

Pro-Am Pairs
Thursday 20th February 2020
Stationers' Hall, London



Results are here: keepbridgealive.bridgecloud.com

Mike Lawrence, Jenny Wolpert, Adam Grossack, Adam Wildavsky, Joel Wooldridge and Kit Woolsey are a world class line-up from North America who kindly contributed the commentary for the deals.

The bidding system used is "Standard Acol", with weak notrump, Weak 2 openings, Roman Key Card Blackwood. The language is USA English!

<p>♠ QJ753 ♥ 53 ♦ J109 ♣ J87</p> <p>♠ 109 ♥ A74 ♦ A ♣ K965432</p> <p>♠ K42 ♥ KQ109 ♦ 7654 ♣ A10</p> <p>♠ A86 ♥ J862 ♦ KQ832 ♣ Q</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		5		11	12	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	-	-	-	S	-	1	-	-	-	E	5	-	2	-	1	W	4	-	2	-	1	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: purple;">Jenny Wolpert</p> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="color: magenta;">West</th> <th style="color: magenta;">North</th> <th style="color: magenta;">East</th> <th style="color: magenta;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>AP</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>When opening with a notrump bid you don't worry about having stoppers in all the suits, you make sure you have the correct point count for your partnership agreements and a balanced hand.</p> <p>If 3NT or 4 of a Major is a possibility then there is no reason to look further into other contracts. West's main goal when his partner opens 1NT or 1♦ is to get to 3NT.</p> <p>When deciding what to lead South should lead his beautiful diamond suit. When you have KQ832 you would lead the K against a suit contract, but when you are leading against notrumps and you are missing good spot cards you should lead a low card from the suit, and hope your partner can help you out. Declarer is going to have a hard time in this contract with the opponents making a killer lead and the club suit not breaking.</p>	West	North	East	South		P	1NT	P	3NT	AP						
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<p>♠ J1032 ♥ A2 ♦ K987 ♣ 953</p> <p>♠ 9 ♥ KQJ87 ♦ QJ42 ♣ AQ10</p> <p>♠ AKQ84 ♥ 10653 ♦ 1065 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ 765 ♥ 94 ♦ A3 ♣ K87642</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8		15	10	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	3	3	2	4	W	1	3	3	2	4	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: purple;">Mike Lawrence</p> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="color: magenta;">West</th> <th style="color: magenta;">North</th> <th style="color: magenta;">East</th> <th style="color: magenta;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>AP</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>I have about ten ways to raise hearts (literally). I'll choose 2♠, a fit showing jump. It's forcing to 3♥. West has enough that he will bid 4♥.</p> <p>With a club lead, I will discard a diamond from dummy and start trumps. With a spade lead, it's necessary to consider getting rid of two diamonds before leading trump. Of course, if North leads an inspired diamond, 4♥ goes down.</p> <p>The 2♠ bid may cause North to lean towards the diamond lead.</p>	West	North	East	South			P	P	1♥	P	2♠	P	4♥	AP		
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1♥	P	2♠	P																																																										
4♥	AP																																																												

♠ A82
♥ 9
♦ J732
♣ KQ1083

♠ QJ1065 ♠ 4
♥ 62 ♥ AKJ8753
♦ Q54 ♦ A109
♣ J72 ♣ 94

♠ K973
♥ Q104
♦ K86
♣ A65

HCP	
10	12
6	12

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

Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

Adam Grossack

West	North	East	South
P	P	3♥	1NT AP

If the auction starts like this, North may choose to protect with a double, because N/S have the balance of power. Over this South would probably bid 3♠.

Against 3♥, South should probably lead a spade, although a diamond is reasonable. I'd favor a spade. East is probably short in spades based on the 3♥ bid, so it looks safer. It looks like five losers on any lead.

♠ A85
♥ AJ105
♦ A108
♣ AQ10

♠ 1072 ♠ KJ943
♥ Q963 ♥ 82
♦ J42 ♦ Q9
♣ K74 ♣ J983

♠ Q6
♥ K74
♦ K7653
♣ 652

HCP	
19	7
6	8

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

Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

Kit Woolsey

West	North	East	South
P	1♥	P	2♥
P	3NT	AP	

N/S will reach 3NT by one hand or the other. It's better played by South, to protect ♠Q, but with the king in East that doesn't matter.

