

British Autumn Virtual Sim Pairs



**Tuesday
6th October 2020**

Welcome to the 2020 British Autumn Virtual Simultaneous Pairs.

Thank you for playing.

As the return of face to Face Bridge continues to be delayed, I hope that our Sims continue to provide an entertaining diversion. I also hope you enjoy the event and also the commentary provided by a leading expert. The commentator for this set of hands is Heather Dhondy.

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/. 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> ♠ AK73 ♥ K973 ♦ AJ84 ♣ K ♠ 10962 ♠ J854 ♥ Q6542 ♥ AJ108 ♦ 7 ♦ KQ3 ♣ 832 ♣ Q6 ♠ Q ♥ - ♦ 109652 ♣ AJ109754 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="63 1209 191 1388"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>18</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="223 1209 462 1388"> <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>5</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>1</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> </tbody> </table>	HCP		18		2	13	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	5	-	1	2	S	5	5	-	1	2	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♦</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>What a hand to start with! The normal Acol opening bid with the North hand shape is 1♥, but what does South do? You are not quite worth 2♣, but 1NT is really too much of a distortion so 2♣ is the smallest lie. North can rebid 2NT to test the general strength of the hand across and South has a chance to show their second suit. South will only be bidding like this with extreme shape, or if looking for a slam. In either case North should co-operate with 4♦. Some pairs will stop in 5♦, but 6♦ is not a bad contract. Alas, today is not your lucky day if you bid the slam with both top diamonds sitting over your ace.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass	6♦	All pass	
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<p> ♠ AQ ♥ 10954 ♦ K72 ♣ 8762 ♠ J1076 ♠ 985432 ♥ 86 ♥ 73 ♦ AJ104 ♦ 986 ♣ Q109 ♣ AK ♠ K ♥ AKQJ2 ♦ Q53 ♣ J543 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="63 1881 191 2060"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="223 1881 462 2060"> <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>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</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>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		9		8	7	16		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	-	3	-	2	S	3	-	3	-	2	E	-	1	-	2	-	W	-	1	-	2	-	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The East hand is hardly a typical weak two opening, however the vulnerability is on your side and in first seat that makes it tempting. The problem is that it will almost certainly drive you overboard when you have sufficient defence to be beating the opponent's game. North South have a combined 25 points so are likely to reach 4♥, whether you open with the East hand or not. It is, however, doomed to failure. Those East-Westes who collect a plus score defending will score well.</p>	West	North	East	South			2♠	3♥	4♠	Dbl	All Pass													
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<p>♠ 982 ♥ J2 ♦ K1073 ♣ AK107</p> <p>♠ KQ7 ♠ A103 ♥ Q84 ♥ 75 ♦ AQJ642 ♦ 95 ♣ 2 ♣ J98643</p> <p>♠ J654 ♥ AK10963 ♦ 8 ♣ Q5</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: left;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">2♦</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>What do you open with the South cards? The point count and shape make it too strong for a non-vulnerable weak two in most people's style. Therefore I expect the majority to open 1♥. West will overcall 2♦ and North, if system permits, will bid a natural 2NT. When South rebids 3♥, that should end the auction.</p> <p>Even 3♥ is too high. The defence can begin by cashing three spades, but even if West leads the singleton club (reasonably enough) there will be a second opportunity to cash out when a diamond is led towards dummy.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♥	2♦	2NT	Pass	3♥	All Pass			
West	North	East	South														
			1♥														
2♦	2NT	Pass	3♥														
All Pass																	

HCP		Makeable contracts					
11	5	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
14	10	N	1	-	2	2	1
		S	1	-	2	2	1
		E	-	1	-	-	-
		W	-	2	-	-	-

<p>♠ 42 ♥ A853 ♦ J4 ♣ 97543</p> <p>♠ Q753 ♠ A10986 ♥ 4 ♥ Q72 ♦ AQ832 ♦ K95 ♣ Q102 ♣ A8</p> <p>♠ KJ ♥ KJ1096 ♦ 1076 ♣ KJ6</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: left;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♠</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">4♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♠</td> <td style="text-align: left;">All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>This hand is a very poor advertisement for opening 1NT with a five-card major. If you do, you will probably play there making seven or eight tricks. After the defence have cashed their hearts, South must see the danger of being squeezed in the black suits and exit with the king of whichever of these queens West has been forced to bare. That will break up the communication.</p> <p>Meanwhile, for those opening 1♠, West must decide whether to invite or drive game. Ten tricks are easy enough, and those bidding and making game will do well.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠	All pass
West	North	East	South										
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass										
4♥	Pass	4♠	All pass										

