

# EBED



# Sim Pairs

**Commentary by Mike Pomfrey**

**Thursday**  
**16<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

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

The proceeds raised by this event will be used by EBED, **the national charity for the promotion and development of bridge**, in support of its objectives to promote the national learning program “**Bridge for All**” and especially to improve and develop the infrastructure for bridge teaching in England by expanding our support for EBTA – the **English Bridge Teachers Association**

EBED supplies “Bridge for All” teaching materials, organises Minibrige/Duplicate Bridge 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 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 know more about EBED or to arrange a donation/legacy in favour of the charity, please contact us via [richard@ebedcio.org.uk](mailto:richard@ebedcio.org.uk)

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 thank you so much for your support!

Donna Wright  
Chief Executive  
English Bridge Education & Development, Registered Charity No: 1153543

<p>♠ Q95 ♥ K76 ♦ Q10753 ♣ 85</p> <p>♠ J87                      ♠ A2 ♥ 1042                    ♥ QJ95 ♦ A9                        ♦ KJ86 ♣ AK764                ♣ J109</p> <p>♠ K10643 ♥ A83 ♦ 42 ♣ Q32</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>12</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>9</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	7	12	-	-	-	-	-	12	9	-	-	-	-	-			E	4	2	3	1	3			W	4	2	3	1	3	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South won’t consider bidding with such poor playing strength and West, with a good five card suit, is just about worth game. South has no reason not to lead a spade.</p> <p>An intellectual, but ultimately fruitless question: do you play low from dummy, in case the lead is from 10 9, or the jack, should it be from KQ? As we can see, neither works.</p> <p>To make the contract, you just have to take finesses in both minors, a 25% chance. If either fails you are an extra one down compared with playing on hearts, a line which has no chance of making the contract. At match points, is there a case for cutting your losses? I bet very few do so, and they’ll wish they hadn’t this time.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	All pass						
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<p>♠ 9 ♥ AQ752 ♦ 9 ♣ 1087653</p> <p>♠ K7632                    ♠ AQJ10 ♥ K104                    ♥ 96 ♦ A108                    ♦ J7654 ♣ AJ                        ♣ Q9</p> <p>♠ 854 ♥ J83 ♦ KQ32 ♣ K42</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>10</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>9</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	6	10	2	-	2	-	-	15	9	2	-	2	-	-			E	-	4	-	4	3			W	-	4	-	4	3	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>If you play your two suited overcalls either weak or strong, would you venture this one at adverse vulnerability? The extra shape might just persuade you but the downside is that you tip off the opposition in both bidding and play.</p> <p>After a two suited overcall, I play that a bid of the opponent’s lower, or only known suit, shows a sound raise of partner’s suit. 3♠ would be a weaker raise. West has a close decision now; it is, after all, a 15 count with five spades but you can downgrade the king of hearts and your suits will break badly.</p> <p>As it happens, the cards lie more kindly than you might expect and you have good chances of making ten tricks, especially if North is unwise enough to lead the singleton diamond, compounding the help he’s given you in the bidding.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♠	2♠	3♥	Pass	4♠	All pass		
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<p>♠ KJ7 ♥ 64 ♦ QJ83 ♣ A976</p> <p>♠ 108                      ♠ 96543 ♥ QJ853                    ♥ K972 ♦ K10972                  ♦ 6 ♣ 5                            ♣ J82</p> <p>♠ AQ2 ♥ A10 ♦ A54 ♣ KQ1043</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All pass</p> <p>I expect many players will upgrade the South hand, with its good five card suit. The ten of clubs just about tips it for me. 3♠ is a slam try in the minors and, although you are minimum in terms of points, the club suit and good controls tempt you to co-operate with 4♣. Some partnerships have more sophisticated responses to 3♠. 4♠ is North's only possible cue bid; now it should be a golden rule that, after a minor suit slam try, 4NT is always natural and non-forcing. That should be the end of matter.</p> <p>Against no trumps a high heart lead holds the contract to ten tricks; a low heart and West can be endplayed for eleven; a reckless diamond or passive spade and it's twelve. After a spade lead declarer should of course lead twice towards the queen of diamonds, not run it. Only a heart lead defeats 6♣.</p>	West	North	East	South				2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
West	North	East	South														
			2NT														
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣														
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT														

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

<p>♠ 5 ♥ 842 ♦ KJ987 ♣ KJ63</p> <p>♠ K76432                    ♠ QJ ♥ K105                      ♥ QJ76 ♦ 53                          ♦ 62 ♣ 104                        ♣ A9875</p> <p>♠ A1098 ♥ A93 ♦ AQ104 ♣ Q2</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>I don't much like a vulnerable weak two on such an empty suit, especially with decent support for the other major, but it will be a common choice. This time I think the opening bid is slightly more likely to goad opponents into bidding game.</p> <p>Now you have to find a lead. Another fine mess you've got yourself into; they all look equally unattractive. It appears that South will make exactly nine tricks on any lead but I suspect an overtrick will slip in here and there.</p> <p>If West passes, there are two possible scenarios. East may open third in hand, South doubles and North-South may well play in a diamond part score. If South is allowed a free run, his side may stay out of game unless one or other partner pushes a bit.</p>	West	North	East	South	2♠	Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass	
West	North	East	South										
2♠	Pass	Pass	2NT										
Pass	3NT	All pass											

