

# **British Winter Virtual Sim Pairs**



**Monday  
11<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Welcome to the British Winter Simultaneous Pairs, which we expect will continue to be played mainly online. I hope you enjoy the event and also the commentary provided by a leading expert. The commentator for this set of hands is Paul Bowyer. Please note that the Tuesday event will be in memory of Peter Jordan, the EBU's widely-known and much-loved Competitions department member who for many years was also responsible for running our overseas congresses. Barbara Jordan will be donating trophies for the winners on that day.

This is the start of the 2021 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/](http://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.

Coming up in February (1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>) is the Junior Squad Simultaneous Pairs which raises money to help Junior Bridge. I hope you will support this event and look forward to you playing.

Ian Payn, Chairman EBU

<p>♠AJ102 ♥K98 ♦92 ♣J865</p> <p>♠KQ865      ♠4 ♥A1054      ♥Q6 ♦AJ5      ♦K10874 ♣K      ♣Q10743</p> <p>♠973 ♥J732 ♦Q63 ♣A92</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1279 188 1464"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="229 1279 470 1464"> <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>4</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		9		17	7	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	4	2	2	2	W	3	4	2	2	3	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>Pass Pass Pass</p> <p>1♠ Pass 1NT Pass</p> <p>2NT Pass Pass Pass</p> <p>There are some very awkward bidding hands in this selection today, exemplified by this first deal. West will surely open 1♠ in fourth seat and East can do little but respond 1NT. After that it's not at all clear where the auction is headed – indeed, many will rebid 2♥ on the West cards and play there after East finds himself with nowhere to go. As the cards lie, with values in the short suits, West does best to raise no-trumps, but that would be the wrong thing to do if East held hearts. <i>Deep Finesse</i> suggests 3NT can be made (an unlikely low spade lead from South defeats it if East is declarer) but it is by no means straightforward and, in any case, declarer may well get diamonds wrong. The contracts may vary greatly on this one and scores may well be all over the place. As usual with match-point scoring, any plus score won't score too badly as many will go minus on the East-West cards.</p>
HCP																																													
9																																													
17	7																																												
7																																													
Makeable contracts																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																								
N	-	-	-	-	-																																								
S	-	-	-	-	-																																								
E	2	4	2	2	2																																								
W	3	4	2	2	3																																								
<p>♠1083 ♥Q10 ♦A5 ♣1087643</p> <p>♠KQ976      ♠AJ5 ♥J93      ♥K87 ♦Q9743      ♦J106 ♣None      ♣AKQ9</p> <p>♠42 ♥A6542 ♦K82 ♣J52</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1928 188 2114"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="229 1928 470 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>-</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>1</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		6		8	18	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	4	1	3	3	W	1	4	2	3	4	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>1♣ Pass</p> <p>1♠ Pass 2NT Pass</p> <p>3♦ Pass 3♠ Pass</p> <p>4♠ Pass Pass Pass</p> <p>East-West have the values to make game on this deal and, indeed, 3NT cannot be beaten. That's a slightly unlikely spot, though, given West's 5-3-5-0 pattern and the presence of a 5-3 spade fit. It looks normal to play this one in 4♠. 4♠ is a comfortable make on a passive black-suit lead as declarer has time to draw trumps and set up the diamonds – indeed, he may get all his hearts away on the top clubs and make an overtrick. However, the aggressive lead of the ♦A and another diamond will allow North-South to score two diamonds, a diamond ruff and the ♥A for one down. After West's 3♦ call, though, this defence is a tad unlikely, so perhaps an overtrick is more likely than an undertrick.</p>
HCP																																													
6																																													
8	18																																												
8																																													
Makeable contracts																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																								
N	-	-	-	-	-																																								
S	-	-	-	-	-																																								
E	1	4	1	3	3																																								
W	1	4	2	3	4																																								

