

British Autumn Sim Pairs



Monday
6th October 2014

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

We now have a revised prize structure with cash prizes both for leading players and also for clubs who run heats. There will be a draw for major prizes at the AGM in November. You can find all the full details and results at www.ebu.co.uk/sims/

You can earn Blue points in these Sim Pairs and they are awarded to the top third of the field. Provisional master points are shown but the event is not finalised until all results are in and score corrections have been made. This usually takes about three weeks. It really helps us if you can keep your scorecard for that period. Clubs should keep the travellers if still used. All players need to check that the correct score and **DECLARER** have been entered when using Bridgemates.

Jeremy Dhondy, Chairman EBU

<p>♠82 ♥8742 ♦8 ♣KJ9865</p> <p>♠J9763 ♠A10 ♥Q109 ♥5 ♦7642 ♦AQJ10953 ♣7 ♣AQ2</p> <p>♠KQ54 ♥AKJ63 ♦K ♣1043</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>Pass</td><td>1♦</td><td>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>2♦</td><td>3♥</td><td>5♦</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>Some very intrepid souls may try a 3♣ pre-empt on the North hand and East should overcall 3NT reaching the top spot immediately. More often after a pass, East will open 1♦, South will either overcall 1♥ or double (both are reasonable) and West will raise to 2♦ or perhaps jump pre-emptively to 3♦. North will support hearts if South has overcalled but East will close proceedings with 5♦.</p> <p>After a top heart lead, if North gives count, South should know a second heart is not cashing and switch to the ♠K. The success of the contract depends upon finding the ♦K. With two cards missing in the suit, the odds slightly favour the drop.</p>		West	North	East	South		Pass	1♦	1♥	2♦	3♥	5♦	All Pass				
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<p>♠8762 ♥A103 ♦AK7 ♣1074</p> <p>♠4 ♠AKJ10 ♥K9842 ♥- ♦54 ♦J108632 ♣KQJ32 ♣A85</p> <p>♠Q953 ♥QJ765 ♦Q9 ♣96</p>		<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : N/S vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>The first three bids are routine, but after 1♠ West should not be tempted to bid 2♣, which is fourth suit forcing and does not promise clubs at all because the hand is not strong enough. In the face of a misfit 1NT is plenty. With a void and a weak 6-card suit, East should pull to 2♦.</p> <p>South may well lead a club, the unbid suit. If declarer plays a trump, the defence can play a second round of clubs. If declarer continues with a second round of trumps, the defence can play a third round of clubs. South can't ruff but North can ruff the fourth round as declarer throws a spade and still has a spade loser. Making nine. To make ten, declarer has to take the ruffing spade finesse. 130 will score very well, but 110 will probably score okay as well with some pairs getting too high or playing in the wrong strain.</p>		West	North	East	South			1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	All Pass
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<div><div><div>♠K8643</div><div>♥KJ2</div><div>♦82</div><div>♣AQJ</div></div><div><div>♠Q752</div><div>♥107</div><div>♦AQ653</div><div>♣86</div></div><div><div>♠A</div><div>♥AQ98</div><div>♦J1097</div><div>♣10743</div></div><div><div>♠J109</div><div>♥6543</div><div>♦K4</div><div>♣K952</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>7</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		14	11	8	7	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	2	5	3	1	4		W	2	5	3	1	4		<div>Board 3 : Dealer South : E/W vulnerable</div> <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>Dble</td><td>2♠</td></tr><tr><td>3♦</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>North may reasonably open either 1NT or 1♠. If the former, that may be the end of action and East will lead the ♦J, covered by the king and ace. Best is a heart switch now but this may be difficult to diagnose.</p> <p>After a 1♠ opening, most Easts will double with ideal shape despite the adverse vulnerability and minimal values. With fair 3-card support a raise to 2♠ is more descriptive by South than 1NT, and now West will compete in diamonds.</p> <p>With the three red suit finesses all onside, ten tricks are possible in no-trumps and eleven in diamonds but I don't expect anyone to bid game.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♠	Dble	2♠	3♦	All Pass		
