

Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
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<div><div><div>♠AKJ8762</div><div>♥632</div><div>♦8</div><div>♣95</div></div><div><div>♠Q</div><div>♥K98</div><div>♦KQ75</div><div>♣K10876</div></div></div> <div><div><div>♠954</div><div>♥Q754</div><div>♦A1032</div><div>♣AQ</div></div><div><div>♠103</div><div>♥AJ10</div><div>♦J964</div><div>♣J432</div></div></div>	<div>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div>3♠</div><div>All Pass</div><div></div></div></div> <div>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</div>
<div><div><div>♠KQJ8</div><div>♥5432</div><div>♦AK76</div><div>♣2</div></div><div><div>♠1064</div><div>♥Q</div><div>♦92</div><div>♣AQJ10976</div></div></div> <div><div><div>♠A752</div><div>♥A86</div><div>♦QJ8</div><div>♣K43</div></div><div><div>♠93</div><div>♥KJ1097</div><div>♦10543</div><div>♣85</div></div></div>	<div>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div></div><div>3♣</div><div>Pass</div></div><div><div>3N</div><div>All Pass</div><div></div><div></div></div></div> <div>A right time to play in 3N opposite partner's preempt is when you have good support for partner's suit and both quick tricks and cover in the outside suits. This is particularly true if the suit is a minor. First, making nine tricks is probably easier than making eleven; and, secondly, the scoring system makes the minor suit game unattractive. Here East West are vulnerable so West can play partner to hold a very good suit. We ought to be able to count on seven winning clubs to go with the two major suit aces – that's nine tricks. Further our diamond holding is protected from the lead and can <i>never</i> be attacked fatally by the defence. A tenth trick could emerge in the diamond suit.</div>

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<div>♠AKJ8762</div> <div>♥632</div> <div>♦8</div> <div>♣95</div> <div>♠954</div> <div>♥Q754</div> <div>♦A1032</div> <div>♣AQ</div> <div>♠Q</div> <div>♥K98</div> <div>♦KQ75</div> <div>♣K10876</div> <div>♠103</div> <div>♥AJ10</div> <div>♦J964</div> <div>♣J432</div>	<div>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <div>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</div>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South						
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Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
West	North	East	South						
	3♠	Pass	4♠						
<p>♠95 ♥A754 ♦A1083 ♣KQ5</p> <p>♠103 ♠AKJ87642 ♥KJ10 ♥632 ♦J964 ♦2 ♣J432 ♣9</p> <p>♠Q ♥Q98 ♦KQ75 ♣A10876</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>With that quality suit and the eighth card it would be too conservative to try 3♠ with the East hand. By opening at the four level we hope to give the opponents a problem that they may not be able to solve. Here North South have no game contract and will have to hope the spade game fails. In 4♠ declarer has a loser in each minor so must restrict himself to one heart loser. The only way to do that is to hope South has ♥Q. We can finesse ♥10. When that draws North's ace we can repeat the process (now finessing ♥J). +420 to East West.</p>	West	North	East	South			4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South						
		4♠	All Pass						

<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
West	North	East	South										
Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠										
Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾										
<p>♠K108 ♥Q106 ♦J108 ♣QJ109</p> <p>♠AQJ7654 ♠2 ♥97 ♥AK32 ♦32 ♦KQ76 ♣82 ♣AK54</p> <p>♠93 ♥J854 ♦A954 ♣763</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>1 7222 is not the greatest shape and you will get some players who would prefer, at the vulnerability, to treat the West hand as a weak <i>two</i></p> <p>In contrast to board 2 from the talk, East has no support for partner but raising to game in that suit here is the right thing to do! It works because East has a rock crusher and can rely on partner’s suit being good enough not to lose more than one trick there (hopefully). Were we to play in 3N (“no fit partner but loads of points”) we would be cut off from partner’s hand, unable to make use of any spade tricks. Here our side suit holdings are not long enough to develop many tricks in no trumps. 4♠ will make eleven tricks (losing a trump and ♦A). 3N could be held to five tricks – if we’re in it we’ll play to make it. That needs South to hold a doubleton spade including the king. We therefore take the spade finesse. It loses and the roof falls in. We don’t even make a spade. Humiliation (bridge players get used to that).</p>	West	North	East	South	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass				
West	North	East	South										
3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass										

<p> ♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653 </p> <p> ♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9 </p> <p> ♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842 </p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
West	North	East	South						
	3♣	Pass	5♣						
<p> ♠KJ987 ♥KQJ6 ♦10 ♣KQ4 </p> <p> ♠-void- ♠AQ106532 ♥A42 ♥87 ♦AKQJ654 ♦82 ♣A65 ♣J2 </p> <p> ♠4 ♥10953 ♦973 ♣109873 </p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3N All Pass 1 See comment for board 4</p> <p>The difference between this hand and Board 4 above is that West has no support for partner but has a great source of tricks. West would be very unlucky not make all seven of his diamonds to go with the aces of clubs and hearts. That makes 3N the correct bid. With the awful spade break, game in the suit has no hope. Against 3N North ought to lead a heart (♥K – top of a sequence) and that holds the contract to nine tricks (there's no entry to dummy's ace of spades). Any North leading a spade would gift declarer a tenth trick (and an eleventh if declarer decides to put in ♠Q, which holds).</p>	West	North	East	South			3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
West	North	East	South						
		3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass						

<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass														
Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass															
<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
West	North	East	South														
Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠														
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West	North	East	South						
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Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
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West	North	East	South						
		3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass						

<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass														
Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass															
<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
West	North	East	South														
Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠														
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<div>♠AKJ8762</div> <div>♥632</div> <div>♦8</div> <div>♣95</div> <div>♠954</div> <div>♥Q754</div> <div>♦A1032</div> <div>♣AQ</div> <div>♠Q</div> <div>♥K98</div> <div>♦KQ75</div> <div>♣K10876</div> <div>♠103</div> <div>♥AJ10</div> <div>♦J964</div> <div>♣J432</div>	<div>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <div>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</div>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South						
	3♠	All Pass							
<div>♠KQJ8</div> <div>♥5432</div> <div>♦AK76</div> <div>♣2</div> <div>♠A752</div> <div>♥A86</div> <div>♦QJ8</div> <div>♣K43</div> <div>♠1064</div> <div>♥Q</div> <div>♦92</div> <div>♣AQJ10976</div> <div>♠93</div> <div>♥KJ1097</div> <div>♦10543</div> <div>♣85</div>	<div>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3N</td><td>All Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <div>A right time to play in 3N opposite partner's preempt is when you have good support for partner's suit and both quick tricks and cover in the outside suits. This is particularly true if the suit is a minor. First, making nine tricks is probably easier than making eleven; and, secondly, the scoring system makes the minor suit game unattractive. Here East West are vulnerable so West can play partner to hold a very good suit. We ought to be able to count on seven winning clubs to go with the two major suit aces – that's nine tricks. Further our diamond holding is protected from the lead and can <i>never</i> be attacked fatally by the defence. A tenth trick could emerge in the diamond suit.</div>	West	North	East	South	3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass
West	North	East	South						
3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass						

Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
West	North	East	South						
	3♠	Pass	4♠						
<p>♠95 ♥A754 ♦A1083 ♣KQ5</p> <p>♠103 ♠AKJ87642 ♥KJ10 ♥632 ♦J964 ♦2 ♣J432 ♣9</p> <p>♠Q ♥Q98 ♦KQ75 ♣A10876</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>With that quality suit and the eighth card it would be too conservative to try 3♠ with the East hand. By opening at the four level we hope to give the opponents a problem that they may not be able to solve. Here North South have no game contract and will have to hope the spade game fails. In 4♠ declarer has a loser in each minor so must restrict himself to one heart loser. The only way to do that is to hope South has ♥Q. We can finesse ♥10. When that draws North's ace we can repeat the process (now finessing ♥J). +420 to East West.</p>	West	North	East	South			4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South						
		4♠	All Pass						

<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
West	North	East	South										
Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠										
Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾										
<p>♠K108 ♥Q106 ♦J108 ♣QJ109</p> <p>♠AQJ7654 ♠2 ♥97 ♥AK32 ♦32 ♦KQ76 ♣82 ♣AK54</p> <p>♠93 ♥J854 ♦A954 ♣763</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>1 7222 is not the greatest shape and you will get some players who would prefer, at the vulnerability, to treat the West hand as a weak <i>two</i></p> <p>In contrast to board 2 from the talk, East has no support for partner but raising to game in that suit here is the right thing to do! It works because East has a rock crusher and can rely on partner’s suit being good enough not to lose more than one trick there (hopefully). Were we to play in 3N (“no fit partner but loads of points”) we would be cut off from partner’s hand, unable to make use of any spade tricks. Here our side suit holdings are not long enough to develop many tricks in no trumps. 4♠ will make eleven tricks (losing a trump and ♦A). 3N could be held to five tricks – if we’re in it we’ll play to make it. That needs South to hold a doubleton spade including the king. We therefore take the spade finesse. It loses and the roof falls in. We don’t even make a spade. Humiliation (bridge players get used to that).</p>	West	North	East	South	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass				
West	North	East	South										
3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass										

<p>♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653</p> <p>♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9</p> <p>♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
West	North	East	South						
	3♣	Pass	5♣						
<p>♠KJ987 ♥KQJ6 ♦10 ♣KQ4</p> <p>♠-void- ♠AQ106532 ♥A42 ♥87 ♦AKQJ654 ♦82 ♣A65 ♣J2</p> <p>♠4 ♥10953 ♦973 ♣109873</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3N All Pass 1 See comment for board 4</p> <p>The difference between this hand and Board 4 above is that West has no support for partner but has a great source of tricks. West would be very unlucky not make all seven of his diamonds to go with the aces of clubs and hearts. That makes 3N the correct bid. With the awful spade break, game in the suit has no hope. Against 3N North ought to lead a heart (♥K – top of a sequence) and that holds the contract to nine tricks (there's no entry to dummy's ace of spades). Any North leading a spade would gift declarer a tenth trick (and an eleventh if declarer decides to put in ♠Q, which holds).</p>	West	North	East	South			3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
West	North	East	South						
		3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass						

<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass														
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<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
West	North	East	South														
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<div><div><div>♠AKJ8762</div><div>♥632</div><div>♦8</div><div>♣95</div></div><div><div>♠Q</div><div>♥K98</div><div>♦KQ75</div><div>♣K10876</div></div></div> <div><div><div>♠954</div><div>♥Q754</div><div>♦A1032</div><div>♣AQ</div></div><div><div>♠103</div><div>♥AJ10</div><div>♦J964</div><div>♣J432</div></div></div>	<div>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div>3♠</div><div>All Pass</div><div></div></div></div> <div>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</div>
<div><div><div>♠KQJ8</div><div>♥5432</div><div>♦AK76</div><div>♣2</div></div><div><div>♠1064</div><div>♥Q</div><div>♦92</div><div>♣AQJ10976</div></div></div> <div><div><div>♠A752</div><div>♥A86</div><div>♦QJ8</div><div>♣K43</div></div><div><div>♠93</div><div>♥KJ1097</div><div>♦10543</div><div>♣85</div></div></div>	<div>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div>All Pass</div><div>3♣</div><div>Pass</div></div></div> <div>3N</div> <div>A right time to play in 3N opposite partner's preempt is when you have good support for partner's suit and both quick tricks and cover in the outside suits. This is particularly true if the suit is a minor. First, making nine tricks is probably easier than making eleven; and, secondly, the scoring system makes the minor suit game unattractive. Here East West are vulnerable so West can play partner to hold a very good suit. We ought to be able to count on seven winning clubs to go with the two major suit aces – that's nine tricks. Further our diamond holding is protected from the lead and can <i>never</i> be attacked fatally by the defence. A tenth trick could emerge in the diamond suit.</div>

Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
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<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
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3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass										

