

# **British Summer Sim Pairs**



**Wednesday**  
**25<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

Welcome to the British Summer Simultaneous Pairs. Thank you for playing. I hope you enjoy the event and also the commentary provided by a leading expert. The commentator for this set of hands is Graham Osborne.

There are cash prizes both for leading players and also for clubs who run heats. The leading pair and also the leading club drawn win £1000. There are other cash prizes. There will be a draw for major prizes at the AGM in November and a full list will be published on the website.

You can find all the full details, results and last year's prize winners at [www.ebu.co.uk/sims/](http://www.ebu.co.uk/sims/)

Blue points are awarded to the top third of the field. Provisional master points are shown but the event is not finalised until all results are in and score corrections have been made. This usually takes about three weeks. It really helps us if you can keep your scorecard for that period. Clubs should keep travellers if still used.

In August the Junior World Championship takes place in China. We are the only nation sending four teams (U26, U26 Women, U21, U16) all of whom qualified last year. I'm grateful to the counties, clubs and individuals who have contributed to help them go and hope that many of our members will take an interest during the event. Matches will be on BBO and the EBU website will have a link to all the results.

Jeremy Dhondy, Chairman EBU

<p>♠AJ2 ♥KJ95 ♦KQ109 ♣A9</p> <p>♠K83                      ♠10765 ♥83                         ♥107 ♦J3                         ♦A542 ♣QJ10875                ♣K42</p> <p>                              ♠Q94                               ♥AQ642                               ♦876                               ♣63</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>18</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</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>8</td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	18		N	1	4	5	3	2	7	7	S	1	4	5	3	2			E	-	-	-	-	-		8	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p><b>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</b></p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>South might raise to 2♥ or try a semi-tactical raise to 3♥. In either case, this is surely everyone's 4♥ contract. When North is declarer, East has to avoid that tempting looking spade lead which turns out to not to be passive at all. Declarer plays the nine from dummy and now has no loser in the suit. The club loser disappears on the fourth round of diamonds when that suit lies favourably, making six! If East /West are playing five-card majors then 1♦-1♥-3♥-4♥ makes South declarer and the obvious ♣Q lead means there is no danger of 12 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
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<p>♠8 ♥953 ♦AJ753 ♣9832</p> <p>♠AQ                        ♠432 ♥AJ106                    ♥8742 ♦92                         ♦K864 ♣AQ765                    ♣KJ</p> <p>                              ♠KJ109765                               ♥KQ                               ♦Q10                               ♣104</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>7</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>11</td> <td>W</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	5		N	-	-	-	1	-	17	7	S	-	-	-	1	-			E	5	2	4	-	4		11	W	5	2	4	-	4	<p><b>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</b></p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Both 4♥ and 3NT are very playable games for East/West here especially after the opening bid, but the difficulty will be in reaching them. If West overcalls 1NT, that might end the auction or South might chance 2♠ in the pass-out seat. East would re-open with a double probably leading to a club or heart part-score. If West starts with a double, there is a better chance of reaching game, perhaps 1♠-X-P-2♥-2♠-4♥. 4♥ is quite aggressive when partner might have nothing, but the clubs are a source of tricks and the ♠AQ have become the ♠AK on the auction. With hearts 3-2 and the ♦A onside the defenders need to secure their spade ruff to hold declarer to ten tricks. This hand would not be a good time for South to start with a heavy 3♠ pre-empt as this will definitely push the opponents into game.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♠	1NT	All Pass		
