <p>♠ Q7 ♠ J105 ♥ A84 ♥ K9762 ♦ Q63 ♦ K75 ♣ A10964 ♣ Q7</p> <p>♠ AK98432 ♥ QJ5 ♦ None ♣ KJ2</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="76 1200 491 1402"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>9</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		5		N	-	2	-	2	-	12	9	S	-	2	-	2	-	14		E	1	-	1	-	-			W	1	-	1	-	-	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="499 801 1525 907"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦*</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This is not an easy hand to predict, neither in the bidding, nor in the play. If East-West are playing a weak no-trump, West will surely open with one of those and then the bidding may well peter out as in the bidding above. Some Norths may overcall 3♦ with heaven knows what result; however, if 2♦ is some sort of conventional effort, 3♦ is often reserved for a genuine overcall with diamonds rather than a weak hand. If East-West are playing a strong no-trump, West will open 1♣ and North is sure to overcall 3♦ at the vulnerability, probably securing the declaration for one down.</p> <p>Against 2♠, West does best to lead hearts. After two rounds of hearts and a trump switch declarer has to play clubs from hand and has to guess how they lie to make the hand. West may choose to lead a diamond, though, and now South may take the ♦A and finesse the ♣J for nine tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	Pass	2♦*	2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass													
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<p>♠ 85 ♥ Q10763 ♦ 76 ♣ A1065</p> <p>♠ J2 ♠ 10943 ♥ K54 ♥ A8 ♦ A9432 ♦ Q8 ♣ J73 ♣ K9842</p> <p>♠ AKQ76 ♥ J92 ♦ KJ105 ♣ Q</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="76 1839 491 2027"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>6</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>9</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		6		N	-	1	3	2	1	9	9	S	-	1	3	2	1	16		E	1	-	-	-	-			W	1	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="499 1451 1525 1579"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A modest part-score hand where it is difficult to locate the best trump suit (hearts). The auction above is reasonable, alighting in a perfectly normal 2♠ contract. The play and defence in 2♠ are not immediately obvious and it maybe that some will be allowed to make nine tricks for a score of 140 points.</p> <p>Is it possible to play the hand in hearts? Well, some may open that North hand with 2♥ (Lucas style, showing 5-4 in hearts and a minor). If so, the 5-3 fit will be located immediately, the problem being that South may then go overboard and bid game. Mind you, there are ways that 4♥ can slip through, so maybe there will be the occasional score of 420 on the scoresheet tonight.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	All Pass									
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<p>♠ J1098 ♥ 954 ♦ Q ♣ AQ985</p> <p>♠ 653 ♠ KQ ♥ J ♥ KQ1072 ♦ AK107532 ♦ J94 ♣ J6 ♣ K104</p> <p>♠ A742 ♥ A863 ♦ 86 ♣ 732</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>14</td> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		9		N	1	-	-	1	-	9	14	S	1	-	-	1	-	8		E	-	4	2	-	2			W	-	4	2	-	2	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Another deal with marginal decisions. Most will open that East hand with 1♥ and most Wests will respond 2♦, although some will be obliged to respond 1NT as the hand lacks the values to bid at the two-level. Where West responds 1NT he may play there and an unfortunate club lead will allow a huge quantity of overtricks, maybe three. 180 will score well for East-West.</p> <p>Where West responds 2♦, East has a marginal decision between supporting his partner or rebidding 2♥. If East does bid 2♥, West is likely to repeat his diamonds, so 3♦ is likely to be the final contract anyway. That should score an effortless overtrick for 130.</p> <p>Did anyone open 1NT on the East cards? If so, West might take a flyer at 3NT, putting South under pressure. A spade lead is needed to stand a chance of beating it; anything else and this audacious contract sails home.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦	All Pass
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																											
