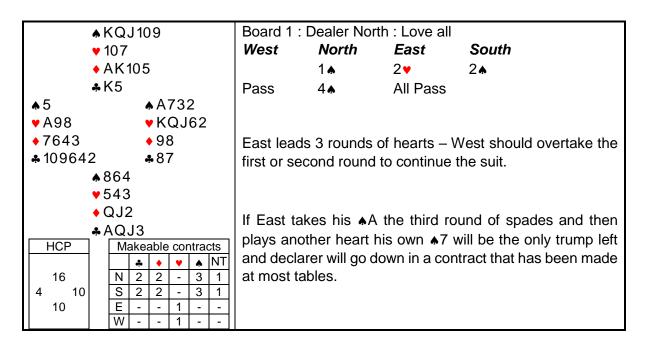
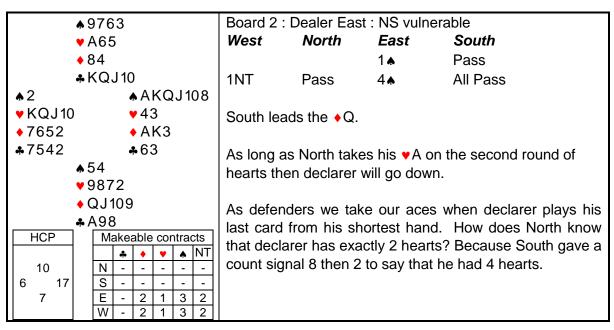
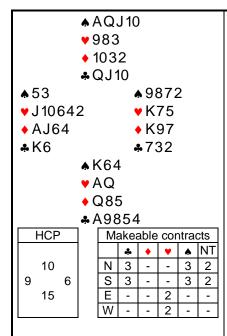
FOB Commentary – Thursday 2nd February 2023







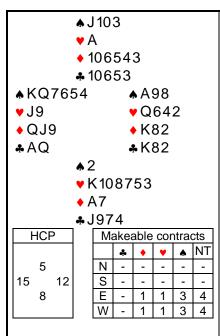
Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable			
West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West leads ♥6 and when East plays the ♥K West knows that declarer has ♥A and ♥Q.

West can count 10 tricks for declarer (4 spades, 4 clubs and 2 hearts) so he knows his only chance to defeat 3NT is to switch to a diamond.

West switches to the ◆4 when he gets in with the ♣K and East wins and returns a diamond. 3NT-1.

If West wanted East to return his original heart suit he would switch to a highish diamond spot card – expressing no interest in a diamond continuation.

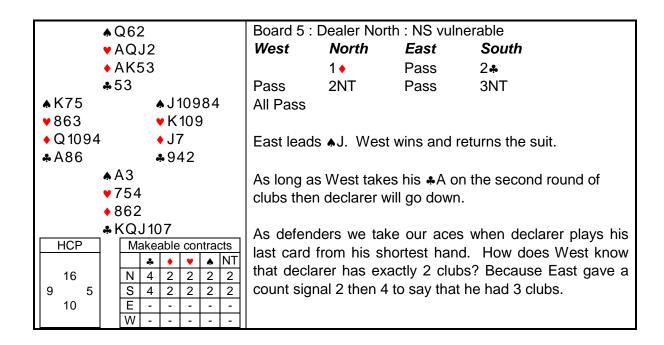


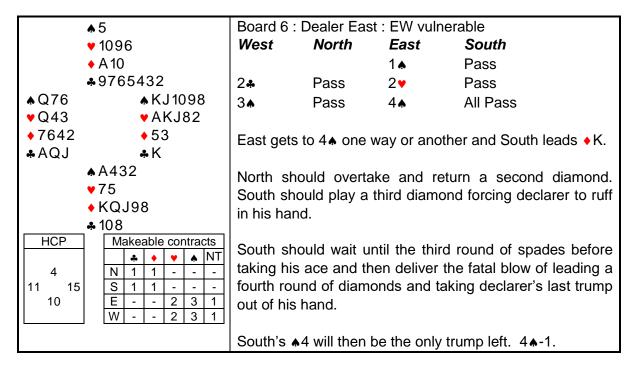
Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable			
West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2.	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

