|  | Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all <br> $N$ passes, $E$ opens $1 D$ and $S$ will bid some number of spades - 2 S as a weak jump overcall, otherwise 1 S . W will double for take-out and E can only rebid diamonds (but should pass, being minimum, if N raises spades, as he should). W will now bid NT and 3NT should be the contract unless NS take the save in 4S*. There are 9 top tricks and little prospect of more unless $N$ foolishly leads KS, rather than 3S, which could concede a second spade trick. Par score should be 400 to EW; if NS can get away with 300 from 4S*, they will do very well but, equally, 500 will be bad. |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable <br> The bidding will surely start 1 H - double. W is worth a raise to 4 H ; some may choose to splinter with 4 C , but with an aceless hand, I probably wouldn't. $N$ should no $\dagger$ even consider a minor-suit sacrifice at the vulnerability though he could double a $4 C$ splinter for the lead. Yes, there is a lead (small spade) that defeats the contract by finding two ruffs for $N$, but most will surely lead AD, after which a spade switch can still find one ruff but, without that, 11 tricks are made in comfort. Interestingly, if W wastes time by bidding spades (and E shows support at some stage), that might encourage $S$ to find the killing lead. |
|  | Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable <br> After Pass - 1 C - pass - 1 D - pass - 1 S , E can almost bid 3NT immediately, though it can't cost to bid 2H (FSF) on the way, in case there is more to the hand. If $N$ interposes a 1D overcall (not recommended with such a poor suit), E could bid 1H, West 1 S and then 3NT; E could just pass, hoping W will reopen with a double (which he could pass) but W doesn't have a suitable hand on which to do that (so should bid 1S) and it is notoriously difficult to secure the necessary 800 penalty at the one-level at this vulnerability. The cards lie so well that EW should make a comfortable 11 tricks in 3NT. |


|  | Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable <br> I am guessing that this hand will be thrown in more often than not. Surely E will not open a vulnerable weak 1NT third in hand on that rubbish? The most likely bidder is N , particularly if playing a variant of Lucas twos, where he can open 2 H ; this would be passed round to W, who could reopen with a double, knowing that partner will not get excited opposite a passed hand, so E would just bid 2 S , which could provoke 3 H from $S$, though he might prefer to defend $2 S$. The cards lie much better for EW (despite the spade break) than NS, so the Lucas 2 bidders might come to regret opening the bidding if it results in a plus score for EW.. |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Board 5 : Dealer North: NS vulnerable <br> EW should bid 1H-1S-2C or 3C (according to style) -3S-3NT, after which W might prefer 4S if worried about the lack of possible outside entries to his hand. E's 105 is the crucial card which, together with the working diamond finesse, ensures that 12 tricks should always be made in either spades or NT, so the 4S bidders will score less well. The slam is not that bad a contract (requiring little more than the diamond finesse), but there seems little reason to bid it on a 30-point misfit. |
|  | Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable <br> S has an automatic weak 1NT opener, which W will double, and N has nowhere to go. On the natural heart lead, this will certainly go for at least 300 , and possibly 500. Hence, this is a hand on which the strong no trumpers could well benefit because $S$ will open 1C and W will either double or (more likely) overcall 1NT. As E, I would look at my unexciting 5-card suit and probably pass 1 NT , in which the par score is somewhere between 120 and 150 . Given that EW have a combined 25 points, some may scramble into 3 NT, which will make if given time to get the diamonds going (on the likely heart lead); a club lead will be fatal, though. |


|  | Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable <br> Only the very foolish will open a weak $2 S$ as $S$, vulnerable, so W will open 1 H or a strong 1NT. If he opens $1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{N}$ will probably overcall 2D and E will pass, wait for $W$ to double, and then pass again, but $S$ can now escape to $2 S$, which will probably get out for 1 down, losing 3 hearts and 3 trumps. If undoubled, that only yields 100 to EW, so they would probably do better if they can score 120 in a NT contract, which would probably happen if W opened a strong NT and it was passed out. On the other hand, W (having seen partner pass 2D*) should double 2 S and pick up an invaluable 200. Any attempt by N to show a minor 2suiter over 1NT can only lead to disaster. |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all <br> After W opens the obvious $1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{N}$ has a minimal 1NT overcall, which E isn't quite good enough to double, so might choose to bid 2H. If he doesn't, W will anyway; if he does, $W$ might be tempted to invite game but $E$, with his flat hand, would almost certainly sign off. All of that is a pity because 4 H is absolutely cold! <br> Some N players may shy away from the 1NT overcall and pass or double; now it is perhaps a little more likely that EW will push on to game but it is still difficult for E to accept an invitation so W may just have to punt 4 H over E's response. I suspect those bidding the game will be in the minority. |


