

About the Bridge for All books and how to order

All items are sold and despatched by English Bridge Education & Development



Beginning Bridge Book 1 is ideal for those who want to learn using the 'traditional' method of a lesson once a week, for three terms. It progresses at a steady pace, allowing more time to digest each topic. The cost is £30 plus P&P

Fast Track Bridge is ideal for those who want to learn more quickly, perhaps on a condensed course over a long weekend, or through a number of more intensive classes. It is designed to get you to the table quicker. The cost is £30 plus P&P.

Using either of these programmes will get you to the point at which you can play at a local club.

Continuing Bridge Book 2 covers more advanced topics, for those who have grasped the basics – whether having completed Book 1, or a Fast Track course – and wish to improve their game. The cost is £30 plus P&P.



Beginning Bridge Book 1 and Continuing Bridge Book 2 are accompanied by the refreshed **Practise Beginning Bridge Book 1** (£9.99 plus P&P) and **Practise Continuing Bridge Book 2** (£8.00 plus P&P), to help consolidate knowledge gained from our Bridge For All books. They provide the bridge student with sets of hands to practice at home with friends. With each hand there is a commentary that highlights one or two topics of bidding and play which feature in teaching books.

Completing the set of materials is the **System Summary Card**, which gives the Standard English system taught in the Bridge For All books in an easy to use reference format. The cost is £2.50 plus P&P



NEW: SET OF 3 FLIPPERS - £13.50 + P&P

Table top flippers designed to act as either a student aid or teaching aid. Each flipper covers one term of the first year of learning and are compatible with Beginning Bridge Book One. The Flippers are made of sturdy plastic coated card and are spiro bound.

You can also buy them individually for £4.99 each + P&P

How to order these products

All these products are available to purchase directly from English Bridge Education & Development: please call Lisa on 01296 317217 from Monday to Wednesday or if you wish to order online please do so through the website of [the Bridge Warehouse](#).

EBED



Sim Pairs

Commentary by Brian Senior

Thursday 10th September 2026

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

Thank you for taking part in 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 in England. Our work is focused on two key priorities:

1) Encouraging young people in full-time education to learn and enjoy bridge through a wide range of youth initiatives.

Supporting young bridge players remains at the heart of our work. We organise a variety of events for school-age players, including the Schools Cup, Inter-Schools League, Youth Grand Prix, weekly online bridge sessions, and our monthly **Next Generation Pairs** on the second Sunday of each month, a friendly duplicate event in which at least one player in each partnership is under the age of 26.

We also run three youth bridge camps each year. These camps are heavily subsidised to ensure that as many young people as possible can participate. Increasingly, we are welcoming grandparents with their grandchildren, so 'Gather your Grandchild' and join us!

In addition, we continue to support county organisations and individual volunteers in delivering local youth events and provide resources to help schools establish and sustain bridge clubs.

EBED has also played a leading role in establishing and supporting university bridge clubs. Successful clubs are now thriving at the Universities of Bristol, Oxford and Manchester, while new school bridge clubs are being established in Worcestershire, London, Kent, Wiltshire and Lancashire, giving even more young people the opportunity to discover and enjoy the game.

2) Providing a national framework for bridge education and training, delivering high-quality courses for bridge teachers and club directors

To support bridge education more widely, EBED has developed a new 20-week approach for Year One and launched a redesigned Teacher Training Course. The new course is specifically designed for those who would like to begin teaching bridge with a clear, practical and well-structured introduction.

We have also introduced a new two-day Club Director Training Course, replacing the previous three- or four-day format. The revised programme combines self-guided learning with face-to-face training, making it both more efficient and more accessible.

Joining the English Bridge Teachers Association (EBTA) is now better value, with free premium membership of IntoBridge and FunBridge for teachers and deals for their students. New teaching resources will continue to be developed over the next year or two.

The English Bridge Union and English Bridge Education & Development continue to offer affiliated clubs two free places on Club Teacher Training Courses every two years. Clubs that choose not to use their allocation for teacher training may instead use it for a Club Director Training Course.

We hope you enjoy playing these hands and competing against players from across the country. Thank you for your continued support of EBED and our work to grow and strengthen bridge throughout England.

If you would like to make an additional donation to support our work, please visit www.ebedcio.org.uk/donate.

