

# **British Autumn Sim Pairs**



**Wednesday  
13<sup>th</sup> 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 Heather Dhondy. You can find the full details and results at [www.ebu.co.uk/sims/](http://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

♠ Q7 ♥ Q863 ♦ 952 ♣ J543		Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all <b>West</b> <b>North</b> <b>East</b> <b>South</b> Pass      Pass      1♥      Dbl Pass      1NT      Pass      2♠ All pass																																															
♠ 106      ♠ 843 ♥ 104      ♥ AKJ72 ♦ KQJ1064      ♦ A73 ♣ 1092      ♣ Q7		If the East hand opens 1♥, the South hand is a little good for a non-vulnerable one-level overcall of 1♠ so begins with a double. The North hand will probably choose to respond 1NT and you can now show your strength by bidding 2♠. Even though this shows a fairly strong hand, it is not likely to interest North and the game only makes because the queen of clubs falls doubleton.																																															
♠ AKJ952 ♥ 95 ♦ 8 ♣ AK86																																																	
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>14</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	5		N	3	-	-	4	-	6	14	S	3	-	-	4	-	15		E	-	3	2	-	-			W	-	3	2	-	-		
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<p>♠ 8743 ♥ KQ10962 ♦ 6 ♣ 97</p> <p>♠ AK52                      ♠ J10 ♥ 53                            ♥ 84 ♦ AQJ5                        ♦ K1097432 ♣ 1042                        ♣ K6</p> <p>♠ Q96 ♥ AJ7 ♦ 8 ♣ AQJ853</p>	<p>Board 2 : 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>3♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♦</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There will be some variety here with contracts played by both sides. As it happens there is no contract making beyond the three level, however both sides will see their hands as having potential.</p> <p>The likely start to the auction is 3♦ and a double by South. What should West do? At this vulnerability it looks normal to bid 5♦. There may well be just two spades in defence of 4♥. As it happens a diamond is standing up and there is a spade ruff as well.</p> <p>North-South will probably just let 5♦ drift quietly down, but they don't want to be bidding any higher.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			3♦	Dbl	5♦	All pass		
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	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
5	N 2	-	3	-	-	
14      7	S 2	-	3	2	-	
14	E -	3	-	-	-	
	W -	3	-	-	-	

<p>♠ A7 ♥ J9 ♦ Q9732 ♣ AKJ6</p> <p>♠ KQJ5                      ♠ 109432 ♥ KQ3                        ♥ A652 ♦ 64                            ♦ J8 ♣ 10752                      ♣ 94</p> <p>♠ 86 ♥ 10874 ♦ AK105 ♣ Q83</p>	<p>Board 3 : 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>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>A fairly straight-forward start to the auction 1♦-1♥-2♣. Now the South hand is too good for simple preference to 2♦, holding good four card support and a useful queen in North's second suit, so should jump to 3♦. The North hand may be tempted to try 3♠ (fourth suit forcing) to try to get partner to play the contract, but if partner is not able to bid 3NT, the chance to play there will be gone, so North does better just to bid it.</p> <p>There are ten easy tricks in 3NT, but the key will be reaching it.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
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15	N 4	5	1	-	4	
11      5	S 4	5	1	-	4	
9	E -	-	-	2	-	
	W -	-	-	2	-	

<p>♠ 74 ♥ J875 ♦ A973 ♣ A102</p> <p>♠ A                              ♠ KQJ106532 ♥ 10                            ♥ KQ ♦ KJ1062                      ♦ 85 ♣ KQJ983                      ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ 98 ♥ A96432 ♦ Q4 ♣ 764</p>	<p>Board 4 : 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>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>The East hand knows the right trump suit after partner opens the bidding and will do well to insist early on in the auction to prevent West from having other ideas. East should either jump to 4♠ in response to partner opening bid, or do it on the second round.</p> <p>If South leads a club, the defence do best to return a heart to the ace and return a low diamond. This at least gives declarer a guess. If they don't play diamonds, after the ♣A is gone, declarer will have the opportunity to discard both diamonds from hand on the club winners for an overtrick.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	4♠	All pass
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9	N -	-	2	-	-	
14      11	S -	-	2	-	-	
6	E 3	3	-	4	-	
	W 3	3	-	4	-	

