

<b>1</b>		♠ K85 ♥ 74 ♦ J987 ♣ A964	Dir: N Vul: None																															
♠ J943 ♥ T95 ♦ A32 ♣ J73			♠ A762 ♥ K3 ♦ KQT5 ♣ KT8																															
8 6    15 11	♠ QT ♥ AQJ862 ♦ 64 ♣ Q52	<table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr></table>				♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	2	-	2	S	1	-	2	-	1	E	-	1	-	2	-	W	-	1	-	1	-
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W	-	1	-	1	-																													

<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
	P	1NT	2H
P	P	P	

**Bidding:** South's 2H bid is natural, to play in 2H. West is too weak to bid over this. Compete over 1NT with about 10 high card points and either a 6 card suit or two 5 card suits.

**Opening lead:** Leading an Ace or under-leading an Ace are not recommended. Lead 3S or 3C, both bottom of something.

**Play:** Possible losers: 1S, 1H, 2D, 2C = 6, one too many. Try the heart finesse. This succeeds. You make 2H.

<b>2</b>		♠ A6 ♥ T87 ♦ AQ32 ♣ AT73		<i>Dlr: E</i> <i>Vul: N-S</i>																															
♠ 74 ♥ K64 ♦ J975 ♣ 9654				♠ K853 ♥ J5 ♦ KT64 ♣ KQJ																															
14 4     13 9		♠ QJT92 ♥ AQ932 ♦ 8 ♣ 82		<table><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</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>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	4	4	3	S	2	-	4	4	2	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
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S	2	-	4	4	2																														
E	-	-	-	-	-																														
W	-	-	-	-	-																														

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
	1D	2D	P
4H	& 3 passes		

**Bidding:** South's 2D bid shows 5/5 in the majors and about 10 points that will play like 13. North has enough opposite this to bid the 4H game. South has the “mini” hand & passes. With the “maxi” hand, South would now explore for slam.

**Lead:** KC from touching honours

**Play:** Possible losers: 1S+2H+1C=4. Both the spade & heart finesses fail. But the JH then falls on the AH, making the TH good. So lose only 1 heart and make 4H.

<b>3</b>		♠ KQ32 ♥ QT ♦ 62 ♣ AK742	Dlr: S Vul: E-W																															
♠ AT95 ♥ K2 ♦ J98 ♣ J853			♠ 76 ♥ AJ654 ♦ AQT75 ♣ 9																															
14 9 11 6	♠ J84 ♥ 9873 ♦ K43 ♣ QT6	<table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>				♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	-	1	-	S	2	-	-	1	-	E	-	4	3	-	-	W	-	4	3	-	-
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N	2	-	-	1	-																													
S	2	-	-	1	-																													
E	-	4	3	-	-																													
W	-	4	3	-	-																													

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
		P	P
1C	2NT	P	3D & 3 passes

**Bidding:** East jumps to 2NT (Unusual NT) to show 5/5 in the two lowest unbid suits. With 3 diamonds and only 2 hearts, it is best for West to bid the known 8 card fit in diamonds.

**Lead:** AC from AK.

**Play:** Possible losers: 1S+3H+1D+1C = 6 (looking bleak). Pull trump. Then QH falls when you play KH & AH, making JH good. You lose only 1 heart, making the contract.

<b>4</b>		♠ J964 ♥ J542 ♦ T6 ♣ A97	<i>Dlr: W</i> <i>Vul: Both</i>																															
♠ AK75 ♥ KQ7 ♦ A94 ♣ T82			♠ QT32 ♥ AT96 ♦ 832 ♣ 65																															
6 16 12	♠ 8 ♥ 83 ♦ KQJ75 ♣ KQJ43																																	
				<table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr></table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	3	-	-	-	S	3	3	-	-	-	E	-	-	3	3	2	W	-	-	3	3	2
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N	3	3	-	-	-																													
S	3	3	-	-	-																													
E	-	-	3	3	2																													
W	-	-	3	3	2																													

<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
1NT	P	P	2NT*
P	3C	& 3 passes	

