







<b>▲</b> <i>A</i> K984	Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all	
♦ A 952 ♦ 10 ♣ K 105 ♠ Q 6 52 ♥ 7 6 3 ♦ K 2	<pre></pre>	Over N's 1S 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.
64 ♣A743 ♦KJ108 ♦53 ♣QJ98		If S passes and W passes (but why not bid 5D anyway?), N will double, and S may become declarer in 4H, which will make unless W leads AC, 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?). If S doubles 4D and W passes, N will now declare 4H 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?
<ul> <li>▲ J964</li> <li>♥983</li> <li>◆ QJ83</li> <li>♣ J2</li> <li>▲ KQ10875</li> <li>♥7</li> <li>◆ K95</li> <li>♣ AQ6</li> <li>▲ 3</li> <li>♥ AKQ2</li> <li>▲ 476</li> <li>♣ 10985</li> </ul>	A2 ◆ J 10654 ◆ 1042 ◆ K73 2 54	Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable I can't see the auction here varying very much from 1S - 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 3S. The hand seems to be foolproof to make 9 tricks in spades as declarer must surely play S for AD.

<b>▲</b> Q84	Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable
<pre></pre>	If N opens a weak 1NT, 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. 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.
<pre></pre>	<ul> <li>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</li> <li>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 2C rather than 2H and S will become declarer in 3NT.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>▲QJ6</li> <li>≮AQJ105</li> <li>◆Q84</li> <li>*K10</li> <li>*109754</li> <li>*K2</li> <li>*92</li> <li>*643</li> <li>*92</li> <li>*AKJ73</li> <li>*Q975</li> <li>*A32</li> <li>*A83</li> <li>*K87</li> <li>*1065</li> <li>*J864</li> </ul>	Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable Most sequences will start Pass - pass - 1H - 2D - 2H - pass - 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 3H, going off.

<b>A</b> 9	Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable
<pre></pre>	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 1H. Over 1H, W might put in a 1S 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. 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 4H will probably be a very good score.
<ul> <li>▲432</li> <li>★K643</li> <li>♦72</li> <li>♣8653</li> <li>▲A6</li> <li>▲QJ10</li> <li>♥J5</li> <li>♥Q92</li> <li>▲K965</li> <li>◆J1043</li> <li>♣KJ74</li> <li>♣Q92</li> <li>▲K9875</li> <li>♥A1087</li> <li>♥Q8</li> <li>♣A10</li> </ul>	Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all After Pass - pass - 15, 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.

<b>∧</b> KQJ6	Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable
<pre></pre>	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. 1NT* 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. If W passes, N would open 1S or a strong 1NT; the latter works better, because S will transfer into the safe 2H contract, making 8 tricks. Over 15, S should respond 1NT; the defence will cash 5 diamond tricks, but may then finish up conceding 3 tricks in spades to allow 1NT to make.
<pre></pre>	Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable NS should have a free run here; surely no sensible E will throw in a two-suited bid after a 1C - 1S start, at this vulnerability? It seems fairly automatic to start 1C - 1S - 3C - 3H and now S should certainly bid 3S because KQ is invaluable support, even opposite a possible 5-card suit. N can now continue with 4NT, 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. The only difficulty comes if S regards a 3C rebid as an underbid (which it possibly is) and prefers 2NT, or even 3NT; N can still bid hearts to get the spade preference but it might just sound a little more reluctant and, therefore, not as encouraging.

▲QJ42	Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable This seems likely to start with EW bidding 1D - 1S - 2C. W should now find another bid and 2H 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 2S is a poor bid; equally, a false preference to 2D 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. There should always be 9 tricks in a diamond contract, but that probably won't score very well.
<ul> <li>▲ A J 10873</li> <li>♥ 103</li> <li>♥ 93</li> <li>♣ A 93</li> <li>♣ Q 6542</li> <li>▲ K</li> <li>♥ J 965</li> <li>♥ A KQ</li> <li>♥ J 4</li> <li>♥ Q 1075</li> <li>♣ 54</li> <li>♣ Q J 1087</li> <li>▲ 9</li> <li>♥ 8742</li> <li>▲ A K862</li> <li>♣ K62</li> </ul>	Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable N has a standard weak 2S opener, which E will double. W's spades are not good enough to pass for penalties (2S will make, even if declarer doesn't drop KS), so may find himself playing in 3H, 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 2S makes, that might not be too harmful. Interestingly, if NS don't play weak 2s, they might have a better chance of playing in 2S because E will open 1C, S should overcall 1D and N can now compete freely up to 2S with EW unlikely to go higher.

<ul> <li>▲ J65</li> <li>♥ KQ1084</li> <li>♦ 75</li> <li>♣ Q108</li> <li>♠ 1043</li> <li>▲ K</li> <li>♥ A9632</li> <li>♥ J75</li> <li>♦ A9632</li> <li>♥ KQJ64</li> <li>♣ 2</li> <li>♣ AJ43</li> <li>▲ AQ9872</li> <li>♥ -</li> <li>♦ 108</li> <li>♣ K9765</li> </ul>	Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable
	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.
	Neither side should make game; EW may be held to 9 tricks in diamonds by a trump lead and 4S 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.
<ul> <li>▲8</li> <li>▲AQ8642</li> <li>♦9</li> <li>▲AQ832</li> <li>▲KJ10975</li> <li>▲Q64</li> <li>♥KJ7</li> <li>♥953</li> <li>♦K532</li> <li>↓J1086</li> <li>♣-</li> <li>▲K95</li> <li>▲A32</li> <li>♥10</li> <li>▲AQ74</li> <li>♣J10764</li> </ul>	Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable S has a borderline opening bid. 1C by S will be followed by 1S 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 6C (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.
	If S doesn't open, W will open 1S and N can show his two-suiter, so the club fit will still be found.
	EW may be tempted to bid up to 4S, 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 4H + 1.

♠KQJ43	Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all
<pre>\$53 \$52 \$J1076 \$10862 \$95 \$KQ87 \$AJ42 \$KQ6 \$J9843 \$A8 \$Q3 \$A7 \$1096 \$A107 \$K9542</pre>	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 1S). 9 tricks are made in either red suit and even 4H can make if the defence don't find a club lead by N. NS can actually make 3S or 3C but it is difficult to see them bidding that far.
<ul> <li>▲ J 1052</li> <li>♥ 74</li> <li>♦ 109</li> <li>♣ A8743</li> <li>♥ 95</li> <li>♥ AQJ 106</li> <li>♥ AQJ 853</li> <li>♥ 6</li> <li>♥ 74</li> <li>♥ K832</li> <li>♥ K742</li> <li>♥ 952</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</li> <li>My style is to open that E hand 1H 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 AC and KH.</li> <li>If the E hand is treated as a strong hand in hearts with a 2C opening bid, then the final contract may be 4H (though the bidding could still go 2C - 2D - 2H - 3D - 3NT), making the same 11 tricks but for a poorer score.</li> <li>Those shying away from the diamond finesse will only make 10 tricks.</li> </ul>

