

<p> ♠ 1043 ♥ K8752 ♦ AK52 ♣ 7 </p> <p> ♠ 876 ♠ KQJ ♥ A109 ♥ J4 ♦ QJ104 ♦ 976 ♣ J92 ♣ Q10653 </p> <p> ♠ A952 ♥ Q63 ♦ 83 ♣ AK84 </p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <p>If N passes, S will open a weak 1NT, N will transfer to 2H and S will probably play there. If N chooses to open 1H, as I would with a safe rebid of 2D and, crucially, all the honours in the two suits, the bidding will probably go 1H - 1S - 2D - 4H. On either a diamond lead by W or a spade lead by E, 10 tricks should always be made, as two diamonds can be ruffed in the S hand and a spade discarded on KC; declarer loses just two hearts and a spade. If the defence starts with two rounds of trumps, there is only one ruff but also only one trump loser. A good reward for the Norths who choose to open!</p>
<p> ♠ KQ1052 ♥ 102 ♦ 84 ♣ AKQ2 </p> <p> ♠ A63 ♠ 98 ♥ J765 ♥ A83 ♦ K96 ♦ AQ1053 ♣ J103 ♣ 987 </p> <p> ♠ J74 ♥ KQ94 ♦ J72 ♣ 654 </p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <p>This will start with three passes to N, who will open 1S; E can now overcall 2D and S will bid 2S. W's is a very flat hand on which to bid 3D opposite a partner who passed initially, but the vulnerability is favourable and it scarcely matters, because N can safely take the push to 3S, where he should always make nine tricks.</p>
<p> ♠ 10875 ♥ AQ1082 ♦ 3 ♣ J85 </p> <p> ♠ Q4 ♠ KJ9 ♥ 54 ♥ KJ96 ♦ AJ1065 ♦ K97 ♣ AQ76 ♣ K92 </p> <p> ♠ A632 ♥ 73 ♦ Q842 ♣ 1043 </p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <p>Even if N overcalls 1D with 1H, EW should safely reach 3NT and, assuming a likely correct diamond guess, will normally make 11 tricks.</p>

<p> ♠ J873 ♥ J1085 ♦ K987 ♣ K </p> <p> ♠ 64 ♠ 10 ♥ AKQ74 ♥ 93 ♦ A ♦ J65432 ♣ AQJ96 ♣ 10542 </p> <p> ♠ AKQ952 ♥ 62 ♦ Q10 ♣ 873 </p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <p>I am not a fan of opening a strong two with a two-suited hand, so would open 1H as W; partner will unfortunately pass but S will come to the rescue, probably by bidding 2S. W can now show the strength of his hand by bidding 4C; N will bid 4S and E should bid 5C.</p> <p>On the natural spade lead, W can ruff a spade in dummy in order to take the unlucky losing club finesse(!) but, provided he ruffs the third heart with 10C, he will still make 5C. 4H also has a third loser (a heart), but will still make. Hence, NS should be taking the spade sacrifice; even 5S* only concedes 500 for two down.</p>
<p> ♠ J976 ♥ 543 ♦ Q105 ♣ A86 </p> <p> ♠ K2 ♠ Q8 ♥ A62 ♥ K10 ♦ KJ862 ♦ A73 ♣ Q109 ♣ KJ7432 </p> <p> ♠ A10543 ♥ QJ987 ♦ 94 ♣ 5 </p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <p>E will usually open 1C (one or two might even try an offbeat weak 1NT!) and, despite the vulnerability, S will probably be unable to resist showing his major two-suiter, via Michaels or some other such convention. This gives W a difficult bid; he will not want to double (which would show interest in penalties), so could well just choose to bash 3NT.</p> <p>3NT apparently has no chance on a spade lead, but I can see several people as S playing S10 on the first round, and thus blocking the suit! This will not happen if E is the unfortunate declarer. At this vulnerability, there should not be many NS pairs choosing to concede 500 in 4S. 5C by EW seems to have no play, losing two aces and QD.</p>

