

# **British Summer Virtual Sim Pairs**



**Wednesday  
22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020**

**Welcome to the 2020 British Summer Virtual 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 John Williams.

If you are playing this SIM at a virtual club other than your normal one encourage the committee at your main club to consider running a SIM or two.

You can find the full details and results at [www.ebu.co.uk/sims/](http://www.ebu.co.uk/sims/). You can earn Blue points in these Sim Pairs (in England) 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.

Ian Payn, Chairman EBU

<p>                     ♠ 942                      ♥ Q1095                      ♦ Q1064                      ♣ Q2                      ♠ QJ                      ♥ J3                      ♦ 532                      ♣ AK8763                      ♠ K1087                      ♥ AK842                      ♦ J                      ♣ 1094                      ♠ A653                      ♥ 76                      ♦ AK987                      ♣ J5                 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1070 188 1258"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="229 1070 472 1258"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		6	11	11	12	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	-	-	-	S	-	1	-	-	-	E	5	-	3	2	1	W	5	-	3	2	1	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 622 991 734"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In truth, anything could happen here: in the cut-throat world of modern bidding, just about anything goes. For instance, few determined Easts would turn up the chance to open: only 11 HCPs with even one of those apparently worthless, but as against that, promising holdings in both majors and 4-5-1-3 shape make a punchy opening worthwhile; then South seems to have a sound overcall, though he would normally hope for a sixth card in his best suit; still, there is much to be said for getting into the action. In turn, West can hardly pass despite his apparently poor spade holding. After all this it only remains for North to get his word in and for East to stick to his guns (after all, partner's 3♣ is technically forcing, despite the fact that North's effort then provides an option to pass). West will probably pass 4♣, ready to exact a penalty if NS bid on. His spade holding turns out to be magic, as is partner's (expected) singleton diamond so +150 will score reasonably well. Those who aspire to game will get a rarely shared top and +300 or so from doubling diamonds will be equally welcome.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♥	2♦	3♣	3♦	4♣	All Pass
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<p>                     ♠ J73                      ♥ 3                      ♦ J84                      ♣ AKQ532                      ♠ KQ1042                      ♥ 75                      ♦ 7                      ♣ J9764                      ♠ A965                      ♥ 98642                      ♦ AQ10                      ♣ 8                      ♠ 8                      ♥ AKQJ10                      ♦ K96532                      ♣ 10                 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1749 188 1930"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>13</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="229 1749 472 1930"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		11	10	6	13	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	4	1	-	1	S	2	4	1	-	1	E	-	-	-	3	-	W	-	-	-	3	-	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 1339 991 1451"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This deal is equally difficult to predict, though players have more excuse for bidding modestly: East's hand is far less promising than on board 1, despite similar points and shape, because opening 1♥ on such an impoverished suit is unthinkable (suppose partner responds 2♣ – what then?) Most Souths will prefer opening the shorter of their two suits (the thought of opening in diamonds and then reversing into hearts is simply indigestible). If West has a system bid to show his weak black two-suiter he will surely use it at this vulnerability, giving partner the choice between 3♠ or 4♠ over North's 3♣ bid. Both South and North then have horrible decisions to make, which is why, again, anything might happen. NS can make 4♦, as it happens – but how to land on that particular pinhead? Plus scores will vary from 140 to EW and 130 to NS but minus scores from either side are perhaps more likely. Good competitive hand!</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♥	2♥	3♣	3♠	All Pass
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<p>♠ 762 ♥ Q765 ♦ 9542 ♣ K8</p> <p>♠ Q54                      ♠ J103 ♥ 432                      ♥ AJ8 ♦ AQ                        ♦ KJ1076 ♣ AQ753                  ♣ 96</p> <p>♠ AK98 ♥ K109 ♦ 83 ♣ J1042</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>10</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		5		N	-	-	-	-	-	14	10	S	-	-	-	-	-			E	2	2	1	1	2			W	2	2	1	1	1	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <p><b>West      North      East      South</b></p> <p>Pass                      Pass</p> <p>1NT              All Pass</p> <p>After the likely frenetic auctions on the previous two boards, could this actually be a possible outcome here? The West hand is a tad top-heavy for a weak NT but really, nothing else appeals. After that NS have nothing worthwhile to say. Furthermore, after a heart lead declarer has 7 easy tricks however the defenders play. Still, there are no more than 7 provided South perseveres with hearts and doesn't switch to clearing spades, creating a painless extra one. And if East happens to get to be declarer in NTs a heart lead from South is (a) less obvious and (b) less damaging: on the lead of the 10, for instance, North must play his Queen to prevent a cheap winner for declarer – and now declarer can attack spades with his Jack of hearts luckily protected. Whether he will do so is unclear, of course, but +120 should be a very decent score, if achieved.</p>
