

<p>♠ 3 ♥ AQJ87653 ♦ Q95 ♣ 8</p> <p>♠ AQ9865      ♠ 7 ♥ K2            ♥ 104 ♦ 62            ♦ A10874 ♣ Q32          ♣ KJ765</p> <p>♠ KJ1042 ♥ 9 ♦ KJ3 ♣ A1094</p> <table><tr><th>HCP</th><th></th><th></th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP			9			11	8		12				♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	5	-	3	S	-	1	5	-	3	E	2	-	-	1	-	W	2	-	-	1	-	<p><b>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</b></p> <p>South's 1♠ opening will both surprise and silence West. North will start with a 2♥ response as 4♥ would be artificial for almost everyone. After South rebids 2♠, North will jump to 4♥ and play there.</p> <p>4♥ should be the almost universal contract and, unless someone is very careless, eleven tricks should be the universal outcome. Careless would mean that on a spade lead and continuation declarer failed to ruff with the queen or jack. Having done so, he can cross to the ♣A to take the heart finesse, cash the ♥A and knock out the ♦A. I'm not sure that there is a way for West to know that this would not cost a trick, but there is a possibility of persuading declarer to take his eye off the ball if trick one goes ♠7, ♠J, ♠A, and a low spade back.</p>
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<p>♠ AKQJ1076 ♥ Q2 ♦ 5 ♣ Q76</p> <p>♠ 953            ♠ - ♥ 94            ♥ 87653 ♦ J76            ♦ AKQ1032 ♣ AKJ42        ♣ 108</p> <p>♠ 842 ♥ AKJ10 ♦ 984 ♣ 953</p> <table><tr><th>HCP</th><th></th><th></th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>9</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP			14			9	9		8				♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	4	-	S	-	-	-	4	-	E	2	4	1	-	-	W	2	4	1	-	-	<p><b>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</b></p> <p>North will open either 1♠ or 4♠ in third seat. In either case, I would treat the East hand as a diamond single suiter rather than make any kind of a two-suited overcall. The diamonds are so strong as well as being longer than the very weak heart suit. After a two-level overcall, South will raise a five-card 1♠ opener to 2♠ or make a negative double if facing a possible four-card suit. West has enough to compete in diamonds, and North bids the spade game. At this vulnerability, it is not too taxing for East to find the good save in 5♦, which is only one down.</p> <p>A 4♠ opening sees East overcall 5♦ and now South may go wrong. With three-card spade support plus the top hearts, he may well misjudge by going on to 5♠, which is down one if East finds the right defence of cashing only one diamond then switching to clubs. It is by no means obvious to defend this way, and 5♠ will certainly be made at some tables for a very good N/S score. Those who go plus on the E/W cards should also score very well.</p>
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<p>♠ AK95432 ♥ 862 ♦ 5 ♣ A4</p> <p>♠ J10876      ♠ - ♥ 95            ♥ KQJ43 ♦ J10            ♦ K876 ♣ J753        ♣ 10986</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ A107 ♦ AQ9432 ♣ KQ2</p> <table><tr><th>HCP</th><th></th><th></th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>9</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>3</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			11			3	9		17				♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	2	6	3	S	-	3	2	6	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p><b>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</b></p> <p>This could be an unlucky board for N/S, as 6♠ is a very good contract, doomed for practical purposes by the five-zero trump split.</p> <p>Actually, 6♠ can be made double dummy: ♥K to the ace, ♣A, diamond to the queen, ♦A throwing a heart, diamond ruff, ♣K and ♣Q (heart discard, red-suit ruff, ♠Q, red card, ducking West's jack for an endplay) - but who would play it that way?</p> <p>After 1♠ – 2♦ – 2♠, South is too strong to settle for game so may invent a club suit and, over 3♣, North jumps to 4♠. On this auction the bare queen will usually be good enough spade support, so South may ask for key cards and bid the small slam – nice auction, not so nice result.</p> <p>The trump reduction and endplay doesn't work if declarer cashes the ♠Q early, which would be normal play, as he is one dummy entry short and will be in the wrong hand with four tricks to play.</p>
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# British Summer Sim Pairs



Monday  
27<sup>th</sup> July 2015

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

All heat winners and also clubs go into a draw with cash prizes both for players and for clubs who run heats. There will be a draw for major prizes for 2015 at the AGM in November. First prize in each category is £1000. You can find all the full details, results and last year's prize winners at [www.ebu.co.uk/sims/](http://www.ebu.co.uk/sims/)

You can earn Blue points 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.

