

EBED



Sim Pairs

Commentary by Sally Brock

Tuesday
3rd September 2019

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

The proceeds raised by this event will be used by EBED, **the national charity for the promotion and development of bridge**, in support of its objectives to promote the national learning program “**Bridge for All**” and especially to improve and develop the infrastructure for bridge teaching in England by expanding our support for EBTA – the **English Bridge Teachers Association**

EBED supplies “Bridge for All” teaching materials, organises Minibrige/Duplicate Bridge teacher training and club director training courses, administers the Junior Award Scheme and supports county organisations and individual volunteers at the local level to run youth events.

You can read more EBED’s activities in the current issue of English Bridge and at www.ebedcio.org.uk. If you wish to know more about EBED or to arrange a donation/legacy in favour of the charity, please contact us via richard@ebedcio.org.uk

Do please encourage your friends to come to play in these events which are open to all and raise vital funds for our work.

We thank you so much for your support!

Donna Wright
Chief Executive

English Bridge Education & Development, Registered Charity No: 1153543

<p>♠AJ2 ♥10976 ♦42 ♣K874</p> <p>♠K108 ♠Q973 ♥KQ8543 ♥AJ ♦65 ♦AQ7 ♣Q3 ♣A1096</p> <p>♠654 ♥2 ♦KJ10983 ♣J52</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1283 478 1473"> <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> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>17</td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>5</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	8	17	N	-	-	-	-	10	5	S	-	-	-	-			E	2	1	5	4			W	2	-	5	3	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="478 880 1525 1081"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <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> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td></td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It is always difficult to know whether to play in an 8-card major-suit fit or 3NT. The safer route is usually the 8-card fit. Against 4♥, North’s best lead is a diamond. The club suit is ‘frozen’, meaning that neither defender can play the suit without giving declarer at least one trick; so, in the fullness of time declarer should be able to set up a long spade on which to dispose of the club loser. If South is on lead against 3NT, at match-point scoring he should stay away from a diamond lead as that is likely to give a trick to declarer for no great gain. Not that any other lead is attractive, the best bet being the singleton heart.</p>		West	North	East	South			Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥		Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠		Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥		All Pass		
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<p>♠Q107 ♥965 ♦A7 ♣KQ863</p> <p>♠J42 ♠K8 ♥A32 ♥KQ1084 ♦KQ6 ♦J43 ♣A1092 ♣J74</p> <p>♠A9653 ♥J7 ♦109852 ♣5</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1921 478 2107"> <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> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>10</td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>5</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11	10	N	-	1	-	2	14	5	S	-	1	-	2			E	1	-	3	-			W	1	-	3	-	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="478 1518 1525 1675"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <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> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td></td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Some very brave Souths might protect with 2♠, but that is dangerous at adverse vulnerability. In any event, EW are likely to take the push to 3♥. I like a trump lead from that North hand as all other possibilities look dangerous. However, if declarer draws trumps and plays a diamond, North can win and exit with a diamond, but declarer plays both diamond winners and then runs the ♣J. North must win and give declarer a ninth trick by playing a black suit.</p>		West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1NT		Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥		All Pass							
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<p>♠ K92 ♥ QJ86 ♦ A2 ♣ J754</p> <p>♠ 864 ♠ J5 ♥ 5 ♥ K10743 ♦ K9875 ♦ J63 ♣ AQ103 ♣ K62</p> <p>♠ AQ1073 ♥ A92 ♦ Q104 ♣ 98</p>	<p>Board 3 : 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>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>It is the fashion these days to open 1NT with a 5-3-3-2 distribution including a 5-card major and the points for your 1NT range. This is an idea that is taking a while to catch on with club players but generally played at tournament level. Here there are nine tricks available in spades or no-trumps, so playing in no-trumps is the winner. On the auction above, West is likely to lead a diamond, giving the ninth trick immediately.</p>	West	North	East	South				1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South														
			1NT														
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠														
Pass	2NT	All Pass															

HCP		Makeable contracts			
11		♣	♦	♥	♠ NT
9	8	N	1	-	2 3 3
		S	1	-	2 3 3
		E	-	1	- - -
		W	-	1	- - -