<p>♠ 8632 ♥ 94 ♦ AK87 ♣ AK5</p> <p>♠ A9 ♥ K8765 ♦ QJ ♣ 9843</p> <p>♠ J105 ♥ AQ1032 ♦ 62 ♣ QJ7</p> <p>♠ KQ74 ♥ J ♦ 109543 ♣ 1062</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 577 188 763"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="225 577 470 763"> <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>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		14		10	10	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	-	3	1	S	-	3	-	3	1	E	1	-	2	-	-	W	1	-	2	-	-	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>Pass Pass</p> <p>Pass 1NT All Pass</p> <p>This may look an uninteresting part-score deal but, in practice, there may be many twists and turns. East-West do well if they can get hearts in the frame and North-South do even better if they can compete in spades. Much will depend on whether North-South are playing a weak no-trump and whether North opens one of those. If he can, and does, he may steal the deal and play there. East-West can cash the first five hearts and take the ♠A, but the fortunate diamond disposition allows declarer to make his contract. Where North opens 1♦ (or a fashionable 1♣), East may overcall 1♥ and South may make a take-out double. Now North-South will surely play in spades, securing an excellent match-point score of 140 or even 170. If East-West bid too many hearts they will suffer an excessive penalty (the kiss-of-death -200) at this vulnerability.</p>
HCP																																													
14																																													
10	10																																												
6																																													
Makeable contracts																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																								
N	-	3	-	3	1																																								
S	-	3	-	3	1																																								
E	1	-	2	-	-																																								
W	1	-	2	-	-																																								
<p>♠ 8632 ♥ AQJ42 ♦ J9 ♣ A2</p> <p>♠ KJ94 ♥ K103 ♦ 53 ♣ KQ75</p> <p>♠ AQ7 ♥ 86 ♦ KQ1087 ♣ 1098</p> <p>♠ 105 ♥ 975 ♦ A642 ♣ J643</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 1249 188 1442"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="225 1249 470 1442"> <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>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		12		12	11	5		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	-	-	S	-	-	1	-	-	E	2	2	-	2	-	W	3	3	-	2	1	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>1NT 2♣* 2♦ Pass</p> <p>Pass Pass</p> <p>Another part-score deal with uncertain outcomes. If East-West are playing a weak no-trump then West may well open one of those, allowing North to intervene with some sort of conventional manoeuvre. Here, 2♣ suggests both majors. Whether East would content himself with a modest 2♦ and whether North-South would allow him to steal the deal in that contract is moot. Many will bid overboard on the East-West cards, playing in no-trumps beyond the one-level. The routine ♥Q lead will see West held to seven tricks. Indeed, a low heart or the ♥A will also do the trick. Where West, playing a strong no-trump, opens 1♣ the outcome of the auction is unclear. North will overcall 1♥, East may try 2♦ and South may make a cheeky raise to 2♥. After that it all gets a little obscure.</p>
HCP																																													
12																																													
12	11																																												
5																																													
Makeable contracts																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																								
N	-	-	1	-	-																																								
S	-	-	1	-	-																																								
E	2	2	-	2	-																																								
W	3	3	-	2	1																																								
<p>♠ Q10863 ♥ 83 ♦ K32 ♣ J62</p> <p>♠ 74 ♥ A1062 ♦ A8 ♣ AK953</p> <p>♠ J52 ♥ 97 ♦ Q10964 ♣ Q87</p> <p>♠ AK9 ♥ KQJ54 ♦ J75 ♣ 104</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 1921 188 2112"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="225 1921 470 2112"> <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>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		6		15	5	14		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	1	-	S	-	-	1	1	-	E	3	2	-	-	1	W	3	2	-	-	1	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>Pass Pass 1♥</p> <p>1NT Pass Pass Pass</p> <p>Another part-score deal where the bidding may peter out in a gentle 1NT, as in the auction above. It's hard to think of a better call on the West cards after South opens 1♥; a 2♣ overcall doesn't appeal at all. 1NT is an easy affair win East-West having five clubs and two aces on top for an effortless score of 90. Might North-South steal the deal in spades? They might, especially if South decides to open with an off-centre 1NT. West may double and North may take refuge in spades. East-West will score well now if they compete in clubs, but North may be allowed to play the hand. If so, East-West can defeat 2♣ but it takes razor-sharp defence to do so. There will be scores, therefore, of 90, 100 and 110 to East-West with the odd maverick score of 110 to North-South on this deal.</p>
HCP																																													
6																																													
15	5																																												
14																																													
Makeable contracts																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																								
N	-	-	1	1	-																																								
S	-	-	1	1	-																																								
E	3	2	-	-	1																																								
W	3	2	-	-	1																																								



<p>♠ 5 ♥ KQJ7 ♦ KQ76 ♣ 9762</p> <p>♠ 1094                      ♠ AJ8632 ♥ A2                              ♥ 9863 ♦ 1052                          ♦ 93 ♣ J10543                      ♣ K</p> <p>♠ KQ7 ♥ 1054 ♦ AJ84 ♣ AQ8</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;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">16</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>3</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</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	8	5	16	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	5	4	-	4	S	3	5	4	-	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>Pass 2♠ 2NT</p> <p>Pass 3♣* Pass 3♦</p> <p>Pass 3NT All Pass</p> <p>Another hand of marginal decisions. North doesn't have an opening bid (4-4-4-1 hands so often disappoint in the play and are best left alone until partner bids) and East doesn't have anything like a classic weak two. Still, I bet many open 2♠ if given the chance, despite the four-card heart suit on the side. Over 2♠, South has an easy 2NT overcall and North has plenty to raise to game after a Stayman enquiry. Some Wests may raise to 3♣ obstructively, but that is unwise at the vulnerability; North may make a take-out double and South will be delighted to pass. 3♣ doubled does not play well for East and the penalty for bidding without due care and attention would be at least 500 against a non-vulnerable game.</p> <p>After the ♠10 lead to 3NT, incidentally, East must play low or South will make eleven tricks and a fine match-point score of 460.</p>
HCP																																											
11	8																																										
5	16																																										
Makeable contracts																																											
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																						
N	3	5	4	-	4																																						
S	3	5	4	-	4																																						
E	-	-	-	-	-																																						
W	-	-	-	-	-																																						