Jeremy Dhondy, Chairman EBU

<p>♠ 6543 ♥ Q98 ♦ 85 ♣ 10432</p> <p>♠ AKJ                      ♠ 97 ♥ KJ32                      ♥ A105 ♦ K632                      ♦ QJ94 ♣ A7                        ♣ J965</p> <p>♠ Q1082 ♥ 764 ♦ A107 ♣ KQ8</p> <table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>19      8</td></tr><tr><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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>5</td></tr></table>	HCP	2	19      8	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	3	5	5	3	5	W	3	5	5	2	5	<p><b>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</b></p> <p>I might open the South hand in third seat at this vulnerability – either 1♠ or 1♣ according to system, planning to pass any response, or even a weak 1NT. 1NT will not be a success, as West doubles and there is nowhere to run. Either 1♣ or 1♠ is safe enough. West will double then follow through with a no-trump bid and East should raise to game, knowing that this combination shows 18+ HCP. Nobody could claim that it is wrong to pass with the South cards and now West will open whatever his system demands. A 1♥ opening sees East respond 1NT and West can raise to 2NT, East going on to game, while a 1♦ opening may get a simple raise to 2♦, West again bidding 2NT and this time he gets to play the no-trump game after East’s raise.</p> <p>It doesn’t look as though it matters who is declarer. Both North and South will usually lead a spade and declarer comes to ten or eleven tricks according to his heart guess.</p>
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<p>♠ K973 ♥ AKQ10 ♦ 95 ♣ Q102</p> <p>♠ J8                        ♠ 6 ♥ J74                      ♥ 9532 ♦ 10874                    ♦ AQJ6 ♣ 9763                    ♣ AKJ8</p> <p>♠ AQ10542 ♥ 86 ♦ K32 ♣ 54</p> <table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>2      15</td></tr><tr><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>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP	14	2      15	9	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	4	4	4	S	-	-	4	4	2	E	1	1	-	-	-	W	1	1	-	-	-	<p><b>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</b></p> <p>The normal opening with the East cards is 1♦, middle of three touching suits in a 4-4-(1) shape – not that it matters very much which minor he opens on this particular deal.</p> <p>South has a maximum but normal weak jump overcall and North should try for game. The normal approach here is to play a 2NT response to the weak jump in the same way as when facing a weak two opener. What South bids over 2NT will depend on systemic agreements – there are so many different schemes in use – but the one thing that is certain is that he will do something to show a maximum and now North should go on to 4♠.</p> <p>Either minor-suit lead permits East to cash three top tricks but that is all for the defence. Should East have opened 1♥ for some reason, West may lead that suit and now the club losers go away on the hearts and there are twelve tricks to be had along with a lot of match-points.</p>
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<p>♠ Q1052 ♥ Q3 ♦ K82 ♣ AK92</p> <p>♠ A83                      ♠ K64 ♥ AK964                    ♥ J1082 ♦ 7                            ♦ Q103 ♣ QJ107                    ♣ 654</p> <p>♠ J97 ♥ 75 ♦ AJ9654 ♣ 83</p> <table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>14      6</td></tr><tr><td>6</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>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP	14	14      6	6	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	-	2	-	S	-	3	-	2	-	E	1	-	2	-	-	W	1	-	2	-	-	<p><b>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</b></p> <p>If South passes, West will open 1♥ and North doubles. East is too balanced to do anything other than make a simple raise, and South will bid 3♦. West will compete with 3♥ and that will probably end the auction, though South might be willing to bid on to 4♦ if he judges that 3♥ is about to make.</p> <p>Going on to 4♦ works out poorly as both 3♥ and 4♦ are down one on accurate defence.</p> <p>Some Souths will be able to open with a weak 2♦. West will overcall 2♥ and North compete with 3♦. Should East in turn compete with 3♥? Well, he does have four-card heart support, but the ♦Q rates to be waste paper, and there is a danger that partner will go on to game and be seriously disappointed at the sight of dummy. Since West has both diamond shortage and sound values, there is a very good chance that he will make a reopening double, and now East can bid 3♥ without running the risk of partner going on to game.</p>
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<p>♠ J10 ♥ AK1042 ♦ J1043 ♣ K5</p> <p>♠ Q732                      ♠ A6 ♥ QJ95                      ♥ 7 ♦ 962                        ♦ K875 ♣ J4                         ♣ AQ8763</p> <p>♠ K9854 ♥ 863 ♦ AQ ♣ 1092</p> <table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>6      13</td></tr><tr><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>1</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP	12	6      13	9	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	4	2	1	S	-	-	3	2	1	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-	<p><b>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</b></p> <p>When North opens 1♥ and East overcalls 2♣, South will make a negative double and North rebid 2♦. The diamond bid may dissuade East from further enterprise, and South's simple preference to 2♥ will often end the auction.</p> <p>East has a very awkward opening lead – he doesn't know that a diamond will give nothing so is unlikely to lead into declarer's side suit. A singleton trump is not very attractive, ace and another spade solves the spade guess, while ♣A gives a trick in that suit. While many declarers will make only nine tricks, some will come to ten, despite the bad trump break.</p> <p>I would probably lead ace and another spade, but that need not be as harmless as is actually the case, as declarer would probably get the suit right anyway after East's overcall.</p>
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<p>♠ QJ3 ♥ A9432 ♦ 73 ♣ K109</p> <p>♠ 2                            ♠ AK9864 ♥ J5                           ♥ 87 ♦ J109654                  ♦ AQ ♣ J764                      ♣ Q53</p> <p>♠ 1075 ♥ KQ106 ♦ K82 ♣ A82</p> <table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>3      15</td></tr><tr><td>12</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>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP	10	3      15	12	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	2	1	2	S	1	-	2	1	2	E	-	1	-	-	-	W	-	1	-	-	-	<p><b>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</b></p> <p>East opens 1♠ and South may make the borderline take-out double. It would be nice, with only 12 HCP, to have a little better distribution, particularly when vulnerable, and I would not criticise anyone who chose to pass. If South does double, North has a fairly obvious jump to 3♥ in response, and will play there. Three rounds of spades for a ruff followed by a diamond switch should see the contract defeated by a trick, there also being a slow club trick to come.</p> <p>If South does not double, West will also pass and it will be up to North. He does not have the required distribution for a take-out double, so the choices will be to overcall 2♥, vulnerable and on an empty five-card suit, to overcall 1NT when holding a five-card major, or to pass. Don't listen to anyone who tells you that they KNOW what is right here – any of the three options could be the winner. If you switched the red suits around you would probably overcall 1NT and, if so, I think you should maybe do the same thing with the actual hand – but don't blame me if it doesn't work out very well.</p> <p>After a spade lead, there are eight tricks in 1NT for a very good result for N/S.</p>
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♠ KQ2	
♥ J9	
♦ J962	
♣ QJ62	
♠ 10987	♠ AJ64
♥ Q82	♥ A5
♦ K73	♦ Q10854
♣ 874	♣ AK
♠ 53	
♥ K107643	
♦ A	
♣ 10953	
HCP	Makeable contracts
10	
5	18
7	

Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all

After two passes, East opens 1♦ and South makes a weak jump overcall of 2♥. That runs around to East who should make a take-out double. He may raise West’s 2♠ response to invite game but West, with a potentially wasted heart value, will decline the invitation.

Declarer has no entry to hand to lead through North’s trump holding so a heart lead will hold him to nine tricks. Where East rebids 2♠ rather than doubling, however, the heart position cannot be attacked effectively and there is an extra trick. Say that South finds a passive club lead. Declarer can lead a diamond up and South has to win the ace and exit with a second club. With the diamonds set up, declarer can afford to play ace and another spade. North wins the queen and plays a heart through but, knowing where the king must be, declarer puts up the ace, plays a diamond to the king and back to the ten, and dummy’s hearts go away before North can ruff in to cash the heart.

♠ 82	
♥ Q1063	
♦ 109873	
♣ 105	
♠ QJ10764	♠ A953
♥ J	♥ AK94
♦ 65	♦ J4
♣ K874	♣ 963
♠ K	
♥ 8752	
♦ AKQ2	
♣ AQJ2	
HCP	Makeable contracts
2	
7	12
19	

Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

If East opens 1NT, South will double and West run to the safety of his long spade suit. South may double again, take-out, when 2♠ comes around, and North can bid 2NT, having two places to play, rather than commit to a suit in which partner may have fewer than four cards. When he next converts to 3♣, he is known to hold both red suits and South will choose to play 3♥ as, if it makes, that will score better – important at match-points.

Neither 3♦ nor 3♥ is making today, both being down a couple for –100. However, that may not be too bad a result, depending on what proportion of those playing in 3♠ the other way manage to drop the bare king of trumps.

After the start above, one of East and West will surely compete to 3♠, while that becomes even clearer where East opens one-of-a-suit and the spade fit is found immediately. West will certainly compete further once his partner supports spades. I would guess that more than half the field will drop the spade king. +140 will be good for E/W, while +100 may be below average and, of course, –100 very poor.

♠ AJ	
♥ AK872	
♦ AK63	
♣ Q4	
♠ 64	♠ K95
♥ Q109543	♥ 6
♦ 97	♦ QJ542
♣ A85	♣ 10732
♠ Q108732	
♥ J	
♦ 108	
♣ KJ96	
HCP	Makeable contracts
21	
6	6
7	

Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

After a pass from East, I would not worry about the poor suit and would open with a weak two bid on the South cards. Facing the right maximum, there could be a slam, so North will inquire with 2NT but settle for game when South’s response shows a minimum.

It is hard to see how E/W get into the auction once South has opened the bidding. If he does not do so, West will open 2♥. North will double as he is just too strong to do anything else, and South will either jump to 4♠ or follow a sequence to invite game in spades – the latter is probably the wiser choice and leaves North room to bid 3NT. However, South will insist on a spade contract so the vast majority of the field should play in 4♠.

There is little to the play. After a heart lead declarer just has to be careful not to play off the second top heart before trumps are draw so that he retains the heart winner for a discard of the fourth club. If he does so, there are eleven tricks to be had.

♠ AQ85	
♥ Q2	
♦ 6	
♣ AQ7653	
♠ J107	♠ K63
♥ 10965	♥ KJ83
♦ QJ1094	♦ A87
♣ 8	♣ K42
♠ 942	
♥ A74	
♦ K532	
♣ J109	
HCP	Makeable contracts
14	
4	14
8	

Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

North opens 1♣ and East, while not holding the ideal distribution, has sufficient high cards to make a take-out double. South will bid either 1♦, my preference, or 1NT. I dislike the latter as, when the hand is played in no-trump, it rates to be better if North is declarer so that the opening lead does not come through one of his vulnerable honour holdings. North will rebid 2♣ over 1NT, 1♠ over 1♦.

East has no good lead against a club contract. Declarer has time to lead a diamond towards the king to set up a discard for his heart loser, while if he uses his dummy entries to lead a spade with the intention to put in the eight, can hold his losers in that suit to one, making ten tricks in all.

