



SBU Simultaneous Pairs

Session No: 7229

Wednesday 26 October

Commentary by Liz McGowan

1	♠ K32 ♥ 975 ♦ AKT7 ♣ AKQ	Dlr: N Vul: None																									
♠ Q7 ♥ Q2 ♦ J962 ♣ JT753	N W E S	♠ JT54 ♥ T83 ♦ Q853 ♣ 86																									
	♠ A986 ♥ AKJ64 ♦ 4 ♣ 942	<table><tr><td>♠</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♣</td><td>N</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	♠	♦	♥	♣	N	N	5	4	6	6	S	5	4	6	6	E	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-
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31 HCP are not usually considered enough for 6NT, just as well here. Deep Finesse drops the ♥Q offside, the rest of us go down by finessing. 6♥ requires the same view when the short trump hand has no ruffing values. How to avoid two trump losers in 6♠? Start spades by leading ♠9 from South. If West covers win the ♠K and lead towards ♠A86; if not run the ♠9, later cash the ♠K to fell the ♠Q and finesse the ♠8. Dream on!

2	♠ JT5 ♥ 97 ♦ A7532 ♣ 732	Dlr: E Vul: NS																														
♠ K86432 ♥ J842 ♦ J ♣ K8	N W E S	♠ 7 ♥ AKQT3 ♦ 9864 ♣ AQT																														
	♠ AQ9 ♥ 65 ♦ KQT ♣ J9654	<table><tr><th></th><th>♠</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♣</th><th>N</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>-</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr></table>		♠	♦	♥	♣	N	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	-	1	5	4	3	W	-	1	5	4	3
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By contrast, a game we can all make. When East opens 1♥ West should not be tempted to create an unnecessary diversion by introducing spades, just raise to whatever you think is the appropriate level. South will surely cash a top diamond, then switch, perhaps to a trump. Play a spade now (South might just duck!) When trump break 2-2 and ♠A is onside there is nothing to the play.

3	♠ AKJ73 ♥ 2 ♦ KJ96 ♣ 973	Dlr: S Vul: EW																													
♠ T85 ♥ KJ8543 ♦ ♣ KQJ5	N W E S	♠ Q2 ♥ AQT976 ♦ 742 ♣ T4																													
	♠ 964 ♥ ♦ AQT853 ♣ A862	<table><tr><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>N</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>7</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	♣	♦	♥	♠	N	N	3	6	-	6	1	S	3	6	-	7	1	E	-	-	4	-	-	W	-	-	4	-	-
♣	♦	♥	♠	N																											
N	3	6	-	6	1																										
S	3	6	-	7	1																										
E	-	-	4	-	-																										
W	-	-	4	-	-																										

Another tough board for NS. If South reaches 6♦ it is vital to drop the doubleton ♠Q. On ♠K lead you may even fail in 5♦ unless you duck the first round of clubs. The spade slam may make from the North hand if East leads a diamond for partner to ruff – there is a better case for dropping the queen now one trump has gone.

4	♠ AK3 ♥ AJT4 ♦ J6 ♣ Q985	Dlr: W Vul: Both																														
♠ J975 ♥ 763 ♦ A2 ♣ J742	N W E S	♠ QT84 ♥ KQ8 ♦ 8543 ♣ K6																														
	♠ 62 ♥ 952 ♦ KQT97 ♣ AT3	<table><tr><th></th><th>♠</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♣</th><th>N</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</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>		♠	♦	♥	♣	N	N	3	4	3	1	3	S	3	3	3	1	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
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Strong no-trumpers have an easy auction: 1NT – 3NT (South has just 9HCP but the good diamond suit makes it worth an upgrade.) The spade lead will tell you that the suit is breaking 4-4, and there are 8 tricks once ♦A is dislodged. Finding the ninth is more difficult. Just as well that you lack the entries to take two heart finesses, but a wrong view in clubs leads to the same one down.