HCP		Makeable contracts					
5	13	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
10	12	N	1	-	2	-	-
		S	1	-	2	-	-
		E	-	4	-	4	1
		W	-	4	-	4	1

<p>♠ 5 ♥ QJ107 ♦ AKQ1074 ♣ Q10</p> <p>♠ 9763 ♠ KQJ8 ♥ K962 ♥ 83 ♦ 65 ♦ J83 ♣ 765 ♣ AK83</p> <p>♠ A1042 ♥ A54 ♦ 92 ♣ J942</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: left;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♦</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: left;">1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♦</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Yet another marginal decision in the bidding. What does north rebid after 1♦-1♠? It is close between a simple diamond rebid and a reverse into 2♥. If my black suit holdings were reversed, I would bid 2♥, however the lack of a partial spade fit persuades me to take the low road.</p> <p>Game is on the heart finesse. Either 5♦ or 3NT will make if it works, so those bidding game can feel a little unlucky.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	All pass	
West	North	East	South										
	1♦	Pass	1♠										
Pass	2♦	All pass											

HCP		Makeable contracts					
14	14	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
3	9	N	2	4	2	-	2
		S	2	4	2	-	2
		E	-	-	-	1	-
		W	-	-	-	1	-

<p>♠ K1053 ♥ Q2 ♦ J73 ♣ QJ94</p> <p>♠ A9742 ♠ QJ ♥ KJ853 ♥ 1096 ♦ Q62 ♦ AK8 ♣ - ♣ AK653</p> <p>♠ 86 ♥ A74 ♦ 10954 ♣ 10872</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>4</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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		9	17	10	4	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	2	4	4	3	W	2	2	4	4	3	<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>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>For those playing a form of Checkback, a jump to 3♥ in the auction above should guarantee five hearts. Holding just four you would have used Checkback.</p> <p>Against four hearts the defence can take two trumps and a spade, but that is their lot. However, in 3NT, declarer is likely to be held to nine tricks. On a diamond lead, declarer needs to establish hearts, and North has time to switch to clubs. Even on a diamond continuation, however, the lack of communication between the two hands and spade blockage means that it is not possible to reach the ten tricks established.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
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<p>♠ Q10 ♥ AQJ743 ♦ 5 ♣ AQ62</p> <p>♠ K85 ♠ A9763 ♥ 106 ♥ 2 ♦ 872 ♦ AKJ94 ♣ J10874 ♣ K9</p> <p>♠ J42 ♥ K985 ♦ Q1063 ♣ 53</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>6</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>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		15	15	4	6	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	3	-	2	S	-	-	3	-	2	E	1	2	-	2	-	W	1	2	-	2	-	<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>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North opens 1♥, and East will show a two-suiter. Playing Michaels cue bids, 2♥ shows 5-5 in spades and a minor. Now South can compete to 3♥, knowing that a cue-bid of 2♠ would have shown a stronger raise. West, in turn, will compete to 3♠, and North has a poor spade holding but the rest of the hand looks good, so will be tempted to push on to game.</p> <p>Yet again North-South game-bidders are unlucky when the club finesse fails.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	2♥	3♥	3♠	4♥	All Pass	
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<p>♠ 75 ♥ QJ85 ♦ 9532 ♣ A98</p> <p>♠ AQJ6 ♠ 1043 ♥ A73 ♥ K1092 ♦ K106 ♦ AQ8 ♣ 1053 ♣ K74</p> <p>♠ K982 ♥ 64 ♦ J74 ♣ QJ62</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>7</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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		7	12	14	7	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	3	3	4	3	4	W	3	3	4	3	4	<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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This hand is a straight-forward sequence to 3NT.</p> <p>What should North lead? The Stayman sequence has revealed a four-card heart suit in dummy, so a diamond looks more normal. This doesn't give declarer anything, and unless the defence are careless, the contract will make ten tricks – three spades, three hearts, three diamonds and a club. Only a top heart (or a rather unlikely spade) will give declarer eleven tricks. If North manages to avoid these, the most likely pitfall for the defence is if South fails to cover the 10♠ when it is led from dummy.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass		
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<p>♠ Q42 ♥ J4 ♦ K109 ♣ K10954</p> <p>♠ J6 ♠ A1053 ♥ A1065 ♥ Q72 ♦ Q742 ♦ 5 ♣ J87 ♣ AQ632</p> <p>♠ K987 ♥ K983 ♦ AJ863 ♣ -</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>There are a few close decisions on this part-score deal, so there will be a variety of contracts and results. The highest contract anyone can make is 2♠ by North-South and even that requires some good guessing, so it is one of those boards where getting a plus score will serve you well and this is most likely to come from defending.</p> <p>If you end up defending 2♥ on the auction above, a trump lead is often indicated when the opponents end up in opener's second suit. This deal illustrates this well since the only lead to defeat the contract by two tricks is J♥. This will cut down the number of diamond ruffs available in dummy to one.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♣	Dbl	1♥	1NT	2♥	All pass
West	North	East	South										
	Pass	1♣	Dbl										
1♥	1NT	2♥	All pass										