Those who are obsessed with playing in no-trump at match-points should score poorly, as seven or eight tricks is all that can be made by South after a red-suit lead, and that will not match the +130 available in a club part score.

♠ 962	
♥ 1054	
♦ K854	
♣ 1097	
♠ K1074	♠ 83
♥ AQ8	♥ J976
♦ J	♦ AQ109
♣ AQ543	♣ KJ6
♠ AQJ5	
♥ K32	
♦ 7632	
♣ 82	
HCP	Makeable contracts
3	
16	11
10	

Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

West will open 1♣ and rebid 1♠, over which East jumps to 2NT. If East’s initial response was 1♦, West will raise to 3NT; if the initial response was 1♥, West should bid 3♥ over 2NT – but East will bid 3NT so the same contract should be almost universally reached. I would respond 1♥, but there is nothing wrong with 1♦.

With spades bid on his left, South will often lead a safe diamond. That had better be a big enough spot card that North knows not to play the king, or declarer will have four diamond tricks and can make twelve in all. If North does duck the diamond, declarer can overtake with the queen to take the heart finesse and may continue with ace and a third heart. On a passive club return, declarer will have to judge whether to settle for ten tricks or try a spade towards the king to establish an eleventh – if South returns either a spade or a diamond after winning the ♥K, declarer will surely make eleven.

♠ A4	
♥ AJ108543	
♦ J82	
♣ 7	
♠ 76	♠ 10953
♥ KQ6	♥ 97
♦ AQ764	♦ K9
♣ A64	♣ KJ1093
♠ KQJ82	
♥ 2	
♦ 1053	
♣ Q852	
HCP	Makeable contracts
10	
15	7
8	

Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

For many, the North hand will be too strong for a pre-empt, even at adverse vulnerability, but I would probably open 3♥. If that is passed out, it should be down one, but West may stretch slightly and overcall 3NT. While there are six top losers on a spade lead, a heart lead gives declarer a chance to succeed. With diamonds three-three, all he has to do is to play the hand that did not pre-empt to hold the queen of clubs, which is normal play. Plus 400 will be a huge result for E/W.

Where North opens 1♥, South will respond 1♠ and, I suppose, West overcalls 2♦, though the suit is not very attractive for a bid at the two-level. North will rebid 2♥ and East may compete, non-vulnerable, with 3♦, despite holding only a doubleton support. Ace and another heart beats 3♦, as the third round of hearts promotes a trump trick for the defence.



♠ K64  
♥ KQ7  
♦ J73  
♣ QJ106

♠ AQ93  
♥ 83  
♦ K9854  
♣ 82

♠ 852  
♥ 10642  
♦ Q1062  
♣ 95

♠ J107  
♥ AJ95  
♦ A  
♣ AK743

HCP
12 9 17

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	6	-	5	2	4
S	6	-	5	2	4
E	-	1	-	-	-
W	-	1	-	-	-

**Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable**

If South opens 1♣ and West passes, I would be inclined to jump to 2NT, natural and invitational, with the North hand. That gets the shape and all-round strength of the hand across very quickly, and South will probably just raise to 3NT. Even on the best lead of a diamond, there are ten top tricks for +430. Though N/S can make 6♣, just needing to play spades for one loser after taking a spade pitch on the fourth heart, I doubt that many will get there, so +430 should score OK.

Many Wests will overcall 1♦ and now North will not, of course, be able to bid no trump. Instead, he will cuebid 2♦ to show a constructive club raise. At a different vulnerability, East might make an obstructive raise, but vulnerable against not he will usually pass and South will bid 2♥. If North now bids 3♣, South will bid 3♦ in search of a second diamond stopper, and North may bid 3♥, safe in the knowledge that he has already denied four cards in the suit. Will South now try 3NT or will he commit to clubs and, if the latter, might slam be reached?

♠ K1072  
♥ A  
♦ Q109742  
♣ 73

♠ AQ  
♥ K93  
♦ 63  
♣ AJ10986

♠ J98643  
♥ Q85  
♦ 8  
♣ KQ2

♠ 5  
♥ J107642  
♦ AKJ5  
♣ 54

HCP
9 14 9

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	4	1	-	-
S	-	4	1	-	-
E	3	-	-	3	-
W	3	-	-	3	-

**Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable**

That combination of red suit holdings will test South’s tolerance levels for a weak two opening. I would open 2♥ myself but I would understand someone who preferred to pass with such a poor suit and a powerful four-card side-suit.

If South opens 2♥, West will overcall 3♣ and East respond 3♠. A change of suit here is forcing so West will bid either 4♠ or, if he doesn’t think that a strong doubleton is sufficient facing what may be a five-card suit, may try 3NT. 4♠ should fail by a trick, while 3NT is three down after a diamond lead.

Where South does not open, E/W have more room to explore and stop out of game. West opens 1♣ and North overcalls, perhaps 1♦, perhaps 2♦ – again, I would not worry about the four-card side-suit and would make the more pre-emptive overcall to take space away from the opposition, to whom the hand rates to belong after partner’s pass.

