

British Winter Virtual Sim Pairs



**Thursday
14th 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 Heather Dhondy. 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/

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 (1st to 4th) 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>♠AK3 ♥65 ♦A3 ♣KQJ1073</p> <p>♠J1098762 ♠Q ♥K ♥J10942 ♦KJ9 ♦108654 ♣A9 ♣82</p> <p>♠54 ♥AQ873 ♦Q72 ♣654</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1279 188 1467"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>17</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="229 1279 469 1467"> <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>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		17		12	3	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	-	2	-	4	S	4	-	2	-	5	E	-	1	-	1	-	W	-	1	-	1	-	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="491 837 1031 958"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>1♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td></tr> <tr><td>3♠</td><td>3NT</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North-South are likely to reach 3NT. Even if West comes in with a jump to 3♠, North's only practical option is to try 3NT.</p> <p>West's overcall will get the defence off to a spade lead, and declarer will set about establishing nine tricks by driving out the club. West will clear the spades, but on the run of the clubs will need to throw three of them away in order to keep the diamond guarded. It's decision time. Do you take the heart finesse or not? If you do, you will make the nine tricks you started with, but if you reject it, you are very fortunate when the singleton king appears. Now how many hearts has everyone kept? If dummy and East have kept three each, then cashing the queen and leading the last heart to East forces West to discard from ♦Kx and the winning spade, before you discard from hand and you will make eleven tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♣	Pass	1♥	3♠	3NT	All pass					
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<p>♠ J87 ♥ K8542 ♦ 642 ♣ 82</p> <p>♠ Q1062 ♠ AK5 ♥ A10 ♥ QJ76 ♦ 9875 ♦ 103 ♣ Q104 ♣ A973</p> <p>♠ 943 ♥ 93 ♦ AKQJ ♣ KJ65</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>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Ideally East-West want to be getting into the bidding here, but neither of them have a clear-cut bid on the auction above, and North-South will probably buy it in 2♥.</p> <p>The defence will begin with three round of spades, and they then have three trump tricks and a club still to come for two down. However -100 is no disaster for North-South as East-West can make a part-score if they find a way to reach it.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass			
West	North	East	South										
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥										
All Pass													

HCP	Makeable contracts				
4	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
8 14	N	-	-	-	-
14	S	-	-	-	-
	E	3	1	1	3 2
	W	2	-	1	2 2

<p>♠ J75 ♥ J10876 ♦ 85 ♣ AQ2</p> <p>♠ 10432 ♠ AK8 ♥ A3 ♥ 952 ♦ A1093 ♦ K7 ♣ J96 ♣ K8753</p> <p>♠ Q96 ♥ KQ4 ♦ QJ642 ♣ 104</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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>This is a quiet board in terms of the auction but how many tricks will be made?</p> <p>The best lead for the defence would be a heart, however declarer can go about setting up the clubs and establish seven tricks while the defence have just the four hearts and two clubs. A more normal lead, however, would be a low diamond which gives declarer the opportunity to make eight tricks.</p> <p>Declarer will try the ♦9 which will hold the trick, and might try a club to the king, which also holds. There is not time to establish clubs since a heart switch is inevitable, but if there is a favourable position in spades there is time to make a third one. So cashing the ♦K and playing three rounds of spades requires either a three-three break, or for North to hold honour doubleton.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1NT	All pass
West	North	East	South						
Pass	Pass	1NT	All pass						

HCP	Makeable contracts				
8	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
9 13	N	-	-	-	-
10	S	-	-	-	-
	E	3	2	-	2 1
	W	3	1	-	2 1

<p>♠ 3 ♥ QJ10932 ♦ K9653 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ J104 ♠ AQ865 ♥ K ♥ 6 ♦ A72 ♦ Q108 ♣ A109753 ♣ Q864</p> <p>♠ K972 ♥ A8754 ♦ J4 ♣ K2</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>All pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>What do you open the North hand? At this vulnerability I think 2♥ is sufficient and it's enough to get the job done as South will praise pre-emptively to four.</p> <p>Whichever minor East chooses to lead the defence will need to take care to cash out their aces or else there will be overtricks, assuming declarer gets the trumps right. The odds just favour playing to drop the ♥K, but it is only just, so if there has been any bidding or anything you can deduce from the lead etc, that could easily tip the balance. On this hand there is nothing to suggest playing against the odds so I expect most declarers will get trumps right.</p>	West	North	East	South	All pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
West	North	East	South						
All pass	2♥	Pass	4♥						

