

# EBED



# Sim Pairs

Commentary by Sally Brock

**Thursday**  
**10<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

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

The proceeds raised by this event will go to EBED, the national charity for the promotion and development of duplicate bridge. Particularly, in the past few challenging months staff at EBED have worked hard to improve and develop the infrastructure for bridge teaching in England by launching the new e-learning portal EBS (English Bridge School), and to provide support for EBTA – the English Bridge Teachers Association – in order to enable its members to teach bridge online.

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

You can read more about EBED’s activities in the current issue of English Bridge and at [www.ebedcio.org.uk](http://www.ebedcio.org.uk). If you wish to arrange a donation in favour of the charity, please do so at [www.ebedcio.org.uk/donate](http://www.ebedcio.org.uk/donate). Do please encourage your friends to come to play in these events which are open to all and raise vital funds for our work. We sincerely thank you thank you for your support.

Giorgio Provenza

Chief Executive

English Bridge Education & Development, Registered Charity No: 1153543

<p>♠ KJ63 ♥ Q54 ♦ 875 ♣ K54</p> <p>♠ 74                      ♠ A52 ♥ J106                    ♥ K832 ♦ AQJ32                 ♦ K106 ♣ J109                    ♣ A83</p> <p>♠ Q1098 ♥ A97 ♦ 94 ♣ Q762</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9</td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>14</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	9		-	-	-	1	-	9	14	-	-	-	1	-	8		1	3	3	-	2			1	3	3	-	2	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Nothing much to the bidding: either a weak NT passed out, or a different opening and a 1NT response, passed out. The cards lie well for EW, and it looks as if the defenders can only take 3 spades, a club and a heart.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	1NT	All Pass								
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<p>♠ A3 ♥ A9874 ♦ 63 ♣ 10972</p> <p>♠ J64                      ♠ KQ987 ♥ Q62                      ♥ 5 ♦ QJ10                     ♦ K8752 ♣ QJ64                     ♣ K5</p> <p>♠ 1052 ♥ KJ103 ♦ A94 ♣ A83</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;">8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">11</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <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>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8		9	11	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	3	-	2	S	2	-	3	-	2	E	-	2	-	2	-	W	-	2	-	2	-	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>It's never easy to know how high to bid on these competitive partscore deals. After a weak NT, North transfers into hearts. For me, a cue-bid of their suit (2♥) here shows spades and a minor (with a 3-suiter, pass and then double). South like his hearts but is 4333 with a minimum, so doubles to show some interest. West bids 2♠ and North is just about work competing the partscore. Assuming declarer guesses hearts, 3♥ should make. However, 3♠ only goes down because of the diamond ruff. Maybe EW should press on to 3♠, hoping either to make it or for no-one to double.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1NT	Pass	2♦	2♥	Dble	2♠	3♥	All Pass	
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<p>♠ J3 ♥ KQ1072 ♦ A ♣ AKQ72</p> <p>♠ Q974                      ♠ A852 ♥ 9643                      ♥ 5 ♦ K1093                     ♦ QJ76 ♣ 4                             ♣ J1098</p> <p>♠ K106 ♥ AJ8 ♦ 8542 ♣ 653</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;">19</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <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>5</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>3</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> </table>	HCP		19		5	8	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	-	5	-	3	S	5	-	5	-	3	E	-	1	-	1	-	W	-	1	-	1	-	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North has a pretty good hand but slam would need a 3-2 club break and a good spade guess. As it is, I guess East will lead a diamond. Declarer will need to use good technique in order to make 11 tricks. With hearts and clubs both breaking 4-1, if declarer simply draws trumps and tries the clubs, he will (or should) make only 10 tricks. East will win the fourth round of clubs and play a diamond, forcing out North's last trump. When East gets in with the ♠A he can cash a diamond. Declarer has to time things perfectly to make 11 tricks – he must play a spade early on – and guess the suit right if East plays low.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass			
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<p>♠ K92 ♥ 863 ♦ A972 ♣ K108</p> <p>♠ J7                              ♠ Q106543 ♥ QJ74                      ♥ K5 ♦ J8                              ♦ K64 ♣ AQ754                     ♣ J2</p> <p>♠ A8 ♥ A1092 ♦ Q1053 ♣ 963</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;">10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <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>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10		11	9	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	1	-	1	S	-	2	1	-	1	E	1	-	-	2	-	W	1	-	-	2	-	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>If East opens a weak 2♠, no-one else has anything to say. I guess South is likely to lead a diamond at trick one. Best defence now is to play two rounds of trumps, but then if the defence switch back to diamonds, declarer will win and knock out the ♥, and dummy has a parking place for a club.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	2♠	All Pass								
