

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

<p>♠9864 ♥A73 ♦1094 ♣K107</p> <p>♠KJ52 ♠Q73 ♥KQ65 ♥J4 ♦J73 ♦85 ♣43 ♣AQ9862</p> <p>♠A10 ♥10982 ♦AKQ62 ♣J5</p>		<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>																																																									
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<p>♠A2 ♥AK1082 ♦AK74 ♣Q3</p> <p>♠K1074 ♠J863 ♥Q7 ♥965 ♦QJ6 ♦10983 ♣J986 ♣54</p> <p>♠Q95 ♥J43 ♦52 ♣AK1072</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>20</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</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><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		20		9	1	10		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	5	4	6	2	6		S	6	5	6	2	6		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <p>At most tables there are likely to be three passes to North, who has a choice between opening 1♥ and 2NT. I would expect a big majority to opt for 2NT. Those who can ask for five-card majors should do so as it is easy to see that there is a potential weak spot in diamonds, and that a diamond ruff might provide an extra trick if a five-three fit does exist. When North responds 3♥ to the 3♣ inquiry, South raises to game – possibly via a 4♣ cuebid, as slam is far from being impossible given South’s potential source of tricks.</p> <p>Twelve tricks are easy to find in a heart contract – five hearts, three clubs, two diamonds, a spade, and a diamond ruff. Of course it is a borderline contract, which could easily fail on a different layout, one that you only know if you want to be in after you have played several tricks.</p> <p>Twelve tricks are also possible in NT, though a spade lead makes this a bit of a double dummy problem. To come to the twelfth trick, declarer must not put up the ♠Q at trick one, instead playing low and winning the ace. He then cashes all the red tricks and the queen and ace of clubs, then exits with the ♠Q to West’s by now bare king, and West has to lead away from the ♣J at trick 12.</p>
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<p>♠1072 ♥82 ♦A843 ♣Q954</p> <p>♠AJ643 ♠9 ♥4 ♥KQJ10653 ♦KJ7 ♦965 ♣K632 ♣J7</p> <p>♠KQ85 ♥A97 ♦Q102 ♣A108</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		6		12	7	15		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	1	-	2	2		S	2	1	-	2	2		E	-	-	3	-	-		W	-	-	3	-	-		<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <p>If South opens 1♠, North may raise to 2♠ even if 1♠ only promised four cards – this often gets to the better partscore when responder has a weak doubleton in a side suit. East will overcall 3♥ and that should end the auction. If anyone does bid further, they will go minus.</p> <p>Where North prefers to respond 1NT, East may make a weak jump overcall of 3♥ and, again, that should silence everyone. As the cards lie there are nine tricks but should not be a tenth.</p> <p>The most complicated auction may occur where South opens 1NT, 15-17, and West overcalls 2♠, perhaps showing spades and a minor. East has to find a way to get to play in hearts. Is 3♥ forcing over 2♠? What about trying a 2NT inquiry for the minor, then following through with 3♥ over the 3♣ response? One should be forcing, the other not. Does your partnership know which is which? I confess that I don’t remember discussing the matter in my most regular partnership.</p>
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<p>♠K6 ♥Q754 ♦K10642 ♣84</p> <p>♠AJ872 ♠Q1094 ♥8 ♥KJ63 ♦J85 ♦973 ♣10753 ♣92</p> <p>♠53 ♥A1092 ♦AQ ♣AKQJ6</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>20</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</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><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		8		6	6	20		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	5	5	5	1	3		S	5	5	5	1	3		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <p>One Club or 2NT? For the second time in our four boards to date, one of North and South has this decision to make. There is more case for 1♣ this time than there was for 1♥ previously, simply because the South hand contains a small doubleton. Nonetheless, I would bet on the majority choosing to open 2NT, and that may well be the long term winning action. North will ask about majors and South become declarer in 4♥.</p> <p>Eleven tricks can be made if declarer finds a winning line, but it is by no means automatic to do so.</p> <p>Ace and another spade would see declarer in dummy and it would now be natural to get hearts right by leading low to the ten, but that isn’t a likely defence.</p> <p>On a club or diamond lead declarer may not want to commit to an early spade play – he may not need to risk the loss of two spade tricks at all if he can get rid of spades on his minor-suit winners – and he may be tempted to play on clubs immediately, running into a ruff. Or he may play ace and another heart. Either of these lines of play will at best mean no overtrick.</p>