<p>♠ AK6 ♥ 1073 ♦ A83 ♣ AJ87</p> <p>♠ 107                      ♠ Q85 ♥ A65                      ♥ K2 ♦ Q1096                  ♦ K54 ♣ K652                    ♣ Q10943</p> <p>♠ J9432 ♥ QJ984 ♦ J72 ♣ -</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>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>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This looks to be a routine auction to 2♠, and most North-South pairs will be in a major suit part-score.</p> <p>In hearts, there is just one spade, one diamond and two trumps to lose (one diamond disappearing on the ♣A). In spades, there is a heart ruff available, however since it is with the side's trump trick, it makes no difference. Nine tricks are available in either suit.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	All pass																																	
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<p>♠ 93 ♥ AK87 ♦ 943 ♣ K742</p> <p>♠ A1074                    ♠ KQJ865 ♥ 42                        ♥ Q106 ♦ KQJ1062                ♦ A8 ♣ 5                         ♣ 108</p> <p>♠ 2 ♥ J953 ♦ 75 ♣ AQJ963</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♣</td> <td>5♣</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>This is the right vulnerability for North-South to be saving over 4♠ with 5♣, but even at equal vulnerability it is right to save. East-West have three top tricks to lose in spades so they need to stop and double North-South if they find the save and not take the push to the five level themselves.</p> <p>5♣ (or 5♥) have four inescapable losers, however if you end up defending 5♠ as North-South, you will need to cash your three tricks immediately or you will see them all disappear on the diamonds. Looking at the West hand as dummy, that shouldn't prove too tricky provided you have led a heart or a club.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♠	3♣	4♣	5♣	Dbl	All pass																																				
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<p>♠ 5 ♥ J864 ♦ KQJ87 ♣ 985</p> <p>♠ 73                        ♠ AQ942 ♥ AQ1092                ♥ K ♦ 964                      ♦ A53 ♣ AQ2                    ♣ 10743</p> <p>♠ KJ1086 ♥ 753 ♦ 102 ♣ KJ6</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3NT will be a popular contract, but how many tricks will be made? The first problem is what to lead. A diamond gets the defence off to a great start but it is not automatic on the auction above, for example. Instead, South may hope to establish tricks in spades and begin with ♠J. Now declarer will probably win, cash the ♥K and take a club finesse. Once that works, setting up the hearts will get declarer to nine tricks. I expect nine tricks to be the normal result with a few going down and a few making an overtrick.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass																																
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<p>♠ Q853 ♥ Q1062 ♦ Q32 ♣ 86</p> <p>♠ J92                      ♠ AK ♥ AJ4                      ♥ 9873 ♦ K865                     ♦ 94 ♣ A93                      ♣ QJ752</p> <p>♠ 10764 ♥ K5 ♦ AJ107 ♣ K104</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13      10</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		6	13      10	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	1	-	E	3	1	2	-	1	W	3	1	2	-	1	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>1NT will be almost universal, but the number of trick may depend on the auction. Playing a weak NT, East-West give nothing away about their suits and North will probably select a heart. Declarer should with the king with the ace and play on clubs. Now declarer has time to get to eight tricks however the defence proceed by leading a diamond towards the king if necessary.</p> <p>The best lead is a spade, and this may well be found against those playing a strong NT, because East will respond 1♥. Now the defence can duck clubs to the third round and switch to the ♥K. Declarer cannot cash clubs without using the spade guard to get there and the defence now have six tricks. Anyone finding this excellent defence will score very well.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	All pass		
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<p>♠ A9754 ♥ 106 ♦ K3 ♣ A1074</p> <p>♠ 1083                      ♠ KQ2 ♥ 974                      ♥ AKQ3 ♦ 1094                     ♦ AQ852 ♣ QJ96                     ♣ K</p> <p>♠ J6 ♥ J852 ♦ J76 ♣ 8532</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3      23</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		11	3      23	3	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	3	3	2	3	W	2	3	3	2	3	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Assuming North opens the bidding, East must double and will probably give up and try 3NT when partner shows clubs. The number of tricks made depends on a diamond guess. With no entries to dummy, declarer must play the suit from hand. Cashing the ace is a normal start in case anything interesting falls, but when it doesn't, declarer needs to guess whether it is the king or jack which is doubleton.</p> <p>Although, even getting the diamonds right only yields nine obvious tricks, the defence are unable to avoid conceding a tenth. For those looking at the double dummy analysis, the only lead to hold the contract to nine tricks is the 6♠, which won't be found in practice.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Dbl	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT	All pass
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<p>♠ K2 ♥ AK ♦ AKJ1064 ♣ KJ5</p> <p>♠ A10986                      ♠ QJ43 ♥ J94                      ♥ 1053 ♦ Q7                      ♦ 9 ♣ 973                      ♣ AQ842</p> <p>♠ 75 ♥ Q8762 ♦ 8532 ♣ 106</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">22</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7      9</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		22	7      9	2	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	4	3	-	4	S	-	4	3	-	4	E	2	-	-	2	-	W	2	-	-	2	-	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>What do you open the North hand in fourth seat? It is too strong for anything other than 2♣, despite being a point light. I would treat it As a balanced hand since 3NT looks a likely spot, and South will accept via a transfer to hearts. If East finds a spade lead, West does best to win and return a club, but this is not an easy defence to find.</p> <p>If this defence is not found, declarer has communication in diamonds to unblock and cash the hearts when they break and can make eleven red suit tricks, plus the probable trick on the lead.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	All pass			
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W	2	-	-	2	-																																																													
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<p>♠ 86 ♥ A93 ♦ K87 ♣ J10742</p> <p>♠ A102            ♠ Q753 ♥ Q8765           ♥ - ♦ Q932            ♦ AJ10654 ♣ 3                ♣ Q95</p> <p>♠ KJ94 ♥ KJ1042 ♦ - ♣ AK86</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>4♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>This will be a part-score tussle, although 4♥ doesn't look a bad contract until you see the break!</p> <p>If North ends up in clubs, eleven tricks are always available, however if played by South, there is the opportunity to collect two heart ruffs and hold it to ten tricks.</p> <p>Five diamonds is a very complicated contract, but the defence can beat it after cashing a top club by continuing with a club or a low spade. Oddly the "safe" looking heart switch costs the contract.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1♥	Pass	1NT	2♦	Dbl	2♥	3♣	3♦	4♣
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
			1♥														
Pass	1NT	2♦	Dbl														
2♥	3♣	3♦	4♣														

