

British Autumn Sim Pairs



**Monday
11th October 2021**

Welcome to the 2021 British Autumn Simultaneous Pairs.

Thank you for playing. I hope you enjoy the event and also the commentary provided by a leading expert. If you are making your first foray into Face to Face Bridge then I hope you find the experience rewarding. The commentator for this set of hands is Michael Byrne. You can find the full details and results at www.ebu.co.uk/sims/. You can earn Blue Points in these Sim Pairs (in England) and they are awarded to the top third of the field. Provisional master points are shown but the event is not finalised until all results are in and score corrections have been made. This usually takes about three weeks.

Ian Payn,

Chairman EBU

♠ 95 ♥ A9873 ♦ K ♣ 86432 ♠ A107 ♥ J106 ♦ Q93 ♣ Q1075 ♠ KQ83 ♥ KQ ♦ A852 ♣ AJ9		♠ J642 ♥ 542 ♦ J10764 ♣ K																																											
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		Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all NS have enough points for game, stoppers in every suit, and no 8 card major suit fit, so no doubt most people will go home disappointed that they can't make 3NT. If NS are playing Acoll they will bid 1♠-1NT-3NT, or perhaps 1♠-1NT-2NT-3♥-3NT, those that open 1♦ and jump to 2NT over a 1♥ response will eventually get to the same contract played by South. As usual, it is not so much who plays the final contract that is of key importance as opposed to who is on lead against the final contract that matters. Where North is declarer East will surely lead a diamond and now the entry to the hearts (and clubs for that matter) has gone at once. North can do no better than play on clubs and duck exactly one round of diamonds, but he can't untangle the heart suit and 8 tricks are the limit. By contrast if West is on lead (1♦-1♥-2NT- 3♣ [natural] -3NT perhaps?) then West might try any number of leads, there is a case for a club, diamond or indeed a heart. Now South might unblock the hearts and stake the farm on a 3-3 break, today the sun is shining and 9 tricks, and a good score, is there.																																											