<p> ♠ AQ96 ♥ KQ ♦ Q1072 ♣ 643 ♠ 1073 ♥ 98 ♦ A853 ♣ QJ102 ♠ J4 ♥ AJ32 ♦ J96 ♣ K875 ♠ K852 ♥ 107654 ♦ K4 ♣ A9 </p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <p>This is not a hand (with no rebid) on which S should open 1H, so N will open a weak NT and the bidding might proceed 1NT - 2D - 2H - 2S - 3S - 4S or 1NT - 2C - 2S - 4S. A 5-card major system should also find the contract via an invitational sequence.</p> <p>The sequence suggests a trump lead though W, if on lead, might try QC. The 4-2 heart break and lack of entries to the S hand means that the contract will not make by ruffing out the heart suit; more successful will be to ruff a club and a diamond (with J coming down) in the S hand, but I'm not convinced that that play has the better odds! Anyone making 4S should score very well; conservative players in a part-score will happily settle for 9 tricks.</p>
<p> ♠ - ♥ AQ9875 ♦ K765 ♣ K103 ♠ Q85 ♥ 432 ♦ Q932 ♣ A95 ♠ AJ7632 ♥ 6 ♦ AJ4 ♣ J62 ♠ K1094 ♥ KJ10 ♦ 108 ♣ Q874 </p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <p>N will open 1H and E will overcall 1S or 2S, according to style; S will show heart support and N will probably bid 4H (certainly if W supports to 3S). 4H should have four losers - 2 diamonds and 2 clubs - but E has a lead problem, only his trump being safe, and I expect the contract will be made quite a few times.</p> <p>S has an easy decision if E bids 4S; a double nets 800 unless E reads the diamond position perfectly (or S leads 10D).</p>
<p> ♠ AJ32 ♥ QJ93 ♦ J8 ♣ A73 ♠ 974 ♥ 652 ♦ A973 ♣ J102 ♠ Q1085 ♥ A84 ♦ 62 ♣ 9854 ♠ K6 ♥ K107 ♦ KQ1054 ♣ KQ6 </p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <p>This is a routine 3NT for NS and will almost always make 11 tricks. The only lead to prevent that is a spade from W, with declarer naturally, but unluckily, knocking out AD before AH.</p>

<p> ♠ K7 ♥ J8742 ♦ K2 ♣ 10963 ♠ 109843 ♠ AJ652 ♥ 9 ♥ K10 ♦ Q1076 ♦ AJ8 ♣ Q54 ♣ KJ7 ♠ Q ♥ AQ653 ♦ 9543 ♣ A82 </p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <p>I expect this hand to be bid 1S - 2H - 3S (distributional raise) - 4H - 4S; S should then pass, as he cannot know the basis of N's 4H bid but, at the vulnerability, N might well choose to bid 5H. In a strong NT system, E will open 1NT, S will compete in the red suits and W will bid 2S; heart / spade competition will then follow, as before.</p> <p>4S will always make, with just a spade, a heart and a club to lose. Against 5H*, W must lead a high spade so that E knows to play A; he will need then to switch to a club to ensure the maximum (500) penalty; a second spade gives an entry to the N hand for the trump finesse, while allowing a club discard.</p> <p>There is a case for S, with his relatively poor heart suit, to double rather than bid 2H; N would then be declarer in 5H and E would be on lead. Now, after AS at trick one, the club switch will not be as clear-cut, and it is very possible that E might try a second spade or, even worse, a diamond!</p>
<p> ♠ 2 ♥ K102 ♦ KJ86 ♣ J8652 ♠ Q10975 ♠ AK843 ♥ Q9743 ♥ J6 ♦ 94 ♦ AQ32 ♣ A ♣ 43 ♠ J6 ♥ A85 ♦ 1075 ♣ KQ1097 </p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <p>E will open 1S and I don't think S has a vulnerable overcall of 2C, but some will choose to make it. W should bid 4S and a comfortable 11 tricks will be made. If S does make the overcall, N might well bid 5C as a sacrifice and NS are likely to get away with 500 if doubled because it is very difficult for the defence to come to their heart trick before it disappears on the diamonds; it requires W to lead 9H for an unusual 'surround' play.</p>