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

<p>♠ Q ♥ 973 ♦ A10742 ♣ AKQ6</p> <p>♠ 9872 ♠ A63 ♥ 652 ♥ AK8 ♦ KJ6 ♦ 3 ♣ J82 ♣ 1097543</p> <p>♠ KJ1054 ♥ QJ104 ♦ Q985 ♣ -</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>9</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="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>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		15	11	5	9	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	3	3	3	1	S	1	3	3	3	1	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<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>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>3NT isn't a big success but it is understandable to reach it and not a terrible contract. Any time diamonds come in for one loser your contract is secure.</p> <p>You will win the club and play the ♠Q, which probably holds the trick and now ace and another diamond fully expecting the opening bidder to hold the king, but sadly for North the cards are not lying kindly, and two down will be the result. I expect you to be in reasonable company, but those stopping in a part-score will do well.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	3NT	1♣	1♠			All Pass	
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<p>♠ A ♥ KQJ875 ♦ 984 ♣ A94</p> <p>♠ Q10864 ♠ KJ752 ♥ A10 ♥ 42 ♦ K763 ♦ Q5 ♣ J10 ♣ K862</p> <p>♠ 93 ♥ 963 ♦ AJ102 ♣ Q753</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>7</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		14	9	10	7	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	2	3	-	2	S	2	2	3	-	2	E	-	-	-	3	-	W	-	-	-	3	-	<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>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> </table> <p>Both sides can make nine tricks in their respective majors, however, holding a ten card fit, East-West are likely to pre-empt to the four level and buy the contract there. On a heart lead, the defence have a trick to take in each suit for one down. They are likely to get clubs right on the bidding especially if they discover that South holds the ♦A first.</p> <p>In 4♥, East must lead ♦Q to beat it. Declarer cannot duck without conceding two tricks in the suit, however winning the first round enables East to get the ruff needed to defeat the contract.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		Dbl
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<p>♠ A87 ♥ KJ942 ♦ A8 ♣ K95</p> <p>♠ J5432 ♠ K ♥ AQ10 ♥ 765 ♦ K742 ♦ J106 ♣ 2 ♣ AQ10874</p> <p>♠ Q1096 ♥ 83 ♦ Q953 ♣ J63</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>5</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		15	10	10	5	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	1	2	S	-	-	-	1	2	E	2	1	-	-	-	W	2	1	1	-	-	<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>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>What do you overcall with the East cards after North opens 1♥? Playing weak jump overcalls you are borderline between a simple two-level overcall and a jump overcall. On this hand, either action is likely to take you to 3♣, since it is hard for West to pass 2♣, holding ten points. 4♠ or 3NT could easily be on if East held a little more. On this hand, the three level is at least one level too high for East-West on this misfit. It is no surprise that the hearts are badly placed, and declarer will need to be careful to go just one down. The heart lead needs to be ducked, and North is in some trouble getting off lead safely, Best is to cash the ♠A and lead a trump. Declarer needs to play the queen and ace, and North can see the problem is about to get worse so might risk unblocking the king. Now declarer will need to read the position well and cross to the ♥A (removing South's exit card) and ruff a spade to hand before playing the third trump. South is now endplayed to give eight tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣	All pass
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<p>♠ 73 ♥ K1063 ♦ KQ84 ♣ 952</p> <p>♠ A6542 ♠ Q108 ♥ AJ4 ♥ Q85 ♦ 9 ♦ 752 ♣ AKJ6 ♣ Q1043</p> <p>♠ KJ9 ♥ 972 ♦ AJ1063 ♣ 87</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>There will be some pairs in game and some in part score on this deal. You don't have the values, however the cards are fitting well and game is not a bad contract. If West shows the 5431 shape on the auction above, East may view that all the queens are working cards and push for game.</p> <p>With a diamond and a heart to lose, the game will depend on picking up trumps for one loser. On this deal that is not possible as South's KJ9 are sitting over dummy.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♠	All pass
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	E	3	-	-	3	-
	W	3	-	-	3	-