<p>♠ Q ♥ Q974 ♦ KQ63 ♣ KJ53</p> <p>♠ A76 ♠ 108432 ♥ A10853 ♥ K2 ♦ A4 ♦ 1098 ♣ 962 ♣ 1084</p> <p>♠ KJ95 ♥ J6 ♦ J752 ♣ AQ7</p>	<p>Board 4 : 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>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Once again, West opens 1NT with a 5-3-3-2 12-count. Neither North nor South can take any sensible action on the first round, but after East's transfer, North can double for takeout on the second round. It might be too high, but 3NT seems a reasonable shot by South facing a vulnerable partner. I imagine West will start off with optimism, leading his 5-card suit, but declarer will win the race for tricks, making four clubs, three diamonds and two hearts before West can get at his.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Dble	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
West	North	East	South														
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass														
2♠	Dble	Pass	3NT														
All Pass																	

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

<p>♠ K852 ♥ A5 ♦ J9 ♣ AJ632</p> <p>♠ QJ10764 ♠ A93 ♥ KJ7 ♥ Q10 ♦ 732 ♦ AK1085 ♣ K ♣ 974</p> <p>♠ - ♥ 986432 ♦ Q64 ♣ Q1085</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : 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>1♣</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>It could be right to bid on that South hand, but it is too rich for me, vulnerable. Once the opportunity to bid 1♥ has gone, then 3♥ seems too much next time as well. Game is not such a bad contract for EW, mostly just needing the ♠K to be onside, but here the 4-0 trump break is a killer (you didn't cover the ♠Q as North, did you?).</p>	West	North	East	South		1♣	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South										
	1♣	1♦	Pass										
1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass										

HCP		Makeable contracts			
13		♣	♦	♥	♠ NT
10	13	N	4	-	3 - 1
		S	3	-	3 - 1
		E	-	3	- 3 -
	4	W	-	2	- 3 -

<p>♠ AKQ109 ♥ 75 ♦ A87 ♣ KQ6</p> <p>♠ 876 ♠ J32 ♥ Q1098643 ♥ J ♦ - ♦ KQJ942 ♣ 843 ♣ A105</p> <p>♠ 54 ♥ AK2 ♦ 10653 ♣ J972</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : 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>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>It is close whether West should bid or pass on the first round. While he doesn't have enough HCP to bid, his partner might have only a 4-card suit and if North also passes 1♦ that could be a very silly contract indeed. After West bids 1♥, North has a good enough hand to double, and East rebids his diamond suit (not leaving West feeling very happy!). A 2♥ rebid by West would show a lot more than this, so he passes (and prays). As it is, North was always going to rebid 2♠. When he has shown a hand too good to bid 1♠ the first time, South has a clear bid of 3NT (though if he is afraid of his poor diamond holding, he might bid 3♥, showing a stopper there and asking North for a diamond stopper).</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	Pass	1♥	Dble	2♦	Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
West	North	East	South														
		1♦	Pass														
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N	3	2	-	4	4																										
S	3	2	1	5	5																										
E	-	-	-	-	-																										
W	-	-	-	-	-																										

<p>♠ AJ8 ♥ 10863 ♦ 75 ♣ A963</p> <p>♠ K102 ♠ 97654 ♥ AQ52 ♥ K97 ♦ J10864 ♦ AQ ♣ J ♣ 1054</p> <p>♠ Q3 ♥ J4 ♦ K932 ♣ KQ872</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : 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></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>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Lots of close decisions here – indeed, maybe the hand will be passed out at many tables (but it is not very exciting for me to write that up!). West's opening bid is not very sound playing weak no-trump, vulnerable, in second seat, but as long as East bids a major it should not work out too badly. If East is allowed to play in 2♠ that contract should go one down: ♣K lead, ♠Q switch to the king and ace, followed by two more rounds of spades should lead to two spades, one diamond and three clubs for the defence. North might protect with a double (a bit rich for me, vulnerable) but South will bid 3♣ which should make on the nose.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass														
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	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	3	-	-	-	2																										
S	3	-	-	-	2																										
E	-	1	1	1	-																										
W	-	1	1	1	-																										