<p> ♠ Q754 ♥ A ♦ K10742 ♣ 1032 ♠ A1086 ♠ KJ92 ♥ J ♥ 98 ♦ A863 ♦ Q95 ♣ AK97 ♣ Q654 ♠ 3 ♥ KQ10765432 ♦ J ♣ J8 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="57 573 185 763"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>9</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>7</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="220 573 475 763"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		9	8	16	7	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	3	-	-	S	-	-	3	-	-	E	5	4	-	5	5	W	5	4	-	5	5	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <p>After a pass from East I predict with 100% degree of confidence that South will open some number of hearts. Those that can count to 9 (both hands needed) will open 4♥, those that can't will open 3♥. (Incidentally it's much easier to count the cards outside and take away from 13, I'm not too proud to admit that at first glance I assumed it was an 8 card suit as well).</p> <p>West should double for take out (even at the 4 level, yes) and East should remove to 4♠ as he has little defence and it seems like NS have at least a 9 card fit, possibly 10. Some will pass the double though, no doubt quoting some nonsense about all doubles at the 4 level being for penalties. The short reply is that a penalty double shows trump tricks, and you simply aren't dealt that very often when people go around opening at the 4 level so double should always have some degree of flexibility to it.</p> <p>The play in hearts is pretty easy, making 9 tricks unless West ducks the ♦J. In Spades East must ruff a heart high and run the ♠10, probably the right line after the vul 4♥ opener. After the ♠10 holds you can lead a diamond to the queen before drawing the rest of the trumps.</p>
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<p> ♠ K972 ♥ 9864 ♦ K5 ♣ 862 ♠ 108 ♠ A543 ♥ J32 ♥ Q107 ♦ AQJ642 ♦ 107 ♣ 104 ♣ QJ97 ♠ QJ6 ♥ AK5 ♦ 983 ♣ AK53 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="57 1276 185 1467"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>6</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>17</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="220 1276 475 1467"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</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> </tbody> </table>	HCP		6	9	8	17	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	2	3	1	S	2	-	2	3	1	E	-	1	-	-	-	W	-	1	-	-	-	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <p>A more sedate part-score deal hand, as no-one at the table has a singleton and no nasty breaks are lurking anywhere.</p> <p>Those Souths playing Acol will open 1C and West will overcall 1♦ or 2♦ to taste. North should double 1♦ (showing 4/4 in the majors) but pass 2♦, South has a tough call in either case. If NS can put the breaks on it time and stop in a part-score then they should be able to score 110 easily enough and 140 if the play goes well.</p> <p>Let's say North plays in hearts, East will lead the ♦10 and West will probably take this with the ace and return one (ducking works better but there's no way for West to know). Now 3 rounds of trumps (smile when they break 3-3) and knock out the ♠A at the end, no problems. In Spades it's similar but if you knock out the spade and East plays a club then you can run into problems if you play ace, king and another heart. East can unblock the ♥Q on the 2nd round and let his partner win the Jack, now a diamond through allows east to make his 4th trump. In spades best is to cross ruff and play on hearts first, then later ruff the 4th heart high, a very tough line to find.</p>
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<p> ♠ KJ76 ♥ AQJ82 ♦ J ♣ Q76 ♠ AQ10843 ♠ 5 ♥ 74 ♥ 653 ♦ Q84 ♦ AK1076 ♣ 95 ♣ KJ104 ♠ 92 ♥ K109 ♦ 9532 ♣ A832 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="57 1944 185 2134"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>14</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>7</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="220 1944 475 2134"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		14	11	8	7	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	2	-	-	S	1	-	2	-	-	E	-	3	-	1	-	W	-	3	-	1	-	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <p>West has a pleasant Weak two to start the auction, if everyone else at the table is a disciplined soul then it should end the auction as well.</p> <p>Some North players might give in to temptation and overcall 3♥ ("I Had 14 points partner!") but experienced soldiers will know that length in the opponent's suit is a liability and elect to defend.</p> <p>The key thing when you hold something like KJxx in the weak two suit is easily seen here – either partner has a singleton and your high cards are wasted, or the opponents hold a singleton and they get a ruff straight away. If North does bid 3♥ South bid 4♥, facing a vul weak two east might even find a double.</p> <p>8 tricks are the limit in hearts, a spade to the ace and a spade ruff (the ten back to pin the 9 in dummy) is easy to find. Playing in spades what are West's chances? They have only 5 top losers, but North's last trump is hard to shut out, and in practice they will either suffer a ruff or tapped off if North forces declarer by playing hearts. Anyone bidding and making any contract – well done!</p>
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<p>♠ KJ1096 ♥ A ♦ Q9 ♣ K10983</p> <p>♠ 852 ♠ AQ ♥ KJ74 ♥ Q6532 ♦ A108 ♦ 742 ♣ 765 ♣ AQ4</p> <p>♠ 743 ♥ 1098 ♦ KJ653 ♣ J2</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="57 573 181 763"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>5</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="220 573 475 763"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		13	14	8	5	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	2	-	S	-	-	-	2	-	E	-	1	4	-	3	W	-	1	4	-	3	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <p>North has the classic 5/5 in the blacks, and I think in this day and age everyone will choose 1♠ as their opening bid. This leaves East will a tough call, 14 points and a very strong spade holding but a terrible suit. Some will double, some will pass, some will overcall 1NT and some will overcall 2♥ (bleugh!). South might raise spades, and West will take some action if his partner has bid, but none if his partner has passed. Facing a raise North will probably compete with 3♠ (whether or not he should is another matter indeed) and then East will have to decide whether he has values to spare or not. As it happens EW can make 9 tricks in NT easily enough (4 heart tricks, Ace of Diamonds and 2 black suit Ace-queens) and 9 tricks are also easy playing in hearts. 4♥ can actually be made, but it is incredibly convoluted, you need to duck a diamond whilst you are knocking out the Ace trumps. Then ruff out the spade, draw trumps, cash the ♦A and play a club to the queen, ace and another. With only black cards left North must give you a ruff and discard, ten tricks, and no doubt a fantastic match point score.</p>