<p>♠ J4 ♥ 97 ♦ 987652 ♣ 532</p> <p>♠ AKQ1065 ♠ 9872 ♥ K86 ♥ AJ432 ♦ A ♦ QJ ♣ AK9 ♣ Q7</p> <p>♠ 3 ♥ Q105 ♦ K1043 ♣ J10864</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>West will discover that East has the values for a positive response to 2♣, and the missing ace. That guarantees eleven tricks once East has a spade fit, and there must be a few other values in the East hand for the positive which makes bidding a grand a reasonable shot.</p> <p>Do you take the straightforward heart finesse or play the red suit squeeze? A high diamond lead will give you a clue about where the ♦K is, but you will have to cash your black cards and hope your table presence tells you which way to go!</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	7NT	All Pass		
West	North	East	South																										
		Pass	Pass																										
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass																										
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass																										
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass																										
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass																										
7NT	All Pass																												

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

<p>♠ J103 ♥ AQJ ♦ 943 ♣ Q1096</p> <p>♠ 764 ♠ 5 ♥ 107432 ♥ K9865 ♦ Q72 ♦ AKJ105 ♣ J4 ♣ K7</p> <p>♠ AKQ982 ♥ - ♦ 86 ♣ A8532</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♥</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Once North responds 2♣ to South's 1♠ opening, it will be hard to get South to give up and defend. However the hands do not fit as well as South might imagine and even 5♣ can't make as there are two diamonds and a trump trick to take for the defence. Often, when both sides have a double fit, there are plenty of tricks around, however this is not one of those occasions, which at least North will know.</p> <p>On the auction above, South's 4♥ shows club support and probably a void heart, and when partner double 5♥, South should respect that decision and pass. A heart contract has two black suit tricks to lose and two trump tricks, but if the defence don't cash their club trick, it will disappear on the long diamonds.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	2♣	2NT	4♥	5♥	Dbl	All Pass	
West	North	East	South														
			1♠														
Pass	2♣	2NT	4♥														
5♥	Dbl	All Pass															

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

<p> ♠ Q952 ♥ 874 ♦ Q4 ♣ AQ94 ♠ J43 ♠ 1076 ♥ Q6 ♥ J53 ♦ KJ87 ♦ A10932 ♣ K1087 ♣ 53 ♠ AK8 ♥ AK1092 ♦ 65 ♣ J62 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 577 470 763"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>5</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</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> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		10		N	3	1	4	4	2	10	5	S	3	1	4	4	2	15		E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="496 136 1034 331"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The sequence above assumes that you are playing 2♣ as checkback, which will help you to find an eight-card major suit fit. In this case North is trying to find out if South holds five hearts and it is a good idea since the defence will cash the first five diamond tricks against 3NT. If you are not playing checkback, North can get around the problem by jumping to 3♥ on the second round, showing three hearts and offering a choice of games. 4♥ is not a great contract, but one you are likely to reach given the values. When trumps divide and spades are three-three you just need the club finesse for your contract.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All pass	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																																			
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																															
10		N	3	1	4	4	2																																																														
10	5	S	3	1	4	4	2																																																														
15		E	-	-	-	-	-																																																														
		W	-	-	-	-	-																																																														
West	North	East	South																																																																		
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥																																																																		
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT																																																																		
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥																																																																		
Pass	4♥	All pass																																																																			
<p> ♠ J752 ♥ A108 ♦ K10 ♣ K1065 ♠ 63 ♠ A109 ♥ J9762 ♥ K53 ♦ AJ9 ♦ Q86532 ♣ J94 ♣ 3 ♠ KQ84 ♥ Q4 ♦ 74 ♣ AQ872 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 1249 470 1447"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>9</td> <td>S</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		11		N	4	-	-	3	2	7	9	S	4	-	-	3	2	13		E	-	2	1	-	-			W	-	2	1	-	-	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="496 819 1034 965"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Would you open a weak 2♦ with the East hand? In my view there is too much wrong with it. The vulnerability, the suit quality, good major suit holdings, and being in second seat are all downsides, so I would pass. Second seat is not an ideal time to pre-empt since, once dealer has passed, it increases the likelihood that it is partner you are pre-empting, and not the opponents. However, when South opens, an partner passes, I will give my diamonds a mention. This allows us to compete to the three-level, although North-South would probably have propelled themselves there in any case on this deal. In order to prevent ten tricks from being made, East must lead the singleton club and collect a ruff.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠	2♦	2♠	3♦	3♥	Pass	3♠	All pass			
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																																			
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																															
11		N	4	-	-	3	2																																																														
7	9	S	4	-	-	3	2																																																														
13		E	-	2	1	-	-																																																														
		W	-	2	1	-	-																																																														
West	North	East	South																																																																		
	Pass	Pass	1♣																																																																		
Pass	1♠	2♦	2♠																																																																		
3♦	3♥	Pass	3♠																																																																		
All pass																																																																					
<p> ♠ K64 ♥ KQ7 ♦ 7642 ♣ Q94 ♠ Q93 ♠ A107 ♥ 8 ♥ AJ10943 ♦ QJ1085 ♦ 3 ♣ KJ53 ♣ A106 ♠ J852 ♥ 652 ♦ AK9 ♣ 872 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 1921 470 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> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>13</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		10		N	-	-	-	-	-	9	13	S	-	-	-	-	-	8		E	4	4	4	3	3			W	4	4	4	3	3	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="496 1491 1034 1603"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Playing Acol, the West hand is borderline between 1NT and 2♦ after partner opens 1♥. The singleton heart is not good news, and the values are soft, however if partner has 15-16 balanced you will miss what is likely to be a decent 3NT if you respond 1NT. On this deal it doesn't matter much since partner will rebid 2♥ in either case and play there. The cards are lying favourably and there are overtricks to be had. South has the first problem. A top diamond may be led, but what next? A club switch will give away that suit, but if a spade is led, North must not put up the king. There is no reason to, unless you believe that partner may have switched away from the ace, which would not have happened seeing the queen in dummy. The results will be split between eight, nine and ten tricks depending on the defence and declarer's guessing.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass								
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																																			
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																															
10		N	-	-	-	-	-																																																														
9	13	S	-	-	-	-	-																																																														
8		E	4	4	4	3	3																																																														
		W	4	4	4	3	3																																																														
West	North	East	South																																																																		
		1♥	Pass																																																																		
2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass																																																																		

