EBED



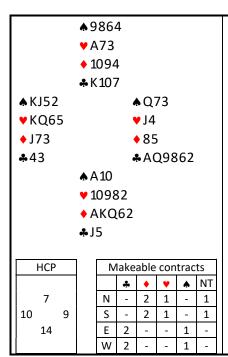
Sim Pairs

Commentary by Brian Senior

Tuesday 7th September 2021 Welcome to the English Bridge Education & Development (EBED) Simultaneous Pairs. The proceeds raised by this event will go to EBED, the national charity for the promotion and development of duplicate bridge. EBED have responded to the challenges of the past year by continuing to improve and develop the infrastructure for bridge teaching in England. This has been achieved by enabling our EBTA (English Bridge Teaching Association) teachers the flexibility to deliver online and classroom-based learning. We have also established a gentle introduction to duplicate bridge through our weekly EBS (English Bridge School) relaxed games. EBED additionally supplies "Bridge for All" teaching materials, organises teacher and director training courses, administers the Junior Award Scheme, organises the Schools Cup and runs the Junior Teach In. We continue to support county organisations and individual volunteers at the local level to run youth events. You can read more about EBED's activities in the current issue of English Bridge and at www.ebedcio.org.uk. If you wish to arrange a donation in favour of the charity, please do so at www.ebedcio.org.uk/donate. Amazon customers can effortlessly support us by switching to AmazonSmile. Do please encourage your friends to come to play in these events which are open to all and raise vital funds for our work. We sincerely thank you for your support.