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<p>♠ Q8 ♥ AQ64 ♦ A532 ♣ A83</p> <p>♠ AKJ1054 ♠ 972 ♥ K107 ♥ J95 ♦ 97 ♦ QJ10 ♣ 94 ♣ K1072</p> <p>♠ 63 ♥ 832 ♦ K864 ♣ QJ65</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>16</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		16		11	7	6		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	2	2	-	-		S	2	2	2	-	-		E	-	-	-	2	1		W	-	-	-	2	1		<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : E/W vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1 ♠</td><td>Dble</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2 ♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3 ♦</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>West starts with a routine 1 ♠, although in third seat some may reasonably try a heavy 2 ♠ to try and steal the contract. North has a clear take-out double and after East shows a smattering of values with 1NT, West should rebid his 6-card suit. North is not strong enough for a second double but South should be reluctant to let the opponents play in their fit at the two level and can try 2NT showing the minors. East has undisclosed 3-card support for his partner but good defence to diamonds.</p> <p>After the defence cash a couple of spades, West will probably switch to a heart. North successfully finesses the queen, but is still left with one loser in each of the three suits other than spades for one down.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Dble	1NT	Pass	2 ♠	Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass	3 ♦	All Pass	
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<p>♠ QJ ♥ Q932 ♦ Q7653 ♣ 107</p> <p>♠ K3 ♠ 1097652 ♥ 874 ♥ J5 ♦ K842 ♦ J10 ♣ AK94 ♣ J85</p> <p>♠ A84 ♥ AK106 ♦ A9 ♣ Q632</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		7		13	3	17		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	2	3	-	2		S	1	3	4	-	2		E	-	-	-	2	-		W	-	-	-	2	-		<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>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2 ♥</td><td>Dble</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>2 ♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3 ♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>After a weak no-trump and transfer, some play that a double by South shows hearts, and others that it shows a hand that would have doubled a no-trump. The South hand fits either of these two options so both camps will likely double. This is passed round to East who completes the transfer, then North can easily compete in hearts if South has shown that suit. If South has shown a strong NT then North can double for take-out if that is available, with the plan to pull a 3 ♣ response to 3 ♦ showing the red suits. Otherwise he will have to guess a red suit to bid.</p> <p>To hold North to ten tricks in hearts, East has to lead a spade. South cannot be defeated in a heart game because spades cannot be profitably attacked from the West hand.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	Pass	2 ♥	Dble	Pass	Pass	2 ♠	Pass	Pass	3 ♥	All Pass					
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<div><div><div>♠Q10952</div><div>♥J9732</div><div>♦A</div><div>♣84</div></div><div><div>♠3</div><div>♥54</div><div>♦KQ8762</div><div>♣K1097</div></div><div><div>♠J4</div><div>♥Q1086</div><div>♦J953</div><div>♣A32</div></div><div><div>♠AK876</div><div>♥AK</div><div>♦104</div><div>♣QJ65</div></div><div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div></div>	HCP		7		8	8	17		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	3	5	2		S	1	-	3	5	2		E	-	2	-	-	-		W	-	2	-	-	-		<div>Board 9 : Dealer North : E/W vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>2♦</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>West could not be criticised for passing at adverse vulnerability, but no doubt many will chance an overcall with 6-4 shape and a fair suit.</p> <p>With 5-5 shape it is clear for North to bounce to game which should buy the contract.</p> <p>It is hard to see how declarer will not lose two club tricks, they are not going anywhere even if the defence do not cash them at the beginning.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♠	2♦	4♠	All Pass					
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<p>♠AKQ8764 ♥- ♦QJ62 ♣A5</p> <p>♠105 ♠J9 ♥109 ♥QJ63 ♦AK8 ♦1094 ♣QJ10986 ♣7432</p> <p>♠32 ♥AK87542 ♦753 ♣K</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>10</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		16	4	10	10	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	5	3	5	5		S	-	5	3	5	5		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : N/S vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1♣</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>West has a marginal opening, but the reasonable suit and the side AK make it just about worthwhile. Many Norths will just blast 4♠.</p> <p>If West passes, North will open 1♠, South responds 2♥ and Norths rebids 3♠ forcing, better than 4♠ because it allows for slam exploration if South has a suitable hand.</p> <p>Little can go wrong for the defence since declarer’s two diamond losers are not going anywhere.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♣	4♠	All Pass													