<p>♠ Q ♥ KQJ103 ♦ Q108 ♣ A1052</p> <p>♠ 87532 ♠ 6 ♥ 75 ♥ A864 ♦ J2 ♦ AK63 ♣ 9763 ♣ KJ84</p> <p>♠ AKJ1094 ♥ 92 ♦ 9754 ♣ Q</p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>DbI</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>What do you open with the South cards? There are some six-four ten counts that are undoubtedly worth a one-level opening, but this is not really one of them. There is no defence in the hand and the singleton queen is not worth it's weight. At this vulnerability I do not consider the hand too good for a 2♠ opening. North will probably make a try for game, although this is borderline with only one spade. East will be concerned that North-South are attempting to con their side out of a contract and has a normal double of 2NT. This give South the opportunity to show good trumps by rebidding 3♠ (a redouble would have shown a different sort of maximum). Provided West leads one of the doubletons, the game contract will be defeated with a diamond ruff.</p>	West	North	East	South				2♠	Pass	2NT	DbI	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South														
			2♠														
Pass	2NT	DbI	3♠														
Pass	4♠	All Pass															

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

<p>♠ J53 ♥ J108765 ♦ A2 ♣ 105</p> <p>♠ K10876 ♠ A4 ♥ 3 ♥ K4 ♦ 43 ♦ KJ1097 ♣ AQJ86 ♣ K732</p> <p>♠ Q92 ♥ AQ92 ♦ Q865 ♣ 94</p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : 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>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♣</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Looking at the two hands, 5♣ is undoubtedly where you want to play and requires a diamond guess and no terrible breaks. 3NT will have no chance on a heart lead, and 4♠ requires spades to come in for one loser in addition to guessing the diamonds. In practice, on the auction above, South may well lead a diamond and that resolves that problem. There are no further difficulties when clubs and spades divide well. Although 4♠ can make, it is altogether a more uncomfortable contract on ♥J through the king. Declarer will need to play a diamond before drawing trumps, and guess correctly if North plays low, in order to establish the tenth trick. Now trumps can be drawn, but they will need to be three-three.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass	5♣	All pass		
West	North	East	South														
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass														
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass														
5♣	All pass																