HCP	Makeable contracts				
8	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
6	N	1	4	1	-
10	S	1	4	1	-
16	E	-	-	-	1
	W	-	-	-	1

<p>♠ AQJ ♥ AK1042 ♦ 7 ♣ K864</p> <p>♠ 842                      ♠ K10763 ♥ 7                          ♥ J965 ♦ Q109832                ♦ 65 ♣ 1073                    ♣ J2</p> <p>♠ 95 ♥ Q83 ♦ AKJ4 ♣ AQ95</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This is a very tough hand to bid, even if you are armed with this little tool. If a change of suit is forcing after a two level response – and it should be whatever your system – a jump in a new suit can be a Splinter bid, promising support for partner. Now South has a huge hand, even though much of it is in the wrong suit. South temporises by showing some heart support and now, with good spades and moderate clubs, 3NT looks a sensible choice for North.</p> <p>So far, so reasonable, but sooner or later someone is going to have to make a decision as to denomination and level. With hearts unkindly placed and the spade king offside you will have to be inspired to make a slam in hearts or no trumps, even though your auction has right-sided either contract. 6♣ makes easily enough but may not be a popular match point choice.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass	?
West	North	East	South														
	1♥	Pass	2♣														
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥														
Pass	3NT	Pass	?														

HCP	Makeable contracts				
17	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
2	N	7	3	6	3
5	S	6	3	5	3
16	E	-	-	-	-
	W	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ J10 ♥ J93 ♦ 9732 ♣ A987</p> <p>♠ A7                      ♠ Q43 ♥ Q                        ♥ AK865 ♦ AJ104                 ♦ KQ85 ♣ K106542              ♣ J</p> <p>♠ K98652 ♥ 10742 ♦ 6 ♣ Q3</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>?</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South's weak jump overcall is no thing of beauty but the vulnerability is favourable. Thereafter the bidding develops naturally until West's bid of the enemy suit, and East suggests game in no trumps. It's quite a close decision for West whether to accept this or to plough on with 4♦. If that happens, a couple of cue bids will probably commit you to having a bash at the diamond slam.</p> <p>6♦ looks tricky on a trump lead but you win in the East hand and play ♣J, covered by the queen, king and ace. Whether North returns a trump or ♠J you have the entries to ruff out clubs, discarding your losing spade on a heart on the way.</p> <p>If South doesn't bid the auction develops in a similar way.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♥	2♠	3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass	?			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
		1♥	2♠																		
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass																		
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass																		
?																					

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
6	15	N	-	-	-	-	-
14	5	S	-	-	-	-	-
		E	4	6	5	1	4
		W	4	6	4	1	4

<p>♠ K ♥ 765 ♦ 1087632 ♣ Q104</p> <p>♠ A8                      ♠ QJ976 ♥ AQ83                 ♥ KJ109 ♦ QJ9                    ♦ K4 ♣ AK92                 ♣ 53</p> <p>♠ 105432 ♥ 42 ♦ A5 ♣ J876</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>?</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>What happens next will depend on whether you play ordinary Stayman, five card Puppet or one of the many variations. Once a heart fit is established East is worth a slam try. West is minimum but has reasonable trumps and controls and it's easy to see this one spiralling out of control. 6♥ is a poor slam but, imagine West with the king of spades rather than the king of clubs and it would be excellent. I doubt whether many partnerships have the means to find out in time.</p> <p>To make twelve tricks you will probably play to ruff clubs in the East hand. Even then you are pretty well bound to run the queen of spades at some stage, losing to the king. Let's hope North doesn't smugly point out that it was singleton!</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	?			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
			Pass														
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass														
?																	

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
5	10	N	-	-	-	-	-
20	5	S	-	-	-	-	-
		E	4	2	6	4	5
		W	4	2	6	4	5

<p>♠ AQ10 ♥ AJ72 ♦ KQ92 ♣ 52</p> <p>♠ 75                      ♠ 8632 ♥ 109854                ♥ K ♦ 1085                    ♦ A764 ♣ AK4                    ♣ J983</p> <p>♠ KJ94 ♥ Q63 ♦ J3 ♣ Q1076</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North's rebid shows 15-17 and 2♣ is "checkback", asking if opener is upper or lower range and whether she has a fifth heart or a third spade. The answer shows three spades and not a maximum hand – this hand is actually almost worth 3♠. It's close now whether either South or North should take the plunge to game.</p> <p>And it's also close whether you will make it. The best lead for the defence is a club; unless blessed with x-ray vision you probably play the ten, losing to the king. Now, what should West return? Anything could help declarer. As it happens, a passive spade is safe, but whatever you do declarer is almost bound to lose a heart, a diamond and three clubs. Yet another singleton king sinks the contract! It's East's turn to be smug.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT	All pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠																		
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣																		
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT																		
All pass																					

