

EBED



Sim Pairs

Commentary by Julian Pottage

Thursday
14th May 2026

Welcome to the English Bridge Education & Development (EBED) Simultaneous Pairs!

The proceeds from this event will support EBED, the national charity dedicated to promoting and developing duplicate bridge. At EBED, we focus on two key priorities:

- Youth bridge initiatives aimed at encouraging students in full-time education to learn and play bridge.
- A national bridge education and training framework to support bridge teachers.

Our three youth camps, held in Shropshire during the spring, Northampton in the summer, and Dorking in the autumn, are steadily increasing in popularity. These camps are subsidised to ensure they remain affordable for all families. We welcome parents and grandparents to attend alongside their younger family members, supporting players at every level from absolute beginners to members of the England squad.

EBED provides consistent playing opportunities for young people, including informal after-school teaching every Thursday afternoon (we take complete beginners) on RealBridge. Additionally, we host a 12-board evening duplicate on the second Sunday of each month, requiring at least one player in each pair to be under the age of 26.

In the university sector, EBED has been instrumental in restarting bridge clubs at Manchester, Oxford, and Bristol, while providing ongoing support to all university clubs including Imperial, UCL, Southampton, and Durham. We offer free pizza and beer taster sessions to all universities, and provide generous funding and up to £1000 and a University Award for students who are willing to start club. Entries for the Portland Bowl have increased over the last two years from 11 to 19 teams, and we have identified further target universities, such as Loughborough, which we hope to bring back into the fold for the upcoming academic year.

Finally, the teacher notes, slides, online materials, and hands for *Beginning Bridge – Book 1* (the "Red Book") are currently being refreshed. These updated resources will be available to instructors before the new round of lessons begins this September.

Thank you for your support,

Richard Croot

CEO, English Bridge Education and Development.