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<p>                     ♠ Q102                      ♥ KQJ62                      ♦ J106                      ♣ A3                      ♠ J                      ♠ K8543                      ♥ 1083                  ♥ A95                      ♦ AK98543            ♦ Q7                      ♣ J4                      ♣ 652                      ♠ A976                      ♥ 74                      ♦ 2                      ♣ KQ10987                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>13</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>9</td> <td>S</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>9</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	13		N	5	-	2	3	-	9	9	S	5	-	2	3	-		9	E	-	2	-	-	-			W	-	2	-	-	-	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Over the 3♦ opening, 3♥ by North isn't a great choice with length in the pre-empt suit and with game being unlikely opposite a passed hand unless partner can re-open. South has an interesting choice with the opening is passed round to him. Most flexible is to double catering to a penalty pass by partner and intending to convert a 3♥ response to 4♣. Whether you should convert if partner, as here, jumps to 4♥ is another matter! 4♥ can make after the ♦Q lead unless the defence switch to a spade to set up a ruff. 5♣ is made by running the ♠Q from dummy pinning the singleton ♠J. I don't expect many will manage to bid and make game here.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣	All Pass			
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<p>                     ♠ 85                      ♥ J965                      ♦ 1032                      ♣ Q965                      ♠ J6                      ♠ K32                      ♥ K103                  ♥ 82                      ♦ AQJ754              ♦ 986                      ♣ 87                      ♣ AJ1032                      ♠ AQ10974                      ♥ AQ74                      ♦ K                      ♣ K4                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>8</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>18</td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	3		N	-	-	4	3	-	11	8	S	-	-	4	3	-		18	E	2	2	-	-	2			W	1	2	-	-	2	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>East isn't quite strong enough to respond 2♣ so should respond 1NT. South with a strong hand starts with a double and when the opponents compete to the three level in their fit gets a chance to show his second suit. Making a heart contract requires you to see through the backs of the cards. Ruff the second diamond with the ♥Q, and play a low heart towards the ♥J. If West rises with the ♥K to force dummy again, ruff with the ♥A and finesse the ♥9. Now ♥J, finesse the ♠Q, ruff the spades good and play a club towards the ♣Kx. Even making 3♥ is quite tricky so I expect a lot of North/South pairs will go minus here.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	Pass	1NT	Dble	2♦	Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♦	3♥	All Pass			
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<p>                     ♠ K1074                      ♥ K764                      ♦ 10                      ♣ Q763                      ♠ J5                      ♠ 9832                      ♥ 5                        ♥ QJ832                      ♦ AKJ7654            ♦ 82                      ♣ AK2                   ♣ 84                      ♠ AQ6                      ♥ A109                      ♦ Q93                      ♣ J1095                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>3</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>13</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	8		N	3	-	2	2	-	16	3	S	3	-	2	2	1		13	E	-	4	-	-	-			W	-	4	-	-	-	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td colspan="3">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Whether North runs from 1NT doubled to 2♣ perhaps showing clubs and a higher suit or chances a pass hoping the defence haven't got too many diamond tricks to cash, East is likely to run to 2♥ with his weak hand. West will correct to 3♦ which should end the auction. Declarer can take a club ruff in dummy and so the hand will come down to how declarer plays the diamond suit with a vital overtrick at stake. A priori with nine cards in a suit the odds favour the drop, but with South known to have the balance of the points and with North perhaps having shown length in other suits during the auction the finesse is probably the percentage play.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1NT	Dble	2♣	2♥	Pass	3♦	All Pass						
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<p>♠ 8743 ♥ KJ2 ♦ 842 ♣ AQ9</p> <p>♠ 62                      ♠ KQ105 ♥ A9863                ♥ 10754 ♦ K53                    ♦ AJ6 ♣ J75                    ♣ 62</p> <p>♠ AJ9 ♥ Q ♦ Q1097 ♣ K10843</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW 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>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>The West hand is a little sketchy for a vulnerable overcall, with the next decision falling on South as to how to respond to partner's bid. With a singleton, I prefer the raise on three-card support rather than rebidding the weak five-card suit. However, on this hand either NT or club contracts are much more comfortable with North having a very weak spade suit and secondary strength in South's singleton. Declarer can just about find a way home with all the spade honours inside despite the 4-2 break but with NT making at least eight tricks easily and some chance of the defence letting through a tenth trick against a club contract, declarer in a spade contract may find that his careful play does not yield a great reward.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♠	Pass	1♣	All Pass		Pass	2♠																														