<p>♠ QJ42 ♥ 972 ♦ A962 ♣ Q4</p> <p>♠ AK7 ♠ 9 ♥ AQ3 ♥ K1065 ♦ J74 ♦ K83 ♣ J985 ♣ 107632</p> <p>♠ 108653 ♥ J84 ♦ Q105 ♣ AK</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</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>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>If EW have the methods to play in a club part-score after the 1NT rebid, good luck to them, and they will probably win this board. (I know that the analysis says that 4♥ is on, for EW, but who would bid that?). If NS manage to come in with spades that might push EW to clubs. As it is, on a spade lead declarer can take only two spades, four hearts and one diamond (and might go down with a diamond misguess).</p>	West	North	East	South	1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	All Pass		
West	North	East	South										
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass										
1NT	All Pass												

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

<p>♠ 10987 ♥ AQ7 ♦ Q72 ♣ 853</p> <p>♠ A532 ♠ K6 ♥ J85 ♥ 1063 ♦ 6 ♦ AKJ984 ♣ A10762 ♣ K4</p> <p>♠ QJ4 ♥ K942 ♦ 1053 ♣ QJ9</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">West</td> <td style="width: 15%;">North</td> <td style="width: 15%;">East</td> <td style="width: 15%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>That East hand is a bit too good for a 2♦ rebid, but not really good enough for 3♦. Maybe East should go for a 15-17 1NT rebid. Certainly I would open a strong 1NT with that hand, the good diamond suit more than making up for the lack of one HCP. That stronger action would surely lead to West simply raising to 3NT. Although that works this time, it is well below the odds for that diamond suit to come in for no loser.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	All Pass
West	North	East	South										
	Pass	1♦	Pass										
1♠	Pass	2♦	All Pass										

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

<p>♠ 1095 ♥ 43 ♦ A1063 ♣ 10854</p> <p>♠ K32 ♠ AQ8 ♥ A108652 ♥ KQ7 ♦ 7 ♦ Q9542 ♣ K76 ♣ Q2</p> <p>♠ J764 ♥ J9 ♦ KJ8 ♣ AJ93</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">West</td> <td style="width: 15%;">North</td> <td style="width: 15%;">East</td> <td style="width: 15%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This seems a simple route to the best game. The defenders cannot stop declarer ruffing a club in the dummy for 11 tricks. Strong no-trumpers would open 1NT and then West would transfer into hearts. Although the declarer would be different the final number of tricks would seem to be the same.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
		1♦	Pass														
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass														
4♥	All Pass																

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

<p>♠ A4 ♥ A62 ♦ A105 ♣ 108532</p> <p>♠ KQ98632 ♠ - ♥ KQ4 ♥ J10975 ♦ 62 ♦ QJ9843 ♣ 9 ♣ K7</p> <p>♠ J1075 ♥ 83 ♦ K7 ♣ AQJ64</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">West</td> <td style="width: 15%;">North</td> <td style="width: 15%;">East</td> <td style="width: 15%;">South</td> </tr> <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>3♠</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Although South has only 11 HCP it would be reasonable to open the bidding non-vulnerable. West has a difficult hand to evaluate – as he has a 7-card suit it would be normal to overcall 3♠ or 4♠ but his hand lies somewhere in the middle so a simple 1♠ is a reasonable start. North's 2♠ cue-bid nowadays shows a limit raise to 3♣. South, with a minimum, rebids a non-forcing 3♣, and West rebids his spades. With a spade stopper, a club fit and enough for game, North bids the obvious 3NT. With the club finesse right there are no problems in the play.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♣	1♠	2♠	Pass	3♣	3♠	3NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South														
			1♣														
1♠	2♠	Pass	3♣														
3♠	3NT	All Pass															

HCP		Makeable contracts					
12			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
10	7	N	5	-	-	1	3
		S	4	-	-	1	3
		E	-	2	2	-	-
		W	-	2	2	-	-