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
16	8	N	2	2	2	3	3
7	9	S	2	2	2	4	4
		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ K104 ♥ 4 ♦ Q10874 ♣ A874</p> <p>♠ 93                      ♠ A72 ♥ 752                      ♥ AK10863 ♦ A92                      ♦ 65 ♣ KJ953                  ♣ 102</p> <p>♠ QJ865 ♥ QJ9 ♦ KJ3 ♣ Q6</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>As is often the case a three-card raise is West's best choice in a competitive auction. North is rather too good for a simple raise, so falls back on a double. With six hearts East should definitely bid one more and North decides that one side or the other is favourite to make nine tricks in something. It's too close for anyone to double.</p> <p>3♥ would make if you guess the clubs right. How about 3♠? A heart to the king and the ten of clubs back looks a reasonable defence for East-West. Now declarer is on the horns of a dilemma. If you play on trumps East will duck the first round, take the second and play a third, leaving South with five losers. If you try to knock out the ace of diamonds first, West ducks the first round and the defence get a ruff. It looks as though 3♠ should always fail, but where will the match points go?</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥	Dbl	3♥	Pass	Pass	3♠	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
	Pass	1♥	1♠														
2♥	Dbl	3♥	Pass														
Pass	3♠	All pass															

HCP	Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
9	N	-	2	-	2	-
8      11	S	-	2	-	2	-
12	E	2	-	3	-	1
	W	1	-	3	-	1

<p>♠ AQJ1062 ♥ 742 ♦ J82 ♣ 4</p> <p>♠ 98                      ♠ K54 ♥ AK96                  ♥ QJ105 ♦ A109                  ♦ K63 ♣ Q1032                ♣ 987</p> <p>♠ 73 ♥ 83 ♦ Q754 ♣ AKJ65</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>I'd like to feature a modern development that is rapidly gaining popularity.</p> <p>Not all of us would open the South hand, second in hand and vulnerable, but let's say we do. West doesn't have a suitable bid now (though a few brave souls might overcall on a four-card suit). A jump response in a major can be used to show a six-card suit and some 4-8 points. The method has two benefits; first, it gives a more compact range to uncontested auctions like 1♣-1♠-2♣-2♠; this is now played as around 9-11. The immediate jump response also gives you a better chance to buy the contract when opponents might have competed.</p> <p>2♠ should go one down; on a heart lead West should overtake and fire back a trump, but it's a good result for North-South when opponents can make nine tricks in hearts or, very fortunately, in no trumps.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	1♣	Pass	2♠	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
		Pass	1♣										
Pass	2♠	All pass											

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

<p>♠ K1083 ♥ K ♦ Q8653 ♣ KJ7</p> <p>♠ 54                      ♠ QJ96 ♥ A9                      ♥ J8765 ♦ J1094                  ♦ AK7 ♣ A9843                ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ A72 ♥ Q10432 ♦ 2 ♣ 10652</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>What a horrible hand to have as East. You have plenty enough to bid, but your longest suit is dreadful, the hand might play better in spades and you have fair defensive values. I would be inclined to pass and hope to get involved later.</p> <p>Unfortunately, by the time it is later the opponents have bid both our suits and there's nothing to do but pass again. Now South has a decision to make; even if a change of suit is theoretically forcing it looks wise to pass, so 1♠ it is.</p> <p>A high trump lead looks normal; then, when West gets in with ♥A, another trump will cut down declarer's cross-ruff. I suspect it will need an inspired view in clubs to make 1♠ on best defence.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
			Pass														
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥														
Pass	1♠	All pass															

HCP	Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
12	N	-	-	-	1	1
9      13	S	-	-	-	1	1
6	E	-	1	1	-	-
	W	-	1	1	-	-

<p>♠ A3 ♥ 96 ♦ A108732 ♣ KQ6</p> <p>♠ KJ109                      ♠ 8654 ♥ 53                              ♥ K74 ♦ K95                            ♦ Q4 ♣ A974                         ♣ J852</p> <p>♠ Q72 ♥ AQJ1082 ♦ J6 ♣ 103</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</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>?</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Well, what a coincidence! This is the other side of the coin from board 10. In traditional methods, South's range can be quite large, especially at match points when a major part score may get a significantly better result than a minor. Armed with our new tool, however, South is known to be 9-11 and North may find a raise. The cards lie very well for North-South and game in hearts is easy.</p> <p>But there's yet another possible scenario. West has a highly respectable 11 count and, at the vulnerability, would be justified in upgrading the hand to a weak no-trump. Unless 2♦ would be natural, North has to pass. South is there with 2♥ and I guess we are in much the same situation as before. But this time 2♥ certainly has a wide range; even vulnerable you have to compete against 1NT on a good deal less than that. It's not easy to visualise that game is a decent bet.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	?		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥														
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥														
Pass	?																