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<p>♠ QJ854 ♥ K64 ♦ K5 ♣ A98</p> <p>♠ K1062                      ♠ 73 ♥ 983                        ♥ J102 ♦ 1074                        ♦ AQ9832 ♣ J43                        ♣ 75</p> <p>♠ A9 ♥ AQ75 ♦ J6 ♣ KQ1062</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>13</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>7</td> <td>S</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		13		N	4	1	4	4	4	4	7	S	4	-	4	4	1			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <p><b>West      North      East      South</b></p> <p>Pass              1♠              Pass              2♣</p> <p>Pass              2♠              Pass              3♥</p> <p>Pass              3NT              All Pass</p> <p>This will be a fairly regular auction, the trap to avoid being a 3NT bid by South at his second turn, in the knowledge that partner won't have a 4-card heart suit. That would be truly disastrous, if West were to find the killing lead. On the auction shown, declarer has 9 top tricks: make that 10 if East, with no side entry, opts for a low diamond lead. The point of interest is whether North should open 1♠ in the first place, even if playing 5-card majors. Having to rebid a poor-ish suit over a two-level response in either minor is uncomfortable to say the least, unless he is playing a strong NT and is able systemically to rebid 2NT to show a balanced 12-14. Not all enjoy such arrangements. Food for thought here.</p>
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<p>♠ QJ98754 ♥ A8 ♦ 9 ♣ Q109</p> <p>♠ 1062                      ♠ AK ♥ 10742                      ♥ KQ6 ♦ KQ7                        ♦ AJ108 ♣ AJ8                        ♣ K764</p> <p>♠ 3 ♥ J953 ♦ 65432 ♣ 532</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>20</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		9		N	-	-	-	-	-	10	20	S	-	-	-	-	-			E	5	4	4	1	5			W	5	4	4	1	5	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <p><b>West      North      East      South</b></p> <p>Pass                      1♠              Dbl              Pass</p> <p>1NT              Pass              3NT              All Pass</p> <p>North has the shape for a pre-emptive 3♠ opening but would like his Ace to be in the trump suit. 1♠ (to be followed hopefully by 2♠) is probably a sounder option which will be chosen by some and maybe many. If the bidding starts as shown, West has an awkward bid to find: too strong for 2♥ and with a suit unsuitable for 3♥, 1NT is probably the best practical effort. 3NT by either hand has 10 easy tricks: diamond entries allow declarer to lead twice towards East's hearts. However, the bidding has a major influence on the eventual trick total. If North opens 1♠ as tentatively suggested, he is marked with virtually all the outstanding values and declarer can play accordingly: win the spade lead, cross to King of diamonds, heart to the Queen, diamond to the Queen, heart to the Ace, win the spade exit and cash all winners, discarding West's last heart. A careful count will reveal that North has discarded 4 spades in order to keep three clubs, so cross to Ace of clubs and endplay him with a spade to lead away from Queen of clubs. 11 tricks! This is all double-dummy and is a line impossible to follow if North has opened 3♠. So much for opening 1♠!</p>
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<p>♠ 32 ♥ QJ1043 ♦ QJ52 ♣ A7</p> <p>♠ J10974      ♠ A5 ♥ 65            ♥ K9 ♦ A10           ♦ K764 ♣ 10652        ♣ QJ943</p> <p>♠ KQ86 ♥ A872 ♦ 983 ♣ K8</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>13</td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts						10			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	5	13	N	-	2	3	1	3			S	-	2	3	1	3			E	2	-	-	-	-			W	2	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th style="width: 25%;">West</th><th style="width: 25%;">North</th><th style="width: 25%;">East</th><th style="width: 25%;">South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>2♥</td><td>Dbl</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="4">All Pass</td></tr> </table> <p>1NT is more descriptive than 1♣ and avoids re-bidding a modest 5-card minor. It also works well here, seeing that over a 1♣ opening, South would surely double for TO with both majors. To show both majors over an opposing 1NT, one normally needs to be at 5-4 in them one way round or the other, which will probably (but not certainly!) silence South. Playing transfers (here via 2♥), gives North the chance to double for a heart lead. Will he take it? It's not clear-cut but sensible on balance and gives NS the upper hand. They just have to retain it by declining to overbid (easier at pairs scoring than at teams).</p> <p>+140 should be a fine score. Best of all is +400 from 3NT but that seems to be for the birds. Anyone who gets there is either a genius or a hog: make your choice....</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	2♥	Dbl	Pass	3♥	All Pass			
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<p>♠ 7532 ♥ 10982 ♦ 32 ♣ Q108</p> <p>♠ AJ98            ♠ K10 ♥ J54             ♥ AKQ7 ♦ K10             ♦ QJ84 ♣ AK62           ♣ J54</p> <p>♠ Q64 ♥ 63 ♦ A9765 ♣ 973</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td></td><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>16</td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts						2			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	16	16	N	-	-	-	-	-			S	-	-	-	-	-			E	5	5	6	6	6			W	5	5	6	6	6	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th style="width: 25%;">West</th><th style="width: 25%;">North</th><th style="width: 25%;">East</th><th style="width: 25%;">South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>3NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>4NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>6NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>The shut-out rebid of 3NT is normally played to promise 15-17 HCPs and no further interest in the majors. East's 4NT raise is then quantitative, NOT Ace-asking, inviting partner to bid a slam with a maximum. As ♦10 may well be an important card (as it is) West has just enough to oblige; however, she could always pass the buck with 5NT, leaving it up to East to take or decline the plunge. Who knows what the answer would be? 6NT is no cake-walk, depending largely on finding South with QX or QXX in spades. This makes it sufficiently uncertain to suggest caution, unless EW know they need a good result to rescue a poor outing to date. There are only four likely outcomes: +1440, +690, +660 or -100. There is much to be said for settling for game and hoping that 12 tricks are achieved: +690 is likely to be above average.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT	All Pass		
