

British Winter Sim Pairs



Tuesday
14th January 2020

Welcome to the British Winter Simultaneous Pairs. Thank you for playing. I hope you enjoy the event and also the commentary provided by a leading expert. The commentator for this set of hands is Graham Osborne.

This is the start of the 2020 Simultaneous Pairs season, so it's a new year for prizes. Every host club will be entered in to a prize draw made at the AGM in November. So the club at which you have played today has a chance to win one of ten cash prizes of £250. The prize for the overall winners of each Sim Pairs is £100, and we wish you luck in trying to win it.

You can find all the full details, results and last year's prize winners at www.ebu.co.uk/sims/

You can earn Blue points and they are awarded to the top third of the field. Don't be too impatient for the results! Provisional results will appear quickly but they won't be finalised and nor will the Master Point awards until all results are in and score corrections have been made. This can take up to three weeks. It really helps us if you can keep your scorecard for that period. Clubs should keep the travellers if still used.

Coming up in February (4th & 6th) is the Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs. This year money raised will be to help support Junior Bridge. I hope you will support this event and look forward to you playing.

Ian Payn, Chairman EBU

<p>♠AQ75 ♥Q973 ♦Q106 ♣109</p> <p>♠92 ♠J8 ♥A ♥KJ65 ♦A843 ♦KJ752 ♣J86432 ♣K5</p> <p>♠K10643 ♥10842 ♦9 ♣AQ7</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1240 193 1426"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="229 1240 475 1426"> <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>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		10		9	12	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	2	2	-	S	-	-	2	2	-	E	2	3	-	-	-	W	2	3	-	-	-	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="480 801 970 913"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>2♣</td></tr> <tr><td>2NT</td><td>3♣</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Despite the 5422 shape a weak NT opening is a very reasonable description of the East hand, although here it may have the effect of burying his side's best fit. South will intervene showing the majors and West will compete in ♣, perhaps through a Lebensohl 2NT bid. North has a big double fit for his partner's suits but will do best if he bids his stronger major. In practice, whether North or South plays a ♠ contract it is likely to make 9 tricks because holding it to 8 requires double dummy defence. If North plays 3♣, East has to lead a ♥, West has to underlead his ♦A to East and then East has to underlead his remaining ♥s for West to ruff leaving East to score the KJ ♥ at some point. East-West will often do well to bid 4 of a minor over 3♣. If undoubled they will only lose 50 or 100 points, and even if doubled a successful guess of the trump suit in 4♦ will lead to only one down (in 4♣ if the defence find their ♦ ruff there is a potential for a disastrous -300).</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1NT	2♣	2NT	3♣	All Pass					
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<p>♠AJ10753 ♥K5 ♦5 ♣J874</p> <p>♠Q984 ♠K2 ♥A98762 ♥Q103 ♦74 ♦A983 ♣A ♣K952</p> <p>♠6 ♥J4 ♦KQJ1062 ♣Q1063</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1928 193 2114"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="229 1928 475 2114"> <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>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		9		10	12	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	2	-	-	-	S	2	2	-	-	-	E	-	-	4	1	3	W	-	-	4	1	3	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="480 1496 970 1630"> <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>2♣</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Many Souths won't have a natural 2♦ available over the NT opening and so will have to keep quiet since 3♦ is too risky vulnerable. West may bid his hand a couple of ways, either Stayman planning to raise a 2♠ response to game and otherwise playing in 4♥ or starting with a transfer to ♥ intending to show ♠ on the next round.</p> <p>Against 4♥, North leads his singleton ♦, declarer wins the Ace, unblocks the ♣A and plays Ace and a ♥. With ♥s 2-2 this makes 10 tricks easily. A ♠ after the ♣A should lead to failure as North can rise with A, give partner a ♠ ruff and South can then cash a ♦ and North still has the ♥K to come. +420 will be well above average due to some pairs missing game or failing in game but the best score may well come from doubling North's vulnerable overcall. If the defence secure a ♣ ruff they should ensure their side scores at least +500.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	2♣	2♠	Pass	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