<p>♠ 754 ♥ 1074 ♦ A9 ♣ AK1032</p> <p>♠ AQJ103 ♠ K982 ♥ J5 ♥ A832 ♦ KJ75 ♦ Q82 ♣ 95 ♣ J8</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ KQ96 ♦ 10643 ♣ Q764</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>With good controls, two tens, a five-card suit and being non-vulnerable, it should be routine to value the North hand as worth more than its raw 11 points. Whether 2♠ is natural or shows spades and a minor, this will be West's choice of overcall if North opens a weak No Trump. South would probably reopen with a takeout double if East did not raise the spades.</p> <p>In a spade contract the defenders can make one trick in each red suit and two in clubs. If they are very slow in cashing their clubs and declarer plays North for a doubleton ♦A then one of East's clubs could go away on the fourth round of diamonds – but that will not happen very often. With a winning guess in hearts (or if East grabs the ace), a club contract yields 10 tricks, maybe even 11 if the defence fail to knock out declarer's ♦A.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass
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<p>♠ Q9 ♥ 954 ♦ K1073 ♣ QJ54</p> <p>♠ J7 ♠ K852 ♥ KQJ32 ♥ 1087 ♦ A984 ♦ QJ2 ♣ K9 ♣ 1087</p> <p>♠ A10643 ♥ A6 ♦ 65 ♣ A632</p>	<p>Board 2 : 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>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Double</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>North is only marginally worth a negative double after West bids 2♥ over South's 1♠ opening. Three low in a suit bid on your right is a poor holding. With a minimum opening South probably repeats the spades rather than bidding clubs at the three-level. Whether East, knowing the ♠K is of dubious value, should compete to 3♥ is another close decision. 'Lead your partner's suit.' Most people know that. Alas, on this deal a spade is the only lead to allow 3♥ to make. On any other lead, so long as the defenders wait for declarer to open up the spades, they score two tricks in spades to go with at least one in each other suit. Indeed, if declarer tries to finesse South for the ♦K but not then North for the ♦10, 3♥ might go two down. In a spade contract, likely losers are two in trumps and one in each side suit.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♠	2♥	Double	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass
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<p>♠ K98 ♥ 973 ♦ KQJ876 ♣ 9</p> <p>♠ Q4 ♠ J ♥ AK82 ♥ 1054 ♦ 109 ♦ 543 ♣ AJ764 ♣ Q108532</p> <p>♠ A1076532 ♥ QJ6 ♦ A2 ♣ K</p>	<p>Board 3 : 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>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Double</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>In the olden days, West would not double South's 1♠ opening for fear of a 2♦ reply. These days, few people can bring themselves either to overcall at the two-level on a moderate five-card minor or to pass with sound opening values and four cards in the unbid major. East would bid clubs if North were to pass, but can hardly bid 3♣ freely, vulnerable with such a weak hand. In any case, the vulnerability means that East-West do not want to sacrifice in 5♣ doubled. In a spade contract the defenders need to cash their three fast winners at tricks one, two and three. If they fail to do so, any of declarer's remaining losers will disappear on the long diamonds. The losers in a club contract are two in diamonds and one in each major.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Double	2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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<p>♠ A3 ♥ KJ93 ♦ A10752 ♣ 82</p> <p>♠ Q7 ♠ KJ865 ♥ 854 ♥ A6 ♦ 96 ♦ KQ4 ♣ KQJ1073 ♣ 964</p> <p>♠ 10942 ♥ Q1072 ♦ J83 ♣ A5</p>	<p>Board 4 : 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>1♠</td> <td>Double</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>In a competitive auction, East-West find their club fit through entirely natural means, while a negative double helps North-South to find their heart fit. If North opens 1NT then South might use Stayman if 1NT-2♣-2♦-2♥ would require opener to convert to 2♠ on hands with 3-2 in the majors. In any case West probably cannot make a natural 2♣ overcall of 1NT, so bids 3♣ anyway. Because the ♦KQ sit over the ace, any lead other than a diamond (a club being normal with West having bid the suit) should beat 3♥ by a trick: the defenders have time to set up a winner in spades as well as one in clubs, to add to the ♥A and two diamonds. 3♣ would make with one trick in each suit to lose.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♦	1♠	Double	2♣	2♥	3♣	Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass	
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<p>♠ 642 ♥ A4 ♦ KQ1042 ♣ J65</p> <p>♠ KQJ93 ♠ A10 ♥ 103 ♥ KQJ876 ♦ 98763 ♦ A ♣ 2 ♣ 10943</p> <p>♠ 875 ♥ 952 ♦ J5 ♣ AKQ87</p>	<p>Board 5 : 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>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>At a different vulnerability, either North or South would find an overcall with their decent suits. As it is, their fairly lifeless 5332 types, combined with the adverse vulnerability, means they will probably pass throughout. East, with six good hearts and four clubs lacking a picture card, rebids the hearts rather than introducing the clubs.</p> <p>In a heart contract, declarer can make five trump tricks and (without drawing trumps) at least three spades (when they break 3-3) plus the ♦A. The only way the defenders can be sure of holding a heart contract to nine tricks is with an initial trump lead ducked by North. South's club holding is such that this is unlikely to happen! If after cashing a top club, South switches to a heart and North ducks then this holds declarer to ten tricks. If North were to put up the ♥A (hoping South holds the ♠A to shut out the spades), eleven tricks result.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	All Pass
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<p>♠ J98762 ♥ Q6 ♦ 102 ♣ J109</p> <p>♠ - ♠ AQ ♥ AK1095 ♥ 7432 ♦ KJ9843 ♦ Q6 ♣ 82 ♣ KQ763</p> <p>♠ K10543 ♥ J8 ♦ A75 ♣ A54</p>	<p>Board 6 : 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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>With over half the values in the doubletons, East is likely to open a weak 1NT if that option is available. When West transfers into hearts (the fact that the hand has a diamond suit as well is purely coincidental) East makes some sort of super acceptance, West raising to game.</p> <p>If South leads a spade against a heart contract, declarer can discard both of dummy's clubs on the spades, thus just losing a trick to the ♦A and making twelve tricks in all. If North-South play in a sacrificial spade contract, they might make eight tricks: by endplaying East if West takes two hearts, or by discarding one of North's hearts on the third round of diamonds if the defenders do not cash out.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
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<p>♠ A85 ♥ AJ10982 ♦ K85 ♣ 2</p> <p>♠ 32 ♠ J104 ♥ 653 ♥ KQ7 ♦ 1043 ♦ QJ7 ♣ AJ1094 ♣ KQ53</p> <p>♠ KQ976 ♥ 4 ♦ A962 ♣ 876</p>	<p>Board 7 : 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>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The age-old of question comes up here, of whether with a six-card suit and three-card support for responder's major opener should rebid the first suit or raise partner. The sequence shown seems to describe the North hand quite nicely. What the auction does not achieve is identifying how well the North-South hands fit with South's three low clubs facing North's singleton. The friendly layout (spades 3-2 and hearts 3-3) means that it takes an initial lead of a diamond (and continuation if declarer gives up a club) for the defenders to score two tricks. Otherwise declarer can set up the hearts with ruffs to score four hearts, five spades, two diamonds and a club ruff, for twelve in all.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	All Pass			
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<p>♠ 87 ♥ A943 ♦ QJ ♣ KQ1095</p> <p>♠ KQ63 ♠ J52 ♥ KQ1075 ♥ 82 ♦ 85 ♦ AK73 ♣ J4 ♣ A862</p> <p>♠ A1094 ♥ J6 ♦ 109642 ♣ 73</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: right;">North</td> <td style="text-align: right;">East</td> <td style="text-align: right;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Being non-vulnerable and with nine cards in the majors, West will usually open the bidding, the dubious value of a doubleton jack notwithstanding. Also being non-vulnerable and with a decent suit, North finds a 2♣ overcall. East might bid 2NT directly but the poor club spots and general suitability for a suit contract make a temporising move of 2♦ attractive. The easy way to defeat 2NT is for South to lead a club. Then the defenders must come to four tricks in clubs together with the major-suit aces. A low diamond lead is also good enough because declarer cannot easily make more than one trick in clubs and two tricks in each other suit. East-West do better to play in a heart contract, making eight tricks: West can then interrupt the run of the clubs by ruffing.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	2♣	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	All Pass
West	North	East	South										
1♥	2♣	2♦	Pass										
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12			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
11	12	N	-	-	-	-	-
		S	-	-	-	-	-
	5	E	1	-	2	2	1
		W	1	-	2	1	1