Giorgio Provenza

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

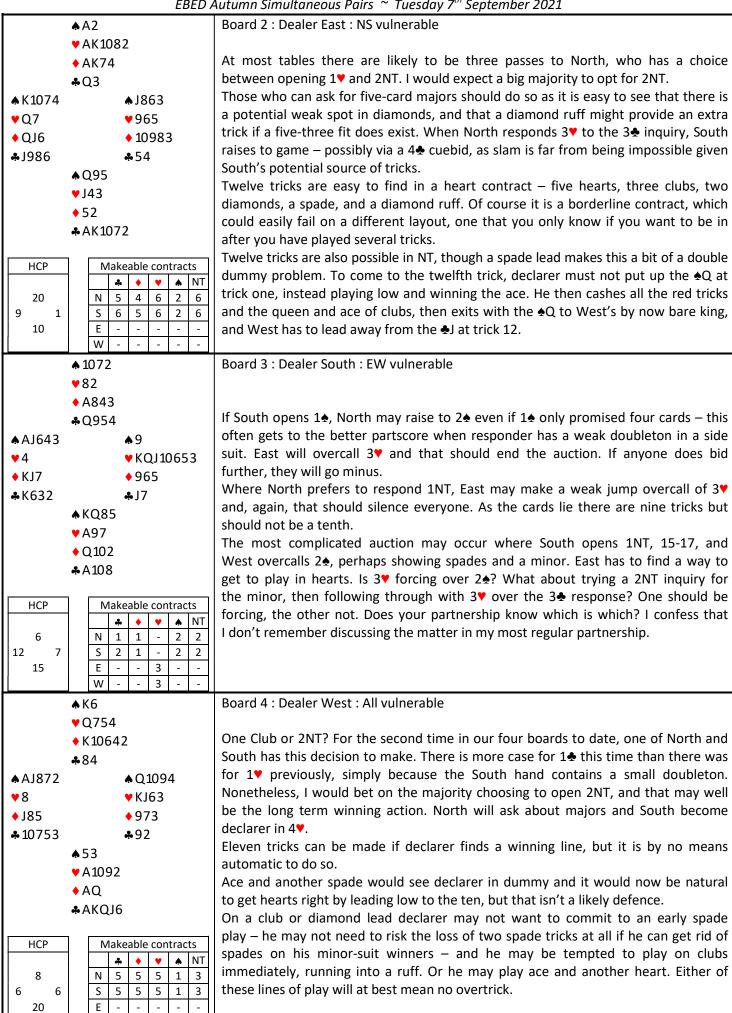


Board 1: Dealer North: Love all

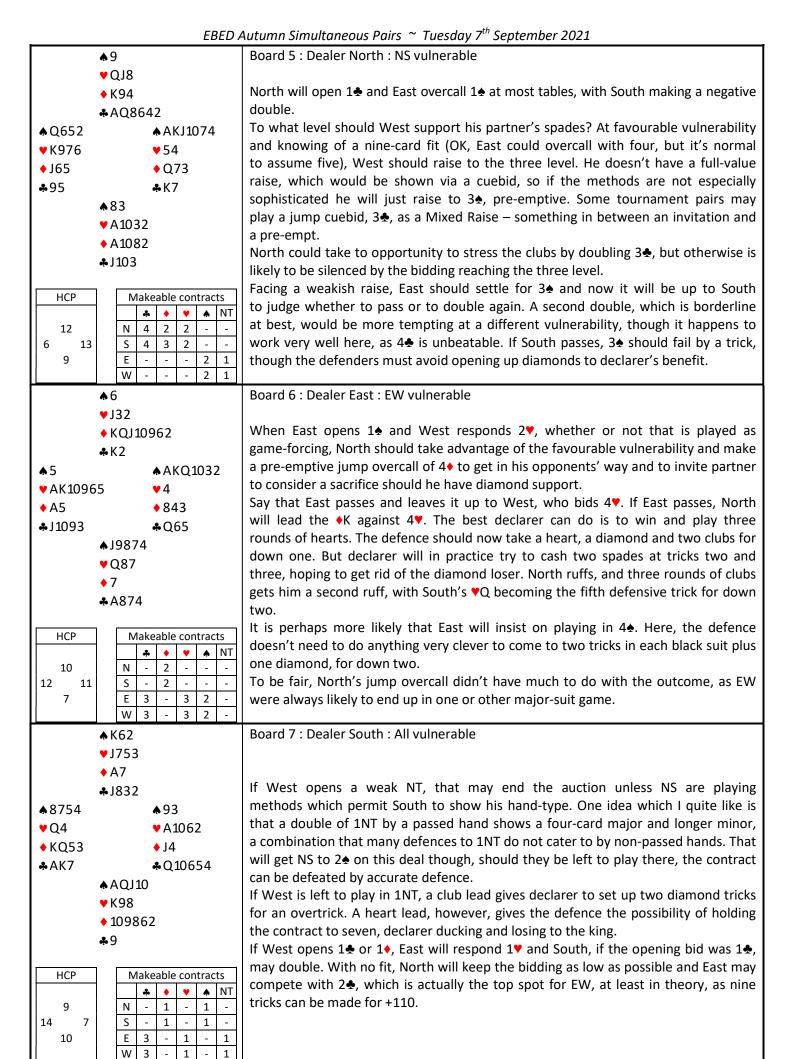
At the majority of tables it is likely to go two passes to South, who may open 1, though there will be those tempted by 1NT, whether playing weak NT or strong. After a pass from West, North will respond 1, and East overcall, probably just a quiet 2. If South rebids 2, it is unclear that anyone has another bid. If 2, ends the auction it can be made exactly if declarer plays for West to have the heart length by taking repeated finesses in the suit. Alternatively, the defence may begin with three rounds of clubs, on the third of which South will pitch the losing spade as west ruffs. Now a heart ruff in the dummy cannot be prevented.