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<p>♠ 103 ♥ A542 ♦ A7654 ♣ A9</p> <p>♠ 96                      ♠ 854 ♥ Q1063                ♥ KJ7 ♦ K98                    ♦ 1032 ♣ Q1052                ♣ KJ83</p> <p>♠ AKQJ72 ♥ 98 ♦ QJ ♣ 764</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : 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>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>If North blasts 3NT over the 2♠ there is no reason for South to remove to 4♠ with a semi-balanced hand and six fast tricks. If North plans a more careful sequence, showing his second suit and seeking some help from partner in clubs then 4♠ will be reached. The defence will be able to knock-out either the ♥ A or ♣ A at trick one but with ♦ K onside and the suit splitting 3-3 there is nothing the defence can do to stop declarer making 12 tricks. Against 3NT, on a club lead, declarer has nine top tricks and will have the diamond finesse for a tenth. This risks going off in the contract if wrong but he may be able to judge from the lead and return that the clubs are 4-4. Imagine the ♣ 3 lead to the ♣ Q and ducked followed by the ♣ 2 return.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	2♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♠																										
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<p>♠ 1084 ♥ AQ105 ♦ A75 ♣ KQ4</p> <p>♠ QJ7                      ♠ AK3 ♥ J43                      ♥ K2 ♦ 9642                    ♦ J1083 ♣ 1053                    ♣ 9862</p> <p>♠ 9652 ♥ 9876 ♦ KQ ♣ AJ7</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : 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>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This hand is all about avoiding the doomed 4♥. A spade lead is likely whether North or South plays the contract and after three rounds cashed there is an inevitable trump loser. Even if a spade is not led declarer has no way to get rid of his losers. 3NT is much promising with excellent chances if spades are 3-3 or if they are 4-2 with the chance the suit is blocked. Reaching 3NT requires fine judgement. Playing four-card majors North might try 3NT over a limit raise with 4-3-3-3 shape, whilst if North/South are playing a strong NT South might raise a 1NT opening directly to 3NT with all his points in his short suits. Pairs reaching 3NT are likely to score very well.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass																															
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<p>♠ A ♥ KQ532 ♦ A6 ♣ Q10432</p> <p>♠ K10543      ♠ 9862 ♥ A8            ♥ 1064 ♦ Q54           ♦ 973 ♣ K65           ♣ J98</p> <p>♠ QJ7 ♥ J97 ♦ KJ1082 ♣ A7</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th colspan="2">NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>15</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>1</td> <td>S</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</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> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		15		N	5	5	5	2	5	12	1	S	5	5	6	2	5			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Firstly, West shouldn't be thinking about getting involved with his opening hand with five spades. With both opponents showing values it is clear it is the opponents hand.</p> <p>North's high reverse of 3♣ is game forcing so South can show his support at the three level in case his partner has a good hand and wants to investigate a slam.</p> <p>The easiest way to make eleven tricks is to set up the club suit which when it breaks 3-3 can be achieved with one ruff.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass					
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<p>♠ 85 ♥ AK732 ♦ Q632 ♣ QJ</p> <p>♠ J9732      ♠ AKQ106 ♥ 95           ♥ Q6 ♦ J10875      ♦ AK9 ♣ 9            ♣ AK2</p> <p>♠ 4 ♥ J1084 ♦ 4 ♣ 10876543</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th colspan="2">NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>12</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>25</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		12		N	3	-	2	-	-	2	25	S	3	-	2	-	-			E	-	4	-	5	2			W	-	4	-	5	2	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Standard methods make it difficult to reach the best contract of 4♠, as East will have to rebid 3NT to show his extra values. On a club lead declarer has nine top tricks and can even chance the diamond finesse for an overtrick. A heart lead would, of course, set the contract providing South unblocks. For instance, say the ♥ J is led to the ♥ K, then on the ♥ A South must unblock the 8.</p> <p>Playing more sophisticated methods such as Kokish, where after a 2♣ opening a 2♥ rebid by the opener shows either 23/24HCP or hearts and a direct rebid of 2NT shows 25/26 HCP would allow West to transfer to spades and the spade game to be reached. 4♠ will make 12 tricks unless a heart is led.</p>	West	North	East	South			2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass								