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<p>♠ Q6 ♥ Q7632 ♦ J1083 ♣ A2</p> <p>♠ 2 ♠ AKJ1053 ♥ K109 ♥ J ♦ AQ4 ♦ K95 ♣ KQ10953 ♣ 864</p> <p>♠ 9874 ♥ A854 ♦ 762 ♣ J7</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>West with only 14 HCP and a misfit for his partner's suit is just shy of a 3♣ rebid. The vast majority of pairs are going to reach a game but with decent stops in both red suits I suspect more pairs will reach 3NT rather than 4♠. With the very friendly layout in the ♠ suit both games will make. A ♥ lead to the ace and continuation will hold NT declarers to ten tricks. Declarers playing in ♠ will do at least a trick better and some may make 12 tricks. South leads a ♦, declarer will win in dummy, draw trumps and play the ♥J, if South ducks and declarer plays the K, 12 tricks will be his reward as it is impossible to go wrong in the ♣ suit.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass																								
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<p>♠ Q43 ♥ J4 ♦ A1076 ♣ KQ102</p> <p>♠ 109652 ♠ A ♥ 972 ♥ AKQ1085 ♦ KQ32 ♦ 84 ♣ A ♣ J876</p> <p>♠ KJ87 ♥ 63 ♦ J95 ♣ 9543</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <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> </table> <p>There should be a route to game against the strong no-trumpers too, who open a minor with East overcalling and then making a game-try after his partner raises. Against East's ♥ game, South needs to lead a trump to stop declarer making 12 tricks, otherwise with trumps 2-2 and ♣s 4-4, he can manoeuvre ruffing three ♣s in dummy and setting up a ♦ trick. If East gets cute and passes his opponent's NT opening hoping to collect to collect some vulnerable undertricks he should do okay as it is likely to be passed out and having cashed the ♥ suit, his partner should have managed to signal for a ♦ switch which will lead to +300, which will be good enough to beat all the pairs that do not bid a game.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass																														
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<p>♠ Q1086 ♥ QJ64 ♦ KQ ♣ 832</p> <p>♠ A932 ♠ 75 ♥ 73 ♥ K102 ♦ AJ10 ♦ 98752 ♣ 9654 ♣ A107</p> <p>♠ KJ4 ♥ A985 ♦ 643 ♣ KQJ</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>Strong no-trumpers will bid 1♣-1♥-2♥ finding their major suit fit. This should lead to nine tricks losing a trick in each suit, and perhaps an advantage against the weak no-trumpers who will be in 1NT. Against NT contracts, West leads a ♠ and declarer wins in dummy and takes a ♥ finesse, this wins but then when declarer plays a ♠ to knock out the ace, the defence can switch to ♦s. The ♦ suit is blocked but even after knocking out the ♣A, declarer still has only eight tricks by way of 3♠, 2♥, 1♦ and 2♣.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1NT																																		
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<p>♠ A6 ♥ Q832 ♦ J10532 ♣ QJ</p> <p>♠ KQ8752 ♠ J3 ♥ A ♥ 10 ♦ 984 ♦ AQ7 ♣ 743 ♣ A1098652</p> <p>♠ 1094 ♥ KJ97654 ♦ K6 ♣ K</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>It is easy to see ♥ competition from North-South pushing the opponents into a thin 4♠ contract that they may not have bid left to their own devices. North-South have a good favourable save in 5♥ (two off, -300) against their opponents' game but I can't see too many pairs finding it as each of their hands has defensive cards in it. On closer inspection, they may be better off not finding the save as 4♠ needs a very good view in the play. Say North leads a ♥. Declarer wins and plays a ♠ to the J and a second round of ♠s to North's A. North switches to a small ♦. Declarer has real difficulty in getting back to hand to draw the last trump. In fact, the only way is to play ♦A and then duck a ♣! Now South can cash ♦K but has to give declarer a ruff and discard in ♥ to get back to hand to draw the last trump.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	1♥	1♠	3♥	Pass	4♥	4♠	All Pass																												
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<p>♠ 1086 ♥ 2 ♦ QJ10872 ♣ 986</p> <p>♠ AKQJ2 ♠ 543 ♥ 1083 ♥ AQJ974 ♦ A64 ♦ 9 ♣ 74 ♣ Q32</p> <p>♠ 97 ♥ K65 ♦ K53 ♣ AKJ105</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South has the sort of hand you might open a weak NT or strong NT! West will likely bid his ♠ suit and East would do well to bid his ♥ suit because if partner has a ♥ fit then game will be played from the East seat which would put the strong hand on lead which is often disadvantageous to the defence. However, it is hard to be critical of East raising his partner's suit with three trumps and a singleton but, if North leads his singleton against a ♠ contract declarer should be held to nine tricks.</p> <p>An easier route to 4♥, will be if West, not unreasonably, with 6 tricks doubles the NT opening, North will run out to ♦s and East will be able to bid game in ♥s. Making a game should score very well as some pairs will miss game altogether and others will go off.</p>	West	North	East	South				1NT	2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass																												