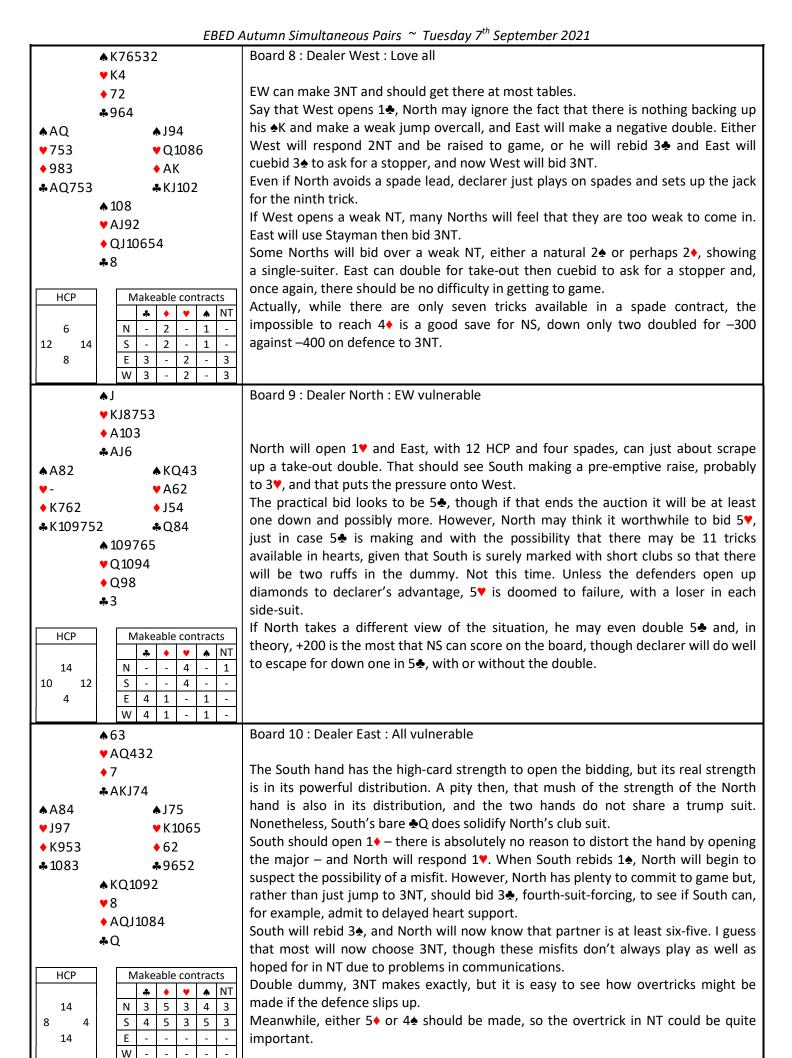
While it would be a little more likely in first seat, there will be some who open 3♣ on the East hand. That would fail by a trick if it concluded the auction, but South is likely to overcall 3♦ and play there. As we have already seen, eight tricks should be the limit in that contract.

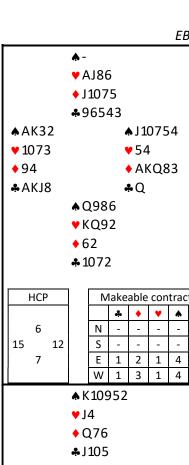
Finally, should anyone declare 1NT on the South cards, he can be prevented from taking more than the seven top tricks, but no doubt some will come to an eighth.



W







Makeable contracts

Board 11: Dealer South: Love all

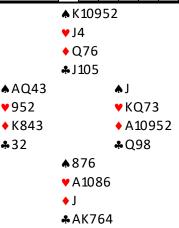
If West opens 1♣, East will respond 1♠ then go on to game over West's simple raise - possibly via a slam try, though it should soon become clear that the partnership is lacking a heart control.

With or without the slam try, South should lead a heart honour, and cashing two heart tricks is what the defence needs to do to score well, as after this start there are only 10 tricks.

If, however, West opens a strong NT, East will transfer to spades and that will see West become declarer. West may well break the transfer, jumping to 3♠ to show a decent hand with four-card support, and now East may cuebid 4♣. With no red-suit control, West has to sign off in game, of course.

For North, a heart lead is much tougher to find, with or without a slam try from East. If he does not find the heart lead, declarer will be able to get rid of dummy's heart losers on the clubs, and now 12 tricks can be made.