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

<p>♠ KJ964 ♥ A10973 ♦ J5 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ A85 ♠ Q102 ♥ Q62 ♥ K5 ♦ Q10 ♦ AK9864 ♣ Q10832 ♣ A4</p> <p>♠ 73 ♥ J84 ♦ 732 ♣ KJ976</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : 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></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>DbI</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DbI</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Would you open the North hand in first seat? In my opinion it is just too weak, unless you are playing some weak two-suited opening bid of course. However, when the opponents begin their auction 1♦-2♣, there is every chance that we have a good major suit fit and possibly two. Unfortunately, this in not really the case here and you might get doubled in 3♥, and will have to guess well to go only two down. In 3NT, the defence do best to begin with hearts. In order to make ten tricks declarer must win the ♥K and lead up towards the ♠Q at some point. North can win, but the hearts are protected.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣	2NT	DbI	3♥	DbI	All pass		
West	North	East	South														
	Pass	1♦	Pass														
2♣	2NT	DbI	3♥														
DbI	All pass																

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

<p>♠ Q10954 ♥ Q4 ♦ Q632 ♣ J4</p> <p>♠ KJ ♠ A82 ♥ K107 ♥ A9532 ♦ 109874 ♦ AK5 ♣ 876 ♣ Q10</p> <p>♠ 763 ♥ J86 ♦ J ♣ AK9532</p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>What action do you take with the South cards after East opens 1♥? You are not really strong enough for a two-level overcall, however you are desperate for partner to get off to the right lead if West becomes declarer, and a weak jump overcall at the three-level is too much of a risk at this vulnerability with this hand.</p> <p>As it turns out, you are on lead anyway to the opponent's heart contract. Some will be in game, and others in a part-score. The game is very poor, needing diamonds to come in for no loser and you will probably go down unless South leads, or switches to, the singleton diamond since the double finesse represents a better chance than a singleton honour in the South hand.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	2♣	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South										
		1♥	2♣										
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass										

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
7	N -	-	-	1	-
7 17	S -	-	-	1	-
9	E -	3	4	-	1
	W -	3	4	-	1

<p>♠ Q9632 ♥ A96 ♦ AJ8 ♣ 42</p> <p>♠ AK875 ♠ - ♥ Q43 ♥ KJ10875 ♦ 964 ♦ KQ ♣ 106 ♣ QJ987</p> <p>♠ J104 ♥ 2 ♦ 107532 ♣ AK53</p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Would you open the North hand in third seat? I would not with such a weak suit. Amazingly, given the minority of points and terrible trump break, 4♠ is making by North, but I would not expect anyone to bid it. Instead they are most likely to be defending a heart part-score by East.</p> <p>The defence have four tricks to take off the top, but it is hard to see anything else for them. I expect 140 to East-West to be fairly common.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South																		
			Pass																		
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass																		
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass																		
2♥	All Pass																				

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
11	N -	4	-	4	1
9 12	S -	4	-	3	1
8	E 1	-	3	-	-
	W 1	-	3	-	-

<p>♠ 5 ♥ K108654 ♦ Q6 ♣ 10764</p> <p>♠ A72 ♠ KQJ93 ♥ J32 ♥ 97 ♦ A973 ♦ 85 ♣ KJ9 ♣ AQ82</p> <p>♠ 10864 ♥ AQ ♦ KJ1042 ♣ 53</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>4♠ will be a common contract. On the auction above, West has a marginal decision about whether to bid 3♠ or 4♠, however once East will raise 3♠ to game in any case once the spade fit is known.</p> <p>With ten easy tricks and no chance of an overtrick 420 will be a popular result, For the odd lucky pair in 3NT, they will also make ten tricks despite having no heart stopper since the suit is blocked.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	4♠	All pass		
West	North	East	South														
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass														
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass														
4♠	All pass																

