

EBED



Sim Pairs

Commentary by Mike Pomfrey

Thursday
16th May 2024

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. At EBED we focus on two priorities:

- A national bridge education and training framework and,
- Youth bridge initiatives to encourage those still in full time education to learn and play bridge.

EBED supports students and bridge teachers to use the “Bridge for All” syllabus, a coherent framework that takes learners from complete beginner through to competent club player. We trained over 100 bridge teachers last year. We also support club bridge by providing training of club tournament directors. In 2023 over 120 people qualified with us as club directors and are now helping their clubs to run sessions.

Our youth programme delivers 3 national level youth and school bridge tournaments, a national accreditation scheme, an annual residential youth camp, plus support for regional level competitions, and residential weekends. Youth bridge is driven by motivated individuals in schools and clubs. EBED supports many of these heroes by organising competitions and providing grants, advice, shared materials and other resources. This year we expect to provide grants amounting to over £5000 to meet travel and accommodation costs, enabling groups to attend various youth bridge 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.

I hope that you enjoy playing these hands and competing against others, I’ll be playing these at my club too. We sincerely thank you for your support.

Mark Humphris

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

♠ Q10943 ♥ J8 ♦ AK92 ♣ Q9 ♠ J ♥ A95 ♦ 10874 ♣ AK1054 ♠ A76 ♥ K32 ♦ QJ6 ♣ J632		♠ K852 ♥ Q10764 ♦ 53 ♣ 87		Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all West North East South 1♠ Pass 2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass 2♠ All Pass																																									
North has an opening bid, just, and in weak no-trump systems South is easily worth a two-level response. After North's rebid, some might be tempted to try 3♠ as South (three trumps and eleven points, partner) but it's a revolting hand. Even 2♠ is no sinecure. The books tell us to lead a long suit when we have four trumps, but this time a heart lead will simplify declarer's task. West should win and switch to clubs and the defence are likely to get two trumps to go with their ace-king-ace, unless declarer can see through the backs of the cards.		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		HCP	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		12	N	1	2	-	2	2	12	S	1	2	-	2	2	11	E	-	-	2	-	-		W	-	-	2	-	-
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<p>♠ 85 ♥ 96 ♦ AK843 ♣ K432</p> <p>♠ KJ94 ♠ A762 ♥ A10 ♥ KQ8742 ♦ QJ975 ♦ 2 ♣ 105 ♣ Q7</p> <p>♠ Q103 ♥ J53 ♦ 106 ♣ AJ986</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Some marginal decisions on this one. East has a clear opening bid and West is not quite strong enough for a reverse, so responds 1♠. East makes the obvious raise. It's tempting to bid game now, but it might be unmanageable opposite only three trumps, so West makes a game try. Despite a minimum point count, East has four trumps and only six losers, so bids game.</p> <p>It's a disappointment to find the shared weakness in clubs but this somewhat lucky game will scrape through.</p> <p>Despite the vulnerability, some Norths might venture a double on the first round, but this would help, rather than hinder, East-West's bidding.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South														
		1♥	Pass														
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass														
3♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass														

HCP		Makeable contracts					
10			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
11	11	N	3	-	-	-	-
		S	3	-	-	-	-
8		E	-	1	4	4	-
		W	-	1	4	4	-

<p>♠ A103 ♥ K107 ♦ Q1072 ♣ AK8</p> <p>♠ Q954 ♠ 87 ♥ A9 ♥ 8643 ♦ 9 ♦ A863 ♣ 1096542 ♣ QJ3</p> <p>♠ KJ62 ♥ QJ52 ♦ KJ54 ♣ 7</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>I hate 4441 hands, especially this one with no aces and three jacks, so am not tempted to open. All roads, however, are likely to end in 3NT. There looks to be a good case for East to lead a club, which makes the contract decidedly dodgy. You probably duck one round and set about dislodging the red aces. But which one first? If you happen to go for hearts you come up smelling of roses, as West's entry disappears. The defence can't run their suit and you will have time to decide whether to risk a spade finesse (which way?) for a potentially massive +430. Play on diamonds first and you are in trouble. The only good news is that, when you run the diamonds, West will have to release at least one club winner.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
West	North	East	South																		
			Pass																		
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥																		
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT																		
All Pass																					