<p>♠ J76 ♥ J10632 ♦ K983 ♣ 9</p> <p>♠ Q92 ♠ K1053 ♥ A4 ♥ Q98 ♦ J1075 ♦ Q2 ♣ KJ86 ♣ 10543</p> <p>♠ A84 ♥ K75 ♦ A64 ♣ AQ72</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Some of this depends on system, but if NS play weak no-trump, then South's rebid shows 15-17. North should prefer to play in hearts with such a weak hand; some people will be able to bid a natural 2♦ and get preference, but if not then North should bid 2♥ himself. Strong no-trumpers will open 1NT as South and North will make a simple transfer. It looks as if declarer will lose two spades, two hearts, one diamond and one club.</p>		West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣		Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT		Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥		All Pass																																		
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<p>♠ A75 ♥ 53 ♦ 764 ♣ K6432</p> <p>♠ J10 ♠ K98632 ♥ J74 ♥ 10 ♦ Q32 ♦ J10985 ♣ QJ1075 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ Q4 ♥ AKQ9862 ♦ AK ♣ 98</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The auction looks normal enough, and the opening lead will dictate how any tricks declarer makes in a rather curious way. West's choice of lead surely lies between the ♠J and ♣Q. If he leads the ♣Q, then there is no reason for declarer to cover as he should know that West cannot have the ♣A. So, the ♣A will fall on the first round, thus giving declarer his eleventh trick with the ♣K. On the other hand, if West leads the ♠J, declarer will duck and East win his ♠K. Declarer now has a discard for a club loser but has no entry to reach it. Although he can make 11 tricks by ducking a club, he may think West more likely to hold the ♣A and so go up with dummy's ♣K (but he might argue that if West had the ♣A he could not afford to duck as that might give declarer 12 tricks).</p>		West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	2♠	4♥		All Pass																																												
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<p>♠ AQJ98 ♥ AKJ2 ♦ 765 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ K107 ♠ 5432 ♥ 9753 ♥ 106 ♦ KQ43 ♦ J8 ♣ AQ ♣ 97654</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ Q84 ♦ A1092 ♣ K10832</p>	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Not a good hand for the weak no-trump. As there are many ways of removing oneself from 1NT doubled, and just as many for the doubling side to proceed, it is hard to predict the auction. Although NS can make 3NT, they can do better by defending (doubled) any 2-level part-score. Suppose South leads his singleton spade: North wins his ♠J, then plays the ♠A (South pitching a heart), and a spade ruff. Now three rounds of hearts ruffed and overruffed, and South exits with a trump, finessed. Declarer plays a diamond to the jack and ace and South plays another trump. All declarer can make is two trumps and two diamonds for an 800 penalty.</p>		West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass		1NT	Dble	2♣	Dble		All Pass																																							
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<p>♠AQ1062 ♥A6 ♦1074 ♣1096</p> <p>♠J3 ♠95 ♥Q875 ♥J10943 ♦A853 ♦2 ♣A72 ♣KJ853</p> <p>♠K874 ♥K2 ♦KQJ96 ♣Q4</p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Game is a pretty good contract for NS but may not make this time – if East leads his singleton diamond. This is not always a success when it is an opponent’s suit but will work well this time. West will win his ace and return the ♦3, asking for a club return. West will win his ♣A and deliver a second ruff, and East’s ♣K will be the second undertrick.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass																															
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<p>♠AKQ85 ♥A97 ♦QJ1087 ♣-</p> <p>♠J10 ♠9732 ♥6432 ♥105 ♦AK5 ♦92 ♣K876 ♣Q5432</p> <p>♠64 ♥KQJ8 ♦643 ♣AJ109</p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : 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>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Once North has bid both his spades and his diamonds, he should respect his partner’s decision to play in no-trumps. I imagine most Wests will lead a heart, which declarer will win and play a diamond. West needs to switch to a club now to set up a third defensive trick. If he does so, declarer will make 10 tricks; if not 11.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass																																	
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<p>♠K85 ♥Q654 ♦KQ4 ♣A54</p> <p>♠AJ ♠Q10963 ♥AK10732 ♥J8 ♦76 ♦J10852 ♣1086 ♣7</p> <p>♠742 ♥9 ♦A93 ♣KQJ932</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : 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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Again, different people play different methods after a 1NT opening, but ‘four-suit transfers’ are a common treatment, so South bids 2♠ showing clubs. West joins in with 3♥ and North passes (there is no guarantee South has any points at all). South doubles for takeout and North decides to bid 3NT with a heart stopper and a club fit. Whatever East leads, declarer has 10 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	2♠	3♥	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	3NT	All Pass																																	
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<p>♠ J8765 ♥ Q93 ♦ Q85 ♣ 62</p> <p>♠ A2 ♠ 104 ♥ K10642 ♥ A ♦ K63 ♦ 9742 ♣ A43 ♣ QJ10987</p> <p>♠ KQ93 ♥ J875 ♦ AJ10 ♣ K5</p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Some might open 3♣ with that East hand: maybe South would double and West bid 3NT. With the ♣K right and the suit breaking 2-2, declarer can make nine tricks even on a spade lead. However, on the given auction EW should do better. West might well lead the ♣A (not best for the defence) but even if he does East should play the ♣Q and now West can switch to a heart. That way the defenders will take one spade, two hearts and a heart ruff, one diamond and one club for 500.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	3♣	3♠	Dble	All Pass		
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		E	5	3	2	1	3
		W	5	3	2	1	3

