

## 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 Sally Brock**

# Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025

## 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.

Youth bridge is experiencing a revival, with increasing participation in EBED's camps and competitions. The Schools Cup in March had 32 tables—the largest turnout in over 25 years. EBED runs three youth camps annually: the **Spring Camp** in April, the **Summer Camp** in late August, and the **Autumn Camp** in late October. EBED generously provides bursaries and travel support, as each camp operates at a loss of approximately £5,000.

New schools are launching bridge clubs, and EBED offers equipment and support. In collaboration with **New Tricks**, EBED is about to launch a new youth learning website featuring instructional videos, quizzes, and 240 set hands on **2 over 1**, allowing young players to learn independently. Over the next six months, EBED's youth team will introduce a major initiative to establish bridge clubs in sixth-form colleges and universities.

Additionally, EBED is revising its **teacher training and directors' courses**, incorporating online components to improve efficiency for participants. EBED is also hosting **Teacher Cluster Meetings**, providing local teachers with opportunities to share best practices and receive demonstrations of materials available in the **Teaching Hub**. Over the next few months, EBED will be improving its communication to English Bridge Teaching Association members by providing more frequent newsletters with input from its members, an online forum, and a completely new website.

If you would like to donate to EBED, please visit <https://www.ebedcio.org.uk/donate>

Richard Croot

Chief Executive English Bridge Education & Development, Registered Charity No: 1153543

<p>♠98 ♥K654 ♦AKJ2 ♣K72</p> <p>♠J10542 ♥A1098 ♦75 ♣98</p> <p>♠KQ6 ♥QJ ♦Q98643 ♣A6</p>		<p>♠A73 ♥732 ♦10 ♣QJ10543</p>																																											
<table border="1"><thead><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>14</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>14</td></tr></tbody></table>		HCP		14	7	5	14	<table border="1"><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>1</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>5</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>		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	5	3	1	5	S	1	5	3	1	5	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
HCP																																													
14	7																																												
5	14																																												
Makeable contracts																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																								
N	1	5	3	1	5																																								
S	1	5	3	1	5																																								
E	-	-	-	-	-																																								
W	-	-	-	-	-																																								
		<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><td><b>West</b></td><td><b>North</b></td><td><b>East</b></td><td><b>South</b></td></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>3NT is the obvious final resting place. Strong no-trumpers would open 1♦, South would make some sort of forcing raise and I'm sure the final contract would be the same, albeit with more information given to EW. If North is declarer, however the bidding goes, East will lead a club. Declarer needs only to knock out a major-suit ace to arrive at nine tricks. He will probably start with a heart as that gives him a tenth trick, and +430 will be the normal NS result. If South is declarer, West may well lead spades and there are 11 easy tricks.</p>				<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1NT	Pass	3NT																																	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																																										
1NT	Pass	3NT																																											

♠AK

♥Q10

♦J102

♣AQ7432

♠Q4

♥AKJ63

♦KQ4

♣KJ6

♠10987532

♥74

♦A6

♣105

♠J6

♥9852

♦98753

♣98

HCP

16

19

4

1

Makeable contracts

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

♠Q10987

♥10843

♦Q2

♣32

♠J65

♥J76

♦J108

♣10964

♠A43

♥AQ

♦K43

♣AKQ75

♠K2

♥K952

♦A9765

♣J8

HCP

4

3

22

11

Makeable contracts

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

♠AQ

♥K9763

♦J6

♣AQ105

♠K108742

♥Q854

♦73

♣6

♠J965

♥10

♦AK42

♣KJ97

♠3

♥AJ2

♦Q10985

♣8432

HCP

16

5

12

7

Makeable contracts

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

Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

West

North

East

South

Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

2NT

Pass

3♥

Pass

3♠

Pass

4♠

All Pass

I am sure most EWs will bid to 4♠, and I would expect most to make their games.

It looks as if North would lead either the ♠A or the ♦J. Here, on the ♦J lead, declarer will surely win and play a spade, won by North. Now there is nothing he can do. Whatever he does declarer will win and play a second trump, losing just two spades and a club.