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<p>♠ 109 ♥ KQJ964 ♦ J105 ♣ K8</p> <p>♠ KQ743      ♠ AJ ♥ A8           ♥ 1052 ♦ K9642      ♦ A7 ♣ 9            ♣ AQ10743</p> <p>♠ 8652 ♥ 73 ♦ Q83 ♣ J652</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th colspan="2">NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>15</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>7</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>7</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		10		N	-	-	-	-	-	12	15	S	-	-	-	-	-			E	6	6	2	7	5			W	6	6	2	7	5	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>I expect quite a variety of scores here as pairs will be in different games making a variety of tricks. 3NT will probably be more popular than 4♠ which is only a 5-2 fit. In 3NT after a heart lead ducked and heart continuation, declarer has nine top tricks. He can take a club finesse for an overtrick and if feeling particularly bold he can take 11 tricks by knocking out the ♣ J after the ♣ K8 fall on the first two rounds.</p> <p>In a spade contract declarer can do even better although I can't see many making all the tricks. The way to do this on a ♥ K lead is to win the ♥ A, finesse the ♣ Q, draw two trumps, cash the ♣ A and then take the ruffing club finesse.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♠	2♥	3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
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<p>♠6 ♥AK72 ♦Q1085 ♣KJ109</p> <p>♠107                      ♠K832 ♥QJ10983                ♥64 ♦J963                      ♦AK74 ♣7                            ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ954 ♥5 ♦2 ♣AQ842</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>13</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>10</td> <td>S</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</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> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	13		N	6	1	-	5	4	4	10	S	6	1	-	5	4			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2♥ isn't a great opening but the vulnerability is favourable and you have 6-4 shape. In fact, I would probably open 3♥! North should pass over a 2♥ opening and that leaves South with the choice of 2♠ (conservative, might miss a game), 3♠ (emphasizes the sixth spade) and 3♥ (which brings the club suit into play). In any event it is going to make it difficult for North/South to reach the very playable 6♣. Imagine an uncontested sequence of maybe 1♦-1♠-2♣-4♣-4♥-4NT-5♥-6♣. Spade contracts may well make 12 tricks. On the ♥Q lead declarer can pitch off his diamond loser and then play a finesse of ♠Q, and then ♠A and with the ten dropping force out the ♠K with his ♠J9.</p> <p>6♣ by South will be straightforward but played by North on a top diamond followed by a trump switch declarer will need to take a spade finesse to make his contract.</p>	West	North	East	South	2♥	Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass													
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<p>♠ J1086432 ♥ 106 ♦ Q74 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ KQ9                      ♠ 7 ♥ K742                     ♥ A5 ♦ A93                        ♦ KJ10865 ♣ QJ2                        ♣ AK87</p> <p>♠ A5 ♥ QJ983 ♦ 2 ♣ 109543</p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>In the above sequence East bids out his hands carefully, showing longer diamonds than clubs and then the heart fragment and finally a slam try with the raise to 4NT. West isn't very interested with a complete minimum in HCP, a 4-3-3-3 shape and the ♠KQ opposite his partner's shortage. Despite all that slam is just with the odds requiring declarer to play the diamond suit for no-loser, a bit more than a 50% chance. The odds favour playing the diamonds from the top so not many declarers are going to make 12 tricks unless perhaps South has opened with a toy such as 2♥ showing five hearts and a second suit which would then favour finessing North for the ♦Q.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT	All Pass																							
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<p>♠ A32 ♥ 86 ♦ K1063 ♣ QJ83</p> <p>♠ J4                              ♠ 10875 ♥ 932                            ♥ AQ1074 ♦ A87                            ♦ 942 ♣ A10652                      ♣ 9</p> <p>♠ KQ96 ♥ KJ5 ♦ QJ5 ♣ K74</p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North has an awkward hand to respond to his partner's four-card major suit opening. As an unpassed hand he could bid 2♣ forcing, intending to play in game opposite a strong no-trump or in spades otherwise. As a passed hand though things are more tricky, a non-forcing 2♣ response risks playing in the minor when spades scores better whilst a heavy 2♠ raise might miss a game. Personally I would choose the single raise in spades. Strong no-trumpers will of course have no problem reaching game via 1NT-3NT. Game is no bargain but with the ♥AQ onside should make, indeed without a heart lead, with good guessing, even ten tricks are possible.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass																																				