HCP	Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
8	N	5	-	3	-	-
8     9	S	4	-	3	-	-
15	E	-	4	-	-	-
	W	-	4	-	-	-

<p>♠ QJ5 ♥ 96 ♦ 1064 ♣ AKQJ7</p> <p>♠ 3                ♠ 10986 ♥ 107542        ♥ K ♦ 9832           ♦ AKQJ7 ♣ 642            ♣ 1053</p> <p>♠ AK742 ♥ AQJ83 ♦ 5 ♣ 98</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></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>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>4♠ will be the normal spot and if it is played by North (as it will be on a weak NT auction) East will have no problem cashing their side's only trick.</p> <p>There will be a few making all thirteen if played by South as the diamond lead is not clear-cut, and there will be a few bidding the slam.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥																		
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥																		
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥																		
Pass	4♠	All pass																			

HCP	Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
13	N	6	-	4	6	2
0     13	S	6	-	4	6	2
14	E	-	-	-	-	-
	W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ J72 ♥ AJ62 ♦ 10653 ♣ J4</p> <p>♠ K108            ♠ A953 ♥ 104             ♥ Q98 ♦ J972            ♦ Q ♣ AK109         ♣ 76532</p> <p>♠ Q64 ♥ K753 ♦ AK84 ♣ Q8</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All pass</p> <p>The field will be divided between those playing in 1NT and those in 2♥, depending on the NT range.</p> <p>Neither contract will succeed despite the majority of the points. In 2♥ declarer will probably go two down provided the defence leave declarer to tackle the spade suit, and 1NT will also fail by two tricks on best defence. Anyone escaping for one down in either contract won't do too badly.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	Pass	1NT
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>						
	Pass	Pass	1NT						

HCP	Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
7	N	-	-	1	-	-
11     8	S	-	-	1	-	-
14	E	4	1	-	2	2
	W	4	1	-	2	2