Similarly, if West opens 1♠, East may splinter but, once again, North will have a tough lead to find.



| НСР | | Makeable contracts | | | | | |
|-----|----|--------------------|---|---|---|---|----|
| | | | • | • | > | • | NT |
| 7 | | N | 2 | - | - | 2 | - |
| | 12 | S | 2 | - | - | 2 | - |
| 12 | | Ε | - | 2 | 1 | - | - |
| | | W | ı | 2 | 1 | ı | - |

Board 12: Dealer West: NS vulnerable

After two passes, East will open 1♦ and South will double.

West has perfectly adequate diamonds to show support, but also has a very decent-looking spade holding, so will normally respond 1♠.

What North will now do depends on system. Does double show spades or is it suggesting the other two suits? Standard methods here used to be that double showed four spades with some values, while 2♠ showed five spades. However, even if playing that way, North may feel that he is a shade light to bid 2♠ when an opponent has already laid claim to the suit. After all, North does not have an automatic 2♠ bid if West passes over the double, though some might make that bid. So North may compromise with a double for now but will then have to think again when East's 2♦ rebid comes back to him. With both 2♦ and 2♠ makeable, that is a big decision to make, with the vulnerability and potentially wasted ◆Q discouraging a 2♠ bid.

If North's double of 1♠ would show hearts and clubs, he obviously cannot make that call. If 2♠ doesn't appeal, maybe he will try 1NT. That would not be a success, but West would no doubt compete to 2♦ so few will find out what happens to 1NT.

\$ ♦ ♥AQ ♦ KQ108653 **♣**J65 **↑**7532 **♦** KQJ1094 **98765 ¥**3 **•** 9 ♦ AJ4 **♣**Q74 **♣**K109 A6

♥ KJ1042

♦72

♣A832

♠ NT

1

1 4

9 12

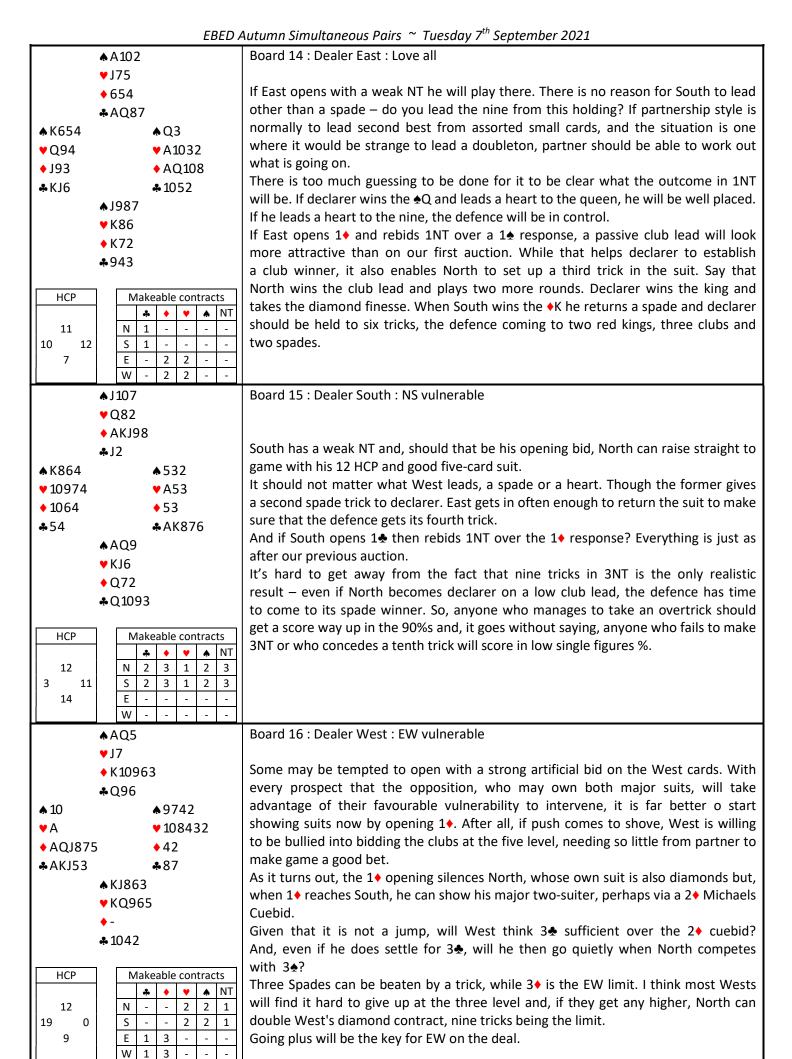
| НСР | | | | Makeable contracts | | | | | | |
|-----|----|----|----|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | | | | | • | • | > | • | Ż | |
| 2 | 12 | | | N | 2 | 3 | 2 | - | 1 | |
| | | 14 | 14 | S | 2 | 3 | 2 | - | 1 | |
| | 12 | | | Ε | - | - | - | 4 | - | |
| | | | | W | - | - | - | 4 | - | |