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<p>♠ J1082 ♥ AQ106 ♦ 85 ♣ 1064</p> <p>♠ Q43                              ♠ 97 ♥ 985                            ♥ J32 ♦ AQ763                        ♦ J1094 ♣ 75                                ♣ KQ93</p> <p>♠ AK65 ♥ K74 ♦ K2 ♣ AJ82</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Some will reach the spade game by North and they will be immediately defeated by a diamond lead though the ♦K. Even many of those that play the hand by South will no doubt go down. Say you get the ♣7 lead, a successful line would be to cash the ♠AK, and then try the heart suit, discarding a diamond from hand when the suit breaks 3-3. If you cross to table with a heart for a spade finesse then when West wins he plays a second club for a ruff, indeed a switch to the ♦J by East when he wins the second round of clubs could possibly lead to two down.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass																																
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<p>♠ J4 ♥ J1073 ♦ 1073 ♣ QJ86</p> <p>♠ AK                      ♠ 9532 ♥ AK84                    ♥ 652 ♦ A954                    ♦ Q86 ♣ 975                      ♣ K104</p> <p>♠ Q10876 ♥ Q9 ♦ KJ2 ♣ A32</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <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>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		5		18	5	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	-	1	1	-	1	W	-	1	1	-	1	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>I like to open a weak no-trump on the South hand, but this may lead to problems here. If North runs perhaps to 2♣ showing clubs and a higher suit and the opponents double the run-out his side are in trouble since 2♣ has six obvious losers and a seventh if the defence is tight. There is a good case for North not running from 1NT doubled expecting his secondary values to be useful. Indeed, the defence to defeat 1NT is almost impossible to find, so perhaps the 1NT wasn't such a bad idea after all! Those that open 1♠ will set different problems for the opponents. An initial take-out double by West will see his side go minus and possibly play in a silly contract. Anyone for a 2♣ response by East to the double?</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1NT	Dble	2♣	Dble	All Pass				
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<p>♠ 1095 ♥ Q ♦ 1087652 ♣ Q92</p> <p>♠ Q742                    ♠ AJ83 ♥ A3                      ♥ K87542 ♦ AQ9                    ♦ 4 ♣ K653                    ♣ 104</p> <p>♠ K6 ♥ J1096 ♦ KJ3 ♣ AJ87</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>4</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		4		15	8	13		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	-	-	-	S	-	2	-	-	-	E	1	-	3	4	2	W	1	-	3	4	2	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A thin double of 1NT as you have a bare 15 HCP and no good lead, but your side rates to have the majority of the points and you want to get your side into the auction. Over North's escape, East can look for a major suit fit by cue-bidding diamonds. This should unearth the 4-4 spade fit. Here with hearts splitting 4-1, spades play a trick better. However, making 4♠ still requires careful play and scoring up your game should be a near top score due to a combination of pairs missing game, playing the hopeless 4♥ or going off in 4♠.</p>	West	North	East	South				1NT	Dble	2♦	3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
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<p>♠ J ♥ 8742 ♦ K652 ♣ 9652</p> <p>♠ 642                      ♠ 98 ♥ A3                      ♥ KJ106 ♦ J3                      ♦ A874 ♣ KQ10873              ♣ AJ4</p> <p>♠ AKQ10753 ♥ Q95 ♦ Q109 ♣ -</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>4</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		4		10	13	13		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	2	-	S	-	-	-	3	-	E	5	1	1	-	-	W	5	1	1	-	-	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>I like to play a jump to 3Major after a weak NT opening shows good playing strength but a hand unsuited to a double. The South hand is ideal. West can use his passed hand status to bid 4♣ non-forcing. Chancing 3NT isn't totally unreasonable but probably requires partner to have both a spade stop and the ♣A.</p> <p>If West opens a thin 1♣ then this may lead to a game perhaps 1♣-P-1♥-3♠-P-P-X-P-4♣-P-5♣ is a possible sequence. The strongest defence to a club contract is two rounds of spades followed by a diamond switch. With spades known to be 7-1, the percentage way to make 5♣ is to finesse North for the ♥ Q, which on this layout would lead to two down.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1NT	3♠	4♣	All Pass						
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<p>                     ♠AQ874                      ♥Q84                      ♦A6                      ♣J65                      ♠K                      ♥AK                      ♦1097532                      ♣Q1094                      ♠105                      ♥J109632                      ♦K                      ♣K873                      ♠J9632                      ♥75                      ♦QJ84                      ♣A2                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>13</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>8</td> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	13		N	1	-	3	1	-	12	8	S	1	-	3	1	-	7		E	-	3	-	-	-			W	-	3	-	-	-	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This should be an interesting battle between the red suits. Here the 1NT opening will facilitate finding the heart fit. West can double the transfer to show diamonds, intending should North complete to 2♥ and it is passed back to him to bid 2NT to show longer diamonds with clubs (a direct 3♣ bid would show 5-5). On the layout 3♥ is an easy make so competing to 4♦ should ensure a good board for East/West even if they are doubled and down one.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	2♦	Dble	2♥	3♦	3♥	4♦	All Pass										