The winning defence is for North to lead the ♣A at trick one, and another club (not so silly with a 6-card suit). Declarer wins and plays a spade, but North can win and play a third club, allowing South to ruff with his ♠J.

Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all

West

North

East

South

Pass

Pass

2♣

Pass

2♦

Pass

2NT

Pass

3NT

All Pass

With 22 HCP and a good 5-card suit, the East hand is worth an upgrade in my view. What about West? Will those jacks be at all useful? Who knows? But I hate playing in 2NT! I imagine South will lead a diamond to the ♦10, ♦Q and ♦K. Now all declarer needs to do is to give up a heart, before coming to at least one spade, two hearts, one diamond and five clubs - and probably a second diamond trick too. Note that it is a good idea to play hearts immediately before the defenders have a chance to know what your hand is. If you run all your clubs beforehand, it is likely that the defenders will know to switch to a spade.

Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

West

North

East

South

2♠

2NT

4♠

Dbl

All Pass

At favourable vulnerability this is fine for a weak 2♠ opening - some might even prefer 3♠! I wouldn't bother too much about the 4-card heart suit on the side. There is a lot to be said for getting in there first. North has a tricky bid, but I think 2NT is rather more descriptive than 3♥ would be. East has a raise to 4♠ and South is left with rather more high cards than he might have expected. I guess a pass is the conservative approach but, knowing that his side has comfortably more high cards than his opponents, I think a double is OK. North's heart suit is still a bit of a worry, but I think venturing to the 5-level with such a balanced hand is probably wrong. Whatever North leads, it looks as if the defenders must come to two spades, one heart and one club.

<p>♠102 ♥AJ9 ♦873 ♣95432</p> <p>♠J9743 ♥1085 ♦65 ♣QJ10</p> <p>♠A86 ♥K32 ♦AK1094 ♣K7</p>		<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>Pass 1NT Pass 1♦ All Pass 2NT</p> <p>Although East is well worth a bid over 1NT, what can he say? A double would be for take-out and is not really appropriate. Certainly with both sides vulnerable, it is probably best just to pass and hope they go down. There is no reason for East to do other than lead a heart, giving declarer a trick. Now a diamond to the ♦9 will hold, and declarer should make one spade, three hearts, five diamonds and a club. Bid up!</p>	
HCP	Makeable contracts		
5	♣♦♥♠NT		
4 14	N 3 4 2 1 2		
17	S 3 4 2 1 2		
	E - - - - -		
	W - - - - -		

<p>♠K10752 ♥AK98 ♦1063 ♣9</p> <p>♠Q ♥532 ♦AK95 ♣KQJ53</p> <p>♠AJ9 ♥QJ64 ♦QJ2 ♣742</p>		<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>1♣ 1♠ Pass 2♣ Pass 2♠ 3♣ Pass Pass 3♥ All Pass</p> <p>Playing Acol, at least, West has shown a 4-card club suit when he opens the bidding 1♣. North overcalls 1♠ and East must decide whether or not to raise clubs. With such a balanced hand neither 2♣ nor a pre-emptive 3♣ seems to fit, so pass will do for now. South is too good for a simple 2♠ and shows that with an 'unassuming cue-bid'. With a minimum overcall, North rebids 2♠ and East can now show his club support. When this is passed around to North, he could pass, but bidding again looks right because of the singleton club. And given that he has already bid his spades twice, there is no reason not to show his hearts. South is happy to pass. With the ♠Q dropping singleton, declarer has an easy ten tricks.</p>	
HCP	Makeable contracts		
10	♣♦♥♠NT		
15 4	N - - 4 3 -		
11	S - - 4 3 -		
	E 3 1 - - -		
	W 3 1 - - -		