<p>♠ QJ3 ♥ 107 ♦ KJ1043 ♣ Q72</p> <p>♠ 10964 ♠ K752 ♥ QJ9 ♥ K8642 ♦ 986 ♦ Q2 ♣ J64 ♣ K3</p> <p>♠ A8 ♥ A53 ♦ A75 ♣ A10985</p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Rdble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Strong no-trumpers will bid 1NT-3NT and West will probably lead a spade – maybe the ♠10 covered by the ♠Q, ♠K and ♠A. Although declarer can make 12 tricks from here, it is not that likely. Which minor should he play on? If he takes a diamond finesse he will probably go down (although he may succeed by leaving clubs alone and later forcing his opponents to open up the suit); if he plays a club to the queen and king and the opponents clear spades he can clear clubs but will have to guess diamonds in the end position to make his contract. If the defenders lead hearts at any stage it will be even more difficult. East's double in the auction above may make things easier for declarer.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♣	Pass	1♦	Dble	Rdble	1♠	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
West	North	East	South																		
			1♣																		
Pass	1♦	Dble	Rdble																		
1♠	1NT	Pass	3NT																		
All Pass																					

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
9	11	N	5	5	1	1	4
4	16	S	5	5	1	1	4
		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ Q10742 ♥ AJ109 ♦ J98 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ 9 ♠ AJ86 ♥ K732 ♥ 85 ♦ AQ1076 ♦ K432 ♣ AQ8 ♣ 1062</p> <p>♠ K53 ♥ Q64 ♦ 5 ♣ KJ9543</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>If North makes a rather aggressive 1♠ overcall, it looks normal for East to bid 1NT with his good stoppers. South has a good hand but needs to go carefully because he is vulnerable and warning signs are there. West doubles 2♠ for takeout and East's diamond fit should persuade him to remove to 3♦ (it is rather lucky that 2♠ goes down). If South competes further EW will surely double so he should take the low road and defend 3♦, which should make nine tricks: declarer needs to draw trumps to avoid losing a club ruff, and then will end up with a heart loser at the end.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	1♠	1NT	2♠	Dble	Pass	3♦	All Pass
West	North	East	South										
1♦	1♠	1NT	2♠										
Dble	Pass	3♦	All Pass										

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
8	8	N	1	-	-	1	-
15	9	S	1	-	-	1	-
		E	-	3	1	-	2
		W	-	3	1	-	2