<p>♠ 1083 ♥ 6 ♦ J1098654 ♣ K9</p> <p>♠ Q54                              ♠ KJ97 ♥ K1098                          ♥ 743 ♦ Q3                                  ♦ AK7 ♣ 10642                          ♣ J83</p> <p>♠ A62 ♥ AQJ52 ♦ 2 ♣ AQ75</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;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><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>1</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		4	12	7	17	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	4	1	1	-	S	1	4	1	1	-	E	-	-	-	-	1	W	-	-	-	-	1	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>1NT Dble</p> <p>Pass 2♦ Pass 2♥</p> <p>Pass 3♦ All Pass</p> <p>Another deals where system will have an effect on the auction and the final result. If East-West are playing a weak no-trump, East may open one of those (brave, holding just 12 points in a 4-3-3-3 hand, but this <i>is</i> match-point pairs) and South will be delighted to double, hoping for a juicy penalty. The lie of the cards makes 1NT unbeatable, though, and North does best to pull the double to 2♦. South is sure to bid 2♥ now and now North should insist on his seven-card suit. These hands play so much better in the trump suit of the weaker hand; the North hand is all but useless in hearts but has a lot of playing strength if diamonds are trumps. Ten tricks are possible in diamonds, but declarer may have to guess the location of the ♥K. Still, making nine tricks for +110 won't score badly for his side.</p>
HCP																																											
4	12																																										
7	17																																										
Makeable contracts																																											
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																						
N	1	4	1	1	-																																						
S	1	4	1	1	-																																						
E	-	-	-	-	1																																						
W	-	-	-	-	1																																						

<p>♠ KQ9 ♥ A5 ♦ AKQ3 ♣ K1084</p> <p>♠ 107642                      ♠ 3 ♥ Q9                              ♥ J1076432 ♦ 64                                  ♦ 985 ♣ A972                          ♣ J6</p> <p>♠ AJ85 ♥ K8 ♦ J1072 ♣ Q53</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;">21</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><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>5</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>6</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		21	2	6	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	6	1	5	6	S	5	6	1	5	6	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>Pass</p> <p>Pass 2NT Pass 3♣*</p> <p>Pass 3♦ Pass 4NT</p> <p>Pass 6NT All Pass</p> <p>A marginal slam is available to North-South on this deal with 6♦ and 6NT effectively the same contract. Some pairs will have the mechanism to locate the 4-4 diamond fit on this hand although there is no benefit to be had in playing in it with this layout.</p> <p>In the auction above, incidentally, 4NT is not Blackwood as no trump suit has been agreed. Whether North should accept the invitation is moot – bidding a slam is a marginal decision.</p> <p>Now, <i>Deep Finesse</i> smugly tells us that slam makes in both diamonds and no-trumps. However, many will fail to make a slam because, unlike <i>Deep Finesse</i>, they cannot see through the backs of the cards. The percentage play is to play to the ♣Q and finesse the ♣10 on the second round. Correct play, but unlucky here.</p>
HCP																																											
21	2																																										
6	11																																										
Makeable contracts																																											
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																						
N	5	6	1	5	6																																						
S	5	6	1	5	6																																						
E	-	-	-	-	-																																						
W	-	-	-	-	-																																						

<p>♠ QJ ♥ AKJ43 ♦ J754 ♣ A10</p> <p>♠ AK10                      ♠ 98754 ♥ Q1062                      ♥ None ♦ Q96                              ♦ K832 ♣ J92                              ♣ K874</p> <p>♠ 632 ♥ 9875 ♦ A10 ♣ Q653</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>1NT Dble 2♠ Dble Pass 3♥ All Pass</p> <p>Another tricky part-score deal with North-South maybe finding it awkward to get hearts into the frame if West were to open with a weak no-trump. In the auction above, North makes a penalty double and South's double of 2♠ is essentially for take-out, saying that he believes North-South have the balance of the points.</p> <p>Some North-South pairs may overbid this one to 4♥. That has little chance with two spade losers, a diamond loser and a club loser. With the 4-0 trump split as well, many will fail to negotiate the hand and 3♥ will fail to register nine tricks. One down will not be that disastrous, though, with East-West able to make 2♠ for 110. Indeed, <i>Deep Finesse</i> suggests that nine tricks are available in spades, but that does require some perspicacious cardplay.</p>
--	--