HCP		Makeable contracts					
16			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
6	7	N	1	5	4	4	4
		S	1	5	4	4	4
11		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ AKJ6 ♥ 10965 ♦ A83 ♣ J8</p> <p>♠ 10432 ♠ 975 ♥ 3 ♥ J7 ♦ KQJ92 ♦ 1064 ♣ 973 ♣ AQ1042</p> <p>♠ Q8 ♥ AKQ842 ♦ 75 ♣ K65</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>With four trumps and good controls, North's is a very good hand opposite a heart suit. You should break the transfer here, to whatever your system indicates. I would bid 2♠, showing a side suit with values, but others prefer to break to shortage.</p> <p>South also has a useful collection but rather a lot of losers opposite a weak no trump. I doubt whether many players will be tempted to look for a slam. South may decide to be declarer to protect the possibly vulnerable king of clubs, but it makes no difference. It's a trivial matter to draw trumps, discard a losing diamond on a spade, and lead up to the club for twelve tricks.</p> <p>Any East-West pair on the wrong end of a slam will rue their luck.</p> <p>Next board please!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	?		
West	North	East	South										
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦										
Pass	?												

HCP		Makeable contracts					
13			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
6	7	N	1	1	6	5	5
		S	1	1	6	5	5
14		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ 8 ♥ A1076 ♦ 87 ♣ AQ9876</p> <p>♠ 9 ♠ A6543 ♥ Q85 ♥ K93 ♦ Q1064 ♦ AK53 ♣ K10432 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ KQJ1072 ♥ J42 ♦ J92 ♣ 5</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>15</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8</td> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		10		N	-	-	-	2	-	7	15	S	-	-	-	2	-		8	E	1	3	1	-	2			W	1	3	1	-	2	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <p>West North East South</p> <p> 1♣ ?</p> <p>Here's a common situation. As East do you double or overcall 1♠? The general wisdom is that, when you are short in your opponent's suit, you can overcall and, perhaps, subsequently make a takeout double to show a semi-three suiter. I suspect the majority will do just that. South, of course, is delighted and West has nothing to say. Despite having a minimum opening bid, North must be certain that partner is lurking, and should double. It's for takeout, of course, but South passes for penalties (trying not to make it too obvious you have a monster trump stack). West can't see that it's right to rescue, though both 1NT and 2♦ play far better. South leads an obvious top trump, and it looks like -300. If East were to double 1♣, South will finish in 2♠ for a less exciting +110. Say West leads a diamond, East wins and returns a trump. When the ♠9 falls, South continues the suit. East wins, cashes two diamonds and forces declarer. Meanwhile West has had to find a lot of discards and it should be possible to read the position.</p>
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<p>♠ Q4 ♥ 9732 ♦ J83 ♣ Q965</p> <p>♠ AK76 ♠ J103 ♥ Q6 ♥ 84 ♦ A10754 ♦ KQ62 ♣ 103 ♣ AJ87</p> <p>♠ 9852 ♥ AKJ105 ♦ 9 ♣ K42</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>11</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>11</td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		5		N	-	-	2	-	-	13	11	S	-	-	2	-	-		11	E	2	4	-	3	2			W	2	4	-	3	2	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <p>West North East South</p> <p> Pass 1♥</p> <p>Pass 2♥ Pass 3♥</p> <p>All Pass</p> <p>Do I really think South should bid again after a single raise? Yes, certainly. See what happens if you pass: West, who was close to doubling on the first round, will surely do so now. East-West should find their diamond contract, making an easy nine (or even ten) tricks. 2♠ also goes well. You may cash two top trumps, planning to switch to diamonds to keep control, and get a pleasant surprise in the fall of the doubleton queen. An interesting system issue: If South passes on the second round and West doubles, how do East-West find their diamond contract? After you've both passed, a bid of 2NT by East should clearly not be natural; neither, I think, should it be Lebensohl, as you can't be looking for game. So it should be read as a hand playable in two places, in this case clearly either minor.</p>
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
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	11	E	2	4	-	3	2																																										
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<p>♠ K73 ♥ K975 ♦ 5 ♣ K10964</p> <p>♠ AJ98 ♠ 1062 ♥ QJ108 ♥ A6 ♦ K87 ♦ AQ92 ♣ J5 ♣ AQ73</p> <p>♠ Q54 ♥ 432 ♦ J10643 ♣ 82</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>16</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3</td> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		9		N	-	-	-	-	-	12	16	S	-	-	-	-	-		3	E	3	5	4	5	4			W	3	5	5	5	5	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <p>West North East South</p> <p>1NT Pass 3NT All Pass</p> <p>An obvious auction to an obvious contract. North has a choice of unattractive, and unsuccessful, leads. It looks a close call between your longest suit and a heart, given that they haven't looked for a major fit. Whatever is chosen, declarer should use dummy's entries to take two finesses in spades, concede a trick to the king of hearts, and write down +660. But I guess there will be some who muddle the entries and make less. Anyone for a speculative Aspro type overcall for North? It's dangerous with moderate suits and only four hearts and will catch a nasty cold this time.</p>
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
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12	16	S	-	-	-	-	-																																										
	3	E	3	5	4	5	4																																										
		W	3	5	5	5	5																																										