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<p>♠854 ♥A93 ♦K6 ♣97543</p> <p>♠AKJ97 ♠3 ♥K1084 ♥Q765 ♦J932 ♦854 ♣- ♣AKQJ2</p> <p>♠Q1062 ♥J2 ♦AQ107 ♣1086</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>9</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		7	12	12	9	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	2	2	3	1	3		W	2	2	3	1	3		<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>After East repeats the suit he opened, a change of suit by West is a one round force. There is no need to jump in a red suit to force, this should be played instead as a splinter in support of clubs.</p> <p>North has an awkward choice of lead. Kx in the unbid suit is not hugely attractive but the weak holdings in spades and clubs bid by the opponents suggest that aggression may be necessary, and indeed is the winning lead here. If North chooses a more passive trump, declarer can win in hand, play ♠A, spade ruff and then run clubs pitching diamonds, and can easily make and even end up with an overtrick.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
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<p>♠642 ♥43 ♦AK52 ♣J762</p> <p>♠AKJ98 ♠1073 ♥8 ♥AKJ62 ♦J4 ♦10763 ♣K10985 ♣3</p> <p>♠Q5 ♥Q10975 ♦Q98 ♣AQ4</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>12</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		8	8	12	12	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	2	1	1	3	2		W	2	1	1	3	2		<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Even if you prefer not to open 1NT with a five card major, you should certainly consider it very carefully with the South hand. You do not want to rebid 2♥ over a 1♠ response and the queens are begging to be led round to.</p> <p>East has a close decision whether to raise spades, if 2♠ shows spades and a minor, suspecting the second suit is clubs, the pass is more tempting compared to when 2♠ shows a single suiter.</p> <p>North cashes a couple of diamonds, and switches to a trump, and declarer wins the queen with ace in hand. Now cross to a heart winner, and play a club. South can win the ace and play a second trump but declarer runs it to dummy and can ruff out the ♦Q. Now after he ruffs a club, discards a club on the other top heart he can cash the established ♦10 because the hand with the last trump also has the last diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1NT	2♠	All Pass										
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<div><div><div>♠AQJ</div><div>♥J86</div><div>♦A982</div><div>♣K85</div></div><div><div>♠843</div><div>♥K753</div><div>♦K74</div><div>♣J104</div></div><div><div>♠109</div><div>♥AQ1092</div><div>♦QJ</div><div>♣AQ72</div></div><div><div>♠K7652</div><div>♥4</div><div>♦10653</div><div>♣963</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>3</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		15	15	7	3	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	1	-	1	-		S	-	1	-	1	-		E	4	-	4	-	1		W	4	-	4	-	1		<div>Board 16 : Dealer West : E/W vulnerable</div> <div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div> <div>Pass1♦1♥2♦</div> <div>2♥All Pass</div> <div>After the natural opening and overcall, South has enough to scrape up a raise with a singleton and 4-card support. After partner's support for his overcall East is close to a game try but the ♦QJ look worthless in light of the opponent's bidding.</div> <div>As it happens partner has golden cards with a fourth trump, a diamond honour to solidify the QJ and the J10 in his side-suit making game little more than the finesse of the ♣K through the opening bidder, a fair prospect.</div> <div>I expect a lot of pairs to score 170 and anyone bidding game to score very well.</div>
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<div><div><div>♠98765</div><div>♥6</div><div>♦Q9853</div><div>♣K8</div></div><div><div>♠K</div><div>♥AJ1085</div><div>♦KJ1042</div><div>♣A4</div></div><div><div>♠A</div><div>♥Q9743</div><div>♦A6</div><div>♣QJ1073</div></div><div><div>♠QJ10432</div><div>♥K2</div><div>♦7</div><div>♣9652</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>6</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		5	13	16	6	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	3	-		S	-	-	-	3	-		E	5	4	6	-	4		W	5	4	6	-	4		<div>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</div> <div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div> <div>PassPass1♥2♠</div> <div>3♠4♠PassPass</div> <div>4NTPass5♠Pass</div> <div>6♥All Pass</div> <div>6♥ is a good contract for East despite the duplication in spades. The contract is no worse than 75%, ie either the heart finesse or club finesse working. It might be difficult to reach after heavy spade pre-emption by the opponents. After the 3♠ heart raise, East can make a forcing pass over 4♠ and West might try Keycard Blackwood to reach the slam.</div> <div>On the ♠Q lead won by the ace, the simple line is to play South for one of the kings to justify his overcall. The alternative line which fails, is to play the ♥Q, win the ace, and then play a second round of hearts to the king. This will endplay North if he started with Kx and also work if he started with singleton king. If South started with Kx or Kxx you will need him to have the ♣K as well.</div>
