

## Assorted Weak 2 discussions from EBU SIMS booklets

These are a great source of expert commentary and can be found on your EBU members page.

Brian Senior 3/5/2016 .

♠ K862  
 ♥ Q109  
 ♦ Q5  
 ♣ KJ43  
 ♠ A93  
 ♥ A3  
 ♦ K96  
 ♣ Q8752  
 ♠ 10  
 ♥ KJ8652  
 ♦ J843  
 ♣ 106  
 ♠ QJ754  
 ♥ 74  
 ♦ A1072  
 ♣ A9

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♠	♥	♣	NT	
11		-	-	-	3	-
13	5	-	-	-	3	-
11		E 1	1	2	-	1
		W 1	1	2	-	1

### Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

I've said it before and I will no doubt say it again – "pre-empting is a matter of personal style". I would open a weak 2♥ with the East hand but I understand that many would not because they have only five HCP with a moderate suit and are vulnerable. I like the extra playing potential offered by the six-four shape – I might well not open if the fourth diamond was turned into a low spade – and the lack of defence makes it likely that the deal belongs to the opposition, so let's make life difficult for them.

Defending against weak two bids is also somewhat a matter of personal style. Some would overcall 2♠ with the South cards while some would point to the poor suit and only 11 HCP and say pass. I'm for getting into the auction while it is convenient, but it does mean that partner has to give me some slack. The actual North hand, for example, has four-card support and 11 HCP, but they are mostly soft values, and in my style he must only make an invitational raise, which I will decline, of course.

As it happens, N/S can make exactly 3♠, while E/W would make 2♥ if allowed to play there. If South does not overcall, N/S don't get into the auction and score badly – worse than if they get to game and go one down, unless West finds a double.

Mike Pomfrey 4<sup>th</sup> May SIMS

♠ A  
 ♥ AJ976  
 ♦ AQ97  
 ♣ 1052  
 ♠ QJ932  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ 62  
 ♣ K7643  
 ♠ K54  
 ♥ K8  
 ♦ K853  
 ♣ QJ98  
 ♠ 10876  
 ♥ Q10532  
 ♦ J104  
 ♣ A

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♠	♥	♣	NT	
15		-	2	5	-	1
6	12	-	2	5	-	1
7		E 1	-	-	1	-
		W 1	-	-	1	-

### Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
2♠	Dbl	3♠	4♥
All Pass			

Let's see what happens if E/W are playing Lucas twos (showing a weak two suiter). At the vulnerability some might venture an off-centre weak two, if those are your methods.

North makes the obvious double and East has an interesting problem. How many spades to bid? Will they make 4♥? If so, how can I put them off?

Given South's hand, not much is going to put her off. E/W can save in 4♠, though N/S may still go on to 5♥; difficult to judge.

5/4 5 HCP vulnerable weak 2 opening

♠ 3  
♥ QJ10543  
♦ Q986  
♣ 32

♠ 987652      ♠ KQ10  
♥ K87            ♥ 92  
♦ 7                ♦ 105432  
♣ 876            ♣ Q105

♠ AJ4  
♥ A6  
♦ AKJ  
♣ AKJ94

HCP	
5	7
3	25

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

**Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable**  
**West North East South**  
 2♥ Pass 6♥  
 All Pass

If North has a weak 2♥ or a multi-2♦ available he'll surely use it: the second suit and the outside singleton combine to offset the minimum values for a vulnerable opening, first in hand. Once he opens South can envisage decent play for a slam opposite any decent heart suit and it comes down to how courageous he feels. If North passes the bidding might possibly start 2♠ - 2♦ - 3NT - 4♥ and is then more than likely to end there. North could have absolutely nothing apart from a long-ish heart suit on that bidding and South will feel that he's said everything. Perhaps North will take a rosier view and decide to punt a slam if all the aces are around - but after that start there's no good way to show his modest values and invite (perhaps a jump to 5♥?). All in all, it may well be that 6♥ is bid comparatively rarely, so that those who chance it get a huge premium and those who don't get a sizeable inferiority complex.