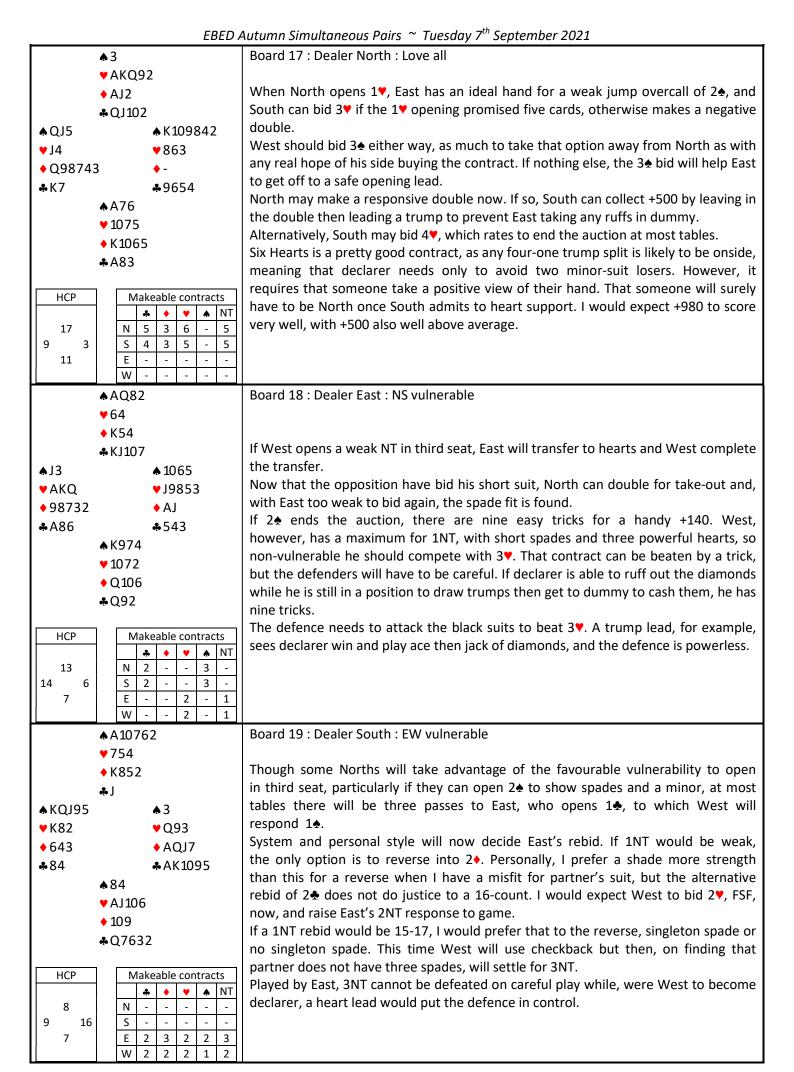
Board 13: Dealer North: All vulnerable

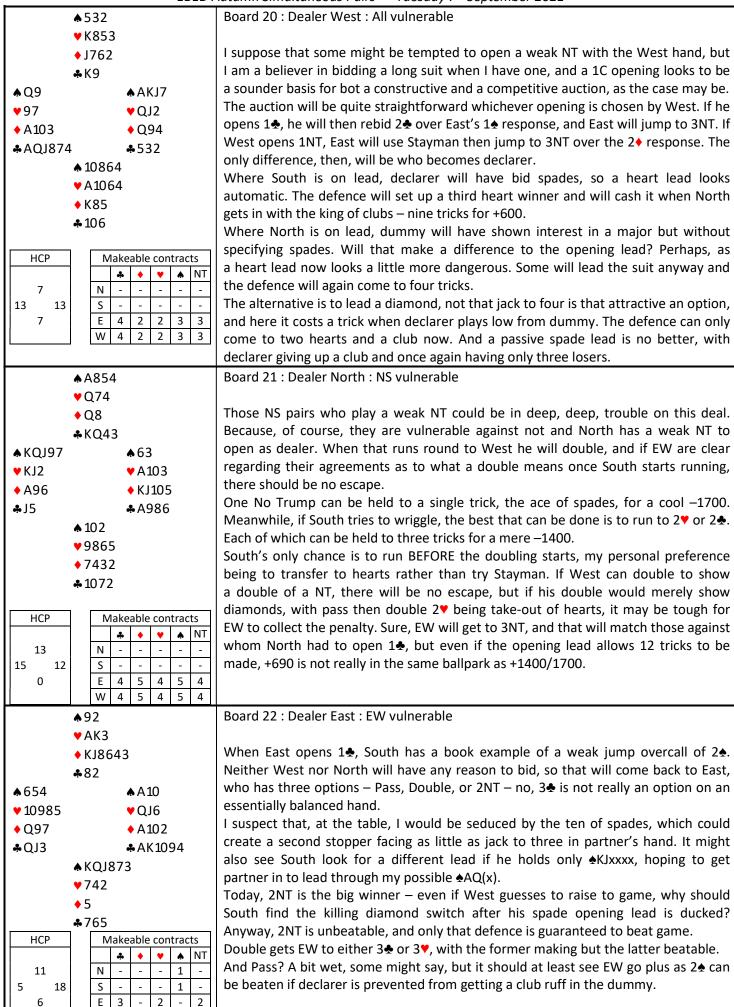
Too good for a pre-empt, North will open 1♦ and East overcall a simple 1♠. South can bid 2♥, and now a brave West will make a pre-emptive jump to 3♠ - points, schmoints, as they say – who needs points when you have four-card trump support and a side-suit singleton?

North will surely repeat the diamonds and East, even facing a pre-empt, has enough to go on to 4♠. If South leaves that round to North, North is likely to go on to 5, and East to double. With two trump entries, East has time to switch to clubs to collect +500.

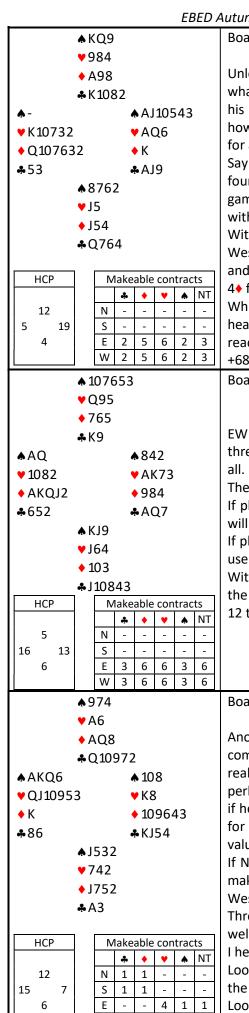
Perhaps, however, South will look at his two low diamonds and quite ordinary hand and double 4♠? With a pass surely forcing in this situation, the double should suggest defending. North may over-rule and bid 5♦ anyway, but if 4♠ doubled becomes the final contract it will be all about finding the jack of clubs, with a lot of matchpoints at stake. It really rates to be a guess. The early play is likely to tell declarer who has the ace of clubs, and the auction also suggests that South will be longer in the suit, but once you place the ace with South, and the suit looks to be four-three with the longer holding also with South, it's pretty much a toss-up who has the jack.