<p>♠ KQ9732 ♥ 10 ♦ 54 ♣ A863</p> <p>♠ A8 ♠ 10654 ♥ A742 ♥ KQ98 ♦ A732 ♦ QJ986 ♣ Q52 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ J ♥ J653 ♦ K10 ♣ KJ10974</p>	<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>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</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>This is rather an optimistic auction by EW and I could see many pairs missing game. Most tournament players use Lebensohl after a takeout double of a weak 2-bid, so East's 3♥ shows values. Even so, it is a close decision as to whether West should raise or not and I would forgive a partner who passed. In order to make 11 tricks in hearts, declarer must win the spade lead in dummy and ruff a club; now the ♥K followed by running the ♥9, then the ♥Q and a diamond finesse. 6♦ will make as well but I have no idea how to bid that!</p>	West	North	East	South		2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass																																		
West	North	East	South																																														
	2♠	Pass	Pass																																														
Dble	Pass	3♥	Pass																																														
4♥	All Pass																																																
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HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
9		N	2	-	-	-	-																																										
14	8	S	2	-	-	-	-																																										
		E	-	6	5	1	1																																										
		W	-	6	5	1	1																																										

<p>♠ 7652 ♥ KJ10 ♦ 94 ♣ Q754</p> <p>♠ AKQ3 ♠ J10 ♥ Q96 ♥ A8732 ♦ J10875 ♦ - ♣ 6 ♣ AK10982</p> <p>♠ 984 ♥ 54 ♦ AKQ632 ♣ J3</p>	<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>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>For a start let's look at South's action. Diamond overcalls over clubs can often make life very difficult for opponents who have not yet shown any majors. 1♦ is easy to deal with, but 2♦ and 3♦ can be extremely difficult and I like to bid as high as I dare. Here, at favourable vulnerability, 3♦ would be my choice. Now West has a terrible problem: he could pass, and then pass a reopening double; he could bid 3NT, I suppose; double is the most flexible but far from certain to work out well. If East bids only 3♥, what then? I guess 3NT and hope for the best. As it is East should bid 4♥ with the 5-6 distribution and there are 11 easy tricks when declarer can ruff two clubs in the dummy and trumps break 3-2.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	3♦	Dble	Pass	4♥	All Pass																																				
West	North	East	South																																														
		1♣	3♦																																														
Dble	Pass	4♥	All Pass																																														
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>12</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>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	6		N	-	-	-	-	-	12	12	S	-	-	-	-	-			E	4	2	5	3	3			W	4	2	5	3	3	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
6		N	-	-	-	-	-																																										
12	12	S	-	-	-	-	-																																										
		E	4	2	5	3	3																																										
		W	4	2	5	3	3																																										

<p>♠ A10842 ♥ K32 ♦ K ♣ AK65</p> <p>♠ 76 ♠ Q53 ♥ 8754 ♥ QJ6 ♦ AQ9873 ♦ J652 ♣ 2 ♣ 1084</p> <p>♠ KJ9 ♥ A109 ♦ 104 ♣ QJ973</p>	<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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</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> </table> <p>North is too good to raise clubs immediately after the diamond intervention, so starts by forcing to game with a cue-bid of the opponent's suit. When South shows spade support, because he is a passed hand North can see there is not going to be a good slam on and settles for 4♠, giving no more information to his opponents. After West's intervention, declarer should guess spades correctly whatever the lead and make 12 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	2♦	3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass																													
West	North	East	South																																														
			Pass																																														
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣																																														
2♦	3♦	Pass	3♠																																														
Pass	4♠	All Pass																																															
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>S</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	17		N	6	-	2	6	1	6	6	S	6	-	2	6	1			E	-	2	-	-	-			W	-	2	-	-	-	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
17		N	6	-	2	6	1																																										
6	6	S	6	-	2	6	1																																										
		E	-	2	-	-	-																																										
		W	-	2	-	-	-																																										

<p>♠ QJ7 ♥ Q9 ♦ K8652 ♣ KJ10</p> <p>♠ AK1096 ♠ 8432 ♥ 4 ♥ J82 ♦ AJ3 ♦ Q9 ♣ Q972 ♣ A853</p> <p>♠ 5 ♥ AK107653 ♦ 1074 ♣ 64</p>	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</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>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Playing Acol East would only raise to 2♠ (though in 5-card major systems 3♠ might be a better choice). I can't imagine many Souths failing to overcall 3♥ non-vulnerable, though partner may well play him for more. A competitive 3♠ looks right from the West hand – usually right either with a 6-card suit or a singleton somewhere. The spotlight now turns to North: he has to choose between double, pass and 4♥ – all very close.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	2♠	3♥	3♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South										
1♠	Pass	2♠	3♥										
3♠	All Pass												

