

Slam Bidding and Play Night – Intermediate Pairs – Sligo 27th May 2021

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 2 ♥ 763 ♦ 94 ♣ AKQJ432</p> <p>♠ J1098 ♠ 763 ♥ KJ ♥ Q1084 ♦ AJ765 ♦ K10832 ♣ 108 ♣ 9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AKQ54 ♥ A952 ♦ Q ♣ 765</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</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>6</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10		10	7	13		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	6	-	2	2	2	S	6	-	2	2	2	E	-	1	-	-	-	W	-	1	-	-	-	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">3NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>North's 3NT opening shows a solid 7 card club or diamond suit and no outside stoppers.</p> <p>Because South has the ♦Q he can tell that North's suit is clubs. So South knows every card in North's hand and if he puts on his thinking cap he should be able to see that 6♣ is cold.</p> <p>South can count on 7 club tricks, 1 heart, 3 spades, and a diamond ruff for 12 tricks. No need to ask for aces because North has no outside stoppers so South knows the ♦A is missing.</p>	West	North	East	South		3NT	Pass	6♣
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 105 ♥ Q6 ♦ 9762 ♣ 109532</p> <p>♠ AK4 ♠ Q72 ♥ A109 ♥ J854 ♦ KJ53 ♦ AQ4 ♣ AQ7 ♣ K86</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J9863 ♥ K732 ♦ 108 ♣ J4</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">21</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</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>4</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>	HCP		2		21	12	5		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	6	5	4	6	W	4	6	5	4	6	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>With 33 HCP we bid 6NT – again no need to check for aces – if we have 33 HCP then the opponents can't have 2 aces.</p> <p>Declarer has 11 top tricks – 3 spades, 4 diamonds, 3 clubs and the ace of hearts. The 12th trick will come from the heart suit as long as South has either the king or the queen of hearts – a 75% chance.</p> <p>To get two heart tricks declarer needs to finesse twice in hearts i.e. a small heart to dummy's 9 and later on declarer needs to have the courage to see her 75% plan through by playing another small heart to the 10 ij dummy.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	6NT	All Pass		
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 532 ♥ Q2 ♦ AKQ3 ♣ AQJ8</p> <p>♠ K10764 ♠ Q98 ♥ 1085 ♥ J976 ♦ J8 ♦ 9764 ♣ 653 ♣ K7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AJ ♥ AK43 ♦ 1052 ♣ 10942</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">18</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">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>5</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</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		18		4	6	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	4	4	2	3	S	5	4	4	2	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>18 HCP opposite a 12-14 NT does not equal 33 so 6NT should not be on your radar.</p> <p>Declarer can only make 9 tricks on a spade lead and on a non-spade lead he can only muster 11 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q108 ♥ K106 ♦ 10873 ♣ J97</p> <p>♠ KJ ♠ A64 ♥ A532 ♥ Q7 ♦ KJ4 ♦ AQ65 ♣ Q642 ♣ AK103</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 97532 ♥ J984 ♦ 92 ♣ 85</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td style="text-align: center;">19</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">1</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>6</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>	HCP		6		14	19	1		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	6	6	5	3	6	W	6	6	5	3	6	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>East's 4NT is showing 19-20 and inviting West to bid 6NT if he has 14.</p> <p>As usual, the play is the 'thing' – declarer has 11 top tricks – 4 clubs, 4 diamonds, 1 heart and 2 spades. Declarer has 2 chances of a 12th trick ie he can hope that South has the ♠Q and play a spade to the jack in the West hand or he can hope that North has the ♥K and play a heart towards the queen in the East hand.</p> <p>Declarer can increase his chances to 75% by combining both of his finesses ie by trying a heart to the queen first and if that loses he can fall back on the spade finesse.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT	All Pass		