<p>♠ AQ52 ♥ QJ ♦ J10843 ♣ J6</p> <p>♠ J1093 ♠ 84 ♥ 105 ♥ K862 ♦ A ♦ KQ972 ♣ KQ10973 ♣ 54</p> <p>♠ K76 ♥ A9743 ♦ 65 ♣ A82</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: right;">North</td> <td style="text-align: right;">East</td> <td style="text-align: right;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Double</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South does not have a great hand or a great suit but, being in third seat non-vulnerable, the temptation to open is high. If North made a natural response, South would have the option of passing. I suppose South does have the option of leaving in the negative double, though one normally needs a trump suit a lot better than A-8-2 to defend for penalties at such a low level. Declaring a heart contract, South should be able to make eight tricks in some comfort, with two tricks in each red suit and a club to lose. Indeed, on a diamond lead it could be possible to endplay East for a ninth trick. 2♣ doubled could go two down if the defenders score three spades, a spade ruff, two hearts and the ♣A, or if North scores the ♣J on an overruff.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♥	2♣	Double	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	All Pass	
West	North	East	South														
	Pass	Pass	1♥														
2♣	Double	Pass	2♥														
Pass	3♥	All Pass															

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

<p>♠ A4 ♥ QJ876542 ♦ K ♣ K4</p> <p>♠ QJ95 ♠ K10763 ♥ A9 ♥ 103 ♦ AQ103 ♦ J65 ♣ AJ10 ♣ 753</p> <p>♠ 82 ♥ K ♦ 98742 ♣ Q9862</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: right;">North</td> <td style="text-align: right;">East</td> <td style="text-align: right;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Being too strong even for a strong 1NT, West makes a suit opening, 1♦ for some and 1♠ for those using Standard English or Bernard Magee style. How many hearts North should bid is a matter for debate. The hand is too strong even facing a passed partner for a weak jump overcall, so it is either a simple overcall or a jump all the way to 4♥. The more North bids, the more likely it is that East-West will reach 4♠. In a spade contract declarer can make ten tricks by dropping the singleton ♦K offside (or if North switches to a diamond). Often the defenders will score one trick in each suit. In a heart contract declarer has one trick in each suit to lose.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥	2♠	Pass	2NT	3♥	3♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South														
		Pass	Pass														
1♠	2♥	2♠	Pass														
2NT	3♥	3♠	All Pass														

HCP		Makeable contracts					
13			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
18	4	N	-	-	3	-	-
		S	-	-	3	-	-
	5	E	1	3	-	4	4
		W	1	3	-	4	4