Richard Croot

Chief Executive Officer

English Bridge Education & Development

♠KJ ♥A1093 ♦AQ3 ♣J985 ♠Q10764 ♥Q ♦1098542 ♣7 ♠983 ♥652 ♦J7 ♣KQ643		♠A52 ♥KJ874 ♦K6 ♣A102																																											
<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>15</td><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr></table>		HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	15		N	2	-	-	1	4	15	S	2	-	-	1			E	-	3	1	3	6		W	-	3	1	3	Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all There could be many different auctions on this deal. If North opens a strong No Trump, East is a little shy of the values to double (though some will), so will they overcall 2♥ on their essentially balanced hand? If they do, South may use Lebensohl 2NT to compete in clubs. East can hardly bid again, having no distributional assets, and West will see a misfit, so 3♣ may end the auction and go down a trick. That will not be so bad for NS if other tables see EW compete to 3♦/♠, both of which can be made on any defence. If North opens 1♥, East may overcall 1NT. Now, whether or not South competes with 2♣, West will surely compete, but if South has bid 2♣ and North now competes to 3♣, will West be willing to bid a second time? Perhaps if West's first action was to show the spades, it will be East who competes to the three level. With NS able to make 1NT or 2♣, and EW 3♦/♠, it will be interesting to see just how this one scores. I would think that going plus would be important.	
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6		W	-	3	1	3																																							

♠542

♥AJ86

♦1095

♣QJ6

♠J63

♥9732

♦A43

♣AK2

♠A10987

♥K5

♦Q876

♣87

♠KQ

♥Q104

♦KJ2

♣109543

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
8		N	2	-	1	-	
12	9	S	1	-	1	-	
		E	-	3	-	3	
11		W	-	3	-	3	

♠K9432

♥K76

♦72

♣Q103

♠Q106

♥Q1082

♦AK4

♣AK9

♠J5

♥J94

♦QJ1065

♣754

♠A87

♥A53

♦983

♣J862

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
8		N	-	-	1	-	
18	5	S	-	-	1	-	
		E	1	2	2	1	
9		W	1	2	2	1	

♠95

♥K942

♦874

♣10973

♠AKQJ743

♥AQ

♦Q

♣AQ6

♠6

♥J1073

♦AJ953

♣K85

♠1082

♥865

♦K1062

♣J42

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
3		N	-	-	-	-	
24	9	S	-	-	-	-	
		E	4	4	6	6	
4		W	4	5	5	6	

Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

There is no reason to upgrade the South hand to opening-bid status. The vulnerability is wrong, there is the king-queen doubleton, and the main suit is weak. If South does open a weak No Trump and play there, the contract is likely to be a couple down and −200 on a partscore deal will score pretty poorly.

Where South passes, West may open a weak No Trump and East transfer to spades. Nobody has a reason to bid on over 2♣, so that should be a popular contract. Double dummy, there are nine tricks, but that requires declarer to get the spades right, and why should he do that? Eight tricks looks to be the normal number.

Where West has to open 1♣, East will respond 1♠ and West rebid 1NT. Some will pass that out and eight tricks are possible but, again, that requires declarer to play for the actual spade position. Others will go back to 2♠ - after all, they would have transferred to spades facing a 1NT opening, so why not play in spades facing a 1NT rebid?

Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all

West is too strong for a 1NT opening or rebid. Playing Acol, the opening bid is 1♥. Many Norths will overcall 1♠ – not that this hand is the finest example of an overcall, but it is only at the one level and the vulnerability favours getting involved. That should silence East, who might well pass even if North also had done so, and South raises to 2♠. What is your poison with the West hand?

West does not have the right shape for a take-out double, nor does he have any suit he can play on to establish several tricks should he bid 2NT, making that a dangerous option, yet he does have 18 HCP and it is Love All, the time to be most aggressive in trying to become declarer on a competitive partscore deal.

Double works well when East has a long suit, but then so will 2NT as East can bid the long suit over that. If East does not have a long suit or genuine heart support, passing may be best, but 2NT rates to be better than three of a suit, so 2NT works out better than double.

On this deal West's 2NT works out very well indeed. Yes, it can be defeated, but that requires the defence to attack clubs to set up six tricks before declarer can get an eighth; on the normal spade lead, a spade trick is set up for declarer, and he has eight winners for +120 and a useful score.

Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

I would expect a 2♣ opening from West and 2♦ response from East. True, East has the values for a positive response, but 3♦ would cramp the auction much of the time, and a quiet 2♦ allows East to show the diamonds next time if opener rebids 2♥/♠.

This time, however, West might rebid 3♠, showing solid spades and asking East to show an ace if he has one – this is a rare Acol bid and not everyone is aware of it. To be fair, this is not quite the classical hand-type for its use, as there is a lot of cuebidding required for slam to be good; not just the missing ace is needed. But it works well facing this East hand.

After 2♣ – 2♦ – 3♠, East bids 4♦, showing the ace, nothing else. That is good news for West, who can cuebid 4♥, and East, with a great hand for a 2♦ response to 2♣, can cuebid 5♣ to show the king of clubs (or possibly shortage plus spade support).

Assuming three club tricks, one way or the other, West can now count 12 tricks, whether played in spades or in No Trumps, and can bid the small slam of his choice, or bid 5NT to tell East that all the key-cards are present and invite Seven if he has an extra trick. As he does not, East signs off in 6♠ and West can convert to 6NT.