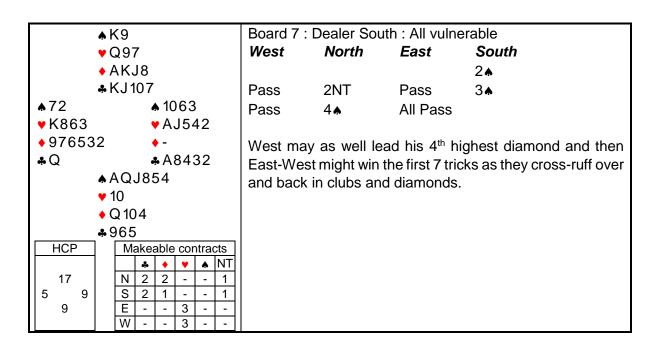
West plays in 4♠ and North leads his singleton ♥A.

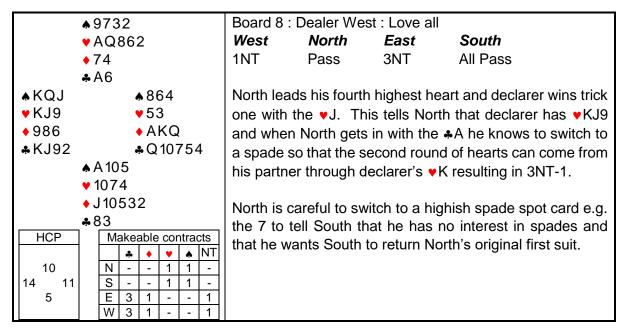
South should recognise this as a singleton and help his partner to find the diamond switch by playing the ♥10 on the first trick – a suit preference signal showing interest in the higher of the two remaining suits outside of trumps i.e. diamonds.

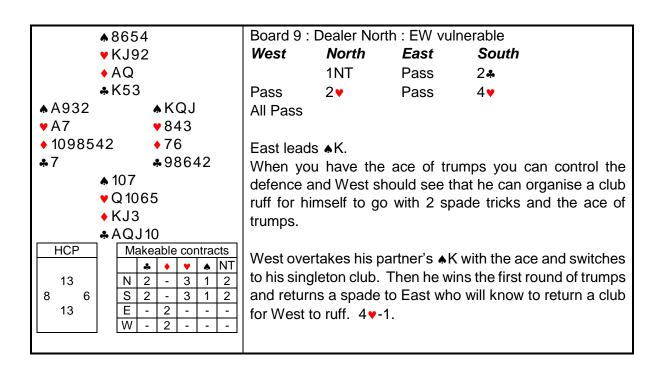
North switches to a diamond and South wins with the \bullet A, cashes his \bullet K and leads another heart thereby promoting his partner's \bullet J into the setting trick. $4 \bullet$ -1.