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<p>♠K9854 ♥65 ♦Q72 ♣A73</p> <p>♠Q ♠10732 ♥AJ98 ♥Q732 ♦AKJ10853 ♦964 ♣8 ♣K6</p> <p>♠AJ6 ♥K104 ♦- ♣QJ109542</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>11</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP		9	5	15	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	-	-	2	-	S	4	-	-	2	-	E	-	4	2	-	-	W	-	4	2	-	-	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : N/S vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♣</td></tr><tr><td>1♦</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td></tr><tr><td>2♦</td><td>3♣</td><td>3♦</td><td>4♣</td></tr><tr><td>4♦</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>There is going to be a wide variety of contracts on this hand with both sides having the potential to win the hand and the possibility of playing in any of the four suits. Par is 4♦ making by E/W, but in practice it is likely to fail.</p> <p>After say ♣A lead, South can signal with ♣Q to suggest a spade switch. After two rounds of spades, declarer needs to ruff with ♦8 and play the ♦J! North wins the queen but declarer now has two entries to dummy in trumps to double finesse the hearts.</p> <p>Game in clubs by N/S is good a priori, requiring either the club finesse or the ♥A onside but strong bidding by West in the red suits make it somewhat worse.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♣	1♦	1♠	Pass	2♣	2♦	3♣	3♦	4♣	4♦	All Pass		
HCP																																																															
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2♦	3♣	3♦	4♣																																																												
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<p>♠KQ76 ♥A53 ♦Q9872 ♣5</p> <p>♠92 ♠AJ1083 ♥J864 ♥1072 ♦A10 ♦J ♣AK1063 ♣Q972</p> <p>♠54 ♥KQ9 ♦K6543 ♣J84</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>9</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr></table>	HCP		11	8	12	9	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	4	-	-	-	S	-	4	-	-	-	E	3	-	2	1	1	W	3	-	2	1	1	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : E/W 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>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>North would like to bid over 1NT, but it is safest if your methods allow you to show diamonds and another suit or alternatively 4 of a major and 5 of a minor. Otherwise N/S will be shut out of the auction unless South is inspired enough to re-open 2♠ with a double. As is often the case, North's best lead is his singleton. Declarer will play on trumps, North can then split his honours and use South's ♥KQ as entries for two club ruffs. This will be a difficult defence to get right though, and I suspect 2♠ will make more often than it fails.</p> <p>Traditionalists who open 1♣ on the West cards will allow North into the auction with a take-out double. The natural opening will allow E/W to find their club fit, but it will do them no good because they will be outbid by N/S in diamonds.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass						
HCP																																																															
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<p>♠AJ1065 ♥K4 ♦J104 ♣AJ10</p> <p>♠93 ♠874 ♥AQ9 ♥7632 ♦8652 ♦Q97 ♣K974 ♣Q65</p> <p>♠KQ2 ♥J1085 ♦AK3 ♣832</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>13</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP		14	4	9	13	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	3	4	5	4	S	3	3	4	5	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>South doesn't have a good bid in response to 1♠, since 2♥ shows five. Traditionally 2♣ was bid on this shape but some might choose to bid 'where they live' with 2♦. The North hand is very powerful with its five card suit and three J10 combinations, so I would treat it as 15+ and rebid 2NT. South might reasonably raise this to 3NT or look for a 5-3 ♠ fit.</p> <p>Against 3NT East will lead a heart and now the defence can score three tricks, two hearts to go with their club trick.</p> <p>4♠ fares one trick better because declarer only has to lose one heart trick.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠						