<p> ♠ Q96 ♥ KQ95 ♦ AK8 ♣ Q97 ♠ 7532 ♥ 1086 ♦ J1064 ♣ J3 ♠ AKJ8 ♥ A72 ♦ Q93 ♣ A102 ♠ 104 ♥ J43 ♦ 752 ♣ K8654 </p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <p>There is little E can do if N opens a strong 1NT as I wouldn't fancy a double with such a flat hand. Otherwise, N opens 1H and, given the aforesaid flat hand, as E, I would bid 1NT, even if it is supposedly 15-17; a double would produce 1S from partner and it would require enormous discipline for E to bid no more than 2S.</p> <p>2S will probably make if you can negotiate a club ruff to take the trump finesse. Either side has chances of scraping home in 1NT, though N's chances are better. Be happy with a plus score here!</p>
<p> ♠ KQ98 ♥ K10642 ♦ KQ96 ♣ - ♠ J ♥ J953 ♦ A1072 ♣ 6532 ♠ 7542 ♥ A8 ♦ J4 ♣ AK1094 ♠ A1063 ♥ Q7 ♦ 853 ♣ QJ87 </p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <p>N opens 1H and E will probably overcall 2C at favourable vulnerability; S should double to show his spade suit, W can bid 3C and N should bid 3S. 4S has chances, but I would not bid it as S, as I would be more interested in the possibility of doubling 4C!</p> <p>If E helpfully leads a top club, 4S can make with the loss of just two aces and the other top club, but it is not easy to control against the 4-1 trump break and most will be happy to make 9 or 10 tricks in a part-score.</p> <p>QH lead gives E chances of managing 9 tricks in a club contract unless there is an early diamond switch by the defence; it should, however, be clear to find the switch and 4C* should concede 300.</p>

<p> ♠ K73 ♥ 42 ♦ 1043 ♣ J8753 ♠ AQ965 ♠ 82 ♥ AJ5 ♥ 109863 ♦ QJ ♦ A92 ♣ Q92 ♣ AK10 ♠ J104 ♥ KQ7 ♦ K8765 ♣ 64 </p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <p>The heart suit is not good enough for E to open but he must surely respond 2H to 1S and W will bid 4H. There are enough entries to the E hand to lead trumps through S, so 10 tricks should be made in comfort; even 11 can be made if spades can be set up without S making KD (eg JS lead, ducked).</p> <p>I can, though, imagine the odd E disliking his heart suit so much that he might manufacture a 2C response to 1S, and now W might become declarer in 3NT and could well make the same 10 tricks.</p>
<p> ♠ A5 ♥ AQ10653 ♦ AQ2 ♣ K5 ♠ Q876 ♠ 10943 ♥ 94 ♥ KJ8 ♦ J3 ♦ K874 ♣ QJ986 ♣ 102 ♠ KJ2 ♥ 72 ♦ 10965 ♣ A743 </p>	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <p>N has a difficult bid after 1H - 1NT, as 3H is not forcing. If he has to choose between 4H and 3NT, I would choose 4H, given the lack of intermediates in the short suits. This contract should always make 10 tricks, losing 2 hearts and a diamond.</p> <p>If N chooses 3NT, declared by S, the likely QC lead, and later spade leads by E, might leave declarer struggling for a 9th trick to go with 4 hearts and the black AKs; even 9 tricks will not score well against 4H making.</p>
<p> ♠ A10963 ♥ AQ ♦ 10986 ♣ K9 ♠ Q874 ♠ J5 ♥ K10875 ♥ 64 ♦ AQ2 ♦ J75 ♣ A ♣ QJ1084 3 ♠ K2 ♥ J932 ♦ K43 ♣ 7652 </p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <p>The bidding should start 1H - 1S - pass. S could now stretch to 1NT, but should probably pass, and W then has nowhere to go. If S does bid 1NT, this will be passed round to E, who can now bid 2C; this in turn will be passed to N, who can try 2D, producing 2S from S.</p> <p>2S is likely to make for the loss of 2 diamonds, 2 spades and a club, though 9 tricks can possibly be made with the right trump view. If E tries 3C, NS can double for a 300 penalty, but the double is not easy to find.</p>