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
13		N	-	4	4	1	4
11	6	S	-	4	5	1	5
		E	1	-	-	-	-
		W	1	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ 32 ♥ AJ92 ♦ A843 ♣ KQ3</p> <p>♠ A764                      ♠ K1085 ♥ K874                      ♥ 1053 ♦ J102                        ♦ K6 ♣ 102                         ♣ AJ95</p> <p>♠ QJ9 ♥ Q6 ♦ Q975 ♣ 8764</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This time there may be rather more unanimity in the contract. Whatever your methods, 1NT looks the likely resting place, usually played by North.</p> <p>A spade will be most players' choice of lead; West wins and probably returns the suit. Declarer should play on diamonds, which lie very well. East might drop the king under North's ace, so West can get in to play a club through. Even so, declarer should comfortably come to a spade, two hearts, three diamonds and a club for the contract.</p> <p>No doubt there will more variations than I can foresee, but 90 to North-South looks a pretty average result.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1NT	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>						
	1NT	All pass							

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
14		N	1	2	-	-	1
8	11	S	1	2	-	-	1
		E	-	-	1	1	-
		W	-	-	1	2	-

<p>♠ 872 ♥ 1095 ♦ K75 ♣ Q965</p> <p>♠ K94                         ♠ 3 ♥ K7643                      ♥ AQJ82 ♦ Q                             ♦ J106432 ♣ 8732                        ♣ A</p> <p>♠ AQJ1065 ♥ - ♦ A98 ♣ KJ104</p>	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♥</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This is a bit more lively than 1NT passed out. Lots of talking points here. First, would you warp the East hand by opening the shorter suit to make your rebid easier? I think you should be sparing in such action, but if ever there's a case this is it. Second, do you overcall or double as South? General wisdom is that, when you are short in opener's suit, it's better to overcall and double for takeout later. This time your hand and suit quality are so strong I don't think it makes much difference.</p> <p>Finally, should South sell out to 5♥? Not likely! Surely one side can make five of something. 5♠ would be too unilateral so you have to double, putting North in the spotlight. It's tough, but with three trumps and two honours in the minors I'm sure the percentage action is to bid on. Who knows, maybe East will bid another heart.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♥	Dbl	4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥	Dbl	Pass	5♠	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
		1♥	Dbl																		
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠																		
Pass	Pass	5♥	Dbl																		
Pass	5♠	All pass																			

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
5		N	4	-	-	4	-
8	12	S	4	-	-	4	-
		E	-	3	5	-	1
		W	-	3	5	-	1

<p>♠ 7 ♥ AJ ♦ AKJ764 ♣ A754</p> <p>♠ J8543                      ♠ 106 ♥ 8765                      ♥ Q10943 ♦ 85                              ♦ 1093 ♣ J3                              ♣ K96</p> <p>♠ AKQ92 ♥ K2 ♦ Q2 ♣ Q1082</p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : 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></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>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>I'm afraid I don't have a definitive view on how to bid this one. I'm sure 2NT is the best rebid for South and, with such a good hand, North should rebid diamonds rather than complicate matters with 3♣. Don't bid bad suits on good hands is an old adage. After that North is just fishing for a possible grand in diamonds but eventually realises that South has such a lot in spades that there is probably a club loser. If you settle for a small slam you naturally go for the higher scoring one.</p> <p>7♦ would make on a 4-3 spade break or an unlikely squeeze so consider yourself a little unlucky if you took the plunge.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠	Pass	6NT	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																										
			1♠																										
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT																										
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠																										
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥																										
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠																										
Pass	6NT	All pass																											

HCP		Makeable contracts					
17	5	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
2	16	N	6	6	2	5	6
		S	6	6	1	4	6
		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ 9542 ♥ QJ94 ♦ 8 ♣ Q842</p> <p>♠ A103                      ♠ KQ8 ♥ K75                      ♥ 10 ♦ Q9762                      ♦ J10543 ♣ 65                              ♣ K1073</p> <p>♠ J76 ♥ A8632 ♦ AK ♣ AJ9</p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This one needs good judgment from both North and South. If you are tempted to make a pre-emptive raise to 3♥ as North, should this be part of your methods, think again. Your hand is queen high and 4441 shape is notoriously fickle in terms of playing strength.</p> <p>That turns the spotlight on South. True, you have 17 points, but they are not as good as they might be. Neither jack may be pulling its weight, your trump suit is flimsy and so many values in your short suit are bad news. Just look at your losing trick count.</p> <p>I don't suppose many pairs will call it a day in a heart part score but it will earn you a bushel of match points. 3NT is a lucky make, using heart entries to take two club finesses, but I can't see anyone trying that contract.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥										
Pass	2♥	All pass											