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<div><div><div>♠ 2</div><div>♥ KQ73</div><div>♦ 8542</div><div>♣ J1096</div></div><div><div>♠ AK1076</div><div>♥ J62</div><div>♦ KJ9</div><div>♣ 72</div></div><div><div>♠ 94</div><div>♥ A10</div><div>♦ A763</div><div>♣ AQ853</div></div><div><div>♠ QJ853</div><div>♥ 9854</div><div>♦ Q10</div><div>♣ K4</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		6		12	14	8		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	4	4	2	4	4		W	4	4	2	4	4		<div>Board 21 : Dealer North : N/S vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>East is slightly off shape for a weak NT, but it describes the general nature of the hand and saves being awkwardly placed after a one major response to 1♣, as well as potentially pre-empting the opponents out of a major suit contract. Opening 1♣ and rebidding 1NT over a 1♠ response is also reasonable, treating the hand as worth 15HCP and better than potentially languishing in 2♣ at match-points.</p> <p>South will have a clear cut heart lead. Superficially it looks like declarer has ten tricks by taking lots of finesses in spades and diamond but entries to the East hand are limited and there is a blockage in the diamond suit, so I expect many to end up with only nine tricks, and ten to be worth a near top.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
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<p>♠K976 ♥K10 ♦A108 ♣J963</p> <p>♠J8 ♥7 ♦K5432 ♣K10752</p> <p>♠AQ54 ♥A86432 ♦96 ♣A</p> <p>♠1032 ♥QJ95 ♦QJ7 ♣Q84</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		11	14	7	8	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	1		S	-	-	-	-	1		E	1	1	-	1	-		W	1	3	1	1	-		<p>Board 24 : 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>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>West is not strong enough for a 2-level response so has to make do with a 1NT response, and when East rebids his suit that should end the auction.</p> <p>South leads the ♦Q which holds, and a second round of the same suit which also wins. Providing South does not play a spade now, declarer should be held to seven tricks as he can be prevented from ruffing a spade in dummy.</p> <p>No doubt the defence will not always be obvious, with some declarers perhaps being allowed to score their long spade when North gets his discards wrong, so I expect +100 for North South to be well above average.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	All Pass				
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<p>♠A1043 ♥A64 ♦542 ♣AK10</p> <p>♠KQ ♥K102 ♦106 ♣Q76432</p> <p>♠J986 ♥8 ♦KQJ987 ♣98</p> <p>♠752 ♥QJ9753 ♦A3 ♣J5</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>8</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		15	7	10	8	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	4	2	3		S	1	-	4	2	3		E	-	1	-	-	-		W	-	1	-	-	-		<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : E/W vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>The South hand is marginal for a 2-level response, but the combination of a reasonable 6-card suit and an ace make it worthwhile, since a 1NT response runs a serious risk of missing a game.</p> <p>West will probably lead a minor.</p> <p>On a club lead, declarer should run it to the jack. This is no cost since, if it loses, he will still have a pitch of a pointed suit loser on the ♣AK. When this passes off successfully he can take a trump finesse and has an easy route to ten tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass					
HCP																																																																	
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<p>♠62 ♥AK109742 ♦K95 ♣10</p> <p>♠A1093 ♥Q865 ♦107 ♣AQ6</p> <p>♠KJ85 ♥J ♦AJ ♣KJ9754</p> <p>♠Q74 ♥3 ♦Q86432 ♣832</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>4</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		10	14	12	4	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	1	2	-	-		S	-	1	2	-	-		E	5	-	-	6	5		W	5	-	-	6	5		<p>Board 26 : 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>1♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♥</td><td>2♥</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>The first point to note is that an overcall of responder's suit is best played as natural rather than for take-out. You can double or bid 2NT with 2-suiters.</p> <p>After a top heart lead, North knows from the initial response that South started with a singleton and so can continue with a low heart. From declarer's point of view he knows North started with long heart and therefore South is more likely to have long spades and thus to hold the queen. You should therefore ruff the second round of hearts with the ♠K and continue with ♠J.</p> <p>This particular line is successful on this hand and you will end up with 12 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	Pass	1♥	2♥	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