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

<p>♠ J7 ♥ 4 ♦ 6432 ♣ AQ8743</p> <p>♠ 653 ♠ AKQ10 ♥ A872 ♥ K10953 ♦ AKQ ♦ 985 ♣ K95 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ 9842 ♥ QJ6 ♦ J107 ♣ J102</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">16 12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		7	16 12	5	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	-	3	5	4	1	W	1	3	5	4	3	<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>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>I hope you are playing a 2NT response to one of a major as a game-forcing raise. For those who are not keen on too many conventions, this is one you should really try to take on board, since there is no satisfactory alternative way to show this hand. You do not want to jump straight to game when there could be a slam on.</p> <p>On this hand, slam is not a bad contract at all, just requiring the trumps to come in for no loser. Holding all the intermediates, you need wither a two-two break or to play one defender for a singleton honour (and guess which one holds the singleton).</p> <p>If you bid a slam here, you are not in luck .</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥	All pass
HCP																																																										
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<p>♠ 984 ♥ KQ1042 ♦ Q643 ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ QJ752 ♠ 103 ♥ 93 ♥ AJ6 ♦ K82 ♦ A105 ♣ 943 ♣ J10875</p> <p>♠ AK6 ♥ 875 ♦ J97 ♣ AK62</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6 10</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15</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>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		9	6 10	15	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	2	3	1	1	S	-	2	3	-	1	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<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>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>What is the North hand worth facing a 1NT rebid from South? Your values are soft, and although the singleton queen is in partner's suit, it is worth an invite at best. South is minimum in any case so you will stop in either two or three hearts.</p> <p>You will be able to dispose of your spade loser and a long diamond on a clubs, and to make nine tricks, must make sure you don't lose more than two diamonds once the trumps are placed badly for you. You don't have the entries to eliminate the black suits, so the straight-forward, and successful, line is to lead a diamond to the nine, playing for the ten in the East hand.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass			
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<p>♠ 985 ♥ K109653 ♦ 94 ♣ J9</p> <p>♠ Q763 ♠ KJ42 ♥ 8 ♥ AJ2 ♦ KQ10632 ♦ A5 ♣ 86 ♣ AQ32</p> <p>♠ A10 ♥ Q74 ♦ J87 ♣ K10754</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></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7 19</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>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>5</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		4	7 19	10	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	-	-	S	-	-	1	-	-	E	2	5	-	6	5	W	2	5	-	4	4	<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>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>It is tempting to open the West hand with a weak 2♦ despite holding a four-card major. The strength of the suit, and lack of defence make it suitable for pre-emption. Unfortunately it is partner you are pre-empting on this occasion, and if you do open a weak two, you will lose the eight-card spade fit.</p> <p>Whether 4♠ or 3NT scores better will all depend on over-tricks and who becomes declarer. Played by West, either game can be held to ten tricks. In 4♠, North must lead J. Now a trump promotion from the third round of clubs will hold it to ten. Against 3NT, North must lead ♥10, forcing declarer to duck two rounds.</p> <p>Played by East, neither of these defences are possible, so twelve tricks can be made in spades and eleven in NTs.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass
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<p>♠ K1063 ♥ K8 ♦ KQ987 ♣ AQ</p> <p>♠ 8 ♠ Q7 ♥ A10975 ♥ J6432 ♦ A1063 ♦ J ♣ J98 ♣ K7543</p> <p>♠ AJ9542 ♥ Q ♦ 542 ♣ 1062</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>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>All pass</p> <p>Who would expect that it is East-West who can make game here? 4♠ will fail if the opponents manage to get a couple of diamond ruffs, but it would take an unlikely ♦A lead. On the more likely club lead, declarer needs to rise with the ace to make it, otherwise will be two down. Meanwhile if East-West alight in a heart contract, there is just a trump, a club and a spade to take for the defence.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
West	North	East	South										
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠										
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠										

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
17	N	- 3	-	3	2	
9 7	S	- 3	-	3	2	
7	E	3	-	4	-	
	W	3	-	4	-	