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<p>♠ J862 ♥ KQ ♦ KQ ♣ A8652</p> <p>♠ K75 ♠ A1094 ♥ AJ86432 ♥ 1095 ♦ J5 ♦ 86 ♣ K ♣ J1093</p> <p>♠ Q3 ♥ 7 ♦ A1097432 ♣ Q74</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>15</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>5</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		15		N	2	3	-	-	4	12	5	S	2	3	-	-	4	8		E	-	-	3	1	-			W	-	-	3	1	-	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Another difficult to predict deal. Most, I suggest, will open 3♦ on those South cards and most Wests will try 3♥. Now what, North? If South is promising seven decent diamonds, then 3NT becomes a promising proposition; if South is known to mess about at this vulnerability, and pre-empt on any old piece of cheese, then bidding game is on far dodgier ground.</p> <p>West can make nine tricks in hearts if he plays off the ♣K early and then takes the ruffing finesse through South for the ♣Q. Thus, some Wests will record 140 in hearts. Some brave Easts may go on to 4♥, especially if pushed there by North's 3NT bid. If North doubles, he should collect 200 points; whether that's a good score or not depends on how many 400s there are for 3NT bid and made.</p> <p>Incidentally, in 3NT, North should take the heart lead and play the ♣A. If the ♣K falls he doesn't need to overtake the second diamond and play for a 2-2 break.</p>	West	North	East	South				3♦	3♥	3NT	All Pass	
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<p>♠ K85 ♥ A42 ♦ KJ76 ♣ QJ8</p> <p>♠ A1063 ♠ Q ♥ J1065 ♥ KQ83 ♦ A93 ♦ 84 ♣ 64 ♣ AK10952</p> <p>♠ J9742 ♥ 97 ♦ Q1052 ♣ 73</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>14</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>14</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>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		14		N	-	-	-	-	-	9	14	S	-	-	-	-	-	3		E	5	-	5	1	3			W	5	-	5	1	3	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♣*</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Another deal where the auctions are going to be all over the place. If North-South are playing a weak no-trump, North will start proceedings with his favourite toy and that may inconvenience East. In the auction above, 2♣ is <i>Aspro</i>, showing hearts and another suit. West has a clear-cut bid of 3♥ and East an easy raise to 4♥. A good hand for the methods...</p> <p>If, though, you are playing other systems over a weak no-trump (<i>multi-Landy</i>, for example) it may be difficult to locate the 4-4 heart fit. East may bid a natural 3♣ over 1NT and buy the auction. Some pairs may bid to 3NT, making because of the lucky club layout and because diamonds are 4-4.</p> <p>Some strong no-trumpers may cause anguish in the Eastern quarter by opening the North hand with 1♣. Even where 1♦ is opened it may prove difficult for East-West to reach 4♥.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	2♣*	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
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<p>♠ J86543 ♥ 9 ♦ 72 ♣ K1094</p> <p>♠ Q1072 ♠ A9 ♥ 1062 ♥ KQJ873 ♦ AK65 ♦ QJ3 ♣ 76 ♣ 85</p> <p>♠ K ♥ A54 ♦ 10984 ♣ AQJ32</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>4</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>13</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		4		N	2	-	-	1	-	9	13	S	2	-	-	1	-			E	-	2	3	-	1	14		W	-	2	3	-	1	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Another one of those competitive part-score deals which are difficult to predict. East-West should win the auction and play the hand in hearts. Superficially, there are ten tricks available (one spade, five hearts and four diamonds) with the fortunate fall of the ♠K irrelevant. However, South has an effective defence by leading his spade and later putting North on lead with the ♣K for a spade ruff.</p> <p>The auction above shows caution by East – many players would be tempted to bid 3♥ over North’s club raise. Should that happen, West may well raise to game. Many will play in 4♥ on the East-West cards and many may be allowed to make it.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♥	2♣	Dble	3♣	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	3♥	All Pass				
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																																			
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<p>♠ A832 ♥ J1074 ♦ 4 ♣ 10874</p> <p>♠ K97654 ♠ None ♥ A2 ♥ Q ♦ 3 ♦ AKJ1098762 ♣ AKQ5 ♣ J32</p> <p>♠ QJ10 ♥ K98653 ♦ Q5 ♣ 96</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>11</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>4</td> <td>7</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>4</td> <td>7</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		5		N	-	-	2	-	-	16	11	S	-	-	2	-	-			E	4	7	-	3	4	8		W	4	7	-	3	6	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>5♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>What’s your experience on nine-card suits? Mine is pretty limited and I expect that goes for most players. If East opens with a practical shot of 5♦, vulnerable, West may as well take a shot at a slam. With East having a void spade, a grand slam makes but I don’t see a practical way of reaching it.</p> <p>Please note that no one should open that East hand with a strong two or a Benjaminised 2♣. I believe that is not allowed these days if the bid is described as “strong” when the hand only contains 11 points.</p> <p>Match-point fiends may just take a pot at 6NT on those West cards and get themselves a top score, but that really is a punt.</p>	West	North	East	South			5♦	Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass	Pass								