♠K10875 ♥9653 ♦106 ♣75 ♠AQ4 ♥Q87 ♦K942 ♣KJ4 ♠J9 ♥AK4 ♦AQJ53 ♣1093 ♠632 ♥J102 ♦87 ♣AQ862		Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable Not the most exciting of deals. If playing strong No Trump, that is what West will open and East will raise straight to 3NT – unless playing Puppet Stayman, when he might check for a five-three heart fit, just in case the spade suit is a serious weakness. If playing weak No Trump, most Wests will open 1♦. East has no problem if playing inverted minor-suit raises, when a simple raise to 2♦ is invitational-plus so a one-round force – West’s rebid will show a strong No Trump and 3NT will be reached without a problem. Those playing Acol with standard limit raises will have a problem as there is no forcing diamond raise, and the hand is too strong to make a non-forcing raise. Sometimes, the solution is to jump to 3NT, but that is far from ideal when holding such good diamond support and with both black suits potentially being wide open. I would respond 1♥ and hope nothing too bad happens. In practice, West will rebid 1NT and East can raise that to game, showing the diamond fit on the way if in his judgement slam could be possible. With the missing club honours aside but the ♠K offside, the contract can be held to 11 tricks. However, a spade lead away from the king gives a twelfth trick, and this is likely to be the most common outcome.	
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HCP	
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15	15
7	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	3	5	3	2	5
W	3	5	3	2	5

Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

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With the missing club honours onside but the ♠K offside, the contract can be held to 11 tricks. However, a spade lead away from the king gives a twelfth trick, and this is likely to be the most common outcome.

♠J6 ♥J8 ♦976 ♣AKQ1098 ♠A87 ♠109532 ♥97 ♥1065 ♦AKQJ10 ♦85 ♣653 ♣742 ♠KQ4 ♥AKQ432 ♦432 ♣J		Board 34 : Dealer West : Love all With six sure tricks, the West hand looks to be a little good for a weak No Trump, so many will open 1♦ instead. North has a 2♣ overcall, though some will prefer a weak jump to 3♣. Facing a 2♣ overcall South bids 2♥, and North probably rebids 3♣. A 3♦ cuebid comes next, looking for a diamond stopper. Alas, North doesn't have one and, having already failed to support hearts, can afford to bid 3♥ now to show tolerance. Will South be able to resist going on to game? He needs to show restraint, as there are four routine tricks for the defence against a heart contract. I imagine that quite a few pairs will get too high, so +140 will score well for NS. If West opens a strong No Trump, North may overcall 3♣, pre-emptive, or may pass, hoping to run six club tricks against a No-Trump contract. South is likely to bid hearts over a club bid from North and we will be back to whether or not NS can stop short of the doomed game. If North passes over 1NT, East will transfer to spades, South probably starting with a double of the 2♥ transfer bid. That will see West complete the transfer and North introduce the clubs. South bids 3♥ and, we are back to the same position – can NS stop short of game?																																													
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Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all

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Facing a 2♣ overcall South bids 2♥, and North probably rebids 3♣. A 3♦ cuebid comes next, looking for a diamond stopper. Alas, North doesn't have one and, having already failed to support hearts, can afford to bid 3♥ now to show tolerance. Will South be able to resist going on to game? He needs to show restraint, as there are four routine tricks for the defence against a heart contract. I imagine that quite a few pairs will get too high, so +140 will score well for NS.

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♠AKJ10987 ♥AQJ10 ♦- ♣95 ♠Q642 ♠5 ♥K6 ♥987542 ♦AK86 ♦92 ♣A73 ♣Q1084 ♠3 ♥3 ♦QJ107543 ♣KJ62		Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable North opens 1♠ and South responds 1NT (maybe 2♦ if playing Acol). West has the points to come into the auction but the wrong shape to double. I would pass and see what happens. How should North deal with this powerful seven-four hand? I think North should commit to playing a spade contract – it is easy enough to construct a deal where South has four hearts and a singleton spade, yet a spade contract is better than a heart contract. Either North just rebids 4♠ or, if not wanting to give up on slam just yet – particularly a consideration if the 1NT response is wide-ranging or South responded 2♦ – can show the hearts then go back to spades. Facing a 1NT response, North could rebid 3♥ then bid 4♠ at his next turn; facing a 2♦ response, bid 2♥ followed by 3♠ over South's 3♦ and, when South next bids 3NT, go on again with 4♠. It is possible to make 11 tricks in 4♠. That requires a winning club guess followed by a heart finesse, finding the ♥K outside and doubleton. There is just one loser in each black suit. However, on a non-trump lead, is that how anyone would play the hand? I think it is normal to ruff the diamond lead and take the ruffing heart finesse, thereby losing a trick to the ♥K. It therefore pays the defence NOT to draw dummy's trump, as doing so forces declarer to get the hearts right – he still needs to get clubs right, of course, to have 11 tricks. Get both hearts and clubs wrong and there are only nine tricks; get both right, and it's 11, but there will be a good number making ten.																																													
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W	-	-	1	-	-																																										

Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

North opens 1♠ and South responds 1NT (maybe 2♦ if playing Acol). West has the points to come into the auction but the wrong shape to double. I would pass and see what happens. How should North deal with this powerful seven-four hand? I think North should commit to playing a spade contract – it is easy enough to construct a deal where South has four hearts and a singleton spade, yet a spade contract is better than a heart contract. Either North just rebids 4♠ or, if not wanting to give up on slam just yet – particularly a consideration if the 1NT response is wide-ranging or South responded 2♦ – can show the hearts then go back to spades. Facing a 1NT response, North could rebid 3♥ then bid 4♠ at his next turn; facing a 2♦ response, bid 2♥ followed by 3♠ over South's 3♦ and, when South next bids 3NT, go on again with 4♠. It is possible to make 11 tricks in 4♠. That requires a winning club guess followed by a heart finesse, finding the ♥K onside and doubleton. There is just one loser in each black suit. However, on a non-trump lead, is that how anyone would play the hand? I think it is normal to ruff the diamond lead and take the ruffing heart finesse, thereby losing a trick to the ♥K. It therefore pays the defence NOT to draw dummy's trump, as doing so forces declarer to get the hearts right – he still needs to get clubs right, of course, to have 11 tricks. Get both hearts and clubs wrong and there are only nine tricks; get both right, and it's 11, but there will be a good number making ten.

♠AJ10 ♥J52 ♦K102 ♣J652 ♠985 ♥K43 ♦J543 ♣K43 ♠K76 ♥A1098 ♦A86 ♣AQ10 ♠Q432 ♥Q76 ♦Q97 ♣987		Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable East has a good strong No Trump and, if that is the choice of opening bid, it is likely to end the auction, nobody else being close to having a bid. South may lead a passive club, my own preference when there is no stand-out alternative, or may stick to the old reliable fourth from your longest and strongest, in this case the two of spades. On two rounds of spades, declarer can play on hearts for an extra trick, and has eight in all. On a club lead declarer again plays on hearts but now may have to play a spade himself. Again, eight tricks is the normal outcome. Playing weak No Trump, many Easts will open 1♥ then raise to 2NT over the popular 1NT response. There is some danger of getting too high now as some Wests will surely be unable to resist the lure of the game bonus. East will also rebid 2NT if West raises to 2♥ and West will have a similar decision to make. Three No Trumps should be defeated, and a minus score will not score well for EW. A solid +120 will do very nicely, thank you very much.																																											
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Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

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South may lead a passive club, my own preference when there is no stand-out alternative, or may stick to the old reliable fourth from your longest and strongest, in this case the two of spades. On two rounds of spades, declarer can play on hearts for an extra trick, and has eight in all. On a club lead declarer again plays on hearts but now may have to play a spade himself. Again, eight tricks is the normal outcome. Playing weak No Trump, many Easts will open 1♥ then raise to 2NT over the popular 1NT response. There is some danger of getting too high now as some Wests will surely be unable to resist the lure of the game bonus. East will also rebid 2NT if West raises to 2♥ and West will have a similar decision to make.

Three No Trumps should be defeated, and a minus score will not score well for EW. A solid +120 will do very nicely, thank you very much.

♠QJ1085 ♥AJ103 ♦AJ6 ♣9 ♠976 ♠A4 ♥K974 ♥Q652 ♦54 ♦1087 ♣A762 ♣KQ54 ♠K32 ♥8 ♦KQ932 ♣J1083		Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable When North opens 1♠ in third seat, East is just a little short of doubling values, particularly when at adverse vulnerability and facing a passed partner, meaning that game for EW is very unlikely. Playing Acol, South will respond 2♦ then give preference to 2♠ over the 2♥ rebid. Had South's initial response been 2♣, North might well have called it a day at this point, but the possibility of a side-suit fit in diamonds should tempt him to bid out his shape with 3♦. With a third spade which he had not promised, and only a jack wasted in clubs facing partner's shortage, South should jump to 4♠. If East makes the natural lead of the king of clubs, declarer plays on spades as soon as he gains the lead, and comes to a heart ruff for the overtrick. Indeed, it looks as though it takes the double-dummy defence of a diamond lead, and a second diamond after winning the second spade, to mess up declarer's communications so that he cannot take a heart ruff without conceding a diamond ruff in return. 11 tricks will be much more common than 10. Will it be easier to get to game using Acol, as above, or playing 5-card majors, perhaps with an artificial Drury response to show better than a 2♠ response?																																													
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Will it be easier to get to game using Acol, as above, or playing 5-card majors, perhaps with an artificial Drury response to show better than a 2♠ response?