<p>♠ 72 ♥ A108 ♦ 98432 ♣ 862</p> <p>♠ AJ953 ♠ Q108 ♥ J5 ♥ Q76 ♦ J ♦ AK5 ♣ J10543 ♣ AK97</p> <p>♠ K64 ♥ K9432 ♦ Q1076 ♣ Q</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>That's not a very robust overcall, but it may reap unexpected rewards. If partner leads your suit you'll get two tricks for what might well be an excellent score.</p> <p>With both black suits behaving, you can make as many tricks in no trumps as in spades, eleven if they lead hearts and twelve otherwise. However, I'd be surprised if most pairs don't choose to play in spades. With or without the overcall, East-West's system should be able to find out that West has five spades, and neither partner can be sure of a heart stop for no trumps.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠	2♥	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥														
1♠	2♥	3♠	Pass														
4♠	All Pass																

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
4	N -	1	1	-	-
8	S -	1	1	-	-
10	E 5	-	-	5	5
	W 5	-	-	5	5

<p>♠ KJ842 ♥ 643 ♦ K865 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ AQ ♠ 76 ♥ AKQJ95 ♥ 87 ♦ 32 ♦ AJ97 ♣ 963 ♣ AQJ84</p> <p>♠ 10953 ♥ 102 ♦ Q104 ♣ K1052</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>?</p> <p>I've not completed the auction here, as there are various ways of approaching it. An old fashioned forcing 2♥ will just get East rebidding the clubs, West rebidding the hearts and, with no spade stop, East has to bid 4♥.</p> <p>An off-centre weak no-trump opening might get you to 3NT but, unfortunately, from the wrong side.</p> <p>The best result possible is for West to play in 3NT. A spade lead makes life easy for declarer. However, on the most challenging lead, a diamond, you rise with the ace, play a heart to hand and then take a club finesse. How about South ducking smoothly? That's good defence but it doesn't help. Declarer returns to a heart and tries another club. Now you have to settle for ten tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♣	Pass
West	North	East	South						
	Pass	1♣	Pass						

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
7	N -	-	-	1	-
16	S -	-	-	1	-
5	E 3	1	4	-	3
	W 3	1	4	-	4

<p>♠ A10962 ♥ Q8 ♦ Q743 ♣ 63</p> <p>♠ 87 ♠ 543 ♥ J107643 ♥ 92 ♦ J10 ♦ AK965 ♣ 952 ♣ AQ10</p> <p>♠ KQJ ♥ AK5 ♦ 82 ♣ KJ874</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>?</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Do you know your partnership methods after your side doubles 1NT and they rescue themselves? It can get complicated, especially if the opening side has an artificial system of escape.</p> <p>On this hand it turns out to be easy if your system is simple and natural. North can bid 3♠ and is raised to 4♠. Best defence is to lead trumps, but the favourable club position makes it straightforward to come to ten tricks.</p> <p>3NT by North should make nine tricks but, played by South, is defeated on a diamond lead.</p> <p>Any pair trying for a top by defending 2♥ doubled will be disappointed; it's only 500.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Dbl	2♥	?		
West	North	East	South										
		1NT	Dbl										
2♥	?												

