British Summer Sim Pairs

Thursday
25th July 2019

Welcome to the British Summer 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 Sally Brock.

Prizes in 2019

Heat winners: There will no longer be a prize draw for the heat winners from each club. The budget for these prizes has been added to that for the overall winners.

Overall winners: The overall winners of all Simultaneous Pairs events hosted by the English Bridge Union will each receive a cash prize of £100 per pair. This is an increase from £50 in 2018. The winners of the Bridge England Sims and the Club Stratified Sims will also receive this prize – these events were previously excluded from the prizes.

Host clubs: Every affiliated club which enters a heat of any EBU organised event, will be included in a random draw. One 'entry' in the draw is awarded for every ten tables (or part thereof) which take part in any single heat. The draw will be made at the AGM in November. One 'entry' in the draw is awarded for every ten tables (or part thereof) which take part in any single heat. The draw will be made at the AGM in November. These aspects are unchanged from 2018.

This prize draw allows the EBU to redistribute some of the proceeds back to the clubs which have participated, and it is hoped it will be reinvested in providing services and activities for its members, or supporting a local cause of its choosing.

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

Blue points are awarded to the top third of the field. Provisional master points are shown but the event is not finalised until all results are in and score corrections have been made. This usually takes about three weeks. It really helps us if you can keep your scorecard for that period. Clubs should keep travellers if still used.

Jeremy Dhondy, Chairman EBU

♠2
♥K542
♦QJ43
♣AJ97

♠AK9843 ♠QJ106
♥J109 ♥A
♦1096 ♦A2
♣10 ♣KQ6432

♠75
♥Q8763
♦K875
♣85

HCP	
11	
8	16
5	

Makeable contracts	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	2	2	-	-
S	-	2	2	-	-
E	3	-	-	5	2
W	3	-	-	5	2

Board 1 : Dealer : Love all

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

I know some will open the North hand. I guess that is fine if you play strong no-trump and are happy to open 1♦ (or 1♣) and rebid 1NT if partner bids 1♠, but it is much more awkward playing Acol, and I would hate to open and have to rebid in a new suit, suggesting an unbalanced hand with 5-4 distribution. As it is, EW then get a clear run. The first two bids are clear enough but how many spades should East bid at his second turn? I would hate not to be in game and am happy to suggest 4-2-2-5 shape as it doesn't usually work out to show a singleton when it is the ace. Although the West hand is quite suitable, I don't think it is quite strong enough to make a forward-going move.

♠J87
♥872
♦9764
♣KQ9

♠A32 ♠K64
♥QJ6 ♥A103
♦KQJ5 ♦102
♣A64 ♣J10873

♠Q1095
♥K954
♦A83
♣52

HCP	
6	
17	8
9	

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

Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
		Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

I would think most pairs would reach game with the combined 25 HCP. With eight HCP and three 10s, as West I would make a try over a strong no-trump if partner opened one. It looks as if there are only eight tricks there for declarer, more or less whatever the defence. Declarer can only set up eight tricks without touching clubs, and in order to set up any tricks there he has to lose two. Well done to the underbidders!

♠A4
♥AJ987
♦KJ6
♣852

♠Q76 ♠J10532
♥10 ♥K32
♦Q1098532 ♦74
♣A6 ♣KJ7

♠K98
♥Q654
♦A
♣Q10943

HCP	
13	
8	8
11	

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

Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
			1♣
2♦	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

The bidding looks fairly normal, with the West hand just about worth a two-level weak jump overcall. Not that it would have much effect on the NS bidding anyway. Yes, 4♥ will go down if East finds a club lead, but that does not seem very likely! I'm sure East will lead a diamond, and, with the ♣J right, all the declarers will make 4♥.