After winning the spade lead with the queen, declarer can combine his chances by cashing the top two diamonds ending in South. If they break, he sets up the diamonds with ♥K as an entry to cash them. If diamonds don't break, probably best is to try a heart to the jack. If that wins, he uses ♥K to repeat the finesse; otherwise he can still try the club finesse.

On the actual layout, after diamonds have been cleared, the club finesse (for an overtrick) is a good favorite to succeed. East will have presumably shown up with ♠KJxxx and ♦Q. If he also had the ♣K, he might have overcalled 1♠.

On a different layout, if East plays 9, jack, or queen of diamonds under the ace, then the contract can be ensured by riding the ♦10 (if not covered).

♠ A7543
♥ Q7
♦ 73
♣ AK53

♠ K2 ♠ QJ106
♥ A652 ♥ 9843
♦ 62 ♦ KQ1054
♣ J10742 ♣ -

♠ 98
♥ KJ10
♦ AJ98
♣ Q986

HCP	
13	8
8	11

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

Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

Joel Wooldridge

West	North	East	South
P	1♠ 3♣	P AP	2♣

The auction shown is a typical Acol auction. In the USA the auction could be 1♠ – 1NT – 2♣ – 3♣ (or 2NT) – pass.

In 3♣, if diamonds are led, the defense will start with three tricks outside the trump suit. Although declarer can make his contract at double dummy, there's a good chance the defense will prevail and beat it one. Two notrump, however, requires declarer to play on diamonds instead of spades for extra tricks. With all the diamond honors outside, it's quite likely the result will be making two if declarer chooses this line, but down one if spades are played instead.

♠ Q103
♥ K85
♦ K952
♣ Q103

♠ AJ5 ♠ 984
♥ 9 ♥ AQJ73
♦ AJ10876 ♦ Q
♣ AKJ ♣ 9862

♠ K762
♥ 10642
♦ 43
♣ 754

HCP	
10	9
18	3

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

Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

Kit Woolsey

West	North	East	South
		P	P
1♦	P	1♥	P
3♣	P	3♥	P
3NT	AP		

West has a tricky rebid, with nothing perfect. In most partnerships 3NT would show solid diamonds, and the hand is too good for a non-forcing 3♦. If opener rebids 3♣, East should bid the strong 5-card heart suit rather than fourth suit.

Perhaps a better rebid is 2NT. If East passes, there probably won't be a game. Bidding 3♣ may get a raise from East, and that would be bad.

After ♠3 lead to the king, declarer should probably win the first trick. This is wrong only if North has ♠Q10xxx and South has ♦K. Now declarer plays a diamond to the queen. If that holds, he should cross to ♣A, taking no risks, and clear the diamonds. If a heart now comes back, he should again play safe by taking the ace, making a careful nine tricks from five diamonds, a spade, a heart and two clubs.

♠ 2
♥ 75
♦ KJ874
♣ J10954

♠ KQJ105 ♠ 9643
♥ AK102 ♥ J964
♦ 5 ♦ Q10
♣ A82 ♣ 763

♠ A87
♥ Q83
♦ A9632
♣ KQ

HCP	
5	3
17	15

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

Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

Adam Wildavsky

West	North	East	South
			1♦
1♠	3♦	P	P
X	P	3♠	AP

East does well to start with 1♠ rather than double, though the latter would not be a serious mistake. 1♠ followed by double at the next opportunity describes the hand better than double followed by 3♠, or double followed by double.

If EW end up in 3♠ declarer should be careful to ruff with an honor when the defense get around to leading diamonds. The ♠5 must be preserved to lead to dummy's ♠9 after the ♠A has been knocked out, to provide an entry for the heart finesse.

NS can profitably compete to 4♦, but it's far from clear that they should do so. Their hands happen to fit well.