17/3 2Hs opener with 3 points – “Mandatory”

♠ K3  
♥ QJ9  
♦ AKQJ2  
♣ AQJ

♠ 1064            ♠ AQJ982  
♥ K107542       ♥ 3  
♦ 63                ♦ 74  
♣ 74                ♣ K953

♠ 75  
♥ A86  
♦ 10985  
♣ 10862

HCP	
23	10
3	4

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

**Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable**  
**West North East South**  
 2♥ 3NT All Pass

I'd say that North was too good to bid 3NT, actually, but it's not particularly appealing to start with a double and hope partner doesn't compete in spades. Note also West's 2♥ opening, which really is mandatory at this vulnerability despite the 3-count. You give the opposition such an easy ride if you allow them to use their well-practised constructive methods.

After the spade lead, I had three options. I could settle for eight tricks which at pairs is certainly an option worth considering. But I was not certain to go two off if I chose the wrong finesse, so that seemed unnecessarily wimpy. I could take the heart finesse, but this would only lead to one extra trick if successful, while the club finesse would lead to two extra. So that's what I tried, and went two off. As you can see, the wimpy line would have been best, but I stand by my machismo.

My result: -200

6/4/2016 4HCP with singleton K vulnerable weak 2

♠ Q105432  
♥ 53  
♦ Q532  
♣ K

♠ J76            ♠ K8  
♥ AK762        ♥ Q4  
♦ 10864        ♦ A7  
♣ 8                ♣ J1097654

♠ A9  
♥ J1098  
♦ KJ9  
♣ AQ32

HCP	
7	10
8	15

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

**Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable**  
 The auction can go in so many different ways according to who is willing to open the North or East hand. The vulnerability may dissuade North from opening with a weak two bid on a moderate suit, though some will argue that the 6-4 shape compensates sufficiently for that. If North does open 2♠, East should pass as, if he can ever make 3♠, his partner will surely bid on and the partnership will go minus. South should use the 2NT inquiry but, when North shows a minimum, will sign off in 3♠, ending the auction. While a heart lead would leave declarer requiring a winning spade play for his contract, the likely club lead makes life more comfortable. North wins the king, plays a spade to the ace then the ace of clubs. West will have to ruff and now it will be routine to hold the spade losers to one.

If North passes as dealer, will East open 3♠ with a weak suit and all those high cards in the side-suits, or will he pass or open at the one level? There is a lot of personal style in pre-empting, and I would not want to insist that one approach is right and all others wrong. 3♠ goes down one, better than conceding -140 in 3♠, of course, and N/S have no way to get to a making spot after a 3♠ opening. If South passes, North will not protect, while if South overbids with a 3NT overcall, North will convert to 4♠, down one.

7/4/2016 5HCP weak 2 that includes a Jx doubleton

<p>                 ♠10986                  ♥987                  ♦K3                  ♣AQ42                  ♠K7542      ♠J3                  ♥AQ652      ♥10                  ♦95          ♦QJ8762                  ♣5            ♦J987                  ♠AQ                  ♥KJ43                  ♦A104                  ♣K1063             </p>	<p><b>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</b></p> <p>The normal expectation is that N/S will play in 3NT, though there could be many different routes to that final destination, largely according to how E/W get involved in the auction.</p> <p>If E/W play three weak twos, East may open 2♦, the 6-4 shape compensating for the minimum point count and mediocre trump suit. South will overcall 2NT and North raise to game, possibly via Stayman.</p> <p>If South opens 1NT, West may overcall to show his two-suiter. Best for E/W is if they can wriggle their way into 2♦ – possible if North doubles 2♣. Landy overcall, for example. Failing that, they will bid to 2♠ and two rounds of trumps should ensure +800 for the defence and a big match-point score.</p> <p>If South opens 1♥, West will overcall 1♠ and see his opponents bid to 3NT, while if South opens 1♣ West can bid 2♣, both majors, and once again N/S will usually end up in 3NT.</p> <p>There are ten tricks in 3NT, double dummy, but not everyone will manage that, with West's choice of opening lead making a significant difference – a spade to the jack is a better start for declarer than a heart to the ten and jack.</p>
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HCP	
9	5
17	

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

8/4/2016 2HCP weak 2 with 6-4 distribution

<p>                 ♠AQ2                  ♥J72                  ♦95                  ♣Q8632                  ♠J87543      ♠K106                  ♥94            ♥10653                  ♦3             ♦Q10764                  ♣J1054        ♣A                  ♠9                  ♥AKQ8                  ♦AKJ82                  ♣K97             </p>	<p><b>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td><i>West</i></td><td><i>North</i></td><td><i>East</i></td><td><i>South</i></td></tr> <tr><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>Dble</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Yes, I know that West hand is terribly weak to open 2♠, but 6-4 shape is very powerful and first in hand non-vulnerable it pays to try to disrupt your opponents auction. East raises to 3♠ and South doubles. On this particular deal North has an easy 3NT and South doesn't quite have enough to bid on, but another time ...</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	2♠	Pass	3♠	Dble	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>										
2♠	Pass	3♠	Dble										
Pass	3NT	All Pass											

HCP	
9	9
2	20

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

16/3/2016 4H opener with 6 cards.