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
8	N 3	1	1	4	3
2	S 3	1	-	4	1
13	E -	-	-	-	-
17	W -	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ A2 ♥ Q965 ♦ K87 ♣ Q1073</p> <p>♠ 954 ♠ K103 ♥ 2 ♥ J108743 ♦ Q1092 ♦ AJ54 ♣ K9865 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ QJ876 ♥ AK ♦ 63 ♣ AJ42</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South has a tricky decision on the second round, whether or not East overcalls. 3♣ would not be unreasonable, but the hand is a little strong opposite a two-level response. Despite the slightly off-centre shape and lack of a diamond stop, I would be inclined to try 2NT, which leads to a game which has, in theory, enough points to be playable. The ten of diamonds lead will scupper it immediately but West, an obedient soul, leads partner's suit. Communications are still tricky. In order not to be cut off from the queen of hearts, you might cash the king and ace before clearing the spades. East, however, clears the heart suit and you are reduced to a club finesse. East shows out and you settle for one down.</p> <p>Never mind, had you played in a pusillanimous 3♣ you'd do well to score the same minus 50.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	2♣	2♥	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South														
			1♠														
Pass	2♣	2♥	2NT														
Pass	3NT	All Pass															

HCP	Makeable contracts																														
11	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♦</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	1	2	2	S	2	-	-	1	1	E	-	2	-	-	-	W	-	2	-	-	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																										
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S	2	-	-	1	1																										
E	-	2	-	-	-																										
W	-	2	-	-	-																										
5 9																															
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<p>♠ Q72 ♥ J1094 ♦ J84 ♣ J107</p> <p>♠ K85 ♠ 1064 ♥ AK876 ♥ Q52 ♦ 93 ♦ AQ62 ♣ 983 ♣ KQ6</p> <p>♠ AJ93 ♥ 3 ♦ K1075 ♣ A542</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This all starts off in very disciplined fashion. At the vulnerability the odd West might open. As it goes, South is also reluctant to pass over 1NT but hopes the bidding will develop as it does. At pairs you really have to compete over 2♥.</p> <p>North has the worst possible hand, just one defensive trick against a heart contract and horrendous playing prospects in anything. Ghastly as it seems, you have to bite the bullet and try to beat 2♥ doubled.</p> <p>It's rarely wise to lead a singleton trump but anything else is fraught with danger. If the defenders do everything right, they can just about prevail. Thank heavens for the seven of clubs!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Dbl	All Pass			
West	North	East	South														
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass														
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S	1	1	-	1	-																										
E	-	-	1	-	-																										
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<p>♠ Q32 ♥ 98432 ♦ Q104 ♣ A5</p> <p>♠ J104 ♠ AK976 ♥ J ♥ Q5 ♦ K632 ♦ A97 ♣ KQJ103 ♣ 876</p> <p>♠ 85 ♥ AK1076 ♦ J85 ♣ 942</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>I'm afraid this auction is a bit contrived. I believe 1NT is, on balance, a far better opening than 1♠. It's essentially a balanced hand with eight losers. West will make an invitational raise to 2NT, using some artificial method if, in your system, an immediate 2NT is a transfer bid.</p> <p>Knowing that West has no four-card major, it's not crazy to try for a spade contract and this, a little fortunately, rolls in. 3NT stands no chance even if South leads a low heart.</p> <p>An old-fashioned auction of 1♠-2♣-2♠-3♠-pass gets you to a sensible spot and you may feel aggrieved that game is a lucky make.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
	Pass	1NT	Pass														
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	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	-	-	2	-	-																										
S	-	-	2	-	-																										
E	5	3	-	4	1																										
W	5	3	-	4	1																										
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<p>♠ A76 ♥ 9762 ♦ 8632 ♣ 106</p> <p>♠ K10432 ♠ QJ5 ♥ AJ ♥ KQ10854 ♦ Q10 ♦ KJ7 ♣ A532 ♣ K</p> <p>♠ 98 ♥ 3 ♦ A954 ♣ QJ9874</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	4		N	-	-	-	-	14	15	S	-	-	-	-			E	1	1	5	4	5	7		W	1	1	5	4	5	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><th style="text-align: left;">West</th><th style="text-align: left;">North</th><th style="text-align: left;">East</th><th style="text-align: left;">South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♥</td><td>3♣</td></tr> <tr><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr> </table> <p>There doesn't look to be much in this hand but a lot of matchpoints could hinge on the lie of the cards and on speculative bidding or defence. Without South's weak jump overcall East-West will probably finish in hearts and make an easy eleven tricks. In spades an unlikely heart lead gets the defence a ruff and three tricks.</p> <p>Anyone for 3NT? That'll make twelve tricks unless the defenders take their two aces quickly. Even if they do, +460 will surely be a great score.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	3♣	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																								