HCP	Makeable contracts					
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9	-	2	1	2	1	
8 12	-	2	-	2	1	
11	2	-	-	-	-	
	2	-	-	-	-	

<p>♠ 75 ♥ K9543 ♦ 76 ♣ KJ108</p> <p>♠ K6 ♠ AJ1084 ♥ J10762 ♥ Q8 ♦ 95 ♦ K102 ♣ 9752 ♣ 643</p> <p>♠ Q932 ♥ A ♦ AQJ843 ♣ AQ</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>What does South rebid on the auction 1♦-pass-1♥-1♠(?) 3♦ is an underbid, so the best practical option is 3NT which gets you conveniently to the only making game.</p> <p>Played by South you cannot stop ten tricks, and the most straight-forward way to hold declarer to ten tricks is to lead partner's suit and establish the spades. Now when declarer unblocks the heart and cashes the clubs, East must hold on to all three diamonds, coming down to one spade trick. Declarer may try the diamond finesse but is unable to run the suit (having only one entry to dummy) and East will take the final two tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠	3NT	All Pass			
West	North	East	South														
		Pass	1♦														
Pass	1♥	1♠	3NT														
All Pass																	

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
7	3	3	3	2	3	
4 10	3	3	3	3	4	
19	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	

<p>♠ 7653 ♥ J652 ♦ AJ ♣ Q87</p> <p>♠ KQJ8 ♠ A94 ♥ Q3 ♥ AK94 ♦ 9876 ♦ 2 ♣ 963 ♣ KJ1052</p> <p>♠ 102 ♥ 1087 ♦ KQ10543 ♣ A4</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>East-West are unlikely to reach game, whether South is able to open a weak 2♦ or not, with their combined 23 count. If South passes as dealer, East will open 1♣ in fourth seat, and South will now bid diamonds, which should be sufficient to put East-West off NTs since neither hold a diamond stopper.</p> <p>4♠ is a good contract to reach, with any diamond forces being taken in the short trump hand. On two rounds of diamonds, declarer needs to take the club finesse before drawing trumps. The best way is to cross to the Q♥ and run the nine of clubs. Even those playing in a spade part-score (for example on the auction above) will score well if you manage to make eleven tricks. You will out-score those in the clubs or those in NTs by playing in your four-three fit.</p>	West	North	East	South				2♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	2♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
			2♦														
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass														
2♠	All Pass																

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
8	-	1	-	-	-	
8 15	-	1	-	-	-	
9	5	-	2	5	-	
	5	-	2	5	-	

<p>♠ 8654 ♥ J1043 ♦ Q7 ♣ A105</p> <p>♠ 9 ♥ K75 ♦ KJ1082 ♣ J942</p> <p>♠ K1072 ♥ Q9862 ♦ 4 ♣ Q87</p> <p>♠ AQJ3 ♥ A ♦ A9653 ♣ K63</p>	<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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</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>4♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>All pass</p> <p>4♠ will be a popular contract but will it be made? West is likely to lead the 2♣, being the unbid suit and when North plays low from dummy, East needs to avoid putting the queen up. If the queen is played it not only gives three tricks in the suit, but an additional entry to dummy to take the trump finesse twice. You know that declarer has three clubs if you are leading fourth highest, therefore if partner has led from the king, you still have time to come to a club trick. This means that it is only right to play the queen if partner has led from KJ without the nine. It is right to play the seven if partner has led from J9, and others make no difference. It's a bit of a guess but you know that declarer has a lot of high cards on the bidding, so is more likely to hold K♣ than partner.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
West	North	East	South														
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦														
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠														
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠														

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
7		N	1	2	-	3	2
8	7	S	1	2	-	3	2
		E	-	-	1	-	-
		W	-	-	1	-	-