**Bidding:** 2NT by South shows both minors. North prefers clubs, so bids 3C.

**Opening lead:** Don't lead the opponents' suits. Best lead is probably the 2S.

**Play:** You always make 5 club tricks and 4 diamond tricks, making 3C. Opponents can only take AS, AH, KH & AD.

<b>5</b>		♠ 72 ♥ AQJ54 ♦ 86 ♣ AJ83		Dlr: N Vul: N-S	
♠ AKQ84 ♥ 9 ♦ KJT94 ♣ K5		♠ JT6 ♥ 8732 ♦ AQ2 ♣ Q72			
12		♠ 953 ♥ KT6 ♦ 753 ♣ T964			
16	9				
3					

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

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1H	P	P	2H
P	2S	P	3S
P	4S	& 3 passes	

**Bidding:** West cue bids North's suit to show 5-5 in spades and a minor. West has a maxi (16+ HCP) hand, so West bids again after East's 2S. East can now "see" 16+9=25 and bids game.

**Lead:** 6H, low from something in partner's suit.

**Play:** Look at losers from the long trump hand, the West hand. There are only 2: 1H & 1C. Makes an overtrick.

<b>6</b>		♠ K7 ♥ 8764 ♦ T92 ♣ KT95		Dlr: E Vul: E-W	
♠ AQ543 ♥ KJ952 ♦ 75 ♣ Q		♠ JT6 ♥ AT ♦ J863 ♣ 8764			
6		♠ 982 ♥ Q3 ♦ AKQ4 ♣ AJ32			
12	6				
16					

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

<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
		P	1NT
X*	P	2C*	P
2D*	P	2S	and 3 passes

**Bidding:** Double by West shows a 2-suited hand. East bids 2C so the bidding will not die out. The 2D bid shows both majors. East prefers spades.

**Opening lead:** AD, top of touching honours, is an excellent lead.

**Play:** Count losers from West hand: 1S, 1H, 2D, 1C = 5. The QH falls when you play AH & KH. So you lose only 4 tricks, making 3S.

# Competing With Shapely Hands - Ed L'Heureux (10Sep2024)

<b>7</b>		♠ A863 ♥ J74 ♦ 82 ♣ J642		<i>Dlr: S</i> <i>Vul: Both</i>	
♠ J92 ♥ AK652 ♦ QJT73 ♣		♠ QT4 ♥ QT ♦ 9654 ♣ Q987			
6		♠ K75 ♥ 983 ♦ AK ♣ AKT53		♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT N 2 - - - 1 S 2 - - 1 1 E - 3 2 - - W - 3 2 - -	
11	6				
17					

<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
			1NT
X*	P	2C*	P
2H*	P	2NT*	P
3D		& 3 passes	

**Bidding:** West doubles to show a 2-suited hand. East bids 2C to keep the bidding alive. 2H shows hearts & a minor. With no support for hearts but support for both minors, East bids 2NT so that West will bid the minor.

**Opening lead:** 2C looks best.

**Play:** Lose 2 spades & 2 diamonds, making 3C.

# Competing With Shapely Hands - Ed L'Heureux (10Sep2024)

<b>8</b>		♠ 8 ♥ 87 ♦ AQJ86 ♣ KJ965		<i>Dlr: W</i> <i>Vul: None</i>	
♠ AJT53 ♥ Q43 ♦ K73 ♣ A3		♠ Q92 ♥ K962 ♦ 942 ♣ T82			
11		♠ K764 ♥ AJT5 ♦ T5 ♣ Q74		♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT N 4 4 2 - - S 4 4 2 1 2 E - - - - - W - - - - -	
14	5				
10					

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
			1S
2NT	P	3C	& 3 passes

**Bidding:** North jumps to 2NT to show 5/5 in the two lowest unbid suits, clubs & diamonds. East has spade support, but is not strong enough to bid. South prefers clubs, bids 3C.

**Lead:** 3H, low from the Queen. This is better than a suit headed by only the Ace or only the King.

**Play:** There is one loser in every suit, total 4. You can finesse in diamonds (lead Ten towards AQJ) to attempt to capture the King. This works, avoiding the diamond loser, making 4C.