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<p>♠ AJ5 ♥ K6 ♦ 8654 ♣ 10763</p> <p>♠ K10943      ♠ 87 ♥ 1042      ♥ QJ873 ♦ Q      ♦ 102 ♣ A952      ♣ QJ84</p> <p>♠ Q62 ♥ A95 ♦ AKJ973 ♣ K</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;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">17</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <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>5</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8	6	9	17	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	5	-	1	3	S	-	5	-	2	3	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>South's 3NT bid looks like a bit of a flyer, but North should have decent values as he didn't have to bid over 1♠ in order to keep the bidding open. South can hope for 6 diamond tricks, 2 spades and the ♥A. As it is East has to lead a club (and why should he?) to hold declarer to 9 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♦	1♠	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
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<p>♠ QJ ♥ A8532 ♦ Q83 ♣ J65</p> <p>♠ K10983      ♠ A762 ♥ QJ6      ♥ 104 ♦ 10974      ♦ J5 ♣ Q      ♣ AK1084</p> <p>♠ 54 ♥ K97 ♦ AK62 ♣ 9732</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;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <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>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10	12	8	10	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	-	-	S	-	-	1	-	-	E	3	1	-	3	2	W	3	1	-	3	2	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>It is not usually right to let opponents play at the two level when they have a fit. I guess North could balance with 3♥, but even if he does I would expect East to bid 3♠. Although it looks as if EW have 4 top losers and nothing else, they might lose a spade trick. The Principle of Restricted Choice suggests that if declarer plays trumps by leading low to the ace, it is with the odds to finesse on the next round, thus going down.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass
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<p>♠ AKJ6 ♥ 9 ♦ 109763 ♣ QJ8</p> <p>♠ 105                      ♠ 832 ♥ J8765                    ♥ A1043 ♦ Q52                      ♦ KJ4 ♣ A72                      ♣ K96</p> <p>♠ Q974 ♥ KQ2 ♦ A8 ♣ 10543</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></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7      11</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</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> </table>	HCP		11	7      11	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	2	-	3	2	S	2	2	-	3	2	E	-	-	1	-	-	W	-	-	1	-	-	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The time to be conservative at matchpoint scoring; someone might well press on to game playing teams. As it is there are four unavoidable losers and it is hard to see why the defenders would not take them.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠	All Pass	
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<p>♠ KJ942 ♥ K65 ♦ Q105 ♣ K5</p> <p>♠ 53                      ♠ AQ107 ♥ A92                    ♥ 83 ♦ AK82                  ♦ 4 ♣ 10982                  ♣ AQJ643</p> <p>♠ 86 ♥ QJ1074 ♦ J9763 ♣ 7</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;">12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11      13</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <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>7</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>7</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>	HCP		12	11      13	4	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	7	1	1	2	6	W	7	1	1	2	6	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>What should South lead? If he leads partner's suit, then declarer will surely make 12 tricks. I don't particularly encourage partners to lead my suits (it rather cramps my style in the bidding if they lead my suit without thinking!). On a heart lead, it is harder for declarer. I guess at matchpoints he has to go for it: win the first lead, take a club finesse, and when that holds take a couple of spade finesses for the same 12 tricks. But you will have the satisfaction of knowing that declarer was a lot more uncomfortable!</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♣	Pass	1♦	1♠	2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass
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<p>♠ 543 ♥ 764 ♦ AKJ ♣ AQ107</p> <p>♠ QJ62                    ♠ K8 ♥ -                          ♥ Q109832 ♦ 9764                    ♦ Q852 ♣ KJ984                  ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ A1097 ♥ AKJ5 ♦ 103 ♣ 532</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7      7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</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		14	7      7	12	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	1	2	3	5	S	3	1	2	3	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>What should West lead? When North doesn't use Stayman it looks more attractive to lead a major. I would lead a low spade – to the king and ace. Now a club to the ten, a heart to the jack, another club finesse shows a way to 9 tricks, but it is not clear where any more are coming from. A diamond lead from West would work even better.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass					