<p> ♠ K1042 ♥ J97 ♦ KJ ♣ K1054 ♠ AQ75 ♠ 63 ♥ 6 ♥ AK842 ♦ Q87653 ♦ A94 ♣ J7 ♣ A83 ♠ J98 ♥ Q1053 ♦ 102 ♣ Q962 </p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <p>I can see the bidding here going 1H - 1S - 1NT - 3NT, or 1NT - Stayman - 3NT if playing strong NT. This will make 9 tricks on a club lead, thanks to the 4-4 club break and 2-2 diamond break. 5D can also make by setting up the heart suit, but seems only likely to be reached if W opens a weak 2D - an appalling bid in my view, with a poor diamond suit and a good 4-card spade suit. 600 to EW should be the score more than half the time.</p>
<p> ♠ J10764 ♥ J ♦ 9865 ♣ QJ4 ♠ 9 ♠ Q32 ♥ K9762 ♥ A1043 ♦ QJ10732 ♦ A ♣ 2 ♣ 109863 ♠ AK85 ♥ Q85 ♦ K4 ♣ AK75 </p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <p>Those playing a 19-20 2NT will open that as S, and should W bid over that? If so, what? Most will reluctantly pass, N will transfer to spades and the contract will be 4S, though W could now emerge with a 4NT bid (showing two places to play), E will bid 5C, W 5D and E 5H.</p> <p>If S opens 1C or 1S, W now has time to show his red 2-suiter and EW should certainly go on to 5H over 4S. Should NS take the push to 5S?!</p> <p>Best defence to a spade contract is QD lead to A, small heart back to K (after all, W has shown hearts!) and a diamond ruff, holding the contract to 10 tricks. Without that start, S might choose (on the bidding) to take the right spade view and make 11 tricks.</p> <p>5H is even more interesting. With the right red suit views, the contract can be made. Both the principle of restricted choice and the bidding might suggest the right heart view, and the bidding could also suggest that S is more likely to hold KD, so declarer can ruff the suit rather than taking the ruffing finesse.</p>

<p> ♠ K10864 ♥ 864 ♦ 1063 ♣ A2 ♠ AJ3 ♠ Q95 ♥ A1032 ♥ J7 ♦ 94 ♦ AQ7 ♣ 9765 ♣ QJ1083 ♠ 72 ♥ KQ95 ♦ KJ852 ♣ K4 </p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <p>E has a weak 1NT, S can overcall to show the red suits, probably leaving N playing in 2H. An aggressive W might choose, at Pairs, to double this, but will not find it easy to beat it.</p> <p>Left in 1NT, E should make it safely, as either red suit lead helps him, but if E opens 1C (playing a strong NT perhaps) and is pushed to 3C, that should not make. The lie of the cards very much favours NS here.</p>
<p> ♠ AQ42 ♥ Q52 ♦ A642 ♣ K3 ♠ J7 ♠ 986 ♥ 763 ♥ AK104 ♦ K10985 ♦ Q73 ♣ A84 ♣ Q109 ♠ K1053 ♥ J98 ♦ J ♣ J7652 </p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <p>A strong 1NT by N (or even a weak 1NT by someone judging it to be a poor 15 with no intermediates) would be passed out. A heart attack will allow this to make but a diamond lead (or switch after one top heart) will defeat it.</p> <p>If N opens 1S, or 1D receiving a 1S response, then the hand will be played in spades, though I can't see either partner pushing to game - nor should they, as it requires great good fortune in the lie of the club suit, plus the spade break, to make. Most will be happy to emerge with 9 tricks.</p>
<p> ♠ A1098 ♥ J1063 ♦ A10 ♣ 963 ♠ K6532 ♠ J ♥ Q85 ♥ A2 ♦ 872 ♦ KQJ65 4 ♣ 105 ♣ KJ82 ♠ Q74 ♥ K974 ♦ 93 ♣ AQ74 </p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <p>E will open 1D and S might be tempted to make a light double, but W will bid 1S anyway; without the double, N will pass and E might bid 2C or choose to bid 3D - if he bids 2C, W will correct to 2D, and can either N or S now get into the bidding to find their heart fit? It isn't easy for either to do so. If S did choose to double initially, then N will compete up to 3H over 3D.</p> <p>Against 3D, S's only safe lead (other than an unlikely QS) is a trump, after which 3D will drift one down. 3H by NS can make if declarer initially tackles the spade suit by leading Q, otherwise 8 tricks should be the limit.</p>