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<div><div><div>♠ 6</div><div>♥ J32</div><div>♦ KQJ10962</div><div>♣ K2</div></div><div><div>♠ 5</div><div>♥ AK10965</div><div>♦ A5</div><div>♣ J1093</div></div><div><div>♠ AKQ1032</div><div>♥ 4</div><div>♦ 843</div><div>♣ Q65</div></div><div><div>♠ J9874</div><div>♥ Q87</div><div>♦ 7</div><div>♣ A874</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>7</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		10	11	12	7	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	2	-	-	-		S	-	2	-	-	-		E	3	-	3	2	-		W	3	-	3	2	-		<div>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</div> <div>When East opens 1♠ and West responds 2♥, whether or not that is played as game-forcing, North should take advantage of the favourable vulnerability and make a pre-emptive jump overcall of 4♦ to get in his opponents' way and to invite partner to consider a sacrifice should he have diamond support.</div> <div>Say that East passes and leaves it up to West, who bids 4♥. If East passes, North will lead the ♦K against 4♥. The best declarer can do is to win and play three rounds of hearts. The defence should now take a heart, a diamond and two clubs for down one. But declarer will in practice try to cash two spades at tricks two and three, hoping to get rid of the diamond loser. North ruffs, and three rounds of clubs gets him a second ruff, with South's ♥Q becoming the fifth defensive trick for down two.</div> <div>It is perhaps more likely that East will insist on playing in 4♠. Here, the defence doesn't need to do anything very clever to come to two tricks in each black suit plus one diamond, for down two.</div> <div>To be fair, North's jump overcall didn't have much to do with the outcome, as EW were always likely to end up in one or other major-suit game.</div>
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<div><div><div>♠ K62</div><div>♥ J753</div><div>♦ A7</div><div>♣ J832</div></div><div><div>♠ 8754</div><div>♥ Q4</div><div>♦ KQ53</div><div>♣ AK7</div></div><div><div>♠ 93</div><div>♥ A1062</div><div>♦ J4</div><div>♣ Q10654</div></div><div><div>♠ AQJ10</div><div>♥ K98</div><div>♦ 109862</div><div>♣ 9</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>10</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		9	7	14	10	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	1	-	1	-		S	-	1	-	1	-		E	3	-	1	-	1		W	3	-	1	-	1		<div>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</div> <div>If West opens a weak NT, that may end the auction unless NS are playing methods which permit South to show his hand-type. One idea which I quite like is that a double of 1NT by a passed hand shows a four-card major and longer minor, a combination that many defences to 1NT do not cater to by non-passed hands. That will get NS to 2♠ on this deal though, should they be left to play there, the contract can be defeated by accurate defence.</div> <div>If West is left to play in 1NT, a club lead gives declarer to set up two diamond tricks for an overtrick. A heart lead, however, gives the defence the possibility of holding the contract to seven, declarer ducking and losing to the king.</div> <div>If West opens 1♣ or 1♦, East will respond 1♥ and South, if the opening bid was 1♣, may double. With no fit, North will keep the bidding as low as possible and East may compete with 2♣, which is actually the top spot for EW, at least in theory, as nine tricks can be made for +110.</div>
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<p>♠K76532 ♥K4 ♦72 ♣964</p> <p>♠AQ ♠J94 ♥753 ♥Q1086 ♦983 ♦AK ♣AQ753 ♣KJ102</p> <p>♠108 ♥AJ92 ♦QJ10654 ♣8</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <p>EW can make 3NT and should get there at most tables.</p> <p>Say that West opens 1♣, North may ignore the fact that there is nothing backing up his ♠K and make a weak jump overcall, and East will make a negative double. Either West will respond 2NT and be raised to game, or he will rebid 3♣ and East will cuebid 3♠ to ask for a stopper, and now West will bid 3NT.</p> <p>Even if North avoids a spade lead, declarer just plays on spades and sets up the jack for the ninth trick.</p> <p>If West opens a weak NT, many Norths will feel that they are too weak to come in. East will use Stayman then bid 3NT.</p> <p>Some Norths will bid over a weak NT, either a natural 2♠ or perhaps 2♦, showing a single-suiter. East can double for take-out then cuebid to ask for a stopper and, once again, there should be no difficulty in getting to game.</p> <p>Actually, while there are only seven tricks available in a spade contract, the impossible to reach 4♦ is a good save for NS, down only two doubled for –300 against –400 on defence to 3NT.</p>																																																