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

<p>♠ QJ952 ♥ K87 ♦ J73 ♣ 75</p> <p>♠ A10 ♠ K743 ♥ 6432 ♥ AQ10 ♦ 10942 ♦ K ♣ J64 ♣ AK1092</p> <p>♠ 86 ♥ J95 ♦ AQ865 ♣ Q83</p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : 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>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Once East has shown approximately 18-19 HCP with something in diamonds, it looks attractive for West to double with an ace and four trumps. There are six top tricks in the outside suits, and EW must come to at least one trump trick, so that should be a 300 penalty.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♣	1♦	Pass	1♠	1NT	Pass	Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass		
West	North	East	South																		
	Pass	1♣	1♦																		
Pass	1♠	1NT	Pass																		
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass																		
Dble	All Pass																				

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
7	N -	-	-	-	-
5	S -	-	-	-	-
9	E 4	1	2	1	2
19	W 4	1	2	1	2

<p>♠ KJ9732 ♥ K97 ♦ 965 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ AQ64 ♠ 105 ♥ AJ52 ♥ 1086 ♦ J ♦ K103 ♣ AQJ4 ♣ K10982</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ Q43 ♦ AQ8742 ♣ 653</p>	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : 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></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</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>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>A good hand for those able to open a weak 2♦. West doubles for takeout and North raises the ante with a raise to 3♦. This silences East but West is worth a second takeout double and now it looks as if the best chance for game EW is 3NT and East bids it. However, with North holding the ♠K it has little chance, and if declarer does anything other than cash his eight top tricks after a diamond lead, he will go more than one down.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	2♦	Dble	3♦	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	3NT	All Pass
West	North	East	South														
		Pass	2♦														
Dble	3♦	Pass	Pass														
Dble	Pass	3NT	All Pass														