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<p> ♠ K10 ♥ A62 ♦ AQ1032 ♣ AKJ ♠ 853 ♠ J9742 ♥ Q95 ♥ KJ8 ♦ J9876 ♦ 4 ♣ 85 ♣ 9762 ♠ AQ6 ♥ 10743 ♦ K5 ♣ Q1043 </p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></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>6</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		21		3	5	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	6	5	5	3	6	S	6	5	5	3	6	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South starts off with stayman to investigate a possible 4-4 heart fit and then his 4NT is showing 11 HCP inviting North to bid 6NT if he has 22 or a brilliant 21. North has a brilliant 21 because of his good 5-card diamond suit.</p> <p>Declarer has 8 tricks outside diamonds so he needs 4 tricks from the diamond suit. If diamonds are 3-3 then declarer has 13 tricks so declarer needs to consider what can be done if diamonds are 4-2 or 5-1. If they are 4-1 he can just play three rounds of the suit and give up the fourth round and his fifth diamond is his 12th trick. Every declarer will escape the heart lead so at least he have some breathing space. The winning line is to play a diamond to the king and then a diamond to the 10 on the way back. Whether the 10 wins or loses you have 12 tricks. A Win-Win situation.</p>	West	North	East	South		2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT	All Pass	
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<p> ♠ 9763 ♥ - ♦ A98753 ♣ J97 ♠ A52 ♠ KJ4 ♥ AQ7642 ♥ KJ853 ♦ - ♦ KJ ♣ A652 ♣ K83 ♠ Q108 ♥ 109 ♦ Q10642 ♣ Q104 </p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td></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>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	HCP		5		14	15	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	-	-	-	S	-	2	-	-	-	E	5	-	6	3	5	W	5	-	6	3	5	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There are of course more scientific routes to 6♥ and of course 1♥-6♥ is not to be recommended – there could easily be 7♥ on so West should explore a bit more.</p> <p>Declarer has 11 tricks and the 12th can come from the spade finesse or from a spade ruff in the East hand should the clubs prove to be 3-3. Declarer should follow the good principle of leave finesses until last and instead draw trumps and test the clubs first and when they turn out to be 3-3 declarer can discard a spade from the West hand and ruff the third round of spades.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass		
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ KJ652 ♥ 5 ♦ KQ10 ♣ AK42</p> <p>♠ Q108 ♠ - ♥ J1094 ♥ A732 ♦ A73 ♦ 9852 ♣ 976 ♣ J10853</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A9743 ♥ KQ86 ♦ J64 ♣ Q</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></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</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>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>5</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		16		7	5	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	3	2	5	5	S	3	3	2	5	5	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>We are missing 2 aces (keycards) so we should be in 6♠.</p> <p>As long as we start by cashing the ♠A on the first round of trumps we will make 11 tricks.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				1♠	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass	5♠	All Pass	
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J1085 ♥ J92 ♦ QJ109 ♣ 93</p> <p>♠ AK76 ♠ Q3 ♥ AK8 ♥ Q64 ♦ AK42 ♦ 873 ♣ J5 ♣ AK762</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 942 ♥ 10753 ♦ 65 ♣ Q1084</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><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">22</td><td style="text-align: center;">11</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">2</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>-</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>6</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>	HCP		5		22	11	2		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	6	5	5	5	6	W	6	5	5	5	6	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>The bidding is easy – we have 33 HCP so we bid 6NT.</p> <p>However the ‘play’s the thing’.</p> <p>Declarer has 8 tricks outside clubs so needs 4 tricks from the club suit. If the missing clubs break 3-3 (35% chance) then we have 4 club tricks.</p> <p>A better chance is to hope that South has the ♣Q (50% chance) and to lead a small club from the East hand towards the ♣J in the West hand – South can take his ♣Q but now the ♣J is declarer’s 12th trick.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	2NT	Pass	6NT	All Pass
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 754 ♥ AQJ54 ♦ 63 ♣ K63</p> <p>♠ - ♠ J1086 ♥ 9632 ♥ 108 ♦ AQ952 ♦ KJ107 ♣ J982 ♣ 1054</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AKQ932 ♥ K7 ♦ 84 ♣ AQ7</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;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">18</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>2</td><td>5</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10		7	5	18		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	2	5	2	S	2	-	3	5	2	E	-	2	-	-	-	W	-	2	-	-	-	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♠ All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>We don't look for aces when we have a suit with two quick losers instead we start cue-bidding i.e. bidding a suit where we have an ace.</p> <p>South's 5♣ is a cue bid showing slam interest and the ♣A. North's 5♥ is also a cue bid showing the ♥A and denying the ♦A. This news is bad news for South so he signs off in 5♠. If North had the ♦K then he might make a further move.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠ All Pass