<p>♠A1075 ♥A7 ♦A943 ♣873</p> <p>♠K92 ♥6532 ♦6 ♣AQ954</p> <p>♠QJ864 ♥10 ♦KQ1082 ♣KJ</p>		<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>1NT 2♥ 3♠ 4♥ 4♠ Pass Pass 5♥ Dbl All Pass</p> <p>High-level competitive judgement needed here! After North's weak No Trump, East dares a 2♥ overcall at unfavourable vulnerability. Assuming no particular methods, South tries a forcing 3♠, West supports hearts, and North supports spades. When the auction comes back to West, he thinks his partner would have a bit more at the vulnerability, and so he ventures 5♥, doubled by North with his three aces, and passed out. As it happens NS can make 11 tricks in spades, while EW make ten in hearts. So the decision to go to 5♥ was a winning one, and NS would have done better to bid on to 5♠, even at the favourable vulnerability.</p>	
HCP	Makeable contracts		
12	♣♦♥♠NT		
9 7	N - 5 - 5 2		
12	S - 5 - 5 5		
	E 3 - 4 - -		
	W 3 - 4 - -		

<p>♠A106532 ♥J1063 ♦K83 ♣-</p> <p>♠- ♥AQ92 ♦J1095 ♣Q8763</p> <p>♠Q9 ♥K85 ♦A642 ♣10954</p>		<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>1NT Pass 1♣ Pass 3♣ All Pass 2♣ Pass</p> <p>West has a tricky decision on the first round. 1NT is conservative (and reasonable given the void in partner's suit) while 2♣ is more aggressive. But even after 2♣ I would expect East to bid 3♣, which would end the auction. With the heart finesse right, careful play should result in 11 tricks for EW. When declarer finds out about the 4-0 trump break, he should turn his attention to diamonds. With four tricks outside trumps (two hearts and two diamonds), it should not be beyond declarer's skill to make seven trump tricks.</p>	
HCP	Makeable contracts		
8	♣♦♥♠NT		
9 14	N - - - 1 -		
9	S - - - 1 -		
	E 5 2 2 - 2		
	W 5 2 2 - 2		

<p>♠AQ92 ♥Q72 ♦KJ7 ♣J76</p> <p>♠4 ♥A8 ♦AQ106432 ♣A103</p> <p>♠K65 ♥J54 ♦98 ♣Q9852</p>		<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>1♦ Dbl 1♠ Pass 3♦ All Pass 2♣</p> <p>West's opening bid looks normal. North's double is aggressive, but it is a good idea to get into the bidding, especially non-vulnerable. Over 2♣, West is worth 3♦ despite holding only 14 HCP. That seventh diamond is well worth the upgrade. No-one has any reason to proceed and 3♦ becomes the final contract. It looks as if declarer will lose just two diamonds and a spade.</p>	
HCP	Makeable contracts		
13	♣♦♥♠NT		
14 7	N - - - - -		
6	S - - - - -		
	E 1 4 3 1 1		
	W 1 4 3 1 1		

<p>♠Q4 ♥J875 ♦K53 ♣QJ76</p> <p>♠83 ♥AK4 ♦AJ1097 ♣A93</p> <p>♠AK1052 ♥Q1032 ♦82 ♣102</p>		<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <p><b>West North East South</b></p> <p>1♦ Pass 1♠ Pass 1NT All Pass</p> <p>NS might be able to make 2♥, but heaven knows how they get there! Normal auctions seem to get West to 1NT. I suppose if West opened a strong No Trump and that was passed to South, he might bid an aggressive 2♣, for the majors. That would get North to 2♥. East might now make a take-out double, which would see West declaring 3♦, probably making nine tricks. On the auction above I guess North would lead a club, and declarer would win in dummy and take a diamond finesse. North should duck the first and win the second, hoping to give his partner a chance to signal. A spade switch now would hold declarer to seven tricks, but anything else will see him making eight.</p>	
HCP	Makeable contracts		
9	♣♦♥♠NT		
16 6	N - - 2 1 -		
9	S - - 2 1 -		
	E 1 3 - - 1		
	W 1 3 - - 1		

