

# ECatsBridge Simultaneous Pairs for Children in Need Monday 9 November 2020



## Together we can ...

... and by competing in this Virtual Simultaneous Pairs you have certainly shown that **together we can indeed do something to help make a difference** to children who really need our help.

Mark and I do hope you enjoyed it despite the very strange environment and world we find ourselves in!

Thank you so so much for coming along and joining in, playing and donating – please don't forget the donating bit though, will you – just go to :

<https://www.ecatsbridge.com/donate/>

and you will see how you can do it – if you haven't already done so of course!

We ask for £3 per player but if you can spare more please top it up a bit ! Then at the end of it all we can send a nice big cheque through to CiN.

You will notice this commentary is for 32 boards – we had set it up before the onset of COVID, and decided to leave it with all the boards and commentary so you could enjoy it even if you didn't play them all ! Our thanks to Brian Senior for writing this set for us – I hope you found it interesting (and accurate!).

Take care won't you and stay safe

*Anna & Mark*

### Board 1. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

♠ K 10		
♥ J 10 6 5 3		
♦ 7 6 3 2		
♣ 8 4		
♠ 9 7 6		♠ A J 8 2
♥ K 8 2		♥ Q 7 4
♦ A Q 5 4		♦ J 10
♣ J 5 3		♣ K 9 7 2
	♠ Q 5 4 3	
	♥ A 9	
	♦ K 9 8	
	♣ A Q 10 6	

E/W can come to nine tricks in a NT contract thanks to the friendly lie of the cards, yet will often not get into the bidding at all. If East passes, South may open INT and play in 2♥ after a transfer from North. That is only down one for an excellent result. If South opens 1♣, North should respond 1♥ and repeat the hearts if South rebids INT. If South opens 1♣ and is left to play there, he will find the play rather challenging.

### Board 2. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

		♠ Q 8 7
		♥ Q J
		♦ 8 7 4 2
		♣ 10 9 8 6
♠ A J 4 2		♠ K 6 5
♥ K 9 2		♥ 8 7 6 5 3
♦ J 9 6		♦ 10 3
♣ Q 7 2		♣ A K 3
	♠ 10 9 3	
	♥ A 10 4	
	♦ A K Q 5	
	♣ J 5 4	

If South opens INT, that will usually end the auction. After a likely spade lead, the defence should come to seven tricks for down one. Two of a minor should also fail by a trick for – 100. E/W can make 2♥ if they can find a pathway to that contract. One possibility is that if South opens 1♣/♦ and North raises to 2♣/♦, there may be two passes to West, who could make a balancing double and East bid 2♥.

The ECatsBridge Team are Anna Gudge & Mark Newton

Mill Cottage Voy  
Stromness, Orkney KW16 3HX  
Tel: 01787 881920

Email: [anna@ecats.co.uk](mailto:anna@ecats.co.uk) \*\*\*\* Website: <https://www.ecatsbridge.com/>

### Board 3. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

♠ Q 7		
♥ K Q J 9 5		
♦ A K 10 2		
♣ 4 3		
♠ A K 6		♠ J 8 5 4
♥ A 7 3		♥ 10 6 4
♦ Q 5 3		♦ 9 8 6 4
♣ A J 7 5		♣ Q 8
♠ 10 9 3 2		
♥ 8 2		
♦ J 7		
♣ K 10 9 6 2		

West opens 1♣ and rebids INT when North's 1♥ overcall comes back around. North may compete with 2♦, and South's preference to 2♥ should be down one. If West plays INT, this can be made double dummy – win the heart, cash three spades then two clubs via the finesse, and finally exit with a heart and get a diamond at the end. But the alternative attractive line of leading low towards the ♣Q leads to down two when South turns up with the king.

### Board 4. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

	♠ A Q J 4 3	
	♥ J 8 4	
	♦ Q J 5	
	♣ 9 2	
♠ 9 6		♠ K 8 7 5 2
♥ A 10 6 2		♥ K Q
♦ K 8 7 4		♦ A 9 6
♣ 10 5 3		♣ Q 8 4
	♠ 10	
	♥ 9 7 5 3	
	♦ 10 3 2	
	♣ A K J 7 6	

Who can make INT? Well, nobody can at double dummy. In practice...