♠AJ8
♥A84
♦AJ84
♣K63

♠3 ♠KQ104
♥KJ10732 ♥965
♦KQ97 ♦103
♣J8 ♣Q1042

♠97652
♥Q
♦652
♣A975

HCP	
17	
10	7
6	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	2	-	2	-
S	2	2	-	2	-
E	-	-	2	-	1
W	-	-	2	-	1

Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
2♥	2NT	All Pass	

The West hand is a bit heavy for a weak 2♥ but it really doesn't look like a 1♥ opener and I hate passing when there is an alternative. North's 2NT looks normal enough – even if the heart stopper is not as robust as North would like. Then what should South bid? It could be right to transfer to spades, but with such a poor suit and what looks to be a bolster in hearts I would pass rather than risk languishing in some 5-2 fit. However, it is all a bit miserable on a heart lead, and the best declarer can do is go two down – but maybe some will get higher and there is the risk of being doubled in spades.

♠873
♥AK42
♦KQ3
♣963

♠Q962 ♠KJ10
♥Q1075 ♥3
♦95 ♦A7642
♣K42 ♣AQJ10

♠A54
♥J986
♦J108
♣875

HCP	
12	
7	15
6	

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

Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
	1NT	All Pass	

Even if EW had a way of competing, they are better not to do so, because any sort of decent defence should lead to +200, better than they could possibly score by playing the hand. I guess the most likely defence is a diamond lead, with diamond continuations at every stage. Declarer should not make more than two tricks in each red suit and a spade. Strong no-trumpers would probably open 1♣ as North, and then East would overcall 1♦. It would be foolish for South to bid 1♥ with such a weak hand, but any who do will surely lose at least 200.

♠AQ54
♥10643
♦Q1097
♣Q

♠KJ1093 ♠82
♥2 ♥K985
♦K53 ♦86
♣9864 ♣107532

♠76
♥AQJ7
♦AJ42
♣AKJ

HCP		
	10	
7		3
	20	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	6	6	3	6
S	2	6	6	3	6
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
		Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

There are a lot of methods of bidding over 2NT out there in the competitive bridge world. Probably Stayman is the most common. That locates the heart fit but leaves North without a convenient mild slam try. In such circumstances it is probably best to settle for game. Indeed 6♥ is no great thing of beauty, and will only make if declarer takes a very double-dummy line in the trump suit.

♠KJ93
♥6
♦AQJ762
♣73

♠Q8754 ♠10
♥543 ♥AKJ1097
♦83 ♦95
♣K104 ♣AQ92

♠A62
♥Q82
♦K104
♣J865

HCP		
	11	
5		14
	10	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	4	-	1	1
S	-	4	-	1	1
E	1	-	3	-	-
W	1	-	3	-	-

Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
			Pass
Pass	1♦	1♥	1NT
Pass	2♦	2♥	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass

It is so hard to get all these competitive deals right. Everything looks straightforward up to 3♦ (although South is a bit good for his 1NT on the first round, it is hard to see a decent alternative), but then should East bid 3♥. I think so. The 6-4 distribution is very powerful. But now, should NS take another bid? The answer is yes, this time, but it is far from clear. The play is routine in either contract.

♠762
♥QJ854
♦J1032
♣2

♠K10954 ♠A83
♥AK6 ♥97
♦AQ ♦954
♣J83 ♣AQ654

♠QJ
♥1032
♦K876
♣K1097

HCP		
	4	
17		10
	9	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	5	2	2	6	6
W	5	2	2	6	6

Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Acol handles this sort of deal well enough, the 2NT rebid showing 15+ HCP. East shows the delayed spade support and West cue-bids to show a maximum, but East is not worth cooperating with any slam hunt. The magic spade position means that declarer can make 12 tricks, but it is very low percentage as declarer would expect a loser in each black suit, and maybe a diamond as well.

♠J108
♥K10632
♦96
♣K108

♠654 ♠A973
♥7 ♥AJ94
♦KQ75 ♦J84
♣97432 ♣Q6

♠KQ2
♥Q85
♦A1032
♣AJ5

HCP	
7	
5	12
16	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	1	3	1	1
S	1	1	3	1	1
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
	Pass	1NT	Dble
2♣	2♥	All Pass	

South has a double of a weak NT, and West runs to his 5-card suit. North has decent values on this auction and it is close whether he should bid 2♥ or 3♥.
At match-points it usually pays to keep low so 2♥ it is, and South has no reason to proceed, although game is not a bad prospect – it looks as if all declarer needs do is pick up trumps. However, with the trumps as they are declarer will do well to make more than eight tricks.