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<p>♠J ♥KJ8753 ♦A103 ♣AJ6</p> <p>♠A82 ♠KQ43 ♥- ♥A62 ♦K762 ♦J54 ♣K109752 ♣Q84</p> <p>♠109765 ♥Q1094 ♦Q98 ♣3</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <p>North will open 1♥ and East, with 12 HCP and four spades, can just about scrape up a take-out double. That should see South making a pre-emptive raise, probably to 3♥, and that puts the pressure onto West.</p> <p>The practical bid looks to be 5♣, though if that ends the auction it will be at least one down and possibly more. However, North may think it worthwhile to bid 5♥, just in case 5♣ is making and with the possibility that there may be 11 tricks available in hearts, given that South is surely marked with short clubs so that there will be two ruffs in the dummy. Not this time. Unless the defenders open up diamonds to declarer’s advantage, 5♥ is doomed to failure, with a loser in each side-suit.</p> <p>If North takes a different view of the situation, he may even double 5♣ and, in theory, +200 is the most that NS can score on the board, though declarer will do well to escape for down one in 5♣, with or without the double.</p>																																																
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<p>♠63 ♥AQ432 ♦7 ♣AKJ74</p> <p>♠A84 ♠J75 ♥J97 ♥K1065 ♦K953 ♦62 ♣1083 ♣9652</p> <p>♠KQ1092 ♥8 ♦AQJ1084 ♣Q</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <p>The South hand has the high-card strength to open the bidding, but its real strength is in its powerful distribution. A pity then, that much of the strength of the North hand is also in its distribution, and the two hands do not share a trump suit. Nonetheless, South’s bare ♣Q does solidify North’s club suit.</p> <p>South should open 1♦ – there is absolutely no reason to distort the hand by opening the major – and North will respond 1♥. When South rebids 1♠, North will begin to suspect the possibility of a misfit. However, North has plenty to commit to game but, rather than just jump to 3NT, should bid 3♣, fourth-suit-forcing, to see if South can, for example, admit to delayed heart support.</p> <p>South will rebid 3♠, and North will now know that partner is at least six-five. I guess that most will now choose 3NT, though these misfits don’t always play as well as hoped for in NT due to problems in communications.</p> <p>Double dummy, 3NT makes exactly, but it is easy to see how overtricks might be made if the defence slips up.</p> <p>Meanwhile, either 5♦ or 4♠ should be made, so the overtrick in NT could be quite important.</p>																																																
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<p>♠ - ♥ AJ86 ♦ J1075 ♣ 96543</p> <p>♠ AK32 ♠ J10754 ♥ 1073 ♥ 54 ♦ 94 ♦ AKQ83 ♣ AKJ8 ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ Q986 ♥ KQ92 ♦ 62 ♣ 1072</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>7</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</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><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		6	12	15	7	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	1	2	1	4	3		W	1	3	1	4	3		<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Similarly, if West opens 1♠, East may splinter but, once again, North will have a tough lead to find.</p>
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<p>♠ K10952 ♥ J4 ♦ Q76 ♣ J105</p> <p>♠ AQ43 ♠ J ♥ 952 ♥ KQ73 ♦ K843 ♦ A10952 ♣ 32 ♣ Q98</p> <p>♠ 876 ♥ A1086 ♦ J ♣ AK764</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>12</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		7	12	9	12	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	-	-	2	-		S	2	-	-	2	-		E	-	2	1	-	-		W	-	2	1	-	-		<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <p>After two passes, East will open 1♦ and South will double.</p> <p>West has perfectly adequate diamonds to show support, but also has a very decent-looking spade holding, so will normally respond 1♠.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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<p>♠ 8 ♥ AQ ♦ KQ108653 ♣ J65</p> <p>♠ 7532 ♠ KQJ1094 ♥ 98765 ♥ 3 ♦ 9 ♦ AJ4 ♣ Q74 ♣ K109</p> <p>♠ A6 ♥ KJ1042 ♦ 72 ♣ A832</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>12</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		12	14	2	12	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	3	2	-	1		S	2	3	2	-	1		E	-	-	-	4	-		W	-	-	-	4	-		<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <p>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, schmoins, as they say – who needs points when you have four-card trump support and a side-suit singleton?