<p>♠ J9 ♥ AQ106 ♦ Q9654 ♣ 32</p> <p>♠ 102 ♥ 973 ♦ J10872 ♣ AQ6</p> <p>♠ K753 ♥ J82 ♦ K ♣ 98754</p> <p>♠ AQ864 ♥ K54 ♦ A3 ♣ KJ10</p>	<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>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>3NT will be an almost universal contract so overtricks become of paramount importance on this deal.</p> <p>A heart lead seems likely on the bidding above, which will reveal the layout in that suit, and declarer will play on spades. The best line is to run the jack from dummy, however on this layout almost anything you try will pick up the suit for one loser. The only losing option is to play a spade to the jack and king and finesse on the way back. Having overcome the spades and hearts, and when the K♦ conveniently drops singleton, you will end up just losing the final two club tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
	Pass	Pass	1♠														
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT														
Pass	3NT	All pass															

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
9		N	2	3	4	4	4
7	7	S	2	4	5	4	4
		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ KJ ♥ A1086 ♦ A ♣ K106532</p> <p>♠ A4 ♥ 7532 ♦ 76532 ♣ QJ</p> <p>♠ 10753 ♥ KJ9 ♦ Q98 ♣ 974</p> <p>♠ Q9862 ♥ Q4 ♦ KJ104 ♣ A8</p>	<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>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>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North-South will play 3NT on this hand most of the time on the auction above. If played by North, East must avoid giving the twelfth trick on a heart lead. Declarer will go about driving out the A♠ and when the clubs all run, there are eleven easy tricks. If played by South, it makes no difference what West leads.</p> <p>I expect 460 to be a very popular result.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South														
		Pass	1♠														
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦														
Pass	3NT	All Pass															

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
15		N	5	3	5	5	5
7	6	S	5	3	5	5	5
		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ 10876 ♥ J7 ♦ Q10763 ♣ J5</p> <p>♠ J53 ♠ Q942 ♥ KQ10962 ♥ A843 ♦ 4 ♦ AJ ♣ 1064 ♣ AQ3</p> <p>♠ AK ♥ 5 ♦ K9852 ♣ K9872</p>	<p>Board 15 : 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>2♥</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>1♦ All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>There will be competition between the red suits for this contract, however the vulnerability may dissuade North-South from taking the push. As it happens it is one of those rare situations where the save at adverse vulnerability is the best option.</p> <p>There are three losers in the black suits in 4♥ for East-West, and 5♦ is just one down.</p>	West	North	East	South	2♥	3♦	4♥	1♦ All Pass																																		
West	North	East	South																																								
2♥	3♦	4♥	1♦ All Pass																																								
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		4	17	6	13	<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>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	4	-	-	-	S	1	4	-	-	-	E	-	-	4	2	2	W	-	-	4	2	2
HCP																																											
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N	1	4	-	-	-																																						
S	1	4	-	-	-																																						
E	-	-	4	2	2																																						
W	-	-	4	2	2																																						

<p>♠ KQ543 ♥ 843 ♦ J3 ♣ K93</p> <p>♠ J972 ♠ A ♥ J7 ♥ KQ10962 ♦ AK2 ♦ Q7 ♣ AQ54 ♣ 10876</p> <p>♠ 1086 ♥ A5 ♦ 1098654 ♣ J2</p>	<p>Board 16 : 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>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>A straight-forward auction to a popular contract. Some people playing a strong no trump may get the contract played by West and there is little interest to the play. Declarer will concede one club and the ace of trumps for eleven tricks.</p> <p>If it is played by East on the J♣ lead, declarer has a decision to take. If this jack is singleton, declarer must rise with the ace. Now if South holds the ace of trumps there is no ruff available, and even if it is North who holds it, at least the ruffs will be limited to one. If, however the lead is from Jx, declarer must play the queen and hope that it is South that holds the ace of trumps. I confess I would probably go wrong and rise with the ace, the singleton being a more attractive lead than Jx. I expect most plyers to make eleven tricks, but I have sympathy with those who make only ten for these reasons.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	4♥	All pass																														
West	North	East	South																																								
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass																																								
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<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 style="text-align: center;">11</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		9	11	15	5	<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>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	1	5	1	4	W	4	1	5	1	4
HCP																																											
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S	-	-	-	-	-																																						
E	4	1	5	1	4																																						
W	4	1	5	1	4																																						