<p>                     ♠ K986                      ♥ A82                      ♦ J84                      ♣ 843                        ♠ Q54                      ♠ AJ7                      ♥ KQ6                      ♥ J543                      ♦ 10963                    ♦ Q52                      ♣ KQ5                      ♣ A102                        ♠ 1032                      ♥ 1097                      ♦ AK7                      ♣ J976                 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 577 188 761"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="226 577 470 761"> <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>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		8		12	12	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	3	2	1	2	W	2	3	2	1	2	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>2NT</td><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A few pairs will be going overboard to game on this hand, but there is no need to. 24 points isn't quite enough for game and even though the cards are lying pretty favourably, eight tricks is still the limit. The normal club lead is the one to succeed, and a club continuation when in with the ♥A will leave declarer with three clubs, three hearts and two spades, and nowhere to go for a ninth trick.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	2NT	All pass										
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<p>                     ♠ Q762                      ♥ J632                      ♦ J65                      ♣ 95                        ♠ K                              ♠ J9853                      ♥ AK105                      ♥ 9                      ♦ AQ10732                    ♦ 98                      ♣ K6                              ♣ J7432                        ♠ A104                      ♥ Q874                      ♦ K4                      ♣ AQ108                 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1249 188 1433"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="226 1249 470 1433"> <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>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		4		19	2	15		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	2	-	-	E	2	3	-	2	1	W	2	3	-	2	1	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1♥</td></tr> <tr><td>Dbl</td><td>2♥</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>3♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>What call should West make over South's 1♥ opening bid? You are too strong for a simple overcall of 2♦, so you have to start with a double. Unfortunately partner is now going to compete with 2♠ over North raise, holding few points but a good shape, and now your 3♦ rebid becomes forcing. East would probably like to pass, but can't break discipline, so rebids 3♠ and West tries 3NT. This is another of those diamond suits that have to be played from hand like board 9. Again it is the king which is doubleton but even getting those right only gets West up to seven tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♥	Dbl	2♥	2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
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<p>                     ♠ AK32                      ♥ K10                      ♦ J2                      ♣ AQ982                        ♠ 8                              ♠ Q964                      ♥ 9853                      ♥ A42                      ♦ AQ5                        ♦ K10843                      ♣ KJ763                      ♣ 10                        ♠ J1075                      ♥ QJ76                      ♦ 976                      ♣ 54                 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1944 188 2119"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>17</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="226 1944 470 2119"> <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>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		17		10	9	4		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	-	2	-	S	1	-	-	2	-	E	-	2	1	-	1	W	-	2	1	-	1	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♣</td><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>2♣</td><td>Dbl</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>3♦</td><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This will be a part-score battle where North-South do best to give up at the three-level and defend, since 3♠ is not going to make with the bad trump break. In 3♦, declarer has a few problems. You can't draw trumps as there will be far too many spades to lose, so the best bet is to try and ruff as many spades as possible in dummy. On best defence, however, you will always come out a trick short.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♣	1♦	Pass	2♣	Dbl	2♦	Pass	3♦	All pass						
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<p>♠ 93 ♥ AQ84 ♦ AQ ♣ J10432</p> <p>♠ QJ84                      ♠ A762 ♥ KJ32                      ♥ 97 ♦ 9632                      ♦ K1084 ♣ K                          ♣ 985</p> <p>♠ K105 ♥ 1065 ♦ J75 ♣ AQ76</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : 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>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All pass</p> <p>I expect most pairs to play in 1NT, with a few playing in clubs. Although 3NT can be made, in practice you are never going to drop the singleton king of clubs, so on the likely spade lead you will end up conceding three spades a diamond and a club for eight tricks. Similarly in clubs, you will probably lose a trump trick to go with a loser in each of the other suits to emerge with nine tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♣	Pass	1NT
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>						
	1♣	Pass	1NT						