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<p>♠ Q1095 ♥ 96 ♦ 872 ♣ Q762</p> <p>♠ KJ7 ♠ A84 ♥ J3 ♥ AQ874 ♦ K1053 ♦ AQ64 ♣ 9853 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ 632 ♥ K1052 ♦ J9 ♣ KJ104</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="57 1249 181 1440"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>4</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>8</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="220 1249 475 1440"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		4	20	8	8	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	6	4	3	3	W	1	6	4	3	3	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <p>EW have another nice contract here, 6♦ will make on the 4-4 fit, but it takes a bit of playing. A popular sequence might start 1♥-1NT-3♦ which, (unlike when every single improver bids this) indicates a game forcing hand of 19+ points. The East hand with the full 20 and 4 aces is well worth this and West with powerful holdings in partner's suit should raise to 4♦. After this East will drive to slam, and then he needs to make it! On a black suit lead he should win and start hearts by playing low to the jack (if North turns up with the ♥K then he will need hearts 3-3 or the spade finesse), if South goes in with the King he makes things easy, if he ducks the play is fascinating! East will need to ruff one heart with the ♦10 and then play the last heart throwing the 3rd spade away and scramble home on a cross-ruff. On second thoughts maybe we should stop in game after all!</p>
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<p>♠ 1092 ♥ J1092 ♦ A93 ♣ Q109</p> <p>♠ Q8 ♠ A75 ♥ AQ753 ♥ 4 ♦ J52 ♦ K108764 ♣ 743 ♣ K85</p> <p>♠ KJ643 ♥ K86 ♦ Q ♣ AJ62</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="57 1921 181 2112"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>7</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>14</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="220 1921 475 2112"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</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> </tbody> </table>	HCP		7	10	9	14	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	1	3	-	S	2	-	2	3	-	E	-	2	-	-	-	W	-	2	-	-	-	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <p>This time with the points split evenly the spade suit rules the roost and NS own the hand in part-score. South will open 1♠ and North will respond; 1NT for those playing Acol, and 2♠ for those playing 5 card Majors. East will surely overcall 2♦ over 1NT but will he venture 3♦ over 2♠? Over 2♦ South will want to double for take-out (although I suspect a lot of club players would play such a call as penalties) West might raise, North might bid spades - who knows where the auction will end? If North did raise spades initially then South will compete to 3♠ and West will raise to 4♦ which seems far too high for comfort. Playing in spades if East dives in with the Ace of trumps and switches to a heart then 3 rounds and a trump exit leaves South to guess trumps, 8 or 9 tricks depends on his view. If East ducks the first spade then declarer will surely finesse, now East can win the 2nd spade and get two hearts and a ruff, only 8 tricks for NS. Well done if you got a plus score – as usual, the bigger the better.</p>
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<p>♠ 873 ♥ K974 ♦ AKQ653 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ 62 ♠ AKQJ94 ♥ AJ10862 ♥ - ♦ - ♦ 109 ♣ K9864 ♣ AJ752</p> <p>♠ 105 ♥ Q53 ♦ J8742 ♣ Q103</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="57 573 183 763"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="220 573 475 763"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		12		8	15	5		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	-	-	-	S	-	3	-	-	-	E	6	-	2	6	1	W	6	-	2	6	1	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <p>West has two good suits, and there will be votes for 1♥, 2♥ (weak), 2♥ (intermediate), 3♥ and even 4♥.</p> <p>If West does pre-empt East will jump to 4♠ (whether or not North overcalls in diamonds, which he surely will) and the club fit will go missing.</p> <p>Perhaps South will sacrifice in 5♦? Seems a bit unlikely on what is essential a balanced 5 count with two soft queens, but stranger things have happened. Playing in diamonds 9 tricks are easy (two spades and two hearts to lose) and -300 will be a great score for NS.</p> <p>What about EW getting to a slam? Well certainly if West has opened 1♥ then I can see East bashing 6♠ at some point (inferring short diamonds with his partner due to the keen bidding of NS perhaps?), which will work well today.</p> <p>If you did open 4♥ and partner (trusting soul) passed, then your score of -100 will earn you no match points at all, but at least you have my sympathy. (I rather suspect you'd have some more match points instead).</p>
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<p>♠ AQ754 ♥ KJ74 ♦ 72 ♣ 108</p> <p>♠ J98 ♠ K106 ♥ Q98 ♥ A10532 ♦ KQ105 ♦ AJ4 ♣ A95 ♣ K4</p> <p>♠ 32 ♥ 6 ♦ 9863 ♣ QJ7632</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="57 1245 183 1435"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="220 1245 475 1435"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</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>5</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		10		12	15	3		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	5	5	2	5	W	2	5	5	3	5	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <p>EW have 27 points and an 8 card major suit fit, so it comes as no surprise that this is a game hand in 4♥ or 3NT – which will be better?</p> <p>Assuming North passes (not a given in these aggressive times) then EW might well bid 1NT-P-3NT and South will lead a club. Alternatively East might open 1♥ and after 2♦-2NT West will have to decide whether or not to bid 3♥, if he does then 4♥ will be the final contract.</p> <p>The play is much simpler if North has bid and attracts a spade lead, now East can cross in diamonds and lead the ♥Q through, making 4 heart tricks (look at those tasty pips!) 4 diamonds 2 clubs and eventual spade.</p> <p>If North does open 1♠ then East will surely bid 1NT and West raise to game. Playing in NT on a club lead East might duck the first one, now only ten tricks can be made, how a good a score this will be depends on the play in hearts. Those trusting souls that play Ace and another will hold themselves to ten, so the scores, as usual will be all over the place.</p>
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<p>♠ AK104 ♥ K85 ♦ Q102 ♣ AK10</p> <p>♠ J5 ♠ Q8732 ♥ AQ10 ♥ 964 ♦ 87643 ♦ AK9 ♣ Q64 ♣ J9</p> <p>♠ 96 ♥ J732 ♦ J5 ♣ 87532</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="57 1924 183 2114"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>19</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="220 1924 475 2114"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		19		9	10	2		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	1	-	-	S	2	-	1	-	-	E	-	1	-	-	1	W	-	1	-	1	1	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <p>Another even split of points (19/21 is an even split in my book, in the same way that a loss of 2 imps counts as a draw) will see both sides fighting for the part-score.</p> <p>Surely the auction will begin with 3 passes and North will choose between 1♣ (5 card Majors), 1♠ (good old Acol!) and 2NT (“I liked my 3 tens partner”). Those that open 2NT will see it passed out, they will get a spade lead and by playing low from dummy can build up 3 spade tricks. Added to one diamond, two clubs and the ♥K that is still one down sadly, and there doesn't seem to be much scope for defensive error.</p> <p>The 1♠ openers will probably buy it in 1♠, they will have no chance despite being a level lower.</p> <p>Those that open 1♣ should find a way to go plus, if East overcalls 1♠ it will be passed back to them and they can try 1NT, which will result in +90 whether or not South takes it out to 2♣.</p> <p>Well done if you stopped low – getting a plus score is what matters on this hand, and nothing else.</p>
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S	2	-	1	-	-																																								
E	-	1	-	-	1																																								
W	-	1	-	1	1																																								