Given the opportunity, E/W will play in 3♠ or 4♣, making nine tricks in each case. However, South has such powerful diamond support that it may be N/S who win the auction in 3/4♦, where they can make ten tricks without breaking sweat.

♠ J542  
♥ AK763  
♦ Q9  
♣ 52

♠ 10986  
♥ Q10854  
♦ 1032  
♣ 10

♠ K3  
♥ J92  
♦ A85  
♣ AK743

♠ AQ7  
♥ -  
♦ KJ764  
♣ QJ986

HCP
10 2 13

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	3	1	2	3
S	3	3	-	2	3
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

**Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all**

With everything lying very kindly for N/S they cannot be defeated in 3NT – not that many will bid it on their misfitting 23-combined points.

If East opens a strong no-trump, South will overcall 2NT to show the minors and North will pick his stronger doubleton, probably without a great deal of enthusiasm. As it happens, nine tricks can be made in either minor, despite the bad club break.

If East opens 1♣, most Souths will overcall 1♦ and North respond 1♥. As a 2♣ bid would not be natural for most pairs, South may rebid 1NT and play there. As already mentioned, the defence cannot prevent nine tricks in a no trump contract, so South should score +150 and outscore all those in a minor-suit contract.

♠ 105  
♥ A53  
♦ 8643  
♣ AJ86

♠ KJ9632  
♥ KQ  
♦ K9  
♣ 942

♠ Q74  
♥ J1084  
♦ Q7  
♣ 10753

♠ A8  
♥ 9762  
♦ AJ1052  
♣ KQ

HCP
9 12 14

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	4	3	-	1
S	2	4	3	-	1
E	-	-	-	1	-
W	-	-	-	1	-

**Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable**

If playing a weak no-trump, that would be my choice of opening with the South cards, and West overcalls 2♠. If left to play there, he will be down only one for a good result, as N/S can make ten tricks in diamonds or nine in hearts. However, those who have a take-out double at their disposal will make one and South may bid 3♦ or, if an option, 2NT to show two places to play, converting the 3♣ response to 3♦ to show the red suits.

Where South opens 1♦, West will overcall 1♠ and North is only really worth a simple raise to 2♦. East can compete with 2♠ and now West can in turn compete to 3♠ over 3♦. North has to do something over 3♠. If he passes, he will find that +100 is an inadequate score. With a screaming maximum for the initial raise, North may think to take the push to 4♦, which makes, but that would be to miss an opportunity for a really big result.

North has a maximum but his diamonds are weak, while he has good defensive cards. He should double 3♠ to suggest taking a penalty – South can always over-rule him if looking at really long diamonds, but on the actual deal will be very happy to defend. +300 will score a lot of match-points.

♠ K1085  
♥ AJ1053  
♦ 93  
♣ 104

♠ Q32  
♥ KQ76  
♦ AKQJ5  
♣ 5

♠ 74  
♥ 82  
♦ 8742  
♣ 98763

♠ AJ96  
♥ 94  
♦ 106  
♣ AKQJ2

HCP
8 17 15

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	4	-	3	4	2
S	4	-	3	4	2
E	-	2	-	-	-
W	-	2	-	-	-

**Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable**

South will open 1♣ – please don’t tell me that you have opened a strong no-trump with this hand, that is far too big a distortion – and most Wests will double. North will bid 1♥ and South rebid 1♠, and now West will introduce his diamonds, showing a hand too strong for an initial overcall. North is now somewhere in between a raise to 2♠ and a mildly aggressive raise to 3♠. South will bid game over the latter, and perhaps make a game try of 3♣ or 3♠ over the former, North having a routine acceptance.

4♠ is all about the spade guess and, with West having shown a powerful hand with his double then 2♦ bid, it would be normal to play him for the queen. That means ten tricks for +420 and a solid result for N/S.

♠ AQ432  
♥ KQ8  
♦ 8  
♣ 9875

♠ J6  
♥ 94  
♦ AQJ962  
♣ A104

♠ 1095  
♥ J753  
♦ 743  
♣ K62

♠ K87  
♥ A1062  
♦ K105  
♣ QJ3

HCP
11 12 13

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	-	3	4	-
S	3	-	3	4	3
E	-	1	-	-	-
W	-	1	-	-	-

**Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable**

N/S can make 4♠ or, by South, 3NT. If South opens 1NT West may pass if a diamond bid would be artificial. North will transfer to spades then bid 2NT, invitational, and South may choose to play in no-trumps as he has no ruffing value.

West will lead ace then queen of diamonds against 3NT, hoping that declarer needs a club trick – as he would had East held the ♥K instead of the ♣K. But that is declarer’s ninth trick and if he judges to finesse against the ♥J, he may make an overtrick. As regards the heart play, remember that he will have seen three discards from West and two from East on the run of the spades.

If West overcalls 3♦, 2♦ not being available, does your partnership know whether 3♠ is forcing? I guess that North will bid that either way, with South raising to 4♠ facing a force but passing a non-forcing bid.

Four Spades should be made, but declarer will need to be a little careful of his communications if he is to establish and cash two club tricks.