<p>♠ AK3 ♥ A54 ♦ K83 ♣ 9764</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ KJ732 ♦ AJ105 ♣ KQ10</p> <p>♠ Q1085 ♥ 109 ♦ Q92 ♣ 8532</p> <p>♠ J9642 ♥ Q86 ♦ 764 ♣ AJ</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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Double</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>Lacking a fourth spade, the majority choice with the North hand will be to pass over 1♥ rather than make a takeout double. After South reopens with 1♠, since game is not completely out of the question, North cuebids West's suit to show a value raise. With moderate values, a moderate hand and moderate shape, South has no interest in going higher! In a spade contract, North's ♣9 could turn out to be a very useful card, enabling declarer to get rid of red-suit loser on that card on the fourth round of clubs. In fact, if West starts with ♣K, it is possible with an inspired line of play to make an overtrick in 2♠.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass	1♠	Double	2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass			
West	North	East	South																		
			Pass																		
1♥	Pass	Pass	1♠																		
Double	2♥	Pass	2♠																		
All Pass																					

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

<p>♠ 62 ♥ 863 ♦ KQ ♣ AQJ1094</p> <p>♠ Q93 ♥ KJ9 ♦ 1087652 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ AK8 ♥ AQ7 ♦ J94 ♣ K873</p> <p>♠ J10754 ♥ 10542 ♦ A3 ♣ 62</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : 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>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>An all-natural competitive auction seems the order of the day here. If East-West were vulnerable, North might elect to defend 1NT hoping it would go down on a club lead. 1NT by East would make exactly either if South leads a club at trick one or if South wins the first diamond and switches to a club. The defenders can also hold 1NT to seven tricks in more spectacular fashion if North wins the first diamond and switches to the ♣Q followed by the ♣A, allowing South to discard the ♦A on the third round of clubs. In a diamond contract, the way to secure four defensive tricks is to start with two rounds of clubs, and later for South to ruff the third round with the ♦A.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♣	1NT	Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass	2♦	All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
Pass	1♣	1NT	Pass														
Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass														
2♦	All Pass																

HCP		Makeable contracts					
12			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
6	17	N	1	-	-	-	-
		S	1	-	-	-	-
		E	-	3	2	2	1
		W	-	3	2	2	1

<p>♠ AK93 ♥ 10975 ♦ A9 ♣ 943</p> <p>♠ Q10 ♥ KJ62 ♦ 87642 ♣ A10</p> <p>♠ 876 ♥ AQ4 ♦ QJ53 ♣ K76</p> <p>♠ J542 ♥ 83 ♦ K10 ♣ QJ852</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : 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>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>There is some possibility that this deal will result in a pass-out. East does have 12 high card points, but the shape and intermediates are poor. North has a point fewer but better spot cards, better controls and better shape than East has – but many players do not take those factors into account in deciding whether to open the bidding. If South leads the ♣5, 'fourth highest of longest and strongest', the ♣10 scores a cheap trick and gives East in 1NT time to knock out the ♦AK. After that start, the best the defenders can do is to cash their four spades when they gain the lead in diamonds to stop any overtricks. If South leads the ♣Q or a spade, 1NT should fail. If North-South declare, a defensive club ruff would hold them to +110 in spades, while a diamond lead would ensure that 1NT is defeated.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1NT	All Pass
West	North	East	South						
	Pass	1NT	All Pass						

HCP		Makeable contracts					
11			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
10	12	N	3	-	-	2	-
		S	3	-	-	2	-
		E	-	3	1	-	-
		W	-	3	1	-	-

<p>♠ K5432 ♥ K102 ♦ 9532 ♣ 10</p> <p>♠ 97 ♥ Q986 ♦ K108 ♣ Q983</p> <p>♠ AQJ108 ♥ J75 ♦ QJ4 ♣ J5</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ A43 ♦ A76 ♣ AK7642</p>	<p>Board 14 : 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>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>Holding such a good spade suit, East is likely to open 1♠ even if a weak 1NT is an option. South overcalls 2♣, planning to double later if either opponent bids 2♠. West is a bit too weak to make a negative double, while East really has nothing further to add.</p> <p>The defenders will be doing well to defeat 2♣. They need either to lead a heart at trick one (unlikely if East has bid spades) or to switch to a heart at trick two. If they do not play hearts early enough, declarer can get a long diamond going.</p> <p>2♠ by East should go two down. The defenders can take the first six tricks if North discards a heart on the second top club and then scores a heart ruff. Later the ♠K will be the seventh defensive trick.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♠	2♣
West	North	East	South						
		1♠	2♣						