♠ A75
♥ Q103
♦ QJ32
♣ 1052

♠ KQ2 ♠ J843
♥ J ♥ A985
♦ A95 ♦ 10876
♣ AKJ864 ♣ 9

♠ 1096
♥ K7642
♦ K4
♣ Q73

HCP	
9	5
18	8

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

Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all

EW barely have game values on this hand but can make tricks-a-plenty in a choice of strains.

A popular auction will see West open 1♣, will anyone else bid? For what it's worth I would always respond as East, bidding 1♥ seems clear these days whatever 1♣ shows. After 1♣ P 1♥ P West can choose between 3♣ (middle of the road) and 3NT (fruity). Against 3♣ West will probably get the ♦Q lead and will have time to draw trumps and knock out the ♠A for a painless ten tricks.

Against 3NT...well actually the same applies, although West will probably be nervous about crossing to the ♥A and taking a club finesse, as if it loses the world will collapse in on him. A compromise might be to knock out the spade first, expecting the to take a view in clubs later.

3NT is a very all or nothing contract, so don't expect laurels if you brought home ten tricks, just take your huge number of match points and graciously apologise for finding a miracle club lay out.

♠ K108754
♥ A872
♦ -
♣ J63

♠ Q93 ♠ J2
♥ J109 ♥ 643
♦ J54 ♦ AQ763
♣ Q952 ♣ K84

♠ A6
♥ KQ5
♦ K10982
♣ A107

HCP	
8	10
6	16

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

Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

It is the turn of NS to make game now, as their powerful suits and helpful distribution means that game can be made in 3 strains, although only two are seriously on the radar.

North has the classic problem – to open a weak two or not? The void augurs in favour of bidding, but the strong heart holding and mediocre suit (combined with being 2nd in at red) mean that a cautious pass is the more prudent of actions.

South will show 15-17 balanced (opening 1NT or rebidding one as appropriate) and then North can try 4♠ after checking on a heart fit.

The play in spades is fascinating, to make 11 tricks North must throw West in with the 3rd trump to open up clubs, not only will he have been forced to cash the hearts first but also he must ruff 3 diamonds in order to strip West of those. Actually that's not true, if West exits with a diamond he can throw a club on the ♦A and then one on the King as well. Oh well, if you did make 11 by ruffing 3 diamonds in hand then you get extra style points from me.

♠ J1097654
♥ 10
♦ AJ10
♣ 94

♠ 8 ♠ K32
♥ 976542 ♥ KJ3
♦ Q8 ♦ 762
♣ Q872 ♣ A1063

♠ AQ
♥ AQ8
♦ K9543
♣ KJ5

HCP	
6	11
4	19

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

Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable

Another marginal pre-empt for North, hardly classical for 3♠ but beggars can't be choosers, and most will reach 4♠ by North come what may. (It might be that North opens a weak two, or passes then bids 4♠ when partner shows 18-19 balanced).

Playing it from North East might lead a diamond (nothing else is tempting) now twelve tricks are possible. Win the Queen with the ace and draw two rounds of trumps, then back to hand with a diamond and take the heart finesse to pitch a club, then two more rounds of diamonds to throw your second club as East ruffs in.

Very fancy, but I don't think anyone will play it like that in real life. More likely they will run diamonds and East will ruff in and cash his ♣A, 11 tricks and a flat board. The best lead by East is a low club, now EW make 2♣ and the ♠K to hold it to ten.

If South plays 4♠ then a heart into the AQ does declarer no harm but he will still have to find the ♦Q to make 12 tricks, in practice he might lead a club up and throw a diamond on the ♣K to make 11 that way.

♠ J9
♥ AJ1075
♦ A
♣ AKQ82

♠ K1073 ♠ Q8642
♥ 8 ♥ KQ932
♦ 10632 ♦ J75
♣ J1063 ♣ -

♠ A5
♥ 64
♦ KQ984
♣ 9754

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

Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all

NS have tonnes of points here and powerful shape, so they will be disappointed to find that they can't make any game at all!