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
16		N	-	-	3	-	-
12	6	S	-	-	3	-	-
		E	1	1	-	3	-
		W	1	2	-	3	1

<p>♠ J973 ♥ 102 ♦ J10865 ♣ A2</p> <p>♠ 108                              ♠ K6 ♥ AQJ8                              ♥ K9743 ♦ A3                                      ♦ 942 ♣ K8653                              ♣ J94</p> <p>♠ AQ542 ♥ 65 ♦ KQ7 ♣ Q107</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>Pass Pass 1♠ Dble 3♠ All Pass</p> <p>East-West have the balance of the points here (by 21 to 19) but it's North-South who can make the highest scoring contract. In fact, with the preposterously lucky layout of the cards (spades 2-2 with the finesse right, clubs frozen so East-West can't lead them profitably), North-South can actually make 4♠. No one should reach that contract, of course, on these cards; anyone who records 620 on the North-South cards has no cause to moan about ill-fortune for at least a month.</p> <p>After South opens 1♠ in third seat (did anyone prefer 1NT?) West does best to double. North should try to steal the deal with a pre-emptive jump to 3♠ and that should buy the auction. Should East make an overbid of 4♥ he will regret it as, after a diamond lead, he should finish at least two down for a disastrous match-point score of -200.</p>
--	--

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
6		N	-	4	-	4	1
14	7	S	-	4	-	4	1
		E	2	-	2	-	-
		W	2	-	2	-	-

<p>♠ AQ73 ♥ K97 ♦ J93 ♣ Q104</p> <p>♠ K62                              ♠ J10985 ♥ AJ2                                ♥ 64 ♦ Q654                              ♦ K7 ♣ A53                                ♣ K762</p> <p>♠ 4 ♥ Q10853 ♦ A1082 ♣ J98</p>	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>Pass Pass 1NT Pass 2♥* Pass 2♠ Pass Pass Pass</p> <p>Another innocent looking part-score deal where many will play in (and make) 2♠ after West opens a weak no-trump in third seat and plays in spades after a transfer sequence. Life may not be quite so simple, however. Some Easts may open 2♠ (<i>Lucas</i>-style, showing spades and a minor) and settle the issue with a single bid. Where East passes, South may open 2♥ (odd that there are two <i>Lucas</i>-style opening bids on the same deal). Whether that silences West or whether that player makes a take-out double is moot.</p> <p>If South gets everything right, he can make eight tricks in hearts, so stealing the deal will score well for his side. No doubt there will be scores on both sides of the travelling scoresheet tonight, so any plus score should be welcome.</p>
--	---

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

<p>♠ KQ8643 ♥ A6 ♦ A2 ♣ K54</p> <p>♠ 10975                      ♠ A ♥ QJ973                      ♥ K42 ♦ J7                              ♦ KQ10986 ♣ 76                              ♣ A102</p> <p>♠ J2 ♥ 1085 ♦ 543 ♣ QJ983</p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>Pass Pass Pass Pass</p> <p>Pass 1♠ 2♦ Pass Pass</p> <p>Pass 2♠ Dble Pass Pass</p> <p>3♥ Pass Pass Pass</p> <p>A competitive part-score deal belonging to East-West in diamonds or hearts. It may appear that East-West can make 4♥ on the hand, but good defence can beat it. Against a heart contract, North has to lead a spade, duck a round of diamonds and then switch to clubs. After that defence, declarer can't quite manage to avoid four losers. Still, some pairs will surely make ten tricks in hearts.</p> <p>The auction? Well, East probably does best to overcall 2♦ and then double on the second round when North rebids his spades. That allows West to get his five-card heart suit into the game. +140 to East-West will, I suggest, be above average for East-West.</p>
--	--