♠J654 ♥J104 ♦AKQ5 ♣A3 ♠K1073 ♠A9 ♥A62 ♥Q987 ♦1098 ♦643 ♣752 ♣KQ109 ♠Q82 ♥K53 ♦J72 ♣J864		Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable If North opens a strong No Trump, he will play there. The likely ♣K or ♣Q lead will enable declarer to win and establish a second club winner by playing the suit straight back. Seven tricks will be easy and the key to a good result for the defence may be to avoid getting too active and presenting declarer with an overtrick. If North opens 1♠ or 1♦, South will usually respond 1NT and play there. A spade lead will see declarer get a spade trick, but will also allow West to set up a third winner for his side. An overtrick is less likely in this scenario, with declarer needing a heart trick just to make his contract. But West might prefer the passive lead of the diamond sequence, which leaves declarer to do all the work himself. He should be OK, but it would not be a huge surprise to see the odd table at which the contract goes down.																																													
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Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

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Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

There are ten top tricks to be cashed in 3NT. How easy it will be for NS to get there may depend on how the West hand is approached after South opens 1♣.

Say that West overcalls a simple 1♥: North is likely to bid 1NT. Whether South raises to 2NT or jumps to 3♣, North has a maximum for the 1NT bid so will go on to 3NT.

A weak jump overcall of 2♥ makes life somewhat more difficult. North's hand is not ideal for 2NT - a single heart stopper and scrappy 10 HCP - but there is no good alternative - a negative double with only two spades is hardly descriptive, is it? Once North summons up the courage to bid 2NT, South has an easy raise to game.

But what about a 3♥ overcall? Not your style? Fair enough, but the vulnerability is in West's favour and partner is a passed hand, so will only bid with heart support, which is probably what we want. Should North bid 3NT? Even 2NT was a mild overbid, and the hand is significantly below the normal requirements for game facing a potentially minimum opening. And yet, once again, what is the alternative - double with only two spades, or pass and risk being shut out altogether? And if North allows himself to be silenced, will South have the courage to bid 3NT all by himself?

I'm a big fan of 3♥. True, it won't always work out well, but neither will anything else.

♠K7
♥A752
♦J943
♣Q86

♠J43
♥QJ9643
♦A862
♣-

♠Q9852
♥10
♦K105
♣J1072

♠A106
♥K8
♦Q7
♣AK9543

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
10	6	N	4	-	-	4
8		S	4	-	-	4
16		E	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-

Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

The five-five shape makes the East hand a clear opener and, whether playing 4- or 5-card majors, West should raise to 2♠. And North? However strong a hand is, a take-out double on a genuine two-suiter tends to work out poorly. A few pairs will have an agreement to play Leaping Michaels, meaning that the way to show a heart/club two-suiter is to jump to 4♣. For most, however, a 3♠ cuebid will be the way to launch the hand. South has an easy 4♥ response.

4♥ makes exactly - declarer doesn't get a chance to guess the trump suit because he has no entry to hand, so just lays down the ♥K as soon as he gains the lead, and there are two hearts to be lost plus the ace of diamonds. The only declarers able to make an eleventh trick should be those who get the lead of ♥A and another heart from West, and why would West not lead a spade?

At a different vulnerability, East might save in 4♠ or bid 4♦ to give West the option. Vulnerable against not, and with a jack-high suit, it would be quite a gamble to do so, and 4♠ can be down three for a dreadful score. 5♦ is better but still costs more than the opposing game. The way in which 5♦ scores is that it might tempt North/South to go on to 5♥, which should be defeated.

♠A
♥KJ952
♦10
♣AKQ1085

♠1096
♥A4
♦Q87632
♣J2

♠J8542
♥Q7
♦AKJ94
♣4

♠KQ73
♥10863
♦5
♣9763

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
17	11	N	5	-	4	-
7		S	5	-	4	-
5		E	-	2	-	1
		W	-	3	-	1

Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

After three passes, East, will open a weak No Trump if that is the partnership agreement. With both majors and all the strength in the two long suits, West will use Stayman, as even a four-three fit could well be easier to play than 1NT. For me, using Stayman is clearcut. Less clearcut is what West should do over the 2♥ response - raise to 3♥ or pass. There is no premium on reaching thin games at matchpoints, so pass is a totally reasonable choice and one I favour. However, raising to 3♥ is also a reasonable choice. East is facing a passed partner and should pass 3♥ if West does invite game.

Playing a strong No Trump, East will open one of a suit according to partnership style. A 1♥ opening is raised to 3♥, and East declines the invitation. Over 1♣ or 1♦, West responds 1♥. When East raises to 2♥, West should pass, as he will often be facing a Weak No Trump type or a distributional minimum with only three-card heart support. Let me say it again: 'There is no premium on reaching thin games at matchpoints'.

Four Hearts is a poor contract - it goes down if declarer gets the diamonds wrong or both heart honours are offside for a start - so stopping in partscore is the right thing to do in theory as well as in practice, and +140 is the limit of the hand. In fact, a losing diamond guess could see 3♥ fail by a trick.

♠1074
♥83
♦AQ107
♣QJ94

♠AKQ5
♥J974
♦93
♣753

♠J86
♥A1062
♦KJ86
♣A6

♠932
♥KQ5
♦542
♣K1082

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
9	13	N	-	-	-	-
10		S	-	-	-	-
8		E	1	2	3	2
		W	1	2	3	2

Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

West is just too strong for a weak two bid so will open 1♥ and North, while having the classic shape for a take-out double, is at least a king shy of the values, so should pass.