Assuming EW stay silent (never a certainty) NS will presumably bid something like 1♥-2♦-3♣-3♠-4♠-5♣ or similar. Alternatively if South responds 1NT (in the strong NT style) then he might feel 3NT is a fair gamble over a jump to 3♣ by North.

Under normal circumstances 6♣ is a playable spot (♦K for the spade loser) but the pesky 4-0 club break puts things in danger.

In fact on a spade lead even 5♣ is too high, there is no way to gain access to the diamonds to throw the spades away.

3NT suffers the same sort of fate, so I'm afraid most NS pairs must consign themselves to a minus score.

Can any NS pairs go plus? Perhaps the ♥K lead against 5♣, although this would be a strange choice if North has bid the suit. I think the traveller will be a string of -50s and -100s, well done if you were the one pair to make a game.

♠ KJ3
♥ QJ932
♦ K4
♣ Q75

♠ AQ109764 ♠ 85
♥ 6 ♥ AK7
♦ J10 ♦ AQ76
♣ 1043 ♣ AKJ8

♠ 2
♥ 10854
♦ 98532
♣ 962

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
12		N	-	-	-	-	-
7	21	S	-	-	-	-	-
		E	5	4	2	5	4
	0	W	6	4	2	5	4

Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable

Another playable slam here (3rd club goes on the ♥K then ruff out the ♣Q in 3 rounds to avoid the diamond finesse) but again the bad trump break puts paid to that.

Surely every EW pair will end in 4♠ after West opens 3♠ and East raises? Perhaps not, some East players might hog with 3NT (very wicked!) they will go unpunished as South will lead a diamond and now the ♦10 acts as an entry to help reach the spade suit. Actually that is not the case if North continues diamonds after winning the first spade, now East will have to turn his attention to clubs (and make 4 clubs, 2 hearts, 3 diamonds and the ♠A) but most Norths will switch to a heart and allow 11 tricks to be made.

Playing in spades West has to lose two spade tricks but whatever else he does will work (club finesse, diamond finesse, discard a club on the hearts and ruff them out etc) and 11 tricks are straight forward.

♠ 102
♥ 62
♦ J9876
♣ 10875

♠ 9754 ♠ AKJ
♥ AQ754 ♥ KJ10
♦ K5 ♦ 42
♣ A4 ♣ KJ932

♠ Q863
♥ 983
♦ AQ103
♣ Q6

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
1		N	-	-	-	-	-
13	16	S	-	-	-	-	-
		E	5	1	6	5	5
	10	W	5	1	6	5	5

Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable

This time EW have a genuine slam, although by that I mean that 12 can be made, not that one should be bid.

1♥-P-2♣ looks to be the universal start and West can rebid 2♥, or 2NT showing 12-14 if playing a strong NT opening. 4♥ will surely be reached in either case, although those playing 2/1 game forcing might cue bid themselves into slam, it's hard to stop when you've started.

On a diamond lead (most people lead their longest suit) West can draw trumps and try ruffing out clubs before falling back on the spade finesse. This works today, giving 4 club tricks, 5 heart tricks, 2 spades and the KD for an easy +680.....sorry, +1430 for those that got ahead of themselves in the auction.

Anyone that ends in 3NT and gets a spade lead will have a tough time trying to work out how many tricks to play for, I predict they will cash the hearts and then panic and cash the clubs from the top, this will give them 11 tricks but hopefully still a bad score (greedy declarers need to learn to support their partners!)

♠ 1086
♥ 765
♦ AQ874
♣ A9

♠ 742 ♠ AQ93
♥ J43 ♥ KQ10
♦ 653 ♦ KJ
♣ KJ64 ♣ Q832

♠ KJ5
♥ A982
♦ 1092
♣ 1075

HCP	
10	17
5	8

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

Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all

A more sedate part-score now, with NS owning the hand in their diamond fit, just ahead of EW who have a feeble 4-4 club fit.

The East hand falls into the category of “nice hand but partner is there to disappoint you” and every player who holds those cards will brightly start the bidding expecting higher things to come.

Those East players that open 1NT will see it passed out and South will probably lead a heart. They will knock out the ♣A and whether North switches to a diamond or continues hearts they will make 7 tricks for +90.

Those East players that open 1♣ might get raised to 2♣, now North could (and should) come in with 2♦, this will help attract the diamond lead to 2NT which will spell defeat for that contract. If instead West goes back to 3♣ that will also drift one down, there is nowhere to put the two spade losers.

If East opens 1♠ then this might be passed out (a 1NT response is fine, but East will raise to 2 and a diamond lead will sink it by two tricks), seven tricks are always there and 8 tricks possible if the defence don't find their club ruff.

♠ 73
♥ J10843
♦ K42
♣ AJ2

♠ AJ954 ♠ K82
♥ 92 ♥ Q75
♦ 83 ♦ AQJ9
♣ Q873 ♣ 1064

♠ Q106
♥ AK6
♦ 10765
♣ K95

HCP	
9	12
7	12

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

Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

Another gentle part-score deal, which is where all good match point players cut their teeth.