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<p>                     ♠AKQ5                      ♥AK1096                      ♦KQ4                      ♣J                      ♠7                      ♥43                      ♦AJ1086                      ♣K8765                      ♠98642                      ♥Q872                      ♦3                      ♣Q42                      ♠J103                      ♥J5                      ♦9752                      ♣A1093                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>22</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>6</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	22		N	-	-	5	5	1	8	6	S	-	-	5	5	1	4		E	2	2	-	-	-			W	2	2	-	-	-	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>South doesn't have such a bad hand when his partner shows hearts and he has four-card support and a singleton in the suit the opponents have shown strength in, so might try an aggressive splinter. Should North/South get to the five level there is no harm done as it is an easy make. After a diamond lead to the ace, West will probably switch to his singleton spade and now the ♣J can be discarded on the long spade in dummy for 12 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Dble	2♥	Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥	All Pass	
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<p>                     ♠KJ98                      ♥10873                      ♦J1083                      ♣7                      ♠A32                      ♥Q942                      ♦AK76                      ♣54                      ♠Q106                      ♥AJ5                      ♦Q942                      ♣A32                      ♠754                      ♥K6                      ♦5                      ♣KQJ10986                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>9</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	5		N	-	3	1	1	2	13	9	S	-	3	1	1	2	13		E	4	-	-	-	-			W	4	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Strong no-trumpers may get to buy the contract here perhaps after 1♦-P-3♦ with 4♣ looking a bit much on the East hand. 3♦ can make despite the 4-1 but even one down will be okay since a club contract the other way will make ten tricks. After a weak NT by the opponents, West has to give his partner a bit of leeway for the 3♣ bid because, most pairs will be playing a 2♣ bid as conventional and in addition the lack of fitting club honour is a warning sign. 3NT is easily defeated providing South ducks the first round of clubs because the ♥K will not prove to be an entry to the long club winners.</p>	West	North	East	South				1NT	Pass	Pass	3♣	All Pass												
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<p>♠ QJ10876 ♥ - ♦ 108 ♣ K10653</p> <p>♠ K53 ♠ - ♥ 8532 ♥ AQJ9 ♦ 643 ♦ KQJ9752 ♣ J74 ♣ Q8</p> <p>♠ A942 ♥ K10764 ♦ A ♣ A92</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>6</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>15</td> <td>S</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>15</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	6		N	5	-	1	5	-	4	15	S	5	-	1	5	-		15	E	-	2	-	-	-			W	-	2	-	-	-	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>3♠ isn't everybody's choice of opening, but I like it with the extra playing strength of the 6-5 shape. East can double intending to correct a club bid from partner at any level to diamonds but at the same time keeping the heart suit in the game. 4♠ will make five easily enough so it is important to get the third undertrick when defending 5♦. The key to this is finding the heart ruff, as one way or another a discard for the ♥9 is going to get set up in dummy. Say South leads the A♠, maybe North should try the ♠J as unusual card to try and wake up South to the possibility of the ruff. Not easy and requires strong partnership trust as here South would have to underlead the ♥K.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	3♠	Dble	4♠	Pass	Pass	5♦	Dble	All Pass			