<p>♠ 42 ♥ A98 ♦ 953 ♣ J9632</p> <p>♠ AJ8 ♠ KQ109653 ♥ J752 ♥ 10 ♦ KQ6 ♦ 84 ♣ AKQ ♣ 1084</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ KQ643 ♦ AJ1072 ♣ 75</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : 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>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There isn't much to say about this hand. A very obvious sequence and eleven clear tricks. I would expect most people to lead a top heart which ensures that trick for the defence and the A♦ will follow in due course.</p> <p>If West greedily decides to have a go at 3NT instead of raising partner, as a few will I suspect, they will score less well. North will probably lead a club, but the defence should at least be able to wrap up the final three tricks to hold it to ten tricks and a poor board for them.</p>	West	North	East	South	4♠	Pass	3♠	Pass		All pass																																
West	North	East	South																																								
4♠	Pass	3♠	Pass																																								
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HCP																																											
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E	1	-	-	5	1																																						
W	1	-	-	5	1																																						

<p>♠ 95 ♥ K109 ♦ AKQ93 ♣ J107</p> <p>♠ 872 ♠ A1043 ♥ J7653 ♥ Q8 ♦ 84 ♦ J762 ♣ A94 ♣ KQ3</p> <p>♠ KQJ6 ♥ A42 ♦ 105 ♣ 8652</p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rdbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>How do you play a double of 2♦, after the sequence 1NT – 2♦ (transfer?) It used to be played as the equivalent of a double of 1NT, however it is more usually played these days as requesting a diamond lead.</p> <p>If your transfer is doubled (whatever it means) it is useful to let partner know about your holding in their suit (hearts, in this case). If you have a fit, partner may want to compete further. Here you can pass to deny three hearts. Partner can reopen with a redouble to force you to bid 2♥, and after that the bidding carries on as normal.</p> <p>For North-South, they really want to buy the hand themselves, but it is tough too bid on with no fit. As it happens they both have values in hearts, so 2NT is making.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	2♦	Dbl	Pass	Pass	Rdbl	Pass	2♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South														
		1NT	Pass														
2♦	Dbl	Pass	Pass														
Rdbl	Pass	2♥	All Pass														

HCP	Makeable contracts																														
13 5 12 10	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</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	2	1	2	2	S	2	2	1	2	2	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	2	2	1	2	2																										
S	2	2	1	2	2																										
E	-	-	-	-	-																										
W	-	-	-	-	-																										

<p>♠ K74 ♥ K87 ♦ AJ654 ♣ K5</p> <p>♠ 95 ♠ A1082 ♥ AJ10 ♥ 943 ♦ K107 ♦ 93 ♣ Q6432 ♣ J1087</p> <p>♠ QJ63 ♥ Q652 ♦ Q82 ♣ A9</p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North-South have the values for 3NT, so most people will be bidding it, however it turns out to be a poor contract on a club lead, needing the diamonds to come in for no loser.</p> <p>The diamonds will come in for you if West holds Kx precisely, which is not very good odds. If there is a diamond to lose, the defence will drive out the remaining club stopper and you will be defeated by two tricks. I expect this to be a popular result. However, playing pairs, there is a case for deciding that this is well against the odds and that you will try for one down. If you win in hand and lead a spade towards dummy, East must duck. Now a diamond finesse and another spade, which East must take, will take you to eight tricks when you establish a heart as you won't lose a diamond trick. One down should give you a good score.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South																		
			Pass																		
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣																		
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Pass	3NT	All Pass																			

HCP	Makeable contracts																														
14 10 5 11	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	3	3	2	S	-	3	3	3	2	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	-	3	3	3	2																										
S	-	3	3	3	2																										
E	1	-	-	-	-																										
W	1	-	-	-	-																										

<p>♠ A10732 ♥ AQ6 ♦ Q943 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ Q98 ♠ KJ6 ♥ K7432 ♥ 109 ♦ 87 ♦ K1062 ♣ Q104 ♣ AJ76</p> <p>♠ 54 ♥ J85 ♦ AJ5 ♣ K9832</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>A fairly normal auction takes you to the best spot. The contract looks uncomfortable, however the diamond and heart finesse are working, the A♣ is onside and the trumps are three-three, so things could hardly be more favourable (okay the diamonds could be three-three as well).</p> <p>The defence can't cause you discomfort with a force in any suit so you should just get on and draw trumps and then take some finesses! If you get the 10 lead, and you cover from dummy, you will make three tricks in that suit for an overtrick when the nine falls.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	All pass			
West	North	East	South														
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣														
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠														
All pass																	

HCP	Makeable contracts																														
12 7 12 9	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</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>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	3	2	3	2	S	2	3	2	3	2	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	2	3	2	3	2																										
S	2	3	2	3	2																										
E	-	-	-	-	-																										
W	-	-	-	-	-																										