<p>♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653</p> <p>♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9</p> <p>♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
West	North	East	South						
	3♣	Pass	5♣						
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West	North	East	South						
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<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
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West	North	East	South														
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<p>♠AKJ8762 ♥632 ♦8 ♣95</p> <p>♠954 ♥Q754 ♦A1032 ♣AQ</p> <p>♠Q ♥K98 ♦KQ75 ♣K10876</p> <p>♠103 ♥AJ10 ♦J964 ♣J432</p>	<p>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass					
West	North	East	South										
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<p>♠KQJ8 ♥5432 ♦AK76 ♣2</p> <p>♠A752 ♥A86 ♦QJ8 ♣K43</p> <p>♠1064 ♥Q ♦92 ♣AQJ10976</p> <p>♠93 ♥KJ1097 ♦10543 ♣85</p>	<p>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3N</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>A right time to play in 3N opposite partner's preempt is when you have good support for partner's suit and both quick tricks and cover in the outside suits. This is particularly true if the suit is a minor. First, making nine tricks is probably easier than making eleven; and, secondly, the scoring system makes the minor suit game unattractive. Here East West are vulnerable so West can play partner to hold a very good suit. We ought to be able to count on seven winning clubs to go with the two major suit aces – that's nine tricks. Further our diamond holding is protected from the lead and can <i>never</i> be attacked fatally by the defence. A tenth trick could emerge in the diamond suit.</p>	West	North	East	South			3♣	Pass	3N	All Pass		
West	North	East	South										
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Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
West	North	East	South						
	3♠	Pass	4♠						
<p>♠95 ♥A754 ♦A1083 ♣KQ5</p> <p>♠103 ♠AKJ87642 ♥KJ10 ♥632 ♦J964 ♦2 ♣J432 ♣9</p> <p>♠Q ♥Q98 ♦KQ75 ♣A10876</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>With that quality suit and the eighth card it would be too conservative to try 3♠ with the East hand. By opening at the four level we hope to give the opponents a problem that they may not be able to solve. Here North South have no game contract and will have to hope the spade game fails. In 4♠ declarer has a loser in each minor so must restrict himself to one heart loser. The only way to do that is to hope South has ♥Q. We can finesse ♥10. When that draws North's ace we can repeat the process (now finessing ♥J). +420 to East West.</p>	West	North	East	South			4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South						
		4♠	All Pass						

<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
West	North	East	South										
Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠										
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<p>♠K108 ♥Q106 ♦J108 ♣QJ109</p> <p>♠AQJ7654 ♠2 ♥97 ♥AK32 ♦32 ♦KQ76 ♣82 ♣AK54</p> <p>♠93 ♥J854 ♦A954 ♣763</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>1 7222 is not the greatest shape and you will get some players who would prefer, at the vulnerability, to treat the West hand as a weak <i>two</i></p> <p>In contrast to board 2 from the talk, East has no support for partner but raising to game in that suit here is the right thing to do! It works because East has a rock crusher and can rely on partner’s suit being good enough not to lose more than one trick there (hopefully). Were we to play in 3N (“no fit partner but loads of points”) we would be cut off from partner’s hand, unable to make use of any spade tricks. Here our side suit holdings are not long enough to develop many tricks in no trumps. 4♠ will make eleven tricks (losing a trump and ♦A). 3N could be held to five tricks – if we’re in it we’ll play to make it. That needs South to hold a doubleton spade including the king. We therefore take the spade finesse. It loses and the roof falls in. We don’t even make a spade. Humiliation (bridge players get used to that).</p>	West	North	East	South	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass				
West	North	East	South										
3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass										

<p>♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653</p> <p>♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9</p> <p>♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
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Pre-emptive Bidding

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<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn't hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South				4♠	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	6♠	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
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<p> ♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653 </p> <p> ♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9 </p> <p> ♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842 </p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
West	North	East	South						
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<p> ♠KJ987 ♥KQJ6 ♦10 ♣KQ4 </p> <p> ♠-void- ♠AQ106532 ♥A42 ♥87 ♦AKQJ654 ♦82 ♣A65 ♣J2 </p> <p> ♠4 ♥10953 ♦973 ♣109873 </p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3N All Pass 1 See comment for board 4</p> <p>The difference between this hand and Board 4 above is that West has no support for partner but has a great source of tricks. West would be very unlucky not make all seven of his diamonds to go with the aces of clubs and hearts. That makes 3N the correct bid. With the awful spade break, game in the suit has no hope. Against 3N North ought to lead a heart (♥K – top of a sequence) and that holds the contract to nine tricks (there's no entry to dummy's ace of spades). Any North leading a spade would gift declarer a tenth trick (and an eleventh if declarer decides to put in ♠Q, which holds).</p>	West	North	East	South			3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
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<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
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<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
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<div>♠AKJ8762</div> <div>♥632</div> <div>♦8</div> <div>♣95</div> <div>♠954</div> <div>♥Q754</div> <div>♦A1032</div> <div>♣AQ</div> <div>♠Q</div> <div>♥K98</div> <div>♦KQ75</div> <div>♣K10876</div> <div>♠103</div> <div>♥AJ10</div> <div>♦J964</div> <div>♣J432</div>	<div>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <div>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</div>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass	
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<div>♠KQJ8</div> <div>♥5432</div> <div>♦AK76</div> <div>♣2</div> <div>♠A752</div> <div>♥A86</div> <div>♦QJ8</div> <div>♣K43</div> <div>♠1064</div> <div>♥Q</div> <div>♦92</div> <div>♣AQJ10976</div> <div>♠93</div> <div>♥KJ1097</div> <div>♦10543</div> <div>♣85</div>	<div>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3N</td><td>All Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <div>A right time to play in 3N opposite partner's preempt is when you have good support for partner's suit and both quick tricks and cover in the outside suits. This is particularly true if the suit is a minor. First, making nine tricks is probably easier than making eleven; and, secondly, the scoring system makes the minor suit game unattractive. Here East West are vulnerable so West can play partner to hold a very good suit. We ought to be able to count on seven winning clubs to go with the two major suit aces – that's nine tricks. Further our diamond holding is protected from the lead and can <i>never</i> be attacked fatally by the defence. A tenth trick could emerge in the diamond suit.</div>	West	North	East	South	3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass
West	North	East	South						
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Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
West	North	East	South						
	3♠	Pass	4♠						
<p>♠95 ♥A754 ♦A1083 ♣KQ5</p> <p>♠103 ♠AKJ87642 ♥KJ10 ♥632 ♦J964 ♦2 ♣J432 ♣9</p> <p>♠Q ♥Q98 ♦KQ75 ♣A10876</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>With that quality suit and the eighth card it would be too conservative to try 3♠ with the East hand. By opening at the four level we hope to give the opponents a problem that they may not be able to solve. Here North South have no game contract and will have to hope the spade game fails. In 4♠ declarer has a loser in each minor so must restrict himself to one heart loser. The only way to do that is to hope South has ♥Q. We can finesse ♥10. When that draws North's ace we can repeat the process (now finessing ♥J). +420 to East West.</p>	West	North	East	South			4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South						
		4♠	All Pass						

<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn't hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South				4♠	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	6♠	All pass	
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3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass						

Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
West	North	East	South						
	3♠	Pass	4♠						
<p>♠95 ♥A754 ♦A1083 ♣KQ5</p> <p>♠103 ♠AKJ87642 ♥KJ10 ♥632 ♦J964 ♦2 ♣J432 ♣9</p> <p>♠Q ♥Q98 ♦KQ75 ♣A10876</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>With that quality suit and the eighth card it would be too conservative to try 3♠ with the East hand. By opening at the four level we hope to give the opponents a problem that they may not be able to solve. Here North South have no game contract and will have to hope the spade game fails. In 4♠ declarer has a loser in each minor so must restrict himself to one heart loser. The only way to do that is to hope South has ♥Q. We can finesse ♥10. When that draws North's ace we can repeat the process (now finessing ♥J). +420 to East West.</p>	West	North	East	South			4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South						
		4♠	All Pass						

<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
West	North	East	South										
Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠										
Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾										
<p>♠K108 ♥Q106 ♦J108 ♣QJ109</p> <p>♠AQJ7654 ♠2 ♥97 ♥AK32 ♦32 ♦KQ76 ♣82 ♣AK54</p> <p>♠93 ♥J854 ♦A954 ♣763</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>1 7222 is not the greatest shape and you will get some players who would prefer, at the vulnerability, to treat the West hand as a weak <i>two</i></p> <p>In contrast to board 2 from the talk, East has no support for partner but raising to game in that suit here is the right thing to do! It works because East has a rock crusher and can rely on partner’s suit being good enough not to lose more than one trick there (hopefully). Were we to play in 3N (“no fit partner but loads of points”) we would be cut off from partner’s hand, unable to make use of any spade tricks. Here our side suit holdings are not long enough to develop many tricks in no trumps. 4♠ will make eleven tricks (losing a trump and ♦A). 3N could be held to five tricks – if we’re in it we’ll play to make it. That needs South to hold a doubleton spade including the king. We therefore take the spade finesse. It loses and the roof falls in. We don’t even make a spade. Humiliation (bridge players get used to that).</p>	West	North	East	South	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass				
West	North	East	South										
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<p> ♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653 </p> <p> ♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9 </p> <p> ♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842 </p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
West	North	East	South						
	3♣	Pass	5♣						
<p> ♠KJ987 ♥KQJ6 ♦10 ♣KQ4 </p> <p> ♠-void- ♠AQ106532 ♥A42 ♥87 ♦AKQJ654 ♦82 ♣A65 ♣J2 </p> <p> ♠4 ♥10953 ♦973 ♣109873 </p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3N All Pass 1 See comment for board 4</p> <p>The difference between this hand and Board 4 above is that West has no support for partner but has a great source of tricks. West would be very unlucky not make all seven of his diamonds to go with the aces of clubs and hearts. That makes 3N the correct bid. With the awful spade break, game in the suit has no hope. Against 3N North ought to lead a heart (♥K – top of a sequence) and that holds the contract to nine tricks (there's no entry to dummy's ace of spades). Any North leading a spade would gift declarer a tenth trick (and an eleventh if declarer decides to put in ♠Q, which holds).</p>	West	North	East	South			3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
West	North	East	South						
		3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass						

<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass														
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<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
West	North	East	South														
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<div>♠AKJ8762 ♥632 ♦8 ♣95</div> <div>♠954 ♥Q754 ♦A1032 ♣AQ</div> <div>♠Q ♥K98 ♦KQ75 ♣K10876</div> <div>♠103 ♥AJ10 ♦J964 ♣J432</div>	<p>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass					
West	North	East	South										
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West	North	East	South										
		3♣	Pass										
3N	All Pass												

Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
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<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
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West	North	East	South						
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<div>♠KQJ8 ♥5432 ♦AK76 ♣2</div> <div>♠A752 ♥A86 ♦QJ8 ♣K43</div> <div>♠1064 ♥Q ♦92 ♣AQJ10976</div> <div>♠93 ♥KJ1097 ♦10543 ♣85</div>	<p>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3N</td><td>All Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <p>A right time to play in 3N opposite partner's preempt is when you have good support for partner's suit and both quick tricks and cover in the outside suits. This is particularly true if the suit is a minor. First, making nine tricks is probably easier than making eleven; and, secondly, the scoring system makes the minor suit game unattractive. Here East West are vulnerable so West can play partner to hold a very good suit. We ought to be able to count on seven winning clubs to go with the two major suit aces – that's nine tricks. Further our diamond holding is protected from the lead and can <i>never</i> be attacked fatally by the defence. A tenth trick could emerge in the diamond suit.</p>	West	North	East	South	3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass
West	North	East	South						
3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass						

Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
West	North	East	South						
	3♠	Pass	4♠						
<p>♠95 ♥A754 ♦A1083 ♣KQ5</p> <p>♠103 ♠AKJ87642 ♥KJ10 ♥632 ♦J964 ♦2 ♣J432 ♣9</p> <p>♠Q ♥Q98 ♦KQ75 ♣A10876</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>With that quality suit and the eighth card it would be too conservative to try 3♠ with the East hand. By opening at the four level we hope to give the opponents a problem that they may not be able to solve. Here North South have no game contract and will have to hope the spade game fails. In 4♠ declarer has a loser in each minor so must restrict himself to one heart loser. The only way to do that is to hope South has ♥Q. We can finesse ♥10. When that draws North's ace we can repeat the process (now finessing ♥J). +420 to East West.</p>	West	North	East	South			4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South						
		4♠	All Pass						

<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn't hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South				4♠	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	6♠	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
			4♠														
Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾														
Pass	6♠	All pass															
<p>♠K108 ♥Q106 ♦J108 ♣QJ109</p> <p>♠AQJ7654 ♠2 ♥97 ♥AK32 ♦32 ♦KQ76 ♣82 ♣AK54</p> <p>♠93 ♥J854 ♦A954 ♣763</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>1 7222 is not the greatest shape and you will get some players who would prefer, at the vulnerability, to treat the West hand as a weak <i>two</i></p> <p>In contrast to board 2 from the talk, East has no support for partner but raising to game in that suit here is the right thing to do! It works because East has a rock crusher and can rely on partner's suit being good enough not to lose more than one trick there (hopefully). Were we to play in 3N (“no fit partner but loads of points”) we would be cut off from partner's hand, unable to make use of any spade tricks. Here our side suit holdings are not long enough to develop many tricks in no trumps. 4♠ will make eleven tricks (losing a trump and ♦A). 3N could be held to five tricks – if we're in it we'll play to make it. That needs South to hold a doubleton spade including the king. We therefore take the spade finesse. It loses and the roof falls in. We don't even make a spade. Humiliation (bridge players get used to that).</p>	West	North	East	South	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass								
West	North	East	South														
3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass														