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

<p>♠ 64 ♥ AKJ9843 ♦ A75 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ K92                      ♠ QJ1087 ♥ 1052                      ♥ Q7 ♦ 83                              ♦ 10942 ♣ J10854                      ♣ K3</p> <p>♠ A53 ♥ 6 ♦ KQJ6 ♣ AQ962</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : 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>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Once upon a time, a jump to game by opener in his own suit implied some fit for partner's suit. That's less true these days and certainly not in this competitive auction. Even so, South has a very good hand opposite what should be a strong suit and a slam try seems in order. North will surely co-operate and South is duly tempted.</p> <p>On a natural spade lead you might play a diamond to the ace and take a club finesse immediately to dispose of the spade loser. The bidding and lead make East a strong favourite to hold the ♣K. Having done so you may or may not drop the ♥Q for an overtrick. A plausible alternative line is to cash two top trumps first; if the queen doesn't drop you have to try for the discard. This time you have an easy thirteen tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♥	1♠	2♣	2♠	4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥	All pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
	1♥	1♠	2♣																		
2♠	4♥	Pass	4♠																		
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥																		
All pass																					

HCP		Makeable contracts					
12	8	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
4	16	N	4	6	7	3	7
		S	4	6	7	3	7
		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠AJ973 ♥J32 ♦3 ♣AJ75</p> <p>♠Q105            ♠K86 ♥K94             ♥A6 ♦AJ1086         ♦KQ754 ♣Q2               ♣K86</p> <p>♠42 ♥Q10875 ♦92 ♣10943</p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3NT            All pass</p> <p>Many of us play a jump to 3NT over a major suit opening to show a raise to game with primary support and no shortage. It makes a lot of sense to do this in the minors as well. But even if you have no such agreement, try to think of a better response for West; I can't.</p> <p>This time you get an unexpected bonus. If South were on lead to 3NT a heart looks the normal choice, and it gets the defence off to a good start. Even if South chooses a black suit it does no immediate harm to the defence, though North will have a hard time discarding on five rounds of diamonds.</p> <p>But with North on lead a heart seems a highly unlikely choice; West will very probably be gifted a tenth trick at once.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♦	Pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>						
		1♦	Pass						

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
11		N	1	-	1	-	-
12	15	S	1	-	1	-	-
	2	E	-	5	-	1	3
		W	-	5	-	2	3

<p>♠J ♥Q98 ♦AK76542 ♣54</p> <p>♠AQ63            ♠K9754 ♥A532             ♥1064 ♦Q                 ♦J93 ♣AQ86            ♣J2</p> <p>♠1082 ♥KJ7 ♦108 ♣K10973</p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>That's a pretty top-heavy pre-empt for North at the vulnerability but, with partner having passed, it looks sensible. To quote the late Terence Reese "a pre-empt that is known to be weak is a blunt sword". After two passes West has a clear reopening double and East can hardly do more than 3♠.</p> <p>The momentum of the auction is such that West can't tell whether partner has a little something or nothing, or how many spades he has. It looks reckless to me to bash game, which is a slightly fortunate make.</p> <p>It's a different story if North were to bid 1♦ only. East should dredge up a 1♠ response, promising five cards if a double would show four, and West will surely commit her side to game.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♣	3♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	3♠	All pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
			Pass														
1♣	3♦	Pass	Pass														
Dbl	Pass	3♠	All pass														

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
10		N	-	1	-	-	-
18	5	S	-	1	-	-	-
	7	E	1	-	3	4	3
		W	1	-	3	4	3

<p>♠K43 ♥A83 ♦Q108432 ♣9</p> <p>♠108                ♠Q9652 ♥K972             ♥Q6 ♦K65                ♦J97 ♣A832             ♣QJ7</p> <p>♠AJ7 ♥J1054 ♦A ♣K10654</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>No, I wouldn't open a weak 2♦ as North, should that be part of our system. You have a poor suit and far too much in the majors; it's easy to visualise hands for partner which would pass 2♦ when game is on in a major. It's worth mentioning that pre-emptive bids in second seat should be reasonably pure; once an opponent has passed you are more likely to make life difficult for partner than for the bad guys.</p> <p>Assuming North passes, the auction starts normally. On the next round North has a choice between rebidding diamonds, trying 1NT or maybe 4<sup>th</sup> suit which will get South to declare 1NT. I'd rather play this one in 1NT than diamonds; should you scramble an overtrick it will be gold dust. The computer's best score is 110 in 2♥ but that looks to be a somewhat unlikely spot, and rather hairy to play.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣														
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥														
Pass	1NT	All pass															