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<p>♠ A106 ♥ J8 ♦ KQJ7 ♣ A762</p> <p>♠ K754            ♠ 9832 ♥ K6              ♥ AQ9542 ♦ 983             ♦ 6 ♣ KJ54           ♣ 83</p> <p>♠ QJ ♥ 1073 ♦ A10542 ♣ Q109</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td></td><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>6</td><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts						15			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	10	6	N	3	4	-	-	1			S	3	4	-	-	1			E	-	-	2	2	-			W	-	-	2	2	-	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th style="width: 25%;">West</th><th style="width: 25%;">North</th><th style="width: 25%;">East</th><th style="width: 25%;">South</th></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♣</td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>Dbl</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="4">All Pass</td></tr> </table> <p>The first point of interest is whether North should open 1♣ or 1♦ and opinions will differ: there's no right answer, so it's purely a matter of partnership agreement. After a 1♦ opening and a weak 2♥ overcall, South would have a clear 3♦ bid, which North is likely to pass, bearing in mind his weak heart holding. After 1♣ and the same overcall, South can only pass and rely on partner to re-open with a double, after which 3♦ should again be the result. (Note that for progressive bidders, responding 3♦ to the double will promise the sort of values he actually holds here: otherwise he would bid a Lebensohl 2NT and sign off in 3♦ after partner's forced 3♣). 4♦ is the limit of the hand, as declarer can't avoid a club loser to go with two hearts. +130 should be a flat result, unless any EWs are unwise enough to go overboard in hearts, or NSs to punt game.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♣	2♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	3♦	All Pass			
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<p>♠ J9654 ♥ AKJ ♦ J62 ♣ 107</p> <p>♠ Q83                      ♠ A10 ♥ 542                        ♥ Q1063 ♦ 1073                      ♦ A954 ♣ K643                      ♣ Q85</p> <p>♠ K72 ♥ 987 ♦ KQ8 ♣ AJ92</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Some Norths might protect with 2♣ after the auction shown and will strike lucky if they do. Eight tricks are easy enough thanks to the kindly club position and nine are very likely as the losing heart can be discarded. +140 should score reasonably well.</p> <p>However, 2♣ is risky: just imagine if most of the South and West cards were reversed, giving South 8 points and West 10! It could be ugly.</p> <p>As the cards lie NS have the chance to make serious inroads into a vulnerable 1NT by East, without risking any intervention. +100 is straightforward and the magic +200 is not out of sight. After a club lead, declarer can rely on two club tricks, a diamond and two spades. Can he also develop the long diamond and/or the Queen of hearts? It's a fascinating struggle in prospect.</p> <p>Playing a strong NT and 5-card majors, the bidding may well start 1♦-P-P and now NS can play safely in spades. A really mixed bag of results here....</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	1NT	All Pass																																								
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<p>♠ J43 ♥ 72 ♦ Q109652 ♣ 63</p> <p>♠ 10752                      ♠ AKQ98 ♥ AKQJ986                      ♥ 10 ♦ 3                                ♦ KJ7 ♣ Q                                ♣ KJ108</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ 543 ♦ A84 ♣ A97542</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Blackwood lives! East has a tricky rebid at his second turn but he has too much to sign off in 4♠ and if South holds the expected AQ of clubs there will be a ruffing finesse available, at least, so a forward move is appropriate and the best is a diamond cue-bid. Of course the auction could develop very differently if South passes or risks a club pre-empt (the latter unlikely). Whatever happens, West simply must invoke a request for Aces and respect the outcome.</p> <p>South may well pass after 1♠, without affecting the outcome.</p> <p>The play won't take very long! It's difficult to foresee any match-point score other than +650 to EW. But does that ever happen, in practice?</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♠	2♣	4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠	All Pass																																
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<p>♠ K8653 ♥ A96 ♦ 1043 ♣ J8</p> <p>♠ AJ109                      ♠ 42 ♥ KJ10532                      ♥ 874 ♦ 76                                ♦ AJ82 ♣ Q                                ♣ AK32</p> <p>♠ Q7 ♥ Q ♦ KQ95 ♣ 1097654</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></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>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>It's difficult to envisage a different auction on this one, though some Norths might risk a 1♠ overcall without affecting the eventual outcome. North may well decide against a spade lead: the most awkward alternative for declarer is a diamond, which forces declarer to win and cash two top clubs to discard his diamond loser. Then a low heart allows declarer to breathe easily. He can still arrive at 11 tricks after this start but it's very fiddly: he can play Ace and another spade and then take a ruffing finesse in the same suit when next in hand. It would seem that some declarers might settle for 10 tricks, which is sure to score poorly. After an initial club lead the route to 11 tricks is easier, provided declarer doesn't try to cash a third round of clubs.</p> <p>So only two results likely. Famous last words!...</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass																																
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<p>♠ K82 ♥ AK62 ♦ 93 ♣ QJ65</p> <p>♠ 10643      ♠ A95 ♥ J108      ♥ Q43 ♦ 4      ♦ AJ7 ♣ K9843      ♣ A1072</p> <p>♠ QJ7 ♥ 975 ♦ KQ108652 ♣ -</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>15</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>8</td><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	13		N	-	4	2	-	1	4	15	S	-	4	2	-	1			E	2	-	-	1	-		8	W	2	-	-	1	-	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><th style="text-align: left;">West</th><th style="text-align: left;">North</th><th style="text-align: left;">East</th><th style="text-align: left;">South</th></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="4">All Pass</td></tr> </table> <p>After a weak NT opening, South should look no further than a diamond partscore: the route to it depends entirely on system understanding (here 2NT requires a 3♣ response, converted to diamonds which is to play). Some Easts will no doubt be tempted by a penalty double of 1NT but others will refrain, with only 15 points and no telling lead. As it happens, South will override any double regardless, without breaking sweat. It's difficult to foresee any outcome other than 10 tricks in diamonds, losing one trump, one heart and one spade. The only possibility of making 9 tricks only is for declarer to play trumps from the top initially and then rely on a 2-2 break. Even that is unlikely. Those who bash 3NT with the NS cards will be sadly disappointed after a club lead!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass			