<p> ♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653 </p> <p> ♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9 </p> <p> ♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842 </p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
West	North	East	South						
	3♣	Pass	5♣						
<p> ♠KJ987 ♥KQJ6 ♦10 ♣KQ4 </p> <p> ♠-void- ♠AQ106532 ♥A42 ♥87 ♦AKQJ654 ♦82 ♣A65 ♣J2 </p> <p> ♠4 ♥10953 ♦973 ♣109873 </p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3N All Pass 1 See comment for board 4</p> <p>The difference between this hand and Board 4 above is that West has no support for partner but has a great source of tricks. West would be very unlucky not make all seven of his diamonds to go with the aces of clubs and hearts. That makes 3N the correct bid. With the awful spade break, game in the suit has no hope. Against 3N North ought to lead a heart (♥K – top of a sequence) and that holds the contract to nine tricks (there's no entry to dummy's ace of spades). Any North leading a spade would gift declarer a tenth trick (and an eleventh if declarer decides to put in ♠Q, which holds).</p>	West	North	East	South			3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
West	North	East	South						
		3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass						

<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass														
Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass															
<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
West	North	East	South														
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<p>♠AKJ8762 ♥632 ♦8 ♣95</p> <p>♠954 ♥Q754 ♦A1032 ♣AQ</p> <p>♠Q ♥K98 ♦KQ75 ♣K10876</p> <p>♠103 ♥AJ10 ♦J964 ♣J432</p>	<p>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass					
West	North	East	South										
	3♠	All Pass											
<p>♠KQJ8 ♥5432 ♦AK76 ♣2</p> <p>♠A752 ♥A86 ♦QJ8 ♣K43</p> <p>♠1064 ♥Q ♦92 ♣AQJ10976</p> <p>♠93 ♥KJ1097 ♦10543 ♣85</p>	<p>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3N</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>A right time to play in 3N opposite partner's preempt is when you have good support for partner's suit and both quick tricks and cover in the outside suits. This is particularly true if the suit is a minor. First, making nine tricks is probably easier than making eleven; and, secondly, the scoring system makes the minor suit game unattractive. Here East West are vulnerable so West can play partner to hold a very good suit. We ought to be able to count on seven winning clubs to go with the two major suit aces – that's nine tricks. Further our diamond holding is protected from the lead and can <i>never</i> be attacked fatally by the defence. A tenth trick could emerge in the diamond suit.</p>	West	North	East	South			3♣	Pass	3N	All Pass		
West	North	East	South										
		3♣	Pass										
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Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
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<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn't hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
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West	North	East	South						
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<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
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4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾															

<p>♠AKJ8762 ♥632 ♦8 ♣95</p> <p>♠954 ♥Q754 ♦A1032 ♣AQ</p> <p>♠Q ♥K98 ♦KQ75 ♣K10876</p> <p>♠103 ♥AJ10 ♦J964 ♣J432</p>	<p>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass					
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<p>♠KQJ8 ♥5432 ♦AK76 ♣2</p> <p>♠A752 ♥A86 ♦QJ8 ♣K43</p> <p>♠1064 ♥Q ♦92 ♣AQJ10976</p> <p>♠93 ♥KJ1097 ♦10543 ♣85</p>	<p>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3N</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>A right time to play in 3N opposite partner's preempt is when you have good support for partner's suit and both quick tricks and cover in the outside suits. This is particularly true if the suit is a minor. First, making nine tricks is probably easier than making eleven; and, secondly, the scoring system makes the minor suit game unattractive. Here East West are vulnerable so West can play partner to hold a very good suit. We ought to be able to count on seven winning clubs to go with the two major suit aces – that's nine tricks. Further our diamond holding is protected from the lead and can <i>never</i> be attacked fatally by the defence. A tenth trick could emerge in the diamond suit.</p>	West	North	East	South			3♣	Pass	3N	All Pass		
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Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
West	North	East	South						
	3♠	Pass	4♠						
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West	North	East	South						
		4♠	All Pass						

<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
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<p>♠K108 ♥Q106 ♦J108 ♣QJ109</p> <p>♠AQJ7654 ♠2 ♥97 ♥AK32 ♦32 ♦KQ76 ♣82 ♣AK54</p> <p>♠93 ♥J854 ♦A954 ♣763</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>1 7222 is not the greatest shape and you will get some players who would prefer, at the vulnerability, to treat the West hand as a weak <i>two</i></p> <p>In contrast to board 2 from the talk, East has no support for partner but raising to game in that suit here is the right thing to do! It works because East has a rock crusher and can rely on partner’s suit being good enough not to lose more than one trick there (hopefully). Were we to play in 3N (“no fit partner but loads of points”) we would be cut off from partner’s hand, unable to make use of any spade tricks. Here our side suit holdings are not long enough to develop many tricks in no trumps. 4♠ will make eleven tricks (losing a trump and ♦A). 3N could be held to five tricks – if we’re in it we’ll play to make it. That needs South to hold a doubleton spade including the king. We therefore take the spade finesse. It loses and the roof falls in. We don’t even make a spade. Humiliation (bridge players get used to that).</p>	West	North	East	South	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass				
West	North	East	South										
3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass										

<p> ♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653 </p> <p> ♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9 </p> <p> ♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842 </p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
West	North	East	South						
	3♣	Pass	5♣						
<p> ♠KJ987 ♥KQJ6 ♦10 ♣KQ4 </p> <p> ♠-void- ♠AQ106532 ♥A42 ♥87 ♦AKQJ654 ♦82 ♣A65 ♣J2 </p> <p> ♠4 ♥10953 ♦973 ♣109873 </p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3N All Pass 1 See comment for board 4</p> <p>The difference between this hand and Board 4 above is that West has no support for partner but has a great source of tricks. West would be very unlucky not make all seven of his diamonds to go with the aces of clubs and hearts. That makes 3N the correct bid. With the awful spade break, game in the suit has no hope. Against 3N North ought to lead a heart (♥K – top of a sequence) and that holds the contract to nine tricks (there's no entry to dummy's ace of spades). Any North leading a spade would gift declarer a tenth trick (and an eleventh if declarer decides to put in ♠Q, which holds).</p>	West	North	East	South			3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
West	North	East	South						
		3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass						

<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
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<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
West	North	East	South														
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Pre-emptive Bidding

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<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
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<div>♠AKJ8762 ♥632 ♦8 ♣95</div> <div>♠954 ♥Q754 ♦A1032 ♣AQ</div> <div>♠103 ♥AJ10 ♦J964 ♣J432</div>	<div>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <div>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</div>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass					
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West	North	East	South										
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Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
West	North	East	South						
	3♠	Pass	4♠						
<p>♠95 ♥A754 ♦A1083 ♣KQ5</p> <p>♠103 ♠AKJ87642 ♥KJ10 ♥632 ♦J964 ♦2 ♣J432 ♣9</p> <p>♠Q ♥Q98 ♦KQ75 ♣A10876</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>With that quality suit and the eighth card it would be too conservative to try 3♠ with the East hand. By opening at the four level we hope to give the opponents a problem that they may not be able to solve. Here North South have no game contract and will have to hope the spade game fails. In 4♠ declarer has a loser in each minor so must restrict himself to one heart loser. The only way to do that is to hope South has ♥Q. We can finesse ♥10. When that draws North's ace we can repeat the process (now finessing ♥J). +420 to East West.</p>	West	North	East	South			4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South						
		4♠	All Pass						

<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
West	North	East	South										
Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠										
Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾										
<p>♠K108 ♥Q106 ♦J108 ♣QJ109</p> <p>♠AQJ7654 ♠2 ♥97 ♥AK32 ♦32 ♦KQ76 ♣82 ♣AK54</p> <p>♠93 ♥J854 ♦A954 ♣763</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>1 7222 is not the greatest shape and you will get some players who would prefer, at the vulnerability, to treat the West hand as a weak <i>two</i></p> <p>In contrast to board 2 from the talk, East has no support for partner but raising to game in that suit here is the right thing to do! It works because East has a rock crusher and can rely on partner’s suit being good enough not to lose more than one trick there (hopefully). Were we to play in 3N (“no fit partner but loads of points”) we would be cut off from partner’s hand, unable to make use of any spade tricks. Here our side suit holdings are not long enough to develop many tricks in no trumps. 4♠ will make eleven tricks (losing a trump and ♦A). 3N could be held to five tricks – if we’re in it we’ll play to make it. That needs South to hold a doubleton spade including the king. We therefore take the spade finesse. It loses and the roof falls in. We don’t even make a spade. Humiliation (bridge players get used to that).</p>	West	North	East	South	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass				
West	North	East	South										
3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass										

<p>♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653</p> <p>♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9</p> <p>♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
West	North	East	South						
	3♣	Pass	5♣						
<p>♠KJ987 ♥KQJ6 ♦10 ♣KQ4</p> <p>♠-void- ♠AQ106532 ♥A42 ♥87 ♦AKQJ654 ♦82 ♣A65 ♣J2</p> <p>♠4 ♥10953 ♦973 ♣109873</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3N All Pass 1 See comment for board 4</p> <p>The difference between this hand and Board 4 above is that West has no support for partner but has a great source of tricks. West would be very unlucky not make all seven of his diamonds to go with the aces of clubs and hearts. That makes 3N the correct bid. With the awful spade break, game in the suit has no hope. Against 3N North ought to lead a heart (♥K – top of a sequence) and that holds the contract to nine tricks (there's no entry to dummy's ace of spades). Any North leading a spade would gift declarer a tenth trick (and an eleventh if declarer decides to put in ♠Q, which holds).</p>	West	North	East	South			3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
West	North	East	South						
		3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass						

<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass														
Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass															
<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
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Pre-emptive Bidding

<div><div>♠AQJ6543</div><div>♥76</div><div>♦832</div><div>♣2</div></div> <div><div>♠2</div><div>♥KQJ10</div><div>♦Q1096</div><div>♣A974</div></div> <div><div>♠9</div><div>♥A95</div><div>♦KJ754</div><div>♣QJ103</div></div> <div><div>♠K1087</div><div>♥8432</div><div>♦A</div><div>♣K865</div></div>	<div>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div>3♠</div><div>Pass</div><div>4♠</div></div></div> <div>All pass</div> <div>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</div> <div>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</div>
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<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
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West	North	East	South						
		3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass						

<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass														
Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass															
<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
West	North	East	South														
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4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾															

<div>♠AKJ8762</div> <div>♥632</div> <div>♦8</div> <div>♣95</div> <div>♠954</div> <div>♥Q754</div> <div>♦A1032</div> <div>♣AQ</div> <div>♠Q</div> <div>♥K98</div> <div>♦KQ75</div> <div>♣K10876</div> <div>♠103</div> <div>♥AJ10</div> <div>♦J964</div> <div>♣J432</div>	<div>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <div>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</div>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South						
	3♠	All Pass							
<div>♠KQJ8</div> <div>♥5432</div> <div>♦AK76</div> <div>♣2</div> <div>♠A752</div> <div>♥A86</div> <div>♦QJ8</div> <div>♣K43</div> <div>♠1064</div> <div>♥Q</div> <div>♦92</div> <div>♣AQJ10976</div> <div>♠93</div> <div>♥KJ1097</div> <div>♦10543</div> <div>♣85</div>	<div>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3N</td><td>All Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <div>A right time to play in 3N opposite partner's preempt is when you have good support for partner's suit and both quick tricks and cover in the outside suits. This is particularly true if the suit is a minor. First, making nine tricks is probably easier than making eleven; and, secondly, the scoring system makes the minor suit game unattractive. Here East West are vulnerable so West can play partner to hold a very good suit. We ought to be able to count on seven winning clubs to go with the two major suit aces – that's nine tricks. Further our diamond holding is protected from the lead and can <i>never</i> be attacked fatally by the defence. A tenth trick could emerge in the diamond suit.</div>	West	North	East	South	3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass
West	North	East	South						
3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass						

Pre-emptive Bidding

<div><div>♠AQJ6543</div><div>♥76</div><div>♦832</div><div>♣2</div></div> <div><div>♠2</div><div>♥KQJ10</div><div>♦Q1096</div><div>♣A974</div></div> <div><div>♠9</div><div>♥A95</div><div>♦KJ754</div><div>♣QJ103</div></div> <div><div>♠K1087</div><div>♥8432</div><div>♦A</div><div>♣K865</div></div>	<div>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div>3♠</div><div>Pass</div><div>4♠</div></div></div> <div>All pass</div> <div>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</div> <div>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</div>
<div><div>♠95</div><div>♥A754</div><div>♦A1083</div><div>♣KQ5</div></div> <div><div>♠103</div><div>♥KJ10</div><div>♦J964</div><div>♣J432</div></div> <div><div>♠AKJ87642</div><div>♥632</div><div>♦2</div><div>♣9</div></div> <div><div>♠Q</div><div>♥Q98</div><div>♦KQ75</div><div>♣A10876</div></div>	<div>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div></div><div>4♠</div><div>All Pass</div></div></div> <div>With that quality suit and the eighth card it would be too conservative to try 3♠ with the East hand. By opening at the four level we hope to give the opponents a problem that they may not be able to solve. Here North South have no game contract and will have to hope the spade game fails. In 4♠ declarer has a loser in each minor so must restrict himself to one heart loser. The only way to do that is to hope South has ♥Q. We can finesse ♥10. When that draws North's ace we can repeat the process (now finessing ♥J). +420 to East West.</div>