<p>♠ AK1064 ♥ 1032 ♦ 43 ♣ Q98</p> <p>♠ Q5                      ♠ J82 ♥ A9654                  ♥ KJ ♦ J105                    ♦ AKQ6 ♣ K43                    ♣ AJ72</p> <p>♠ 973 ♥ Q87 ♦ 9872 ♣ 1065</p>		<p><b>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</b></p> <p>East opens 1♣ or 1♦ according to style and agreement, and West responds 1♥. If North passes, East will jump to 2NT and be raised to game but, of course, North will usually overcall 1♠ and that will no longer be possible. Instead, East will double – often a strong no trump type when playing weak no-trump Acol, and West may drive to game as he has 10 HCP facing a good opener. If he chooses to do so, he will presumably cue-bid 2♠ and now perhaps East in turn will cue-bid 3♠ in search of help in spades. With a full spade stopper, West might have bid no trump at his previous turn, so he should feel OK about bidding 3NT now without a sure stopper. That would be a good auction from E/W and not all will manage to get to the top spot of 3NT. Those who do so can take eleven tricks after a spade lead, if they are willing to take the risk of the club finesse. +460 should be a very good result and, with many pairs not finding the path to 3NT, even +400 could be OK.</p>																																											
<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		9		10	19	2		<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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr></table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	5	5	4	2	5	W	5	5	4	2	4
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<p>♠ QJ109642 ♥ K105 ♦ K ♣ Q2</p> <p>♠ K3                      ♠ A87 ♥ J93                    ♥ A2 ♦ AJ1076                ♦ Q52 ♣ AJ4                    ♣ K8763</p> <p>♠ 5 ♥ Q8764 ♦ 9843 ♣ 1095</p>		<p><b>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</b></p> <p>All you have to do is to drop the bare king of diamonds and doubleton queen of clubs and you can make 7NT on the E/W cards. Yes, quite. One of the most irritating things I hear people say is on the lines of ‘Deep Finesse says its cold’. Deep Finesse cheats, of course, being a double dummy program, and what is possible double dummy has nothing whatsoever to do with what is cold single dummy.</p> <p>West has the sort of hand that often gets opened 1NT by both the strong and the weak no -trumpers. At favourable vulnerability, North will make a pre-emptive 3♠ overcall, and East will bid 3NT, ending the auction. Declarer may win the spade lead with dummy’s ace to run the ♦Q. North wins that and clears the spades and now declarer will cash the diamonds, watching North find four discards. With valuable holdings in both hearts and clubs, North will discard some spades. It is not clear exactly how the play will continue, but if North pitches three spades, a losing club finesse will no longer prove to be fatal.</p> <p>Anyone who goes down in 3NT rates to score very badly, while +600 may also be solidly below average.</p>																																											
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<p>♠ QJ32 ♥ Q97 ♦ AQ94 ♣ 54</p> <p>♠ K84                      ♠ A1096 ♥ AJ104                  ♥ 8532 ♦ 73                      ♦ KJ ♣ AQ109                ♣ J72</p> <p>♠ 75 ♥ K6 ♦ 108652 ♣ K863</p>		<p><b>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</b></p> <p>If West opens 1NT he will play there. On a diamond lead he will win and lead the ♣J then repeat the finesse, but with the diamonds now wide open there will be no time to establish extra tricks in either major so he will be held to eight tricks for +120. A low spade lead is much better news for declarer. Needing dummy entries, he should play dummy’s ten and play on clubs. He will make at least one overtrick and, if he guesses the play correctly, more.</p> <p>Those who open 1♣ or 1♥ will find the heart fit. With the club and one of the heart honours onside, ten tricks are reasonably straightforward and, if North is on lead and chooses a spade, perhaps eleven.</p> <p>Few will bid to 4♥, but +170 or even +200 will score well.</p>																																											
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<p>♠ AKQJ7 ♥ 98 ♦ K87 ♣ 975</p> <p>♠ 64                      ♠ 82 ♥ K103                  ♥ AQ764 ♦ 10952                ♦ AJ64 ♣ K862                ♣ J4</p> <p>♠ 10953 ♥ J52 ♦ Q3 ♣ AQ103</p>		<p><b>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</b></p> <p>This one should be the flattest board of the night – I know, famous last words. The vulnerability should prevent E/W from competing beyond the three level, so virtually everyone should win the auction in a spade contract on the N/S cards. Once you play a spade contract, there are nine tricks, no more and no fewer.</p> <p>North opens 1♠, even if you are happy to open a weak no-trump on hands containing a five-card major, to do so on this hand is a little perverse in my view. Most Easts will overcall 2♥ and South will show a spade raise. For me, 2♠ is sufficient, and now the most that N/S will do is to compete to 3♠ if West raises his partner to 3♥.</p> <p>Some optimists will cue-bid to show a constructive raise to 3♠ and now some Norths will be tempted to bid game. They should resist that temptation. North may have solid spades, but he has nothing to spare for his opening bid – the jack of spades might just as well be a small card on most layouts. After all, North is within the range and shape for a weak no-trump opening. The losing trick count aficionados will know that a seven-loser hand should not accept a game invitation. Anyone who bids freely to game will deserve the resulting poor score.</p>																																											
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<p>♠ K987 ♥ KQJ8 ♦ J86 ♣ 64</p> <p>♠ 32                      ♠ AQ4 ♥ A74                  ♥ 962 ♦ AK1053              ♦ Q72 ♣ AK7                  ♣ Q1092</p> <p>♠ J1065 ♥ 1053 ♦ 94 ♣ J853</p>		<p><b>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</b></p> <p>An Acol pair will bid this one very quickly to 3NT: Pass – 1♦ – 2♣ – 2NT – 3NT. After the lead of a heart honour, West has no reason to guess how to play clubs for four tricks so will make either ten or eleven tricks, depending on whether he risks the spade finesse. In practice, that will probably not feel like such a bad risk. Declarer will duck a couple of hearts, win the third round, and cash his minor-suit winners ending in the West hand. By now North will be down to two cards and, most of the time, it will be clear to take the finesse.</p> <p>Those playing a strong no-trump may get it played the other way up after a 1NT response by East. Now the lead will be a spade, so eleven tricks are assured.</p>																																											
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E	6	6	3	1	6																																								
W	6	6	3	1	6																																								