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
6	N 1	N 1	N -	N 1	N -
7	S 1	S 1	S -	S 1	S -
12	E -	E -	E 1	E -	E 1
15	W -	W -	W 1	W -	W 1

<p>♠ - ♥ Q97 ♦ 96 ♣ J9876432</p> <p>♠ Q987 ♥ 2 ♦ KQ8432 ♣ K10</p> <p>♠ AK54 ♥ AJ10543 ♦ 105 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ J10632 ♥ K86 ♦ AJ7 ♣ AQ</p>	<p>Board 15 : 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>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>North, despite holding an eight-card suit, will probably struggle to enter the bidding. The hand is weak and the suit is the lowest ranking. Unless a strong No Trump is in use, South's opening and West's overcall will be very common actions, as also will be East's introduction of the heart suit. If 2♥ is non-forcing, West might elect to pass, but bidding 3♦ seems more normal, with 2NT an outside contender. Given the misfit, East might pass 3♦ or perhaps repeat the hearts. With spades well held, and expecting any diamond finesse against the opening bidder to succeed, potting 3NT is an option too.</p> <p>If the contract is 3NT, making just one overtrick is normal as the cards lie, even if dummy scores a cheap spade trick.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass
West	North	East	South														
			1♠														
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass														
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass														

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

<p>♠ J95 ♥ AJ875 ♦ 852 ♣ KJ</p> <p>♠ KQ4 ♥ K96 ♦ J104 ♣ AQ85</p> <p>♠ 1076 ♥ 104 ♦ A63 ♣ 107632</p> <p>♠ A832 ♥ Q32 ♦ KQ97 ♣ 94</p>	<p>Board 16 : 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>1♣</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Unless playing a strong No Trump, West opens 1♣. North, with a fair suit and a fair hand, overcalls 1♥. East just about scrapes up a raise to 2♣. South then has a decision between a slightly aggressive 3♣ cue bid to show a value raise in hearts or a competitive double, getting the spades into the equation but not promising the three-card heart support.</p> <p>With the ♦A onside, a little unexpectedly, 3♥ should make. Declarer can lead diamonds while in hand and take the heart finesse when in dummy, while the defenders are unable to knock out South's ♠A entry until it is too late. Well, I say they cannot dislodge the ♠A, but if West were brave enough to switch to the ♠4, it might not be obvious for declarer to rise with the ♠J. 3♣ goes two down, losing two tricks in each red suit and one in each black suit.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♣	1♥	2♣	3♣	Pass	3♥	All Pass	
West	North	East	South										
1♣	1♥	2♣	3♣										
Pass	3♥	All Pass											

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

<p>♠ 72 ♥ K63 ♦ J95 ♣ AK875</p> <p>♠ A963 ♠ J8 ♥ Q2 ♥ A74 ♦ KQ82 ♦ A10763 ♣ QJ4 ♣ 1032</p> <p>♠ KQ1054 ♥ J10985 ♦ 4 ♣ 96</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>With a five-card suit and 11 points, some will open the North hand. If that is with 1♣ then East-West should find their diamond fit. On the auction shown (West's 1NT showing 12-14 and South's 2♣ both majors), or if North opens 1NT, then North-South are quite likely to declare a heart contract. In 2♥ the defenders can do little better than keep playing diamonds at every opportunity. Declarer can scramble eight tricks but is not able to enjoy either long clubs or long spades. In a diamond contract the defenders can take two top clubs plus a ruff for the first three tricks, then sit back and await a trick in each major, thus holding declarer to eight tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	All Pass	
West	North	East	South														
	Pass	Pass	Pass														
1NT	Pass	Pass	2♣														
Pass	2♥	All Pass															

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

<p>♠ Q973 ♥ AQ3 ♦ Q84 ♣ A107</p> <p>♠ 2 ♠ AK8 ♥ KJ862 ♥ 109754 ♦ K102 ♦ 763 ♣ K643 ♣ J2</p> <p>♠ J10654 ♥ - ♦ AJ95 ♣ Q985</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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Double</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>In third seat and at favourable vulnerability, West is likely to open 1♥. In the olden days North would pass over 1♥, the hand being the right shape but the wrong strength for a 1NT overcall. These days, with four cards in the other major, many, if not most, will double. In my usual methods East's jump raise is like a raise to two and a half hearts, a 'mixed raise'. South is not troubled by this and happily competes with 3♠. North, aware that South could not open, and that the heart strength is going to be facing a shortage, passes. In a spade contract, so long as the defenders do not open up the frozen club suit they should score four tricks – two in trumps and one in each minor. In a heart contract, again the defenders want to leave clubs alone.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♥	Double	3♥	3♠	All Pass			
West	North	East	South														
		Pass	Pass														
1♥	Double	3♥	3♠														
All Pass																	