HCP	Makeable contracts																														
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<p>♠ A3 ♥ KQ10865 ♦ J106 ♣ 75</p> <p>♠ J104                      ♠ K95 ♥ AJ42                      ♥ 3 ♦ K9852                    ♦ A73 ♣ 8                          ♣ QJ10632</p> <p>♠ Q8762 ♥ 97 ♦ Q4 ♣ AK94</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>1♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>Dbl              2♥              All pass</p> <p>Would you open the East hand? It is a good suit, and together with a promising singleton, I think it is just about worth it. North will overcall 1♠, and West will make a negative double. The fact that West probably holds four hearts shouldn't deter North from mentioning the good six card suit and that may well end the auction. East will lead the obvious ♠Q, and North now needs to run the nine of hearts to succeed, but if West has indicated hearts in the bidding, that looks a normal line to find.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♣	1♠
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>						
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<p>♠ J9432 ♥ 3 ♦ K8742 ♣ 65</p> <p>♠ AK8                      ♠ Q76 ♥ A                          ♥ QJ10952 ♦ AQ653                    ♦ 9 ♣ A973                      ♣ Q82</p> <p>♠ 105 ♥ K8764 ♦ J10 ♣ KJ104</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>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>East will do well to insist on hearts as trumps since otherwise the hand will be of little use. If you play in no trumps, there is only one entry to the East hand so you will be unable to establish, and reach, the hearts. You may well fail in 3NT on a spade lead, relying on the ♣Q for your second entry to dummy. On the other hand, even given the five-one trump break, 4♥ is a comfortable ten tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
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<p>♠ Q1092 ♥ K ♦ 95 ♣ Q108432</p> <p>♠ AK843      ♠ J6 ♥ 65          ♥ J42 ♦ AJ8          ♦ KQ742 ♣ 765          ♣ KJ9</p> <p>♠ 75 ♥ AQ109873 ♦ 1063 ♣ A</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 573 188 761"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="228 573 470 761"> <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>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		7		12	11	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	2	-	-	S	1	-	2	-	-	E	-	2	-	1	-	W	-	2	-	1	-	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>2♥</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Dbl</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>2♠</td><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>If the auction begins 1♠ by West and a 2♦ response by East, South will not want to be too bold, especially vulnerable, so will probably just compete to 2♥. East, with an eleven count facing partner's opening bid will not allow things to rest there so reopens with a double. The shape is not ideal, but there is little alternative. When West simply rebids the spades, it's time to give up.</p> <p>Even 2♠ is too high if the opponents get their ruffs. East can overtake the heart, and cash the ♣A before continuing hearts and North should get the defence right from there.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	2♦	2♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	2♠	All pass						
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<p>♠ 987 ♥ KJ103 ♦ K94 ♣ J106</p> <p>♠ AK3          ♠ Q64 ♥ 652          ♥ AQ8 ♦ QJ876        ♦ 1032 ♣ 94            ♣ AK75</p> <p>♠ J1052 ♥ 974 ♦ A5 ♣ Q832</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 1935 188 2123"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="228 1935 470 2123"> <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>2</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		8		10	15	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	4	2	2	3	W	2	4	2	2	3	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>3NT</td><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>3NT is the normal contract which virtually everyone will reach. The normal looking lead is a spade especially on the auction above, but it is a club or a heart which will hold declarer to nine tricks since these are the suits that the opponents have time to develop.</p> <p>On a spade lead, declarer has time to set up diamonds and try the heart finesse for ten tricks. If a club or a heart is led, declarer will duck a round at some stage and hope that the defence win their diamond tricks in the wrong order. Anyone managing to hold the declarer to nine tricks will score pretty well.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	All pass						
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<p>♠ A9 ♥ Q6 ♦ QJ963 ♣ J642</p> <p>♠ J10865      ♠ KQ432 ♥ AKJ          ♥ 10532 ♦ AK84         ♦ 10 ♣ 3              ♣ K87</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ 9874 ♦ 752 ♣ AQ1095</p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>What call do you make with the East hand after partner opens 1♠? You have a seven-loser hand with great trump support and a singleton, and yet a splinter looks a bit too much on this aceless eight count. I would just raise to 4♠.</p> <p>Ten tricks look easy enough and there are good chances for an eleventh. Having dealt with the trumps, you can try a club towards the king. If the ace is onside, your ♥J will disappear on the ♣K. When this fails, you have the heart finesse to fall back on. Aggravatingly the queen is offside and is doubleton, so dropping it is the winning action, but it is not a normal line to find.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
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<p>♠ 10654 ♥ AJ8 ♦ K76 ♣ A75</p> <p>♠ K72              ♠ AJ983 ♥ KQ52            ♥ 4 ♦ AJ93             ♦ Q542 ♣ 108              ♣ KQ9</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ 109763 ♦ 108 ♣ J6432</p>	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>I expect most pairs to play in 4♠ and when the ♠K is led and the queen falls, it is not a problem to pick up that suit for no losers to come to ten tricks, conceding a trick in each of the side suits.</p> <p>The winning action is for West to decide to play 3NT, however if East shows 5♠ and 4♦, this looks an unlikely choice.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠	All pass		
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W	-	4	-	4	4																										