<p>♠AJ42 ♥K5 ♦Q73 ♣A632</p> <p>♠10975 ♠K863 ♥J10632 ♥A98 ♦95 ♦AK108 ♣K10 ♣J8</p> <p>♠Q ♥Q74 ♦J642 ♣Q9754</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td colspan="3">All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>What do you play when the opponents have doubled you in 1NT? You may have your favourite “wriggle” (I don’t favour any of them!), but one important point is that you should be able to escape to two of your minor. This is why people tend to abandon Stayman and transfers once they are doubled. On this hand, South is grateful to be able to bid tow natural clubs, and West will compete to 2♥. As it happens North-South want to carry on to 3♣, but it is hard for North to do, having no idea how weak partner is.</p> <p>Against 2♥, the defence might prevail on the Q♠ lead. A spade return might see East rise with the king (why shouldn’t South have led from QJx?) and that is the sixth defensive trick – two spades, two ruffs, a club and a natural trump trick.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Dbl	2♣	2♥	All pass		
West	North	East	South										
	1NT	Dbl	2♣										
2♥	All pass												

HCP	Makeable contracts				
14	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
4 15	N	3	1	-	-
7	S	3	1	-	-
	E	-	-	2	2
	W	-	-	2	2

<p>♠J109 ♥102 ♦A1042 ♣AQ63</p> <p>♠K7 ♠A863 ♥AJ54 ♥73 ♦Q987 ♦KJ65 ♣982 ♣KJ10</p> <p>♠Q542 ♥KQ986 ♦3 ♣754</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>1NT will be a popular contract and the cards are lying favourably for East-West, although declarer will need to take a view in diamonds. Which heart would you lead from the South cards? I confess I would lead the king, which gives everything away, but declarer might also get it right on the lead of the eight. It is wrong to play the jack if South has led from 9862, but otherwise makes no difference, and when they have led fourth highest it will be KQ98(+). If you begin the diamond suit by leading a top one from hand, you will need to follow up with a second towards the queen in order to finesse the ten on the way back. However, this is the normal way to play the suit, once South has led from the long heart suit. If South holds more hearts than North, North has more space to hold more cards in other suits. You should also ensure that you use your entries to dummy to take club finesses.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	All Pass
West	North	East	South						
		1NT	All Pass						

HCP	Makeable contracts				
11	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
10 12	N	-	-	-	-
7	S	-	-	-	-
	E	1	4	1	1
	W	1	4	1	1

<p>♠J108762 ♥986 ♦1064 ♣K</p> <p>♠KQ ♠943 ♥A32 ♥KQ754 ♦AQ8 ♦K73 ♣AQ1084 ♣73</p> <p>♠A5 ♥J10 ♦J952 ♣J9652</p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>After West’s 2NT opening, East will transfer to hearts and offer a choice with 3NT. West has a suitable hand for hearts so should cue-bid on the way to 4♥ in case partner has a marginal hand for slam. It is hard for East to envisage a slam facing a 20-22 balanced hand, as the hand is rather balanced and aceless, and the points are lacking. However, as it turns out, slam depends on little more than the club finesse.</p> <p>If North leads the singleton K♣, declarer should draw trumps and take a finesse of the J♣ in order to dispose of the losing spade from dummy for twelve tricks. On any other lead, declarer will play to ruff a spade in dummy before drawing trumps, and take the losing club finesse, making eleven tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South																		
			Pass																		
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass																		
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass																		
4♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass																		

HCP	Makeable contracts				
4	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
21 8	N	-	-	-	-
7	S	-	-	-	-
	E	5	4	6	2
	W	5	4	6	2

<p>♠ 753 ♥ AK93 ♦ J1063 ♣ J5</p> <p>♠ Q42 ♠ AKJ1096 ♥ J542 ♥ 876 ♦ A ♦ 984 ♣ AQ1064 ♣ 8</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ Q10 ♦ KQ752 ♣ K9732</p>	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: left;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>What do you rebid with the West cards after 1♣-1♠? You are not strong enough to rebid 1NT (which wouldn't be attractive in any case with a singleton diamond), and you are not strong enough to reverse into 2♥. That leaves you with the option to raise partner's spades or rebid your clubs. In my opinion it is much better to raise the spades. Even if it is a four-three fit, partner will be taking diamond ruffs in the hand with shorter trumps. You are unlikely to reach game with this combined 21-count, however it is a very good contract given the singletons in each hand, so those getting there will score well.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠	All pass
West	North	East	South										
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass										
2♠	Pass	3♠	All pass										

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
9	N	1	3	-	-	-
13 8	S	1	3	-	-	-
10	E	-	-	1	4	3
	W	-	-	1	4	3