<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
West	North	East	South										
Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠										
Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾										
<p>♠K108 ♥Q106 ♦J108 ♣QJ109</p> <p>♠AQJ7654 ♠2 ♥97 ♥AK32 ♦32 ♦KQ76 ♣82 ♣AK54</p> <p>♠93 ♥J854 ♦A954 ♣763</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>1 7222 is not the greatest shape and you will get some players who would prefer, at the vulnerability, to treat the West hand as a weak <i>two</i></p> <p>In contrast to board 2 from the talk, East has no support for partner but raising to game in that suit here is the right thing to do! It works because East has a rock crusher and can rely on partner’s suit being good enough not to lose more than one trick there (hopefully). Were we to play in 3N (“no fit partner but loads of points”) we would be cut off from partner’s hand, unable to make use of any spade tricks. Here our side suit holdings are not long enough to develop many tricks in no trumps. 4♠ will make eleven tricks (losing a trump and ♦A). 3N could be held to five tricks – if we’re in it we’ll play to make it. That needs South to hold a doubleton spade including the king. We therefore take the spade finesse. It loses and the roof falls in. We don’t even make a spade. Humiliation (bridge players get used to that).</p>	West	North	East	South	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass				
West	North	East	South										
3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass										

<p>♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653</p> <p>♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9</p> <p>♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
West	North	East	South						
	3♣	Pass	5♣						
<p>♠KJ987 ♥KQJ6 ♦10 ♣KQ4</p> <p>♠-void- ♠AQ106532 ♥A42 ♥87 ♦AKQJ654 ♦82 ♣A65 ♣J2</p> <p>♠4 ♥10953 ♦973 ♣109873</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3N All Pass 1 See comment for board 4</p> <p>The difference between this hand and Board 4 above is that West has no support for partner but has a great source of tricks. West would be very unlucky not make all seven of his diamonds to go with the aces of clubs and hearts. That makes 3N the correct bid. With the awful spade break, game in the suit has no hope. Against 3N North ought to lead a heart (♥K – top of a sequence) and that holds the contract to nine tricks (there's no entry to dummy's ace of spades). Any North leading a spade would gift declarer a tenth trick (and an eleventh if declarer decides to put in ♠Q, which holds).</p>	West	North	East	South			3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
West	North	East	South						
		3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass						

<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
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<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
West	North	East	South														
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<div><div><div>♠AKJ8762</div><div>♥632</div><div>♦8</div><div>♣95</div></div><div><div>♠Q</div><div>♥K98</div><div>♦KQ75</div><div>♣K10876</div></div></div> <div><div><div>♠954</div><div>♥Q754</div><div>♦A1032</div><div>♣AQ</div></div><div><div>♠103</div><div>♥AJ10</div><div>♦J964</div><div>♣J432</div></div></div>	<div>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div>3♠</div><div>All Pass</div><div></div></div></div> <div><p>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</p></div>
<div><div><div>♠KQJ8</div><div>♥5432</div><div>♦AK76</div><div>♣2</div></div><div><div>♠1064</div><div>♥Q</div><div>♦92</div><div>♣AQJ10976</div></div></div> <div><div><div>♠A752</div><div>♥A86</div><div>♦QJ8</div><div>♣K43</div></div><div><div>♠93</div><div>♥KJ1097</div><div>♦10543</div><div>♣85</div></div></div>	<div>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div></div><div>3♣</div><div>Pass</div></div><div><div>3N</div><div>All Pass</div><div></div><div></div></div></div> <div><p>A right time to play in 3N opposite partner's preempt is when you have good support for partner's suit and both quick tricks and cover in the outside suits. This is particularly true if the suit is a minor. First, making nine tricks is probably easier than making eleven; and, secondly, the scoring system makes the minor suit game unattractive. Here East West are vulnerable so West can play partner to hold a very good suit. We ought to be able to count on seven winning clubs to go with the two major suit aces – that's nine tricks. Further our diamond holding is protected from the lead and can <i>never</i> be attacked fatally by the defence. A tenth trick could emerge in the diamond suit.</p></div>

Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
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<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
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<p> ♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653 </p> <p> ♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9 </p> <p> ♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842 </p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
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<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
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West	North	East	South														
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<div>♠AKJ8762</div> <div>♥632</div> <div>♦8</div> <div>♣95</div> <div>♠954</div> <div>♥Q754</div> <div>♦A1032</div> <div>♣AQ</div> <div>♠Q</div> <div>♥K98</div> <div>♦KQ75</div> <div>♣K10876</div> <div>♠103</div> <div>♥AJ10</div> <div>♦J964</div> <div>♣J432</div>	<div>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <div>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</div>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South						
	3♠	All Pass							
<div>♠KQJ8</div> <div>♥5432</div> <div>♦AK76</div> <div>♣2</div> <div>♠A752</div> <div>♥A86</div> <div>♦QJ8</div> <div>♣K43</div> <div>♠1064</div> <div>♥Q</div> <div>♦92</div> <div>♣AQJ10976</div> <div>♠93</div> <div>♥KJ1097</div> <div>♦10543</div> <div>♣85</div>	<div>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3N</td><td>All Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <div>A right time to play in 3N opposite partner's preempt is when you have good support for partner's suit and both quick tricks and cover in the outside suits. This is particularly true if the suit is a minor. First, making nine tricks is probably easier than making eleven; and, secondly, the scoring system makes the minor suit game unattractive. Here East West are vulnerable so West can play partner to hold a very good suit. We ought to be able to count on seven winning clubs to go with the two major suit aces – that's nine tricks. Further our diamond holding is protected from the lead and can <i>never</i> be attacked fatally by the defence. A tenth trick could emerge in the diamond suit.</div>	West	North	East	South	3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass
West	North	East	South						
3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass						

Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
West	North	East	South						
	3♠	Pass	4♠						
<p>♠95 ♥A754 ♦A1083 ♣KQ5</p> <p>♠103 ♠AKJ87642 ♥KJ10 ♥632 ♦J964 ♦2 ♣J432 ♣9</p> <p>♠Q ♥Q98 ♦KQ75 ♣A10876</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>With that quality suit and the eighth card it would be too conservative to try 3♠ with the East hand. By opening at the four level we hope to give the opponents a problem that they may not be able to solve. Here North South have no game contract and will have to hope the spade game fails. In 4♠ declarer has a loser in each minor so must restrict himself to one heart loser. The only way to do that is to hope South has ♥Q. We can finesse ♥10. When that draws North's ace we can repeat the process (now finessing ♥J). +420 to East West.</p>	West	North	East	South			4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South						
		4♠	All Pass						

<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
West	North	East	South										
Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠										
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<p>♠K108 ♥Q106 ♦J108 ♣QJ109</p> <p>♠AQJ7654 ♠2 ♥97 ♥AK32 ♦32 ♦KQ76 ♣82 ♣AK54</p> <p>♠93 ♥J854 ♦A954 ♣763</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>1 7222 is not the greatest shape and you will get some players who would prefer, at the vulnerability, to treat the West hand as a weak <i>two</i></p> <p>In contrast to board 2 from the talk, East has no support for partner but raising to game in that suit here is the right thing to do! It works because East has a rock crusher and can rely on partner’s suit being good enough not to lose more than one trick there (hopefully). Were we to play in 3N (“no fit partner but loads of points”) we would be cut off from partner’s hand, unable to make use of any spade tricks. Here our side suit holdings are not long enough to develop many tricks in no trumps. 4♠ will make eleven tricks (losing a trump and ♦A). 3N could be held to five tricks – if we’re in it we’ll play to make it. That needs South to hold a doubleton spade including the king. We therefore take the spade finesse. It loses and the roof falls in. We don’t even make a spade. Humiliation (bridge players get used to that).</p>	West	North	East	South	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass				
West	North	East	South										
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<p> ♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653 </p> <p> ♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9 </p> <p> ♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842 </p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
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<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
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Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
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West	North	East	South						
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<p> ♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42 </p> <p> ♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653 </p> <p> ♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9 </p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table> <tr> <th><i>West</i></th> <th><i>North</i></th> <th><i>East</i></th> <th><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4N⁽¹⁾</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td>5♣⁽²⁾</td> </tr> </table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn't hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>										
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<p> ♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653 </p> <p> ♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9 </p> <p> ♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842 </p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
West	North	East	South						
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<p> ♠KJ987 ♥KQJ6 ♦10 ♣KQ4 </p> <p> ♠-void- ♠AQ106532 ♥A42 ♥87 ♦AKQJ654 ♦82 ♣A65 ♣J2 </p> <p> ♠4 ♥10953 ♦973 ♣109873 </p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3N All Pass 1 See comment for board 4</p> <p>The difference between this hand and Board 4 above is that West has no support for partner but has a great source of tricks. West would be very unlucky not make all seven of his diamonds to go with the aces of clubs and hearts. That makes 3N the correct bid. With the awful spade break, game in the suit has no hope. Against 3N North ought to lead a heart (♥K – top of a sequence) and that holds the contract to nine tricks (there's no entry to dummy's ace of spades). Any North leading a spade would gift declarer a tenth trick (and an eleventh if declarer decides to put in ♠Q, which holds).</p>	West	North	East	South			3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
West	North	East	South						
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<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
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<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
West	North	East	South														
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<p>♠AKJ8762 ♥632 ♦8 ♣95</p> <p>♠954 ♥Q754 ♦A1032 ♣AQ</p> <p>♠Q ♥K98 ♦KQ75 ♣K10876</p> <p>♠103 ♥AJ10 ♦J964 ♣J432</p>	<p>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass					
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<p>♠KQJ8 ♥5432 ♦AK76 ♣2</p> <p>♠A752 ♥A86 ♦QJ8 ♣K43</p> <p>♠1064 ♥Q ♦92 ♣AQJ10976</p> <p>♠93 ♥KJ1097 ♦10543 ♣85</p>	<p>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3N</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>A right time to play in 3N opposite partner's preempt is when you have good support for partner's suit and both quick tricks and cover in the outside suits. This is particularly true if the suit is a minor. First, making nine tricks is probably easier than making eleven; and, secondly, the scoring system makes the minor suit game unattractive. Here East West are vulnerable so West can play partner to hold a very good suit. We ought to be able to count on seven winning clubs to go with the two major suit aces – that's nine tricks. Further our diamond holding is protected from the lead and can <i>never</i> be attacked fatally by the defence. A tenth trick could emerge in the diamond suit.</p>	West	North	East	South			3♣	Pass	3N	All Pass		
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Pre-emptive Bidding

<div><div>♠AQJ6543</div><div>♥76</div><div>♦832</div><div>♣2</div></div> <div><div>♠2</div><div>♥KQJ10</div><div>♦Q1096</div><div>♣A974</div></div> <div><div>♠9</div><div>♥A95</div><div>♦KJ754</div><div>♣QJ103</div></div> <div><div>♠K1087</div><div>♥8432</div><div>♦A</div><div>♣K865</div></div>	<div>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div>3♠</div><div>Pass</div><div>4♠</div></div></div> <div>All pass</div> <div>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</div> <div>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</div>
<div><div>♠95</div><div>♥A754</div><div>♦A1083</div><div>♣KQ5</div></div> <div><div>♠103</div><div>♥KJ10</div><div>♦J964</div><div>♣J432</div></div> <div><div>♠AKJ87642</div><div>♥632</div><div>♦2</div><div>♣9</div></div> <div><div>♠Q</div><div>♥Q98</div><div>♦KQ75</div><div>♣A10876</div></div>	<div>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div></div><div>4♠</div><div>All Pass</div></div></div> <div>With that quality suit and the eighth card it would be too conservative to try 3♠ with the East hand. By opening at the four level we hope to give the opponents a problem that they may not be able to solve. Here North South have no game contract and will have to hope the spade game fails. In 4♠ declarer has a loser in each minor so must restrict himself to one heart loser. The only way to do that is to hope South has ♥Q. We can finesse ♥10. When that draws North's ace we can repeat the process (now finessing ♥J). +420 to East West.</div>

<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
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3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass						

Pre-emptive Bidding

<div><div>♠AQJ6543</div><div>♥76</div><div>♦832</div><div>♣2</div></div> <div><div>♠2</div><div>♥KQJ10</div><div>♦Q1096</div><div>♣A974</div></div> <div><div>♠9</div><div>♥A95</div><div>♦KJ754</div><div>♣QJ103</div></div> <div><div>♠K1087</div><div>♥8432</div><div>♦A</div><div>♣K865</div></div>	<div>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div>3♠</div><div>Pass</div><div>4♠</div></div></div> <div>All pass</div> <div>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</div> <div>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</div>
<div><div>♠95</div><div>♥A754</div><div>♦A1083</div><div>♣KQ5</div></div> <div><div>♠103</div><div>♥KJ10</div><div>♦J964</div><div>♣J432</div></div> <div><div>♠AKJ87642</div><div>♥632</div><div>♦2</div><div>♣9</div></div> <div><div>♠Q</div><div>♥Q98</div><div>♦KQ75</div><div>♣A10876</div></div>	<div>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div></div><div>4♠</div><div>All Pass</div></div></div> <div>With that quality suit and the eighth card it would be too conservative to try 3♠ with the East hand. By opening at the four level we hope to give the opponents a problem that they may not be able to solve. Here North South have no game contract and will have to hope the spade game fails. In 4♠ declarer has a loser in each minor so must restrict himself to one heart loser. The only way to do that is to hope South has ♥Q. We can finesse ♥10. When that draws North's ace we can repeat the process (now finessing ♥J). +420 to East West.</div>