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

<p>♠ K3 ♥ AJ104 ♦ 52 ♣ KJ874</p> <p>♠ 97652 ♠ AJ8 ♥ 873 ♥ 96 ♦ 1073 ♦ KQ984 ♣ 96 ♣ 1052</p> <p>♠ Q104 ♥ KQ52 ♦ AJ6 ♣ AQ3</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>10</td><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	12		N	5	3	6	3	5	0	10	S	5	3	6	3	5			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1♥</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♦</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♣</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>At tournament level these days, a 2NT response is usually played as a game force agreeing partner's major. South rebids 3NT to show a strong balanced hand (15-19). North has good playing strength because of his 5-card club suit and so cue-bids 4♣, South cooperates and North signs off. South is too good to pass. With 18 HCP and a partner who was prepared to force to game facing a 12-count, South must bid on, but what? It would be wrong to use Blackwood now because it is a spade control that is needed, not a number of aces. South should cue-bid 5♣, making it quite clear that he has no spade control, and now North bids the slam.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass	6♥	All Pass	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																																						
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<p>♠ AQ ♥ 109863 ♦ 1083 ♣ 1096</p> <p>♠ 98754 ♠ J1062 ♥ 4 ♥ 72 ♦ AJ4 ♦ K76 ♣ K754 ♣ AQ32</p> <p>♠ K3 ♥ AKQJ5 ♦ Q952 ♣ J8</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>10</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	6		N	-	1	2	-	-	8	10	S	-	1	2	-	-			E	4	-	-	4	-			W	4	-	-	4	-	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td></tr> <tr><td>1♠</td><td>2♥</td><td>3♠</td><td>4♥</td></tr> <tr><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Dble</td></tr> <tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Oh dear! South could have passed the hand out, but that would be unreasonable with 16 HCP. Instead he opens 1♥. Should West overcall 1♠ with such a poor suit? I think so: it is probable that his opponents will play in some number of hearts so he will be on lead and not partner, and if there is a 4♠ sacrifice at the prevailing vulnerability someone needs to bid the suit. North might bid more hearts with his 5-card support but settles for a modest simple raise. East, with 4-card support, shows it with a jump to 3♠. What should South do? Probably he should pass, but that is surely accepting a minus score. If he presses on to 4♥, West is likely to 'save' in 4♠, probably doubled by South, and that contract is unbeatable.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass			
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8	10	S	-	1	2	-	-																																																													
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<p>♠ AJ8643 ♥ Q86 ♦ A52 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ 1052 ♠ Q ♥ J1072 ♥ 953 ♦ 10963 ♦ Q4 ♣ 83 ♣ AKQJ975</p> <p>♠ K97 ♥ AK4 ♦ KJ87 ♣ 1042</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>14</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></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> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11		N	-	5	5	6	-	1	14	S	-	5	5	6	-			E	1	-	-	-	-			W	1	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1♠</td><td>2♣</td><td>2♦</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>3♣</td><td>4♠</td></tr> <tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>North has a typical Acol light opener, and East must decide what to do. Many people play a jump cue-bid (3♠ here) as asking for a stopper for no-trumps, but vulnerable I think that should show a bit more than this – here a spade stopper is only a tiny part of what East would need to make 3NT. So he overcalls 2♣, and East, without four hearts or 4-card spade support or a club stopper, bids a natural 2♦. North rebids his spades and South has an easy raise to game. No doubt declarer will make 12 tricks but it is a terrible slam with both trumps and diamonds to negotiate.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	2♣	2♦	Pass	2♠	3♣	4♠	All Pass			
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<p>♠ A1087 ♥ KQ107 ♦ AQ3 ♣ AJ</p> <p>♠ 953 ♠ J4 ♥ AJ943 ♥ 85 ♦ 2 ♦ 1096 ♣ KQ85 ♣ 1097643</p> <p>♠ KQ62 ♥ 62 ♦ KJ8754 ♣ 2</p>	<p>Board 30 : 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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South is close to an opening bid, but is a little light for 1♦, and it often works badly to open 2♦ or 3♦ with a good 4-card major (specially spades) on the side. West opens 1♥ in third seat, and North has an obvious double. With a good hand and a chunky 4-card spade suit, South jumps to 4♠ and Blackwood gets NS to the excellent slam, which makes on any lead.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♥	Dble	Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass																													
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<p>♠ 5 ♥ K ♦ K98764 ♣ KQJ95</p> <p>♠ QJ98 ♠ 762 ♥ A1076 ♥ 854 ♦ AQJ10 ♦ 532 ♣ 2 ♣ A1073</p> <p>♠ AK1043 ♥ QJ932 ♦ - ♣ 864</p>	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</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>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>A terrible misfit for NS. It looks normal to open 1♠ with 10 HCP and two good 5-card suits. North has a problem over 2♥, and sensibly goes for the underbid of 2NT. However, South presses on with 3♥ and North has no good option, eventually choosing what he might have bid on the last round. When that is passed around to him, West can restrain himself no longer and doubles. Although Deep Finesse says North can make seven tricks, I think he will do well to do so and down three looks more likely on a spade lead (which East should choose after the double).</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass																										
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<p>♠ Q84 ♥ QJ864 ♦ 87 ♣ 1075</p> <p>♠ A9 ♠ K105 ♥ A95 ♥ 102 ♦ KQ3 ♦ 106542 ♣ J9843 ♣ AQ2</p> <p>♠ J7632 ♥ K73 ♦ AJ9 ♣ K6</p>	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : 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>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>It looks as if a heart lead would be the choice all around the room. Declarer ducks twice and wins his ♥A on the third round. He then takes a club finesse which loses to South's ♣K. South switches to a spade, won in the dummy, and declarer plays a diamond towards his hand (if he dares). South ducks, but then declarer runs the clubs and plays another diamond and must make nine tricks. But Deep Finesses says only 2NT. Best defence is for South to switch to a spade after he makes his ♥K. Then he can clear spades when he is in with the ♣K, and cash them when he makes his ♦A. Difficult.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	All Pass																																										
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