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<p>♠ A98 ♥ 873 ♦ KQ853 ♣ 106</p> <p>♠ KJ74 ♠ Q632 ♥ KJ1054 ♥ A92 ♦ 2 ♦ 74 ♣ QJ2 ♣ K753</p> <p>♠ 105 ♥ Q6 ♦ AJ1096 ♣ A984</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>9</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	9		N	-	3	-	-	1	11	9	S	-	3	-	-	1			E	2	-	4	3	-	11		W	2	-	4	3	-	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><th style="text-align: left;">West</th><th style="text-align: left;">North</th><th style="text-align: left;">East</th><th style="text-align: left;">South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1♦</td></tr> <tr><td>1♥</td><td>2♥</td><td>3♥</td><td>All Pass</td></tr> </table> <p>More marginal decisions here. The South hand isn't much of an opening bid but at least your suits are in the right order and, as they say, it's a bidder's game. West overcalls, North shows a good raise and East supports hearts. With only three trumps East might prefer a double. Should West make a try with 2♠, East may sense a good fit and raise. Now the stakes will be higher. You have to be a little careful in the play of a heart contract. Two rounds of diamonds are led, and you have to ruff. Suppose you guess the trumps, picking up the doubleton queen. You can't afford to draw the last one as you have two black aces to dislodge and will run out of trumps. So, you have to leave the last trump at bay and play on a black suit. But which one? As it happens, the hand with the last trump has a doubleton club, so to make ten tricks you must start with spades. That's a really long shot and most of us will guess wrong. Anyone who plays the hand in spades can make ten tricks unless the defence find a club ruff.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♦	1♥	2♥	3♥	All Pass
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																										
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																						
9		N	-	3	-	-	1																																																					
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<p>♠ KQ103 ♥ AK103 ♦ J73 ♣ KJ</p> <p>♠ 9865 ♠ J2 ♥ 5 ♥ Q7642 ♦ A1062 ♦ K85 ♣ A952 ♣ Q104</p> <p>♠ A74 ♥ J98 ♦ Q94 ♣ 8763</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>8</td><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	17		N	1	-	2	2	2	8	8	S	1	-	2	2	2			E	-	1	-	-	-	7		W	-	1	-	-	-	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><th style="text-align: left;">West</th><th style="text-align: left;">North</th><th style="text-align: left;">East</th><th style="text-align: left;">South</th></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td></tr> <tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Playing four-card majors, South has a choice between responding 1NT or 2♥. The very flat shape and high number of losers lean me to the former. Despite your tens in the long suits, North's is not a great 17-count, the two jacks being dubious assets. At teams you might scrape up a raise but certainly not at pairs. Leading away from ace to four often gives away a trick, and I would strongly favour starting with a spade. Declarer will win the second round in hand and try a heart finesse. Now the best defence looks to be to go completely passive; return a spade and let declarer do the guessing in the minors. There are eight tricks available on the winning club play but there are also ways of going down.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	All Pass			
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																										
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																						
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<p>♠ K842 ♥ A84 ♦ AQ93 ♣ K2</p> <p>♠ J73 ♠ Q ♥ QJ62 ♥ K3 ♦ KJ85 ♦ 1072 ♣ 73 ♣ QJ98654</p> <p>♠ A10965 ♥ 10975 ♦ 64 ♣ A10</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>This would be my auction playing a weak no trump and four-card majors. The South hand would be worth a sound raise to 3♠ without the overcall. Now you must realise that you would be forced to compete to 3♠ with a lot less than that and you have to take the pressure off partner. If North opens a strong no trump and East jumps to 3♣, what now? I think South has to double, for takeout. North should realise the major suit is key and the same contract is reached.</p> <p>After East's bid, the odds strongly favour a restricted choice play in trumps: ace first and finesse on the second round. That gets you eleven tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	3♣	4♠
West	North	East	South						
	1♠	3♣	4♠						

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
16		N	1	3	4	5	4
8	8	S	1	3	4	5	4
		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ Q53 ♥ KJ1075 ♦ QJ1097 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ 987 ♠ 1064 ♥ A9864 ♥ Q3 ♦ A65 ♦ K843 ♣ K6 ♣ Q1087</p> <p>♠ AKJ2 ♥ 2 ♦ 2 ♣ AJ95432</p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>Curious hand. As we have seen before on board 5, although South's re-opening double looks a little off-centre, it's almost certain that North is lurking with a stack of hearts. Surprisingly, no-one else has anything to say.</p> <p>A diamond lead looks obvious, and declarer has to win in hand and play a trump towards dummy to avoid South ruffing with the singleton two. After that, all roads should lead to two down and 300 to North-South. Left to their own devices, it's far from obvious what contract North-South should reach. No game looks to have much chance, so +300 should score well.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♣	1♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
West	North	East	South										
		Pass	1♣										
1♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl										