W 3



4

W

Board 23: Dealer South: All vulnerable

Unless playing weak two-suited openings, West will pass and North will open whatever his systemic agreements dictate. If that means 1NT, he will be doubled in his vulnerable weak NT for the second time in only three boards. The good news, however, is that, whether or not South starts to wriggle, West is not going to look for a penalty when holding a six-five hand.

Say that South passes over the double, having no way to describe a hand with four-four in the black suits. Holding the West hand I would be inclined to want to get to game in one of my suits, and with no suit in which to make a cuebid, I might start with 2NT, which is obviously not natural.

With a (semi)-balanced hand, I would expect East to bid 3♣ now to leave room for West to unwind, so when in practice he bids 3♠, he must have a long suit. My clone and I, a partnership for which the bridge world is not yet ready, would now continue: 4♦ from West, both red suits, 4♥ from East, Pass from West.

While the available penalty, even if NS find their club fit, is worth more than the heart game, I would be happy that we had negotiated a tricky bidding problem and reached the best contract available to EW. As the cards lie, there are 12 tricks for +680, but I would not want to be in slam.

Board 24: Dealer West: Love all

EW will have this one to themselves. With both black kings onside and heart three-three, there are 12 tricks in NT and no good reason not to come to them all

The play is relatively straightforward and so is the bidding.

If playing a weak NT, West will open 1♦ and rebid 1NT over the 1♥ response – East will simply raise to game.

If playing a strong NT, this is what West will open. East, with two weak suits, should use Stayman, but will then settle for 3NT over the 2 response.

With neither North nor South having the semblance of a bid, it is hard to see how the contract can be anything other than 3NT by EW, and those who fail to come to 12 tricks should score very poorly.

Board 25: Dealer North: EW vulnerable

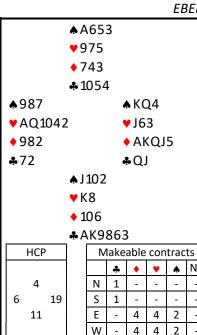
Another weak NT for North but this time non-vulnerable, which may come as some comfort after recent boards. That will run round to West, who has 15 HCP but not really the right distribution for a double. More likely he will either overcall in hearts, perhaps with a jump if that is played as strong in pass-out seat, or show both majors if he has a way to do so. Say that West bids 2♣, both majors; East can bid 2♦ to ask for the longer major, and now West jumps to 3♥ to show longer hearts and extra values. Is that sufficient to see East raise to game? Probably not.

If North opens 1♣, South will respond 1♠ and West overcall 2♥. Perhaps North will make a Support Double, showing three spades, and South bid 2♠. That will cause West a problem. If he passes, 2♠ may be down two for only –100, while 3♥ is cold. Three Hearts is cold, did I say? Well, even 4♥ cannot be beaten if declarer guesses

well in clubs. What about declarer's fourth spade if the defence draws trumps, do I hear you ask?

Look carefully at those spade spots around the table. If declarer leads the ♠10 from the table and runs it if South plays low, he has four spade tricks. And if South covers? Look again at the spot cards.

On a different layout, South may also fail to cover with jack to three or four spades when doing so would prevent declarer from getting the fourth trick in the suit.



Board 26: Dealer East: All vulnerable

Board 27: Dealer South: Love all

the red suits.

When East opens $1 \blacklozenge$, South has a normal $2 \clubsuit$ overcall.

Some Wests will now pass, and East will make a reopening double. As East would reopen with any hand that was short in clubs, even with a minimum opening, West may content himself with a guiet 2 and that may end the auction.

Some Wests may make a negative double over 2♣. Though the ♣QJ are of questionable value, East does have 19 HCP, so is likely to cuebid 3♣ in response to a double. West will, of course, bid 3♥, and now East will either raise to 4♥, hoping to find partner with a fifth card, or will try 3NT, arguing that partner should know that the club position is somewhat tenuous or he would have bid 3NT a round earlier. With five good hearts and two low clubs, West may/should go back to hearts.