5	♠ Q943 ♥ AK7 ♦ T3 ♣ A542	Dlr: N Vul: NS																									
♠ K5 ♥ QT ♦ QJ962 ♣ QT93	N W E S	♠ JT ♥ 98632 ♦ AK74 ♣ K6																									
	♠ A8762 ♥ J54 ♦ 85 ♣ J87	<table><tr><th>♠</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♣</th><th>N</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	♠	♦	♥	♣	N	N	-	-	-	2	S	-	-	-	2	E	-	3	2	-	W	-	3	2	-
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E	-	3	2	-																							
W	-	3	2	-																							

1NT – Pass – 2♥ - ? North has the right stuff to break the transfer to 2NT or 3♠, but will be disappointed with this dummy. Luckily just one down when the ♥Q drops doubleton. Not too bad when EW have 9 tricks in 3♦, but can they get into the auction? It takes a brave East to overcall this heart suit, but those playing Multi-Landy, where the 2♥ overcall of 1NT promises a minor on the side, may score very well.

6	♠ T2 ♥ QJ762 ♦ KQ3 ♣ 652	Dlr: E Vul: EW
♠ 75 ♥ A953 ♦ A2 ♣ AKQJT	N W E S	♠ QJ964 ♥ 84 ♦ T76 ♣ 943
	♠ AK83 ♥ KT ♦ J9854 ♣ 87	♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N - 3 1 - - S - 3 1 - - E 2 - - 1 1 W 2 - - 1 1

Another unattractive 1♦ opener, but this one gives West a horrible problem. 2♣ looks the least bad option, hopefully to be followed with a double next time. That fixes North, not worth a forcing 2♥ now, so he probably raises diamonds, reaching the only making partscore. EW will do well to avoid -200 or even more.

9	♠ KJ ♥ T642 ♦ 5 ♣ K85432	Dlr: N Vul: EW
♠ T8643 ♥ Q985 ♦ KT ♣ 76	N W E S	♠ AQ ♥ KJ3 ♦ AQJ8762 ♣ T
	♠ 9752 ♥ A7 ♦ 943 ♣ AQJ9	♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N 3 - - - - S 3 - - - - E - 5 3 3 - W - 5 3 3 -

Hard to see EW reaching game under their own steam: even when West scrapes up a response to 1♦ he is unlikely to bid further over a 3♦ rebid. But if North opens an ugly 3♣, or South decides to get involved with a dangerous takeout double, and NS find their club fit, they may regret their enterprise.

7	♠ K ♥ AJ875 ♦ T652 ♣ KQJ	Dlr: S Vul: Both
♠ AT32 ♥ 94 ♦ QJ9743 ♣ 4	N W E S	♠ J8765 ♥ K3 ♦ AK ♣ A872
	♠ Q94 ♥ QT62 ♦ 8 ♣ T9653	♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N 1 - 1 - - S 1 - 1 - - E - 5 - 4 3 W - 5 - 4 3

Some Wests may be tempted to open a Weak 2♦, but that is not the best way to reach 4♠. A disciplined pass sees partner overcall 1♠ (not the greatest suit but lots of compensating values). South will raise hearts, but when West reveals some spade support the East hand improves enough to bid game. South has the right hand to lead a singleton: long trump and weak enough to expect partner to have an entry.

10	♠ T73 ♥ Q953 ♦ 842 ♣ QJ8	Dlr: E Vul: Both
♠ J8 ♥ K ♦ KQJ965 ♣ AT53	N W E S	♠ AQ652 ♥ 72 ♦ A73 ♣ K96
	♠ K94 ♥ AJT864 ♦ T ♣ 742	♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N - - 2 - - S - - 2 - - E 4 5 - 4 1 W 4 5 - 4 1

A weak 1NT (what else if you play the method) may see West raise to game. ♥K is actually a very useful card if it scores at trick 1, and 10 tricks will give EW a top score they scarcely deserve. South may save himself any embarrassment by overcalling, thus driving opponents into a more secure but lower-scoring 5♦. Strong no-trumpers open 1♠ and may reach the shakier 4♠ game which requires a 3-3 break

8	♠ 975 ♥ A ♦ AJ65 ♣ AKQ85	Dlr: W Vul: None
♠ 832 ♥ 763 ♦ 9742 ♣ 763	N W E S	♠ A4 ♥ QJT9854 ♦ 8 ♣ T42
	♠ KQJT6 ♥ K2 ♦ KQT3 ♣ J9	♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N 6 6 1 6 6 S 6 6 1 6 6 E - - - - - W - - - - -

I expect everybody will reach slam here – apparently you can even make 7 tricks in your 2-1 heart fit! Important to check on aces to avoid a silly Grand, then pick a high-scoring slam. It will be hard to appreciate that you have hearts double-stopped, so I guess 6♠ will be the popular contract.