♠ K64
♥ 5
♦ AQ652
♣ Q843

♠ Q108732 ♠ AJ9
♥ A97 ♥ J4
♦ 109 ♦ 743
♣ 95 ♣ AKJ76

♠ 5
♥ KQ108632
♦ KJ8
♣ 102

HCP	
11	14
6	9

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

Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all

Jenny Wolpert

West	North	East	South
2♠	P	3♠	4♥
AP			

West will open 2♠ to make life difficult for N/S, now East has to decide how far he wants to take his partner. He knows he doesn't have the values for game but he might have the distribution. South will bid up to 4♥ but might eventually have to surrender to the spade suit. When there is a battle between suits spades has the upper hand by being the highest ranking suit.

If West ends up as the declarer in 4♠ it is important for him to establish at least one extra trick in the club suit.

♠95
♥AQ943
♦AQ2
♣1075

♠A3 ♠Q1087
♥K1086 ♥J2
♦86 ♦KJ1095
♣AQJ83 ♣K2

♠KJ642
♥75
♦743
♣964

HCP	
12	10
14	4

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

Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

Joel Wooldridge

West	North	East	South
P	1NT	P	2♥
P	2♠	AP	

On a weak notrump start, N/S may buy the contract in 2♠. East has a difficult lead, and may give a trick away with a diamond lead. Even on a heart lead, there's a chance declarer will escape for down two if they take the view to ruff hearts immediately instead of playing on trumps.

Of course, E/W may compete, and land either in three of either minor or two notrump, all of which have a good chance of being successful. Getting to three notrump E/W looks difficult to achieve, but the favorable diamonds should see it home.

♠J82
♥8742
♦J1082
♣Q5

♠AQ743 ♠95
♥93 ♥AKQJ10
♦AK ♦Q95
♣J1096 ♣A84

♠K106
♥65
♦7643
♣K732

HCP	
4	16
14	6

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

Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

Adam Wildavsky

West	North	East	South
1♠	P	1♥	P
3♣	P	3♥	P
3NT	AP		

NS are spectators here. E/W are short of the material for slam and ought to stop in game with their 30 HCP and no fit of eight cards or more.

Most pairs will play notrump, and it looks best. There are lies of the cards where declarer will take more tricks in hearts, but playing for them by ruffing out the spades could mean giving up on the chance that North holds one or both club honors.

♠862
♥AJ10765
♦1073
♣2

♠Q95 ♠743
♥432 ♥98
♦Q84 ♦J96
♣AQJ5 ♣K9764

♠AKJ10
♥KQ
♦AK52
♣1083

HCP	
5	4
11	20

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

Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all

Mike Lawrence

West	North	East	South
P	3♦	P	2NT
P	4♥	AP	3♥

Although this sequence is usually played as a sign-off, it's better to play that a direct 4♦ transfers to 4♥ with game-only hands or with monster hands that intend to follow with some kind of slam try.

Slam is on a spade finesse. If you like excitement in your game, bidding slams with this hand is a good way to achieve it. Actually, it's almost impossible to bid this hand to slam. The hands fit remarkably well.

♠ 92
 ♥ KQ96
 ♦ 953
 ♣ 10753
 ♠ AQ8754 ♠ KJ1063
 ♥ A742 ♥ J
 ♦ K107 ♦ Q8642
 ♣ - ♣ J4
 ♠ -
 ♥ 10853
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ AKQ9862

HCP	
5	8
13	14

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

Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

Kit Woolsey

West	North	East	South
1♣	P	4♠	5♣
5♠	AP		

In the bidding, South should not be intimidated by the vulnerability. With a shapely hand, when you don't know who can make what, it pays to keep bidding. 5♣ has two ways to win: it may make, or it may push the opponents into a non-making 5♠.

North might consider competing to 6♣, but his hand is quite balanced, and he doesn't know how useful his hearts are, so he will probably let it go.

In fact, E/W can make 12 tricks in spades, though they are unlikely to bid it. If N/S bid 6♣ and are allowed to play there, then to collect 500 West must lead his ace of hearts and give East a ruff.