|  | Board 9 : Dealer North: EW vulnerable <br> This should see three passes to W , who will open 1 S and now it will depend on $E$. Those who make the cautious pass are likely to benefit because $S$ may pass or find a minimal protective double, over which either W or N will bid 2 C and E can make a delayed bid of 2 S , closing the auction most probably. The contract should make 110 (possibly 140 on a club lead); an initial trump lead should encourage W to play on hearts, rather than look for club ruffs (as he has no way back to hand for a second one). <br> On the other hand, the 'pushy' Es who bid an immediate $2 S$ will almost certainly encourage partner to bid $4 S$ and go down! Any $N$ who chooses to overcall 2C (but why with such a bad suit?) may get an undeserved gain, as $S$ can support, and $3 C$ will make! |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable <br> I suspect that many will open a weak $1 N T$ as $S$, despite the $5-4-2-2$ shape (who fancies a sequence that might start 1C-1S-2C?). If $N$ has a range-enquiry available to him, that might be a better approach than simply transferring to spades and then guessing whether to push on beyond game; as S, I would like a better club suit to describe this as a 'good 13', so might take the cautious option and settle in game. <br> On the actual hand, this would be a pity because W's convenient minor suit doubletons and E's holding of HAQ mean that 12 tricks should be made in NT despite the bad spade break. Hence 6NT will make but 6S will struggle against the break. |


|  | Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all <br> Over N's 1 S opening, I think that 4D describes E's hand best; it is borderline whether $S$ should make a takeout double of this, but $W$ should bid 5D if he does; $N$ will double in turn and $S$ should pass and 'take the money', which amounts to 300 , or should. <br> If $S$ passes and $W$ passes (but why not bid 5D anyway?), $N$ will double, and $S$ may become declarer in 4 H , which will make unless W leads $A C$, gives partner a ruff and $E$ then underleads his diamonds to get a second ruff (but isn't $W$ far more likely to lead KD?). <br> If $S$ doubles 4D and $W$ passes, N will now declare 4 H and may well get the singleton club lead. Without any ruffs, 10 tricks might prove the limit anyway, as won't most declarers play $W$ for the length (and therefore the $Q$ ) in hearts? |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable <br> I can't see the auction here varying very much from 15 - pass - 1NT - double - 2S, passed out. I might be tempted to double a second time as S , but N would not greatly enjoy the resulting 3D contract; some Ws might come to his rescue by bidding 3 S . The hand seems to be foolproof to make 9 tricks in spades as declarer must surely play S for AD. |


|  | Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable <br> If $N$ opens a weak 1 NT , S will use Stayman and settle in 3NT. E should lead AS and then switch to a red suit. On a diamond switch, declarer will need to rise with the A and cash out 9 tricks; but on a heart switch, declarer will make an extra heart and finish with 10 tricks, as he will if E optimistically continues spades at trick 2. <br> A clever declarer might even make 10 tricks if $E$ switches to a diamond because E may discard his diamonds on the clubs and be thrown in with the 4th heart to concede a trick to QS. |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all <br> S will open 1H and W should not consider a take-out double with 4 hearts and only 12 points.. $N$ is just good enough to bid 2 C rather than 2 H and S will become declarer in 3NT. <br> W will probably lead a spade and declarer will knock out AC; W does best to win early and exit passively with another club. Declarer has guesses to take in both red suits so the final number of tricks is unpredictable, but I suspect that 460 will be above average and 430 will be below average. |
|  | Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable <br> Most sequences will start Pass - pass - 1H-2D-2Hpass - pass and it is difficult for E to compete further with only a doubleton spade. Declarer should guess clubs correctly on the bidding but there should still only be 8 tricks, losing 3 diamonds (probably AK and a ruff), 1 club and 1 spade. If EW do compete further and concede no more than 100, they should score well and will score even better if they push N on to 3 H , going off. |