11	♠ 972 ♥ AQT2 ♦ J753 ♣ A4	Dlr: S Vul: None
♠ AKT ♥ K83 ♦ Q ♣ QT7653	N W E S	♠ J8653 ♥ J765 ♦ 42 ♣ K9
	♠ Q4 ♥ 94 ♦ AKT986 ♣ J82	♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N - 4 - - 2 S - 4 - - 2 E 2 - - 2 - W 2 - - 2 -

A perfect example of a weak 2♦ (downgrade Qx and Jxx); those without that club in the bag might open 3♦. West is just worth a double and many pairs in both directions will get too high. If North bids 4♦ he should have some defence to opponents' game – else why push them up? In which case South might double 4♠ to show extra defence. Most will find the heart ruff that nets a useful 300.

12	♠ 765 ♥ A98 ♦ KQ9432 ♣ 6	Dlr: W Vul: NS
♠ QT ♥ 5432 ♦ AJ6 ♣ KQ53	N W E S	♠ J9432 ♥ 6 ♦ 875 ♣ 9742
	♠ AK8 ♥ KQJT7 ♦ T ♣ AJT8	♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N 1 5 5 2 5 S 1 5 5 2 5 E - - - - - W - - - - -

After a weak 1NT and 2♥ transfer South has an easy double. Not so easy to reach your best contract, 2♠ doubled. A simple defence, drawing trump, holds declarer to 5 tricks; more complex defences have the same result. If North volunteers 3♦ South may reach the top-scoring no-trump game; if he passes and South bids at the three-level he has an easy raise to 4♥.

13	♠ K76 ♥ ♦ AKJT86 ♣ KJ94	Dlr: N Vul: Both
♠ AJ5 ♥ KQJT9642 ♦ 7 ♣ T	N W E S	♠ T9843 ♥ 85 ♦ 93 ♣ Q752
	♠ Q2 ♥ A73 ♦ Q542 ♣ A863	♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N 6 6 - 2 5 S 6 6 - 2 5 E - - 2 - - W - - 2 - -

The outcome is unpredictable, but excitement is guaranteed. West is unlikely to sell out below 5♥, but dummy is quite disappointing. The good news is that there is no defence to slam; the bad news is that there is no entry to dummy for a spade lead. (Switch ♥5 and ♥7 and West escapes for two down.) If NS do bid slam West may decide not to sacrifice: -1100 beats -1370, but it is not a good pairs score.

14	♠ KQJ8 ♥ AQT4 ♦ KQT ♣ 84	Dlr: E Vul: None
♠ 9 ♥ 762 ♦ A9532 ♣ AKJT	N W E S	♠ T632 ♥ K953 ♦ J6 ♣ Q92
	♠ A754 ♥ J8 ♦ 874 ♣ 7653	♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N - - - 2 1 S - - - 2 1 E 1 2 - - -W 1 2 - - -

If North overcalls 1♦ with 1NT he will probably play there, and the defence are likely to find their 6 tricks. If he doubles his side should reach a spade partscore, but can they stop in time? 3♠ looks a fine spot at first glance, but the 4-1 trump break means that forcing dummy to ruff clubs creates a fifth defensive trick.

15	♠ 2 ♥ QT74 ♦ AK98643 ♣ K	Dlr: S Vul: NS
♠ AKT84 ♥ 965 ♦ Q2 ♣ 542	N W E S	♠ Q96 ♥ AKJ82 ♦ ♣ AJ986
	♠ J753 ♥ 3 ♦ JT75 ♣ QT73	♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N - 4 - - - S - 4 - - - E 4 - 4 5 - W 4 - 4 5 -

In third seat North will open some number of diamonds – perhaps 3 in an attempt to mislead his opponents. East must choose between 3♥, raised to game, or double, allowing partner to play 4♠. The second option works better: West can pick up South's spades and establish clubs for two losers. In 4♥ East is unlikely to divine the trump position and might easily go down.