<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
West	North	East	South										
Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠										
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<p>♠K108 ♥Q106 ♦J108 ♣QJ109</p> <p>♠AQJ7654 ♠2 ♥97 ♥AK32 ♦32 ♦KQ76 ♣82 ♣AK54</p> <p>♠93 ♥J854 ♦A954 ♣763</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>1 7222 is not the greatest shape and you will get some players who would prefer, at the vulnerability, to treat the West hand as a weak <i>two</i></p> <p>In contrast to board 2 from the talk, East has no support for partner but raising to game in that suit here is the right thing to do! It works because East has a rock crusher and can rely on partner’s suit being good enough not to lose more than one trick there (hopefully). Were we to play in 3N (“no fit partner but loads of points”) we would be cut off from partner’s hand, unable to make use of any spade tricks. Here our side suit holdings are not long enough to develop many tricks in no trumps. 4♠ will make eleven tricks (losing a trump and ♦A). 3N could be held to five tricks – if we’re in it we’ll play to make it. That needs South to hold a doubleton spade including the king. We therefore take the spade finesse. It loses and the roof falls in. We don’t even make a spade. Humiliation (bridge players get used to that).</p>	West	North	East	South	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass				
West	North	East	South										
3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass										

<p> ♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653 </p> <p> ♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9 </p> <p> ♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842 </p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
West	North	East	South						
	3♣	Pass	5♣						
<p> ♠KJ987 ♥KQJ6 ♦10 ♣KQ4 </p> <p> ♠-void- ♠AQ106532 ♥A42 ♥87 ♦AKQJ654 ♦82 ♣A65 ♣J2 </p> <p> ♠4 ♥10953 ♦973 ♣109873 </p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3N All Pass 1 See comment for board 4</p> <p>The difference between this hand and Board 4 above is that West has no support for partner but has a great source of tricks. West would be very unlucky not make all seven of his diamonds to go with the aces of clubs and hearts. That makes 3N the correct bid. With the awful spade break, game in the suit has no hope. Against 3N North ought to lead a heart (♥K – top of a sequence) and that holds the contract to nine tricks (there's no entry to dummy's ace of spades). Any North leading a spade would gift declarer a tenth trick (and an eleventh if declarer decides to put in ♠Q, which holds).</p>	West	North	East	South			3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
West	North	East	South						
		3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass						

<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass														
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<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
West	North	East	South														
Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠														
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<div><div><div>♠AKJ8762</div><div>♥632</div><div>♦8</div><div>♣95</div></div><div><div>♠Q</div><div>♥K98</div><div>♦KQ75</div><div>♣K10876</div></div><div><div>♠954</div><div>♥Q754</div><div>♦A1032</div><div>♣AQ</div></div><div><div>♠103</div><div>♥AJ10</div><div>♦J964</div><div>♣J432</div></div></div>	<div>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South						
	3♠	All Pass							
<div><div><div>♠KQJ8</div><div>♥5432</div><div>♦AK76</div><div>♣2</div></div><div><div>♠1064</div><div>♥Q</div><div>♦92</div><div>♣AQJ10976</div></div><div><div>♠A752</div><div>♥A86</div><div>♦QJ8</div><div>♣K43</div></div><div><div>♠93</div><div>♥KJ1097</div><div>♦10543</div><div>♣85</div></div></div>	<div>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3N</td><td>All Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <p>A right time to play in 3N opposite partner's preempt is when you have good support for partner's suit and both quick tricks and cover in the outside suits. This is particularly true if the suit is a minor. First, making nine tricks is probably easier than making eleven; and, secondly, the scoring system makes the minor suit game unattractive. Here East West are vulnerable so West can play partner to hold a very good suit. We ought to be able to count on seven winning clubs to go with the two major suit aces – that's nine tricks. Further our diamond holding is protected from the lead and can <i>never</i> be attacked fatally by the defence. A tenth trick could emerge in the diamond suit.</p>	West	North	East	South	3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass
West	North	East	South						
3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass						

Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
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West	North	East	South						
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<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
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<div>♠AKJ8762 ♥632 ♦8 ♣95</div> <div>♠954 ♥Q754 ♦A1032 ♣AQ</div> <div>♠103 ♥AJ10 ♦J964 ♣J432</div>	<div>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <div><div>WestNorthEastSouth</div><div>3♠All Pass</div></div> <div>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</div>
<div>♠KQJ8 ♥5432 ♦AK76 ♣2</div> <div>♠A752 ♥A86 ♦QJ8 ♣K43</div> <div>♠93 ♥KJ1097 ♦10543 ♣85</div>	<div>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div> <div><div>WestNorthEastSouth</div><div>3NAll Pass3♣Pass</div></div> <div>A right time to play in 3N opposite partner's preempt is when you have good support for partner's suit and both quick tricks and cover in the outside suits. This is particularly true if the suit is a minor. First, making nine tricks is probably easier than making eleven; and, secondly, the scoring system makes the minor suit game unattractive. Here East West are vulnerable so West can play partner to hold a very good suit. We ought to be able to count on seven winning clubs to go with the two major suit aces – that's nine tricks. Further our diamond holding is protected from the lead and can <i>never</i> be attacked fatally by the defence. A tenth trick could emerge in the diamond suit.</div>

Pre-emptive Bidding

<div><div>♠AQJ6543</div><div>♥76</div><div>♦832</div><div>♣2</div></div> <div><div>♠2</div><div>♥KQJ10</div><div>♦Q1096</div><div>♣A974</div></div> <div><div>♠9</div><div>♥A95</div><div>♦KJ754</div><div>♣QJ103</div></div> <div><div>♠K1087</div><div>♥8432</div><div>♦A</div><div>♣K865</div></div>	<div>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div>3♠</div><div>Pass</div><div>4♠</div></div></div> <div>All pass</div> <div>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</div> <div>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</div>
<div><div>♠95</div><div>♥A754</div><div>♦A1083</div><div>♣KQ5</div></div> <div><div>♠103</div><div>♥KJ10</div><div>♦J964</div><div>♣J432</div></div> <div><div>♠AKJ87642</div><div>♥632</div><div>♦2</div><div>♣9</div></div> <div><div>♠Q</div><div>♥Q98</div><div>♦KQ75</div><div>♣A10876</div></div>	<div>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div></div><div>4♠</div><div>All Pass</div></div></div> <div>With that quality suit and the eighth card it would be too conservative to try 3♠ with the East hand. By opening at the four level we hope to give the opponents a problem that they may not be able to solve. Here North South have no game contract and will have to hope the spade game fails. In 4♠ declarer has a loser in each minor so must restrict himself to one heart loser. The only way to do that is to hope South has ♥Q. We can finesse ♥10. When that draws North's ace we can repeat the process (now finessing ♥J). +420 to East West.</div>

<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
West	North	East	South										
Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠										
Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾										
<p>♠K108 ♥Q106 ♦J108 ♣QJ109</p> <p>♠AQJ7654 ♠2 ♥97 ♥AK32 ♦32 ♦KQ76 ♣82 ♣AK54</p> <p>♠93 ♥J854 ♦A954 ♣763</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>1 7222 is not the greatest shape and you will get some players who would prefer, at the vulnerability, to treat the West hand as a weak <i>two</i></p> <p>In contrast to board 2 from the talk, East has no support for partner but raising to game in that suit here is the right thing to do! It works because East has a rock crusher and can rely on partner’s suit being good enough not to lose more than one trick there (hopefully). Were we to play in 3N (“no fit partner but loads of points”) we would be cut off from partner’s hand, unable to make use of any spade tricks. Here our side suit holdings are not long enough to develop many tricks in no trumps. 4♠ will make eleven tricks (losing a trump and ♦A). 3N could be held to five tricks – if we’re in it we’ll play to make it. That needs South to hold a doubleton spade including the king. We therefore take the spade finesse. It loses and the roof falls in. We don’t even make a spade. Humiliation (bridge players get used to that).</p>	West	North	East	South	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass				
West	North	East	South										
3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass										

<p>♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653</p> <p>♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9</p> <p>♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
West	North	East	South						
	3♣	Pass	5♣						
<p>♠KJ987 ♥KQJ6 ♦10 ♣KQ4</p> <p>♠-void- ♠AQ106532 ♥A42 ♥87 ♦AKQJ654 ♦82 ♣A65 ♣J2</p> <p>♠4 ♥10953 ♦973 ♣109873</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3N All Pass 1 See comment for board 4</p> <p>The difference between this hand and Board 4 above is that West has no support for partner but has a great source of tricks. West would be very unlucky not make all seven of his diamonds to go with the aces of clubs and hearts. That makes 3N the correct bid. With the awful spade break, game in the suit has no hope. Against 3N North ought to lead a heart (♥K – top of a sequence) and that holds the contract to nine tricks (there's no entry to dummy's ace of spades). Any North leading a spade would gift declarer a tenth trick (and an eleventh if declarer decides to put in ♠Q, which holds).</p>	West	North	East	South			3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
West	North	East	South						
		3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass						

<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass														
Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass															
<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
West	North	East	South														
Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠														
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<div><div><div>♠AKJ8762</div><div>♥632</div><div>♦8</div><div>♣95</div></div><div><div>♠Q</div><div>♥K98</div><div>♦KQ75</div><div>♣K10876</div></div><div><div>♠954</div><div>♥Q754</div><div>♦A1032</div><div>♣AQ</div></div><div><div>♠103</div><div>♥AJ10</div><div>♦J964</div><div>♣J432</div></div></div>	<div>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South						
	3♠	All Pass							
<div><div><div>♠KQJ8</div><div>♥5432</div><div>♦AK76</div><div>♣2</div></div><div><div>♠1064</div><div>♥Q</div><div>♦92</div><div>♣AQJ10976</div></div><div><div>♠A752</div><div>♥A86</div><div>♦QJ8</div><div>♣K43</div></div><div><div>♠93</div><div>♥KJ1097</div><div>♦10543</div><div>♣85</div></div></div>	<div>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3N</td><td>All Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <p>A right time to play in 3N opposite partner's preempt is when you have good support for partner's suit and both quick tricks and cover in the outside suits. This is particularly true if the suit is a minor. First, making nine tricks is probably easier than making eleven; and, secondly, the scoring system makes the minor suit game unattractive. Here East West are vulnerable so West can play partner to hold a very good suit. We ought to be able to count on seven winning clubs to go with the two major suit aces – that's nine tricks. Further our diamond holding is protected from the lead and can <i>never</i> be attacked fatally by the defence. A tenth trick could emerge in the diamond suit.</p>	West	North	East	South	3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass
West	North	East	South						
3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass						

Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
West	North	East	South						
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West	North	East	South						
		4♠	All Pass						

<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn't hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
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<p>♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653</p> <p>♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9</p> <p>♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
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West	North	East	South						
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Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass														
Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass															
<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
West	North	East	South														
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<div><div><div>♠AKJ8762</div><div>♥632</div><div>♦8</div><div>♣95</div></div><div><div>♠Q</div><div>♥K98</div><div>♦KQ75</div><div>♣K10876</div></div><div><div>♠954</div><div>♥Q754</div><div>♦A1032</div><div>♣AQ</div></div><div><div>♠103</div><div>♥AJ10</div><div>♦J964</div><div>♣J432</div></div></div>	<div>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South						
	3♠	All Pass							
<div><div><div>♠KQJ8</div><div>♥5432</div><div>♦AK76</div><div>♣2</div></div><div><div>♠1064</div><div>♥Q</div><div>♦92</div><div>♣AQJ10976</div></div><div><div>♠A752</div><div>♥A86</div><div>♦QJ8</div><div>♣K43</div></div><div><div>♠93</div><div>♥KJ1097</div><div>♦10543</div><div>♣85</div></div></div>	<div>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3N</td><td>All Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <p>A right time to play in 3N opposite partner's preempt is when you have good support for partner's suit and both quick tricks and cover in the outside suits. This is particularly true if the suit is a minor. First, making nine tricks is probably easier than making eleven; and, secondly, the scoring system makes the minor suit game unattractive. Here East West are vulnerable so West can play partner to hold a very good suit. We ought to be able to count on seven winning clubs to go with the two major suit aces – that's nine tricks. Further our diamond holding is protected from the lead and can <i>never</i> be attacked fatally by the defence. A tenth trick could emerge in the diamond suit.</p>	West	North	East	South	3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass
West	North	East	South						
3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass						

Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
West	North	East	South						
	3♠	Pass	4♠						
<p>♠95 ♥A754 ♦A1083 ♣KQ5</p> <p>♠103 ♠AKJ87642 ♥KJ10 ♥632 ♦J964 ♦2 ♣J432 ♣9</p> <p>♠Q ♥Q98 ♦KQ75 ♣A10876</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>With that quality suit and the eighth card it would be too conservative to try 3♠ with the East hand. By opening at the four level we hope to give the opponents a problem that they may not be able to solve. Here North South have no game contract and will have to hope the spade game fails. In 4♠ declarer has a loser in each minor so must restrict himself to one heart loser. The only way to do that is to hope South has ♥Q. We can finesse ♥10. When that draws North's ace we can repeat the process (now finessing ♥J). +420 to East West.</p>	West	North	East	South			4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South						
		4♠	All Pass						

<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
West	North	East	South										
Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠										
Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾										
<p>♠K108 ♥Q106 ♦J108 ♣QJ109</p> <p>♠AQJ7654 ♠2 ♥97 ♥AK32 ♦32 ♦KQ76 ♣82 ♣AK54</p> <p>♠93 ♥J854 ♦A954 ♣763</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>1 7222 is not the greatest shape and you will get some players who would prefer, at the vulnerability, to treat the West hand as a weak <i>two</i></p> <p>In contrast to board 2 from the talk, East has no support for partner but raising to game in that suit here is the right thing to do! It works because East has a rock crusher and can rely on partner’s suit being good enough not to lose more than one trick there (hopefully). Were we to play in 3N (“no fit partner but loads of points”) we would be cut off from partner’s hand, unable to make use of any spade tricks. Here our side suit holdings are not long enough to develop many tricks in no trumps. 4♠ will make eleven tricks (losing a trump and ♦A). 3N could be held to five tricks – if we’re in it we’ll play to make it. That needs South to hold a doubleton spade including the king. We therefore take the spade finesse. It loses and the roof falls in. We don’t even make a spade. Humiliation (bridge players get used to that).</p>	West	North	East	South	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass				
West	North	East	South										
3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass										

<p>♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653</p> <p>♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9</p> <p>♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
West	North	East	South						
	3♣	Pass	5♣						
<p>♠KJ987 ♥KQJ6 ♦10 ♣KQ4</p> <p>♠-void- ♠AQ106532 ♥A42 ♥87 ♦AKQJ654 ♦82 ♣A65 ♣J2</p> <p>♠4 ♥10953 ♦973 ♣109873</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3N All Pass 1 See comment for board 4</p> <p>The difference between this hand and Board 4 above is that West has no support for partner but has a great source of tricks. West would be very unlucky not make all seven of his diamonds to go with the aces of clubs and hearts. That makes 3N the correct bid. With the awful spade break, game in the suit has no hope. Against 3N North ought to lead a heart (♥K – top of a sequence) and that holds the contract to nine tricks (there's no entry to dummy's ace of spades). Any North leading a spade would gift declarer a tenth trick (and an eleventh if declarer decides to put in ♠Q, which holds).</p>	West	North	East	South			3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
West	North	East	South						
		3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass						

<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass														
Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass															
<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
West	North	East	South														
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<div>♠AKJ8762</div> <div>♥632</div> <div>♦8</div> <div>♣95</div> <div>♠954</div> <div>♥Q754</div> <div>♦A1032</div> <div>♣AQ</div> <div>♠Q</div> <div>♥K98</div> <div>♦KQ75</div> <div>♣K10876</div> <div>♠103</div> <div>♥AJ10</div> <div>♦J964</div> <div>♣J432</div>	<div>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <div>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</div>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass	
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West	North	East	South						
3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass						

Pre-emptive Bidding

<div><div>♠AQJ6543</div><div>♥76</div><div>♦832</div><div>♣2</div></div> <div><div>♠2</div><div>♥KQJ10</div><div>♦Q1096</div><div>♣A974</div></div> <div><div>♠9</div><div>♥A95</div><div>♦KJ754</div><div>♣QJ103</div></div> <div><div>♠K1087</div><div>♥8432</div><div>♦A</div><div>♣K865</div></div>	<div>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div>3♠</div><div>Pass</div><div>4♠</div></div></div> <div>All pass</div> <div>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</div> <div>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</div>
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<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
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West	North	East	South										
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<p> ♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653 </p> <p> ♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9 </p> <p> ♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842 </p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
West	North	East	South						
	3♣	Pass	5♣						
<p> ♠KJ987 ♥KQJ6 ♦10 ♣KQ4 </p> <p> ♠-void- ♠AQ106532 ♥A42 ♥87 ♦AKQJ654 ♦82 ♣A65 ♣J2 </p> <p> ♠4 ♥10953 ♦973 ♣109873 </p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3N All Pass 1 See comment for board 4</p> <p>The difference between this hand and Board 4 above is that West has no support for partner but has a great source of tricks. West would be very unlucky not make all seven of his diamonds to go with the aces of clubs and hearts. That makes 3N the correct bid. With the awful spade break, game in the suit has no hope. Against 3N North ought to lead a heart (♥K – top of a sequence) and that holds the contract to nine tricks (there's no entry to dummy's ace of spades). Any North leading a spade would gift declarer a tenth trick (and an eleventh if declarer decides to put in ♠Q, which holds).</p>	West	North	East	South			3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
West	North	East	South						
		3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass						

<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass														
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<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
West	North	East	South														
Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠														
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<div>♠AKJ8762</div> <div>♥632</div> <div>♦8</div> <div>♣95</div> <div>♠954</div> <div>♥Q754</div> <div>♦A1032</div> <div>♣AQ</div> <div>♠Q</div> <div>♥K98</div> <div>♦KQ75</div> <div>♣K10876</div> <div>♠103</div> <div>♥AJ10</div> <div>♦J964</div> <div>♣J432</div>	<p>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South						
	3♠	All Pass							
<div>♠KQJ8</div> <div>♥5432</div> <div>♦AK76</div> <div>♣2</div> <div>♠A752</div> <div>♥A86</div> <div>♦QJ8</div> <div>♣K43</div> <div>♠1064</div> <div>♥Q</div> <div>♦92</div> <div>♣AQJ10976</div> <div>♠93</div> <div>♥KJ1097</div> <div>♦10543</div> <div>♣85</div>	<p>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3N</td><td>All Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <p>A right time to play in 3N opposite partner's preempt is when you have good support for partner's suit and both quick tricks and cover in the outside suits. This is particularly true if the suit is a minor. First, making nine tricks is probably easier than making eleven; and, secondly, the scoring system makes the minor suit game unattractive. Here East West are vulnerable so West can play partner to hold a very good suit. We ought to be able to count on seven winning clubs to go with the two major suit aces – that's nine tricks. Further our diamond holding is protected from the lead and can <i>never</i> be attacked fatally by the defence. A tenth trick could emerge in the diamond suit.</p>	West	North	East	South	3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass
West	North	East	South						
3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass						

Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
West	North	East	South						
	3♠	Pass	4♠						
<p>♠95 ♥A754 ♦A1083 ♣KQ5</p> <p>♠103 ♠AKJ87642 ♥KJ10 ♥632 ♦J964 ♦2 ♣J432 ♣9</p> <p>♠Q ♥Q98 ♦KQ75 ♣A10876</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>With that quality suit and the eighth card it would be too conservative to try 3♠ with the East hand. By opening at the four level we hope to give the opponents a problem that they may not be able to solve. Here North South have no game contract and will have to hope the spade game fails. In 4♠ declarer has a loser in each minor so must restrict himself to one heart loser. The only way to do that is to hope South has ♥Q. We can finesse ♥10. When that draws North's ace we can repeat the process (now finessing ♥J). +420 to East West.</p>	West	North	East	South			4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South						
		4♠	All Pass						

<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
West	North	East	South										
Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠										
Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾										
<p>♠K108 ♥Q106 ♦J108 ♣QJ109</p> <p>♠AQJ7654 ♠2 ♥97 ♥AK32 ♦32 ♦KQ76 ♣82 ♣AK54</p> <p>♠93 ♥J854 ♦A954 ♣763</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>1 7222 is not the greatest shape and you will get some players who would prefer, at the vulnerability, to treat the West hand as a weak <i>two</i></p> <p>In contrast to board 2 from the talk, East has no support for partner but raising to game in that suit here is the right thing to do! It works because East has a rock crusher and can rely on partner’s suit being good enough not to lose more than one trick there (hopefully). Were we to play in 3N (“no fit partner but loads of points”) we would be cut off from partner’s hand, unable to make use of any spade tricks. Here our side suit holdings are not long enough to develop many tricks in no trumps. 4♠ will make eleven tricks (losing a trump and ♦A). 3N could be held to five tricks – if we’re in it we’ll play to make it. That needs South to hold a doubleton spade including the king. We therefore take the spade finesse. It loses and the roof falls in. We don’t even make a spade. Humiliation (bridge players get used to that).</p>	West	North	East	South	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass				
West	North	East	South										
3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass										

<p>♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653</p> <p>♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9</p> <p>♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
West	North	East	South						
	3♣	Pass	5♣						
<p>♠KJ987 ♥KQJ6 ♦10 ♣KQ4</p> <p>♠-void- ♠AQ106532 ♥A42 ♥87 ♦AKQJ654 ♦82 ♣A65 ♣J2</p> <p>♠4 ♥10953 ♦973 ♣109873</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3N All Pass 1 See comment for board 4</p> <p>The difference between this hand and Board 4 above is that West has no support for partner but has a great source of tricks. West would be very unlucky not make all seven of his diamonds to go with the aces of clubs and hearts. That makes 3N the correct bid. With the awful spade break, game in the suit has no hope. Against 3N North ought to lead a heart (♥K – top of a sequence) and that holds the contract to nine tricks (there's no entry to dummy's ace of spades). Any North leading a spade would gift declarer a tenth trick (and an eleventh if declarer decides to put in ♠Q, which holds).</p>	West	North	East	South			3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
West	North	East	South						
		3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass						

<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass														
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<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
West	North	East	South														
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<div>♠AKJ8762</div> <div>♥632</div> <div>♦8</div> <div>♣95</div> <div>♠954</div> <div>♥Q754</div> <div>♦A1032</div> <div>♣AQ</div> <div>♠Q</div> <div>♥K98</div> <div>♦KQ75</div> <div>♣K10876</div> <div>♠103</div> <div>♥AJ10</div> <div>♦J964</div> <div>♣J432</div>	<div>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <div>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</div>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass	
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West	North	East	South						
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Pre-emptive Bidding