|  | Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable <br> After three passes, S could open a strong 1NT, a weak 1NT (as I would - unfortunately in this case - with such a poor 15 ) or simply 1 H . Over $1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{W}$ might put in a 1 S overcall (as a passed hand) but competing too far against a heart contract would be very costly for EW. N would pass a weak 1NT but would Stayman and find the heart fit over a strong 1NT. NS should make 1NT, but probably no more, with all those spades to lose. <br> It looks as though NS have four losers in hearts (1 heart, 1 diamond and 2 clubs) but, if they start on clubs early enough (not playing trumps too soon), they can set up a club winner for a diamond discard, and avoid the necessity of the finesse. Making 4 H will probably be a very good score. |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all <br> After Pass - pass - 1S, I think W does best to bid 1NT, rather than 2D. E has a collection of 'Quacks', but enough intermediates, perhaps, to make an invitational raise and whether or not W accepts will depend on whether he looks at his good diamond suit or whether he looks nervously at his SAx. As it is, 3NT will always make; a heart lead will hold it to 9 tricks, but a spade lead will yield 10 tricks, when C10 comes down. A diamond contract should always make 130. |


|  | Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable <br> I would certainly open a weak 1NT 3rd-in-hand as W at this vulnerability; N would double this unenthusiastically with his flat 16 , and there is no reason for $S$ to 'escape' with a respectable 6 points. $1 N T^{*}$ should always make because declarer must surely guess QD correctly on the double and, after KS lead, declarer can happily exit with a spade and wait for the defence to give him his 7th trick. <br> If W passes, N would open 1 S or a strong 1NT; the latter works better, because $S$ will transfer into the safe $2 H$ contract, making 8 tricks. Over $1 \mathrm{~S}, \mathrm{~S}$ should respond 1 NT ; the defence will cash 5 diamond tricks, but may then finish up conceding 3 tricks in spades to allow 1NT to make. |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Board 19 : Dealer South: EW vulnerable <br> NS should have a free run here; surely no sensible $E$ will throw in a two-suited bid after a 1 C - 1 S start, at this vulnerability? It seems fairly automatic to start 1 C $-1 S-3 C-3 H$ and now $S$ should certainly bid $3 S$ because $K Q$ is invaluable support, even opposite a possible 5 -card suit. N can now continue with 4 NT , hear of the three key-cards and still ask for QS before committing to 6S, a contract which has 12 top tricks. This is a slam that I would expect the majority to bid. <br> The only difficulty comes if $S$ regards a $3 C$ rebid as an underbid (which it possibly is) and prefers 2NT, or even $3 N T$; $N$ can still bid hearts to get the spade preference but it might just sound a little more reluctant and, therefore, not as encouraging. |


|  | Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable <br> This seems likely to start with EW bidding 1D-1S - 2C W should now find another bid and 2 H probably works best if their system permits him now to pass E's bid of 2NT. W is not strong enough to bid 2NT himself and $2 S$ is a poor bid; equally, a false preference to 2 D is a slight underbid. The diamond break makes a contract of 2NT safe enough and there is a 9th trick available in clubs, if given time. Equally, $S$ does not have an easy lead (9S works best); a heart lead will also give a 9th trick. A heart lead by N is safer provided S plays the 8 if $E$ plays small. <br> There should always be 9 tricks in a diamond contract, but that probably won't score very well. |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Board 21 : Dealer North: NS vulnerable <br> $N$ has a standard weak $2 S$ opener, which $E$ will double. W's spades are not good enough to pass for penalties ( $2 S$ will make, even if declarer doesn't drop KS), so may find himself playing in 3 H , with or without a Lebensohl 2NT initial response. This is not a contract which he will greatly enjoy, though the solidity of the minor suit holdings might enable him to escape for 1 or 2 down if he doesn't play all the top trumps too soon. Since 2 S makes, that might not be too harmful. <br> Interestingly, if NS don't play weak $2 s$, they might $\dagger$ have a better chance of playing in $2 S$ because $E$ will open $1 C, S$ should overcall $1 D$ and $N$ can now compete freely up to $2 S$ with EW unlikely to go higher. |