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																																			
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																															
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<p>♠ 986 ♥ A9 ♦ Q9 ♣ Q76542</p> <p>♠ KQ103 ♠ A4 ♥ Q108 ♥ K765 ♦ A83 ♦ K107654 ♣ KJ10 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ J752 ♥ J432 ♦ J2 ♣ 983</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>14</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		8		N	-	-	-	-	-	15	14	S	-	-	-	-	-			E	3	6	5	6	6	3		W	3	6	5	6	6	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The last hand provided an excellent grand slam. Here, 6♦ makes for East-West, but is a much shakier contract. With the ♥A off the hand it all boils down to bringing in the diamonds for no loser, so relies on a 2-2 break (or on South having a singleton honour). 6♦ (or 6NT for that matter) are no things of beauty and are probably not worth being in at match-point pairs.</p> <p>After West shows a balanced 15+, East can show his power with a 3♥ responder’s reverse. When West retreats to 3NT, East can read his partner for soft values and wasted club values, so is advised to Pass. Quite how many pairs will bid on to a slam is difficult to say.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																																			
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<p>♠ 84 ♥ A54 ♦ K96432 ♣ 63</p> <p>♠ K1092 ♠ Q7653 ♥ Q97 ♥ 63 ♦ J8 ♦ 10 ♣ A1098 ♣ QJ754</p> <p>♠ AJ ♥ KJ1082 ♦ AQ75 ♣ K2</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>7</td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td></td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	7		-	5	5	-	2	10	5	-	6	6	-	6			3	-	-	3	-	18		3	-	-	3	-	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This looks an innocent deal but may not prove to be so. If there are three Passes to South, the auction may well go as suggested above. West has an awkward lead with a spade putting declarer under the most pressure. If he gets trumps wrong (which is likely) he may well lose a spade, a heart and a club. On another lead (the ♦J?) South may well cash two top trumps and play on diamonds, making an overtrick as the cards lie.</p> <p>What about the bidding, though? Some Norths may open with a weak 2♦, giving North-South bidding problems and some Easts might be allowed to open 2♠ (Lucas style) in third seat. What happens after these starts is hard to say, although some East-Westes may steal the deal in spades, getting out cheaply in 4♠ doubled.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass					
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<p>♠ J103 ♥ AQ ♦ 872 ♣ AK653</p> <p>♠ K76 ♠ 94 ♥ 8543 ♥ 92 ♦ KQ96 ♦ A1053 ♣ 102 ♣ QJ987</p> <p>♠ AQ852 ♥ KJ1076 ♦ J4 ♣ 4</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>14</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>7</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	14		1	-	4	4	2	8	7	1	-	4	4	2			-	1	-	-	-	11		-	1	-	-	-	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This looks, at first glance, to be an innocuous deal. North-South can make 4♠, losing two diamonds and a trump for an easy ten tricks and a score of 420. However, the choice of declarer may have a profound effect on the outcome. If North opens a weak no-trump it is almost certain that he becomes declarer, probably after a transfer sequence similar to the one above. East has no reason to lead a diamond, so a loser in the suit can get dumped on a top club and eleven tricks made.</p> <p>If North, maybe playing a strong no-trump, opens 1♣ then South will surely end up as declarer. West now has a much clearer diamond lead, allowing the defence to grab the first two diamond tricks and holding declarer to ten tricks. A prediction: 450 will be well above average and 420 well below average.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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<p>♠ A98753 ♥ None ♦ 1032 ♣ A653</p> <p>♠ 42 ♠ None ♥ J84 ♥ A109765 ♦ AKQ985 ♦ J64 ♣ 74 ♣ Q1092</p> <p>♠ KQJ106 ♥ KQ32 ♦ 7 ♣ KJ8</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>7</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	8		3	-	-	6	-	10	7	3	-	-	6	-			-	2	2	-	-	15		-	2	2	-	-	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>4♥*</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Another hand, another slam. This one is for North-South and, as a straight 50-50 proposition, it is a better prospect than Board 23, which was below 50%. Mind you, do you want to be in a slam on a finesse? This one depends simply on East holding the ♣Q and nothing else, but at match-points it is generally wise to steer clear of such contracts.