♠ 876	
♥ K103	
♦ 83	
♣ J7643	
♠ A5432	♠ Q109
♥ AQ9752	♥ 8
♦ 7	♦ AK65
♣ 2	♣ AKQ98
	♠ KJ
	♥ J64
	♦ QJ10942
	♣ 105

Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

Even without interference from S, it will be difficult for EW to reach their best contract, which is 4S. A sequence such as 1C - 1H - 2NT - 3S - 4S will do it, provided W's 3S is known to show five, which it should if EW are playing a check-back bid of 3C over 2NT, which W could use if holding 4 spades, or if E's 2NT bid specifically denies 4 spades. Ruffing out the heart suit allows 11 tricks to be made for the loss of two trumps.

If there is diamond interference from S (particularly a 2D bid), it is quite possible that E may become declarer in 3NT if W is only able to show his heart suit; a double of a diamond bid might show both suits, but not 6-5! 3NT is by no means easy, particularly if S leads a heart when declarer plays to set up the spades; 10 tricks is possible with some co-operation, but declarer may be happy to make 9. The 3-3 break and favourable spade position allows 10 tricks to be made in 4H.

<p> ♠ AK1074 ♥ AJ6 ♦ K54 ♣ 93 </p> <p> ♠ 982 ♠ Q65 ♥ K973 ♥ 1042 ♦ 986 ♦ J10 ♣ AKQ ♣ 86542 </p> <p> ♠ J3 ♥ Q85 ♦ AQ732 ♣ J107 </p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <p>I am not sure how keen I would be to open a weak 1NT as W at this vulnerability; N should double, and even an escape to 2C can be doubled for 500. It is, perhaps, more likely, particularly if W chooses to pass, that NS will declare 3NT.</p> <p>In 3NT, after the three top clubs are cashed, declarer has to choose which major suit finesse to take for his contract; if tempted by the spade finesse because it offers more tricks, he will soon be a wiser man! How about cashing diamonds first? As soon as E shows JD, a W who has opened 1NT must hold KH, with or without QS, in order to hold 12-14 points; on the other hand, if W has chosen not to open, then declarer might reason that he cannot hold KH, so will play him for QS!</p> <p>4S makes safely enough, but is not an easy contract to reach; it seems more likely that a spade contract will be a part-score, making 10 tricks.</p>
<p> ♠ K973 ♥ K93 ♦ 1075 ♣ K84 </p> <p> ♠ J1084 ♠ 52 ♥ J ♥ Q8765 4 ♦ J8 ♦ 943 ♣ AJ7532 ♣ 106 </p> <p> ♠ AQ6 ♥ A102 ♦ AKQ62 ♣ Q9 </p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <p>S will presumably show a 21-22 2NT hand and I have to confess that, as N with that flat hand, I would settle for 3NT, once S has denied a 4-card spade suit. In fact, 12 tricks are always made, either by taking the correct (PRC) heart view or via a black-suit squeeze against W. In 3NT, against a small club lead by W, the correct heart view, together with the squeeze, can produce 13 tricks.</p>