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<p>♠ 107 ♥ 2 ♦ A9832 ♣ AKQ74</p> <p>♠ Q98432 ♠ 6 ♥ KQ5 ♥ A1083 ♦ KJ75 ♦ Q4 ♣ - ♣ 1096532</p> <p>♠ AKJ5 ♥ J9764 ♦ 106 ♣ J8</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>13</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>6</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>10</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	13		N	1	2	-	-	2	11	6	S	2	3	-	-	2		10	E	-	-	-	1	-			W	-	-	-	1	-	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The above seems a pretty routine sequence so I would expect the vast majority of pairs to be in 2♦, meaning this hand is all about how many tricks declarer makes. East will naturally lead his singleton. Declarer wins in dummy and plays two rounds of trumps. East wins and if he now plays ♥A and a second round of hearts, then declarer will eventually be able to endplay West into giving him a third spade trick for an overtrick. The winning defence for East is to switch to ♣10 or ♣9 after the ♥A. Declarer wins in hand and play a second round of clubs to the ♣J. West ruffs, cashes this other trump and exits with a top heart holding declarer to contract.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠	2♣	Pass	2♦	All Pass			
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<p>♠ QJ2 ♥ KQ432 ♦ 962 ♣ Q3</p> <p>♠ 109865 ♠ A3 ♥ J ♥ 105 ♦ K108 ♦ QJ7 ♣ KJ82 ♣ A109654</p> <p>♠ K74 ♥ A9876 ♦ A543 ♣ 7</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>11</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>11</td> <td>E</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	10		N	-	1	3	-	-	8	11	S	-	1	3	-	-		11	E	4	-	-	1	1			W	4	-	-	1	1	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North has 10 HCP, but the secondary values in the opponent's suits should be downgraded, meaning the hand isn't worth a cue-bid raise but the semi-preemptive jump (showing something vulnerable) is a more accurate choice. Where partner has opened a natural club, West can comfortably re-open with 4♣, but opposite a short club, West would have to double and hope for the best, here leading to 4♣ also. 4♣ is cold so if North/South do bid 4♥, East/West will have to double to protect their score. This is not very obvious as neither hand has much defence. In other variations if East tries a semi-tactical 1NT opening the club suit may get buried. Imagine the sequence 1NT-2♥-2♠-3♥-All Pass perhaps.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	1♥	1♠	3♥	Pass	Pass	4♣	All Pass		
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<p>♠ Q10 ♥ AQ8 ♦ AKQ852 ♣ A10</p> <p>♠ J63                      ♠ AK98542 ♥ J75                      ♥ 6432 ♦ J643                     ♦ - ♣ J32                      ♣ K6</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ K109 ♦ 1097 ♣ Q98754</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>21</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>10</td> <td>S</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>5</td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	21		N	5	5	4	-	-	4	10	S	4	5	3	-	-			E	-	-	-	3	-		5	W	-	-	-	3	-	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North has 21 HCP but 8 ½ + playing tricks, so I would treat the hand as too strong for a 2NT opening and start with 2♣ intending to rebid 2NT. East has a lot of playing strength as well and suspecting that his RHO might have a long diamond suit pre-empts 4♠ in attempt to make life difficult for his opponents. With a control in spades and some useful cards South should make a forcing pass, which leaves North with a bit of a guess whether to defend or play. When the decision is close I tend to opt for play. Here that will work out well with 4♠ just one off but 5♦ an easy make.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	2♣	4♠	Pass	Pass	5♦	All Pass	
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<p>♠ 432 ♥ J104 ♦ KQJ107 ♣ K10</p> <p>♠ A10987                ♠ 65 ♥ A9652                ♥ KQ873 ♦ 9                        ♦ A4 ♣ 64                      ♣ A932</p> <p>♠ KQJ ♥ - ♦ 86532 ♣ QJ875</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>13</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>9</td> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	10		N	-	3	-	-	-	8	13	S	-	3	-	-	-			E	1	-	5	4	2		9	W	1	-	5	4	2	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♦</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A lot of players like to trot out the unusual NT whenever they are 5-5 in the minors. This South hand is unsuitable on a number of levels, the weak suits and the adverse vulnerability being the most obvious flaws. West can splinter, but his partner won't be interested with a minimum hand. 4♥ should easily make five losing a trick in each black suit. As it happens 5♦ has a reasonable chance of escaping for one down. The defence has to organise its spade ruff to get a sizeable enough penalty to compensate for their game.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	4♦	Dble	4♥	All Pass				
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<p>♠ 6 ♥ K97542 ♦ A6 ♣ Q1087</p> <p>♠ AJ1087                ♠ Q432 ♥ A3                      ♥ J6 ♦ K10953                ♦ Q84 ♣ K                        ♣ 6543</p> <p>♠ K95 ♥ Q108 ♦ J72 ♣ AJ92</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>5</td> <td>S</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>11</td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	9		N	4	-	4	-	-	15	5	S	4	-	4	-	-			E	-	3	-	4	-		11	W	-	3	-	4	-	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North doesn't have a great hand for a vulnerable overcall but the 6-4 shape is attractive as is the singleton in the suit opened. If East makes a pre-emptive raise this will inevitably lead to his partner playing game. 4♠ is quite tricky to make because of the lack of entries to the East hand. On a heart lead, declarer wins the ace and plays a diamond to the queen (perhaps leading the ten is a good idea in case North makes the mistake of covering with the jack). When that wins declarer plays ♠Q and repeats the finesse when South doesn't cover. Now he has to successfully guess the diamond suit by continuing a low one from hand, meaning the ace beats thin air. The other option is to play the king, hoping the jack started off life as a doubleton.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All Pass		