</p> <p>In practice, I can't see many players reaching 6♠. East may well open 2♥; South has a clear 2♠ overcall and West might support hearts or he might choose to show his diamonds. North is probably going to bid 4♥ anyway to show heart shortage and a spade fit, but is South going to be that interested? The ♥K Q are clearly wasted values and that South hand has no aces. I'm predicted a raft of scores of 680 to North-South. Am I right? We'll see.</p>	West	North	East	South			2♥	2♠	3♦	4♥*	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass					
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<p>♠ J6 ♥ 8 ♦ K10952 ♣ K9652</p> <p>♠ A9 ♠ 875432 ♥ AJ1096543 ♥ K7 ♦ None ♦ Q8743 ♣ Q43 ♣ None</p> <p>♠ KQ10 ♥ Q2 ♦ AJ6 ♣ AJ1087</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>7</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>5</td> <td>S</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		7		N	3	3	-	-	-	11	5	S	4	2	-	-	-			E	-	-	4	2	-	17		W	-	-	4	2	-	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>5♣</td> <td>5♥</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The deals get wilder and even less predictable. Some may open that South hand with a 15-17 1NT and see West bid 4♥. What can North do now? Is 4NT a bid to show both minors or is a single-suited minor hand, hoping to make the contract? If South opens a natural 1♣, North would be on safer ground if he were to raise to 5♣ over 4♥ and East now has an awkward decision.</p> <p>5♥ is a sure one off but what about 5♣? <i>Deep Finesse</i> tells us that it's one off. Sure it is – West makes the obvious lead of a low heart to the ♥K and East returns a diamond at trick two for a ruff. Here on Planet Earth that's unlikely to happen but declarer still isn't out of the woods after a more passive defence. He has to guess trumps and then find the ♦Q. It probably pays to Pass out 5♣ rather than bid 5♥.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♣	4♥	5♣	5♥	Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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<p>♠ QJ1097 ♥ 965 ♦ 3 ♣ QJ76</p> <p>♠ None ♠ K64 ♥ Q1043 ♥ KJ82 ♦ QJ10876 ♦ AK2 ♣ K53 ♣ 1098</p> <p>♠ A8532 ♥ A7 ♦ 954 ♣ A42</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>6</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>14</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		6		N	2	-	-	4	-	8	14	S	2	-	-	4	-			E	-	4	3	-	1	12		W	-	4	3	-	-	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT*</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣*</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>With the spade finesse working North-South can make 4♠ on this deal. However, it is entirely possible that the never enter the bidding at all. If East opens a weak no-trump and West transfers to diamonds (as in the auction above where 2NT shows diamonds and 3♣ shows good diamonds) it is difficult for East-West to enter the bidding.</p> <p>If East-West are playing a strong no-trump, East may open 1♣, South will overcall 1♠ and now, having lit the blue touch paper, should retire immediately as the fireworks are about to begin. Quite how the auction will progress from here is impossible to say, but North may well bid 4♠ on the "We have ten trumps, so there!" principle and East-West may bid to 5♦ over the top of that. Even 4♥ is a possibility for East-West, beaten only by diamond ruffs. Scores all over the place?</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦	Pass		
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																															
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																											