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

<p>♠ 1097 ♥ A53 ♦ A10876 ♣ 83</p> <p>♠ AKQ4 ♠ 65 ♥ Q984 ♥ K1062 ♦ J ♦ 943 ♣ QJ74 ♣ K1096</p> <p>♠ J832 ♥ J7 ♦ KQ52 ♣ A52</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>1♣</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>West opens the classic 'suit below the singleton' with the 4441 type. Taking advantage of the vulnerability, North interjects 1♦. For most pairs, East's correct action then is 1♥ (double would show 4-4 in the majors). South's 2♣ indicates a sound diamond raise. To stop the overtrick in 3♥ the defenders need to find a club ruff. Perhaps the easiest way to accomplish this is for North to overtake the ♦K with ♦A and switch to the ♣8 – though South will need to work out that North has a doubleton club rather than a singleton and duck the first club. If the ♦K holds, a low club switch is also effective. In a diamond contract the defenders can take three spades, a heart and a club.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♣	1♦	1♥	2♥	3♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
1♣	1♦	1♥	2♥														
3♥	All Pass																

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
8		N	-	2	-	-	1
15	6	S	-	2	-	-	1
		E	3	-	3	1	-
	11	W	3	-	3	1	-

<p>♠9854 ♥65 ♦KQ832 ♣62</p> <p>♠KJ7632 ♠Q10 ♥J ♥AQ8 ♦J65 ♦1094 ♣Q108 ♣AK543</p> <p>♠A ♥K1097432 ♦A7 ♣J97</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>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Facing a vulnerable weak two, East is just about worth making a game try, 2NT being an enquiry for more information. How many hearts South then bids is a matter of debate. If South were to bid 4♥, West might bid 4♠ while East would double if given the chance. So long as North leads a heart, or indeed anything other than a diamond honour, 3♠ makes exactly. The defenders can cash three diamonds after South gets in with the ♠A. They should know to do this (rather than try to cash the ♥K for example) because North will encourage a diamond continuation when South switches to the ♦A.</p> <p>In a heart contract, declarer can easily make nine tricks by discarding a club on the third round of diamonds and then leading up to the ♥K.</p>	West	North	East	South	2♠	Pass	2NT	3♥	3♠	All Pass		
West	North	East	South										
2♠	Pass	2NT	3♥										
3♠	All Pass												

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

<p>♠J65 ♥KJ96 ♦4 ♣KQ1075</p> <p>♠82 ♠Q1093 ♥A107542 ♥Q3 ♦QJ752 ♦109 ♣- ♣AJ943</p> <p>♠AK74 ♥8 ♦AK863 ♣862</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>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Double</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>At favourable vulnerability, a weak two really does not describe the West hand. Either open 3♥ or pass. Most of the time pre-empting works, creating more problems for the opposition than it does for partner. On this particular deal the 3♥ opening does not work well because South has an easy reopening double: opening values, four spades and a heart shortage; North will surely take the money, the vulnerability notwithstanding.</p> <p>Even after the normal lead of the ♣K (which allows declarer to discard a spade), the defenders can defeat 3♥ doubled by two tricks, if they refrain from setting up the ♠Q and South switches to a trump at some point. 3NT by North-South fails on the lead of either red suit.</p>	West	North	East	South	3♥	Pass	Pass	Double	All Pass			
West	North	East	South										
3♥	Pass	Pass	Double										
All Pass													

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
10		N	3	1	-	3	2
7	9	S	3	1	-	3	2
		E	-	-	1	-	-
		W	-	-	1	-	-