♠ 97643
 ♥ 84
 ♦ J93
 ♣ A94
 ♠ J ♠ A10852
 ♥ J2 ♥ 976
 ♦ 76 ♦ AQ108
 ♣ KQJ107653 ♣ 8
 ♠ KQ
 ♥ AKQ1053
 ♦ K542
 ♣ 2

HCP	
5	10
8	17

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

Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable

Mike Lawrence

West	North	East	South
	P	P	1♥
4♣	P	P	4♥
AP			

West's 4♣ bid did what preempts are supposed to do. They make opponents guess. This auction to 4♥ is reasonable. The result is a function of the preempt doing its work. North could easily have three small hearts and ♦QJ10 making 4♥ worth bidding.

If West goes for a spade ruff, 4♥ will likely go down two.

♠ AQ962
 ♥ 105
 ♦ AJ92
 ♣ A3
 ♠ K107 ♠ J843
 ♥ AQJ84 ♥ K73
 ♦ 43 ♦ 65
 ♣ QJ9 ♣ K852
 ♠ 5
 ♥ 962
 ♦ KQ1087
 ♣ 10764

HCP	
15	7
13	5

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

Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all

Adam Grossack

West	North	East	South
		P	P
1NT	X	AP	

It's normal for South to sit the double. He's worried about the spade lead - hard to run with 5 HCP though.

The play is about deception. Declarer should win the spade lead and play ♣9 (or possibly ♣J). Let's try to get the 7th trick before they know about all the diamonds.

North has a tough problem, but he'll probably duck the ♣9. On the ♣J North could reasonably hop, but still the diamond shift isn't easy.

♠ KQ4
 ♥ K865
 ♦ AK
 ♣ J1096
 ♠ 98763 ♠ A52
 ♥ 102 ♥ 9
 ♦ J109832 ♦ Q54
 ♣ - ♣ KQ8753
 ♠ J10
 ♥ AQJ743
 ♦ 76
 ♣ A42

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
16		N	2	-	3	-	5
1	11	S	2	-	4	-	5
	12	E	-	2	-	1	-
		W	-	2	-	1	-

Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable

Joel Wooldridge

West	North	East	South
			1♥
P	2NT	3♣	3♥
P	3♠	P	4♣
P	4♦	P	4♥
AP			

2NT = Jacoby Game Force, 4+ trump support

Although North has a nice hand in support of hearts, if partner signs off in 4♥, it should be respected. At some tables, West will make a Michaels 2♥ overcall taking advantage of the vulnerability and six-five distribution. After a Michaels start, East may sacrifice in 4♠, which will be either down three or four doubled with a lot riding on the outcome. If N/S compete to 5♥, a spade lead followed by the ♣K shift will defeat the contract one trick.

♠ AQ10
 ♥ AQ93
 ♦ KQ87
 ♣ Q9
 ♠ 82 ♠ J974
 ♥ 108 ♥ 75
 ♦ J962 ♦ 3
 ♣ KJ1063 ♣ A87542
 ♠ K653
 ♥ KJ642
 ♦ A1054
 ♣ -

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

Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable

Adam Wildavsky

West	North	East	South
P	1♥	P	4♣
P	4♦	P	4♠
P	4NT	P	6♣
P	7♥	AP	

The club splinter suits North well and he can picture the ♠K, ♥K, and ♦A opposite – how could South have enough for his call otherwise? Cue-bidding is called for since North is quite interested in whether South's shortness is a singleton or a void. If North does use Blackwood then South has enough to show his void in addition to his two cards. The standard way to do this in the USA is with a 5NT response, though many pairs will not have discussed it.

7♥ is an excellent spot, but it is doomed to fail on the lie of the cards, absent a foolish diamond lead. As we say in New York, "Them's the breaks."

♠ AQ10
 ♥ Q98
 ♦ A8653
 ♣ J5
 ♠ J9 ♠ 8643
 ♥ J7 ♥ AK65
 ♦ KQJ2 ♦ 4
 ♣ AQ862 ♣ K1074
 ♠ K752
 ♥ 10432
 ♦ 1097
 ♣ 93

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

Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all

Joel Wooldridge

West	North	East	South
	1NT	AP	

On a weak notrump start, if N/S are playing "Garbage Stayman", South may bid 2♣ then correct 2♦ to 2♥ in the hope of improving the contract. Over such a start, there's a good chance West will either double 2♣ or bid a takeout for the minors to compete. If South chooses to pass one notrump, West may compete or sell out.