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<p>♠ AK103 ♥ KQ54 ♦ K84 ♣ 103</p> <p>♠ Q96 ♠ 842 ♥ 986 ♥ A32 ♦ 107 ♦ J963 ♣ AQ842 ♣ J75</p> <p>♠ J75 ♥ J107 ♦ AQ52 ♣ K96</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Many Acol players open the higher of two four card suits but both majors should be an exception to make it easy to find a fit in a major. In the auction above South checks back for a 5-3 ♥ fit after the game-forcing 2NT rebid. The trouble with this auction is it makes ♣s, his side's weak spot, the unbid suit. On a ♣ lead, West can either duck the lead completely or win the Q and return a low card to maintain communication with his partner. With no ruffing value there is much to be said for South directly raising to 3NT, and now East might try a ♠, the unbid major, letting in an overtrick. I can't see many pairs reaching a double dummy par four major contract.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass																									
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<p>♠ AK8 ♥ AJ84 ♦ AK532 ♣ 9</p> <p>♠ J97 ♥ 109732 ♦ J4 ♣ A103</p> <p>♠ Q102 ♥ KQ6 ♦ Q7 ♣ J8542</p> <p>♠ 6543 ♥ 5 ♦ 10986 ♣ KQ76</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>After South scrapes up a 2 level response, North's reverse becomes game forcing. With no slam interest and a ♠ stop, South can place the contract. The defence aren't going to lead a ♣ on this auction but in any case can only cash 3 tricks in the suit when South is declarer. South can do no better than cash his top tricks, and providing East doesn't discard a ♦ (keep length with dummy) on the run of the ♥s, he will end up with ten tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass																													
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<p>♠ - ♥ QJ32 ♦ QJ109 ♣ K10643</p> <p>♠ AKQ2 ♥ 6 ♦ K542 ♣ Q952</p> <p>♠ J1064 ♥ K754 ♦ A8763 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ 98753 ♥ A1098 ♦ - ♣ AJ87</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There are various theories as to what to open with a 4441 type hand. Here either 1♣ or 1♦ is reasonable leaving an easy 1♠ rebid after the expected 1♥ response. Some (especially followers of the losing trick count) will no doubt raise the 1♠ response to 3 (anything higher is definitely too much) but with weak minors and skewed strength in ♠ which might be needed to ruff ♥s, I think two is enough. When West has opened 1♣, East can go straight to game after the raise, but if his partner has opened 1♦, the void is not a positive and now a game try is more accurate.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass																								
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<p>♠ K10 ♥ 1093 ♦ 103 ♣ A107542</p> <p>♠ QJ8753 ♥ K42 ♦ A ♣ KJ6</p> <p>♠ A964 ♥ Q85 ♦ 964 ♣ Q93</p> <p>♠ 2 ♥ AJ76 ♦ KQJ8752 ♣ 8</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <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>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>On the second round of the auction, East has a close decision whether to game-force with 3♥ or merely invite. East has an extra card in his suit but knowing there is no ♥ fit after the 2♠ rebid and the misfit in partner's suit both suggest going low. West with extra values, the fitting ♦A and stops in both unbid suits has a clear 3NT bid.</p> <p>After a ♣ lead to the Q and K, declarer unblocks the ♦A. Taking a ♥ finesse now would be an unnecessary gamble, you can be sure some pairs will have messed up finishing in 4♠, 5♦ or even missing game. So cross to the ♥A and run the ♦s and hope something good happens, at the very worst you maintain the not insignificant chance of the ♥Q being doubleton. In this case South comes down to the ♠A, Qx ♥ and a ♣ and the defence should be able to take the last 4 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass																								
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<p>♠ KJ1042 ♥ K93 ♦ J ♣ AK104</p> <p>♠ A3 ♠ Q9865 ♥ QJ87 ♥ 54 ♦ AQ105 ♦ K963 ♣ QJ5 ♣ 73</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ A1062 ♦ 8742 ♣ 9862</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>A strong no-trump opening by West may push the opponents into their best fit, after North overcalls with 2♠ showing ♠ and a minor and South chooses to play in his partner's minor. The cards lie well for a ♣ contract with the QJ ♣ onside. When West opens 1♦, his side will locate their best fit immediately but North with his attractive shape won't let the auction die at the two level. However, a 2♥ contract by South is likely to fail by a trick which will be worse than defending 2♦. If West opens 1♥, then after the ♠ overcall West will re-open with a double or a slightly unsound 1NT (it is a bit light on HCPs). 1NT should make exactly after a ♠ lead won in dummy if declarer leads up to the ♥ honours twice.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	1♠	2♦	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	2♥
West	North	East	South										
1♦	1♠	2♦	Pass										
Pass	Dble	Pass	2♥										