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																														
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<p>                     ♠ KQ6                      ♥ 43                      ♦ 10874                      ♣ 6432                      ♠ 107                      ♥ AKJ86                      ♦ AJ5                      ♣ 875                      ♠ AJ98                      ♥ Q10                      ♦ Q63                      ♣ KJ109                      ♠ 5432                      ♥ 9752                      ♦ K92                      ♣ AQ                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>13</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	5		N	-	-	-	-	13	13	S	-	-	-	-			E	4	2	4	4			W	4	2	4	3	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A straightforward bidding sequence with West offering a choice of games through a transfer sequence. South will probably lead a spade which will help declarer's cause. After ♠10, ♠Q and ♠A, declarer can return the suit to set up two more winners in the suit. North wins the second spade and will probably switch to a club, this will mean ten tricks for declarer unless South makes the mistake of switching to a diamond before cashing his second club trick.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass						
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<p>                     ♠ Q7                      ♥ KJ8                      ♦ Q4                      ♣ AKQ954                      ♠ J1065                      ♥ Q76                      ♦ 852                      ♣ 632                      ♠ K983                      ♥ 9432                      ♦ K63                      ♣ J10                      ♠ A42                      ♥ A105                      ♦ AJ1097                      ♣ 87                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>17</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> <td>6</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>7</td> <td>S</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</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> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	17		N	7	7	6	4	3	7	S	7	7	5	3			E	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North is just shy of looking for a slam after his partner opens a weak no-trump. Slam, particularly 6♣, is a very playable contract, which may make even if the clubs don't break by discarding the spade loser by means of a successful diamond finesse. West has a natural looking spade lead and as it happens this is the only lead that gives declarer a problem, not of course, in terms of making his contract when the clubs split but how many overtricks to play for. After trying the queen from dummy at trick one, and disappointingly seeing the king, declarer wins the ace and tests the clubs. When they split declarer has nine top tricks and could try the diamond finesse after cashing his winners. Another strategy is perhaps to cross to a club at trick two and play the ♦Q expecting East to cover with the ♦K. If East doesn't cover you go up with the ace expecting the king to be offside.</p>	West	North	East	South				1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass									
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<p>                     ♠ AQ1043                      ♥ KQ                      ♦ KQ9                      ♣ AK5                      ♠ K                      ♥ J972                      ♦ A7                      ♣ J109873                      ♠ 98752                      ♥ A8                      ♦ 104                      ♣ Q642                      ♠ J6                      ♥ 106543                      ♦ J86532                      ♣ -                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>23</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>6</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	23		N	-	5	3	3	9	6	S	-	5	3	3			E	2	-	-	-			W	2	-	-	-	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North shows a strong balanced hand with about 23/24 HCP, South shows his five-card heart suit but isn't that well placed on the next round of the auction. It is probably right to chance 3NT and hope for the best, but it is easy to construct hands where 5♦ would be better, but there isn't room to explore this. On the likely spade lead (North will probably never get to bid the suit) declarer will just lose the two red aces, with only an initial club lead holding the contract to ten tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
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