16	♠ KQT5 ♥ J876 ♦ T53 ♣ K2	Dlr: W Vul: EW
♠ 843 ♥ AK532 ♦ 7 ♣ 9763	N W E S	♠ 9 ♥ T94 ♦ AKQ62 ♣ AJT4
	♠ AJ762 ♥ Q ♦ J984 ♣ Q85	♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N - - - 2 - S - - - 2 - E 4 2 3 - 1 W 4 2 3 - 1

After 1♦ -1♥ - 2♠ - 3♣ is 3♥ forcing? Probably should be, but those who stretch to game are unlucky this time. You can hold your heart losers to one by cashing the ♥A, then leading towards dummy's ♥T9, but NS negate that by playing two rounds of spades, forcing dummy to ruff. Defenders are often reluctant to play cards that will be ruffed, but here the advantages should be clear to North.

17	♠ AQ9 ♥ KT ♦ J7 ♣ QT9654	Dlr: N Vul: None
♠ K2 ♥ J93 ♦ KQ9643 ♣ 82	N W E S	♠ 87653 ♥ Q876 ♦ 5 ♣ AJ7
	♠ JT4 ♥ A542 ♦ AT82 ♣ K3	♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N 5 2 3 3 5 S 5 2 3 3 5 E - - - - - W - - - - -

A good time for North to open 1NT with a 6-card minor. South has two useful tens and will raise to game via Stayman. Declarer is unlikely to guess clubs, but the contract is safe enough on a normal spade lead. A heart is more awkward – you might lose two clubs, two hearts and a diamond. Those who open 1♣ may find South declaring 3NT, but the diamond lead is not a threat. Avoid 5♣!

18	♠ AQ864 ♥ 52 ♦ 54 ♣ KJ52	Dlr: E Vul: NS
♠ K972 ♥ AKJ83 ♦ 73 ♣ T3	N W E S	♠ 3 ♥ 97 ♦ KJ962 ♣ AQ764
	♠ JT5 ♥ QT64 ♦ AQT8 ♣ 98	♠ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N - - - 2 - S - - - 2 - E 1 2 1 - - W 1 2 1 - -

This might be passed out, but a few brave Easts will open their two-suiter, failing which most red-blooded Wests will open 1♥. Alas, this opens the way for NS to reach their spade partscore, with two key finesses working. The best EW can hope for is to push NS to the three-level. They can cash two hearts and two clubs and a third club allows West to overruff dummy. A tiger match point double nets 200.

21	♠ J6532 ♥ KJ4 ♦ T854 ♣ 5	Dlr: N Vul: NS
♠ AQT8 ♥ T9 ♦ Q76 ♣ KT92	N W E S	♠ 74 ♥ 8765 ♦ AJ32 ♣ QJ8
	♠ K9 ♥ AQ32 ♦ K9 ♣ A7643	♠ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N - - 1 1 - S - - 1 1 - E 1 1 - - 1 W 1 1 - - 1

Weak no-trumpers open 1♣, rebid 1NT and probably play there. The contract suffers from a shortage of tricks and one down seems likely. Strong no-trumpers probably open 1NT and are transferred into spades. Same struggle with trick shortage and you will do well to scramble 7 tricks for the same one down.

19	♠ A3 ♥ A83 ♦ QT986 ♣ Q72	Dlr: S Vul: EW
♠ 52 ♥ JT65 ♦ AKJ5 ♣ 543	N W E S	♠ 987 ♥ K942 ♦ 432 ♣ AK9
	♠ KQJT64 ♥ Q7 ♦ 7 ♣ JT86	♠ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N 2 1 - 3 2 S 2 1 - 3 2 E - - 1 - - W - - 1 - -

A classic Weak 2♣ from South should buy this one - no special reason for North to make an obstructive raise. Nothing to the play either - provided West does not try to cash two top diamonds there are four losers, no more and no less.