<p>♠ Q873 ♥ J865 ♦ 9654 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ K54 ♠ J102 ♥ Q732 ♥ AK10 ♦ 8 ♦ AKQJ ♣ AJ1086 ♣ 974</p> <p>♠ A96 ♥ 94 ♦ 10732 ♣ KQ32</p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: left;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>3NT will be almost universal, and making either ten or eleven tricks. The only lead to hold it to ten tricks legitimately is a spade, establishing two spade tricks for the defence when they are inevitably in with a club. It is not likely a spade will be led, however, unless it becomes the unbid suit. On the auction above, South will probably lead a club, and quickly regret it! All the defence can do after a club lead is to switch to a spade and hope declarer mis-guesses. If declarer guesses right, however, twelve tricks will be made and if east holds the queen rather than the jack of spades you will have given away a needless twelfth trick, so this is also an unlikely defence. I suspect that eleven tricks will be more likely than ten in practice.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass		
West	North	East	South														
	Pass	1♦	Pass														
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass														
3NT	All pass																

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
3	N	-	-	-	-	-
10 18	S	-	-	-	-	-
9	E	5	4	4	3	4
	W	5	4	4	3	4

<p>♠ J10932 ♥ AKQJ9 ♦ 762 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ K ♠ A765 ♥ 85 ♥ 73 ♦ J985 ♦ AQ1043 ♣ KJ9653 ♣ 107</p> <p>♠ Q84 ♥ 10642 ♦ K ♣ AQ842</p>	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: left;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>I would expect most North-Souths to reach game in one of the majors, because of the distribution. Both, however can be defeated. Against 4♥, it is possible that East will begin with the A♠, if the double fit has been located as one the auction above. Although it fells partner's king, it doesn't cost since East can continue with the 7♠ for partner to ruff (suit preference for diamonds), and give partner a second ruff when in with the A♦. With the bad trump break, 4♠ is almost certainly doomed to failure, either by playing for a force in clubs, or by cutting down the ruffs in dummy with a trump lead.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass			
West	North	East	South																		
		Pass	1♣																		
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠																		
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥																		
All Pass																					

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
11	N	-	-	3	3	-
8 10	S	-	-	3	3	-
11	E	2	3	-	-	1
	W	2	3	-	-	1

<p>♠ QJ3 ♥ 108754 ♦ A96 ♣ 97</p> <p>♠ 2 ♥ AQ2 ♦ KJ108532 ♣ AJ</p> <p>♠ A94 ♥ KJ63 ♦ 74 ♣ K1064</p> <p>♠ K108765 ♥ 9 ♦ Q ♣ Q8532</p>	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : 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>3♦</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>2♠ All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>What action do you take with the South hand in first position? I would open a weak 2♠. Pass is too feeble with this distribution and the suit is a little weak to open 3♠. 2♠ is sufficient to cause East-west problems and the auction above is likely to follow.</p> <p>In 3NT, declarer will have to duck spades to the third round and then hope that North holds the A♦. Ten tricks follow for the second best possible score, however 6♦ is not terrible, simply requiring the trump suit to come in for one loser. This time luck is on your side and the singleton queen is comforting to see.</p>	West	North	East	South	3♦	3♠	3NT	2♠ All Pass																																								
West	North	East	South																																														
3♦	3♠	3NT	2♠ All Pass																																														
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HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																											
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7		E	2	6	4	-	4																																										
		W	2	6	4	-	4																																										