<p>♠ 65 ♥ J542 ♦ 8654 ♣ AJ6</p> <p>♠ J9 ♠ AQ108742 ♥ AQ9873 ♥ 6 ♦ AK3 ♦ J97 ♣ 32 ♣ 54</p> <p>♠ K3 ♥ K10 ♦ Q102 ♣ KQ10987</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>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>All pass</p> <p>Do you raise 3♠ to 4♠ with the West hand? On a different hand, you might decide to raise purely pre-emptively to cause North a problem, but this is not the case here. East has pre-empted at the worst vulnerability and in the worst position at the table, so it is reasonable to assume that partner has an authentic hand-type with a decent suit and is unlikely to have pushed the boat out. On that basis there won't be more than one trump loser, so game is going to have play. At worst it will be on the heart finesse, but could be a lot better than that.</p> <p>In practice, it is a lot better than a finesse. After two clubs have been cashed, and the defence get off lead, you will try the trump finesse, and when it fails, you could take the heart finesse, or play ace and another and, if the king doesn't ruff down, play the red suit squeeze, or play a trump squeeze. All lines work.</p>	West	North	East	South	4♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
West	North	East	South						
4♠	Pass	3♠	Pass						

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

<p>♠ A976 ♥ J85 ♦ 3 ♣ KQ874</p> <p>♠ KQ ♠ 1052 ♥ KQ6 ♥ 942 ♦ J98652 ♦ K1074 ♣ A5 ♣ J109</p> <p>♠ J843 ♥ A1073 ♦ AQ ♣ 632</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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbf</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The auction is likely to be passed round to West who opens 1♦, and that is passed round to South who will make a protective double. What do you do with the North hand? You have a good hand, but your shortage in diamonds may not be that useful as partner also sounds short, it does mean, however that you are unlikely to be passed out in whatever you call as they have a big fit. Therefore, I would prepare to bid twice by showing my club suit first. As expected, the opponents compete to 2♦ and now I can describe my hand by bidding 2♠. You will probably be pushed to three and buy it there. The cards are lying sufficiently well that you will make ten tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	Pass	Dbf	Pass	2♣	2♦	Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♦	3♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South																						
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3♦	3♠	All Pass																							

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

<p>♠ 109864 ♥ K72 ♦ J875 ♣ K</p> <p>♠ K ♠ A53 ♥ 10865 ♥ AJ43 ♦ AK632 ♦ 10 ♣ 964 ♣ AJ875</p> <p>♠ QJ72 ♥ Q9 ♦ Q94 ♣ Q1032</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 573 188 763"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="225 573 467 763"> <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>-</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>3</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		7		10	14	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	3	4	1	2	W	4	3	4	1	2	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="483 129 1050 331"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>For a change the auction looks fairly predictable, however, the play is less so. These sorts of auctions often call for a trump lead, but South's holding is unattractive, so I would expect a top spade to be led. Declarer may use this entry to play a trump to the jack or to play a club, intending to take a deep finesse until the king appears. Although there are many possible ways to play, nearly all result in ten tricks so this will be a popular result.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
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<p>♠ A107654 ♥ 8 ♦ 964 ♣ AQ2</p> <p>♠ K2 ♠ 93 ♥ A109 ♥ KQ63 ♦ J10875 ♦ K3 ♣ 1065 ♣ KJ843</p> <p>♠ QJ8 ♥ J7542 ♦ AQ2 ♣ 97</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 1245 188 1435"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="225 1245 467 1435"> <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>4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		10		8	12	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	-	4	3	S	-	1	-	4	3	E	-	-	1	-	-	W	-	-	1	-	-	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="483 801 1050 958"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td></tr> <tr><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>There will be some variety on this hand as there are some close decisions. Firstly, do you open the north hand 1♠ or 2♠? The point count is borderline, but with two aces and a singleton it looks too strong for a weak two so I would open it at the one level. Next, do you overcall on the East hand? I dislike a 2♣ overcall, and if I was going to do anything would double, however with a minimum hand I would prefer to be more shape-suitable. However the auction starts, North-South are likely to buy it in a spade part-score. When two of the three finesses are working, there are ten tricks, and declarer might even make eleven unless East switches to a diamond after a top heart lead as the entries are there to establish a long heart to dispose of a diamond loser.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠	All pass							
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<p>♠ QJ108 ♥ 7 ♦ K76 ♣ KQ975</p> <p>♠ K76 ♠ A92 ♥ AK632 ♥ QJ85 ♦ 2 ♦ AQ104 ♣ 10863 ♣ J4</p> <p>♠ 543 ♥ 1094 ♦ J9853 ♣ A2</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 1917 188 2107"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="225 1917 467 2107"> <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>1</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		11		10	14	5		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	1	5	2	3	W	1	1	5	2	3	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="483 1473 1050 1653"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>4♥</td><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This hand is a good advertisement for transfer breaks. 4♥ is an excellent contract and one which may not be reached if East does not break the transfer. There is a little bit to the play once trumps are three-one, however a diamond lead will already have given the tenth trick. On a club or heart lead East will go about ruffing a club in hand and if further trumps are cashed North will be in all sorts of difficulties, being in sole charge of guarding all three suits. A spade lead represents the best chance for the defence, as they will have time to set up the spade winner unless declarer takes a diamond finesse. Once trumps are three-one this probably represents the best chance, and won't cost if it loses, since a spade or club will disappear on the ace anyway.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass						
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<p>♠ KQ8762 ♥ J8 ♦ 3 ♣ Q862</p> <p>♠ J10 ♠ 943 ♥ AQ1076 ♥ K953 ♦ KJ6 ♦ AQ4 ♣ J97 ♣ A53</p> <p>♠ A5 ♥ 42 ♦ 1098752 ♣ K104</p>	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: left;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1NT</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">2♦</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3♥</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">4♥</td> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: left;">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>East-West are almost certain to end up in 4♥. Despite having the values, and a nine-card trump fit, the contract has very little play.</p> <p>When North has overcalled in spades, the defence will probably begin with three rounds of the suit which gives declarer an immediate problem. Do you trump with the king, or the nine, or cut your losses and discard a club? There are some residual chances in clubs but these are not great, so there is a good case at pairs for discarding and ensuring you are only one down. Ruffing with the nine works, but ruffing with the king leaves you with a guess in trumps and you may take the finesse. If you survive all this you need to play for a lucky holding in clubs. It isn't there, so most will be failing by one trick, with a few failing by two tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	2♦	2♠	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
		1NT	Pass														
2♦	2♠	3♥	Pass														
4♥	All Pass																