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

<p>♠ A ♥ 986 ♦ KJ1052 ♣ A873</p> <p>♠ 8543                      ♠ KQ10972 ♥ KJ                        ♥ AQ72 ♦ A963                      ♦ 87 ♣ 952                        ♣ K</p> <p>♠ J6 ♥ 10543 ♦ Q4 ♣ QJ1064</p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>Pass 1♦ 1♠ Dble</p> <p>2♦* Pass 4♣ All Pass</p> <p>An easy 4♣ contract for East-West on this deal; easy to make, that is. There are some marginal decisions in the bidding – should South make a take-out double of East's 1♠ overcall? If so, East may devalue his heart holding as he may think that South sits over him with heart honours.</p> <p>Should West raise spades pre-emptively with 3♠ or make a constructive spade raise with a cue-bid of 2♦? If the former, there is a case for East to pass 3♠, if the latter then East has an easy 4♣ call.</p> <p>There is nothing much to the play; declarer should lose a spade, a diamond and a club. The only variation may come is if North tries the effect of underleading the ♣A, hoping to put East on a guess. That will result in East making eleven tricks instead of ten and of scooping up a large quantity of match-points.</p>
--	---

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
12	14	N	2	2	-	-	-
8	6	S	2	2	-	-	-
		E	-	-	-	4	-
		W	-	-	-	4	-

<p>♠ A8654 ♥ J9 ♦ A1062 ♣ 107</p> <p>♠ K2                              ♠ 1097 ♥ A3                              ♥ K54 ♦ 9754                            ♦ KQJ ♣ K9643                        ♣ Q852</p> <p>♠ QJ3 ♥ Q108762 ♦ 83 ♣ AJ</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>Pass Pass 2♥</p> <p>Pass Pass Pass</p> <p>After two passes South does best to open with a weak 2♥ rather than open 1♥. As the cards are, that will surely scoop the pool and end in a playable spot. 2♥ should lose one spade, two hearts, one diamond and one club and therefore record 110 points. Variations may occur (if West doesn't cover the ♠J for instance) and some declarers may end up with an overtrick.</p> <p>Some may choose not to open that South hand at all and West certainly isn't going to make a bid on his minor-suit based rubbish. Anyone who throws the deal in (and there will be a fair few) has my sympathies. East-West will score above average for a passing the hand out and recording zero, I predict.</p>
--	--

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
9	11	N	-	-	2	2	-
10	10	S	-	-	2	2	-
		E	2	2	-	-	-
		W	2	2	-	-	-

<p>♠ 72 ♥ K5 ♦ 109 ♣ 10975432</p> <p>♠ KQ108      ♠ J94 ♥ QJ874      ♥ A32 ♦ 7             ♦ J6532 ♣ KQ6         ♣ J8</p> <p>♠ A653 ♥ 1096 ♦ AKQ84 ♣ A</p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>                 Pass 1♦</p> <p>1♥    Pass    2♥    2♠</p> <p>Pass   3♣    All Pass</p> <p>Another of these difficult to judge part-score deals where North-South do best if they can finish in clubs.</p> <p>After South opens 1♦, West has the choice between showing his five-card heart suit or making a take-out double, with the former being the more modern choice. After East raises hearts, South may feel that North's marked heart shortage makes a further bid a sound venture, but the hand is a misfit and North-South are entering dangerous waters. If North bids 3♣ now, South should pass as it becomes obvious that North has nothing but long clubs. If East starts off by leading a heart, North might scrape home in his 3♣ contract, otherwise it should be defeated. One off won't be too bad a score, however.</p>
--	---

HCP		Makeable contracts					
3	7		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
13		N	2	1	-	-	-
	17	S	2	1	-	-	-
		E	-	-	3	1	1
		W	-	-	2	1	-

<p>♠ KQ742 ♥ Q ♦ AJ4 ♣ KQ54</p> <p>♠ 108             ♠ 93 ♥ KJ953         ♥ 764 ♦ 982             ♦ KQ65 ♣ 1082           ♣ A963</p> <p>♠ AJ65 ♥ A1082 ♦ 1073 ♣ J7</p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>                 Pass</p> <p>Pass 1♠      Pass 3♠</p> <p>Pass 4♠      All Pass</p> <p>Finally, after 18 boards of uncertain and varied auctions, we come across a deal where the world, his wife and the family dog will play in 4♠. A 5-4 fit and a combined 27 count leaves little room for any misadventure in the bidding and there will be few pairs who play in anything other than the spade game.</p> <p>The play looks to be simple as well; declarer has to lose a diamond and a club and should rack up eleven tricks easily enough. Only the bizarre lead of the ♣A from East would allow a second overtrick and East has no reason to do that. A string of scores of 450 to North-South?</p>
--	---