<p>♠6 ♥K85 ♦J842 ♣AQJ83</p> <p>♠Q97 ♥42 ♦AKQ96 ♣542</p> <p>♠A432 ♥AJ73 ♦73 ♣K76</p>		<p>♠KJ1085 ♥Q1096 ♦105 ♣109</p>	
HCP	Makeable contracts	Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable	
11	♣♦♥♠NT	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>
11	N 4 1 3 - 3	Pass	Pass
6	S 4 1 3 - 3	Pass	1NT
12	E - - - 1 -	Pass	3NT
	W - - - 1 -	All Pass	

Who knows? I like to upgrade balanced hands by 1HCP when I have a decent 5-card suit, but at unfavourable vulnerability I am reluctant to open the North hand because I don't want to rebid 1NT with a singleton spade, and don't want to sound as if I have a 6-card suit when I don't. Then I guess South opens a weak No Trump and what should North bid? After a lot of thought I came up with 3♣. Clearly non-forcing by a passed hand, but forward-going. Perhaps it would more often be a good 6-card club suit with a card outside. As long as the defenders don't/can't take the first five diamond tricks, the South hand, although minimum, looks perfect for 3NT. He can 'see' six club tricks, two aces plus another card. Luckily the defenders can't cash out in diamonds, and the heart finesse is right. Sometimes fortune favours the brave!

<p>♠- ♥QJ9542 ♦AK9 ♣KJ52</p> <p>♠AJ7 ♥63 ♦J8632 ♣983</p> <p>♠Q63 ♥K10 ♦Q754 ♣Q764</p>		<p>♠K1098542 ♥A87 ♦10 ♣A10</p>	
HCP	Makeable contracts	Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable	
14	♣♦♥♠NT	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>
6	N 4 2 5 - -	2♠	3♥
11	S 4 2 5 - -		4♠
9	E - - - 4 3		All Pass
	W - - - 4 3		

These high-level competitive deals are so difficult. The first round of the auction looks normal enough, as is East's 4♠ bid – clearcut even if only an 11-count. It's hard for South to take any action, and what about North? I guess he might double, suggesting that South remove, but is that what South should do with only a doubleton heart, a possible trump trick and two loose queens? I think any North-Souths who bid to 5♥ thoroughly deserve their good score. Hang on a minute! Although Deep Finesse can make 4♠, and so can we all when looking at all four hands, what about in real life? Declarer needs to make a heart ruff in the dummy and then, to succeed, has to take a first-round finesse in spades. I'm not sure that is so likely. Those actually making 4♠ deserve their good score too.

<p>♠86 ♥AJ1097 ♦J ♣K9632</p> <p>♠542 ♥K863 ♦Q103 ♣QJ8</p> <p>♠Q1097 ♥Q5 ♦AK952 ♣A4</p>		<p>♠AKJ3 ♥42 ♦8764 ♣1075</p>	
HCP	Makeable contracts	Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable	
9	♣♦♥♠NT	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>
8	N 4 4 4 3 3	Pass	1♦
8	S 4 4 4 3 3	Pass	1♥
15	E - - - - -	Pass	1♠
	W - - - - -	Pass	1NT

A thin game for NS. The above auction looks about right for weak no-trumpers. Strong no-trumpers might open 1NT with the South hand (I would!) and then North would surely show both his suits, forcing to game in the process. I guess South would choose to play the No Trump game.

West has a terrible choice of opening leads. There are a lot of close decisions to be made, both by declarer and the defenders. I would expect some to make and some to fail. Maybe 1NT is an OK place after all!

<p>♠Q1072 ♥AQ765 ♦9 ♣1086</p> <p>♠A96543 ♥J3 ♦10762 ♣Q</p> <p>♠K8 ♥K92 ♦84 ♣KJ9752</p>		<p>♠J ♥1084 ♦AKQJ53 ♣A43</p>	
HCP	Makeable contracts	Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable	
8	♣♦♥♠NT	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>
7	N 3 - 1 - -	2♠	Pass
15	S 3 - 1 - -		3NT
10	E - 5 - 2 2		All Pass
	W - 5 - 2 2		

Is the West hand worth a 2♠ opening vulnerable? I think the 6-4 distribution makes up for the poor suit. Then what should East bid? 3NT looks like a practical bid to me - especially at teams - and in practice that would surely lead to a making game, since South would lead a club, giving declarer his ninth trick.