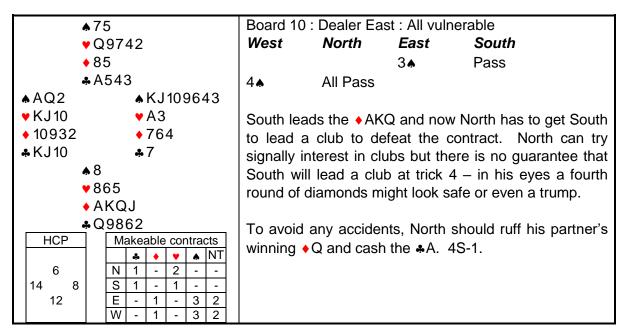


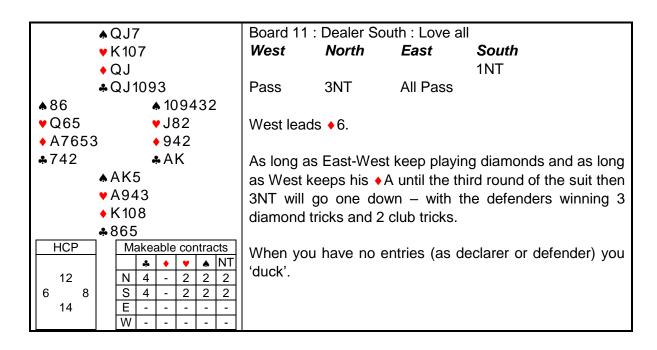


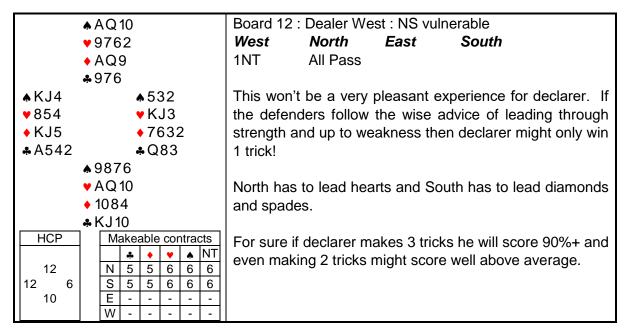


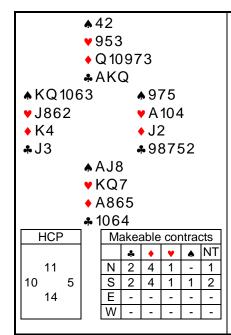












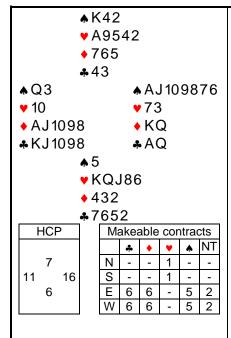
Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable

West North East South
Pass Pass 1NT

2 3NT All Pass

West leads **\(\)**K and declarer ducks (Bath Coup). It is really important that East gives a discouraging attitude signal here and it is even more important for West to read the signal correctly.

If East had either the ♠A or the ♠J he would have encouraged the opening lead so when he discourages he is telling West that declarer has both of those cards and West knows to switch to a heart at trick 2 (♥8). East wins and returns a spade and now 3NT-1.



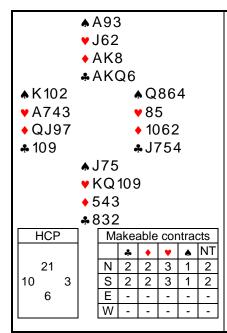
Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all			
North	East	South	
	1♠	Pass	
Pass	3♠	Pass	
Pass	5♥	Pass	
All Pass			
	North Pass Pass	North East 1 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass 5 ♥	

South leads ♥K.

North should see that if he can get South to play a second heart thereby forcing dummy to ruff, that his **&**K will become a winner because declarer will not be able to catch it.

The problem is that if declarer tries to encourage the heart lead that South will interpret the signal as a suit preference signal and will switch suits or worse still play a trump at trick 2.

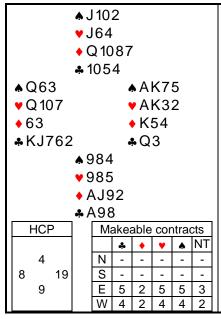
But why should North allow South the chance to go wrong when he can see the winning defence himself – simply win trick one with ♥A and return a second round of hearts and then sit back and wait for the setting trick with the ♠K.



Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable			
West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East leads ★4 and dummy should play small. If dummy plays the ★J then West has an easy cover with the ★K and as long as West ducks the ♥A until the 3rd round of hearts then declarer will only make 8 tricks.

However, if declarer correctly plays small from dummy at trick one, West should keep the $\bigstar K$ for $\bigstar J$ and instead insert the $\bigstar 10$ at trick one. Playing the $\bigstar K$ on 'thin air' at trick one will mean that dummy's $\bigstar J$ will eventually be a winner and an entry to the 4^{th} heart.



Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable			
West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

2♥ would be a good response by West and that would lead to 3NT being played from the right side.

North leads his 4th highest diamond and of course declarer should play small from dummy − if South beats his partner's ◆7 then declarer will make 9 or 10 or maybe even 11 tricks.

South should use the 'Rule of 11' to work out that declarer cannot beat the ◆7 and therefore South should let the ◆7 run. The defence win the first 5 tricks.