Say that North opens 1♠ and South plays INT. If the defence play on diamonds, that sets up declarer's seventh trick. Or if North opens INT and plays there, a spade lead gives the contract. If East is declarer? South cashes a top club and must switch to a diamond, not a heart, to beat the contract. And West? On a spade lead put up the king and live happily ever after.

### Board 5. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S

	♠ A K 9 7	
	♥ 8 7 3 2	
	♦ J 9 3	
	♣ 6 4	
♠ 10 3		♠ J 8 6 5
♥ A K J 9 4		♥ 6
♦ K 8 7 2		♦ A 6 5 4
♣ K J		♣ A Q 10 2
	♠ Q 4 2	
	♥ Q 10 5	
	♦ Q 10	
	♣ 9 8 7 5 3	

Most Easts will open, non-vulnerable, with 1♣ the popular choice. It may continue 1♥ – 1♠ – 2♦ – 3♦ – 3NT, where West used FSF to check back for a five-three heart fit then settled in 3NT. With that beautiful heart layout, there are 11 tricks unless the defence cashes three spades immediately. They probably should do so, as North has no attractive alternative to a spade lead – I would choose the ♠A.

### Board 6. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

	♠ Q J 6 3	
	♥ K 10 9 6	
	♦ J 7 6	
	♣ K 9	
♠ 9 7 2		♠ A K 10 8 5
♥ 8 7 4 2		♥ A Q J
♦ 9 8		♦ Q 5 4 3 2
♣ A J 8 4		♣ —
	♠ 4	
	♥ 5 3	
	♦ A K 10	
	♣ Q 10 7 6 5 3 2	

This could go in many different ways. The deal belongs to E/W, who can make 3♠, while South is held to eight tricks in a club contract. East opens 1♠ and South may overcall 2♣ or a pre-emptive 3♣. Either would get a reopening double from East if West and North both passed, but West might bid 2♠ if facing a known five-card suit, and that might see East bid 4♠ and go down. If West passes, North might bid 2NT facing a 2♣ overcall. South bids 3♣, East doubles that, and maybe West leaves it in.

### Board 7. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

<p>♠ Q 7 ♥ K 10 2 ♦ K J 9 8 2 ♣ K Q 4</p>	<p>♠ J 8 6 ♥ A 9 6 5 4 ♦ Q 10 5 4 ♣ 8</p>	<p>♠ A 10 4 ♥ J 7 3 ♦ 7 6 ♣ A 10 9 6 3</p>
	<p>♠ K 9 5 3 2 ♥ Q 8 ♦ A 3 ♣ J 7 5 2</p>	

In theory, N/S can make nothing, though I can imagine soft defence permitting seven or eight tricks in a spade contract. That may prove to be academic, with West opening INT and playing there at many tables, N/S being dissuaded by the vulnerability from competing. It is far from clear how many tricks declarer will come to. Double dummy, eight tricks are possible, but that may be easier to say than to do.

### Board 8. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

<p>♠ K 5 ♥ Q J 3 ♦ K 7 3 2 ♣ A K 7 6</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 8 7 4 2 ♥ K 9 7 6 ♦ — ♣ J 9 4</p>	<p>♠ A J 6 ♥ A 10 8 ♦ A Q 9 8 6 5 ♣ 3</p>
	<p>♠ 9 3 ♥ 5 4 2 ♦ J 10 4 ♣ Q 10 8 5 2</p>	

E/W have a choice of grand slams on the heart finesse but are more likely to stop in one of the cold small slams, 6NT rather than 6♦ being worth quite a few matchpoints, I would think, as it should be easy to get to six of something once West shows a strong NT type. A spade overcall from North should not matter. If anything, it will encourage East even more thanks to the useful spade holding over the bidder.