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
9		N	2	3	2	3	2
11	7	S	2	3	2	3	2
		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ KQ9876 ♥ 7 ♦ 943 ♣ 432</p> <p>♠ J103 ♠ A542 ♥ AJ92 ♥ 1085 ♦ Q1086 ♦ 72 ♣ 109 ♣ AQJ7</p> <p>♠ - ♥ KQ643 ♦ AKJ5 ♣ K865</p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>I've thrown in a modern method which is useful to define more closely an auction whereby responder bids and rebids a suit. North's response here shows the equivalent of a weak two, a six-card suit and about 4-8 points. An auction like 1♥-1♠-2♣-2♠ is stronger, around 9-11, rather than the wide range it used to show.</p> <p>With no fit, South is not tempted to improve the contract, and 2♠ should just roll in for +110.</p> <p>Using this style, of course, means you no longer have a traditional game forcing response of 2♠. The solution would be that 1♠, followed by 3♠ on the next round, shows such a hand. You may lose a level of bidding but in return South's second bid may be more straightforward.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South										
			1♥										
Pass	2♠	All Pass											

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
5		N	-	1	-	2	-
8	11	S	-	1	-	2	-
		E	-	-	1	-	2
		W	-	-	1	-	2

<p>♠ 53 ♥ AJ2 ♦ Q954 ♣ AK64</p> <p>♠ AKJ1072 ♠ Q9864 ♥ Q3 ♥ K764 ♦ AK3 ♦ 1086 ♣ 105 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ - ♥ 10985 ♦ J72 ♣ Q98732</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Here's an interesting situation. North has a clear double; you can't always be dealt four cards in the other major. East's pre-emptive raise to 3♠ looks about right; with defence to hearts you shouldn't be tempted to bounce all the way to game.</p> <p>Now what about South? You have no defence at all to the game that West is probably about to bid. If you pass or, worse, bid 4♣ and wait for that to happen, you give West more space. An advance sacrifice is a better idea; might West risk going down in 5♠ rather than take an inadequate penalty? As we see, you have to cut your losses as 5♠ should fail.</p> <p>The only hope of making 5♠ is to lead a low heart towards dummy, hoping that North will waste the ace on thin air, but surely North should realise it's not a singleton.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Dbl	3♠	5♣	Dbl	All Pass		
West	North	East	South										
1♠	Dbl	3♠	5♣										
Dbl	All Pass												

HCP		Makeable contracts	
14		♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT	
17	6	N 4 1 - - -	
3		S 4 1 - - -	
		E - - - 4 -	
		W - - - 4 -	

<p>♠ KQ742 ♥ 4 ♦ K10762 ♣ KQ</p> <p>♠ A1096 ♠ J3 ♥ K753 ♥ AJ62 ♦ 83 ♦ J5 ♣ 743 ♣ AJ1098</p> <p>♠ 85 ♥ Q1098 ♦ AQ94 ♣ 652</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The saints preserve me from any East who overcalls on the first round, despite the vulnerability. Two-level overcalls should almost invariably be six-card suits, and those jacks in the short suits have no value in offence but might be a nuisance in defence.</p> <p>It's quite different on the second round. Now your chances of a fit are much better. South isn't having it though, and supports diamonds. West should realise their side is outgunned; 3♥ would be doubled for 300, too much against a part score.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Dbl	3♦	All Pass			
West	North	East	South														
	1♠	Pass	1NT														
Pass	2♦	Dbl	3♦														
All Pass																	

HCP		Makeable contracts	
13		♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT	
7	12	N - 4 - 2 -	
8		S - 4 - 2 -	
		E 2 - 1 - -	
		W 2 - 1 - -	