At pairs, perhaps East should be a little more careful and bid a simple 3♦, which on the actual lie would lead to a safer +600.

<p>♠654 ♥875 ♦108762 ♣52</p> <p>♠QJ109 ♥K9 ♦54 ♣AK1043</p> <p>♠A873 ♥1043 ♦AJ ♣Q987</p>		<p>♠K2 ♥AQJ62 ♦KQ93 ♣J6</p>	
HCP	Makeable contracts	Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable	
0	♣♦♥♠NT	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>
13	N - - - - -	Pass	1♥
16	S - - - - -	Pass	2♦
11	E 4 3 5 5 5	3NT	All Pass
	W 4 3 5 5 5		

The above looks like a straightforward auction. Even playing strong No Trump, most would prefer to open 1♥ with that East hand. Anyway, all roads seem to lead to 3NT, and all lines of play arrive at 11 tricks. The only chance of a 12th trick would seem to be to persuade South to duck a round of diamonds, and then squeeze him in the minors, but with ♦AJ it seems unlikely that South would ever duck a diamond.

<p>♠6543 ♥92 ♦K8 ♣K9432</p> <p>♠Q8 ♥J63 ♦A542 ♣QJ108</p> <p>♠A10 ♥AQ84 ♦Q1096 ♣A75</p>		<p>♠KJ972 ♥K1075 ♦J73 ♣6</p>	
HCP	Makeable contracts	Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable	
6	♣♦♥♠NT	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>
10	N 4 2 1 1 2	Pass	Pass
8	S 4 2 1 1 2	1♠	1NT
16	E - - - - -	Pass	
	W - - - - -	All Pass	

West's natural lead is the ♣Q - not a good choice this time. Declarer should win this in hand and return a club, playing the ♣9 from dummy if West plays low (ducking if he goes in with an honour). Now he can play the ♣K and another club. West wins and switches to the ♠Q, ducked, and another spade which declarer wins. Now play a diamond to the king, cash the club (discarding the last heart) and run the ♦8: ten tricks.