|  | Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable <br> There is likely to be some competition here! E will open 1D, S should show his black 2 -suiter and, with little bidding room, W should be content to show good diamond support, rather than introduce his empty heart suit. <br> Neither side should make game; EW may be held to 9 tricks in diamonds by a trump lead and $4 S$ by NS is defeated by either a club ruff or the likely loss of two club tricks. (If clubs are led initially, W can obtain two ruffs to hold the contract to 8 tricks). I will be surprised if the bidding stops at a making level for either side. |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable <br> $S$ has a borderline opening bid. $1 C$ by $S$ will be followed by 1 S or 2S, according to style, by W. N might now feel that a splinter bid is in order, though $S$ will probably be as discouraging as possible, but should he, with such good controls outside trumps? N would be foolish to use Keycard when he needs $S$ to have at least 2 key cards to justify a contract of $6 C$ (which does, of course, make, thanks to the 3-3 heart break). It is a slam which would be much easier to bid if the trump suit were not clubs. <br> If $S$ doesn't open, $W$ will open $1 S$ and $N$ can show his two-suiter, so the club fit will still be found. <br> EW may be tempted to bid up to 4 S, which can be doubled and go for 800 if NS find all their ruffs, but I suspect that NS will bid on to 5C anyway. A Hideous Hog in the N seat might even get a good score in $4 \mathrm{H}+$ 1. |


|  | Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all <br> A weak 1NT by W will probably be passed out. Ignoring the possibility of N leading his 4th-highest spade(!), best defence is KS lead, overtaken, spade returned and a switch to JC; this will defeat 1NT by 2 tricks (making 4 clubs, 3 spades and AD). Those playing a strong NT will fare much better, as $W$ will open 1 of a minor and they will find the heart fit (even if N overcalls 1 S ). 9 tricks are made in either red suit and even 4 H can make if the defence don't find a club lead by N . <br> NS can actually make 3 S or $3 C$ but it is difficult to see them bidding that far. |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable <br> My style is to open that $E$ hand 1 H and apologise to partner if we miss game! However, I would be safe on this occasion, as partner will reply 1NT or (at a stretch) 2D and now 3NT is the obvious bid. This should make 11 tricks for the loss of $A C$ and KH. <br> If the E hand is treated as a strong hand in hearts with a $2 C$ opening bid, then the final contract may be 4 H (though the bidding could still go 2C-2D-2H-3D - 3NT), making the same 11 tricks but for a poorer score. <br> Those shying away from the diamond finesse will only make 10 tricks. |


|  | Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable <br> $S$ will open a weak $2 S$ and W will probably bid $2 N T$, which E should raise to game, given good intermediate cards. Declarer will surely guess correctly on a spade lead and 3NT can always make, eg by making the correct guess in diamonds or (less likely!) by laying down KC and then running the 9. There are, however, other viable lines which will not work, so I am guessing that making 3NT will score very well. <br> Those playing in 2NT will probably just set up the clubs and make 8 tricks, on a spade lead. |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all <br> As a good friend (and Somerset member) would say, 'There is no interest in the hand'; $4 \mathrm{H}+1$ should be made throughout the County! <br> Surely no N will be allowed to get away with 300 from $3 D^{*}$ or idiotic enough to commit suicide in 5 D ? <br> Equally, surely no attempts at 3 NT ? (Though there is usually one somewhere!) |
|  | Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable <br> Without an opening bid by $\mathrm{W}, \mathrm{N}$ will open 1 C and S might scrape up a 1D response, which will take the wind out of W's sails and $N$ will make a NT rebid. However, on a spade lead, N will struggle, and may even fail (if guessing red Jacks wrongly), to make just 1NT. <br> If W manages to show his 2 -suiter (eg with a Lucas 2 S opening bid), EW will discover that they can make 9 tricks in spades. The 140 thus obtained should outscore the 100s coming from N going down in NT. |