<p>♠ 10832 ♥ 74 ♦ K984 ♣ K94</p> <p>♠ 54 ♥ J10963 ♦ 7653 ♣ Q6</p> <p>♠ AQJ97 ♥ 852 ♦ QJ ♣ AJ8</p> <p>♠ K6 ♥ AKQ ♦ A102 ♣ 107532</p>	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dbf</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The first decision on this auction is South's, whether to overcall 1NT or double. I can see advantages to both, but I prefer a double when their suit is my shortest. In any case, if you double North should respond 1NT, especially at pairs. Your holding is almost a stopper and may produce a blockage or crashing of honours on a different layout, and even if they can run their spades, you are only on 1NT and it might still be your best possible score.</p> <p>Against 1NT East will need to avoid the Q♠ lead in order to hold the contract to eight tricks. On a passive red suit lead, declarer will play a club to the nine and jack and you still have time to switch to ace and another spade, establishing your suit for when you are in with the A♣.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♠	Dbf	Pass	1NT	All pass																																					
West	North	East	South																																														
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dbf																																														
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<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> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>15</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</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></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		6		N	3	3	2	2	2	3	15	S	3	3	2	-	2			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																											
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<p>♠ KJ10742 ♥ Q7 ♦ KQ3 ♣ K10</p> <p>♠ A98 ♥ KJ ♦ 10964 ♣ Q984</p> <p>♠ Q5 ♥ 106532 ♦ J82 ♣ 652</p> <p>♠ 63 ♥ A984 ♦ A75 ♣ AJ73</p>	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : 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></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>A rebid if your suit doesn't always guarantee a six-card suit, for example if you hold a second suit that you can't show without reversing, and you are minimum. On this auction, however, it is not possible that North holds a second suit (unless choosing to rebid a six-card suit in preference to showing a four-card second suit), and therefore it is much more likely that North holds six spades. The South hand is much more suited to playing in a trump contract with those aces, and I would simply raise partner to 4♠.</p> <p>On a heart or diamond lead, declarer will be held to ten tricks in practice. Although it is possible to make eleven, ten tricks are much more likely unless a club is led. In 3NT, declarer will also make ten tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All pass																																			
West	North	East	South																																														
	1♠	Pass	2♣																																														
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HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																											
14		N	3	3	3	5	4																																										
10	3	S	3	3	3	5	4																																										
		E	-	-	-	-	-																																										
		W	-	-	-	-	-																																										

<p>♠ Q109 ♥ K972 ♦ 10754 ♣ A3</p> <p>♠ K3 ♥ AJ4 ♦ AKQ63 ♣ J106</p> <p>♠ 4 ♥ 10853 ♦ J92 ♣ K9542</p> <p>♠ AJ87652 ♥ Q6 ♦ 8 ♣ Q87</p>	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This looks like a normal auction and will be a popular contract. Ten tricks look to be most likely, and one way to hold it to ten is by leading aa club and getting a ruff. On a diamond lead, declarer will probably cash two top trump and cross to the A♥, discarding the Q♥ on a diamond and losing three tricks. If South leads a heart, declarer must not get too greedy and finesse, or else ace and another club will defeat the contract.</p> <p>Meanwhile what of 3NT? In theory the best contract but it will rely on a good guess in trumps. A heart lead from North may not feel best when the queen holds in dummy, but that is the entry removed, and unless declarer finesses in spades on the second round the contract will be defeated. On other leads it will be held to nine tricks without the spade guess, which will also be poor for East-West</p>	West	North	East	South			3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South										
		3♠	Pass										
4♠	All Pass												

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
9	N	-	-	-	-	-
18	S	-	-	-	-	-
4	E	1	4	1	4	5
	W	1	4	1	4	5

<p>♠ 65 ♥ AK972 ♦ J74 ♣ 843</p> <p>♠ J32 ♥ 1086 ♦ 1093 ♣ Q965</p> <p>♠ KQ109 ♥ QJ3 ♦ AQ82 ♣ J10</p> <p>♠ A874 ♥ 54 ♦ K65 ♣ AK72</p>	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The North hand is just a little light for a 2♥ response to 1♠, and will probably respond 1NT which is where matters will rest. The defence have five black suit tricks and eight tricks will be a very popular result.</p> <p>For those reaching 4♥, only a trump lead will cause declarer problems. A top club lead and trump switch is too late as declarer can arrange to trump a club in dummy. I would expect ten tricks to be made more often than not in hearts although there won't be that many reaching game. They will still outscore those in 1NT.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South										
			1♠										
Pass	1NT	All Pass											

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

<p>♠ 10762 ♥ 1063 ♦ Q985 ♣ 96</p> <p>♠ J93 ♥ QJ952 ♦ 64 ♣ AQ2</p> <p>♠ 84 ♥ K7 ♦ AJ73 ♣ J8753</p> <p>♠ AKQ5 ♥ A84 ♦ K102 ♣ K104</p>	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>East-West need to be careful not to go overboard on this hand. 4♥ played by West will be held to ten tricks on a diamond lead. On any other lead, North is unable to get in to lead a diamond through, and in time, declarer will discard a diamond from the West hand to make eleven tricks.</p> <p>If East-West play in 3NT, a diamond lead from either side will establish that suit for three tricks when in with the K♥. It will take a diamond lead to hold the contract to nine tricks. On any other lead declarer will make eleven tricks in similar fashion to 4♥.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All pass
West	North	East	South										
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass										
2♥	Pass	4♥	All pass										

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
2	N	-	1	-	-	-
10	S	-	1	-	-	-
19	E	2	-	5	5	3
9	W	2	-	4	4	3