<p>♠QJ4 ♥4 ♦QJ1053 ♣K765</p> <p>♠K975      ♠A10 ♥Q6      ♥AJ10952 ♦K96      ♦A872 ♣Q1092      ♣3</p> <p>♠8632 ♥K873 ♦4 ♣AJ84</p>		<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></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>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>People ask me what they should rebid when they are 6-4. In my view if you are minimum (i.e. would reject a game try from partner) then you should rebid your 6-card suit, but if you have more than that then you should bid your 4-card suit.</p> <p>Here East has a nice hand and so rebids 2♦ (otherwise is it 2♥ or 3♥?). West makes the slight underbid of 2♥ preference, and East makes a game try, showing 6-4 (otherwise he would bid 2NT or his 3-card suit to help partner to judge).</p> <p>West has an easy raise to game, but will East make it? It is complex and there are too many variables, but good technique should win in the end!</p>		West	North	East	South		Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass																									
West	North	East	South																																											
	Pass	1♥	Pass																																											
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass																																											
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass																																											
4♥	All Pass																																													
<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>8</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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr></table>	HCP		9	13	10	8	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	-	-	-	S	1	-	-	-	-	E	-	2	4	2	3	W	-	2	4	2	3				
HCP																																														
9	13																																													
10	8																																													
Makeable contracts																																														
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																									
N	1	-	-	-	-																																									
S	1	-	-	-	-																																									
E	-	2	4	2	3																																									
W	-	2	4	2	3																																									
<p>♠K10 ♥A95 ♦KJ1097 ♣Q106</p> <p>♠AJ9876      ♠432 ♥KQ8      ♥1062 ♦63      ♦AQ42 ♣95      ♣AK3</p> <p>♠Q5 ♥J743 ♦85 ♣J8742</p>		<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>After East's weak No-Trump opening, West transfers into spades and then makes an invitational raise which East is happy to accept. Strong no-trumpers would get to the same place, played by West, after, e.g., 1♦ - 1♠ - 1NT - 3♠ (or some form of checkback).</p> <p>With trumps 2-2 and the diamond finesse right, there are ten tricks for the taking, unless the defenders can be persuaded to broach hearts, in which case declarer can make an overtrick. It would not be unreasonable for South to lead the ♥3, after which declarer can (should) play low from dummy and thus make an extra heart trick.</p>		West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass																											
West	North	East	South																																											
		1NT	Pass																																											
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass																																											
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass																																											
<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>4</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>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr></table>	HCP		13	13	10	4	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	-	2	1	4	3	W	-	2	1	4	3				
HCP																																														
13	13																																													
10	4																																													
Makeable contracts																																														
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																									
N	-	-	-	-	-																																									
S	-	-	-	-	-																																									
E	-	2	1	4	3																																									
W	-	2	1	4	3																																									
<p>♠KJ32 ♥107 ♦QJ2 ♣QJ93</p> <p>♠Q76      ♠109 ♥Q53      ♥KJ984 ♦1097543      ♦AK ♣4      ♣AK76</p> <p>♠A854 ♥A62 ♦86 ♣10852</p>		<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</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>Should West pass or raise partner's 1♥ opening to 2♥? Who knows? If he raises surely East will take a pot at game.</p> <p>Now what should South lead? I suspect most will let this through, as you have to lead either a spade or the ♥A to beat it. It looks more normal to lead a minor and after, say, a diamond lead it is cold because declarer can ruff two clubs in the dummy, just losing two spades and the ♥A.</p>		West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass																											
West	North	East	South																																											
			Pass																																											
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass																																											
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass																																											
<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>8</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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr></table>	HCP		10	18	4	8	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	-	-	-	S	1	-	-	-	-	E	-	2	3	-	2	W	-	2	3	-	2				
HCP																																														
10	18																																													
4	8																																													
Makeable contracts																																														
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																									
N	1	-	-	-	-																																									
S	1	-	-	-	-																																									
E	-	2	3	-	2																																									
W	-	2	3	-	2																																									

♠Q

♥AK5

♦J53

♣AKQ1063

♠A865432

♥QJ

♦KQ6

♣4

♠J9

♥1032

♦A108742

♣75

♠K107

♥98764

♦9

♣J982

HCP

19

12

5

4

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	5	-	4	-	-
S	5	-	4	-	-
E	-	3	-	2	-
W	-	3	-	2	-

♠AJ43

♥J73

♦AK1084

♣9

♠10865

♥AKQ9

♦765

♣KQ

♠KQ7

♥854

♦J93

♣A752

♠92

♥1062

♦Q2

♣J108643

HCP

13

14

10

3

Makeable contracts

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

♠108

♥Q10864

♦Q1098

♣J8

♠AKJ9

♥9

♦AJ7

♣AK1062

♠7532

♥AKJ7

♦63

♣543

♠Q64

♥532

♦K542

♣Q97

HCP

5

20

8

7

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	6	2	3	6	4
W	6	2	3	6	4

Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all

West

North

East

South

1♠

Dbl

Pass

2♥

2♣

3♣

3♣

4♣

All Pass

Another difficult deal!

After West's 1♠ North is too strong for a simple 2♣ overcall, so starts with a double. East has nothing to say, and South dutifully responds 2♥. West repeats his spades and North shows a strong hand with clubs. East quite fancies his hand (it is Love All – the bidders' vulnerability, after all) and tries 3♠ with his doubleton spade and ♦A. Now it is South, with a good club fit, who moves on with 4♣. And it is a close decision as to whether North should try 5♣. At pairs scoring, it is generally right to be conservative, but at teams ... who knows?

Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

West

North

East

South

1♦

Pass

Pass

Dbl

1♠

1NT

All Pass

East has an awkward bid to find after West's reopening double. He really should have a diamond stopper to bid No Trumps but what else is he to do with his 10-count? Never mind! He can make 1NT even without a diamond stopper.