<p>♠ Q74 ♥ Q65 ♦ 7 ♣ AJ10985</p> <p>♠ 65                      ♠ J103 ♥ A10842              ♥ KJ3 ♦ AQJ96              ♦ K8 ♣ 4                      ♣ KQ762</p> <p>♠ AK982 ♥ 97 ♦ 105432 ♣ 3</p>		<p><b>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</b></p> <p>Unless playing weak two-suited openings, South will have to pass so West will get to open 1♥. North will probably overcall – either 2♣ or a weak 3♣ is possible – and that will give East an interesting problem. It will be tempting to play for a penalty, passing and hoping for a reopening double from partner. North can come to seven tricks in a club contract for –100 or –300 according to the level at which he overcalled. Whether or not that is a good result will depend on what happens where East chooses instead to drive to game. If he just bashes 3NT, South is likely to lead a spade and that leads to two down and a very poor E/W score. A negative double followed by a cue-bid should ascertain that West is two-suited, and now East should choose to play in 4♥. That can be made, but it will all come down to the heart play. If North has made a weak jump overcall, declarer will probably get the hearts wrong and go down, while if North overcalled 2♣ he will have more reason to get the suit right and make his contract, as he will then expect more high cards on his left.</p>																																											
<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		9		11	13	7		<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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr></table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	-	1	-	S	1	-	-	1	-	E	-	3	4	-	1	W	-	3	4	-	1
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E	-	3	4	-	1																																								
W	-	3	4	-	1																																								

♠ A87  
♥ AJ  
♦ J10843  
♣ J52

♠ 432  
♥ K84  
♦ A  
♣ AQ10874

♠ K95  
♥ 965  
♦ K652  
♣ 963

♠ QJ106  
♥ Q10732  
♦ Q97  
♣ K

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	-	2	2	1	-	
S	-	2	2	1	-	
E	2	-	-	-	1	
W	2	-	-	-	1	

**Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable**

West opens 1♣ and North will presumably overcall 1♦, based on his point count and despite the bad suit quality. East is too weak to bid 1NT freely and, with no major, should pass for now and see what happens. South can respond 1♥ and West may compete with 2♣, as much to get in the way of his opponents as in expectation of buying the contract.

If West does bid 2♣, North will pass and East may raise to 3♣. Now South is pretty much obliged to compete with 3♦, but that is a level too high on accurate defence, though I would not be surprised to see 3♦ made a fair number of times.

Where West does not bid 2♣, North will have an ugly choice of calls. If the change of suit is not forcing in his methods, he will pass 1♥, while if it is forcing he may think that to rebid 1NT without a club stopper is a less bad option than any of the alternatives.

♠ Q9  
♥ A2  
♦ A109654  
♣ Q84

♠ J852  
♥ 74  
♦ Q3  
♣ KJ532

♠ A10743  
♥ Q983  
♦ J7  
♣ A10

♠ K6  
♥ KJ1065  
♦ K82  
♣ 976

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	-	3	3	-	4	
S	-	3	3	-	4	
E	1	-	-	1	-	
W	1	-	-	1	-	

**Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable**

There are those who like to open 1NT at any possible opportunity. If we are ever going to do so when holding a six-card suit, then surely this North hand is the type on which to do so, with a top card in the long suit to aid in its establishment, and an honour in each of the other suits, including two queens – very good holdings with which to have the lead come up to you. Where North does open 1NT, East will make a bid to launch a major two-suiter, assuming that his methods permit. That may permit E/W to win the auction, but they should be driven to the three level and that is too high if the defence gets it right, as they probably will – cash four top winners then play a third heart for an over-ruff and there is still the K♠ to come for down two vulnerable.

If North opens 1♦, East will overcall 1♠ and, again, E/W have the top-ranking suit so will often declare the final contract. However, once again they may regret it as, while N/S’s likely contract of 3♦ is unbeatable, –200 in 3♠ is too expensive (and that assumes that nobody finds a double).

N/S can make a lot of tricks in a no-trump contract, but it should be very rare for them to be allowed to play one.