Defending one notrump will require an exact defense to achieve the maximum. On a high heart lead, the appearance of dummy should dissuade East from pursuing the heart suit for tricks. After a club shift to the ace (or queen), West can switch to the ♦K, and careful defense thereafter will see the contract beaten three tricks.

♠K32
♥J52
♦982
♣A876

♠AQJ7 ♠9654
♥Q6 ♥K109743
♦AK7 ♦Q
♣Q953 ♣K10

♠108
♥A8
♦J106543
♣J42

HCP	
8	8
18	6

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

Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

Jenny Wolpert

West North East South
4♥ AP 2♥ P

East might open 2♥ and there is no reason for West not to take him to 4♥. The lead of the ♦J seems like a pretty normal lead. After the lead East should make a plan and without a suit needing immediate attention or a suit needing to be ruffed in the short trump suit he should begin by pulling trump. This should be done by winning the ♦Q in hand and by leading up towards the ♥Qx. If South plays low East can now revert to use the ♦AK to discard the clubs and then continue his mission of pulling trumps. The next time he plays trump he should play low from West towards KT974 and when North follows with the ♥5 he should put in the 10 hoping that North has the Jack. If North had the ♥A he would have won it over the Queen at trick 2.

♠1043
♥A6
♦J10642
♣KJ5

♠J652 ♠987
♥J4 ♥KQ987532
♦A53 ♦-
♣9732 ♣Q10

♠AKQ
♥10
♦KQ987
♣A864

HCP	
9	7
6	18

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

Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

Mike Lawrence

West North East South
P 3♦ 4♥ 1♦
4NT
P 5♦ P 6♦
AP

South plays in a so-so slam that is reached by a hopeful Blackwood sequence. Declarer, after drawing trumps and getting rid of the hearts and spades, knows that East rates to have a 3-8-0-2 shape. When South plays the ♣A, East will play the ten. On the next trick South will spend some time fretting about the significance of the ten and ultimately will make a correct guess of the king to make 6♦, or will make the percentage play of finessing. Note that if East has four spades with his eight hearts, he has a singleton club, and South should finesse.

South could have doubled 4♥ which, on this vulnerability, would have been worth 500 or 800, depending on whether East gets a diamond trick.

♠KQ5
♥74
♦K9743
♣AJ5

♠A ♠98764
♥A93 ♥KQJ1052
♦AQ102 ♦J5
♣Q8432 ♣-

♠J1032
♥86
♦86
♣K10976

HCP	
13	7
16	4

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	-	-	-	-
S	1	-	-	-	-
E	-	1	6	1	2
W	-	2	6	2	2

Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

Adam Wildavsky

West North East South
1♣ 1♦ 1♥ P
1NT P 4♥ AP

The 1♦ overcall takes away West's option to reverse into 2♦, but he might have chosen to rebid 1N in any case.

3♥ is also a reasonable choice, though out of the mainstream since it promises four-card support. 4♥ will be a popular spot and while declarer can take 12 tricks on a diamond lead the goal is 10.

With the favorable breaks, EW will most often end up with +650.

♠AQJ83
♥9
♦J6
♣A8532

♠96542 ♠K107
♥K10 ♥J6542
♦A98 ♦5
♣Q74 ♣KJ96

♠ -
♥AQ873
♦KQ107432
♣10

HCP	
12	8
9	11

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

Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

Jenny Wolpert

West	North	East	South
	1♠	P	2♦
P	2♠	P	3♥
P	3NT	P	5♦
AP			

However the bidding of this hand goes it is not an easy hand to bid. The hand is a huge misfit with the North hand having spades and clubs, and South having hearts and diamonds. As hard it is to bid this type of hand it is equally hard to declare it.

If all the suits are bid West might lead a trump, but if North does not mention his club suit that might be the lead of choice.

There are times for pulling trumps and there are times to establish tricks. If South starts by pulling trumps on this hand, he might find himself searching for a new partner for the last few deals, but remember what I said about how hard this type of hand is.