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<p>♠ A10 ♥ J1097 ♦ AQ5 ♣ 10972</p> <p>♠ QJ62      ♠ K73 ♥ Q4      ♥ A53 ♦ 1032      ♦ K94 ♣ AQ65      ♣ K843</p> <p>♠ 9854 ♥ K862 ♦ J876 ♣ J</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>13</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>5</td><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11		N	-	-	1	-	-	11	13	S	-	-	1	-	-			E	2	1	-	1	2		5	W	2	1	-	1	2	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><th style="text-align: left;">West</th><th style="text-align: left;">North</th><th style="text-align: left;">East</th><th style="text-align: left;">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>2NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>North could just about stretch to open a weak NT, thanks to his strong pip cards, and were he to do so South has the opportunity to bring Stayman into play (prepared to pass a 2♦ response) and play in 2♥: this should escape for 1 down, even after a trump lead and three rounds. -100 would then be a triumph. However, most Norths will be delighted to have passed and thus avoided the need to declare the hand. The likely alternative auction is as shown, meaning that the outcome will be decided by how many tricks declarer can muster. On a heart lead – which is perhaps the most likely – declarer is likely to arrive easily at 8, losing just two hearts, two diamonds and a spade. So +120 is going to score reasonably. Still, the defence needs to be alert because, unless it sets up the diamonds as quickly as possible (making a low diamond the most effective opening lead), declarer can arrive at three spades, two hearts, a diamond and three clubs, for a sparkling +150. +600 isn't off the agenda but would constitute an unlikely and magnificent top.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	All Pass		
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<p>♠ Q10874 ♥ 8763 ♦ KJ94 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ -      ♠ K6 ♥ AKQJ94      ♥ 52 ♦ A76      ♦ Q5 ♣ Q1086      ♣ KJ95432</p> <p>♠ AJ9532 ♥ 10 ♦ 10832 ♣ A7</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>9</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>9</td><td>W</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	6		N	-	2	-	5	-	16	9	S	-	3	-	4	-			E	5	-	5	-	1		9	W	6	-	6	-	-	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><th style="text-align: left;">West</th><th style="text-align: left;">North</th><th style="text-align: left;">East</th><th style="text-align: left;">South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>3♣</td><td>3♠</td></tr> <tr><td>5♣</td><td>5♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>6♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Dbf</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="4">All Pass</td></tr> </table> <p>Some raw-blooded action at last! One is told never to pre-empt against pre-empts but South's intervention is more of a bold but judicious effort than a pre-empt, needing partner to co-operate in both his suits. After such a start West could simply bid 4♥, hoping for a superior pairs score, or 4♠, but 5♣ makes it easier perhaps for partner to evaluate his hand (and those hearts represent a wonderful secret weapon). North's 5♠ seems obvious, as is West's 6♣ and South's double.</p> <p>The story doesn't end there, of course. Anything but a diamond lead and 6♣ is cold, whether doubled or not. If such transpires NS will wish they had saved in 6♣ doubled, losing just 300 (or 500 if they mis-guess in trumps (which is entirely possible). The traveller will be a dog's breakfast of results!</p>	West	North	East	South			3♣	3♠	5♣	5♠	Pass	Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass	Dbf	All Pass			
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<p>♠AQ8 ♥Q10 ♦1054 ♣AKJ93</p> <p>♠J1053                      ♠K74 ♥K942                        ♥76 ♦Q                                ♦AKJ832 ♣Q742                        ♣108</p> <p>♠962 ♥AJ853 ♦976 ♣65</p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>A 1♦ overall is beyond reproach, of course, but the bulldogs among us might well prefer the bolder pre-emptive action: after all, the vulnerability is favourable and the opposition is now going to find it hard to find a major-suit fit, if such exists. In practice, 3♦ would leave North in a well-nigh impossible position, unable to bid 3NT or even find a TO double safely. It must be said that even a 1♦ overcall can be very embarrassing: OK, South can find 1♥ but North is again somewhat stuck. 1NT without a diamond stop is just feasible, the only viable alternatives being a 2♣ underbid, a wishy-washy 2♥ raise or a 3♣ overbid.</p> <p>All in all, EW are likely to buy the hand in diamonds. Repeated club leads ensure a plus score for NS, which is actually the best they can hope for. Scores on the traveller are very difficult to predict – always the sign of a good pairs hand.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♣	3♦	All Pass																																		
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<p>♠KJ103 ♥A83 ♦KQ5 ♣Q42</p> <p>♠97                                ♠A854 ♥K975                        ♥Q42 ♦J1073                        ♦6 ♣K76                        ♣AJ1098</p> <p>♠Q62 ♥J106 ♦A9842 ♣53</p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The auction is a delicate one, with the spotlight chiefly on East and South. East has to decide, first of all, whether or not to overcall 2♣: on the plus side, his suit is certainly reasonable; on the minus, he is a point and a club short of the ideal, he is vulnerable and he might have good defence to spades. Caution suggests an initial pass, perhaps. Now South has to decide between 1NT and 2♠, knowing that partner has 15+ points or 5 spades (or even both): this is a common enough dilemma, to which there is no sure answer. If he bids 2♠ he will have settled for a probable minus score. This is equally true of 1NT. However, East may well come to his rescue with 2♣ (now that's it's shown to be safer) but this gives South an out to bid 2♦, if he chooses. One way and another, this is an impossible hand to judge with complete accuracy, and the scores on the traveller will support that.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass	2♣	2♦	All Pass																													