22	♠ T ♥ A9 ♦ AKT8642 ♣ K54	Dlr: E Vul: EW
♠ 8654 ♥ K7654 ♦ Q7 ♣ AJ	N W E S	♠ AQJ3 ♥ QJT2 ♦ J9 ♣ 762
	♠ K972 ♥ 83 ♦ 53 ♣ QT983	♠ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N 4 4 - - 2 S 4 4 - - 2 E - - 1 1 - W - - 1 1 -

If East, playing 5-card majors, opens 1♣, West responds 1♥ and North may be tempted to try 3NT. Which he will make unless East leads a heart. If East opens a weak 1NT (why not?) West will Stayman and North may buy the contract safely in 3♣. If East passes West has a legitimate 3rd hand 1 opener (Rule of 19) and North will probably overcall diamonds. Important for EW not to compete too far vulnerable.

20	♠ AQ76 ♥ 7 ♦ AK64 ♣ K765	Dlr: W Vul: Both
♠ 832 ♥ AKJ2 ♦ T9752 ♣ A	N W E S	♠ KJT54 ♥ QT83 ♦ QJ ♣ 83
	♠ 9 ♥ 9654 ♦ 83 ♣ QJT942	♠ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N 4 - - - S 4 - - - E - 2 2 3 - W - 2 3 3 -

Should West open his longer anaemic suit, or his chunky major? 1♥ gives North an easy entry to the auction with a takeout double, and even if East raises to 3♥ North will re-open with a second double and so reach the optimal spot, 4♣. North has more of a problem over 1♦. 1NT may be his least bad option, allowing South to transfer into clubs. You may make 11 tricks if East fails to lead trump, or West insists on winning the first heart.

23	♠ AKJ6 ♥ T ♦ KJ9874 ♣ T5	Dlr: S Vul: Both
♠ 874 ♥ KJ84 ♦ Q32 ♣ A97	N W E S	♠ 95 ♥ Q953 ♦ 6 ♣ QJ6432
	♠ QT32 ♥ A762 ♦ AT5 ♣ K8	♠ ♦ ♥ ♠ N N - 5 - 5 4 S - 5 - 6 5 E 1 - 2 - - W 1 - 2 - -

Slam must be played in spades by a South who will guess the diamond finesse. Best to choose the spade game, which may prove difficult for weak no-trumpers when North transfers to diamonds. If South shows good support North may blast slam on the grounds that 5♦ usually scores poorly at Pairs. Sadly 6♦-1 scores even worse. 5-card majorities should find the spade fit, possibly from the wrong side.

24	♠ AT86 ♥ QT986 ♦ K9 ♣ 98	Dlr: W Vul: None
♠ Q542 ♥ ♦ AT52 ♣ AQT43	N W E S	♠ KJ7 ♥ AKJ2 ♦ J874 ♣ K6
♠ 93 ♥ 7543 ♦ Q63 ♣ J752		♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N - - - - S - - - - E 5 5 2 4 5 W 5 5 2 4 5

A possible EW auction: 1♣ – 1♥⁽¹⁾ – 1♠ – 2♦⁽²⁾ – 3♦⁽³⁾ – 3NT.
 (1) Respond in the strong major rather than bid suits up-the-way – who wants to play in diamonds?
 (2) Fourth Suit Forcing – these days most play it as Forcing to Game, which solves some problems without creating too many more.
 (3) Raising the Fourth Suit is natural whenever that is a possibility.

25	♠ AQ864 ♥ Q92 ♦ Q96 ♣ 98	Dlr: N Vul: EW
♠ 972 ♥ A854 ♦ K853 ♣ Q4	N W E S	♠ K3 ♥ K6 ♦ JT742 ♣ AKJ2
♠ JT5 ♥ JT73 ♦ A ♣ T7653		♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N - - - 1 - S - - - 1 - E 2 4 1 - 2 W 2 4 1 - 2

Assuming a sensible Pass from North, strong no-trumpers may find themselves in game. A spade lead sees that off immediately, but South may prefer a heart (yes, clubs are longer but can you expect to establish this suit?) The defence should still prevail whether South switches to a spade when in with the ♦A, or continues hearts. If the second heart is ducked North can switch, if not there are 5 losers.