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
15		N	3	-	1	1	-
16	5	S	3	-	1	1	-
4		E	-	2	-	-	-
		W	-	2	-	-	1

<p>♠ J87 ♥ 75 ♦ AJ9764 ♣ 62</p> <p>♠ 6 ♠ AKQ932 ♥ J109862 ♥ K ♦ Q1032 ♦ K ♣ J5 ♣ A8743</p> <p>♠ 1054 ♥ AQ43 ♦ 85 ♣ KQ109</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2♦</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>North will start proceedings with either a pass or a weak 2♦ if available. An initial pass will leave East to open 1♠ which may be passed out. In contrast, the ♦ pre-empt will propel the auction higher. Cautious players might try 2♠ but 3♠ or 4♠ are more accurate. The reality is that the degree of partner's ♣ fit will be critical as to how many tricks you can make and there is no sensible way of finding that out. Here partner has nothing to help you out so staying low will work best. Best defence holds declarer to 6♠ tricks, the ♣A and his long ♣. There are a few things that can go wrong perhaps after a ♦ lead to the Ace, North might play his partner for a singleton and try and give his partner a ruff which would enable declarer to dispose of the ♥K and make nine tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		2♦	3♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South						
	2♦	3♠	All Pass						

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
6		N	-	1	-	-	-
4	19	S	-	1	-	-	-
11		E	2	-	3	2	1
		W	2	-	3	2	1

<p>♠ K10963 ♥ Q72 ♦ Q103 ♣ KQ</p> <p>♠ QJ84 ♠ 5 ♥ A64 ♥ KJ8 ♦ J9 ♦ 87654 ♣ A752 ♣ 10864</p> <p>♠ A72 ♥ 10953 ♦ AK2 ♣ J93</p>	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>All Pass.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>A chance for North-South to demonstrate their bidding judgement. North with the unsupported red honours and the short honours in ♣s is not worth a game force opposite a weak NT. The final decision will fall to South do you correct the 2NT bid to 3♠ or not. It is a close decision with 4333 shape suggesting NT but the concentration in ♦ meaning one of the side suits may be weak. Those declaring ♠ contracts have no chance for ten tricks but a chance of nine tricks if they manage to discard a ♥ on the ♣J and get ♠s right. Those in no-trumps also have a chance for nine tricks for the same reasons. Say West leads a ♣, declarer wins and plays Ace and a ♠ to ten. West when in with his ♠ entry needs to find the ♥ switch to hold declarer to eight tricks, perhaps his partner will get to help out by discarding a discouraging ♦ on the ♠s.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	All Pass.	
West	North	East	South														
		Pass	1NT														
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠														
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HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
12		N	-	-	2	2	2
12	4	S	-	-	2	2	2
12		E	2	-	-	-	-
		W	2	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ QJ1086543 ♥ AJ9 ♦ 9 ♣ 3</p> <p>♠ A2 ♠ K97 ♥ 10763 ♥ 2 ♦ 6432 ♦ AJ875 ♣ K85 ♣ AJ76</p> <p>♠ - ♥ KQ854 ♦ KQ10 ♣ Q10942</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="71 571 191 750"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 571 478 750"> <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>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		8		7	13	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	2	2	1	S	-	-	2	2	1	E	-	3	-	-	-	W	-	3	-	-	-	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="494 123 957 280"> <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>1♠</td><td>Dble</td><td>2♣</td></tr> <tr><td>2♦</td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North has an unusual hand after partner 1♥ opening, but with a fit for partner and the ♠ suit there is no reason to crazy pre-empting the auction when it is likely your hand. East can show the minors with a double and after West competes in ♦s, North is likely to return to the sanctuary of his eight card suit. ♠ contracts will be held to eight tricks providing East secures his ♥ ruff. The favourable vulnerability may tempt some East-West pairs to over-compete in ♦s to the four level. This is far from hopeless, but with two trump losers and the ♣ finesse offside will prove a trick too high. Finally ♥ contracts can be held to eight tricks on a trump lead, but you can easily imagine a favourable ♦ lead which should lead to nine tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♥	Pass	1♠	Dble	2♣	2♦	3♠	All Pass	
HCP																																																													
8																																																													
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N	-	-	2	2	1																																																								
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<p>♠ A10432 ♥ AK5 ♦ 863 ♣ Q3</p> <p>♠ QJ6 ♠ 985 ♥ Q72 ♥ J10943 ♦ J97 ♦ AQ10 ♣ 10752 ♣ 98</p> <p>♠ K7 ♥ 86 ♦ K542 ♣ AKJ64</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="71 1254 191 1433"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 1254 478 1433"> <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>5</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>E</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></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		13		6	7	14		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	5	2	4	5	S	5	5	2	4	5	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="494 817 957 918"> <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>Pass</td><td>3NT</td></tr> <tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>After the ♥J lead declarer does best to win. He has nine top tricks, assuming the ♣s behave and should be on the hunt for overtricks if the ♠ are 3-3. If he ducks the ♥ lead there is a risk the defence spoils this plan by switching to ♦s. After winning the opening lead, declarer plays to the ♠K and then ducks the ♠J on the next round (to avoid setting up too many losers if the ♠ are 4-2). Here with ♠ 3-3 this line of play will result in 11 tricks. With a different layout in the ♠ suit East may be able to win the first round of ♠s and switch to ♦, but having a 4-3 fit in ♦ means that the defence can not get more than 3 tricks in the suit, so declarer is nor risking his contract following this line of play.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass							
HCP																																																													
13																																																													
6	7																																																												
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<p>♠ 10873 ♥ Q102 ♦ QJ82 ♣ AK</p> <p>♠ QJ52 ♠ A9 ♥ KJ7 ♥ A8543 ♦ 9753 ♦ A106 ♣ J4 ♣ 752</p> <p>♠ K64 ♥ 96 ♦ K4 ♣ Q109863</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="71 1937 191 2116"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 1937 478 2116"> <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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		12		8	12	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	-	-	1	S	2	-	-	-	1	E	-	1	1	-	-	W	-	1	1	-	-	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="494 1500 957 1568"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North opens a weak NT, and East is too balanced to get involved, so the first decision will fall on South whether to transfer out to 3♣ or not. It is a close decision but with two kings in the short suits I would probably lean towards a pass. After a ♥ lead against 1NT West wins the K and continues the suit. Declarer unblocks the ♣ honours and plays a ♦. The good news is that the K proves to be an entry to the ♣ suit but the defence have six tricks to hold declarer to his contract. To defeat 3♣, the defence needs to set up its ♠ tricks quickly. The aggressive ♠ A lead and continuation will do the job, but after a passive ♣ lead declarer should prevail by winning the ♣ lead in hand but the keep the second top ♣, so after a ♦ to K and then a ♦ to the Q and A, you still have an entry to hand to discard a ♠ loser on the ♦J.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	All Pass									
HCP																																																													
12																																																													
8	12																																																												
8																																																													
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W	-	1	1	-	-																																																								
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	1NT	All Pass																																																											