<p>♠42 ♥Q76 ♦102 ♣KQ10764</p> <p>♠AKQJ106 ♠8753 ♥A83 ♥5 ♦87 ♦AQ65 ♣AJ ♣8532</p> <p>♠9 ♥KJ10942 ♦KJ943 ♣9</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>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Double</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♥</td> <td>5♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>South has a better heart suit than West did on the previous deal, making it an easier decision to open 3♥. West, being too strong for an immediate overcall, starts with a double. North increases the pre-empt with a raise to 4♥, which for the time being silences East. Knowing the vulnerability and that North had the chance to double 4♠, South later takes the slightly unusual path of bidding again, doing so with a lead-directing bid. East eventually shows signs of life.</p> <p>Most of the time 5♠ will make exactly, with one trick in each minor to lose. There is a very slight chance that South will get endplayed, allowing 12 tricks. In a heart contract there are four aces to lose.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	3♥	Double	4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥	5♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South																		
		Pass	3♥																		
Double	4♥	Pass	Pass																		
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♦																		
Pass	5♥	5♠	All Pass																		

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
7		N	-	-	3	-	-
19	6	S	-	-	3	-	-
		E	1	1	-	5	3
		W	1	-	-	5	3

<p>♠ Q3 ♥ Q62 ♦ K105 ♣ 97643</p> <p>♠ AK7 ♠ 954 ♥ AJ4 ♥ 109853 ♦ AQJ72 ♦ 8 ♣ AQ ♣ K1082</p> <p>♠ J10862 ♥ K7 ♦ 9643 ♣ J5</p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td>4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>West opens with the system strong bid and East keeps the bidding open as required to do so. Since a simple 2NT rebid would typically show 23-24 points, West needs to jump to 3NT (unless Kokish is in use, whereby a 2♥ rebid shows either hearts or a balanced hand). If East and West are both confident that 4♦ is a transfer, then the bidding continues as illustrated. The layout is friendly for declarer in a heart contract. The ♦K is both short and vulnerable to a ruffing finesse. In addition, the ♣J is doubleton and, with the doubleton heart honour in the South hand, it takes only one finesse to pick up the trumps. All this means that making twelve tricks should be common.</p>		West	North	East	South					Pass	2♣	Pass		2♦	Pass	3NT	Pass		4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass			
	West	North	East	South																						
				Pass																						
2♣	Pass		2♦	Pass																						
3NT	Pass		4♦	Pass																						
4♥	All Pass																									

HCP	
7	3
25	
5	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	4	3	6	3	5
W	4	3	6	3	5

<p>♠ A7432 ♥ 102 ♦ 1083 ♣ 873</p> <p>♠ 5 ♠ Q86 ♥ KQJ ♥ 98 ♦ 97542 ♦ AKQJ6 ♣ K1094 ♣ J52</p> <p>♠ KJ109 ♥ A76543 ♦ - ♣ AQ6</p>	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Double</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Double</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>Modern thinking with the South cards is to show the main suit first with a view to doubling later. West's 2♥ cue bid shows a value raise in diamonds, eliciting a sign-off from East. Perhaps South will sell out to 4♦ and perhaps East will let 4♠ play on the basis that it sounds like the field will not be in game. The club position is such that declarer cannot really go wrong in a diamond contract, just losing three aces. Unless East is on lead and starts with a club, it is possible to make eleven tricks with spades as trumps, by setting up the hearts via a duck and high ruff, and later finessing East for the ♠Q.</p>		West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥	2♥	Pass		3♦	Double	Pass		3♠	Pass	Pass	4♦	Pass	Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	5♦	Pass	Double
	West	North	East	South																											
	Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥																											
2♥	Pass		3♦	Double																											
Pass		3♠	Pass	Pass																											
4♦	Pass	Pass	Pass	4♠																											
Pass	Pass	5♦	Pass	Double																											

HCP	
4	13
9	
14	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	3	4	-
S	-	-	3	5	-
E	1	4	-	-	1
W	1	4	-	-	1

<p>♠ AK5 ♥ AK2 ♦ J765 ♣ 1063</p> <p>♠ J732 ♠ 1096 ♥ J10 ♥ Q8763 ♦ AK32 ♦ Q98 ♣ AQ8 ♣ 74</p> <p>♠ Q84 ♥ 954 ♦ 104 ♣ KJ952</p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>If playing a weak No Trump, North is a fraction too strong for that and so starts with 1♦. West has an unsuitable shape for coming in over the 1NT response – too many diamonds and too few hearts. With diamonds bid but spades unbid, West leads a spade against 1NT. Declarer wins this in dummy, not just to take a finesse against East's possible ♣Q, but also to conserve an entry to hand. After West wins the first or second round of clubs and continues spades, again declarer retains the ♠Q, winning in dummy. It is then possible to knock out West's remaining club stopper. This line leads to eight tricks: three in each black suit and two in hearts. It would take an initial heart lead to stop the overtrick in 1NT. Indeed, declarer needs to hold up at trick one on a heart lead just to make the contract.</p>		West	North	East	South			1♦	Pass	1NT
	West	North	East	South							
		1♦	Pass	1NT							