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<p>♠ 6 ♥ KQ9832 ♦ Q95 ♣ AQ10</p> <p>♠ Q1075 ♠ AJ98 ♥ 754 ♥ AJ6 ♦ J42 ♦ 83 ♣ 654 ♣ KJ87</p> <p>♠ K432 ♥ 10 ♦ AK1076 ♣ 932</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>10</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		13	14	3	10	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	5	4	-	2		S	1	4	3	-	2		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</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>Dble</td><td>Rdble</td></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Dble</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>In the old days a take-out double was supposed to show shortage in the suit opened but now that is increasingly not the case. No one could criticise anyone that passed with the East hand after a 1♥ opening but it is a reasonable gamble to get into the auction with a double hoping partner doesn't respond 2♦. South has a classical redouble and West will show his spade suit. A direct 2♥ rebid should be weak by North (say the same hand without one of the queens), so he passes round to South who makes a penalty double and then when North pulls it to 2♥ it shows a reasonable hand. South with no fit and a minimum hand for his actions should pass. West can never get in to lead a ♣ through declarer who should therefore only lose two hearts and a spade.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	Dble	Rdble	1♠	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	2♥	All Pass	
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<p>♠ A10 ♥ AK852 ♦ 72 ♣ K752</p> <p>♠ KJ83 ♠ 952 ♥ 10 ♥ J76 ♦ AKQ4 ♦ 1065 ♣ AJ109 ♣ Q863</p> <p>♠ Q764 ♥ Q943 ♦ J983 ♣ 4</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>5</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		14	3	18	5	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	3	-	1		S	-	-	3	-	1		E	2	1	-	1	-		W	2	1	-	1	-		<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : N/S vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1♦</td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td></tr><tr><td>Dble</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♦</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>Most will open the suit below the singleton with this shape. After the overcall and pre-emptive raise, West is worth a second bite at the cherry and makes a take-out double. East is awkwardly placed, and may well choose 4♦ since it is only when partner is 4-1-4-4 that he doesn't have five diamonds. Here, of course, 4♣ will work better but on another day that could easily be a 4-3 fit.</p> <p>Even if E/W escape a double their troubles are not over because after two rounds of hearts forcing declarer the hand will fall apart.</p> <p>Those playing in diamonds are likely to end up with only six or seven tricks and need to avoid more than three off to avoid doing worse than the pairs that are defending heart partials.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	1♥	Pass	3♥	Dble	Pass	4♦	All Pass								
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<p>♠ Q72 ♥ 1062 ♦ A32 ♣ 10964</p> <p>♠ A104 ♠ 53 ♥ 9853 ♥ K74 ♦ KJ10986 ♦ 54 ♣ - ♣ K87532</p> <p>♠ KJ986 ♥ AQJ ♦ Q7 ♣ AQJ</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>20</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		6	6	8	20	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	-	1	4	1		S	3	-	3	4	5		E	-	1	-	-	-		W	-	1	-	-	-		<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass.</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Even if I could look for a five card major I would just raise to 3NT with the North cards. Against 3NT, a diamond lead will run to the queen. Declarer will work on spades, maybe the jack ducked and then a second round to queen. Now he should take a finesse in a round suit, say, a club which wins, and then knock out the ♠A. West does best to lead diamonds. Declarer wins in dummy and takes another club finesse. Now he can cash his two long spades but to make 11 tricks he has to risk going off by leaving the ♣A in hand and working on hearts. If declarer takes an initial heart finesse and a second one when in dummy he will make 11 tricks, however he plays it, because the ♥K will fall on the third round and he can play clubs from hand with no risk.</p> <p>Against 4♠ West is more likely to lead a high heart and East should withhold his king knowing partner has no honour. However, the lead will have assisted declarer and he can make 11 tricks because the defence can never make a diamond trick.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass.									