♠A9652
♥Q4
♦1094
♣Q97

♠83 ♠KJ4
♥KJ10752 ♥863
♦86 ♦KJ752
♣A103 ♣K2

♠Q107
♥A9
♦AQ3
♣J8654

HCP	
8	
8	11
13	

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

Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
		Pass	1NT
2♥	2♠	3♥	3♠
All Pass			

A lot of close decisions here. The West hand is just about worth a 2♥ overcall of 1NT (but not a lot to spare!). With eight HCP and five spades, North's 2♠ looks normal. East has enough to raise partner and South is quite suitable for spades. An aggressive East might double that, but that is for the match-point tigers!
After a heart lead, ducked, the defence can make quick work of defeating 3♠ by taking two clubs and ruffing a club, but there are more ways for declarer to go down (maybe even two down) than there are to make.

♠863
♥Q86
♦KQ
♣Q8754

♠J10 ♠AQ7542
♥AK103 ♥J75
♦A10852 ♦64
♣A3 ♣62

♠K9
♥942
♦J973
♣KJ109

HCP	
9	
16	7
8	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	-	-	-	-
S	2	-	-	-	-
E	-	2	3	4	2
W	-	2	3	4	2

Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

I think it makes life easier to rebid 1NT (15–17) with that West hand than to reverse into hearts. The 1NT rebid does not preclude having four hearts so East should look for that fit if suitable. The 3♠ rebid by East is a matter of style; for me it is invitational with a good suit, but others will have different opinions. While West has only a doubleton spade, it is a robust doubleton, and he has good controls. It looks as if 4♠ is difficult to make but suppose the defenders lead clubs. Declarer wins and loses to the ♠K. The defence can cash a club and switch to a diamond. Declarer ducks, wins the heart switch and has enough entries to set up diamonds when they break 3-3. If the defenders switch to a heart, not a diamond, declarer can duck and the ♥10 will be a parking place for the diamond loser.

♠762
♥A74
♦KJ4
♣K943

♠QJ ♠A9543
♥J6 ♥Q95
♦Q852 ♦A763
♣A10875 ♣6

♠K108
♥K10832
♦109
♣QJ2

HCP	
11	
10	10
9	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	-	2	-	1
S	2	-	2	-	1
E	-	2	-	1	-
W	-	2	-	1	-

Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

I guess the pussy cats will pass this deal out. The more aggressive amongst us will go minus! A 1♠ opening by East is likely to result in a contract of 3♦ which would seem to go one down. Maybe, because of the match-point scoring, West should bid 2♠ over 2♦ in the above auction. I would think that contract would make much more often, if for no other reason than the defenders are likely to kick off with a heart lead.

♠Q32
♥J97
♦A107
♣K876

♠6 ♠KJ84
♥K8532 ♥AQ104
♦J63 ♦852
♣QJ92 ♣54

♠A10975
♥6
♦KQ94
♣A103

HCP	
10	
7	10
13	

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

Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

Fortune favours the brave on this deal, as game can be made with minimal values. Actually, this hand type is awkward for Acol. When you have 3-card support for partner's major and you are a passed hand, it is not clear what you are supposed to bid. You need to bid at the 2-level when you have 10-11 HCP, so it does not really make sense to use Drury like our strong no-trumpers can, but you don't really want to bid a 4-card minor (or even a 3-card minor if you were 3-4-3-3) and hear partner pass. The play is a bit tricky in 4♠. Best is for the defenders is to start with two rounds of hearts. Ruff and play a spade to the queen and king. East plays another heart. Discard a club from hand, and if he persists with hearts (best defence), ruff in the dummy, take a spade finesse, cash your minor-suit winners ending in dummy and you must make the last two tricks with the ♠A-10.