### Board 9. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

<p>♠ A 8 7 4 ♥ A K 5 ♦ A Q 10 6 ♣ K 8</p>	<p>♠ K 9 6 5 ♥ Q 8 7 2 ♦ 2 ♣ Q 10 9 7</p>	<p>♠ 2 ♥ 10 9 4 ♦ J 8 7 5 ♣ A J 6 4 3</p>
	<p>♠ Q J 10 3 ♥ J 6 3 ♦ K 9 4 3 ♣ 5 2</p>	

E/W can make 6♦, though they are unlikely to bid it and declarer will need to take the club finesse to have a chance of success. Far more likely is that West will open 2NT and play in 3NT, against which North will lead one of the majors, probably a spade, as East will not have used Stayman so probably has some minor-suit length. To make nine tricks, declarer will need to take the club finesse, but in practice may lead to the ♣A and play the ♦J banking on diamonds three-two with the king onside – down one.

### Board 10. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

<p>♠ J 9 7 4 ♥ 6 5 4 3 2 ♦ 9 6 ♣ 9 3</p>	<p>♠ A Q 2 ♥ J 9 7 ♦ 7 4 ♣ Q 8 7 5 2</p>	<p>♠ K 8 6 5 3 ♥ A K ♦ 10 8 2 ♣ A K J</p>
	<p>♠ 10 ♥ Q 10 8 ♦ A K Q J 5 3 ♣ 10 6 4</p>	

East will open 1♠ and South overcall 2♦. West may feel that he is too weak to support spades, particularly when vulnerable, but East's reopening double gets the partnership to a spade partscore and nine tricks are fairly straightforward, North getting an over-ruff of the third diamond plus the ace of spades.

### Board 11. Dealer South. Vulnerability None

<p>♠ Q 6 ♥ J 5 ♦ K Q 7 5 4 2 ♣ A K 10</p> <p>♠ A J ♥ A K 10 6 ♦ 8 ♣ J 9 6 5 4 2</p>	<p>♠ K 5 3 ♥ Q 9 7 4 ♦ J 10 6 ♣ Q 8 3</p>
---	---

  

<p>♠ 10 9 8 7 4 2 ♥ 8 3 2 ♦ A 9 3 ♣ 7</p>	
---	--

If South passes as dealer, West opens 1♣, North overcalls 1♦ and East bids 1♥. South may now venture 1♠, but E/W are likely to buy the hand in a heart partscore. The favourable heart split means that the defence had better take its club ruff or even 10 tricks are possible.

Of course, I would open a rather delicate weak 2♠ as South, which may not be to everyone's taste, and that leads to a quite different auction.

### Board 12. Dealer West. Vulnerability N/S

<p>♠ K 8 ♥ A 9 6 ♦ 8 7 6 5 2 ♣ A 9 2</p> <p>♠ 10 5 3 2 ♥ 10 8 2 ♦ A 10 4 ♣ 8 6 4</p>	<p>♠ A 6 ♥ K Q 5 ♦ K 9 3 ♣ K Q 10 5 3</p>
--	---

  

<p>♠ Q J 9 7 4 ♥ J 7 4 3 ♦ Q J ♣ J 7</p>	
--	--

I would not open the KAA hand, particularly when vulnerable. Neither a weak NT nor 1♦ on an eight-high suit appeals, so East would get to open. If East opens 1NT that should be that, and the perfect layout provides 10 tricks if declarer plays clubs from the top. A 1♣ opening, however, lets N/S in. Now it is unclear what might be the outcome, but N/S can make nothing on accurate defence, and – 200, or worse, is a live possibility.

### Board 13. Dealer North. Vulnerability All

<p>♠ 6 4 3 ♥ K Q 6 ♦ A 9 6 2 ♣ Q 6 3</p> <p>♠ 10 9 2 ♥ J 5 ♦ K Q 10 8 7 4 ♣ 10 5</p>	<p>♠ J 5 ♥ A 9 8 7 3 2 ♦ J 5 3 ♣ 7 4</p> <p>♠ A K Q 8 7 ♥ 10 4 ♦ — ♣ A K J 9 8 2</p>
--	--

N/S have a choice of small slams, with a slightly unlikely 6NT being the top spot once spades split three-two. 6♣ is more secure, however, having chances even with a bad spade split.

I would open the South hand with 1♣, assuming two passes, as shapely hands usually do best to start bidding suits before the pre-emption begins. Here, 2♣ – (2♦) – Dble – (3♦) is not a great start for South. Open 1♣ and bid spades at whatever level is required and South is comfortable.