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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<div><div><div>♠ AQ82</div><div>♥ 64</div><div>♦ K54</div><div>♣ KJ107</div></div><div><div>♠ J3</div><div>♥ AKQ</div><div>♦ 98732</div><div>♣ A86</div></div><div><div>♠ 1065</div><div>♥ J9853</div><div>♦ AJ</div><div>♣ 543</div></div><div><div>♠ K974</div><div>♥ 1072</div><div>♦ Q106</div><div>♣ Q92</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>7</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		13	6	14	7	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	-	-	3	-		S	2	-	-	3	-		E	-	-	2	-	1		W	-	-	2	-	1		<div>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</div> <div>If West opens a weak NT in third seat, East will transfer to hearts and West complete the transfer.</div> <div>Now that the opposition have bid his short suit, North can double for take-out and, with East too weak to bid again, the spade fit is found.</div> <div>If 2♠ ends the auction, there are nine easy tricks for a handy +140. West, however, has a maximum for 1NT, with short spades and three powerful hearts, so non-vulnerable he should compete with 3♥. That contract can be beaten by a trick, but the defenders will have to be careful. If declarer is able to ruff out the diamonds while he is still in a position to draw trumps then get to dummy to cash them, he has nine tricks.</div> <div>The defence needs to attack the black suits to beat 3♥. A trump lead, for example, sees declarer win and play ace then jack of diamonds, and the defence is powerless.</div>
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<div><div><div>♠ A10762</div><div>♥ 754</div><div>♦ K852</div><div>♣ J</div></div><div><div>♠ KQJ95</div><div>♥ K82</div><div>♦ 643</div><div>♣ 84</div></div><div><div>♠ 3</div><div>♥ Q93</div><div>♦ AQJ7</div><div>♣ AK1095</div></div><div><div>♠ 84</div><div>♥ AJ106</div><div>♦ 109</div><div>♣ Q7632</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>7</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</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><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		8	16	9	7	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	2	3	2	2	3		W	2	2	2	1	2		<div>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</div> <div>Though some Norths will take advantage of the favourable vulnerability to open in third seat, particularly if they can open 2♠ to show spades and a minor, at most tables there will be three passes to East, who opens 1♣, to which West will respond 1♠.</div> <div>System and personal style will now decide East's rebid. If 1NT would be weak, the only option is to reverse into 2♦. Personally, I prefer a shade more strength than this for a reverse when I have a misfit for partner's suit, but the alternative rebid of 2♣ does not do justice to a 16-count. I would expect West to bid 2♥, FSF, now, and raise East's 2NT response to game.</div> <div>If a 1NT rebid would be 15-17, I would prefer that to the reverse, singleton spade or no singleton spade. This time West will use checkback but then, on finding that partner does not have three spades, will settle for 3NT.</div> <div>Played by East, 3NT cannot be defeated on careful play while, were West to become declarer, a heart lead would put the defence in control.</div>
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<p>♠532 ♥K853 ♦J762 ♣K9</p> <p>♠Q9 ♠AKJ7 ♥97 ♥QJ2 ♦A103 ♦Q94 ♣AQJ874 ♣532</p> <p>♠10864 ♥A1064 ♦K85 ♣106</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</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><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		7		13	13	7		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	4	2	2	3	3		W	4	2	2	3	3		<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <p>I suppose that some might be tempted to open a weak NT with the West hand, but I am a believer in bidding a long suit when I have one, and a 1C opening looks to be a sounder basis for bot a constructive and a competitive auction, as the case may be. The auction will be quite straightforward whichever opening is chosen by West. If he opens 1♣, he will then rebid 2♣ over East’s 1♠ response, and East will jump to 3NT. If West opens 1NT, East will use Stayman then jump to 3NT over the 2♦ response. The only difference, then, will be who becomes declarer.</p> <p>Where South is on lead, declarer will have bid spades, so a heart lead looks automatic. The defence will set up a third heart winner and will cash it when North gets in with the king of clubs – nine tricks for +600.</p> <p>Where North is on lead, dummy will have shown interest in a major but without specifying spades. Will that make a difference to the opening lead? Perhaps, as a heart lead now looks a little more dangerous. Some will lead the suit anyway and the defence will again come to four tricks.</p> <p>The alternative is to lead a diamond, not that jack to four is that attractive an option, and here it costs a trick when declarer plays low from dummy. The defence can only come to two hearts and a club now. And a passive spade lead is no better, with declarer giving up a club and once again having only three losers.</p>