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<p>♠K5 ♥AJ765 ♦84 ♣QJ104</p> <p>♠A976                        ♠QJ ♥K8                            ♥Q10932 ♦AKQ5                        ♦J762 ♣962                        ♣85</p> <p>♠108432 ♥4 ♦1093 ♣AK73</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Another delicate auction. North is certainly worth an opening 1♥, with two playable suits and a King and a doubleton outside. West has nothing sensible to say over a 1♠ response so North follows through with 2♣. Normally South would feel obliged to raise to 3♣ with 4-card support, as partner could be very strong (i. e. just short of a game-forcing 3♣ himself): however, the singleton heart here, coupled with the minimum values and poor spades, counsels caution. Now West's belated double suggests the sort of hand he holds and allows East to come to the party with 2♦. South will surely bid 3♣ now, in competition. If EW manage to arrive in 2♦ it will surely make, so 3♣ represents a worthwhile shot: this may be doubled, maybe not; trump leads are best, whenever possible, and now the contract is very likely to go down. Even so, a close call!</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	2♦	3♣	All Pass																									
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<p>♠ K75 ♥ A9875 ♦ KQ ♣ J96</p> <p>♠ 104                      ♠ 8632 ♥ K632                      ♥ QJ ♦ A854                      ♦ J1097 ♣ Q103                      ♣ K54</p> <p>♠ AQJ9 ♥ 104 ♦ 632 ♣ A872</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>7</td><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	13		N	2	-	2	2	1	9	7	S	2	-	2	2	1			E	-	1	-	-	-	11		W	-	1	-	-	-	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th style="text-align: left;">West</th><th style="text-align: left;">North</th><th style="text-align: left;">East</th><th style="text-align: left;">South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>A rebid of 2♥ after 1♥-1♠ normally promises a six-card suit, given that so many alternative actions are available, in which case the viable alternatives are 2♠ or 2♣ (this at least promises five hearts without absolutely guaranteeing a four-card club suit, by most peoples' book). South has the values for a fourth-suit-forcing 2♦ bid and 2♠ then describes North's hand very well. The winning action is now for South to pass, as partner has refused to show any additional values. He has a ruffing value in the short trump hand, which is critical, allowing him to score five trump tricks and one trick in the other three suits.</p> <p>+110 to NS will be a popular score – and a good one. But some may go overboard.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	All Pass	
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<p>♠ 54 ♥ Q7 ♦ K763 ♣ A9872</p> <p>♠ AK98                      ♠ Q762 ♥ AJ83                      ♥ 6542 ♦ J102                      ♦ 984 ♣ 63                      ♣ 105</p> <p>♠ J103 ♥ K109 ♦ AQ5 ♣ KQJ4</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>2</td><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	9		N	4	4	1	1	2	13	2	S	4	4	1	1	2			E	-	-	-	-	-	16		W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th style="text-align: left;">West</th><th style="text-align: left;">North</th><th style="text-align: left;">East</th><th style="text-align: left;">South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1♣</td></tr> <tr><td>Dbl</td><td>Redble</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>1♥</td><td>2♣</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Most red-blooded Wests will double 1♣ for TO, holding both majors. What should North bid after 1♣-(Dbl)? The choices are realistically 1♦, 2♣, 3♣ or redouble (1NT is an unnecessary distortion). Of the suggested choices, 1♦ is perhaps a distraction and 2♣ an underbid. He has the values for 3♣ but it does no harm to start with a minimum redouble, provided he's careful to limit his hand strictly thereafter.</p> <p>To be honest, it's likely that whatever action North takes, his partner is liable to risk 3NT, which has 5 top losers. What might stop him doing so is his spade holding. The slight saving grace is that the defence has only one chance to cash 5 tricks – and accidents do happen. NS scores will vary between -50, +130 and a very lucky +400 (perhaps not many of the latter).</p>	West	North	East	South				1♣	Dbl	Redble	Pass	Pass	1♥	2♣	All Pass	
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<p>♠ 9653 ♥ K72 ♦ Q1082 ♣ Q6</p> <p>♠ 42                      ♠ AKJ87 ♥ 53                      ♥ A10 ♦ K9654                      ♦ A ♣ 8742                      ♣ AJ953</p> <p>♠ Q10 ♥ QJ9864 ♦ J73 ♣ K10</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>21</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	7		N	-	-	1	-	-	3	21	S	-	-	1	-	-			E	5	3	-	4	1	9		W	5	3	-	4	1	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th style="text-align: left;">West</th><th style="text-align: left;">North</th><th style="text-align: left;">East</th><th style="text-align: left;">South</th></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td><td>2♥</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>4♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♣</td><td>All Pass</td></tr> </table> <p>The only certainty here is that 5♣ will make. So will 4♠, thanks to Q10 of trumps dropping, if that's how declarer chooses to play. However, EW have to get to either contract and that's no mean task. On balance, East really has to open 2♣ with loads of points and two promising 5-card suits but after that, nothing is guaranteed. South may or may not intervene but that hardly affects things. So long as East is able to advance 2♠ the bid has to be regarded as forcing after a 2♣ opener and partner will thus keep the bidding open with 2NT or 3♦, according to partnership agreement and to judgment. If the answer is 3♦ there are two options: the losing one of 3NT and the winning one of 4♣. A field comprised entirely of experts would have trouble with this deal, so let's just say that anyone making game deserves a good score – if only for bravery – and anyone who doesn't shouldn't feel ashamed.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	2♣	2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass
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<p>♠ Q1087 ♥ K7 ♦ A743 ♣ 1043</p> <p>♠ 62                      ♠ AJ5 ♥ AQ1083                ♥ 96 ♦ 86                        ♦ KQJ9 ♣ AK85                    ♣ Q976</p> <p>♠ K943 ♥ J542 ♦ 1052 ♣ J2</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </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>After the agonies of the previous few boards, EW at least will be glad of a routine offering to steady the nerves and take a wee bit of a pause. The bidding will vary only in accordance with system.</p> <p>The trouble is, 3NT is on a knife edge after the likely low spade lead. With the suit appearing to be divided 4-4, it matters little whether declarer holds up or not. He will hope to have 6 top tricks outside of diamonds, 10 altogether if South holds King, Jack and another heart and 9 if he relies on diamonds and spades both behaving. So the best option, clearly, is to use club entries to lead up to the diamond suit twice. North can still make life difficult by ducking his diamond Ace twice, so as far as East is concerned, the hand is then just as stressful as the previous few! I fancy, however, that +400 to EW will be above average but not hugely so.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass																																		
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<p>♠ K9 ♥ J862 ♦ Q72 ♣ K872</p> <p>♠ A1085                      ♠ Q ♥ AQ9753                    ♥ 104 ♦ A8                            ♦ K943 ♣ 6                              ♣ A109543</p> <p>♠ J76432 ♥ K ♦ J1065 ♣ QJ</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>East might decide to respond 2♣ to partner's opening bid, rather than 1NT: either response is a little flawed but doesn't alter the question of what to do when partner rebids 2♥. 2♥ is a little heavy with that shape and trick potential but equally, 3♥ could easily prove to be over-optimistic. The only likely route to game is for East to respond 2♣ to 1♥ and for West to take a flier with a forcing 3♥ rebid. Once in game, the hand plays well. Declarer can plan to ruff two spades in dummy (it doesn't help North to ruff in ahead of dummy on the second round of spades because that sacrifices a trump trick) and claim 10 tricks losing only one spade and two trumps. Even 11 tricks are makeable double-dummy but anyone getting to game is going to be very pleased with +620. And a goodly number will find themselves short of that target.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	All Pass																																		
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<p>♠ Q105 ♥ AK ♦ J97652 ♣ Q5</p> <p>♠ AK763                      ♠ J842 ♥ Q73                        ♥ 542 ♦ K43                        ♦ Q10 ♣ A6                         ♣ 10972</p> <p>♠ 9 ♥ J10986 ♦ A8 ♣ KJ843</p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Here's yet another auction which may very well not go as indicated. Supposing North can't resist the 2♦ overcall, East will do remarkably well to find a 2♠ raise on such slender values and West equally well not to then make a game try. And if East passes and 2♦ comes back to West he has an awkward choice between pass, double and 2♠. The last mentioned should really be more shapely (certainly including a six-card suit) but AK to five is better than nothing, so to speak, where pass is a little supine. Who knows? It does seem likely that some of the field will find themselves in 2♠, where North can make life comparatively easy by cashing his top hearts: failing that it'll be a struggle anyway, but not without hope. By contrast, 2♦ by North is fairly straightforward, but +90 doesn't score as well as defending for +100. Meaning another tortuous struggle for match points.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♠	2♦	Pass	Pass	2♠	All Pass																																		
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<p>♠ A8 ♥ A9 ♦ AQ84 ♣ K10765</p> <p>♠ 642                      ♠ KQJ103 ♥ 10852                    ♥ KQJ7 ♦ 1073                      ♦ K2 ♣ A84                        ♣ 32</p> <p>♠ 975 ♥ 643 ♦ J965 ♣ QJ9</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>15</td><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>4</td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	17		N	3	3	-	-	1	4	15	S	3	3	-	-	1			E	-	-	3	2	-		4	W	-	-	3	2	-	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><th style="text-align: left;">West</th><th style="text-align: left;">North</th><th style="text-align: left;">East</th><th style="text-align: left;">South</th></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♣</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="4">All Pass</td></tr> </table> <p>North's rebid after the start shown is tricky: he can't sensibly double with only two hearts in his hand so the only alternative to 2♦ is 1NT. South would certainly pass that but if a 2♦ reverse bid is preferred he has to trust partner to not get over-excited by a 3♦ raise (unless he has a very big hand, of course): the point is that with decent values, South would surely bid an encouraging, 2♠ rather than 3♦.</p> <p>As EW can make 2♠ in reasonable comfort (or even 3♥ if they find their way there) 3♦ figures to score very well for NS. It's therefore important to get trumps right and the percentage play on the bidding is to start with Ace and another: phew!</p> <p>As it happens 3♣ is equally successful and should make the same excellent score.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♣	1♠	Pass	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦	All Pass			
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<p>♠ J743 ♥ K3 ♦ A10842 ♣ 106</p> <p>♠ Q2                        ♠ K5 ♥ Q652                    ♥ 10874 ♦ Q3                        ♦ KJ97 ♣ AK874                  ♣ J95</p> <p>♠ A10986 ♥ AJ9 ♦ 65 ♣ Q32</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>8</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>11</td><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	8		N	-	1	-	3	-	13	8	S	-	1	-	3	-			E	2	-	2	-	-		11	W	2	-	2	-	-	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><th style="text-align: left;">West</th><th style="text-align: left;">North</th><th style="text-align: left;">East</th><th style="text-align: left;">South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td></tr> <tr><td>2♣</td><td>2♠</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>At last an auction which is reasonably easy to predict. South will surely open third in hand. He has acceptable values and it's important to lay claim to the highest-scoring suit. West can't sensibly double this in case partner bids diamonds, leaving him stuck (2♥ now would certainly show extra values). The only alternative for West is to bid 2♣ – a tad under-strength in all respects, as Queen of spades is a dubious asset. North has an easy 2♠ bid: he is just about worth 3♠ but is in no hurry to bid it in case the hand can be won cheaply, and if South has a very good hand he can always show it with 3♣. In fact East will be the one to bid 3♣, not wishing to sell out cheaply. It then falls to North to compete to 3♠ and that will surely complete the auction, as neither East nor West would wish to contemplate 4♣ doubled. Thanks to the fortunate lie of the trump suit, 3♠ is an easy make, so +140 to NS is likely to be a well-nigh universal score – unless anyone is rash enough to double it...</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♠	2♣	2♠	3♣	Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass	