### Board 14. Dealer East. Vulnerability None

<p>♠ A 10 8 5 2 ♥ A J 7 3 ♦ K 8 3 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ J 6 ♥ Q 10 9 6 2 ♦ 10 9 6 ♣ J 8 4</p>	<p>♠ 7 4 ♥ K 8 5 4 ♦ A Q J 5 ♣ Q 9 5</p> <p>♠ K Q 9 3 ♥ — ♦ 7 4 2 ♣ A K 10 7 3 2</p>
--	--

If East opens 1NT, South may not be able to show this hand pattern as 2♣ may be artificial. No matter – if he jumps to 3♣, North bids 3♠ and South raises to game. East has to cash the ♦A or he doesn't get it, declarer making all 13 tricks. A 1♣ opening from East is probably the most awkward for South, who may have to pass, but North has a 1♠ overcall so no harm is done.

### Board 15. Dealer South. Vulnerability N/S

<p>♠ J 6 3 ♥ 8 ♦ Q 10 5 ♣ K J 7 6 4 3</p> <p>♠ 10 8 7 5 ♥ A Q 10 6 ♦ K 6 4 2 ♣ 9</p>	<p>♠ K 9 4 ♥ J 9 4 2 ♦ 9 3 ♣ A Q 5 2</p>
<p>♠ A Q 2 ♥ K 7 5 3 ♦ A J 8 7 ♣ 10 8</p>	

If South opens INT, West may be unable to bid as he has only four-four shape and even most artificial methods require at least five-four. North should transfer to clubs – not just because 3♣ may be a better contract than INT, but also shut out the possible competition. On the actual deal, 3♣ is beaten by a diamond ruff, but INT does worse after a spade lead. That would be my choice of the three four-card suits as it is the one that is least likely to cost a trick.

### Board 16. Dealer West. Vulnerability E/W

<p>♠ 9 8 7 6 3 ♥ 8 7 2 ♦ 9 4 3 ♣ K 10</p> <p>♠ K Q 10 2 ♥ 3 ♦ Q J 8 ♣ A 7 5 3 2</p>	<p>♠ A 5 4 ♥ K Q J ♦ 10 7 2 ♣ J 9 8 6</p>
<p>♠ J ♥ A 10 9 6 5 4 ♦ A K 6 5 ♣ Q 4</p>	

If West opens an Acol 1♣, East may raise to 3♣ and South overcall 3♥. West may go on to 4♣ now but this is down one. If he passes it round to partner, East may double on his three tricks, and that is down one. If 1♣ doesn't promise clubs, East may make an inverted raise, 2♣ invitational-plus, and South bid 2♥. Now West has an easy 3♣ bid, minimum but genuine clubs, or East may respond INT or 2NT. South will always overcall, I would think.

### Board 17. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

<p>♠ K Q J 6 ♥ K J 8 ♦ 10 6 5 ♣ J 10 5</p> <p>♠ A 5 4 ♥ 9 6 ♦ A Q 8 7 ♣ Q 9 4 2</p>	<p>♠ 9 7 ♥ A 10 5 2 ♦ K J 4 ♣ A 8 7 3</p>
<p>♠ 10 8 3 2 ♥ Q 7 4 3 ♦ 9 3 2 ♣ K 6</p>	

E/W are cold for 3NT, Left to themselves, they will often get there, though some will stop in 2NT. But, at this vulnerability, I think North should upgrade to a weak NT – the intermediates and honour combinations are good – and that may go All Pass. A club lead gets the contract down three, the same as if E/W had declared 2NT+1, but a heart lead means a minimum of five tricks for declarer and a huge result.

### Board 18. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

<p>♠ K 7 ♥ K J 6 2 ♦ Q 7 ♣ J 10 6 3 2</p> <p>♠ 10 5 4 3 ♥ A 7 ♦ J 10 9 8 6 4 ♣ 8</p>	<p>♠ 6 ♥ Q 10 9 8 4 ♦ 3 ♣ A K 9 7 5 4</p>
<p>♠ A Q J 9 8 2 ♥ 5 3 ♦ A K 5 2 ♣ Q</p>	

Should East open the bidding and if so with what? I would say no, as the suits are in the wrong order to show both comfortably. However, if East passes, it will often be possible to make some kind of two-suited overcall to get the hand across. If North bids the clubs, East may judge to stay out of it. N/S can make either 4♠ or 4NT, probably choosing the former more often than not.