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

<p>♠ J107532 ♥ 62 ♦ Q107 ♣ K9</p> <p>♠ 9                      ♠ KQ86 ♥ AQ1098              ♥ K54 ♦ 632                     ♦ A9 ♣ J875                    ♣ Q1062</p> <p>♠ A4 ♥ J73 ♦ KJ854 ♣ A43</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>That's not a great weak two, vulnerable, but unlike the last hand you don't have much playing strength in anything else. East doesn't quite have a 2NT overcall and 2♠ may well buy the contract, which looks booked for a somewhat unlucky one down when the trumps break badly.</p> <p>If North doesn't open East has, in my view, rather a lot for a weak no-trump. If that is your choice your side will surely get to 2♥. Now might North venture 2♠ if he is in the pass out seat? That's far more dangerous than getting your retaliation in first. As Lady Macbeth put it: "stand not upon the order of your going, but go at once". Mind you, remember how she finished up.</p> <p>If East-West play in 2♥ the defence will have to be sharp to get their club ruff and hold it to eight tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		2♠	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>						
	2♠	All pass							

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
6		N	-	2	-	1	-
7	14	S	-	2	-	1	-
		E	3	-	2	-	-
13		W	3	-	2	-	-

<p>♠ QJ964 ♥ Q6 ♦ 9765 ♣ 94</p> <p>♠ -                      ♠ AK107 ♥ AK1085              ♥ J74 ♦ A1082                ♦ KQ4 ♣ QJ85                 ♣ AK2</p> <p>♠ 8532 ♥ 932 ♦ J3 ♣ 10763</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There are two possible types of auction here. First, East might open 2NT. I don't like that much – yes, you have 20 points, but if partner can't respond to a one level opening do you really want to be in game? However, I have to admit it simplifies matters here. West will show hearts, then try to find out if partner has the queen, and eventually subside in 6NT if he doesn't; surely there are enough tricks when East is 20-22.</p> <p>I really don't know how the auction I've shown should continue. If your partnership is sure that 4NT is RKCB at this point, that seems a reasonable choice for East, again settling for 6NT when partner doesn't have the ♥Q.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦	Pass	?	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
		1♠	Pass																		
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass																		
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass																		
4♦	Pass	?																			

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
5		N	-	-	-	-	-
14	20	S	-	-	-	-	-
		E	7	7	7	4	7
1		W	7	7	7	4	7

<p>♠ AJ1075 ♥ 4 ♦ Q102 ♣ 10743</p> <p>♠ 63                      ♠ Q92 ♥ J10982                ♥ AQ7 ♦ 86                      ♦ AJ974 ♣ KJ98                 ♣ A2</p> <p>♠ K84 ♥ K653 ♦ K53 ♣ Q65</p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>?</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North's ultra-light third in hand opening really puts the cat among the pigeons. East and South are full value for their actions and West decides to trust partner rather than the opponents. North wants none of it and South should not punish her; all the signs are that North is thin. Now West is in a quandary. How will opponents fare in 2♠? Can we make 3♥? Don't we wish we had bid 2♥ in the first place; this problem would never have arisen!</p> <p>As we see, 2♠ should always be one down, while 3♥, though far from laydown, can be made.</p> <p>If North doesn't open, East-West should easily get to 2♥ for a reasonable score.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	Pass	1♠	1NT	Dbl	Pass	2	Pass	2♠	?			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
			Pass																		
Pass	1♠	1NT	Dbl																		
Pass	2	Pass	2♠																		
?																					

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
7		N	-	-	-	1	-
5	17	S	-	-	-	1	-
		E	1	2	3	-	2
11		W	1	2	3	-	-

<p>♠ 74 ♥ QJ9632 ♦ 102 ♣ K43</p> <p>♠ 95 ♥ K1087 ♦ Q874 ♣ A106</p> <p>♠ Q1062 ♥ 5 ♦ AK653 ♣ J87</p> <p>♠ AKJ83 ♥ A4 ♦ J9 ♣ Q952</p>	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Redbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>If East passes over North's weak two, so should South. It doesn't pay to press for thin games at pairs. Just imagine partner with a pure weak two of KQJxxx and nothing else and you'll see how unlikely game is.</p> <p>But East may not pass; it's only 10 points, opposite a passed partner, but it's all in the right place and a reasonable bet, in my view. The auction now gets quite lively, South suggests a penalty, but North doesn't like it, quite rightly as 3♦ can be made.</p> <p>3♥ will be just the one down if declarer takes the right view in trumps or takes a spade finesse and forces West to waste a possible trump trick to prevent a discard. Either of these plays is more than plausible on the bidding.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	2♥	Dbl	Redbl	Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass	3♥	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
Pass	2♥	Dbl	Redbl														
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass														
Pass	3♥	All pass															

HCP		Makeable contracts					
6	10		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
9		N	1	-	2	1	-
15		S	1	-	2	1	-
		E	-	3	-	-	1
		W	-	3	-	-	1