<p>                 ♠J97543                  ♥A2                  ♦2                  ♣KQ84                  ♠AKQ          ♠8                  ♥1096        ♥KQJ543                  ♦Q10986     ♦KJ543                  ♣106          ♣7                  ♠1062                  ♥87                  ♦A7                  ♣AJ9532             </p>	<p><b>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</b></p> <p>East has a shapely hand to start with, and there will be votes for 1♥, 2♥ (weak), 2♥ (intermediate), 2♥ (strong) 3♥ and 4♥ as opening bids.</p> <p>I like a 4♥ opening if the suit is a little better (give me the ten of trumps) and third in seat, but first in its a bit much to be all out pre-empting with only a six card suit. 4♥ should be reached come what may and then the pressure is on N/S to get to spades, or at least find a good defence.</p> <p>It's not unreasonable for E/W to end in diamonds as a start of 1♥(2♣)2♦(2♠) might see East bounce high with his five trumps.</p> <p>How many tricks will everyone make? If N/S play in spades then surely nine tricks are the limit, as E/W have three goes to get around to hearts before they disappear on the clubs.</p> <p>If East is declarer in 4♥ though, it is very tempting for South to lead a spade, and now East will throw a club and make ten tricks even if North switches to a diamond for a ruff.</p> <p>420 will score well here, and it is reasonable for N/S to save against the game they were no doubt about to let make.</p>
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HCP	
10	10
11	9

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

6 card 3D pre-empt 5/1/2016

“3<sup>rd</sup> in hand non vulnerable almost anything goes”

<p>♠AQ10962 ♥QJ852 ♦ - ♣K5</p> <p>♠743                      ♠K5 ♥K94                      ♥763 ♦J109653                ♦A72 ♣A                            ♣QJ974</p> <p>♠J8 ♥A10 ♦KQ84 ♣108632</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>12</td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>10</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>10</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		12	N	-	-	3	3	1	8	10	S	-	-	3	3	1		10	E	-	1	-	-	-			W	-	1	-	-	-
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Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
3♦ (?)	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

For West, third-in-hand, not vulnerable against vulnerable, almost anything goes. Over a diamond pre-empt, North might cue-bid to show both majors but, with much better spades and limited values, a simple overcall looks best. With some values and some diamond stops, South might try 3NT but now North can show his second suit. A curious hand (as better writers have said), the defence have to play the singleton ♣A at trick one to defeat 3NT or 4♠.

Against 3NT, the strange-looking ♣A lead leads to two off. The defence can establish East's clubs with ♦A and ♠K as entries to East. But the lack of entries to North and South means that in practice 3NT will not play well.

Against 4♠, especially on an auction where North has shown this sort of shape, East may well lead a club and then ♠K is an entry to give West a club ruff for one off.

Also this one 6 card 3 Club pre-empt

<p>♠A109765 ♥J ♦A1032 ♣AQ</p> <p>♠J82                      ♠43 ♥K9632                ♥Q1054 ♦KJ                        ♦7 ♣1075                    ♣KJ9642</p> <p>♠KQ ♥A87 ♦Q98654 ♣83</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>15</td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>6</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>11</td> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		15	N	-	6	-	6	3	8	6	S	-	6	-	5	3		11	E	1	-	1	-	-			W	1	-	1	-	-
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	11	E	1	-	1	-	-																																								
		W	1	-	1	-	-																																								

Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all

West	North	East	South
		3♣	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠ (RKCB for spades: two key cards + trump Q)
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

A three-level pre-empt on a six-card suit, with a four-card major, will not be everyone's choice but it will restrict the N/S slam auction. South will bid their suit and North will bid 3♠ but only if N/S are confident it is forcing; otherwise North would have to punt 6♦ even though the lead is through his ♣AQ. After 3♠, the auction is easy: South supports North's suit and then shows two key cards and ♠Q. 6♦ is a better fit, but 6♠ by North does avoid an awkward club lead. Also 6♠ scores more but after the opponents pre-empt you should be happy to bid the better slam. North cannot investigate the grand slam with any confidence.