<p>♠ K4 ♥ AQJ53 ♦ AQ43 ♣ 98</p> <p>♠ AJ9832 ♠ 7 ♥ 9 ♥ 8764 ♦ 1075 ♦ K98 ♣ J74 ♣ AKQ106</p> <p>♠ Q1065 ♥ K102 ♦ J62 ♣ 532</p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>When 2♠ comes back to South he has good trumps which suggest defending but a nice fit for partner's overcall would suggests declaring. ♥ contracts should easily be held to eight tricks by East getting a ♠ ruff. The are more possible variations in the defence to ♠ contracts. If North leads a passive ♣, declarer should come to eight ticks, perhaps by winning the first ♣ in dummy and running in the ♠ 7 to North's K.</p> <p>If North plays a second round of ♣s declarer wins in hand and attempts to draw trumps by playing A and a second round of ♠s, they aren't 3-3 but a ♦ loser eventually goes on the fourth round of ♣s. If North switches to Ace and a ♦ after winning the ♠K, declarer has to win the K, cash ♠A and view to go after ♣s immediately.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	Pass	1♠	2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass			
West	North	East	South																		
		1♣	Pass																		
1♠	2♥	Pass	Pass																		
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥																		
All Pass																					

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

<p>♠ 542 ♥ 97 ♦ AJ54 ♣ J1065</p> <p>♠ AKQ73 ♠ 98 ♥ K85 ♥ J43 ♦ Q109 ♦ 86 ♣ A4 ♣ KQ9872</p> <p>♠ J106 ♥ AQ1062 ♦ K732 ♣ 3</p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>West can reasonably take a stab at game hoping on the auction that his ♥K is well placed and that maybe his ♠ suit runs. A♥ lead runs to J, and declarer can see that he will make his contract if either black suit runs. If you try ♣s first then it will be obvious for a defender with four ♠s to keep all of them, so it is better to try ♠ first. With the ♣ suit concealed the discards will be more difficult for the defence, and you might see some declarers making as many as 12 tricks in no-trumps when the defence slips up. A surprise attack from South in ♦s will defeat the game.</p> <p>If South opens a light 1♥, taking advantage of the vulnerability and giving weight to his two tens, the auction is more delicate for East-West, perhaps (1♥) – X (too strong to overcall) – 2♣ – 2♠ – 3C – 3NT is reasonable.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	2♥	3NT	All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♥														
3NT	All Pass																

HCP	Makeable contracts				
6	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
18 6	N	-	1	-	-
10	S	-	1	-	-
	E	4	-	-	3 2
	W	4	-	-	3 2