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ KQ104 ♥ 75 ♦ KJ64 ♣ 1065</p> <p>♠ A ♠ 873 ♥ KQ8642 ♥ AJ103 ♦ A9 ♦ 832 ♣ KJ74 ♣ AQ2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J9652 ♥ 9 ♦ Q1075 ♣ 983</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><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">17</td><td style="text-align: center;">11</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3</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>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>	HCP		9		17	11	3		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	1	-	S	-	-	-	1	-	E	6	1	6	-	6	W	6	1	6	-	6	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>6-4 shapes are notoriously undervalued so always take a second look at your hand when you have a 6-4 shape. The West hand grows up when East raises 1♥ to 3♥.</p> <p>When West finds two aces in the East hand he can bid a confident 6♥ which has 12 easy tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass		
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 8743 ♥ 964 ♦ KQ9 ♣ Q53</p> <p>♠ 6 ♠ QJ5 ♥ AK53 ♥ J1082 ♦ 86432 ♦ J75 ♣ J94 ♣ A108</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AK1092 ♥ Q7 ♦ A10 ♣ K762</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><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">16</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>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		7		8	9	16		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	-	3	1	S	1	-	-	3	1	E	-	2	2	-	-	W	-	2	2	-	-	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South's 3♣ is a 'trial bid' asking North to bid 4♠ if he can offer any help in clubs by way of high cards (A or K) or shortness.</p> <p>Not holding the ace or king of clubs or a shortness in clubs – North signs off in 3♠.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠	All Pass	
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q ♥ J1094 ♦ 10752 ♣ 10853</p> <p>♠ A98542 ♠ J763 ♥ 8 ♥ KQ52 ♦ AKJ4 ♦ Q8 ♣ K2 ♣ AQ7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K10 ♥ A763 ♦ 963 ♣ J964</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></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td style="text-align: center;">14</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" 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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		3		15	14	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	5	3	5	5	W	2	3	3	5	3	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</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>5♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>East's 5♣ shows 1 or 4 keycards and West knows that they are missing 2 keycards so he gives up in 5♠.</p> <p>We don't bid slams missing 2 keycards.</p> <p>However if you do bid 6♠, declarer should give himself a chance by leading the ♠J from dummy – you never know – South might cover.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass	5♠	All Pass		
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AK652 ♥ K865 ♦ 96 ♣ A5</p> <p>♠ J987 ♠ Q103 ♥ - ♥ Q107 ♦ KQ5432 ♦ AJ107 ♣ J83 ♣ 1042</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 4 ♥ AJ9432 ♦ 8 ♣ KQ976</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><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</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>4</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		14		7	9	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	-	6	3	1	S	5	-	6	3	1	E	-	1	-	-	-	W	-	1	-	-	-	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>If 6-4 shapes are beautiful then 6-5 hands are heavenly.</p> <p>Declarer makes 12 tricks here as long as he starts by playing the ♥K on the first round – keeping his ♥AJ over East's ♥Q 10.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass			
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 4 ♥ 9432 ♦ J10962 ♣ J63</p> <p>♠ A1076 ♠ KQ32 ♥ K8 ♥ AQJ75 ♦ A53 ♦ KQ ♣ KQ74 ♣ 108</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J985 ♥ 106 ♦ 874 ♣ A952</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;">2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">16</td><td style="text-align: center;">17</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: 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>5</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>	HCP		2		16	17	5		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	5	4	6	6	6	W	5	4	6	6	6	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>33 HCP so 6NT should be an easy contract to reach but as ever careful play is required to bring it home.</p> <p>If the spades are 3-2 then declarer has 12 easy tricks so declarer considers how he might handle a 4-1 break. If North has 4-1 then declarer cannot succeed but if South has the 4-1 then declarer can succeed if he starts by playing the ♠K and ♠Q first now when North shows out on the second spade declarer will have the ♠A10 sitting over South's ♠J9. Well Played.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass	6NT	All Pass
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