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

<p>♠ AJ864 ♥ 10872 ♦ 104 ♣ A3</p> <p>♠ Q5 ♠ 973 ♥ J93 ♥ KQ65 ♦ Q876 ♦ J93 ♣ K762 ♣ J98</p> <p>♠ K102 ♥ A4 ♦ AK52 ♣ Q1054</p>	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: left;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: left;">1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: left;">3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♠</td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: left;">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>The sequence above assumes you are playing checkback again. 4♠ will be a popular contract and is the top spot for North-South since eleven tricks are available, whereas there are at most ten in 3NT on best defence.</p> <p>In 4♠, a top heart is the likely lead, unless North has bid them. Now, one heart ruff is all that is needed to establish the fourth round. It is normal to play West for the queen of trumps since this allows the king to be cashed first, and when that works, North will have just a club to lose in addition to the heart already taken by the defence.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South																		
			1♦																		
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT																		
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♠																		
Pass	4♠	All Pass																			

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
9	N	3	3	3	5	3
8 7	S	3	3	3	5	4
16	E	-	-	-	-	-
	W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ 65 ♥ KJ86543 ♦ 75 ♣ 105</p> <p>♠ KJ3 ♠ 10974 ♥ 10972 ♥ A ♦ KJ92 ♦ AQ64 ♣ 82 ♣ KJ73</p> <p>♠ AQ82 ♥ Q ♦ 1083 ♣ AQ964</p>	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: left;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Dbl</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">3NT</td> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: left;">All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>What call do you make with the West hand when 3♥ is doubled by partner and passed to you? You have two choices in my view, to pass or have a go at 3NT.</p> <p>Despite the lack of values for 3NT, you do know a bit about the defending hands which you can use in the play. North, being so weak, may try to find partner's suit, and if ♣10 is led, declarer will go down. This is the only led to defeat the contract, but is not impossible to find since it is the best of the doubletons. On a heart lead, declarer will use dummy's entries to lead towards the spades whilst cashing diamonds. South does best to win the second spade and get off lead with a third round. However, declarer will cash the diamonds and exit with the last spade. South cannot avoid being endplayed twice in clubs to concede the contract.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	3♥	Dbl	Pass	3NT	All pass		
West	North	East	South										
Pass	3♥	Dbl	Pass										
3NT	All pass												

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
4	N	-	-	2	-	-
8 14	S	-	-	2	-	-
14	E	1	3	-	3	3
	W	1	3	-	2	2