♠J72
♥K52
♦8
♣AKQ543

♠1094 ♠Q8
♥J98743 ♥Q106
♦AJ3 ♦1097654
♣2 ♣97

♠AK653
♥A
♦KQ2
♣J1086

HCP	
13	4
6	17

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

Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

Kit Woolsey

West	North	East	South
		P	1♠
P	2♣	P	4♣
P	4♦	P	4♥
P	4NT	P	5♥
P	6♣	AP	

After the two-level response in his four-card suit, South has a clear slam try. He can't quite risk RKCB himself, as a one-keycard 5♦ reply would take the partnership too high. Instead, he temporizes with 4♥. North, facing his partner's strong bidding, knows that slam will be good, but checks for keycards in case there is a grand slam.

The play in 6♣ is straightforward. Declarer draws trumps, knocks out ♦A, and throws his spade loser on a diamond.

♠KQ97
♥K9762
♦K2
♣102

♠J10532 ♠A6
♥4 ♥83
♦QJ1095 ♦A76
♣Q3 ♣J98765

♠84
♥AQJ105
♦843
♣AK4

HCP	
11	9
6	14

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

Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

Adam Grossack

West	North	East	South
			1♥
P	2NT	P	3♥
P	4♥	AP	

2NT = GF raise 4+ hearts

3♥ = no singleton, and more than 4 hearts

This is the normal auction to game. The West hand is not strong enough for Michaels. E/W are vulnerable.

After the normal ♦Q opening lead, declarer will make 10 tricks.

♠ 1072
♥ 96
♦ K654
♣ AQ52

♠ AQ9 ♠ KJ6
♥ 1043 ♥ AKQJ7
♦ A972 ♦ 108
♣ 976 ♣ KJ4

♠ 8543
♥ 852
♦ QJ3
♣ 1083

HCP	
9	
10	18
3	

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

Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all

Adam Wildavsky

West	North	East	South
P	P	1♥	P
2♦	P	2NT	P
3♥	P	3NT	AP

3♥ = 3 card support

East's 3NT has three things going for it: A solid suit, double-stoppers in the unbid suits, and "soft" values in the unbid suits, that is, secondary honors rather than Aces or KQ combinations.

With both club honors onside declarers in 4♥ should always take 11 tricks. Notrump declarers will likely do the same, unless South is inspired to find the diamond lead that will hold the contract to 10 tricks and what would have been a great score for NS if we were playing matchpoints! Leading an unbid suit would be normal, though.

♠ J85
♥ A4
♦ KJ104
♣ 7642

♠ KQ964 ♠ 103
♥ 96 ♥ KQ103
♦ Q8 ♦ A976
♣ KQJ5 ♣ 1083

♠ A72
♥ J8752
♦ 532
♣ A9

HCP	
9	
13	9
9	

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

Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

Mike Lawrence

West	North	East	South
	P	P	P
1♠	P	1NT	P
2♣	P	2♠	AP

The first three players should pass. South has no reason to indulge in third seat nonsense. West can open 1♠ and a boring auction ensues. East bids 1NT and West has to decide whether to play there or to bid 2♣. I'd lean to 2♣. East, then, has to make a last second decision too. He will probably bid 2♠. East does have OK points and is willing to hear West bid again.

If North or South find an excuse to bid, the penalty could be big.

♠ K9
♥ AK32
♦ AJ5
♣ 9743

♠ 1063 ♠ QJ84
♥ 1094 ♥ Q875
♦ K1074 ♦ Q8
♣ J82 ♣ AQ6

♠ A752
♥ J6
♦ 9632
♣ K105

HCP	
15	
4	13
8	

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

Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

Mike Lawrence

West	North	East	South
		1NT	P
P	X	AP	

East has a wretched thirteen points and can open with 1♣, 1♥, or 1NT, according to style. 1♦ and 1♠ are also possible, according to system. A rare hand that might bid one of anything.

If East opens a weak notrump, likely, South and West will pass and North will double for penalty. If double is not penalty, North will probably pass with misgivings.

1NT or 1NTX will go down but how many is unclear. It depends on the opening lead. +500 will be a top score with +200 being a strong runner-up. A spade lead is neutral. The ♥J or a low diamond work poorly. No one will lead a club.