Maybe South would join in with 2♣ at favourable vulnerability. That would be a good thing for his side as it looks to go only one down.

Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

West

North

East

South

Pass

Pass

1♣

Pass

1♥

Pass

2♠

Pass

3♣

Pass

4♣

Pass

4♥

Pass

4♣

All Pass

West opens with his longest suit in third seat and East responds 1♥. West is too strong now for a simple 1♠ rebid, and so jumps to 2♠, forcing to game. East is happy to raise spades with his 4-card support. It is not clear how strong the East hand is, so West cue-bids 4♣, East cooperates with 4♥ but now everything has been bid and the bidding stops in 4♠.

If EW were to stray to the slam level, West would have to play well to make it. On a diamond lead he would need to win, take a heart finesse and cash two top hearts to discard diamonds; then a spade finesse, draw trumps and give up a club. Phew!

<p>♠A ♥K852 ♦K952 ♣J762</p> <p>♠K8763 ♥4 ♦Q76 ♣K843</p> <p>♠Q1095 ♥QJ10763 ♦A43 ♣-</p> <p>♠J42 ♥A9 ♦J108 ♣AQ1095</p>		<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>If South opens 1NT (12-14), West will pass and North use Stayman. East has a hand with good playing strength, certainly worth a bid non-vulnerable. 2♥ looks the best bet, and now NS have to decide what to do. Can anyone double for penalties these days? If East does play in 2♥ doubled, no doubt South will lead the ♦J. If declarer covers this, he will go two down, as that creates entries to the South hand to give partner spade ruffs; if declarer ducks the diamond lead and plays a heart, the best the defence can do is for North to win, cash the ♠A and play a club. South can get in with the ♥A and give North a spade ruff, but later the diamond loser will go on dummy's long spade. However, at least NS have gone positive, which is more than they will do if they play in 2NT.</p>		West	North	East	South				1NT	Pass	2♣	2♥	Pass	Pass	2NT	All Pass																																											
West	North	East	South																																																										
			1NT																																																										
Pass	2♣	2♥	Pass																																																										
Pass	2NT	All Pass																																																											
<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>12</td></tr></table>	HCP		11	9	8	12	<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>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	2	-	-	1	S	4	2	-	-	1	E	-	-	-	2	-	W	-	-	1	3	-	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Of course, the North hand is not a classic 2NT opener. However, if North does open 2NT, the auction is fairly straightforward. If North opens 1♦ and South bids 1♥, what then? North is too good for 3♦, and has fairly miserable holdings in the black suits for a 3NT rebid; should he jump to 3♣? Give me the 2NT opener any time! I would expect most Easts to lead a heart after this auction, as it seems safer than a spade. In that case North will make 11 tricks, three more than if East had led a spade! In 5♦ after a spade lead, declarer is likely to go down, though can actually succeed if he chooses to play to squeeze East in hearts and clubs rather than take the club finesse. In the 5-card end position East cannot keep four hearts and the guarded ♣K.</p>		West	North	East	South	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
HCP																																																													
11	9																																																												
8	12																																																												
Makeable contracts																																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	4	2	-	-	1																																																								
S	4	2	-	-	1																																																								
E	-	-	-	2	-																																																								
W	-	-	1	3	-																																																								
West	North	East	South																																																										
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣																																																										
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT																																																										
All Pass																																																													
<p>♠J4 ♥AQ6 ♦AKQ1052 ♣A5</p> <p>♠KQ752 ♥73 ♦943 ♣982</p> <p>♠98 ♥K942 ♦J8 ♣QJ1043</p>	<p>♠A1063 ♥J1085 ♦76 ♣K76</p>	<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>20</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>7</td></tr></table>	HCP		20	8	5	7	<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>4</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	5	3	-	2	S	4	4	3	-	2	E	-	-	-	1	-	W	-	-	-	1	-																
HCP																																																													
20	8																																																												
5	7																																																												
Makeable contracts																																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	4	5	3	-	2																																																								
S	4	4	3	-	2																																																								
E	-	-	-	1	-																																																								
W	-	-	-	1	-																																																								
<p>♠QJ76 ♥AQ72 ♦54 ♣942</p> <p>♠42 ♥J86 ♦KJ62 ♣K653</p> <p>♠1083 ♥1093 ♦AQ7 ♣AJ108</p>	<p>♠AK95 ♥K54 ♦10983 ♣Q7</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Not the most exciting of deals. With neither minor suit looking very appealing, as South I would choose to lead the ♥10. At least this does not give declarer anything. Best is for North to duck the heart. Declarer will probably win and play the ♦10. I would expect South to win and cash the hearts, but it is hard to see how the defence can stop East from making two spades, one heart, three diamonds and a club. Maybe some brave Norths will reopen with 2♣ for the majors (a little too much for me, vulnerable, with such a balanced hand). Now South will bid 2♦ asking for North's longer major and North will come to rest in 2♥. This will not play well and should go 200 down - not a good score for NS.</p>		West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	All Pass																																																			
West	North	East	South																																																										
Pass	1NT	All Pass																																																											
<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>11</td></tr></table>	HCP		9	12	8	11	<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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	-	1	-	S	1	-	-	1	-	E	-	2	-	-	1	W	-	2	-	-	-																		
HCP																																																													
9	12																																																												
8	11																																																												
Makeable contracts																																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	1	-	-	1	-																																																								
S	1	-	-	1	-																																																								
E	-	2	-	-	1																																																								
W	-	2	-	-	-																																																								