### Board 19. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

<p>♠ K 9 6 3 ♥ 7 6 5 4 ♦ K 8 2 ♣ J 4</p> <p>♠ 10 7 ♥ A 8 2 ♦ A 10 6 5 ♣ A 9 8 7</p>	<p>♠ 8 5 ♥ K Q J 10 9 ♦ J 9 ♣ K Q 5 3</p> <p>♠ A Q J 4 2 ♥ 3 ♦ Q 7 4 3 ♣ 10 6 2</p>
---	---

If West opens INT, East will transfer to hearts and, if left to themselves, E/W will bid and make 4♥ for +620. But South might and, in my opinion, should overcall 2♠ at favourable vulnerability and now North will take one look at the vulnerability and save in 4♠ when the opposition get to 4♥. That costs only -300, and gains a lot of matchpoints, while if E/W gamble by taking the push to 5♥, that contract is doomed to failure.

### Board 20. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

<p>♠ 10 8 ♥ A K 10 9 6 ♦ 9 6 5 ♣ A 9 8</p> <p>♠ K 9 7 6 4 ♥ 3 ♦ K J 7 ♣ Q 7 3 2</p>	<p>♠ A 3 ♥ Q 8 ♦ Q 10 4 3 ♣ K J 10 6 5</p> <p>♠ Q J 5 2 ♥ J 7 5 4 2 ♦ A 8 2 ♣ 4</p>
---	---

Some will open the North hand, some will pass. Where North opens 1♥, East will probably overcall 2♣ and South raise to 4♥. That will bully West into bidding 5♣, perhaps one higher than he would have liked, and that is down one. That may not be so bad, as it takes three rounds of spades to beat 4♥, and if West has not bid the suit why should East lead it? If North passes at his first turn, the bidding will not get so high quite so quickly.

### Board 21. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S

<p>♠ J 9 3 ♥ A J 9 6 ♦ Q 8 5 3 2 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ A K 8 6 ♥ Q 10 ♦ 9 4 ♣ K J 10 9 2</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 7 4 2 ♥ 8 7 2 ♦ — ♣ A Q 8 5 4</p> <p>♠ 5 ♥ K 5 4 3 ♦ A K J 10 7 6 ♣ 6 3</p>
---	---

The big double fit means that N/S make 5♦, while E/W make 5♣. They also make 5♠, but that suit may get lost in the wash. If South opens 1♦ and West overcalls 2♣, North just knows a club raise is coming from East, so he makes the most descriptive diamond raise he can – a 4♣ splinter bid. East may in turn cuebid 4♦, but now it is routine for South to bid 5♦. Now East should bid again. 5♠ is the big, big winner, but 6♣ is still a big improvement.

### Board 22. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

<p>♠ J 7 5 ♥ 9 6 ♦ K ♣ A K Q 10 4 3 2</p> <p>♠ A 9 4 ♥ 10 5 3 ♦ Q J 10 6 3 ♣ 8 5</p>	<p>♠ Q 8 3 ♥ A J 8 7 4 ♦ A 2 ♣ J 9 7</p> <p>♠ K 10 6 2 ♥ K Q 2 ♦ 9 8 7 5 4 ♣ 6</p>
--	--

If East opens INT, there will be two passes to North. If North could be sure to get a club lead, he would double, but he knows he will not get a club lead. Probably, he overcalls 3♣ and is left to play there and can come to an overtrick with a winning spade guess. If North chooses to defend INT because of the vulnerability, South will lead a diamond. Playing low with the intention to play ace and another nets a bonus when the bare king appears – down only one.