<p>♠ KJ83 ♥ KQJ5 ♦ 4 ♣ A1052</p> <p>♠ Q1042 ♠ 765 ♥ A8762 ♥ 1093 ♦ KQ10 ♦ J932 ♣ 4 ♣ KJ7</p> <p>♠ A9 ♥ 4 ♦ A8765 ♣ Q9863</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>No, I wouldn't overcall on the West hand. Partner has passed, and you are vulnerable with a poor main suit and some defence. Moreover, should your side end up defending – more than likely – you have no reason to persuade partner to lead hearts.</p> <p>With a strong holding in the unbid suit and modest clubs, North bids the most likely game.</p> <p>I expect most Easts will lead a spade, which achieves nothing for the defence. There's a possibility of sneaking an overtrick now, though even if South gets the clubs right the defence can switch to diamonds. Communications are a problem, too.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South														
		Pass	1♦														
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣														
Pass	3NT	All Pass															

HCP		Makeable contracts	
14		♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT	
11	5	N 5 2 2 3 3	
10		S 5 2 2 3 3	
		E - - - - -	
		W - - - - -	

<p>♠ 1073 ♥ K ♦ AJ94 ♣ A10763</p> <p>♠ A962 ♠ K54 ♥ 103 ♥ J8764 ♦ KQ7 ♦ 10865 ♣ J942 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ QJ8 ♥ AQ952 ♦ 32 ♣ KQ8</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>4</td><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	12		N	4	2	2	2	4	10	4	S	4	2	2	2	4			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>With a five-card suit and good honour combinations, South is too strong for a weak no trump. After North's response, 2NT is the most practical bid, despite the absence of a diamond stop. Partner hasn't responded in spades so is likely to have some diamond length.</p> <p>There looks to be nothing in the play after a probable spade lead. West will duck the second round and declarer will have to unblock the hearts and run for home with ten tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																														
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																										
12		N	4	2	2	2	4																																																									
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<p>♠ K1053 ♥ AK109 ♦ QJ7 ♣ 65</p> <p>♠ Q9 ♠ A87 ♥ QJ52 ♥ 74 ♦ 2 ♦ AK1083 ♣ QJ10872 ♣ A93</p> <p>♠ J642 ♥ 863 ♦ 9654 ♣ K4</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>15</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	13		N	-	-	1	-	8	15	S	-	-	1	-			E	4	1	-	-			W	4	1	-	2	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </table> <p>East has a pretty minimum double but has chosen the right moment. Now what should South do? 1NT doubled looks likely to be a grim contract and a very poor score. Many partnerships have escape methods that attempt to find some sort of fit. For example, pass can require North to redouble, whereupon you can pass with a good hand or bid the lower of two four-card suits, in this case 2♦. North knows there must be a fit in one of the majors, but I'm not sure how you find which one without guessing.</p> <p>I don't play a formal method but make much use of SOS redoubles. Here I might bid 2♣, expecting to be doubled, so then I redouble, asking partner to try something else. In turn, North could choose to bid 2♦, and then, when doubled, also redouble, showing both majors. South chooses spades. Hey presto! East-West now have to give up and play in a club part score. At least we've made it hard for them.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	Dbl	?
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																		
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
13		N	-	-	1	-																																														
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<p>♠ A8 ♥ 107 ♦ K9865 ♣ J952</p> <p>♠ K1072 ♠ J3 ♥ 9643 ♥ KQ852 ♦ AJ4 ♦ Q1032 ♣ Q8 ♣ 107</p> <p>♠ Q9654 ♥ AJ ♦ 7 ♣ AK643</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>8</td><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	8		N	4	1	-	2	2	10	8	S	4	1	-	2	2			E	-	-	1	-	-			W	-	-	1	-	-	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>It's a moot point which black suit to open with 5-5 shape. With a modest hand it's best to start with spades as otherwise you might lose the suit if opponents compete. A better hand can afford to start with 1♣, planning to bid spades twice. This one is a bit in-between and I wouldn't criticise either choice. We find our club fit but, even vulnerable, East refuses to go quietly. However, it's no avail as East-West are outgunned. South is sure to go to 3♣ over whatever West bids so you might as well do it now. If South were to start with 1♣, North might choose to make a constructive raise and now there's a danger of getting too high.</p> <p>Clubs will make ten tricks on the likely heart lead, and eleven otherwise.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl	3♣	All Pass			
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																																		
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<p>♠ K63 ♥ Q984 ♦ 874 ♣ 1094</p> <p>♠ AQJ9742 ♠ 105 ♥ 1072 ♥ KJ5 ♦ K105 ♦ QJ92 ♣ - ♣ K852</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ A63 ♦ A63 ♣ AQJ763</p>	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>This one looks exciting! 4♠ is a slight stretch but it certainly puts the cat among the pigeons. South isn't going to lie down, and North is surely going to defend, as the five level looks hopeless. North leads the ten of clubs. Declarer does best to ruff and play spades from the top. Another club is ruffed, and the last trump drawn. Now play king and another diamond. What can South do? If you take the second diamond you allow a heart discard, and then a successful heart guess makes the contract. If you duck twice, a third diamond leaves you with no safe exit. You can't blame either party for this bad score, but 5♣ by North would have saved the day. Curiously, the computer can't make 4♠ from the East hand. Why not? It looks to me that an unlikely low heart lead from South puts the defence on top. North puts in the 8 and the jack wins. The play goes as before but now South can win the third diamond and play the ace of clubs. Dummy now has no entry.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♣	4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl																																				
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<p>♠ J63 ♥ Q9 ♦ KQ10964 ♣ 95</p> <p>♠ A102 ♠ 97 ♥ 5 ♥ A86432 ♦ 853 ♦ AJ7 ♣ AQ10832 ♣ J6</p> <p>♠ KQ854 ♥ KJ107 ♦ 2 ♣ K74</p>	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>A tricky hand for everyone, with a number of possible outcomes. The first two bids are clear. Now North is just about worth bidding a new suit; it pays to say something helpful while you can. Despite the empty heart suit it's reasonable for East to get involved, which is sure to shut South up. Whilst most people treat a new suit after partner's overcall as forcing, I don't think it should be so here. With everyone bidding, East can't have a big hand. So, it's passed back to North who is still there, and so is East with a flexible double. What now for West? It's tricky, and I've chosen the worst option. A pass would get 300 on perfect defence, hearts would score better than clubs, but 3NT is the winner. I bet no-one tries that.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	2♣	2♦	2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠	Dbl	Pass	3♣	All Pass																														
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<p>♠ 653 ♥ QJ ♦ J10962 ♣ 972</p> <p>♠ 102 ♠ KJ87 ♥ 72 ♥ 109643 ♦ AKQ85 ♦ 4 ♣ AQ108 ♣ K43</p> <p>♠ AQ94 ♥ AK85 ♦ 73 ♣ J65</p>	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Well, I've just passed another bid that many would treat as forcing. C'est la vie, I'm afraid. You can't give false preference on a singleton, you can't rebid those rubbishy hearts, and nothing else remotely appeals. As it happens, even 2♣ is far from cold. North starts with two top hearts and switches to spades. South pushes hearts through and the only obvious way I can see to make the contract is to ruff with the ten, take one diamond ruff only and draw trumps. One other possible plus score for East-West is for West to rebid an off-centre 1NT and for East to pass. Plausible but unlikely. All in all, you'll be pleased to make anything. I hope no South decides to get involved here. That would really let East-West off the hook.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣	All Pass																																						
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About the Bridge for All books and how to order