♠54
♥854
♦K43
♣AJ1085

♠KJ102 ♠A63
♥QJ9 ♥A732
♦Q75 ♦1092
♣Q43 ♣K92

♠Q987
♥K106
♦AJ86
♣76

HCP	
8	
11	11
10	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	1	-	-	-
S	1	1	-	-	-
E	-	-	2	1	-
W	-	-	2	2	1

Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
		1NT	All Pass

In reality I think this deal will be passed out at most tables. Certainly, playing a weak no-trump there is no reason for anyone to open. However, there will be those strong no-trumpers who open 1♣ as East, and provided West passes the 1NT rebid on his grotty 11, they should not get much too high. What should South lead? A club would be the last suit I would choose, so declarer may well make eight tricks in any event.

♠Q653
♥K10
♦K52
♣KQ87

♠AK742
♥A965
♦J103
♣A

♠J
♥873
♦A97
♣J109653

♠1098
♥QJ42
♦Q864
♣42

HCP	
13	
16	6
5	

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

Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
			Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

East is just worth a 1NT response but would be happy to pass 2♥ from partner.

It looks as if the best lead for the defence is a trump – the auction certainly calls for it, but ♥K-10 doubleton is hardly attractive. On a trump lead, declarer should win, cash two top spades, ruff a spade, play a club to his ace and ruff another spade, overruffed. East perhaps plays a club now. Declarer ruffs, takes a losing diamond finesse, but there is nothing much the defenders can do – declarer has six tricks and must come to three more.

♠AQ1093
♥92
♦QJ5
♣K108

♠K87
♥Q
♦9874
♣QJ973

♠J42
♥KJ8754
♦63
♣A4

♠65
♥A1063
♦AK102
♣652

HCP	
12	
8	9
11	

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

Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
Pass	1NT	2♥	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

The modern world! We are told we should open weak no-trump hands when we are 5-3-3-2 with a 5-card major. What should South do when East overcalls 2♥? 2NT is conventional for most people and double for takeout, so the choice is between pass (hoping to score at least 200) and 3NT. I would go for pass at this vulnerability, and now North would surely be tempted to bid his 5-card spade suit.

South has another problem: 2NT or 3NT? Underbid at match-point scoring is my advice. I guess East might lead a heart to West's queen, and the ♣Q back, covered by the king and ace. If East clears clubs, declarer can keep West off lead by taking a deep spade finesse to East's ♠J, and a later second spade finesse, losing just one spade, one heart and two clubs.

♠QJ4
♥9
♦KJ74
♣J9875

♠1053
♥87653
♦A6
♣A43

♠872
♥AQJ2
♦Q1095
♣K10

♠AK96
♥K104
♦832
♣Q62

HCP	
8	
8	12
12	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	-	-	1	-
S	2	-	-	1	-
E	-	-	2	-	1
W	-	-	2	-	1

Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass

This could go differently in several ways. Maybe East would 'break' the transfer and jump to 3♥ with his good 4-card heart support. That would be a quick one down. Even if East bids a simple 2♥, when that is passed round to North he might double (it is Love All, usually a 'bidder's vulnerability'). 2♠ is difficult to handle and it looks as if it will also go one down. Any plus score should score well.

♠AJ109
♥A542
♦J4
♣952

♠Q5
♥QJ73
♦93
♣KJ1086

♠3
♥10986
♦KQ1062
♣Q73

♠K87642
♥K
♦A875
♣A4

HCP	
10	
9	7
14	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	1	-	6	4
S	-	1	-	6	4
E	1	-	1	-	-
W	1	-	1	-	-

Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
		Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

This is an excellent slam but virtually impossible to bid, I would have thought. North has a fairly standard limit raise, and although South is worth accepting, he hardly has a great deal in hand. The hands fit like a glove; with the ♥A providing a discard for the losing club, declarer just has one diamond to lose.