### Board 23. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

<p>♠ Q 8 ♥ K 2 ♦ K J 9 7 6 3 ♣ K 5 4</p> <p>♠ J 6 5 4 ♥ A Q 5 4 ♦ — ♣ 10 9 8 7 3</p> <p>♠ A 7 ♥ J 10 9 8 7 6 ♦ Q 5 4 ♣ Q J</p>	<p>♠ K 10 9 3 2 ♥ 3 ♦ A 10 8 2 ♣ A 6 2</p>
--	--

Get the trumps right and E/W can make 4♠ on their combined 18-count. If it goes 2♥ – Pass – Pass – 2♠, West may raise to game. But what if East instead doubles 2♥? West may bid 2♠ but, with no guarantee of a making game, may pass and look for +200/500 on defence. There is one trick in each side-suit and two heart tricks for the defence. It may take a while for East to work it out, but eventually he should give West a diamond ruff for the setting trick.

### Board 24. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

<p>♠ J 9 4 ♥ 10 9 2 ♦ A K Q J 8 4 2 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ A K Q 7 3 ♥ K Q J 5 4 ♦ 5 ♣ 6 3</p> <p>♠ 6 5 ♥ A 7 6 3 ♦ 7 ♣ A Q 10 9 4 2</p>	<p>♠ 10 8 2 ♥ 8 ♦ 10 9 6 3 ♣ K J 8 7 5</p>
--	--

North is too good for a weak jump overcall, and should have at least one side-suit stopper for a stopper-asking jump cuebid. So the choice is between 2♦ and 4♦. I think West will bid hearts at whatever level he is forced to, and of course East will give preference to spades. South will bid 3♣ if available but the misfit will prevent further competition from him, though North may bid 4♦ and go down. Whoever goes plus should do OK on the deal.

### Board 25. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

<p>♠ — ♥ 10 5 4 2 ♦ K 10 8 4 ♣ K 8 6 3 2</p> <p>♠ K 10 9 6 5 2 ♥ A J 7 ♦ 9 5 ♣ 5 4</p>	<p>♠ Q J 4 ♥ K Q 9 6 ♦ J 7 3 ♣ A Q 10</p> <p>♠ A 8 7 3 ♥ 8 3 ♦ A Q 6 2 ♣ J 9 7</p>
--	--

Superficially, 4♠ is on the club finesse. In practice, however, it is a little better than that because for the position of the ♣K to be relevant the defence has to lead a club through the North hand before declarer gains the lead. On this deal I would expect everyone to bid 4♠

Ideally by North after a strong NT and transfer sequence, but often by South after North opens one of a suit and rebids INT, strong, and 10 tricks are routine.

### Board 26. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

<p>♠ 10 9 ♥ K 10 8 7 ♦ J 8 6 ♣ Q J 8 4</p> <p>♠ A Q 2 ♥ 5 3 ♦ K Q 9 7 4 ♣ 6 3 2</p> <p>♠ J 7 6 5 4 3 ♥ 4 ♦ 10 5 3 2 ♣ A 10</p>	<p>♠ K 8 ♥ A Q J 9 6 2 ♦ A ♣ K 9 7 5</p>
--	--

E/W can make 4♥ or, with a little inspiration, 4NT, though I suspect that making 4♥ should score well enough. Declarer needs to be careful. In 4♥ on a spade lead, win the ♠K, cash the ♦A and play a second spade to dummy. Two clubs go on the diamonds, then comes the ♠Q. That forces North to ruff or away goes a third club, and now the four-one trump split is no longer a problem.

**Board 27. Dealer South. Vulnerability None**

	♠ 7 6 5 3	
	♥ A 5 2	
	♦ A 9 7	
	♣ Q 10 5	
♠ Q 10 8 4		♠ J 9
♥ Q J 4		♥ 10 6 3
♦ 4 2		♦ Q J 10
♣ K 8 6 4		♣ J 9 7 3 2
	♠ A K 2	
	♥ K 9 8 7	
	♦ K 8 6 5 3	
	♣ A	

South opens 1♦ and rebids 2♥, showing substantial extra values and forcing for one round over the 1♠ response. North is now strong enough to drive to game but to commit to 3NT with that club holding would be premature. Instead, North should bid 3♣, FSF, and bid 3NT over South's 3♠ reply. Now South is content, having got the spade support of his chest, while North has expressed doubt about no trump – perfect!