All items are sold and despatched by English Bridge Education & Development



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Fast Track Bridge is ideal for those who want to learn more quickly, perhaps on a condensed course over a long weekend, or through a number of more intensive classes. It is designed to get you to the table quicker. The cost is £30 plus P&P.

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Continuing Bridge Book 2 covers more advanced topics, for those who have grasped the basics – whether having completed Book 1, or a Fast Track course – and wish to improve their game. The cost is £30 plus P&P.



Beginning Bridge Book 1 and Continuing Bridge Book 2 are accompanied by the refreshed **Practise Beginning Bridge Book 1** and **Practise Continuing Bridge Book 2**, to help consolidate knowledge gained from our Bridge For All books. They provide the bridge student with sets of hands to practice at home with friends. With each hand there is a commentary that highlights one or two topics of bidding and play which feature in teaching books. The cost is £8 each plus P&P.

Completing the set of materials is the **System Summary Card**, which gives the Standard English system taught in the Bridge For All books in an easy to use reference format. The cost is £2.50 plus P&P



NEW: SET OF 3 FLIPPERS - £13.50 + P&P

Table top flippers designed to act as either a student aid or teaching aid. Each flipper covers one term of the first year of learning and are compatible with Beginning Bridge Book One. The Flippers are made of sturdy plastic coated card and are spiro bound.

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How to order these products

All these products are available to purchase directly from English Bridge Education & Development: please call Lisa on 01296 317217 from Monday to Wednesday or if you wish to order online please do so through the website of [the Bridge Warehouse](#).