♠8
♥KQ8642
♦632
♣J87

♠965
♥J953
♦AJ107
♣A9

♠AKQJ10
♥-
♦KQ
♣KQ10652

♠7432
♥A107
♦9854
♣43

HCP	
6	
10	20
4	

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

Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
			Pass
Pass	2♥	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
6♠	Pass	7♠	All Pass

Bridge in the fast lane! This is a good example of a new-fangled bit of system that is now widespread in tournament play. After a weak two opening, a jump to four of a minor shows a strong two-suiter with that minor and the other major. So here, East can bid 4♣. Maybe some of you would cue-bid 3♥ with such a hand, but 'Leaping Michaels' allows you to play the cue-bid as asking for a stopper for 3NT. Here West, with two aces, must show some sign of life, which he does with 4♦. When East cooperates with 4♥, West jumps to slam on the strength of his two aces.
Now from East's point of view, what can East have? So, he has a go at the grand. However, it is very difficult, and I would expect that bidding the small slam would score well.

♠843
♥J6
♦A82
♣KJ532

♠AQJ106
♥754
♦KQ43
♣4

♠972
♥AQ9
♦J1095
♣1086

♠K5
♥K10832
♦76
♣AQ97

HCP	
9	
12	7
12	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	-	2	-	-
S	3	-	2	-	-
E	-	4	-	3	-
W	-	3	-	3	-

Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass

It is hard for either South or North to get into the auction. Maybe South should double 2♠, but it is far from ideal, especially vulnerable. West should make nine tricks in spades, losing two hearts and a trick in each minor. Even if NS do find a way into the auction, EW would probably bid on to 3♠ anyway.

♠KQ4
♥J82
♦K82
♣K1087

♠J875 ♠3
♥104 ♥953
♦64 ♦A109753
♣AQ965 ♣J32

♠A10962
♥AKQ76
♦QJ
♣4

HCP	
12	
7	5
16	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	1	5	5	5
S	2	1	5	5	5
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Dble	Pass	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

South has a nice hand facing a no-trump opening, but not quite nice enough for slam purposes. You might have your favourite way of showing a hand with 5-5 in the majors, but simply to show both suits works well enough on this hand. After spades are agreed, South cue-bids, but North does not cooperate. In practice hearts plays better than spades here, as in hearts, declarer can discard two of South's spades, on the ♦K and ♣K, thus making 11 tricks. In spades declarer will surely lose a spade trick as well as two minor-suit aces.

♠AQ2
♥KQ52
♦973
♣KQ2

♠109765 ♠K83
♥76 ♥A103
♦K108 ♦Q6
♣A43 ♣J9865

♠J4
♥J984
♦AJ542
♣107

HCP	
16	
7	10
7	

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

Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

In fourth seat North opens a 4-card heart suit on his hand that is too strong for a weak NT. South raises to 2♥. I think North needs 17 HCP to bid on with only a 4-card suit, and here there is no reason for him to upgrade. 2♥ becomes the final contract. I would lead a low trump from the East hand. Maybe declarer would win in dummy and play a low club to his king. Perhaps another trump now, and East wins the ♥A and plays another. Declarer wins in dummy and plays another club, thus setting up a winner for a spade discard. West takes this and plays a spade but declarer rises with the ♠A, cashes a club throwing a spade. He now plays a diamond. If West plays the ♦Q he ducks, and if West plays low he wins the ♦A and plays another. This makes sure he loses his first diamond to East who cannot attack spades profitably.

♠A2
♥K973
♦Q87
♣A863

♠Q ♠KJ109874
♥10654 ♥8
♦AK ♦9654
♣J109742 ♣Q

♠653
♥AQJ2
♦J1032
♣K5

HCP	
13	
10	6
11	

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

Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
			Pass
Pass	1NT	2♠	Dble
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

North opens 1NT in third seat and East overcalls 2♠ – good playing strength if a little light on high cards. South makes a takeout double and then has to decide whether or not to raise partner's 3♥ to 4♥. I would bid on at teams scoring, but let it go at match-points. With trumps 4-1, declarer needs to stop drawing them and turn his attention to diamonds, but with the actual layout West cannot get a ruff.