With spades 3-2 and diamonds 2-1, 6♠ by North makes by drawing trumps and losing a diamond. But 6♦ by South makes even on club lead: cash ♦A and then throw South's remaining club on ♠A.

British Autumn Sim Pairs ~ Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October

<p>♠ A74 ♥ KQ64 ♦ KJ5 ♣ AJ4</p> <p>♠ K5                      ♠ 92 ♥ AJ7                      ♥ 952 ♦ Q109743                ♦ A6 ♣ 109                      ♣ K87653</p> <p>♠ QJ10863 ♥ 1083 ♦ 82 ♣ Q2</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">18</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		18		10	7	5		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	3	4	4	S	-	-	3	4	3	E	-	1	-	-	-	W	-	1	-	-	-	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <p>East has the sort of hand that I would open 3♣ in first seat at favourable vulnerability, which would no doubt prompt 3NT from North and 4♠ from South. More probable is pass from East and a weak 2♠ or multi 2♦ from South over which yet again North is going to push on to game. Should both East and South pass then surely West will open 1♦ over which North will overcall 1NT; now the final resting spot will probably be just 2♠.</p> <p>4♠ is a very lucky contract in that just about every card lies where declarer wants it to be. He can gain entry to the South hand via the ♣Q (eventually) and then take the trump finesse. The only fly in the ointment is guessing correctly in the diamond suit and this problem will be solved at many tables by an initial diamond lead.</p>
HCP																																													
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EBED Sim Pairs ~ Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September

<p>♠ J1065 ♥ AQ54 ♦ J103 ♣ J4</p> <p>♠ Q9842                      ♠ A ♥ J982                      ♥ K1063 ♦ K8                      ♦ A9762 ♣ 53                      ♣ KQ2</p> <p>♠ K73 ♥ 7 ♦ Q54 ♣ A109876</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">16</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		9		6	16	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	-	-	-	S	1	-	-	-	-	E	-	2	3	2	-	W	-	2	3	2	-	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>I don't like to pretend that I'd always bid perfectly in these commentaries, and here's one that I would do very badly on. South's preempt is nice and aggressive and, while East would like to have a bit more to bid 3NT solo, I can't think of an alternative. You're too good to pass, you clearly can't double and overcalling seems eccentric with a poor suit and great club stop. So I'd bid 3NT, probably go four off, and do exactly the same thing next time.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				3♣	Pass	Pass	3NT	All Pass
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N	1	-	-	-	-																																																				
S	1	-	-	-	-																																																				
E	-	2	3	2	-																																																				
W	-	2	3	2	-																																																				
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																																																						
			3♣																																																						
Pass	Pass	3NT	All Pass																																																						

♠ K7  
 ♥ K10976  
 ♦ KQ108  
 ♣ A5  
 ♠ 862  
 ♥ AJ83  
 ♦ -  
 ♣ Q97632  
 ♠ 10943  
 ♥ Q5  
 ♦ AJ743  
 ♣ J8

Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

N/S have a combined 23 count and nine diamonds between them so it's a bit disappointing to find that the hand belongs to E/W in clubs.

After two passes West might consider opening 3♣ (it will be unthinkable in first or second position with a bad suit and four hearts on the side) but most will pass allowing North a free 1♥ bid. East might dredge up a double (only at pairs, mind you) but otherwise N/S will bid very simply 1♥ - 1♠ - 2♦ - 3♦, or perhaps 1♥ - 1♠ - 1NT - 2NT pass.

Diamonds looks to play simply with two spades, a club and a heart to lose, the trump position won't trouble North unduly.

No-trumps is a bit more sweaty but East will probably lead a diamond (in this reality no-one has bid the suit remember) and now playing West for the ♥J brings home the bacon.

Finally if E/W do get their act together in clubs then ten tricks are easy, either N/S draw trumps and stop the heart ruffs or declarer ruffs one with the ♣K and one with the ♣10.

HCP	
15	
7	10
8	

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