When East responds 2♦, South may overcall 2♠, though this is not obligatory when vulnerable. If he does so, North will raise to 4♠. With West not having rebid the hearts, as he is not strong enough to go freely to the three level, East can only double. West will leave it in, having no confidence of making a five-level contract, and that is -500.

With no 2♠ overcall, West rebids 2♥ and East may bid 3♠, splinter, to show a spade shortage and heart fit. Were West a little better, that could get to a good slam - change the ♥Q into the ♥A, for example. Today, however, West is minimum and will show no interest in slam. Just as well, as there are two trump losers. However, that means +650, beating anyone who is defending against 4♠ doubled. That dubious 2♠ overcall is a big winner.

♠K1062
♥6
♦Q752
♣Q732

♠A8
♥Q85432
♦A8
♣J94

♠9
♥K107
♦K109643
♣AK10

♠QJ7543
♥AJ9
♦J
♣865

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
7	13	N	-	-	2	-
11		S	-	-	2	-
9		E	2	4	5	-
		W	2	4	5	-

Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

East has a 1♣ opening and South a 1♥ overcall - the hearts and all-around hand are not worth a double followed by 2♥ over a 1♠ response. Whilst having only 4 HCP, a lot of players would bid 1♠ now on the West hand - if there is a fit to be had it could pave the way to a profitable sacrifice, or push the opposition up a level.

There is indeed a heart fit on the NS cards and 4♥ should be made, losing two diamonds and one club. There is, however, no spade fit to allow for a sacrifice. Indeed, despite having only six spades between the two hands, it is NS who can make 2♠.

How North shows his hand opposite the overcall will be decided by what methods he has at his disposal. Ideally, a jump to 3♠ - a Mixed Raise, showing four-card support and about 7-9 HCP, give or take - describes the hand perfectly. Failing that, the hand is worth a constructive raise to the two level i.e. better than a simple raise to 2♥. North could respond with a simple 2♣ cuebid to say exactly that, intending to pass if partner bids 2♥, or convert 2♦ to 2♥. In practice, though, South may simply jump to 4♥, ending the auction.

♠K932
♥AQ76
♦964
♣72

♠Q7654
♥93
♦Q102
♣943

♠108
♥J8
♦A83
♣AQ10865

♠AJ
♥K10542
♦KJ75
♣KJ

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
9	11	N	-	4	4	2
4		S	-	4	4	2
16		E	1	-	-	-
		W	1	-	-	-

Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

There will be three passes to North, who opens 1♥. South responds 1♠ and North has to decide on a rebid. If North judges the hand to be worth a game force, the most descriptive bid is a jump to 3♣, over which South will bid 3NT and play there. If North does not want to force to game, the compromise bid is a jump to 2NT, which will be raised to 3NT by South. The contract remains the same, but is played from different sides of the table.

If East is on lead, he is likely to try the king or queen of diamonds, which declarer should duck. Best is to continue with a second diamond, since that forces declarer to commit himself, and also removes the only entry to the third spade winner. So, declarer wins the second diamond, cashes the other diamond winner, then plays a heart to the queen and two more rounds of hearts. West wins the ♥K and plays a club, and East comes to a club and a diamond; contract just made.

There are more complicated lines of play and defence, and the double dummy engine assures us that ten tricks can be made. But I don't see many coming to the overtrick.