HCP		Makeable contracts					
17	9		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
4		N	3	3	-	5	2
	10	S	2	2	-	5	3
		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ AQ7 ♥ KQ5 ♦ J107 ♣ J1032</p> <p>♠ 984             ♠ J1065 ♥ A862           ♥ J974 ♦ A93             ♦ 85 ♣ AQ6            ♣ K54</p> <p>♠ K32 ♥ 103 ♦ KQ642 ♣ 987</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>1NT   Pass   Pass   Pass</p> <p>Those playing a weak no-trump will surely open the bidding with their favourite toy and steal the deal. That can be defeated by two tricks in North leads (or switches to) a diamond but the defence to 1NT can often go sour. If North-South defend passively and persist in leading clubs, West can establish a long heart. This way declarer can rack up two hearts, one diamond and three clubs for a total of six tricks. One off may not score so badly.</p> <p>If West, playing a strong no-trump, opens 1♣ the outcome of the auction is unclear. It is possible East-West play the hand in 2♥, probably down one. It isn't easy to see how North-South can get into the act. If they could play in no-trumps, recording 120, they would do very well. I suspect that the modal score will be 100 points to North-South. We shall see.</p>
---	--

HCP		Makeable contracts					
13	5		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
14		N	1	2	-	1	2
	8	S	1	2	-	1	2
		E	-	-	1	-	-
		W	-	-	1	-	-

<p>♠ Q762 ♥ 9853 ♦ J93 ♣ 75</p> <p>♠ K8                      ♠ AJ43 ♥ KJ                        ♥ Q642 ♦ K752                     ♦ 864 ♣ AKQ84                  ♣ J2</p> <p>♠ 1095 ♥ A107 ♦ AQ10 ♣ 10963</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>10</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>-</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>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		3	8	19	10	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	4	3	4	4	W	4	4	3	4	4	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>Pass Pass Pass</p> <p>1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass</p> <p>3NT Pass Pass Pass</p> <p>North-South had an easy game on Hand 19 – by way of balance the computer has allocated an easy game to East-West on this hand. 3NT is unbeatable whether played by East or West on this deal and declarer should really rack up ten tricks (two spades, two hearts, one diamond and five clubs). The spade finesse might produce an eleventh but that would be icing on the cake.</p> <p>Bidding? Well, the auction above is somewhat agricultural. Some will prefer a reverse into 2♦ on the West cards and some a scientific rebid of 2NT (many play that as 18-19 points these days). Whatever route is chosen, though, all roads lead to Rome; few pairs will play this in anything other than 3NT.</p>
HCP																																											
3	8																																										
19	10																																										
Makeable contracts																																											
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																						
N	-	-	-	-	-																																						
S	-	-	-	-	-																																						
E	4	4	3	4	4																																						
W	4	4	3	4	4																																						

<p>♠ 10 ♥ KJ876 ♦ 7653 ♣ 1062</p> <p>♠ 852                      ♠ AQJ9764 ♥ A                         ♥ 10943 ♦ QJ1042                ♦ A ♣ AJ87                    ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ K3 ♥ Q52 ♦ K98 ♣ KQ943</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>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>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		4	11	12	13	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	-	-	S	-	-	1	-	-	E	1	3	-	6	2	W	1	3	-	6	2	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>                                 1♠ Pass</p> <p>2♦ Pass 2♠ Pass</p> <p>4♠ Pass Pass Pass</p> <p>A deal where East-West will probably end up in 4♠, a contract where the only issue in the play is one of overtricks. Yes, <i>Deep Finesse</i> says that you can make a slam on these cards and, in truth, we have all been in worse spots than 6♠. Still, how might you bid it? Much depends on East's rebid after the 2♦ response – what do you suggest? 3♠ is an overbid, 2♥ looks weird on a 7-4 shape with lousy hearts and 4♠ is just a punt.</p> <p>As to the play... with a trump loser, East has to get rid of his three losing hearts. The winning play is to ruff them on table (in which case he needs to avoid playing any trumps at all). He might take the ruffing diamond finesse instead, in which case he would certainly lose two tricks. The right line would become more obvious if South has revealed the location of the missing high cards with an unwise 2♣ overcall.</p>
HCP																																											
4	11																																										
12	13																																										
Makeable contracts																																											
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																						
N	-	-	1	-	-																																						
S	-	-	1	-	-																																						
E	1	3	-	6	2																																						
W	1	3	-	6	2																																						