26	♠ K86 ♥ KQ943 ♦ A4 ♣ 542	Dlr: E Vul: Both
♠ AJ952 ♥ J765 ♦ J52 ♣ Q	N W E S	♠ T4 ♥ A82 ♦ T87 ♣ K9873
♠ Q73 ♥ T ♦ KQ963 ♣ AJT6		♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N 3 3 2 2 3 S 3 3 3 2 4 E - - - - W - - - -

3NT by South is relatively easy, since West has no effective lead. ♠10, in response to an overcall, makes it harder for North. He cuts the link between defenders' hands by rising with ♣Q so that West cannot duck. He wins the second spade, and, short of re-entries to hand, plays for the miracle layout. ♣A fells ♣Q, and the ♥10 is run. East ducks, but declarer establishes a club for the 9th trick.

27	♠ A2 ♥ A8542 ♦ QT864 ♣ 2	Dlr: S Vul: None
♠ 653 ♥ T7 ♦ AKJ2 ♣ T743	N W E S	♠ J84 ♥ K96 ♦ 753 ♣ J985
♠ KQT97 ♥ QJ3 ♦ 9 ♣ AKQ6		♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N 3 4 5 5 4 S 3 4 5 5 4 E - - - - W - - - -

An Acol auction will start 1♠ – 2♥, giving South a bit of a dilemma. Best not to Splinter with only 3 trump, so he underbids a little with 4♥ to reach the top spot. Two-over-oners have to start with 1NT, and may find it more difficult to uncover the heart fit. Misfits often play better in no-trump, but not at Pairs when they have three cashers.

28	♠ Q983 ♥ Q7 ♦ AKQ3 ♣ JT7	Dlr: W Vul: NS
♠ A754 ♥ J5 ♦ J62 ♣ 6532	N W E S	♠ KJ6 ♥ AT9643 ♦ 4 ♣ AK9
♠ T2 ♥ K82 ♦ T9875 ♣ Q84		♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N - 2 - - - S - 2 - - - E 2 - 3 2 1 W 2 - 3 2 1

North's 1NT opener may be weak for some, strong for others (upgrading seems very common for those playing 15-17). Either way, East should buy this for a partscore in hearts. With only one entry to dummy he cannot finesse both spades and hearts, so 9 tricks are the limit without a friendly defence. If North opens 1♦ NS may compete, but South should not get too excited: 5332 is a bad distribution.

29	♠ 53 ♥ 953 ♦ AT2 ♣ JT653	Dlr: N Vul: Both
♠ AJT7 ♥ QJ8642 ♦ K ♣ A9	N W E S	♠ KQ8 ♥ A7 ♦ Q6543 ♣ 842
♠ 9642 ♥ KT ♦ J987 ♣ KQ7		♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N 1 - - - - S 1 - - - - E - 1 4 3 1 W - 1 4 3 1

Many will open the East hand, but is there any point in opening 1♦ with 5332 and such a bad suit? A weak 1NT would be acceptable if the diamond pips were better. West should reach 4♥ whether partner opens or not, but after 1♦ he might settle for 3NT. A club lead will teach him not to rely on partner's bidding.

30	♠ A752		Dlr: E	
	♥ AQJ95		Vul: None	
	♦ 8			
	♣ AT9			
♠ 84	N		♠ 6	
♥ KT73	W		♥ 64	
♦ QT752	E		♦ AKJ943	
♣ K4	S		♣ 8732	
		♠ KQJT93	♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N	
		♥ 82	N 5 - 5 6 1	
		♦ 6	S 5 - 5 6 1	
		♣ QJ65	E - 2 - - -	
			W - 2 - - -	

A poor slam in principle, depending on two finesses, but if East opens a modern 3♦ it becomes much better. You may get there if South overcalls 3♠; tempting, but not really sound (do not pre-empt over a pre-empt). If South passes North has the perennial problem of whether to double or overcall in his good suit. More difficult with 5 spades and 4 hearts, since South, with a weak hand and 3-3 in the majors, normally chooses hearts