East will open a weak NT at many tables, West can transfer to 2♠ and that will be the final contract. If East opens 1♣ (or 1♥) and rebids 1NT then again West should take out into 2♠, since he has points in his long suits and a suit orientated hand.

So all “Rhodes” lead to Rome, and making as many tricks as possible will determine who gets the match points. Playing spades by East will prove to be an advantage as South will often cash the two top hearts for want of anything better to do. If South then follows it up with a switch to a low diamond to the king and ace then East can finesse in trumps for a wonderful +140.

There are 5 defensive tricks to be had (3♣ and 2♥) but these are very hard to get to with East declaring.

If West plays it then the ♥J is the natural choice of lead, with 4 diamonds on display South will keep all of his and there are 5 losers than won't run away.

♠ J42
♥ 942
♦ KQ632
♣ K8

♠ AQ109876 ♠ K
♥ K8 ♥ 10763
♦ A10 ♦ J985
♣ J10 ♣ A762

♠ 53
♥ AQJ5
♦ 74
♣ Q9543

HCP	
9	8
14	9

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

Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

A more traditional deal now, in that EW lack the values for game but 4♠ is playable give West's long suit and good controls.

Every South will pass and West should open 1♠. (The hand is far too strong for 3♠ and 7222 does not lend itself to opening 4♠, although that won't stop some people). East will respond 1NT and West can choose from 2♠, 3♠ and 4♠ as his rebid. At teams I'd be there with 4♠ but there's no need to overbid at pairs, and 3♠ should get the job done as well. With two quick tricks East can raise to game and leave West trying to make it. With the ♥A onside there are ten top tricks and on the ♦K lead West can win and play one back, giving himself the chance of an overtrick. (For example North might play a 3rd diamond trying for an uppercut, West can overruff and play a spade to the king, now the 4th diamond will cash to discard a club, and West is in dummy to lead a heart up to the King). If North finds the devilish lead of the ♣K then this might cause problems, if declarer wins and leads a heart straight away South can win the ace and start playing big clubs through to promote the ♠J - surely no-one would do anything so mean though....?