<div><div>♠AQJ6543</div><div>♥76</div><div>♦832</div><div>♣2</div></div> <div><div>♠2</div><div>♥KQJ10</div><div>♦Q1096</div><div>♣A974</div></div> <div><div>♠9</div><div>♥A95</div><div>♦KJ754</div><div>♣QJ103</div></div> <div><div>♠K1087</div><div>♥8432</div><div>♦A</div><div>♣K865</div></div>	<div>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div>3♠</div><div>Pass</div><div>4♠</div></div></div> <div>All pass</div> <div>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</div> <div>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</div>
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<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
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Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠										
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<p>♠K108 ♥Q106 ♦J108 ♣QJ109</p> <p>♠AQJ7654 ♠2 ♥97 ♥AK32 ♦32 ♦KQ76 ♣82 ♣AK54</p> <p>♠93 ♥J854 ♦A954 ♣763</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>1 7222 is not the greatest shape and you will get some players who would prefer, at the vulnerability, to treat the West hand as a weak <i>two</i></p> <p>In contrast to board 2 from the talk, East has no support for partner but raising to game in that suit here is the right thing to do! It works because East has a rock crusher and can rely on partner’s suit being good enough not to lose more than one trick there (hopefully). Were we to play in 3N (“no fit partner but loads of points”) we would be cut off from partner’s hand, unable to make use of any spade tricks. Here our side suit holdings are not long enough to develop many tricks in no trumps. 4♠ will make eleven tricks (losing a trump and ♦A). 3N could be held to five tricks – if we’re in it we’ll play to make it. That needs South to hold a doubleton spade including the king. We therefore take the spade finesse. It loses and the roof falls in. We don’t even make a spade. Humiliation (bridge players get used to that).</p>	West	North	East	South	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass				
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West	North	East	South						
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West	North	East	South														
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<div>♠AKJ8762 ♥632 ♦8 ♣95</div> <div>♠954 ♥Q754 ♦A1032 ♣AQ</div> <div>♠Q ♥K98 ♦KQ75 ♣K10876</div> <div>♠103 ♥AJ10 ♦J964 ♣J432</div>	<p>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass					
West	North	East	South										
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West	North	East	South										
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Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
West	North	East	South						
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<p>♠95 ♥A754 ♦A1083 ♣KQ5</p> <p>♠103 ♠AKJ87642 ♥KJ10 ♥632 ♦J964 ♦2 ♣J432 ♣9</p> <p>♠Q ♥Q98 ♦KQ75 ♣A10876</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>With that quality suit and the eighth card it would be too conservative to try 3♠ with the East hand. By opening at the four level we hope to give the opponents a problem that they may not be able to solve. Here North South have no game contract and will have to hope the spade game fails. In 4♠ declarer has a loser in each minor so must restrict himself to one heart loser. The only way to do that is to hope South has ♥Q. We can finesse ♥10. When that draws North's ace we can repeat the process (now finessing ♥J). +420 to East West.</p>	West	North	East	South			4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South						
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<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
West	North	East	South										
Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠										
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<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
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West	North	East	South						
	3♣	Pass	5♣						
<p> ♠KJ987 ♥KQJ6 ♦10 ♣KQ4 </p> <p> ♠-void- ♠AQ106532 ♥A42 ♥87 ♦AKQJ654 ♦82 ♣A65 ♣J2 </p> <p> ♠4 ♥10953 ♦973 ♣109873 </p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3N All Pass 1 See comment for board 4</p> <p>The difference between this hand and Board 4 above is that West has no support for partner but has a great source of tricks. West would be very unlucky not make all seven of his diamonds to go with the aces of clubs and hearts. That makes 3N the correct bid. With the awful spade break, game in the suit has no hope. Against 3N North ought to lead a heart (♥K – top of a sequence) and that holds the contract to nine tricks (there's no entry to dummy's ace of spades). Any North leading a spade would gift declarer a tenth trick (and an eleventh if declarer decides to put in ♠Q, which holds).</p>	West	North	East	South			3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
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<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
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<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
West	North	East	South														
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<div>♠AKJ8762</div> <div>♥632</div> <div>♦8</div> <div>♣95</div> <div>♠954</div> <div>♥Q754</div> <div>♦A1032</div> <div>♣AQ</div> <div>♠Q</div> <div>♥K98</div> <div>♦KQ75</div> <div>♣K10876</div> <div>♠103</div> <div>♥AJ10</div> <div>♦J964</div> <div>♣J432</div>	<div>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <div>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</div>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass	
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<div>♠KQJ8</div> <div>♥5432</div> <div>♦AK76</div> <div>♣2</div> <div>♠A752</div> <div>♥A86</div> <div>♦QJ8</div> <div>♣K43</div> <div>♠1064</div> <div>♥Q</div> <div>♦92</div> <div>♣AQJ10976</div> <div>♠93</div> <div>♥KJ1097</div> <div>♦10543</div> <div>♣85</div>	<div>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3N</td><td>All Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <div>A right time to play in 3N opposite partner's preempt is when you have good support for partner's suit and both quick tricks and cover in the outside suits. This is particularly true if the suit is a minor. First, making nine tricks is probably easier than making eleven; and, secondly, the scoring system makes the minor suit game unattractive. Here East West are vulnerable so West can play partner to hold a very good suit. We ought to be able to count on seven winning clubs to go with the two major suit aces – that's nine tricks. Further our diamond holding is protected from the lead and can <i>never</i> be attacked fatally by the defence. A tenth trick could emerge in the diamond suit.</div>	West	North	East	South	3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass
West	North	East	South						
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Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
West	North	East	South						
	3♠	Pass	4♠						
<p>♠95 ♥A754 ♦A1083 ♣KQ5</p> <p>♠103 ♠AKJ87642 ♥KJ10 ♥632 ♦J964 ♦2 ♣J432 ♣9</p> <p>♠Q ♥Q98 ♦KQ75 ♣A10876</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>With that quality suit and the eighth card it would be too conservative to try 3♠ with the East hand. By opening at the four level we hope to give the opponents a problem that they may not be able to solve. Here North South have no game contract and will have to hope the spade game fails. In 4♠ declarer has a loser in each minor so must restrict himself to one heart loser. The only way to do that is to hope South has ♥Q. We can finesse ♥10. When that draws North's ace we can repeat the process (now finessing ♥J). +420 to East West.</p>	West	North	East	South			4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South						
		4♠	All Pass						

<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
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3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass						

Pre-emptive Bidding

<div><div>♠AQJ6543</div><div>♥76</div><div>♦832</div><div>♣2</div></div> <div><div>♠2</div><div>♥KQJ10</div><div>♦Q1096</div><div>♣A974</div></div> <div><div>♠9</div><div>♥A95</div><div>♦KJ754</div><div>♣QJ103</div></div> <div><div>♠K1087</div><div>♥8432</div><div>♦A</div><div>♣K865</div></div>	<div>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div>3♠</div><div>Pass</div><div>4♠</div></div></div> <div>All pass</div> <div>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</div> <div>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</div>
<div><div>♠95</div><div>♥A754</div><div>♦A1083</div><div>♣KQ5</div></div> <div><div>♠103</div><div>♥KJ10</div><div>♦J964</div><div>♣J432</div></div> <div><div>♠AKJ87642</div><div>♥632</div><div>♦2</div><div>♣9</div></div> <div><div>♠Q</div><div>♥Q98</div><div>♦KQ75</div><div>♣A10876</div></div>	<div>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div></div><div>4♠</div><div>All Pass</div></div></div> <div>With that quality suit and the eighth card it would be too conservative to try 3♠ with the East hand. By opening at the four level we hope to give the opponents a problem that they may not be able to solve. Here North South have no game contract and will have to hope the spade game fails. In 4♠ declarer has a loser in each minor so must restrict himself to one heart loser. The only way to do that is to hope South has ♥Q. We can finesse ♥10. When that draws North's ace we can repeat the process (now finessing ♥J). +420 to East West.</div>

<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn't hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
West	North	East	South										
Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠										
Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾										
<p>♠K108 ♥Q106 ♦J108 ♣QJ109</p> <p>♠AQJ7654 ♠2 ♥97 ♥AK32 ♦32 ♦KQ76 ♣82 ♣AK54</p> <p>♠93 ♥J854 ♦A954 ♣763</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>1 7222 is not the greatest shape and you will get some players who would prefer, at the vulnerability, to treat the West hand as a weak <i>two</i></p> <p>In contrast to board 2 from the talk, East has no support for partner but raising to game in that suit here is the right thing to do! It works because East has a rock crusher and can rely on partner's suit being good enough not to lose more than one trick there (hopefully). Were we to play in 3N (“no fit partner but loads of points”) we would be cut off from partner's hand, unable to make use of any spade tricks. Here our side suit holdings are not long enough to develop many tricks in no trumps. 4♠ will make eleven tricks (losing a trump and ♦A). 3N could be held to five tricks – if we're in it we'll play to make it. That needs South to hold a doubleton spade including the king. We therefore take the spade finesse. It loses and the roof falls in. We don't even make a spade. Humiliation (bridge players get used to that).</p>	West	North	East	South	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass				
West	North	East	South										
3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass										

<p>♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653</p> <p>♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9</p> <p>♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
West	North	East	South						
	3♣	Pass	5♣						
<p>♠KJ987 ♥KQJ6 ♦10 ♣KQ4</p> <p>♠-void- ♠AQ106532 ♥A42 ♥87 ♦AKQJ654 ♦82 ♣A65 ♣J2</p> <p>♠4 ♥10953 ♦973 ♣109873</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3N All Pass 1 See comment for board 4</p> <p>The difference between this hand and Board 4 above is that West has no support for partner but has a great source of tricks. West would be very unlucky not make all seven of his diamonds to go with the aces of clubs and hearts. That makes 3N the correct bid. With the awful spade break, game in the suit has no hope. Against 3N North ought to lead a heart (♥K – top of a sequence) and that holds the contract to nine tricks (there's no entry to dummy's ace of spades). Any North leading a spade would gift declarer a tenth trick (and an eleventh if declarer decides to put in ♠Q, which holds).</p>	West	North	East	South			3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
West	North	East	South						
		3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass						

<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass														
Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass															
<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
West	North	East	South														
Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠														
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<div>♠AKJ8762</div> <div>♥632</div> <div>♦8</div> <div>♣95</div> <div>♠954</div> <div>♥Q754</div> <div>♦A1032</div> <div>♣AQ</div> <div>♠Q</div> <div>♥K98</div> <div>♦KQ75</div> <div>♣K10876</div> <div>♠103</div> <div>♥AJ10</div> <div>♦J964</div> <div>♣J432</div>	<div>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <div>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</div>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass					
West	North	East	South										
	3♠	All Pass											
<div>♠KQJ8</div> <div>♥5432</div> <div>♦AK76</div> <div>♣2</div> <div>♠A752</div> <div>♥A86</div> <div>♦QJ8</div> <div>♣K43</div> <div>♠1064</div> <div>♥Q</div> <div>♦92</div> <div>♣AQJ10976</div> <div>♠93</div> <div>♥KJ1097</div> <div>♦10543</div> <div>♣85</div>	<div>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3N</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <div>A right time to play in 3N opposite partner's preempt is when you have good support for partner's suit and both quick tricks and cover in the outside suits. This is particularly true if the suit is a minor. First, making nine tricks is probably easier than making eleven; and, secondly, the scoring system makes the minor suit game unattractive. Here East West are vulnerable so West can play partner to hold a very good suit. We ought to be able to count on seven winning clubs to go with the two major suit aces – that's nine tricks. Further our diamond holding is protected from the lead and can <i>never</i> be attacked fatally by the defence. A tenth trick could emerge in the diamond suit.</div>	West	North	East	South			3♣	Pass	3N	All Pass		
West	North	East	South										
		3♣	Pass										
3N	All Pass												

Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
West	North	East	South						
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West	North	East	South						
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<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn't hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South				4♠	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾	Pass	6♠	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
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West	North	East	South						
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Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠														
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<div><div><div>♠AKJ8762</div><div>♥632</div><div>♦8</div><div>♣95</div></div><div><div>♠Q</div><div>♥K98</div><div>♦KQ75</div><div>♣K10876</div></div><div><div>♠954</div><div>♥Q754</div><div>♦A1032</div><div>♣AQ</div></div><div><div>♠103</div><div>♥AJ10</div><div>♦J964</div><div>♣J432</div></div></div>	<div>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South						
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<div><div><div>♠KQJ8</div><div>♥5432</div><div>♦AK76</div><div>♣2</div></div><div><div>♠1064</div><div>♥Q</div><div>♦92</div><div>♣AQJ10976</div></div><div><div>♠A752</div><div>♥A86</div><div>♦QJ8</div><div>♣K43</div></div><div><div>♠93</div><div>♥KJ1097</div><div>♦10543</div><div>♣85</div></div></div>	<div>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3N</td><td>All Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <p>A right time to play in 3N opposite partner's preempt is when you have good support for partner's suit and both quick tricks and cover in the outside suits. This is particularly true if the suit is a minor. First, making nine tricks is probably easier than making eleven; and, secondly, the scoring system makes the minor suit game unattractive. Here East West are vulnerable so West can play partner to hold a very good suit. We ought to be able to count on seven winning clubs to go with the two major suit aces – that's nine tricks. Further our diamond holding is protected from the lead and can <i>never</i> be attacked fatally by the defence. A tenth trick could emerge in the diamond suit.</p>	West	North	East	South	3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass
West	North	East	South						
3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass						

Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
West	North	East	South						
	3♠	Pass	4♠						
<p>♠95 ♥A754 ♦A1083 ♣KQ5</p> <p>♠103 ♠AKJ87642 ♥KJ10 ♥632 ♦J964 ♦2 ♣J432 ♣9</p> <p>♠Q ♥Q98 ♦KQ75 ♣A10876</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>With that quality suit and the eighth card it would be too conservative to try 3♠ with the East hand. By opening at the four level we hope to give the opponents a problem that they may not be able to solve. Here North South have no game contract and will have to hope the spade game fails. In 4♠ declarer has a loser in each minor so must restrict himself to one heart loser. The only way to do that is to hope South has ♥Q. We can finesse ♥10. When that draws North's ace we can repeat the process (now finessing ♥J). +420 to East West.</p>	West	North	East	South			4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South						
		4♠	All Pass						

<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
West	North	East	South										
Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠										
Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾										
<p>♠K108 ♥Q106 ♦J108 ♣QJ109</p> <p>♠AQJ7654 ♠2 ♥97 ♥AK32 ♦32 ♦KQ76 ♣82 ♣AK54</p> <p>♠93 ♥J854 ♦A954 ♣763</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>1 7222 is not the greatest shape and you will get some players who would prefer, at the vulnerability, to treat the West hand as a weak <i>two</i></p> <p>In contrast to board 2 from the talk, East has no support for partner but raising to game in that suit here is the right thing to do! It works because East has a rock crusher and can rely on partner’s suit being good enough not to lose more than one trick there (hopefully). Were we to play in 3N (“no fit partner but loads of points”) we would be cut off from partner’s hand, unable to make use of any spade tricks. Here our side suit holdings are not long enough to develop many tricks in no trumps. 4♠ will make eleven tricks (losing a trump and ♦A). 3N could be held to five tricks – if we’re in it we’ll play to make it. That needs South to hold a doubleton spade including the king. We therefore take the spade finesse. It loses and the roof falls in. We don’t even make a spade. Humiliation (bridge players get used to that).</p>	West	North	East	South	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass				
West	North	East	South										
3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass										