Four Hearts is essentially on playing hearts without loss and, with the finesse being through the hand that could overcall at the two level, the odds are that this will be possible. Plus 620 should score pretty well.

Some will open a weak NT with the West cards and North will double. East has no

reason to run, and South may also pass. If so, West may rescue himself to 2♠, which

happens to be the best spot for his side. While 2♠ will not always make, it is

unbeatable if declarer reads the position to be as it is, as North can be endplayed in

Where West opens 1♠, North will have the options of doubling or overcalling 1NT.

Because spades is my shortest suit and I cannot duck in the suit, having only a doubleton

king, and because I have four cards in the unbid major, I would choose to double. My

double world champion wife, however, would overcall 1NT, arguing that this describes

both the shape and strength of the hand in one go (it also makes her declarer, of

If North doubles and East passes, South will bid 2♣ and North should pass. Two Clubs makes OK, but East will probably compete in spades, despite his quite liking a club contract. East may also bid either 1NT or 2♠ over North's double, either of which

course, which she believes to be the right thing for her partnership on any deal). The 1NT overcall may end the auction, making exactly after a spade lead, or may see

East compete with 2♠ if West has promised five cards in the suit.

may end the auction. Many possibilities on a small deal.

♦ K10

- ▼AQ75
- ♦ KQ108
- **♣**Q53
- **A**AQ943
- **♥**K94
- ♦ A96
- **\$**82
- **♠**876
 - **1062**
 - **♦**753
 - ♣KJ107

| H | HCP | | |
|----|---------|---|---|
| 13 | 16 4 | 7 | - |

| | Makeable contracts | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|---|---|---|----|--|--|--|
| | | * | • | • | ٨ | ΝT | | | |
| I | Ν | 2 | 1 | 2 | - | 1 | | | |
| | S | 2 | 1 | 2 | - | 1 | | | |
| | Ε | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ı | | | |
| | W | - | - | - | 2 | - | | | |

♠KQ96

♥J64

♦ J 10

♣KJ82

♦J52

♥J83

♦ J42

♣A964

Board 28: Dealer West: NS vulnerable

If North opens 1♠ he will probably play there. The defence has to do quite well to beat 1♠. Say that East leads a diamond, declarer ducks a spade and a second diamond is played. Declarer plays ace and a third spade, and is in control despite the three trump losers. The defenders need to attack a different side-suit, preferably

hearts, to gain control. If North opens 1♦, East is close to having a take-out double, which means that some players will indeed double. The vulnerability may discourage South from making the pre-emptive raise to 3♦ that his hand really justifies, so he may settle for a quiet 2♦. West has an easy 2♥, North may double or bid 3♦, and 3♦ should be the final

If North opens 1♣, East will pass and so might South, though some will surely dredge up a 1♦ response. West might overcall 1♥ over either 1♣ or 1♦, though pass would hardly be a ridiculous alternative. It is unlikely to matter. If North raises a 1♦ response to 3, we have already seen that this is unbeatable. If he prefers to rebid 2NT, or just 1NT facing a pass, it takes a club lead, while the diamonds are blocked, to prevent an eighth trick in a NT contract, and East will lead a heart if partner has bid the suit, otherwise perhaps a spade.

Should EW compete in hearts, a spade ruff is required to hold them to seven tricks.

♠ AJ53 **♥** A 10

- ♦ AKQ9
- **\$1094**
- **1**042 **↑ ♥**KQ752
- **♦**52
- **♣**Q53
 - **♠**87 **983**
 - **♦**87643 ♣A76

| Makeable contracts | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| | ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT | | | | | | | |
| Ν | - | 3 | - | - | 1 | | | |
| S | - | 3 | - | - | 1 | | | |
| Е | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | | | |
| W | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | | | |

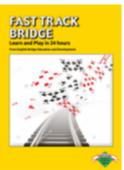
contract either way. There are nine easy tricks.



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Beginning Bridge Book 1 is ideal for those who want to learn using the 'traditional' method of a lesson once a week, for three terms. It progresses at a steady pace, allowing more time to digest each topic. The cost is £26 plus P&P

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