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<p>♠ Q3 ♥ J9754 ♦ Q2 ♣ J976</p> <p>♠ A98542      ♠ KJ76 ♥ 82            ♥ Q103 ♦ 107           ♦ 9865 ♣ A43           ♣ Q5</p> <p>♠ 10 ♥ AK6 ♦ AKJ43 ♣ K1082</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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 colspan="2">NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td>S</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		6		N	5	4	4	-	-	8	8	S	5	4	4	-	-		18	E	-	-	-	2	-			W	-	-	-	2	-	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>If West opens a weak 2♣, East should raise straight to 4♠. With 4-card support it can hardly be wrong. The Theory of Total Tricks states that if EW have 10 spades, then most likely NS have 9 in their best fit. So, the total number of tricks on the hand are 19. If EW make 9 then NS can make 10; if EW make 8 then NS make 11. Here South doubles, for take-out, but with such a balanced hand North has no reason to remove.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	2♣	Pass	4♠	Dble								
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<p>♠ K973 ♥ Q98 ♦ 4 ♣ AK932</p> <p>♠ J654            ♠ A8 ♥ K752           ♥ A10 ♦ J976           ♦ AK108532 ♣ 10               ♣ J8</p> <p>♠ Q102 ♥ J643 ♦ Q ♣ Q7654</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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 colspan="2">NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		12		N	2	-	1	1	-	5	16	S	2	-	1	1	-		7	E	-	5	-	-	2			W	-	5	-	-	2	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>East has a great hand that is not really adequately described by a simple 1♦ overcall. However, it would be a mistake to double with such poor majors. West bounces the level with a pre-emptive 3♦ and East's first thoughts are 3NT, if only West has a club stopper. When the opponents have bid two suits, it is normal to play that bidding one shows a stopper and asks for a stopper in the other. Here West cannot oblige with a club stopper but shows his singleton on the way, in case that is all East needs to know – and this time it is indeed, and the low point-count game is reached.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♣	1♦	1♥	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass	5♦	All Pass
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<p>♠ Q65 ♥ Q3 ♦ 875 ♣ KQJ85</p> <p>♠ AK102      ♠ J974 ♥ 9754      ♥ 62 ♦ J10      ♦ 432 ♣ A76      ♣ 10932</p> <p>♠ 83 ♥ AKJ108 ♦ AKQ96 ♣ 4</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</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><td></td></tr> </table>	HCP		10		12	1	17		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	4	4	1	4		S	3	4	4	1	4		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>Playing Acol, North is worth a 2-level response and South introduces his second suit. After the 2♥ preference, South could proceed with 3♦, showing extra values and a 5-5 hand, but since he wants to be in game anyway, he might as well bid it – it is hard to imagine that 5♦ or 3NT would be a better contract than 4♥ and it generally pays to use as few bids as possible to arrive at your final contract. The play looks straightforward and no doubt South will just make exactly 10 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	2♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	All Pass		4♥
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<p>♠ 32 ♥ J6 ♦ K95 ♣ KQJ742</p> <p>♠ 987      ♠ QJ654 ♥ Q53      ♥ K98 ♦ AJ10      ♦ 762 ♣ 10965      ♣ 83</p> <p>♠ AK10 ♥ A10742 ♦ Q843 ♣ A</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</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><td></td></tr> </table>	HCP		10		7	6	17		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	5	4	3	2	3		S	5	4	4	2	5		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>In my view North, with his aceless collection and a probably useless ♥J, is just short of an Acol light opener. So the bidding goes round to South who opens 1♥ in 4<sup>th</sup> seat. The natural auction leads to South declaring 3NT. I guess most Ws would lead a spade which South will win, cash the ♣A and play a diamond. If West plays low, then careful discarding can keep declarer to 11 tricks, while if West panics and flies in with the ♦A, declarer will make 12.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
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<p>♠ J10754 ♥ AJ7 ♦ J954 ♣ K</p> <p>♠ A862      ♠ KQ3 ♥ K642      ♥ 105 ♦ K863      ♦ A72 ♣ 4      ♣ AQ1082</p> <p>♠ 9 ♥ Q983 ♦ Q10 ♣ J97653</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</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><td></td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr> </table>	HCP		10		10	15	5		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	1	2	1	2	2		W	1	3	1	2	2		<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Facing a 15-17 1NT rebid, West is worth bidding game. Whether he should do so directly or look for a spade fit depends on system. If you play Acol as I like to do, you would open 1♠ with 15-17 and 4-4 in the black suits. In this case East cannot hold 4 spades so the above auction is correct. If it is possible for East to hold 4 spades, then West needs to introduce the suit – the simple way being to bid 2♠ over 1NT. On this deal, despite the combined 25 HCP, East will do well to make 3NT – maybe even making 8 tricks will score well.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	Pass	1♣	Pass	3NT	Pass	1NT	Pass		All Pass		