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<p>♠AQ104 ♥Q62 ♦KQ4 ♣QJ7</p> <p>♠J32 ♠97 ♥K983 ♥AJ754 ♦J96 ♦A752 ♣1054 ♣K2</p> <p>♠K865 ♥10 ♦1083 ♣A9863</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>16</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		16		5	12	7		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	4	-	-	5	1		S	4	1	-	5	1		E	-	-	1	-	-		W	-	-	1	-	-		<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Dble</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Yes the above auction is idealistic because things will branch out many different ways on this hand. After the heart opening and raise, the North hand for all its points is very ‘junky’. Some will pass, others will make a take-out double and some may chance a 2♠ bid on the chunky 4-card suit. If North passes, South should re-open with a double since at love all at pairs scoring you don’t want to leave the opponents to play two of a major if at all possible.</p> <p>Bidding 4♠ might be punishing partner for his enterprise, especially if he doesn’t have four spades. Even on this hand the play is a little awkward after the lead of ace and a heart lead, but if declarer gets the club suit right he will be okay. I will be surprised if more than a handful make the double dummy par of 11 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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<p>♠Q108532 ♥Q7 ♦Q74 ♣J9</p> <p>♠7 ♠94 ♥52 ♥AJ104 ♦A8653 ♦K1092 ♣A10643 ♣K82</p> <p>♠AKJ6 ♥K9863 ♦J ♣Q75</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		7		8	11	14		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	3	-		S	-	-	-	3	-		E	4	4	1	-	1		W	4	4	1	-	1		<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : N/S 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>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td></tr><tr><td>2NT</td><td>3♠</td><td>4♦</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>Some players like to overcall 2NT on almost all hands with 5/5 minors and although this hand with 2 aces is not ideal, the vulnerability is favourable so a few will try it. As long as their partners let them off below game E/W will do well since they can score 10 tricks in either minor.</p> <p>If West passes then N/S will find their spade fit, and West might try 2NT on the second round after South’s raise to 2♠. North will re-compete with 3♠ over 2NT and East will bid 4♦ and if South bids 4♠ with his attractive shape, E/W will have to double to score well, because 4♠ is only one down.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	2NT	3♠	4♦	All Pass
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2NT	3♠	4♦	All Pass																																																																
<p>♠- ♥KQJ54 ♦962 ♣AKJ74</p> <p>♠QJ9762 ♠K1043 ♥83 ♥A106 ♦AJ4 ♦KQ10 ♣103 ♣Q82</p> <p>♠A85 ♥972 ♦8753 ♣965</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		14		8	14	4		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	1	2	-	-		S	2	-	2	-	-		E	-	-	-	3	-		W	-	-	-	3	-		<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : E/W vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>3♥</td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>Those playing a convention called leaping Michaels, where after a weak-2 opening a jump to four of a minor shows 5 in that minor and 5 in the other major may be tempted to try on the North hand, even though it is minimum for the bid. This will be okay as long as East doesn’t double or if he bids 4♠.</p> <p>If North overcalls 3♥, East will probably just compete in spades. Those playing in spades are likely to end up with nine tricks.</p> <p>If N/S finish in 4♥ undoubled they will be on for a good score, whilst those who are doubled may well still be okay if East, as is likely, leads a spade: this will enable North to pitch a diamond loser and escape for one down.</p>	West	North	East	South	2♠	3♥	3♠	All Pass								
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