<p>♠ Q107 ♥ A103 ♦ AK ♣ J10762</p> <p>♠ A6 ♠ J983 ♥ 7542 ♥ Q98 ♦ 108754 ♦ J963 ♣ 94 ♣ 83</p> <p>♠ K542 ♥ KJ6 ♦ Q2 ♣ AKQ5</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <p>NS have a potential slam now, with a 9 card fit and 32 points what could be easier than making 12 tricks?</p> <p>Actually the hands do not fit well, they have the dreaded doubleton facing doubleton, even worse than that it is AK facing Qx, and they need lots of finesses to make it.</p> <p>The correct way to try and make 12 tricks is probably to play for West to hold AJ, AJx or Jxx of spades and play low to the ten (which negates having to guess the heart queen) that will be a quick one down on this lay out.</p> <p>It's very hard to avoid slam, perhaps a cautious 1NT (12-14) – 3NT might work, but truth be told I would treat that North hand as a 15 count and surely go down in 6NT in double quick time.</p> <p>Hopefully everyone else will be more disciplined, and a spade lead from East will simply mean it is a choice between 11 and 12 tricks, cashing the clubs and diamonds to squeeze east in the major suits. (East's best play is to bear the ♥Q quickly, a greedy North may finesse).</p>																																																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>NT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>S</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</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		14		N	6	2	4	5	6	4	4	S	6	2	4	5	6	18		E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	
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<p>♠ K652 ♥ 4 ♦ AQ7 ♣ KQ962</p> <p>♠ 109873 ♠ AJ4 ♥ 76 ♥ Q109853 ♦ 1064 ♦ J93 ♣ A105 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ AKJ2 ♦ K852 ♣ J843</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <p>It looks like 3NT will be a popular contract on this hand, but if everyone plays well we have the rarest of things – a hand that should be played in 5 of a minor! Every North will open 1♣ (that is something I think we can all be sure about) and then I would expect every East to overcall, either 1♥, 2♥ (weak) or 3♥ (wild). South might well take a pop at 3NT over whatever level the hearts come at, and it will be up to West to find the killing lead. On a pedestrian heart lead South will win and knock out the ♣A (he can afford low to the king on the first round which will let him pick up 4-0 either way, if he was missing the 9 then starting with the Jack would be correct) and that gives 11 easy tricks. On a spade lead however the defence can clear spades and wait for their ♣A to act as an entry – one off then? In a word, no, as if West leads a spade he will surely choose the 10 and how many East players will rise with the Ace? Not very many I'd have thought (in fact probably zero) and the traveller will be littered with a string of 630s and 660s. Did I really say we should be in 5 of minor? Surely not, that doesn't sound like me at all....</p>																																																
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<p>♠ 762 ♥ Q73 ♦ KQ9 ♣ AQ72</p> <p>♠ AQ93 ♠ J54 ♥ K96 ♥ J1082 ♦ J872 ♦ 65 ♣ K8 ♣ J643</p> <p>♠ K108 ♥ A54 ♦ A1043 ♣ 1095</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <p>NS have a likely NT contract here but must be careful not to over-reach themselves as the cards are not lying in that friendly a fashion, or they may do better by defending. Some South players will want to open the bidding, but 2nd in seat is not the time to be stretching (as you already have made it past one opponent) and despite the 3 tens a 4333 shape is always disappointing in the play. If South does open then North will surely force to game, this won't be a success whatever deep finesse says.</p> <p>If West gets the chance he might well open 1NT, this will be passed out and dummy will be a huge blow, the aim will be to struggle to 5 or 6 tricks and salvage some of the match points. A No Trump contract is not that easy to defend, a club lead will be the common choice and West will probably win and start on hearts, it wouldn't be wild for West to end up making his contract after a defensive accident, as communications are terrible for NS.</p> <p>The best score will go to those NS pairs that pass throughout and take 200 off a weak NT opening, the worst goes to those that overbid to 3NT and go two off in an attempt to make it.</p>																																																
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<p>♠ A642 ♥ J52 ♦ 95 ♣ A1064</p> <p>♠ K97 ♠ Q83 ♥ K76 ♥ A4 ♦ AK3 ♦ J10742 ♣ Q983 ♣ J72</p> <p>♠ J105 ♥ Q10983 ♦ Q86 ♣ K5</p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <p>EW hold the majority here but even with diamonds lying well they will need to settle for a part-score. After South deals and passes West will open 1♣ or 1NT and EW should have a free run. If East raises to 2NT (1♣-1♦-1NT-2NT or 1NT-P-2NT) then West will not have much of a decision in passing! A spade lead will be the popular choice, but this will do nothing except blow open the suit. West will probably play diamonds from the top, giving up a possible (and an actual) trick but ensuring 4 diamonds to go with two hearts, two spades (if he gets them right on the next round) and maybe a club trick. The best defence for NS is to lead hearts, now even 7 tricks is a struggle – West might win the K♥ at trick one and play 3 rounds of diamonds, now even 1NT should go down, NS can get 3 hearts, 1 diamond, 2 top clubs and the Ace of spades!</p> <p>There is interest in the spade suit by the way, if the first trick goes ♠2, ♠3, ♠10, ♠K then West doesn't know whether the lead is from J642 or A642, when they are played again towards the table he may go with restricted choice and finesse the 8, very much the wrong thing to do today!</p>																																												