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<p>♠ A4 ♥ AQ3 ♦ QJ64 ♣ J852</p> <p>♠ 985 ♠ J1076 ♥ J1094 ♥ K6 ♦ K98 ♦ 732 ♣ K106 ♣ Q943</p> <p>♠ KQ32 ♥ 8752 ♦ A105 ♣ A7</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>14</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>6</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</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>13</td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		14		N	2	3	3	2	3	7	6	S	2	3	3	2	3			E	-	-	-	-	-	13		W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North-South should reach 3NT on this hand, probably via the Stayman sequence above. <i>Deep Finesse</i> tells us that it makes nine tricks but, in practice, this is a deal with loads of interest. If East leads a club, declarer is in danger of losing three clubs, a diamond and a heart. However, East-West have to show a bit of fancy footwork in the club department.</p> <p>If the club is run to West, that player should return the ♣10 to the bare ace in order to unblock the suit. If, instead, North called for the ♣A, West should drop the ♣10, again as an unblocking manoeuvre. Suppose North took the second round of clubs and played off the ♦A and another diamond. East would take his club tricks and exit safely with a diamond or a spade. Now declarer plays off his winners and squeezes East in the majors. Easy enough, if your name is <i>Deep Finesse</i>...</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																															
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<p>♠ QJ7 ♥ 9 ♦ AJ1065 ♣ Q932</p> <p>♠ A1086 ♠ K2 ♥ None ♥ AK108753 ♦ KQ872 ♦ 94 ♣ KJ84 ♣ 76</p> <p>♠ 9543 ♥ QJ642 ♦ 3 ♣ A105</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>10</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	10		N	-	-	-	-	13	10	S	-	-	-	-	7		E	1	1	2	1			W	1	2	2	1	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A horrible misfitting hand with ghastly breaks. With hearts 5-1 and a diamond ruff looming, eight tricks is the limit of the hand in hearts for East-West, and no other strain offers the prospects of a plus score. Is West allowed to Pass 3♥ in the auction above or is 2♠ unconditionally forcing to game? In old-fashioned methods anyone who bid as East does here was attempting to sign off and 3♥ was certainly Passable. Nowadays I'm not so sure. Anyone bidding on beyond 3♥ (3NT? 4♥) is simply increasing the penalty and there may be doubles flying around.</p> <p>Predictions? No plus scores for East-West on this one with -50 being way above average. We shall see.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass	Pass		
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																														
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<p>♠ A10654 ♥ AJ965 ♦ Q8 ♣ 3</p> <p>♠ QJ98732 ♠ K ♥ 4 ♥ 3 ♦ 3 ♦ AK962 ♣ Q1098 ♣ AKJ642</p> <p>♠ None ♥ KQ10872 ♦ J10754 ♣ 75</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>18</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11		N	-	-	4	-	5	18	S	-	-	4	-	6		E	5	2	-	3			W	5	2	-	3	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♣</td> <td>5♥</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>These weird hands just keep rolling off the computer... At least the play on this one will be easy enough in either 5♣, should East-West secure the declaration in that spot, or in hearts, where East-West have three top tricks and nothing more. What about the bidding? Well, technically, you shouldn't open a 0-6-5-2 hand with a weak two, but that won't stop most South players from doing so, and that allows North to blast 4♥. East's 4NT is a clear-cut "Pick a minor" message and East-West arrive in their optimum spot. Despite the vulnerability, it pays North to go to the well again with 5♥.</p> <p>What if South Passes as dealer? West might open 3♣ and East might raise that to 4♠. To beat it, North has to cash a heart, then switch to a club and then duck the ♠K. If he fails to do precisely this, 4♠ will sneak home.</p>	West	North	East	South				2♥	Pass	4♥	4NT	Pass	5♣	5♥	Dble	All Pass				
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<p>♠ Q643 ♥ 62 ♦ KQ954 ♣ J8</p> <p>♠ K98 ♠ 105 ♥ Q1097 ♥ AJ43 ♦ A10 ♦ J632 ♣ 10742 ♣ K96</p> <p>♠ AJ72 ♥ K85 ♦ 87 ♣ AQ53</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>9</td> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	8		N	1	3	-	4	9	9	S	1	3	-	4	14		E	-	-	2	-			W	-	-	1	-	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This is how this set shall end, not with a bang, but with a whimper. Those playing a weak no-trump will bid as above and play there. A heart lead from West will give the defenders three hearts, a diamond and a spade allowing South to make eight tricks for a score of 120 points.</p> <p>Those playing a strong no-trump may score well here because they may well locate their 4-4 spade fit. In spades, the fortunate disposition of three key cards (the two red aces and the ♣K) means that ten tricks are possible. 4♠ is an absurd proposition, but you don't have to bid these ridiculous games to score well at match-point pairs. Simply playing in the right strain and raking in the maximum number of tricks will rack up a good score. Anyone who records 170 points on the North-South cards is booked for an excellent match-point score.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass									
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