<p> ♠ J8642 ♥ 9 ♦ QJ2 ♣ KJ105 ♠ 73 ♥ Q106432 ♦ K104 ♣ 97 ♠ AK5 ♥ AJ85 ♦ A765 ♣ 83 ♠ Q109 ♥ K7 ♦ 983 ♣ AQ642 </p>	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <p>With or without a weak 2 by W, the contract is likely to be 4H, and there seems to be no way to avoid 4 losers, so those conservative players who stop in a part-score will gain.</p>
<p> ♠ J6 ♥ AQJ752 ♦ 64 ♣ 1082 ♠ AK42 ♥ - ♦ AQ53 ♣ AQ743 ♠ Q8753 ♥ K109 ♦ KJ2 ♣ K6 ♠ 109 ♥ 8643 ♦ 10987 ♣ J95 </p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <p>N will surely open a weak 2H and, unfortunately I don't believe that E's moth-eaten suit constitutes a 2S overcall so I think E should pass. At the vulnerability, I would be tempted to bid 4H (at least 3H anyway!) as S. W will double and it is not easy for E to do more than bid 4S, over which W would need rosy-tinted spectacles to proceed (not quite so rosy-tinted if the 4S is bid over 3H*).</p> <p>The grand slam can be reached as follows: 4NT - 5C/D (no key cards) - 5D/H (Q ask) - 6C (I have QS and KC) - 6D (have you KD?) - 7S (yes!). But can W really bid that optimistically? Of course he can if E makes the appalling 2S overcall! One possible refinement to that suggested sequence comes if the partnership has the understanding that, in response to the Queen-ask, E can bid 5NT to show QS and two side kings; In this case, of course, he has three side kings and it will not be clear to W that he has the right two!</p>

<p> ♠ 2 ♥ J1096 ♦ K8764 ♣ J63 ♠ 985 ♠ QJ103 ♥ A852 ♥ 73 ♦ 102 ♦ AQ95 ♣ AQ85 ♣ 942 ♠ AK764 ♥ KQ4 ♦ J3 ♣ K107 </p>	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <p>This looks like 1S - 1NT - passed out; some Ns might even pass 1S, particularly if it is known to be a 5-card suit. 1NT will struggle to make (though a diamond lead would help reduce the penalty) and 1S has seven automatic losers (plus a possible trump promotion on a diamond lead), so I think that any NS pair emerging with a plus score should feel very happy!</p>
<p> ♠ AQ7 ♥ QJ82 ♦ A43 ♣ AKQ ♠ 96543 ♠ 82 ♥ 3 ♥ A954 ♦ QJ5 ♦ K1082 ♣ 9862 ♣ 1073 ♠ KJ10 ♥ K1076 ♦ 976 ♣ J54 </p>	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <p>N has a 21-22 2NT hand and, as S with a flat hand, I might be tempted just to bid 3NT rather than search for the 4-4 heart fit.</p> <p>As it happens, on the natural diamond lead, 3NT makes only 9 tricks, whereas 4H makes 10 tricks, despite the 4-1 break. Without a diamond lead, 3NT also makes 10.</p>
<p> ♠ 96 ♥ Q83 ♦ KJ1096 ♣ 932 ♠ QJ1032 ♠ K54 ♥ 2 ♥ K1054 ♦ AQ84 ♦ 3 ♣ Q105 ♣ AKJ76 ♠ A87 ♥ AJ976 ♦ 752 ♣ 84 </p>	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <p>W has a dubious 1S opening (I wouldn't be proud of a 2S rebid over a 2H response), but in the event the bidding will proceed smoothly : 1S - 2C - 2D - 2H (4th suit) - 3C - 4S. In this contract, declarer may have to settle for 10 tricks, as it is difficult to ruff a diamond and draw trumps without then losing a diamond, unless S kindly takes AS on the first round. 11 tricks should score well.</p> <p>Some Es may attempt 3NT, which will make 10 tricks on a heart lead, but not on a diamond lead and heart switch!</p>