♠AK
♥AQ1092
♦62
♣KQ104

♠J10943
♥KJ8
♦75
♣873

♠85
♥653
♦KQ108
♣AJ52

♠Q762
♥74
♦AJ943
♣96

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

♠KJ ♥KQ7 ♦KQJ105 ♣AJ4 ♠982 ♥10654 ♦986 ♣876 ♠106543 ♥J3 ♦7 ♣KQ1032 ♠AQ7 ♥A982 ♦A432 ♣95 <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>20</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>0</td><td>14</td></tr></table> <table><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>3</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>6</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>	HCP		20	6	0	14	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	6	5	3	6	S	2	6	5	2	6	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all This one looks to be very straightforward. North will usually open 2NT and South will immediately know that he wants to bid a slam. South may settle for a direct raise to 6NT, hoping that there is no extra trick available should there be a four-four heart or diamond fit. With a minimum of 34 HCP between the two hands this would be a reasonable shot. Others may explore a little, looking for a heart fit and only settling for 6NT once there is found not to be one. Diamonds only really become a consideration if there is a fit and that makes a grand slam possible. Most pairs, however, don't actually have the methods to find a diamond fit so South has to just settle for 6NT. Those who do have the methods can find the fit on this deal and explore, but cannot count 13 tricks so may settle for the small slam – in No Trumps, of course, as +920 will score very badly at matchpoints. There are 12 top tricks. A thirteenth could come from a friendly heart lie, or if four or more hearts were in the same hand as both club honours, when a simple squeeze would suffice, but not today. Twelve tricks should be the limit.
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E	-	-	-	-	-																																						
W	-	-	-	-	-																																						
♠K654 ♥AKQ3 ♦642 ♣82 ♠AQ7 ♥972 ♦10973 ♣1063 ♠982 ♥6 ♦AKJ85 ♣Q975 ♠J103 ♥J10854 ♦Q ♣AKJ4 <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>12</td></tr></table> <table><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>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP		12	10	6	12	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	4	3	1	S	2	-	4	3	1	E	-	2	-	-	-	W	-	2	-	-	-	Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable Most pairs will bid to 4♥, a contract which should be made easily enough, just requiring a little care. While a few Easts will open, most will pass. The majority of Souths will open 1♥, though it is questionable that the South hand is better than East, with its bare queen and weak main suit. If South does open, North will force to game in support of hearts, perhaps just leaping to 4♥, perhaps via an artificial strong raise. Some Souths may pass at their first opportunity and North be given the opportunity to open. If they open 1♥, South will raise to game, perhaps via a 4♦ splinter bid to show the shortage – North can hardly take the partnership too high as South is limited by the initial pass. While I would be inclined to open 1♥ even if playing five-card majors, that being the suit I am interested in telling partner about, some will open 1♣ and South will respond 1♥ after East's likely diamond intervention. If North now raises hearts, South can go on to game.
HCP																																											
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♠852 ♥Q72 ♦Q105 ♣AJ75 ♠1074 ♥A96 ♦J93 ♣KQ42 ♠A ♥KJ1083 ♦8764 ♣963 ♠KQJ963 ♥54 ♦AK2 ♣108 <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>13</td></tr></table> <table><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>3</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP		9	8	10	13	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	3	-	S	-	-	-	3	-	E	-	-	2	-	-	W	-	-	2	-	-	Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable South opens 1♠ and, after a pass from West, North must decide what to respond. Playing strong No Trump and five-card majors, the choices are 1NT and 2♠. It looks like a No-Trump hand, doesn't it, but if we choose 1NT we will lose the third spade, and we know that there is at least an eight-card fit; if later we only give simple preference, this tends to show only doubleton support. Well, I don't feel strongly about it, but my preference is for 1NT. South rebids 2♠ and, unless East overcalled 2♥, that will be that. And if East does overcall 2♥? West will probably compete with 3♥ and North with 3♠, and that will be that. Playing Acol with a weak No Trump, North's initial response comes down to a choice between 1NT and 2♣; 2♠ is not really an option. How do we decide? The rule is to pretend that opener has 15-16 balanced. Now, if we respond 1NT he should pass and, forgetting the opposition for the moment, we will declare 1NT. If, on the other hand, we respond 2♣, he will rebid 2NT and, as that is forcing these days, we will raise to 3NT. So, the \$64,000 question is, would we rather play in 1NT or put down dummy in 3NT? A close one, and we will only know what was right after the play ends.
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♠9 ♥A83 ♦9874 ♣KQ1087 ♠8432 ♥KJ6 ♦52 ♣J953 ♠AK1075 ♥742 ♦AK106 ♣- ♠QJ6 ♥Q1095 ♦Q3 ♣A642		Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all East opens 1♣ in third seat and West raises to 2♠. North might stick in a lead-directing overcall of 3♣ at this point but, with or without the overcall, East has to decide whether to jump to game or settle for a game try. I have sympathy with just blasting 4♠, though this might work out badly if partner has raised with only three trumps and wastage in clubs. The obvious game try to make is 3♦, but East is not so bothered about partner's diamond holding – the queen would be nice, but at a pinch the suit can be played without help from the hand opposite. Also, a 3♦ call tells the opposition something about the East hand that might better remain concealed. If I settled for a game try, I think I'd try 3♥ instead of 3♦. East certainly would like some help in hearts, and the defenders are unlikely to realise immediately that the heart holding is three small when, ostensibly, it is supposed to be at least a semi-natural bid. Will West bid game facing an invitational bid? Even the good heart holding makes it mildly optimistic to accept a 3♥ game try, while it is not even close to being worth an acceptance of a 3♦ try. Perhaps that tells us that the most practical approach is for East to simply bid game on getting the 2♠ raise from partner. The EW hands fit together very well and, although there is a spade loser, declarer can even afford a mis-guess in hearts and still make the contract. A successful heart guess sees an overtrick thanks to the friendly diamond layout.	
♠Q87543 ♥KQJ10 ♦- ♣K96 ♠A6 ♥987 ♦J8542 ♣Q83 ♠J10 ♥652 ♦Q976 ♣10752 ♠K92 ♥A43 ♦AK103 ♣AJ4		Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable When North opens 1♠ and South responds 2♦, the first decision to be made is whether North should rebid the six-card spade suit or show the hearts. I think rebidding 2♥ is much the better option. Playing 2-over-1 game-forcing, as is becoming more and more popular, at least at tournament level, South can agree spades via a simple bid of 2♠, after which the partnership can explore to their hearts' content. If North now raises to 3♠, the six-four shape is known and, with all those controls – Ace-King-Ace to cover North's minor-suit cards, and an Ace and a King in his suits, South is likely to drive to slam. Playing Acol, things are less straightforward. After 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♥, there is no way to agree spades and keep the bidding open, so South has to go through fourth-suit-forcing, 3♣. North will bid 3♠ to show the extra spade, and South can either just ask for key-cards or can cuebid 4♣, agreeing spades. While it should still be possible to reach 6♠, everything is messier than when playing 2-over-1. Of course, the contract still has to be made, but if declarer's first spade play is from dummy he will automatically hold himself to one loser in the suit.	
♠QJ8754 ♥A2 ♦AQ109 ♣J ♠A106 ♥Q3 ♦86 ♣K97653 ♠K9 ♥KJ10864 ♦K752 ♣A ♠32 ♥975 ♦J43 ♣Q10842		Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable With the Ace of diamonds onside, there are ten easy tricks in a heart game. Meanwhile, should North get too frisky in spades, the lack of dummy entries to play spades to best effect means three spade losers, and six in all. Whether West's response to the 1♥ opening is 2♣ (Acol) or 1NT (two-over-one), North has a 2♠ overcall. I would think that few Easts will be willing to be silenced by this intervention and that most will prefer to rebid 3♥ rather than introduce the diamonds or make a take-out double. Once East has rebid 3♥ freely, even though he is aware that this might be slightly stretched, West has three good cards so should raise to 4♥. 3NT can also be made, but there should be far more pairs in 4♥ than any other contract.	