<p>♠ AQJ8642 ♥ Q3 ♦ 32 ♣ 75</p> <p>♠ 5                  ♠ K7 ♥ 872              ♥ KJ106 ♦ AJ10865        ♦ K74 ♣ AQ2             ♣ K943</p> <p>♠ 1093 ♥ A954 ♦ Q9 ♣ J1086</p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♦</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There will be some variety here. Firstly do you open 3♠ or 4♠ with the North hand at this vulnerability? Given the three doubletons, 4♠ looks a bit much so I would open three. Now does the East hand double? It is marginal for sure, but you need to be brave over pre-empts and if you would double 1♠ you should be inclined to double 3♠. West will not need a second invitation to bid game in diamonds.</p> <p>It seems pretty clear to get the hearts right on the auction, so 5♦ should make most of the time. The winning contract is in no trumps as that makes ten tricks, but it is hard to see how to get there. North-South can always save in 4♠, which is three down, but if East-West manage to bid on to 4NT they will score extremely well.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		3♠	Dbl	Pass	5♦	All pass		
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9 11      13 7	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	1	-	S	-	-	-	1	-	E	4	5	4	-	4	W	4	5	4	-	4
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<p>♠AQ942 ♥KJ ♦AK83 ♣K7</p> <p>♠763                      ♠K1085 ♥A10872                ♥9643 ♦-                            ♦Q54 ♣QJ1083                ♣94</p> <p>♠J ♥Q5 ♦J109762 ♣A652</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		20		7	5	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	5	-	2	2	S	1	5	-	2	2	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All pass</p> <p>What do you open with the North hand? Although not traditionally one of the balanced hand-shapes, it is practical to open 2NT. What would you respond with the South hand? Personally I would just raise to 3NT at pairs. It is likely to make and score better than five of a minor.</p> <p>Looking at the two hands, you would want to be in 6♦, but failing that, you would want to play 3NT. Unfortunately luck is not on your side in either contract, and both can fail when the diamonds lie poorly for you, although against 3NT it will take a heart lead from East on the auction above.</p> <p>Those who find 6♦ can feel particularly aggrieved.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
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<p>♠KJ43 ♥Q8 ♦KQ42 ♣J62</p> <p>♠52                        ♠976 ♥A7542                ♥96 ♦J10                      ♦A983 ♣AQ105                ♣9874</p> <p>♠AQ108 ♥KJ103 ♦765 ♣K3</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		12		11	4	13		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	1	3	2	S	-	1	1	3	2	E	2	-	-	-	-	W	2	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>North South have the values for game and a four-four spade fit, but the cards are not lying very well for them and the contract is likely to fail by one tricks.</p> <p>On the likely lead of the ♦J, declarer may even fear going two down, losing two of each minor and a heart. However things aren't quite as bad as that in that East has no entry to the diamond, so declarer has time to establish the hearts.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	4♠
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<p>♠J4 ♥J76 ♦Q985 ♣AJ85</p> <p>♠A5                        ♠1072 ♥105                      ♥KQ984 ♦A7432                ♦KJ10 ♣Q963                ♣K7</p> <p>♠KQ9863 ♥A32 ♦6 ♣1042</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		9		10	12	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	1	-	S	-	-	-	1	-	E	-	3	2	-	-	W	-	3	2	-	-	<p>Board 28 : 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>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>This is going to be a slightly awkward hand for East-West whether East chooses to open 1♥ or 1NT. The aim should be to get a plus score as not much is making.</p> <p>2♠ will be defeated on either a club or a heart lead since declarer cannot prevent them from scoring a club ruff to go with their other five winners.</p> <p>If East-West manage to locate 3♦ this can be made but will take some good guessing. 3♥ will fail on a diamond lead, but South should not be too hasty in winning the ♥K with the ace at trick two. It is better to leave declarer on lead since getting to dummy to pick up the trumps is problematic. If a spade is chosen, you can win the second round of trumps and cash two spades followed by a club to the ace to get your ruff, and the king of clubs allows partner to win and give you a ruff before driving out the ace of spades.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	1♥	2♠	Dbl	Pass	3♥	All pass
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