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<p>♠ A1072 ♥ K986 ♦ AQ108 ♣ 10</p> <p>♠ J63                      ♠ 8 ♥ J53                      ♥ AQ1072 ♦ K96                      ♦ J32 ♣ K873                    ♣ AQJ6</p> <p>♠ KQ954 ♥ 4 ♦ 754 ♣ 9542</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;">13</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">14</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td></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>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		13		8	14	5		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	-	4	-	S	-	2	-	4	-	E	2	-	2	-	-	W	2	-	2	-	-	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Some Souths might overcall 1♠ in the first place, but it is a little light at adverse vulnerability. West’s 1NT response and heart preference look normal, and then it is a question of whether South goes quietly or balances. Although the vulnerability is adverse, North is marked with roughly opening values and some spade length – the worst would be a doubleton if East and West both had 3 spades. I think it is worth a 2♠ bid, and although Deep Finesse might be able to make 10 tricks, I think 9 will score well enough.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠	All Pass			
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<p>♠ J5 ♥ AJ6 ♦ 9865 ♣ Q987</p> <p>♠ 1087                      ♠ K962 ♥ 97543                    ♥ KQ2 ♦ A2                        ♦ K1043 ♣ KJ6                      ♣ A3</p> <p>♠ AQ43 ♥ 108 ♦ QJ7 ♣ 10542</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;">8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">15</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td></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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8		8	15	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	-	-	-	S	1	-	-	-	-	E	-	1	3	3	1	W	-	1	3	3	2	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </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>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Whether to respond 1NT or 2♠ on the West hand is a close decision in my opinion, with my preference going to the latter. No-one has any reason to bid over either response. Against 2♠, South will probably lead the ♦Q so declarer can play two rounds of the suit and ruff one in the dummy. I would not like to analysis this deal properly, but after that I would play a heart to my king and the ♦10. It is doubtful that it benefits South to ruff, so the ♦10 would hold. Now two top clubs and a club ruff in hand would bring declarer’s total to 8, with one more to come in trumps. I fancy +140 to score better than those in 1NT.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass		
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<p>♠ 8654 ♥ AKQ10 ♦ 3 ♣ K653</p> <p>♠ 72                      ♠ AKQ93 ♥ 642                      ♥ 983 ♦ AQJ2                     ♦ K965 ♣ AJ107                    ♣ 2</p> <p>♠ J10 ♥ J75 ♦ 10874 ♣ Q984</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;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		12	12	12	4	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	-	-	-	S	1	-	-	-	-	E	-	4	1	3	3	W	-	4	1	3	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>1♣</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td colspan="3">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Some close decisions here. West has to decide what to bid over his partner's overcall. It could be right to bid more, but partner only needs 8 or so HCP to make a non-vulnerable 1-level overcall, so as West I would take the low road. East is quite close to a raise, but not quite close enough! He could bid 2♦ but West has shown good clubs and NTs scores more. The only reason there are 9 tricks in NTs are because East's spades play for no loser, definitely against the odds.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♣	1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass														
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<p>♠ K ♥ AK107652 ♦ Q54 ♣ A8</p> <p>♠ J643                      ♠ Q87 ♥ 84                         ♥ 3 ♦ K32                        ♦ A107 ♣ 10543                    ♣ KQJ976</p> <p>♠ A10952 ♥ QJ9 ♦ J986 ♣ 2</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;">16</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <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>4</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		16	12	4	8	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	4	5	2	4	S	-	4	5	2	4	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td>1♣ 1♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>There is no need for North to shilly-shally around after his partner's 1♠ overcall. A jump to 4♥ is the most practical shot. I doubt many Es will lead the ♦A and hold declarer to 11 tricks. After a club lead declarer can use his heart entries to set up an extra spade winner for a second diamond discard.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4♥	All Pass	1♣ 1♠																