♠KQ54 ♥K9876 ♦65 ♣A8 ♠AJ9832 ♥AQ3 ♦7 ♣975 ♠7 ♥J1054 ♦AKJ4 ♣K1032 ♠106 ♥2 ♦Q109832 ♣QJ64		Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all Left to themselves, EW would start 1♠ - 2♣ – 2♠. Many will bid 3NT at this point, but the singleton spade and lack of a five-card suit on which to play suggests that 2NT is enough. Either rates to end the auction. Some Norths will overcall 2♥. Love All is the best time to compete, after all, but this is quite dangerous with a moderate heart suit and sufficient spade length and strength to worry about left-hand-opponent being short in spades and long in hearts, leading to a penalty. Anyone who declares 2♥ doubled will not enjoy it, as it is EW who can make eight or nine tricks in a heart contract, and if South runs to 3♦ that should also cost at least –500. But there is another possibility, namely that South might open 2♦ as dealer – the hand certainly justifies that if the system includes the possibility. Now West will overcall 2♠ and East respond 2/3NT, with 3NT the more popular choice, I would imagine, facing a two-level overcall. 3NT could prove to be an interesting contract, but careful defence should prevail. Nonetheless, there will be a few +400s, along with a larger number failing in that contract.																																											
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♠AK7632 ♥63 ♦AK8 ♣Q9 ♠1094 ♥AQJ852 ♦J54 ♣K ♠Q85 ♥K ♦107632 ♣J753		Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable North opens 1♠, South raises to 2♠, and West may overcall 3♥. That last is not compulsory, but it attracts the only lead West wants to see should NS play in spades and, on this deal, EW are making game, though they are unlikely to be allowed to play there. North is worth a try for game if left the space to make one and, if not, will just have to bid game and hope for the best. Four Spades should go down. On a heart lead, West wins, cashes the ♣K and switches to a diamond. Twist and turn as he might, declarer has to lose a diamond for the setting trick. Where West has not overcalled 3♥, the occasional East will lead the ace of clubs, crashing West's king. That costs the contract and a lot of matchpoints and perhaps deservedly so. Even without a heart bid from partner a heart lead looks normal – why take a gamble when you have a solid alternative?																																											
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♠AJ83 ♥964 ♦QJ954 ♣Q ♠KQ107654 ♥K3 ♦A876 ♣- ♠- ♥92 ♦J1075 ♣- ♠AK109542		Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable Traditionally, South would have been taught to pass this hand, a pre-empt when holding a four-card major on the side being a bit of a no-no. Today, the rules on pre-empting have loosened up substantially, and I would guess that a majority of tournament players would be willing to open 3♣ or, perhaps at a different vulnerability, even 4♣ to take into account the 7-4 distribution. Say that South does open 3♣. West has an easy 3♠ overcall. That attracts North's interest, but he stays silent and sees East respond 3NT and West correct back to 4♠. A greedy North might double now, but the majority will pass, happy that the opposition have chosen a contract which appears to give the defence a chance. West is a bit unlucky to find that he has three trump losers without the defence having to do anything clever to get them, and there is a diamond to be lost also for a normal outcome of down one. Those greedy Norths who double will get a bonus. North will no doubt lead the queen of clubs, but there will still be time to find a diamond lead when in with the ace of spades to give partner a ruff to simplify the play.																																											
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