<p>♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653</p> <p>♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9</p> <p>♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
West	North	East	South						
	3♣	Pass	5♣						
<p>♠KJ987 ♥KQJ6 ♦10 ♣KQ4</p> <p>♠-void- ♠AQ106532 ♥A42 ♥87 ♦AKQJ654 ♦82 ♣A65 ♣J2</p> <p>♠4 ♥10953 ♦973 ♣109873</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3N All Pass 1 See comment for board 4</p> <p>The difference between this hand and Board 4 above is that West has no support for partner but has a great source of tricks. West would be very unlucky not make all seven of his diamonds to go with the aces of clubs and hearts. That makes 3N the correct bid. With the awful spade break, game in the suit has no hope. Against 3N North ought to lead a heart (♥K – top of a sequence) and that holds the contract to nine tricks (there's no entry to dummy's ace of spades). Any North leading a spade would gift declarer a tenth trick (and an eleventh if declarer decides to put in ♠Q, which holds).</p>	West	North	East	South			3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
West	North	East	South						
		3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass						

<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass														
Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass															
<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
West	North	East	South														
Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠														
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<div>♠AKJ8762</div> <div>♥632</div> <div>♦8</div> <div>♣95</div> <div>♠954</div> <div>♥Q754</div> <div>♦A1032</div> <div>♣AQ</div> <div>♠Q</div> <div>♥K98</div> <div>♦KQ75</div> <div>♣K10876</div> <div>♠103</div> <div>♥AJ10</div> <div>♦J964</div> <div>♣J432</div>	<div>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <div>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</div>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass	
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West	North	East	South						
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Pre-emptive Bidding

<p>♠AQJ6543 ♥76 ♦832 ♣2</p> <p>♠2 ♠9 ♥KQJ10 ♥A95 ♦Q1096 ♦KJ754 ♣A974 ♣QJ103</p> <p>♠K1087 ♥8432 ♦A ♣K865</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</p> <p>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♠	Pass	4♠
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West	North	East	South						
		3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass						

<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
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<p>♠K852 ♥843 ♦Q2 ♣AQ65</p> <p>♠9 ♠10 ♥KQ102 ♥AJ765 ♦A10753 ♦KJ8 ♣1097 ♣KJ84</p> <p>♠AQJ7643 ♥9 ♦964 ♣32</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass⁽¹⁾</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 West might double 4♠</p> <p>South's brisk intervention will be enough to allow North to bid on over the opponents' game call. Who knows? Perhaps 4♠ will make, perhaps it's a cheap sacrifice against a making 4♥ game. One thing's for sure – with partner's known spade length, it won't be expensive. Here 4♠ fails by one trick – it loses one heart, two diamonds and a club. Because ♣Q is sitting wrongly for North South, it's right for East West who will always make at least ten tricks in hearts. In fact 5♥ can make if East takes the two-way diamond finesse through North (rather than South). In general, when playing a side suit, it's better to play the partner of the pre-emptor to hold a specific card as that hand is marked with greater length outside the pre-empt suit. As happens from time to time it works here for the wrong reason – the queen pops up but South has the extra diamond length!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠	4♥	4♠	All pass ⁽¹⁾					
West	North	East	South														
Pass	Pass	1♥	3♠														
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<div>♠AKJ8762</div> <div>♥632</div> <div>♦8</div> <div>♣95</div> <div>♠954</div> <div>♥Q754</div> <div>♦A1032</div> <div>♣AQ</div> <div>♠Q</div> <div>♥K98</div> <div>♦KQ75</div> <div>♣K10876</div> <div>♠103</div> <div>♥AJ10</div> <div>♦J964</div> <div>♣J432</div>	<div>Board 1 (Talk) : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <div>North has a classical 3level preempt – great suit, no outside defence and good shape (7321). Much in bridge is marginal and East is close to a takeout double but is likely to pass (wanting a fourth heart and a little more for action). West has opening values but the wrong shape to come in so 3♠ should buy the contract. East leads ♦K. West encourages, and declarer ruffs the second round. Trumps are drawn in three rounds and North makes nine tricks by taking a <i>double finesse</i> in hearts – finessing ♥J and subsequently finessing ♥10. This is the correct way to make two tricks, losing only when both heart honours are offside.</div>	West	North	East	South		3♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South						
	3♠	All Pass							
<div>♠KQJ8</div> <div>♥5432</div> <div>♦AK76</div> <div>♣2</div> <div>♠A752</div> <div>♥A86</div> <div>♦QJ8</div> <div>♣K43</div> <div>♠1064</div> <div>♥Q</div> <div>♦92</div> <div>♣AQJ10976</div> <div>♠93</div> <div>♥KJ1097</div> <div>♦10543</div> <div>♣85</div>	<div>Board 2 (Talk) : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3N</td><td>All Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <div>A right time to play in 3N opposite partner's preempt is when you have good support for partner's suit and both quick tricks and cover in the outside suits. This is particularly true if the suit is a minor. First, making nine tricks is probably easier than making eleven; and, secondly, the scoring system makes the minor suit game unattractive. Here East West are vulnerable so West can play partner to hold a very good suit. We ought to be able to count on seven winning clubs to go with the two major suit aces – that's nine tricks. Further our diamond holding is protected from the lead and can <i>never</i> be attacked fatally by the defence. A tenth trick could emerge in the diamond suit.</div>	West	North	East	South	3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass
West	North	East	South						
3N	All Pass	3♣	Pass						

Pre-emptive Bidding

<div><div>♠AQJ6543</div><div>♥76</div><div>♦832</div><div>♣2</div></div> <div><div>♠2</div><div>♥KQJ10</div><div>♦Q1096</div><div>♣A974</div></div> <div><div>♠9</div><div>♥A95</div><div>♦KJ754</div><div>♣QJ103</div></div> <div><div>♠K1087</div><div>♥8432</div><div>♦A</div><div>♣K865</div></div>	<div>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div>3♠</div><div>Pass</div><div>4♠</div></div></div> <div>All pass</div> <div>North has a perfect 3level pre-emptive bid. It fits the criteria of holding 5-9high card points; decent suit; and nothing outside the opened suit (i.e. little defence against any opposition contract). South tries to visualise the hand partner holds. Whilst game is not certain it's quite possible that declarer will be able to make seven spades, a top diamond and perhaps two diamond ruffs (or one diamond ruff with the ♠K providing the tenth trick).</div> <div>It's also pertinent that by increasing the level of the pre-empt we make bidding for the opposition that much more difficult – they may even have a making game. Here both East and West are close to making takeout doubles on the first round. East West <i>can</i> make a somewhat improbable 4♥ but our bigger gain is that 4♠ makes. We lose just two hearts and a club, the anticipated diamond ruffs occur.</div>
<div><div>♠95</div><div>♥A754</div><div>♦A1083</div><div>♣KQ5</div></div> <div><div>♠103</div><div>♥KJ10</div><div>♦J964</div><div>♣J432</div></div> <div><div>♠AKJ87642</div><div>♥632</div><div>♦2</div><div>♣9</div></div> <div><div>♠Q</div><div>♥Q98</div><div>♦KQ75</div><div>♣A10876</div></div>	<div>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div></div><div>4♠</div><div>All Pass</div></div></div> <div>With that quality suit and the eighth card it would be too conservative to try 3♠ with the East hand. By opening at the four level we hope to give the opponents a problem that they may not be able to solve. Here North South have no game contract and will have to hope the spade game fails. In 4♠ declarer has a loser in each minor so must restrict himself to one heart loser. The only way to do that is to hope South has ♥Q. We can finesse ♥10. When that draws North's ace we can repeat the process (now finessing ♥J). +420 to East West.</div>

<p>♠K103 ♥KQ4 ♦AK3 ♣AK42</p> <p>♠-void- ♠95 ♥J987 ♥A105 ♦J1094 ♦Q8765 ♣QJ1087 ♣653</p> <p>♠AQJ87642 ♥632 ♦2 ♣9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All pass</td><td>5♣⁽²⁾</td></tr></table> <p>1 Roman Key Card Blackwood 2 1 or 4 of the 5 “aces”</p> <p>North cannot really hope that South has two aces (such a holding is not for a purist of pre-empts) but he can use RKCB just to make sure partner has one “bullet” (if using straight Blackwood South responds 5♦, showing one [real] ace). When partner confirms the possession of an ace he can jump to the six level. With a known eleven (occasionally ten) card fit North is not interested in the queen of trumps, a card that should fall easily if partner doesn’t hold it. The contract always makes with declarer losing one trick to the ace of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾
West	North	East	South										
Pass	4N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠										
Pass	6♠	All pass	5♣ ⁽²⁾										
<p>♠K108 ♥Q106 ♦J108 ♣QJ109</p> <p>♠AQJ7654 ♠2 ♥97 ♥AK32 ♦32 ♦KQ76 ♣82 ♣AK54</p> <p>♠93 ♥J854 ♦A954 ♣763</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>1 7222 is not the greatest shape and you will get some players who would prefer, at the vulnerability, to treat the West hand as a weak <i>two</i></p> <p>In contrast to board 2 from the talk, East has no support for partner but raising to game in that suit here is the right thing to do! It works because East has a rock crusher and can rely on partner’s suit being good enough not to lose more than one trick there (hopefully). Were we to play in 3N (“no fit partner but loads of points”) we would be cut off from partner’s hand, unable to make use of any spade tricks. Here our side suit holdings are not long enough to develop many tricks in no trumps. 4♠ will make eleven tricks (losing a trump and ♦A). 3N could be held to five tricks – if we’re in it we’ll play to make it. That needs South to hold a doubleton spade including the king. We therefore take the spade finesse. It loses and the roof falls in. We don’t even make a spade. Humiliation (bridge players get used to that).</p>	West	North	East	South	3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass				
West	North	East	South										
3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	4♠	All pass										

<p>♠874 ♥9 ♦54 ♣AQJ7653</p> <p>♠KJ1093 ♠AQ62 ♥QJ543 ♥K1062 ♦KQ9 ♦J1063 ♣-void- ♣9</p> <p>♠5 ♥A87 ♦A872 ♣K10842</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♣</td></tr></table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South judges well not to bid 3N. Partner is marked with at most three spades and little defence. The opposition may run at least five spade tricks through us before we've drawn breath (note that outside of the spade suit, we have a reasonable expectation of taking seven clubs to go with our two red aces). Bidding 5♣ also puts West on the spot because that hand can only guess what values East holds – South may have bid game either believing it to make or because it will represent a cheap sacrifice ... but which? The winning action is to make a takeout double and for East to make the winning guess of calling 5♥. 5♠ can be defeated and 5♦ has no chance. 5♣ makes with declarer losing a spade and a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♣	Pass	5♣
West	North	East	South						
	3♣	Pass	5♣						
<p>♠KJ987 ♥KQJ6 ♦10 ♣KQ4</p> <p>♠-void- ♠AQ106532 ♥A42 ♥87 ♦AKQJ654 ♦82 ♣A65 ♣J2</p> <p>♠4 ♥10953 ♦973 ♣109873</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>3♠⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <p>3N All Pass 1 See comment for board 4</p> <p>The difference between this hand and Board 4 above is that West has no support for partner but has a great source of tricks. West would be very unlucky not make all seven of his diamonds to go with the aces of clubs and hearts. That makes 3N the correct bid. With the awful spade break, game in the suit has no hope. Against 3N North ought to lead a heart (♥K – top of a sequence) and that holds the contract to nine tricks (there's no entry to dummy's ace of spades). Any North leading a spade would gift declarer a tenth trick (and an eleventh if declarer decides to put in ♠Q, which holds).</p>	West	North	East	South			3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass
West	North	East	South						
		3♠ ⁽¹⁾	Pass						

<p>♠2 ♥AQJ765 ♦KJ8 ♣AK8</p> <p>♠K5 ♠AQJ87643 ♥843 ♥9 ♦A3 ♦964 ♣QJ6542 ♣3</p> <p>♠109 ♥K102 ♦Q10752 ♣1097</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>X⁽¹⁾</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 Extra values, veering towards take out shape</p> <p>Of course, pre-empting is not restricted to the opening side. The defensive bidders may also chip in with similarly annoying calls (whatever criteria apply to the opening pre-empts can also apply to those made as overcalls). East's high level intervention gives North South a real problem. South has some choices but his relatively-balanced hand (and partner's known extra values) suggest passing. That will not work out very well unless South leads a trump, the only lead to beat 4♠ (without it, East has time to ruff a diamond in dummy). South's winning bid is 5♥ since that contract loses just two aces. Bidding 5♦ may work though the defence can organise a heart ruff (♠K led and overtaken, heart switch. West wins ♦A and returns a heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	X ⁽¹⁾	All pass	
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