<p>♠ - ♥ KJ105 ♦ AKJ106 ♣ K1065</p> <p>♠ J75 ♠ AKQ10986 ♥ A8 ♥ Q764 ♦ Q954 ♦ 2 ♣ AJ98 ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ 432 ♥ 932 ♦ 873 ♣ 7432</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>When West opens 1♦, playing a strong NT, that should silence North and East will drive to 4♠ (there isn't much point look for a ♥ fit when your ♠ are that good) after his partner rebids 1NT. Over a weak NT, North may be able to intervene for example with 2♣ showing ♥s and a second suit. This should also lead to 4♠, maybe sometimes played by West when East has made a transfer bid.</p> <p>4♠ should normally make 11 tricks. Declarer should play ace and a ♥ to set up his ruff before drawing trumps. When West is declarer the defence is slightly more difficult. North will lead a top ♦ and will have to avoid switching to a ♥ which would gift declarer a twelfth trick.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	2♣	4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South						
1NT	2♣	4♠	All Pass						

HCP	Makeable contracts				
15	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
12 13	N	-	-	-	-
0	S	-	-	-	-
	E	-	1	1	5 4
	W	1	1	1	5 4

<p>♠ K865 ♥ 108 ♦ Q4 ♣ AK865</p> <p>♠ 102 ♠ AQ ♥ A63 ♥ QJ975 ♦ AJ876 ♦ 9 ♣ J73 ♣ Q10942</p> <p>♠ J9743 ♥ K42 ♦ K10532 ♣ -</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>7</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		12	11	10	7	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	2	-	S	-	-	-	2	-	E	3	1	4	-	2	W	3	1	4	-	2	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>One of those hands where both sides are likely to unearth their major suit and it will be a question of who gives in. ♠ contracts can be held to eight tricks, providing West does not lead the ♥A, the suit his partner has bid. East-West aren't going to bid 4♥ without being pushed into and it is not a good contract. On many layouts the defence will be able to organise a ♣ ruff, ♥s may have a loser or the ♠ finesse may fail, but here none of that is true. Say South leads a ♠ against a ♥ contract. Declarer wins and play ♥Q, which South does best not to cover. The bidding may well suggest that North has length in both black suits, so declarer should continue with ♥J, picking up the suit. He can draw the last trump and then work on ♣s, but will have to lose 3 tricks in the suit when it splits 5-0.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♣	1♥	1♠	2♣	2♠	3♥	3♠
HCP																																																							
12	11																																																						
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	1♣	1♥	1♠																																																				
2♣	2♠	3♥	3♠																																																				