<p>♠ K976 ♥ K8743 ♦ 8 ♣ Q109</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ Q6 ♦ AK6542 ♣ A652</p> <p>♠ QJ432 ♥ J2 ♦ QJ73 ♣ 84</p> <p>♠ A105 ♥ A1095 ♦ 109 ♣ KJ73</p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Assuming a 2♦ overcall would be conventional, how much should your partner expect for a natural 3♦, vulnerable? About this much, I would say. With decent defence to 1NT, you may prefer to pass, but the odds are that North is planning to look for a major suit fit and you do better to forestall this.</p> <p>A double of a three-level overcall of partner's 1NT has to be for takeout, even more so than at the two level. If that's not your style, there are so many hands on which you'd be completely stuck. Here North's bid is bold, but eminently sensible. South has a very suitable hand, trumps break kindly and ten tricks are a doddle.</p> <p>Should East have competed to 4♦? Sadly, you know that if opponents go to game, they're probably right, or maybe they will double out of spite for 200. You can't win.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	Pass	1NT	3♦	Dbl	Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass	?	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
	Pass	Pass	1NT														
3♦	Dbl	Pass	3♥														
Pass	Pass	?															

HCP		Makeable contracts					
8	7		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
13		N	3	-	4	2	-
12		S	3	-	4	2	-
		E	-	3	-	-	-
		W	-	3	-	-	-

<p>♠ Q10864 ♥ Q7 ♦ 4 ♣ K9862</p> <p>♠ K ♥ AKJ63 ♦ AKQ872 ♣ 4</p> <p>♠ A75 ♥ 9852 ♦ J95 ♣ A107</p> <p>♠ J932 ♥ 104 ♦ 1063 ♣ QJ53</p>	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>2♠</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>Oh I say. As West you toy with opening with a game forcing bid but decide that, with this shape, you'd better give yourself as much bidding space as possible. Surprise, surprise, opponents bid and support spades and partner shows four hearts.</p> <p>The question now is: is 4NT unequivocally RKCB for hearts? After all, hearts are your side's last bid suit (by implication). I think it should be; what else but a massive heart fit would inspire you to leap into the stratosphere? If you had a huge minor two suiter, wouldn't you just bid a large number of clubs?</p> <p>Partner has two aces and, for good measure, trumps are 2-2 so thirteen tricks roll in.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠	Dbl	2♠	4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥	All pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
		Pass	Pass																		
1♦	1♠	Dbl	2♠																		
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass																		
6♥	All pass																				

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

<p>♠ AQJ5 ♥ AKQ87 ♦ 1072 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ 109742      ♠ 863 ♥ 64              ♥ 953 ♦ A85             ♦ KQJ4 ♣ 1085            ♣ Q93</p> <p>♠ K ♥ J102 ♦ 963 ♣ AK7642</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>8</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	17		N	3	2	4	2	3	4	8	S	3	2	4	2	3			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>After the excitement of the last hand, it's time to sit down with a mug of cocoa. South's isn't much of a hand but, having opened, you are well advised to show support for partner's major rather than rebid your own minor. North might be tempted to go more slowly, hoping for a miracle fit but, as Bob Hamman always says: "don't play me for the perfect hand, partner, I never have it".</p> <p>Another downside of the slow approach is that you might help the defence. This time East has an obvious lead anyway, they take their three diamond tricks and we get on with the next hand.</p> <p>Even if South rebids those clubs it is easy to get to 4♥.</p>		West	North	East	South					1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass	All pass	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																																			
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																														
17		N	3	2	4	2	3																																																														
4	8	S	3	2	4	2	3																																																														
		E	-	-	-	-	-																																																														
		W	-	-	-	-	-																																																														
	West	North	East	South																																																																	
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Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass	2♥																																																																	
Pass	4♥	Pass	All pass																																																																		