**9**      ♠ A9      *Dlr: N*  
              ♥ T85      *Vul: E-W*  
              ♦ KQ973  
              ♣ 752

♠ T742      ♠ KQJ3  
 ♥ AJ      ♥ 743  
 ♦ T652      ♦ AJ84  
 ♣ 986      ♣ AQ

9      ♠ 865  
 5      ♥ KQ962  
 17      ♦  
 9      ♣ KJT43

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

W    N    E    S  
       P    1NT   X\*  
 P    2C\*   P    2H\*   & 3 passes

**Bidding:** South doubles to show a 2-suited hand. The 2C bid keeps the bidding alive. 2H shows hearts & a minor. North is happy with hearts.

**Opening lead:** Don't lead "into" South's possible minor. Lead a spade, either 2S or TS.

**Play:** Potential losers: 2S, 1-2H, 0D, 2-3C = 5-7 total. (1) Ruff a spade before pulling trump. So lose only 1 spade. (2) Pull trump. (3) Set up the long clubs. As the card lie, you lose at most 2 clubs, then the others are good.

**10**      ♠ K8      *Dlr: E*  
              ♥ Q974      *Vul: Both*  
              ♦ 8543  
              ♣ JT3

♠ 9      ♠ JT752  
 ♥ 86      ♥ KT2  
 ♦ AJ972      ♦ KQ  
 ♣ AQ987      ♣ 654

6      ♠ AQ643  
 11      ♥ AJ53  
 14      ♦ T6  
       ♣ K2

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

N    E    S    W  
       P    1S    2NT  
 P    3C    & 3 passes

**Bidding:** West jumps to 2NT to show 5/5 in the two lowest unbid suits, clubs & diamonds. North passes (minimum, does not have spade support). East has longer clubs than diamonds, bids 3C.

**Lead:** There are no good leads here. Leads from non-touching honours are bad. Try TD.

**Play:** Possible losers: 1S+2H+0D+2C=5, 1 too many. Try the finesse in clubs. This works, avoids losing to KC, so lose only 1 club. Lead 6H towards KH to try for an overtrick, but no luck here. Makes exactly 3C.

<b>11</b>		♠ 94 ♥ K543 ♦ 8654 ♣ Q52	<i>Dlr: S</i> <i>Vul: None</i>																															
♠ 6 ♥ AQT97 ♦ 72 ♣ AJT87			♠ QT82 ♥ 62 ♦ KQT9 ♣ K43																															
5		♠ AKJ753 ♥ J8 ♦ AJ3 ♣ 96	<table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr></table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	1	-	S	-	-	-	1	-	E	4	1	3	-	2	W	4	1	2	-	1
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																													
N	-	-	-	1	-																													
S	-	-	-	1	-																													
E	4	1	3	-	2																													
W	4	1	2	-	1																													
11	10																																	
14																																		

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	
		1S	2S	
P	2NT	P	3C	& 3 passes

**Bidding:** West cue bids 2S to show 5/5 hearts & a minor. East prefers either minor to hearts. Bids 2NT to ask West to bid their minor. North cannot support spades. South is not strong enough to bid again. The 5/5 bid allows N/S to compete effectively.

**Lead:** 9S, top of nothing in partner's suit.

**Play:** Possible losers: 1S+2H+1D+1C=5, 1 too many. Try the heart finesse. It loses, but then the JH falls on the AH. So lose only 1 heart and make the contract.

<b>12</b>		♠ QT7 ♥ 64 ♦ AQJ862 ♣ J9	Dlr: W Vul: N-S																															
♠ A62 ♥ KQT5 ♦ K3 ♣ KT86			♠ J943 ♥ A32 ♦ T95 ♣ 753																															
10		♠ K85 ♥ J987 ♦ 74 ♣ AQ42	<table><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	-	1	1	S	-	2	1	-	2	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-
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S	-	2	1	-	2																													
E	-	-	-	-	-																													
W	1	-	-	-	-																													
15	5																																	
10																																		

<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
1NT	2D	& 3 passes	

**Bidding:** After 1NT by West, North with about 10 points bids the nice 6 card diamond suit. East does not have enough to make a bid.

**Opening lead:** Leading a suit headed by an unsupported Ace is not recommended, even if partner has many high cards. Lead 3S or 7C.

**Play:** Possible losers: 2S+2H+1D+1C = 6, 1 too many. If opponents lead a spade, this gives you a bonus spade trick, losing only 1 spade. Try the diamond and club finesses (lead low towards AQ) for a 50% chance of avoiding those losers.