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<p>♠ J7 ♥ KJ86 ♦ J732 ♣ Q95</p> <p>♠ 1096 ♠ AQ843 ♥ A ♥ Q1073 ♦ AKQ8 ♦ 96 ♣ A10632 ♣ 84</p> <p>♠ K52 ♥ 9542 ♦ 1054 ♣ KJ7</p>	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <p>No hidden trap in the bidding here, EW have an 8 card fit and 25 points, and 4♠ the correct destination. West will start things off with 1♣ and East will reply 1♠, West will then reverse into 2♦ (actually a lot of people will bid 3♦ because they don't understand reverses, if that was you then it's worth reading this paragraph twice) showing 4♦ and 5+♣ with a good hand, typically 16+. East will establish an 8 card spade fit somehow perhaps he will bid 4th suit forcing, or rebid his spades, either way game (and no higher!) should be reached. It looks 12 tricks might be possible given how nicely the cards are distributed, perhaps a heart lead, 4 minor suit winners cashed and then a cross ruff. East will have to ruff the 4th diamonds with the ♠A and then play a 4th heart, ruffing in dummy with the ♠10 (fortunately South can't ruff in front of dummy with the Jack) and then make one more trick from the Q8 trumps over the jack. That seems like a lot of hard work, and anyone that brought home +480 thoroughly deserves a top score.</p>																																												
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<p>♠ KQ965 ♥ Q72 ♦ A2 ♣ 973</p> <p>♠ J72 ♠ 103 ♥ J1086 ♥ A953 ♦ J6 ♦ Q4 ♣ KQ85 ♣ AJ1062</p> <p>♠ A84 ♥ K4 ♦ K1098753 ♣ 4</p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <p>The points are relatively evenly split but it is NS with the solid major suit fit and running side suit that will win many tricks and steal the pot. North has a nice opening bid, although it only has 11 points it has two quick defensive tricks and a nice 5 card major to act as an anchor suit. Over 1♠ East should really pass but many will try 2♣. That won't slow down South who will start with 2♦ and then blast 4♠ whether they have a free run allowing North to rebid 2♠, or whether West raises and North passes. The play in spades is absolutely trivial, there are 12 quick and easy tricks if east doesn't cash his aces first. Those East players that do lead a trump will quickly regret it as one of their aces goes wandering. If North doesn't open the bidding then East will open 1♣ and South overcall in diamonds. If West raises clubs (or more likely shows his hearts) then it might be hard for NS to get together in spades, and a part-score might well be the result.</p>																																												
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<p>♠ A3 ♥ 107 ♦ KQJ10743 ♣ 84</p> <p>♠ 106 ♠ J97 ♥ AQJ842 ♥ 3 ♦ 865 ♦ 9 ♣ Q6 ♣ AKJ109752</p> <p>♠ KQ8542 ♥ K965 ♦ A2 ♣ 3</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>9</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		10		N	-	4	1	2	-	9	9	S	-	4	1	3	-			E	4	-	-	-	-	12		W	4	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <p>No this is more like it – East with an 8 card suit, South with 6-4 shape and North with a 7 card suit of his own as well; poor West with only a 6322 hand will no doubt feel a bit left out!</p> <p>East will have to decide how many clubs to open, his decision is a fairly straight forward one between 4♣ and 5♣. There’s no right answer today because the aim is to get your opponents to bid to a level where they will go minus. If you open 4♣ I am sure one of NS will bid and then they will no doubt play in 4♠ going down, (Club queen overtaken, then switch to the singleton heart and play 3 rounds to promote a trump trick seems the natural defence) if instead you open 5♣ then perhaps North will bid 5♦ which is also booked for one off.</p> <p>The only thing I can predict confidently is that there will be plenty of scores on both sides of the travellers and that lots of people will go minus – but not everyone....</p>
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<p>♠ 106 ♥ J853 ♦ AQ92 ♣ Q43</p> <p>♠ AK8 ♠ J942 ♥ AQ106 ♥ 972 ♦ J6 ♦ K543 ♣ J986 ♣ K5</p> <p>♠ Q753 ♥ K4 ♦ 1087 ♣ A1072</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>7</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		9		N	-	-	-	-	-	15	7	S	-	-	-	-	-			E	1	1	2	2	1	9		W	1	1	2	2	1	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <p>With the preponderance of values EW will have to select a part-score from the choice of Moysian fits, or the perennial favourite of 1NT.</p> <p>West has a classic strong no trump opening and for those that choose such a bid it will be passed out without any drama. By contrast if West opens 1♥ then East might consider raising to 2♥, or respond 1♠ and see West rebid 1NT, both of which will end the auction. A 1♣ opening might get a 1♦ response, that will get a 1NT rebid from West, if instead East responds 1♠ some Wests might raise to 2♠.</p> <p>1NT is quite interesting to play, on a heart lead West can play the suit back and build up 3 tricks to go with two spades, ♦K and an eventual club trick when the defenders broach that suit. Alternatively if West cranks out 3 rounds of spades the ten falls and South will have to give an entry to dummy.</p> <p>The worst lead is a diamond (found if West has bid hearts) as this gives two diamond tricks straight away, now West might come to 8 tricks if he plays on spades. Playing in either major 8 tricks are there on careful play but there is a lot of scope for variance – make sure you end up on the right side of fortune.</p>
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<p>♠ J105 ♥ - ♦ A76532 ♣ K1043</p> <p>♠ KQ32 ♠ 84 ♥ AQ97 ♥ 65432 ♦ 9 ♦ KJ8 ♣ Q962 ♣ A75</p> <p>♠ A976 ♥ KJ108 ♦ Q104 ♣ J8</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>8</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		8		N	-	3	-	1	-	13	8	S	-	3	-	1	1			E	1	-	2	-	-	11		W	1	-	2	-	-	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <p>The points are split evenly and EW have a chunky 9 card major suit fit, so it’s no surprise that they can’t make anything and the hand belongs to NS.</p> <p>West has the old nightmare 4414 shape, but in fairness it’s not as much of a nightmare as 4441, and a 1♣ opening will do for now. North should overcall 1♦ (2♦ is grim with that suit quality and huge playability for spades) and no doubt East will mention his heart suit, such as it is. South should make an UCB now, bidding 2♣ to denote 3 card support for diamonds and 10+ points (there is time to find a 4-4 spade fit to come later if one exists) and West will raise hearts.</p> <p>The job of NS on this deal is to compete gently to 3♦ and then wield the axe if EW take the push to 3♥, this won’t be too hard give that South thinks he has at least 2 trump tricks, he is in for a disappointment when he sees dummy but 3♥ will still go down, with two down a lively possibility.</p> <p>Playing in diamonds declarer will need to get the club guess right (running the jack seems natural) and lead a diamond up to the Q10 (again the natural play), the heart suit can provide a spade discard via a double ruffing finesse, but lots of work of be done!</p>
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