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<p>♠ J984 ♥ 42 ♦ 86 ♣ Q10974</p> <p>♠ 75                         ♠ Q6 ♥ AK1086                   ♥ QJ ♦ 942                        ♦ AKQJ7 ♣ KJ2                        ♣ A853</p> <p>♠ AK1032 ♥ 9753 ♦ 1053 ♣ 6</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;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">19</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <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>3</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		3	19	11	7	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	3	5	5	-	2	W	3	5	5	-	2	<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>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>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td colspan="3">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Strictly speaking, West should either open 1NT or pass. But, it looks like an opening bid to me and with such a good major and two suits unguarded I don't like 1NT. For me, 1♥ is the least bad choice, and here it turns out well. With no spade stopper, neither side can bid no-trumps, and so game is reached in the strong 5-2 fit. The defenders can take two top spades, but if they don't 12 tricks are there.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
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<p>♠AQ92 ♥A1063 ♦A108 ♣A6</p> <p>♠106                      ♠K843 ♥KJ975                  ♥Q ♦J97                        ♦KQ65 ♣J82                       ♣K1095</p> <p>♠J75 ♥842 ♦432 ♣Q743</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;">18</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6      13</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <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>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		18	6      13	3	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	1	1	S	-	-	-	1	1	E	-	1	1	-	-	W	-	1	1	-	-	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The first major decision is West's. Should he pass the double or bid 1NT? The ♥9 pushes me towards the pass, and then North has to decide whether to leave it in. He does not know that his partner has 3-card heart support, so the normal action seems to be to bid 1NT. And no-one else has a reason to bid. I would lead a heart from East as partner has promised a good holding in that suit. Partner's signal at trick one should be suit-preference (he knows the ♥Q is a singleton and so the suit cannot be continued). All West can do is play a low heart and leave it to East, who will surely prefer to switch to a diamond. It is hard to see declarer making fewer than 7 tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♥	Dble	Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass	
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<p>♠104 ♥Q4 ♦Q732 ♣AQ1094</p> <p>♠QJ953                      ♠A62 ♥8                              ♥J10653 ♦AJ865                        ♦K10 ♣J2                             ♣K75</p> <p>♠K87 ♥AK972 ♦94 ♣863</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;">10</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9      11</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <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>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10	9      11	10	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	2	-	-	S	2	-	2	-	-	E	-	2	-	3	-	W	-	2	-	3	-	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>A lot of rounds of bidding to stop below game – I guess at some tables the board might be thrown in. At favourable vulnerability, with a decent 5-card suit South opens light and from there the auction takes off. Declarer needs to be careful to avoid a trump promotion (he should play ace and another spade rather than run the ♠Q), but otherwise there just seems to be a loser in each suit.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠	Dble	2♥	Pass	2♣	3♣	Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠	All Pass
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<p>♠Q1096 ♥J63 ♦Q7 ♣10543</p> <p>♠J8542                      ♠- ♥54                            ♥10872 ♦J3                             ♦AK986542 ♣AQ76                        ♣9</p> <p>♠AK73 ♥AKQ9 ♦10 ♣KJ82</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;">5</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8      7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">20</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		5	8      7	20	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	-	3	3	-	S	3	-	2	3	-	E	-	4	-	-	-	W	-	4	-	-	-	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>4♦</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>I like to open with four of a minor, and it seems a good idea with this distributional hand. South's double is for takeout and North obliges. 4♠ is a decent enough contract until the trumps break 5-0. With 3 losers outside of trumps declarer must lose one trump trick as well, for one down.