♠A84
♥A72
♦92
♣107652

♠52
♥KJ965
♦AQJ65
♣9

♠KQJ976
♥10
♦103
♣AQ84

♠103
♥Q843
♦K874
♣KJ3

HCP	
8	
11	12
9	

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

Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

South doesn't have a particularly obvious opening lead, so maybe a trump is best, ducked all round. I would play a heart at trick two, with the ♥10 losing to North's ace. Maybe a club through now, won by the ace, a diamond to dummy's ♦J, ♥K, heart ruff, diamond to dummy, ♦A ruffed and overruffed, club ruff. It looks as if declarer will limit his losers to one spade, one heart and one club.

♠AJ83
♥QJ854
♦83
♣Q8

♠Q1096
♥93
♦QJ
♣107532

♠K542
♥K76
♦AK1076
♣6

♠7
♥A102
♦9542
♣AKJ94

HCP	
10	
5	13
12	

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

Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
	Pass	1♦	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

A thin 4♥ for NS. The most likely lead is a top diamond and West will play the ♦Q. Say East plays a low diamond won by West. What now? I am not sure it matters. Declarer is going to take one heart finesse, draw a second round of trumps and set about clubs. East will just make a heart trick.

♠KJ9
♥AJ10
♦84
♣Q9763

♠62
♥K74
♦AJ9532
♣AK

♠A73
♥832
♦1076
♣J842

♠Q10854
♥Q965
♦KQ
♣105

HCP	
11	
15	5
9	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	-	2	3	-
S	2	-	2	3	-
E	-	2	-	-	-
W	-	2	-	-	-

Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
		Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♦	2♠	3♦	All Pass

Another competitive part-score battle. I don't mind doubling 1♦ with a 3-3-2-5 distribution but not with only 11 HCP, vulnerable. East could bid 1NT I suppose, but that is likely to get him too high. South has to choose between 1♠ and double, and I usually go for bidding my 5-card suit. West rebids those diamonds, and North and East raise in turn. It looks as if there are five top losers: one spade, three hearts and one diamond.

♠AK6
♥K5
♦A962
♣AJ94

♠J108
♥AQJ763
♦K5
♣KQ

♠9542
♥10984
♦Q104
♣52

♠Q73
♥2
♦J873
♣108763

HCP	
19	
16	2
3	

Makeable contracts	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	4	3	-	1	1
S	4	3	-	1	1
E	-	-	1	-	-
W	-	-	1	-	-

Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
			Pass
1♥	Dble	Pass	2♣
2♥	Dble	3♥	Pass
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

The sequences are difficult to judge. What should East bid after partner's 1♥ opening is doubled. Maybe a direct 3♥, but the hand looks too balanced and bereft! South bids 2♣ as requested, and West bids 2♥. What now for North? With only one inflexible heart stopper, is seems unsuitable for no-trumps, but 3♣ doesn't really seem enough. By doubling again, North suggests extras, and allows South to bid no-trumps with a heart stopper. When it is next his turn, North can bid a simple 4♣ and land on the top spot.

♠Q832
♥Q85
♦743
♣Q64

♠A1094
♥A109763
♦-
♣1075

♠K765
♥KJ2
♦AJ95
♣A2

♠J
♥4
♦KQ10862
♣KJ983

HCP	
6	
8	16
10	

Makeable contracts	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	1	-	-	-
S	-	1	-	-	-
E	1	-	6	6	5
W	-	-	6	6	5

Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
Pass	Pass	1♠	3♦
4♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

So, what should South bid over East's 1♠ opening? I know many would choose an unusual 2NT, but I hate to do this when my diamonds are longer. When partner has equal length he will always choose clubs. Also, if we don't buy the hand, we give away a lot of information to declarer. Here I would bid diamonds – daring 3♦ even with the adverse vulnerability because of the good playing strength. As a passed hand, West must do something exciting. I like 4♥ as a passed hand to show a 4-card fit for spades, but maybe not everyone would understand this, so I would go for a 4♦ splinter bid. East is not interested facing a passed partner. On the lie, declarer can make 12 tricks but to do so has to guess both major suits – which is much easier if South has bid 2NT!