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<p>♠ - ♥ K87643 ♦ K95 ♣ AQ108</p> <p>♠ 743                        ♠ AJ1085 ♥ Q5                        ♥ J2 ♦ 106                        ♦ J842 ♣ J97652                  ♣ K3</p> <p>♠ KQ962 ♥ A109 ♦ AQ73 ♣ 4</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>7</td><td>3</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>10</td><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>7</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>15</td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	12		N	3	5	7	3	6	3	10	S	3	5	7	3	5			E	-	-	-	-	-		15	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><th style="text-align: left;">West</th><th style="text-align: left;">North</th><th style="text-align: left;">East</th><th style="text-align: left;">South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♣</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>4NT</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>5♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>6♥</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="4">All Pass</td></tr> </table> <p>South's rebid is critical: 3♦ is a possibility but he should realise that such a bid may leave partner awkwardly placed: a splinter bid of 4♣ should ideally boast a fourth heart but opposite a suit of 5+ cards it may well be what partner most wants to hear. Do you routinely cue-bid below game to show first or second controls? If not, consider it: without such an arrangement here, for instance, a vital descriptive bid would be lost. If South chooses to cue-bid a spade control similarly here, note that it can't be a natural sign-off as hearts have been agreed as trumps. In fact a RKCB 4NT is an acceptable alternative, leading to a 5♥ response: it matters little which hand takes charge: 6♥ (making 7 easily when trumps divide 2-2) will be a common end-spot. Any falling short of slam will need to look at their methods.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass			
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<p>♠ A10872 ♥ 109 ♦ A1062 ♣ A7</p> <p>♠ 43                      ♠ QJ6 ♥ Q2                      ♥ AK876 ♦ 83                        ♦ K9 ♣ KQ98642              ♣ J53</p> <p>♠ K95 ♥ J543 ♦ QJ754 ♣ 10</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>14</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	12		N	-	3	-	3	-	7	14	S	-	3	-	3	-			E	3	-	2	-	-	7		W	3	-	2	-	-	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th style="width: 25%;">West</th><th style="width: 25%;">North</th><th style="width: 25%;">East</th><th style="width: 25%;">South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>3♣</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>With the diamonds finesse failing, 3♠ is the limit of the hand. You may argue that both North and South should be stronger for the actions they have taken but there are occasions where it's right to be wrong. Pre-empts are designed to make life difficult for the opponents: North would be wrong to pass meekly – he has a tolerable suit and three Aces. Although North has been forced to stretch, South can't risk a pass in case partner has a better hand than on this occasion. So the un-makeable 50% game is reached. It's 50% because West may hold King of diamonds rather than Queen of hearts.</p> <p>Some cautious Cuthberts will land on a pin-head and score up a fine +140. However, if I were a team captain I would rather have a pair who went for -50 as team-mates, in the long run. Hopefully it won't score too badly here, as a few EW pairs might even be allowed to chalk up +110 in 3♣.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	3♣	3♠	Pass	4♠
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<p>♠ - ♥ 1075 ♦ 10642 ♣ Q108752</p> <p>♠ Q84                      ♠ 10763 ♥ J432                      ♥ Q8 ♦ J87                        ♦ AKQ9 ♣ KJ4                      ♣ A93</p> <p>♠ AKJ952 ♥ AK96 ♦ 53 ♣ 6</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>15</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	2		N	-	-	2	1	-	8	15	S	-	-	2	1	-			E	-	1	-	-	1	15		W	-	1	-	-	1	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th style="width: 25%;">West</th><th style="width: 25%;">North</th><th style="width: 25%;">East</th><th style="width: 25%;">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>Pass</td><td>2♠</td></tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>East shouldn't be afraid to open 1♠ rather than 1♦ (unless playing 5-card majors, of course); 1♠ typically shows either a 5-card suit or 15+ HCPs. It happens to work a treat here as South is obliged to pass: what else can he do? And if West prefers a 2♠ raise to 1NT, he could opt to pass again and hope to take as many +50s as are going (probably just one of them). The really interesting point is: what does South's delayed bit of 2♠ here actually mean? Experienced pairs would surely treat this as showing South's actual hand, more or less. On many occasions 2♠ would be making – unluckily, not here. However, 2♠ is unlikely to be doubled for penalties, in which case it constitutes a potential save against EW's 1NT contract, which can make easily if declarer plays hearts to advantage rather than taking a losing club finesse: unlucky again because +100 outscores +90. The really important thing is to discuss this bidding problem, if it arises, and agree a method for the future.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass	2♠
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																										
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																						
2		N	-	-	2	1	-																																																					
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1NT	Pass	Pass	2♠																																																									