♠ AQJ6  
♥ 1085  
♦ 732  
♣ A108

♠ 1087543  
♥ 932  
♦ 9  
♣ K62

♠ 92  
♥ QJ6  
♦ QJ1065  
♣ QJ5

♠ K  
♥ AK74  
♦ AK84  
♣ 9743

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	3	3	4	2	4	
S	3	3	4	2	4	
E	-	-	-	-	-	
W	-	-	-	-	-	

**Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all**

Some will open a strong no-trump with the South hand to avoid rebid problems – do you really want to open 1♦ and have to rebid 2♣, or indeed 1♥ and rebid 2♦, risking partner jumping in your ‘known’ five-card first suit? The 1NT opening will not lead to any difficulties on this layout. North will use Stayman then jump to 3NT.

Say that West leads a spade. Declarer has a choice of three-four-three fits on which to play in search of extra tricks. Playing for both red suits to divide four-three is the way to hope to make eleven tricks, though this assumes that the defence will not attack clubs when in with their first red-suit winner. But the best chance of setting up one extra trick is to play on clubs, working on the strength of the combined intermediate cards. If declarer wins the spade lead and plays a club to the ten, then a club to the eight when he is next in hand, he will make a second club trick whenever West has two or three honours or the suit breaks three-three.

Weak no trumppers will open 1♦, middle of three touching suits, and probably rebid 1NT over the 1♠ response. There would be a few moments of worry should partner insist on a spade contract, but once again the alternative of implying five-four shape and failing to describe the strength of the hand by bidding two suits seems a worse option.

♠ Q63  
♥ J74  
♦ KQ8  
♣ 9753

♠ J52  
♥ A108  
♦ 10943  
♣ QJ6

♠ AK7  
♥ Q3  
♦ J7652  
♣ AK4

♠ 10984  
♥ K9652  
♦ A  
♣ 1082

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	-	-	-	-	-	
S	-	-	-	-	-	
E	2	3	1	1	2	
W	2	3	1	2	2	

**Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable**

If East opens with a strong no-trump, West is just worth an invitational raise due to the 10♥ and ♦ 10-9-. East will, of course, accept the invitation and, if South leads his long suit, will probably succeed in bringing home his contract. I would not lead a heart as South. At matchpoints extra over- and undertricks are often as important as actually making or beating a contract, and the safe lead of the ten of spades looks far better to me. After that start, careful play should see the defence prevail.

If East opens 1♦, South may scrape up a 1♥ overcall. West can make a simple diamond raise or, giving full weight to the ten of hearts, may try 1NT instead. If West is declarer after South has bid, North will surely lead a heart and that gives declarer a second trick in the suit. Worse, from the defence’s perspective, is that declarer will play on diamonds and South’s only entry will be knocked out immediately. The defence can come to only one heart trick and declarer can make nine tricks.

♠ K3  
♥ 972  
♦ A1086  
♣ A986

♠ J2  
♥ AK1063  
♦ Q9  
♣ QJ52

♠ A9876  
♥ J5  
♦ 7532  
♣ K3

♠ Q1054  
♥ Q84  
♦ KJ4  
♣ 1074

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	-	1	-	-	-	
S	-	1	-	-	-	
E	1	-	2	1	-	
W	1	-	2	1	-	

**Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable**

This one looks to be quite straightforward, at least as regards the auction. West opens 1♥ and rebids 2♣ over the 1♠ response. Now East has an easy preference to 2♥ and that ends the auction – though N/S are not vulnerable, neither has the right distribution to balance.

On a gentle defence, West will be allowed to ruff his third club in dummy then take the heart finesse and come to an overtrick. That play can be thwarted by a trump lead and continuation, while the ♠K lead also sets up a trump promotion which creates a fifth defensive trick. Even on a less demanding defence, if declarer does not have a quick entry back to hand after taking the club ruff, he will need to ruff with the ♥J then lead the low trump to his ten – if he ruffs low then runs the jack, the defence may gain the lead and South receive a club ruff to stop the overtrick.

♠ AQJ7  
♥ 832  
♦ Q62  
♣ 1095

♠ 10654  
♥ J4  
♦ KJ108  
♣ AJ2

♠ K982  
♥ 75  
♦ A97  
♣ Q873

♠ 3  
♥ AKQ1096  
♦ 543  
♣ K64

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	-	-	2	-	1	
S	-	-	2	-	1	
E	2	1	-	2	-	
W	2	1	-	2	-	

**Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all**

The popular auction will see South open 1♥ and rebid the suit over North’s 1♠ response, with 2♥ buying the contract. With trumps splitting two-two, declarer can succeed in a couple of ways – the ruffing spade finesse sets up a winner for a club pitch, or he can draw trumps and set up an endplay to hold his club losers to two. There are a couple of possible variations to the auction. This vulnerability encourages aggressive part score competition so East may reopen with a double. West knows that his failure to overcall 1♠ limits him to four cards in the suit, so he can afford to respond 2♠, despite the spade bid on his left, and if he plays there careful play sees him bring the contract home. Meanwhile, if N/S take the push to 3♥, they will surely be defeated.

It would not be ridiculous for South to open an off-centre 3♥ – if you are going to pre-empt then I prefer this to the neither-one-thing-nor-the-other weak-two bid. This could work out very well when the board belongs to the opposition. Today however, it just ensures a minus score.