<p>♠ Q52 ♥ 87 ♦ K43 ♣ K10873</p> <p>♠ K9                      ♠ J108743 ♥ A109653              ♥ QJ42 ♦ 10865                 ♦ J97 ♣ Q                        ♣ None</p> <p>♠ A6 ♥ K ♦ AQ2 ♣ AJ96542</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>18</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8	5	9	18	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	-	-	-	1	S	5	-	-	-	1	E	-	1	3	1	-	W	-	1	3	1	-	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>                                 1♣</p> <p>2♥ 3♣ 4♥ 5♣</p> <p>Pass Pass Pass</p> <p>An interesting deal, this one where there may be some fierce competitive bidding. North-South have a rare 7-5 club fit and have a laydown 5♣ contract, losing just a heart and a spade. Meanwhile, East-West are able to make nine tricks in hearts, assuming they can guess spades correctly, so they would do well to bid to the five-level and concede a mere 500 in 5♥ doubled. That won't happen often, I suspect, as both East and West will be wary about pushing North-South into a makeable slam.</p> <p>The above auction is reasonable, assuming that East-West are playing weak jump overcalls. Where West overcalls 1♥ over 1♣ it will be even less obvious for East-West to sacrifice in 5♥ over 5♣.</p> <p>Just one other point. Did anyone manage to commit grand larceny on the South cards by sneaking through 3NT with overtricks?</p>
HCP																																											
8	5																																										
9	18																																										
Makeable contracts																																											
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																						
N	5	-	-	-	1																																						
S	5	-	-	-	1																																						
E	-	1	3	1	-																																						
W	-	1	3	1	-																																						

<p>♠ AKQ6 ♥ AK87 ♦ J6 ♣ AK3</p> <p>♠ 985                      ♠ 1073 ♥ J4                        ♥ Q10 ♦ K432                    ♦ Q105 ♣ Q965                    ♣ J10842</p> <p>♠ J42 ♥ 96532 ♦ A987 ♣ 7</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 573 188 763"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>24</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="225 573 469 763"> <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>3</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>6</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		24		6	5	5		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	3	6	7	6	S	3	3	6	7	6	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>Pass 2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass 2NT Pass 3♦* Pass 4♣* Pass 4♦ Pass 6♥ All Pass</p> <p>North-South have a thin slam on this deal with 6♥ makeable simply because hearts break 2-2. It's actually not a very good contract (a 2-2 break comes in at 40%) but the auction above shows one way of getting there. 2NT shows 23-24, 3♦ is a transfer and 4♣ agrees hearts, showing a club control. 4♦ shows the ♦A and 6♥ is a random punt. It's not a great contract but, as an erstwhile partner of mine once put it, a lucky contract scores exactly the same as a good one. Yes, <i>Deep Finesse</i> says 7♠ is makeable. True enough – and that's about as good a spot as 6♥. It also needs hearts 2-2, the thirteenth trick coming from a club ruff in the South hand. How many played this deal in spades? About none would be my rough estimate.</p>
HCP																																													
24																																													
6	5																																												
5																																													
Makeable contracts																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																								
N	3	3	6	7	6																																								
S	3	3	6	7	6																																								
E	-	-	-	-	-																																								
W	-	-	-	-	-																																								
<p>♠ AJ83 ♥ Q62 ♦ AKQ9 ♣ 64</p> <p>♠ 94                        ♠ K107652 ♥ K83                    ♥ A754 ♦ 8732                    ♦ 106 ♣ K1082                ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ J109 ♦ J54 ♣ AQJ953</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 1249 188 1440"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>16</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="225 1249 469 1440"> <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>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</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		16		6	7	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	3	2	1	2	S	3	3	2	1	2	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>1♠ Pass 2♣ Pass 2NT Pass 3NT Pass Pass Pass</p> <p>North-South are sure to reach 3NT on this deal, whether by the route above or by other means. <i>Deep Finesse</i> tells us that 3NT can be beaten, but it is not so easy for the defence. If North conceals his spades (by opening a strong no-trump, for example) then East may well lead one and that would make declarer's life easy. Even after a low heart lead (best) 3NT may slip through. East may duck the second heart and now declarer could make the hand by cashing the ♣A, four rounds of diamonds and exiting with a heart. Even if he takes the more likely option of trying the club finesse, West may duck the king (fatal, as declarer would switch to spades). All in all, 3NT is likely to slip through, so 400 to North-South is more likely than 50 to East-West. We shall see.</p>
HCP																																													
16																																													
6	7																																												
11																																													
Makeable contracts																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																								
N	3	3	2	1	2																																								
S	3	3	2	1	2																																								
E	-	-	-	-	-																																								
W	-	-	-	-	-																																								
<p>♠ Q109 ♥ J6532 ♦ Q87 ♣ K10</p> <p>♠ AK4                    ♠ J8762 ♥ AQ                    ♥ K984 ♦ 10652                ♦ None ♣ AJ85                ♣ Q973</p> <p>♠ 53 ♥ 107 ♦ AKJ943 ♣ 642</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 1951 188 2136"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="225 1951 469 2136"> <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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		8		18	6	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	-	-	1	S	-	1	-	-	1	E	5	-	2	5	-	W	5	-	2	5	-	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>Pass 2♦ 2NT Pass 3♣* Pass 3♦ Pass 3♠ Pass 4♠ Pass Pass Pass</p> <p>Another awkward deal with many possible auctions. Those who play a weak two in diamonds will surely open that on the South cards, giving West a headache. 2NT is an uncomfortable shot but the alternatives don't appeal at all. Now East may be able to show a non-forcing hand with 5-4 in the majors via Stayman and 4♠ may be reached, but it's not that easy. North may also cause the East-West wheels to come off by raising to 3♦. If East doubles for take-out, West may pass that and defend the hand. 200 is all that is realistically available and that's poor compensation for a vulnerable game. 4♠ is easy enough to make but the overtrick does need some care and attention. 650 to East-West will score very well for their side.</p>
HCP																																													
8																																													
18	6																																												
8																																													
Makeable contracts																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																								
N	-	1	-	-	1																																								
S	-	1	-	-	1																																								
E	5	-	2	5	-																																								
W	5	-	2	5	-																																								