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			4♦	Dble	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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<p>♠ KJ107 ♥ J2 ♦ Q8754 ♣ A8</p> <p>♠ 864                      ♠ AQ953 ♥ Q108                     ♥ 764 ♦ 10963                    ♦ AK ♣ J95                        ♣ 642</p> <p>♠ 2 ♥ AK953 ♦ J2 ♣ KQ1073</p> <table border="1"> <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>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>13</td> <td>S</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>13</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		11		N	4	2	3	2	2	3	13	S	4	2	3	1	2		13	E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The first 4 bids look normal enough, and then it is a question of what South bids over 2NT. With 13 HCP and two 5-card suits it seems reasonable to raise to 3NT to me. What should East lead? I would go for fourth highest of my longest and strongest as nothing else looks attractive. However, declarer can succeed after this lead – by playing on diamonds. He will make 1 spade, 2 hearts, 1 diamond and 5 clubs.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass							
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<p>♠ A76 ♥ 104 ♦ K853 ♣ AJ87</p> <p>♠ J105                      ♠ Q82 ♥ AKQJ6                    ♥ 92 ♦ 962                        ♦ AQJ107 ♣ 93                         ♣ Q42</p> <p>♠ K943 ♥ 8753 ♦ 4 ♣ K1065</p> <table border="1"> <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>12</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>11</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>6</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		12		N	2	-	-	1	-	11	11	S	2	-	-	1	-		6	E	-	2	3	-	1			W	-	2	3	-	1	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It may be better for South to use Stayman, and settle in 2♠ – something of a guess for South and I would probably pass because I have 6 HCP. I imagine East will lead a diamond and everything will depend on how declarer guesses clubs. He could go as many as 4 down if he goes wrong, but will make if he succeeds. I would probably go 4 down as I would play West for the longer clubs (as East probably has the longer diamonds).</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	All Pass																	
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<p>♠ AK8 ♥ 963 ♦ J10964 ♣ 83</p> <p>♠ 1095                      ♠ Q74 ♥ AJ42                      ♥ KQ75 ♦ Q532                      ♦ A ♣ 54                          ♣ AQJ107</p> <p>♠ J632 ♥ 108 ♦ K87 ♣ K962</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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 colspan="2">NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		8		N	-	-	-	-	-	7	18	S	-	-	-	-	-		7	E	3	-	4	1	3			W	3	-	4	1	3	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>East's 4♦ is a splinter bid, but nothing is likely to excite West very much. With both spade honours right (and surely led), declarer just needs to draw trumps and take the club finesse, settling for 10 tricks when it is wrong.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
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<p>♠ Q103 ♥ KQ4 ♦ J10872 ♣ 86</p> <p>♠ A9854                      ♠ KJ76 ♥ A9                          ♥ J853 ♦ KQ95                      ♦ 6 ♣ J3                          ♣ AQ52</p> <p>♠ 2 ♥ 10762 ♦ A43 ♣ K10974</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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 colspan="2">NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		8		N	-	-	-	-	-	14	11	S	-	-	-	-	-		7	E	2	1	2	5	3			W	2	1	2	5	3	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Another 4♦ splinter bid, this time by responder. However, West is similarly put off. I would expect most Norths to lead a top heart – not best for the defence. Say declarer wins and plays a heart back. North rises with his other heart honour and switches to a club. Declarer can now rise with the ♠A, cash the ♥J pitching a club and play a diamond. It looks as if declarer will make his contract. In order to make the 11 tricks that the analysis can make, he needs to play North for the trump holding he actually has.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♠	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
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<p>♠ K ♥ KQJ63 ♦ AJ43 ♣ 985</p> <p>♠ AJ1097                      ♠ Q8543 ♥ A107                      ♥ - ♦ 862                          ♦ KQ ♣ K7                          ♣ AQ6432</p> <p>♠ 62 ♥ 98542 ♦ 10975 ♣ J10</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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 colspan="2">NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td>E</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		14		N	-	1	1	-	-	12	13	S	-	1	1	-	-		1	E	6	-	-	6	6			W	6	-	-	6	6	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Tricky. Many pairs have methods after the opponents come in over 1NT. Lebensohl is the most common convention. In that case, East's 3♣ would be forcing and seems the natural way to start. At favourable vulnerability South might jump to 4♥ and then East can show his second suit when the auction comes back to him. West is a lot happier with spades than clubs so 4♠ is the final contract. There is no reason for declarer to drop North's singleton ♠K so I guess 11 tricks will be the limit in practice.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1NT	2♥	3♣	4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠	All Pass				
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