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<p>♠A854 ♥Q74 ♦Q8 ♣KQ43</p> <p>♠KQJ97 ♠63 ♥KJ2 ♥A103 ♦A96 ♦KJ105 ♣J5 ♣A986</p> <p>♠102 ♥9865 ♦7432 ♣1072</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>0</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</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><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		13		15	12	0		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	4	5	4	5	4		W	4	5	4	5	4		<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <p>Those NS pairs who play a weak NT could be in deep, deep, trouble on this deal. Because, of course, they are vulnerable against not and North has a weak NT to open as dealer. When that runs round to West he will double, and if EW are clear regarding their agreements as to what a double means once South starts running, there should be no escape.</p> <p>One No Trump can be held to a single trick, the ace of spades, for a cool –1700. Meanwhile, if South tries to wriggle, the best that can be done is to run to 2♥ or 2♣. Each of which can be held to three tricks for a mere –1400.</p> <p>South’s only chance is to run BEFORE the doubling starts, my personal preference being to transfer to hearts rather than try Stayman. If West can double to show a double of a NT, there will be no escape, but if his double would merely show diamonds, with pass then double 2♥ being take-out of hearts, it may be tough for EW to collect the penalty. Sure, EW will get to 3NT, and that will match those against whom North had to open 1♣, but even if the opening lead allows 12 tricks to be made, +690 is not really in the same ballpark as +1400/1700.</p>
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<p>♠92 ♥AK3 ♦KJ8643 ♣82</p> <p>♠654 ♠A10 ♥10985 ♥QJ6 ♦Q97 ♦A102 ♣QJ3 ♣AK1094</p> <p>♠KQJ873 ♥742 ♦5 ♣765</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		11		5	18	6		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	1	-		S	-	-	-	1	-		E	3	-	2	-	2		W	3	-	2	-	2		<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <p>When East opens 1♣, South has a book example of a weak jump overcall of 2♠. Neither West nor North will have any reason to bid, so that will come back to East, who has three options – Pass, Double, or 2NT – no, 3♣ is not really an option on an essentially balanced hand.</p> <p>I suspect that, at the table, I would be seduced by the ten of spades, which could create a second stopper facing as little as jack to three in partner’s hand. It might also see South look for a different lead if he holds only ♠KJxxxx, hoping to get partner in to lead through my possible ♠AQ(x).</p> <p>Today, 2NT is the big winner – even if West guesses to raise to game, why should South find the killing diamond switch after his spade opening lead is ducked? Anyway, 2NT is unbeatable, and only that defence is guaranteed to beat game. Double gets EW to either 3♣ or 3♥, with the former making but the latter beatable. And Pass? A bit wet, some might say, but it should at least see EW go plus as 2♠ can be beaten if declarer is prevented from getting a club ruff in the dummy.</p>
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<p>♠KQ9 ♥984 ♦A98 ♣K1082</p> <p>♠- ♠AJ10543 ♥K10732 ♥AQ6 ♦Q107632 ♦K ♣53 ♣AJ9</p> <p>♠8762 ♥J5 ♦J54 ♣Q764</p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>																																										
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<p>♠107653 ♥Q95 ♦765 ♣K9</p> <p>♠AQ ♠842 ♥1082 ♥AK73 ♦AKQJ2 ♦984 ♣652 ♣AQ7</p> <p>♠KJ9 ♥J64 ♦103 ♣J10843</p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>																																										
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<div><div><div>♠K10</div><div>♥AQ75</div><div>♦KQ108</div><div>♣Q53</div></div><div><div>♠AQ943</div><div>♥K94</div><div>♦A96</div><div>♣82</div></div><div><div>♠J52</div><div>♥J83</div><div>♦J42</div><div>♣A964</div></div><div><div>♠876</div><div>♥1062</div><div>♦753</div><div>♣KJ107</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th><th></th><th></th></tr><tr><td>16</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP			16			13	7		4			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	1	2	-	1		S	2	1	2	-	1		E	-	-	-	1	-		W	-	-	-	2	-		<div>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</div> <div>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 the red suits.</div> <div>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 course, which she believes to be the right thing for her partnership on any deal).</div> <div>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.</div> <div>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 may end the auction. Many possibilities on a small deal.</div>
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