♠KJ987
♥KQ103
♦K8
♣J10

♠A1032
♥J54
♦Q5
♣AKQ5

♠Q6
♥A762
♦1032
♣7642

♠54
♥98
♦AJ9764
♣983

HCP	
13	
16	6
5	

Makeable contracts	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	2	-	1	1
S	-	2	-	1	1
E	1	-	-	-	-
W	2	-	1	-	-

Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

These days most people play that a double of a 1NT response is takeout of LHO's suit (i.e. takeout of spades here), so West cannot really get into the auction. However, when the opponents are vulnerable, it often scores more just to let them play. Here declarer has to get everything right to escape for one down, and I would expect most Norths to lose 200 or even more.

♠AQJ
♥AK32
♦K64
♣AKJ

♠K8 ♥10874 ♦J875 ♣853

♠1076 ♥J95 ♦A1092 ♣Q76

♠95432
♥Q6
♦Q3
♣10942

HCP	
25	
4	7
4	

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

Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
		Pass	Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

With 25HCP, North is too strong to rebid a simple 2NT after the 2♣ opener. Although South can see that spades could be a better spot, there is no certainty of that, and he is best to pass. East has an unattractive choice of opening lead – I would not lead a diamond around to the strong hand. I would probably choose a heart, which is as good as anything. Declarer can make 12 tricks by rising with the ♥Q, taking a spade finesse, cashing the ♠A dropping the king, cashing his remaining top hearts, play a diamond towards dummy, cash the spades and either drop East's ♣Q, or throw him in with the ♦A to lead away from it. However, this is rather double-dummy and I doubt North will make 12 tricks very often.

♠K109
♥K32
♦A87
♣QJ106

♠J8 ♥Q10874 ♦K1092 ♣43

♠743 ♥AJ6 ♦QJ65 ♣AK9

♠AQ652
♥95
♦43
♣8752

HCP	
13	
6	15
6	

Makeable contracts	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	-	-	1	-
S	2	-	-	1	-
E	-	4	4	-	1
W	-	4	4	-	1

Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
			Pass
Pass	1NT	Dble	2♠
3♥	All Pass		

It is a close decision as to whether or not to double North's 1NT opening. I would probably opt for it because I have a fairly decent opening lead in the form of a top diamond. 1NT would go one down, but South will surely remove to 2♠. West has enough to try 3♥ but East has no reason to proceed. Although game is a good contract on the bidding, it is hard to bid it with only 21 HCP, only an 8-card fit and not much distribution.

♠J7532
♥9865
♦Q863
♣-

♠A109 ♥10 ♦J1042 ♣98743

♠Q4 ♥KJ43 ♦K7 ♣AKJ102

♠K86
♥AQ72
♦A95
♣Q65

HCP	
3	
5	17
15	

Makeable contracts	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	2	2	-
S	-	-	2	2	-
E	4	-	-	-	1
W	4	-	-	-	1

Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable

West	***North***	***East***	***South***
Pass	Pass	1♣	1NT
2♣	2♠	3♣	All Pass

East has a normal 1♣ opening in third seat. South's hand is pretty horrible, but I guess it is just about worth overcalling 1NT at favourable vulnerability. Playing a natural system West has an easy club raise, and North is just about worth joining in with 2♠. East might have been interested in game had South not overcalled, but he has quite a lot of losers despite his 17HCP, so a simple 3♣ seems appropriate. If NS bid again, West will probably try 4♣. South is more or less endplayed at trick one! The ♦A and a diamond continuation is best. However, declarer wins and plays three rounds of clubs and South is endplayed again. Again, a diamond is best, but now declarer can play a heart towards dummy's ♥10 and South is endplayed yet again.