<p>♠ AK9752 ♥ J9542 ♦ A ♣ 9</p> <p>♠ Q1083 ♠ J4 ♥ Q1063 ♥ A ♦ 76 ♦ KQJ4 ♣ 765 ♣ AQJ1042</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ K87 ♦ 1098532 ♣ K83</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>6</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		12	18	4	6	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	3	2	-	S	-	1	3	2	-	E	2	-	-	-	1	W	2	-	-	-	1	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>East, vulnerable, will have to be careful that he does not step out of line getting too high with his attractive hand. Against a ♣ contract South will lead a ♠, to the K, A and 2 (♦ suit preference). East ruffs with the Ten and South discards. When South gets in with ♣K, he can play a ♦ to North's ace and now another round of ♠s promotes South's 8 securing +200 for the defence and a good score.</p> <p>In the auction above, South shows his ♥ fit and North carries his side to game. West lead a ♣ to the Ace and now East has to cash the ♥A to defeat the game. Declarer sets up the ♠ suit but has to lose two more ♥ to West's Q and T. On a ♦ return, say, one of the trump tricks goes away. Declarer plays ♠AK, ruffs a ♠ Kc, ruff a ♣, ♠ ruff, ♦ ruff, ♠ and the defence can only score two trumps tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	Pass	Pass	2♣	2♦	2♥	3♣	4♥	All Pass	
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<p>♠ Q10 ♥ AQ ♦ K1096543 ♣ 109</p> <p>♠ J72 ♠ A864 ♥ 108 ♥ 976432 ♦ A872 ♦ QJ ♣ KQ76 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ K953 ♥ KJ5 ♦ - ♣ AJ8432</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>12</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>E</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></tr> </table>	HCP		11	7	10	12	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	3	1	2	3	S	4	3	1	2	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>North might try 3♦ (invitational) at his second turn showing his long suit or 2NT showing his double stop in the unbid suit. South with only 12 HCP and a misfit for his partner's suit should be passing whatever North bids although some may try 3NT on the basis that partner is unlikely to make 3♦. In fact, 3♦ can make, with 2 losers in the black suits, declarer can make his contract as long as he loses no more than two trumps, which he does by playing the DK on either the first or second round of the suit to squash one of East's honours. After a ♥ lead, 3NT makes in a similar way by setting up the ♦ suit for the loss of 2 tricks and then guessing to play a ♠ to the T. The alternative and probably more attractive line of playing on ♣s will fail when both honours are offside.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
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<p>♠ 2 ♥ 5 ♦ AQJ104 ♣ AQ8653</p> <p>♠ A74 ♠ K10653 ♥ AJ97632 ♥ 4 ♦ 9 ♦ 852 ♣ 92 ♣ KJ107</p> <p>♠ QJ98 ♥ KQ108 ♦ K763 ♣ 4</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="71 571 191 750"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 571 478 750"> <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>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</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>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		13		9	7	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	4	-	-	2	S	2	4	-	-	2	E	-	-	2	1	-	W	-	-	1	1	-	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="494 123 957 201"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>3♥</td><td>4NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♦</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>When West opens with a ♥ pre-empt North will likely drive his side to game in a minor. 5♦ only has two top losers but declarer can't survive the bad breaks. West probably starts by cashing his aces and plays a second ♠ say. Declarer ruffs in dummy, and suspects because of the pre-empt that he can't enjoy the ♥s without drawing three rounds of trumps, so he plays ♣A and ruffs a ♣. He crosses to table on a trump and ruffs another ♣. At this point declarer should realise he can't set up and enjoy the ♣s, so the best he can do is to continue cross-ruffing which leaves him a trick short (9 ♦s and the ♣A). I suppose some Wests with 2 aces may open at the one level, leaving North to show his minors at lower level with 2NT. In this scenario some pairs will play a ♦ partial or maybe even 3NT which can make after a low ♥ lead and some inspired views in the play.</p>	West	North	East	South	3♥	4NT	Pass	5♦								
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<p>♠ Q987 ♥ 865 ♦ J105 ♣ A82</p> <p>♠ A102 ♠ KJ6 ♥ 1032 ♥ 94 ♦ AK4 ♦ Q832 ♣ Q1075 ♣ K963</p> <p>♠ 543 ♥ AKQJ7 ♦ 976 ♣ J4</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="71 1254 191 1433"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 1254 478 1433"> <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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		7		13	9	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	4	1	2	1	W	4	4	1	2	1	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="494 817 957 896"> <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>1NT</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>South has a clear opening in third seat, if nothing else for the lead directional value should his partner end up on lead. If West chances a modern style double of the 1♥ then East-West will probably play a minor suit part score. This should make somewhere between 8 and 10 tricks depending on how good declarer is at guessing the location on the ♠Q and ♣J. If West passes I suppose North-South might play one of 1♠, 1NT or 2♥, and as long as declarer doesn't go more than 2 off in those contracts he should earn his side a reasonable score.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	1NT	1♠	Pass	Pass		All Pass		
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<p>♠ 965 ♥ QJ87 ♦ J10932 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ 83 ♠ KQJ1042 ♥ A1096 ♥ 54 ♦ K54 ♦ AQ7 ♣ AKQJ ♣ 98</p> <p>♠ A7 ♥ K32 ♦ 86 ♣ 1076432</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="71 1937 191 2116"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 1937 478 2116"> <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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		4		17	12	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	2	2	5	4	W	2	2	2	5	4	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="494 1489 957 1635"> <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>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Most pairs will probably play a game here, either 4♠ or 3NT but 6♣ is really quite good. On a non ♥ lead it is cold, barring a 5-0 trump break and even on a ♥ lead there is a decent chance of being able to discard the ♥ loser on the ♣s. Here, of course, this line is doomed to failure due to the 6-1 ♣ break. This would be a reasonable line in a ♠ game as well but here leaving declarer with a disappointing 10 tricks. Those in a no-trump game should score well if they escape a ♥ lead by making 12 tricks after dislodging the ♠A.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass
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<p>♠ Q4 ♥ AQ6 ♦ J963 ♣ KQ106</p> <p>♠ J87 ♠ K9 ♥ KJ93 ♥ 10874 ♦ 1087 ♦ AK52 ♣ AJ7 ♣ 982</p> <p>♠ A106532 ♥ 52 ♦ Q4 ♣ 543</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10 10</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		14	10 10	6	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	2	-	2	1	S	2	2	-	2	1	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	1	-	-	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>East doesn't have much of a hand, with the ♠K under the weak two, but love all at matchpoints is the time to play the contract your way. Indeed 2♠, with the ♥ finesse right and the ♣A onside is a make. Even after the beneficial ♠Q lead, declarer is likely to go two off, but that is a very valuable ten points less than defending 2♠. East-West will do even better if North takes the push onto 3♠ over 3♥, the one bad scenario being if North find a tight (but unlikely) matchpoint double of 3♥ which will secure his side +300 and a top score.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Dble	2♠	3♥	All Pass		
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<p>♠ Q962 ♥ K62 ♦ 32 ♣ Q642</p> <p>♠ A74 ♠ 103 ♥ Q104 ♥ J987 ♦ J98 ♦ AK10 ♣ K1095 ♣ A873</p> <p>♠ KJ85 ♥ A53 ♦ Q7654 ♣ J</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10 12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		7	10 12	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	2	-	S	-	-	-	2	-	E	3	-	2	-	2	W	2	-	2	-	2	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>all Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This could be an interesting part score battle. In the case of the simplest auction above, if South leads a ♦, declarer should reason that North is more likely to be long in ♣ and start the suit by cashing the K. Here he will be rewarded with an overtrick by finessing after South drops the J on the first round. If South chances a risky looking ♠ lead, declarer can work on ♥ to come to nine tricks. More interest will develop in the bidding if East opens 1♣ (South might double) or if South can show his two-suiter over the 1NT opening. Now North-South might get to 2♠. Declarer can make this by playing on ♦s but even one down should be a good score. To maintain their equity in the board East-West will have to compete to 2NT or 3♣ which maybe be tricky to achieve.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1NT	all Pass	All Pass			
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<p>♠ K762 ♥ 4 ♦ KQ5 ♣ J7532</p> <p>♠ - ♠ J53 ♥ AKQJ10652 ♥ 973 ♦ 83 ♦ J10764 ♣ Q109 ♣ 84</p> <p>♠ AQ10984 ♥ 8 ♦ A92 ♣ AK6</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12 2</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">17</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		9	12 2	17	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	2	-	5	-	S	5	2	-	5	-	E	-	-	3	-	-	W	-	-	3	-	-	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>all Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>For once West has a classic pre-emptive overcall, with a long strong suit and little outside. North has an easy 4♠ bid with a singleton in the pre-empt suit and limit raise values. South has a prime hand with a promising distribution and it is close whether to try for a slam over his partner's bid. Here slam in poor requiring the ♣Q to drop singleton or doubleton. Change the North hand a little, making the ♦Q the ♣Q and slam is cold. Such fine detail is virtually impossible to determine in a compressed auction so those players who try a slam will have to make do with my sympathy rather than any matchpoints.</p>	West	North	East	South	4♥	Pass	Pass	1♠	4♠	4♠	all Pass	
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<p> ♠9832 ♥K4 ♦Q53 ♣J1093 ♠Q1065 ♠AJ4 ♥873 ♥AJ106 ♦2 ♦K1096 ♣Q7652 ♣A4 ♠K7 ♥Q952 ♦AJ874 ♣K8 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="71 571 191 750"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>6</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>13</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 571 478 750"> <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>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		6	17	4	13	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	-	-	-	S	-	1	-	-	-	E	1	-	2	1	2	W	1	-	2	1	2	<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>All Pass</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>1♦, 1♥ and 1NT are all possible openings for East depending on system and NT range but whatever is chosen there is a fair chance it ends the auction. Against 1NT, South leads a ♦ to the Q and K. East does best to play on a black suit. South wins the K and continue a medium ♦ (8 or 7), which would be good if he can get his partner in to play another round through declarer. Neither East or South is completely comfortable discarding on the fourth round of ♠s, but declarer can play a ♥ to J and with the favourable ♥ position finish up with 8 tricks. If East opens 1♦, West does best to chance a 1♠ response leading to a NT contract since passing 1♦ will lead to a silly contract. A ♥ contract leaves South a horrible lead problem, a trump is best but the ♦A or a black K will mean East has a chance of nine tricks and a great score.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	All Pass												
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<p> ♠74 ♥J10964 ♦876 ♣Q43 ♠QJ5 ♠A1063 ♥A8 ♥Q5 ♦9542 ♦AJ3 ♣AK76 ♣J852 ♠K982 ♥K732 ♦KQ10 ♣109 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="71 1254 191 1433"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>3</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>11</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 1254 478 1433"> <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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		3	12	14	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	-	-	S	-	-	1	-	-	E	3	3	-	3	2	W	3	2	-	2	1	<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>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The majority of pairs here will finish in 3NT by West whether they play weak or strong NT. The normal lead of the ♥J will sink the contract. Declarer tries the Q, ducks the first round of ♥s, wins the second and takes the ♠ finesse. When this loses the defence can cash out three more ♥ tricks and with North holding a ♣ guard and South a ♦ guard declarer will have to lose a further trick at the end. Any East-West achieving a score of -50 or better will be onto a very good thing.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
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