HCP	
15	4
15	
6	

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

<p>♠ J2 ♥ KQ8653 ♦ Q74 ♣ K7</p> <p>♠ Q43 ♠ 965 ♥ J74 ♥ A1092 ♦ KJ95 ♦ 1083 ♣ A108 ♣ J52</p> <p>♠ AK1087 ♥ - ♦ A62 ♣ Q9643</p>	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North-South should be able to enjoy an uncontested natural auction. These days just about everyone opens 1♠ on hands with 5-5 in the black suits. Perhaps South should accept North's game invitation. In standard Acol, 3♣ on the third round is non-forcing because, with a stronger hand and the same shape, South would have made a 3♣ high reverse the round previously.</p> <p>For anyone declaring a spade contract, the layout is pretty friendly. The ♥A and ♦K are both where declarer wants them, while both black suits split 3-3. This means that the losers are just one trick in each suit except diamonds. 2NT should fail on any lead except a heart honour.</p>		West	North	East	South				Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠	All Pass		
	West	North	East	South																						
			Pass	1♠																						
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠																						
Pass	2NT	Pass	Pass	3♣																						
Pass	3♠	All Pass																								

HCP		Makeable contracts	
11		♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT	
11 5		N 4 2 2 4 1	
13		S 4 2 2 4 1	
		E - - - - -	
		W - - - - -	

<p>♠ KQ9852 ♥ 10 ♦ K9652 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ A73 ♠ J4 ♥ K863 ♥ 95 ♦ J7 ♦ AQ10 ♣ Q864 ♣ AK9752</p> <p>♠ 106 ♥ AQJ742 ♦ 843 ♣ 103</p>	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>South has a classic hand for a weak two opening with a decent six-card suit and nothing outside. North might reasonably respond 2♠ if that would be non-forcing (some people play that 2♠ is non-forcing because a jump to 3♠ is available for a hand with spades that wishes to force). East overalls 3♣ whether or not North has responded 2♠. West's 3NT is slightly aggressive, though the ♥K over the heart bid is almost as good as the ♥A. With both the ♥A and ♦K onside, you can make eleven tricks in a no-trump contract. Moreover, if the ♠J scores at trick one, a twelfth trick is available. In real life, if North starts with a spade honour and declarer is not confident that South has only two spades, then holding up the ♠A until the third round will result in making only ten tricks.</p>		West	North	East	South					2♥	Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass		3NT	All Pass			
	West	North	East	South																	
				2♥																	
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass																		
3NT	All Pass																				

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

<p>♠ AQ ♥ Q1074 ♦ KQJ96 ♣ K6</p> <p>♠ J54 ♠ K1098 ♥ A ♥ J96 ♦ A7542 ♦ 8 ♣ 9843 ♣ AQ1075</p> <p>♠ 7632 ♥ K8532 ♦ 103 ♣ J2</p>	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Double</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>After North opens 1♦, East has a three-way choice: pass, double or 2♣. The fact that West is a passed hand makes game rather unlikely, which reduces the attractiveness of doubling. The favourably vulnerability combined with the lead-directing and space-consuming benefit of a 2♣ overcall are the deciding factors for me.</p> <p>The cards lie extraordinarily well for East-West in a club contract. Clubs are 2-2, on top of which both the ♠Q and ♣K are onside. This means that the only loser is the ♠A. I would hazard a guess that nobody actually bids a slam! So long as North declares, 2♥ would make because West cannot get in enough times to lead both spades and clubs through declarer, as well as giving East a diamond ruff.</p>		West	North	East	South		Pass	1♦	2♣	Pass	2♦	Double	3♣	All Pass	
	West	North	East	South												
	Pass	1♦	2♣	Pass												
2♦	Double	3♣	All Pass													

HCP		Makeable contracts	
17		♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT	
9 10		N - - 2 - -	
4		S - - 1 - -	
		E 6 1 - 3 2	
		W 6 1 - 3 2	



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