<p>♠ A98 ♥ KQ8 ♦ K1032 ♣ 876</p> <p>♠ K5                      ♠ J3 ♥ 10963                  ♥ J754 ♦ A4                        ♦ J965 ♣ 109542                ♣ AKQ</p> <p>♠ Q107642 ♥ A2 ♦ Q87 ♣ J3</p>	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>1NT All Pass</p> <p>This is another board where the bidding may peter out in dull fashion (see the auction above) or it may spring into life. If East opens 1NT he may win the auction. South will lead a spade and West is on the horns of the proverbial. If he plays dummy's ♠K he will lose a lot of tricks, indeed, he will probably be three down. If he calls for a low spade at trick one, then he will surely make his contract.</p> <p><i>Deep Finesse</i> tells us that 1NT should go down, but then <i>Deep Finesse</i> knows enough to lead a diamond, removing an entry to dummy's clubs. No mortal South is going to lead anything but a spade, though.</p> <p>What if East passes initially or opens 1♣ or 1♦? Now South will surely overcall in spades and North-South will steal the deal in spades, possibly 3♣. That will score 140 points, still losing out to those who record 1NT down three.</p>
--	--

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

<p>♠ 76 ♥ 9742 ♦ J942 ♣ Q84</p> <p>♠ Q                        ♠ J3 ♥ AKQJ105              ♥ 83 ♦ AK10                    ♦ Q87653 ♣ AJ3                     ♣ 1092</p> <p>♠ AK1098542 ♥ 6 ♦ None ♣ K765</p>	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>4♠</p> <p>5♥ Pass Pass Pass</p> <p>Wow! What a hand.</p> <p>South has a fairly obvious 4♠ opener on his 8·1·0·4 hand and that catches West with a whale – 24 points. Some may double “in rage”, hoping for a 500 point penalty, but 4♠ is cold, losing just two clubs and a heart. Some Wests may take a flyer at 6♥ and be delighted at the sight of dummy. 6♥ is an excellent contract, defeated only by the cruel 4-0 diamond split. North doesn't even have to lead a diamond at trick one to defeat 6♥; the defence can simply lead spades.</p> <p>In fact, even 5♥ is beaten by a spade lead and a club switch. If South were to lead two rounds of spades, though, West can get home in 5♥ by means of a squeeze on North. The precise details will be left as an exercise for the reader.</p>
---	---

HCP	Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
3	N	-	-	-	4	-
24      3	S	-	-	-	4	-
10	E	1	5	4	-	-
	W	1	5	4	-	-

<p>♠ AK10542 ♥ 32 ♦ A9 ♣ 863</p> <p>♠ 963                      ♠ QJ87 ♥ K108                    ♥ AQJ65 ♦ K10752                ♦ 86 ♣ J4                        ♣ K2</p> <p>♠ None ♥ 974 ♦ QJ43 ♣ AQ10975</p>	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>Pass 1♣ 2♥ Dble</p> <p>3♥ Pass Pass 4♣</p> <p>Pass Pass Pass</p> <p>A difficult part-score deal with much depending on system and style. In the auction above is 4♣ forcing in your methods? If so, South has to bid his hand in a different way. Mind you, passing out 3♥ would not be so bad as North-South can hold East-West to seven tricks and a penalty of 200.</p> <p>Yes, once again, <i>Deep Finesse</i> tells us that a game is available for North-South. True, it is. 5♣ makes because there are no diamond losers (the finesse works) and no club losers (the clubs are 2-2 with the king right). My unreliable arithmetic makes the chances of that about 10%, so it's not a contract anyone should be proud of reaching.</p>
--	---

HCP	Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
11	N	5	1	-	3	2
7      13	S	5	1	-	3	2
9	E	-	-	1	-	-
	W	-	-	-	-	-