**Board 28. Dealer West. Vulnerability N/S**

	♠ 4	
	♥ K 9 6 4	
	♦ A 9 8 7 4 2	
	♣ A 9	
♠ 10 9 8 6 3 2		♠ A J 5
♥ 10 8		♥ A J 2
♦ 10 3		♦ K 5
♣ Q 7 3		♣ K J 8 4 2
	♠ K Q 7	
	♥ Q 7 5 3	
	♦ Q J 6	
	♣ 10 6 5	

If West passes, North will open 1♦ and East may overcall 1NT, doubled by South. West runs to 2♠ and North, with no interest in defending, competes with 3♦. That is not a strong bid so South passes and 3♦ is made exactly after the likely club lead.

If West gets frisky with a very weak 2♠ opening, East is likely to bid too much and West will be down in 3♠ or 4♠. No double, no trouble – 4♠-2 costs only -100, less than the -110 defending 3♦.

**Board 29. Dealer North. Vulnerability All**

	♠ A 8 7 6 3 2	
	♥ K	
	♦ A J 7 4	
	♣ A 4	
♠ K J 9 5		♠ 4
♥ Q 5 2		♥ A J 10 9 6 4
♦ K Q 6 5		♦ 9
♣ 10 6		♣ K Q 8 7 2
	♠ Q 10	
	♥ 8 7 3	
	♦ 10 8 3 2	
	♣ J 9 5 3	

North opens 1♠ and East will often make a two-suited overcall, perhaps a Michaels Cuebid of 2♠. West will suspect that a lot of his high cards will prove to be wasted, but if partner can commit to the three level vulnerable and West holds 11 HCP and heart support, he should bid 4♥. It is not difficult to come to 10 tricks if declarer sets about the clubs before drawing more than one round of trumps.

**Board 30. Dealer East. Vulnerability None**

	♠ K 8 7	
	♥ A K 10 7 2	
	♦ 7 5	
	♣ K Q 4	
♠ Q 5 4 3		♠ A J 2
♥ J 8 4		♥ 5 3
♦ K 9		♦ A 4 3 2
♣ A J 7 3		♣ 10 9 8 2
	♠ 10 9 6	
	♥ Q 9 6	
	♦ Q J 10 8 6	
	♣ 6 5	

There are a number of ways in which North can come to eight tricks in a heart contract, but E/W will usually compete and they can make seven tricks in spades or eight in clubs even against best defence, so North may take the push to 3♥ and find that he goes minus. Should West open in third seat? Many will say yes because no-one vulnerable is the best time to declare on a competitive partscore deal, and to get in the first blow is usually a good thing.



Board 31. Dealer South. Vulnerability N/S

<p>♠ J 10 7 ♥ K Q 5 ♦ 8 6 ♣ A 10 8 6 4</p> <p>♠ 9 8 5 2 ♥ A 9 ♦ 9 4 3 ♣ Q J 7 5</p>	<p>♠ 6 4 3 ♥ J 8 6 4 ♦ Q 10 7 5 ♣ K 9</p>
<p>♠ A K Q ♥ 10 7 3 2 ♦ A K J 2 ♣ 3 2</p>	

South will often declare 3NT. A spade lead should mean only nine tricks at best, but a club offers the possibility of an overtrick. If West leads the ♣Q, declarer can duck, win the next trick and play ace then ten of clubs to create two extra tricks in the suit. On a low club lead I would play low from dummy and not many defenders will have the resolve to put in East's nine. If East plays the king, an overtrick is again on the cards.

Board 32. Dealer West. Vulnerability E/W

<p>♠ A 5 ♥ A K 6 2 ♦ Q 10 5 ♣ 10 6 4 3</p> <p>♠ J 10 9 8 4 ♥ Q 8 ♦ K 8 2 ♣ Q 9 2</p>	<p>♠ K 3 ♥ 10 9 7 5 4 ♦ J 7 4 ♣ J 7 5</p> <p>♠ Q 7 6 2 ♥ J 3 ♦ A 9 6 3 ♣ A K 8</p>
--	--

North will either open or rebid 1NT and declare the NT game. Even if North has shown hearts, East has no better lead. After a heart to the jack and queen, declarer will need to either win then play on spades before diamonds, and unlikely play, or duck the first trick. That guards against hearts five-two and is correct technique. Winning the first heart and playing on diamonds could see the defence come to three hearts and two kings for down one.