♠Q872

♥Q3

♦AK9

♣J964

♠63

♥AJ84

♦32

♣K10753

♠K954

♥109

♦10764

♠A82

♠AJ10

♥K7652

♦QJ85

♣Q

HCP	
12	7
8	13

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

♠AKJ10

♥KJ654

♦2

♣KJ3

♠72

♥9732

♦K10543

♣74

♠Q64

♥AQ108

♦AJ6

♣A95

♠9853

♥-

♦Q987

♣Q10862

HCP	
16	17
3	4

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

♠A5

♥AJ865

♦A76

♣AJ2

♠QJ

♥Q9

♦K9853

♣KQ54

♠K10876

♥10743

♦J104

♣3

♠9432

♥K2

♦Q2

♣109876

HCP	
18	4
13	5

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

Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

A difficult deal for NS. It is generally right for South to raise partner's 1♠ with only 3-card support when he has a singleton. North's 2NT is usually played as non-forcing with only four spades. With only a 4-3 spade fit, playing in No Trumps looks right (fingers crossed about clubs) - but maybe a conservative pass would be better.

If East leads a diamond, say, the defence should be able to hold declarer to eight tricks (three spades, one heart and four diamonds), but it would be easy enough for the defence to slip up.

Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1♥	1NT	All Pass

This would be a good deal for a fairly new bit of system that I have incorporated. What should double by North be? If it just shows a good hand, what is South supposed to do with the various types of bad hand he might hold? No, I like to play it as showing four cards in the other major. Even if the majors are the other way around, it is helpful to be able to tell partner that you are 5-5 (bid 2♥) or 5-4 (double). That way NS could bid to 2♠, and even if EW bid 3♦ over that, they will go minus. As it is, no doubt everyone will pass the 1NT overcall and, because South has no entry, will make eight tricks.

Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1NT	Dbl	2♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

I think that one of the advantages of the weak No Trump is that you know that partner doesn't have a weak balanced hand when they open something else (think, 'where is his singleton?' if he is minimum). This, with its strong doubletons, looks like a weak No Trump to me. Not that it works very well this time. North will double and East bid 2♣ (or some sort of fancy wriggle). Double should be take-out over this, so South will pass and then we turn to North. Double looks best to me with the good defensive values and then the spotlight turns to South. It is unlikely (but possible) that North has a singleton spade, so I would pass and hope for the magic 200 on defence.

A trump lead is clear and that should lead to at least one down (two down with accurate defence).