<p>♠ K96 ♥ K82 ♦ KQJ8 ♣ J102</p> <p>♠ A87532                      ♠ J4 ♥ A                              ♥ J1096 ♦ 54                              ♦ 103 ♣ 8763                        ♣ KQ954</p> <p>♠ Q10 ♥ Q7543 ♦ A9762 ♣ A</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>7</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	13		N	-	5	4	-	1	8	7	S	-	5	4	-	1			E	2	-	-	1	-	12		W	2	-	-	1	-	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th style="width: 25%;">West</th><th style="width: 25%;">North</th><th style="width: 25%;">East</th><th style="width: 25%;">South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Everything is obvious up to North's final bid (except possibly that some exuberant Wests might fancy butting in with 2♠, which won't affect the outcome). With his flat hand, it might be tempting for North to consider 3NT but this would be a serious error. Partner has gone out of his way to suggest a hand with some shape to it: NTs is rarely if ever the best option when a known double fit exists. It only remains to add that we're playing pairs here, so the heart fit should always be preferred to the diamonds, in terms of final contract.</p> <p>The proof of the pudding is in the eating, as they say. 3NT on a low club lead would be an unmitigated disaster. Even leading the King would be almost as bad for declarer. Hopefully, most pairs will get this hand right – or will learn a useful if painful lesson if they get it wrong!</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																														
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<p>♠ 87 ♥ Q1095 ♦ KJ102 ♣ K108</p> <p>♠ 10642                      ♠ K9 ♥ J8                              ♥ K74 ♦ Q74                            ♦ A853 ♣ A964                        ♣ QJ53</p> <p>♠ AQJ53 ♥ A632 ♦ 96 ♣ 72</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">11</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>2</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>2</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		9	13	7	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	2	4	3	2	S	1	2	4	3	2	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>This hand illustrates perfectly why it is so essential to have in your defensive armoury a bid over 1NT to show both majors. Here, for instance, if no such agreement is in place, South will be obliged to overcall 2♠ or even to pass: it's easy to see that 2♠ will produce a pass from partner, whilst defending 1NT is going to produce a wholly inadequate plus score. However, if North knows of both major suits opposite (which may be done in a variety of ways according to system choice) he will clearly opt for hearts and will invite game with a 3♥ bid. Bidding game outright would be wild as partner is also known to lack the values to double 1NT for penalties. Should South go to game after partner's 3♥? It's very close but he has nothing to spare in high cards and has two doubletons rather than a singleton. So at pairs, a pass is prudent unless desperate for a top. OK, here 4♥ makes but only because all key cards are well placed. +170 should provide a decent score if not an exciting one.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	3♥	All Pass	2♣
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<p>♠ Q9532 ♥ K105 ♦ AQ10 ♣ Q7</p> <p>♠ A8                              ♠ 10764 ♥ AQJ4                        ♥ 92 ♦ 976                            ♦ J83 ♣ A986                        ♣ 5432</p> <p>♠ KJ ♥ 8763 ♦ K542 ♣ KJ10</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td style="text-align: center;">11</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</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		13	1	15	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	3	3	2	3	S	1	3	3	2	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>North's spade suit is poor but then, a one-level overcall promises <i>either</i> a decent suit or a decent hand (if by no means both). Here South has a largely unexciting hand but the values suggest a possible game somewhere (and spades look to be a serious option) if partner has extra values. Bear in mind that a simple overcall is usually played as up to 16 HCPs. So the answer is for South to make a so-called unassuming cue bid of 2♥, agreeing spades. North might have a problem deciding on his next move over a UCB (the usual action is to repeat his suit with a poor-ish hand or to invite game if appropriate by making a trial bid in an outside suit), were it not for the fact that here, South is known to be a passed hand. That surely dampens any enthusiasm so the partscore only is reached. Well, it's certainly true that 2♠ is likely to make only 8 tricks against best defence, but what about other possibilities? Due to the very fortunate lie in hearts, NTs produce 9 tricks after a good guess in diamonds. Anyone playing 3NT (or even 2NT) will score miraculously well.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass	Pass
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<p>♠ J753 ♥ 1064 ♦ 974 ♣ K108</p> <p>♠ Q1042                      ♠ AK98 ♥ QJ                            ♥ 985 ♦ Q8652                    ♦ AK10 ♣ 93                            ♣ 654</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ AK732 ♦ J3 ♣ AQJ72</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">14</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">15</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		4	14	7	15	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	-	4	-	-	S	4	-	4	-	-	E	-	3	-	3	-	W	-	3	-	3	-	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>DbI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Another test of defensive methods against 1NT. Some have a gadget whereby 2♣ shows either a single-suiter with diamonds or a good major-minor two-suiter 5-5, and 2♦ shows both majors 5-4 either way (in the former case North would have to relay with 2♦ in case that was partner's single suit, or to act accordingly if partner bids (as here) 2♥ to show hearts and a minor. Assuming that such a convention is not on the card, the only choices are 2♥ (dangerous if partner passes with little to go on) or a slightly off-centre double to show good values (one can then bid the major later if judged appropriate. (Note that a bigger hand would venture 3♥ so North has an easy pass.) It's true that 4♥ can be made here by dropping the doubleton QJ of trumps but that's scarcely with the odds. What's wrong with a nice +170 to finish?</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1NT	DbI	2♦	Pass	Pass	2♥	All Pass			
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