<p>♠ K732 ♥ 10 ♦ K1065 ♣ 10765</p> <p>♠ J106              ♠ AQ85 ♥ KJ8643          ♥ A97 ♦ Q9                ♦ 872 ♣ A8                ♣ 432</p> <p>♠ 94 ♥ Q52 ♦ AJ43 ♣ KQJ9</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>10</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	6		N	2	2	-	-	-	11	10	S	2	2	-	-	-			E	-	-	5	4	3			W	-	-	5	4	3	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>South might double on the first round, which could lead to a number of possible auctions. If that happens, unless playing a support redouble, to show three-card spade support, West should pass with a minimum opener.</p> <p>Assuming South passes, it's a much closer decision for West than on the previous hand whether to support spades or rebid hearts, both being majors. If East has a limited hand with only four spades a 2♥ rebid works best; if East has five spades, we may wish we'd supported them.</p> <p>On this auction North's 2NT passes the buck back to South. East will clearly go to 3♥ anyway. The cards lie so well for East-West that, amazingly, eleven tricks are possible on the right view in trumps, but few will venture to game.</p>		West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass		2♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl		Pass	2NT	3♥	All pass
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																																			
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																														
6		N	2	2	-	-	-																																																														
11	10	S	2	2	-	-	-																																																														
		E	-	-	5	4	3																																																														
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	West	North	East	South																																																																	
	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass																																																																	
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<p>♠ 654 ♥ QJ983 ♦ 2 ♣ Q754</p> <p>♠ 108              ♠ QJ972 ♥ K76              ♥ A ♦ 10843            ♦ KQ96 ♣ AJ92            ♣ 1083</p> <p>♠ AK3 ♥ 10542 ♦ AJ75 ♣ K6</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>12</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	5		N	-	-	2	-	-	8	12	S	-	-	2	-	-			E	-	2	-	-	-			W	-	2	-	-	-	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td></td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>?</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Only a trivial little part score hand, but a lot of possible auctions, even leaving aside the possibility of North throwing in a weak semi-two suited opening.</p> <p>Assuming North passes, what would you say as South over East's opening bid? Some might try 1NT, which strikes me as a horrible choice with no spade intermediates; you could easily be walking into a big penalty. Despite the less than ideal shape, a double is more appealing.</p> <p>The next two bids are fairly normal; East would be well advised to give up but it's just possible that West may have another go. Would double suggest this sort of shape? If so, East bids 3♦ and South has a problem. We have reasonable defence but we are by no means certain we can beat 3♦. If you pass North will probably take the "safe" option of bidding another heart, which trump leads can defeat.</p>		West	North	East	South			Pass	1♠	Dbl	1NT		2♥	Pass	Pass	?				
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																																			
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																														
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<p>♠ Q7 ♥ AQ1092 ♦ J432 ♣ 53</p> <p>♠ J2                      ♠ 6543 ♥ J853                    ♥ 76 ♦ AQ10765              ♦ K98 ♣ Q                        ♣ K762</p> <p>♠ AK1098 ♥ K4 ♦ - ♣ AJ10984</p>	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : 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>3♦</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>4♦</td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>I hate you!</td> </tr> </table> <p>South starts out with fond hopes of describing this hand at his leisure, but opponents have other ideas. It's OK for West to pre-empt despite having four hearts. Should partner have a fit for hearts, North-South would probably outbid you in spades. It's riskier to make an off-centre pre-empt with four spades on the side.</p> <p>As it goes, North is just about worth a bid and East continues the interference. Now, should 4♠ by South promise five cards? I think so as, if North can't stand spades, you are really out on a limb. With only four spades you can double 4♦.</p> <p>Even so, it's tough for North to pass 4♠. The play is interesting; if West leads a diamond you can play ace and jack of clubs. Now if the defenders continue to force in diamonds you play on cross-ruff lines. An alternative, but really hair-raising line, is to draw trumps and rely on getting both spades and hearts right for eleven tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	3♦	3♥	4♦	1♣				I hate you!
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
3♦	3♥	4♦	1♣										
			I hate you!										

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

<p>♠ 83 ♥ AQ753 ♦ AJ ♣ 10762</p> <p>♠ J1076                    ♠ 2 ♥ 104                      ♥ K62 ♦ 7532                    ♦ K109864 ♣ A85                      ♣ QJ4</p> <p>♠ AKQ954 ♥ J98 ♦ Q ♣ K93</p>	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : 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>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>All pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>Would you bid as East, at favourable vulnerability? It might pave the way for a profitable sacrifice. However, you have a nagging feeling that your king of hearts and singleton spade are defensive, rather than offensive assets.</p> <p>And so it proves. The save is cheap but it's a phantom, at least if you had led your spade against 4♥. You get the king of hearts, two clubs and a spade ruff. Moreover, North-South might have chosen to play in spades, which is easy to defeat.</p> <p>So, if you are considering being a nuisance at the right vulnerability, bear in mind what the Americans call your "offense/defense ratio". Are there features of your hand which suggest the opponents would struggle in their contract?</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	2♥	3♦	1♠	5♦	Dbl	All pass	4♥
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
Pass	2♥	3♦	1♠										
5♦	Dbl	All pass	4♥										

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

<p>♠ Q7 ♥ AQ63 ♦ 1042 ♣ J753</p> <p>♠ AK10                    ♠ 95 ♥ KJ9742                ♥ 85 ♦ K76                    ♦ J953 ♣ Q                        ♣ AK1092</p> <p>♠ J86432 ♥ 10 ♦ AQ8 ♣ 864</p>	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : 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>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South is too weak to overcall on the first round but decides to ignore Lady Macbeth and to protect next time. Now, what does double mean by West? Is it a strong penalty suggestion or just a hand too strong to sell out to 2♠? On your actual hand you'd like it to be the former but I'm not sure that's right in theory.</p> <p>Let's say East agrees to defend 2♠ doubled and West leads ♣ Q. It holds and your best continuation is probably ♥J. South finesses, disposes of a loser, and should come to seven tricks for a decent result.</p> <p>West could have made 3♥, after a few twists and turns along the way. Why did you pass my double, partner? Surely you didn't think it was for penalties, says results merchant West.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠	Dbl	All pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass														
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠														
Dbl	All pass																

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