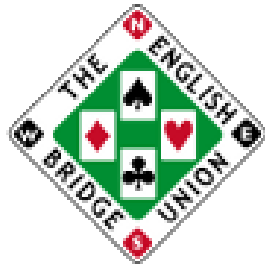


# **National Handicap Pairs**



**Sunday**  
**10<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

## Commentary:

Gordon Rainsford and Jonathan Lillycrop

<div><div>♠ 10654</div><div>♥ 85</div><div>♦ Q652</div><div>♣ AK4</div><div>♠ KQ</div><div>♥ QJ7</div><div>♦ AJ109874</div><div>♣ 2</div><div>♠ AJ872</div><div>♥ K6</div><div>♦ -</div><div>♣ Q109853</div><div>♠ 93</div><div>♥ A109432</div><div>♦ K3</div><div>♣ J76</div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>8</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</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><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		9	10	13	8	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	3	3	-	3	2		W	3	3	-	3	2		<div>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</div> <div><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>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>3♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div><p>This is one plausible auction although it gets you too high. Although in practice you might be allowed to make 3NT, that is unlikely. For Easts who consider discretion to be the better part of valour, it may be possible to stay in a making part-score, but I confess I would be unlikely to be so restrained!</p></div>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♣	2♥	3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass						
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<div><div><div>♠ J4</div><div>♥ AKQ952</div><div>♦ J9</div><div>♣ J54</div></div><div><div>♠ Q10953</div><div>♥ 76</div><div>♦ 52</div><div>♣ K863</div></div><div><div>♠ A762</div><div>♥ 104</div><div>♦ Q1087</div><div>♣ A97</div></div><div><div>♠ K8</div><div>♥ J83</div><div>♦ AK643</div><div>♣ Q102</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>13</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		12	10	5	13	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	2	4	-	3		S	-	2	4	-	3		E	-	-	-	1	-		W	-	-	-	1	-		<div>Board 8: Dealer West: Love all</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Any Easts clever and brave enough to underlead their ♠A at trick 1 will deserve a top from getting the contract off – unless they agonise so much before doing it that an equally clever declarer works out what's going on!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass											
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<div><div><div>♠8752</div><div>♥J95</div><div>♦A108</div><div>♣432</div></div><div><div>♠QJ10</div><div>♥AQ104</div><div>♦9</div><div>♣A10765</div></div><div><div>♠6</div><div>♥K8763</div><div>♦76543</div><div>♣KJ</div></div><div><div>♠AK943</div><div>♥2</div><div>♦KQJ2</div><div>♣Q98</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>15</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>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr></table></div>	HCP		5	7	13	15	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	2	-	S	-	-	-	2	-	E	3	-	5	-	1	W	3	-	5	-	1	<div>Board 9: Dealer North: EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td><td>South</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>The West hand and the club suit are not good enough for a 2♣ overcall, but after passing it's very hard to find the EW heart fit, especially if South makes a game try. It depends on style, but the traditional way to try for game was to bid the suit where you are looking for help – hence 3♣ and not 3♦.</p> <p>If EW play <i>Equal Level Conversion</i>, then West can start with a takeout double (intending to convert back to 2♥ if partner inconveniently bids 2♦) and in this case the heart fit is found, though they probably won't reach game unless pushed.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠	All Pass					
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<div><div><div>♠Q1097642</div><div>♥107</div><div>♦10</div><div>♣1063</div></div><div><div>♠85</div><div>♥J953</div><div>♦985</div><div>♣AJ94</div></div><div><div>♠AKJ</div><div>♥AKQ64</div><div>♦43</div><div>♣Q87</div></div><div><div>♠3</div><div>♥82</div><div>♦AKQJ762</div><div>♣K52</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>6</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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div>	HCP		2	19	6	13	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	-	-	-	S	-	1	-	-	-	E	3	-	4	-	-	W	3	-	4	-	-	<div>Board 10: Dealer East: All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td><td>South</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♥</td><td>2♦</td></tr><tr><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>After South's overcall, West's jump raise shows less than it would in an uncontested auction as there is now a 3♦ <i>Unassuming Cue-Bid (UCB)</i> available to show a proper limit raise. The East hand is so good that 4♥ is going to be rebid regardless.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	2♦	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass								
HCP																																																															
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<div><div><div>♠J2</div><div>♥1083</div><div>♦642</div><div>♣109753</div></div><div><div>♠K874</div><div>♥KJ52</div><div>♦83</div><div>♣K64</div></div><div><div>♠A93</div><div>♥96</div><div>♦AKQ1097</div><div>♣AJ</div></div><div><div>♠Q1065</div><div>♥AQ74</div><div>♦J5</div><div>♣Q82</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>11</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>3</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr></table></div>	HCP		1	18	10	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	3	6	4	5	6	W	3	6	4	5	6	<div>Board 11: Dealer South: Love all</div> <table><tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td><td>South</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td><td>Dble</td></tr><tr><td>Rdble</td><td>2♣</td><td>3♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3Nt</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>With both heart honours onside, EW can make 12 tricks in NT, and South's double suggests that might well be the case, but it seems rather a lot to bid.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦	Dble	Rdble	2♣	3♦	Pass	3Nt	All Pass		
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<p>♠ Q8 ♥ J1092 ♦ A108 ♣ 7632</p> <p>♠ A10962      ♠ J75 ♥ AK8      ♥ Q73 ♦ 74      ♦ KQ653 ♣ QJ4      ♣ AK</p> <p>♠ K43 ♥ 654 ♦ J92 ♣ 10985</p>	<p>Board 12: Dealer West: NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td><td>South</td></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♠/3Nt</td><td colspan="3">All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>There are a number of opportunities to exercise judgement on this hand: some would open a weak NT on the West hand, others a strong NT, while many would open 1♠. Having opened 1♠ I would upgrade the hand to rebid 2NT showing a strong hand, and then on the next round there is a decision to be made as to whether to play in spades or NT. Since they both make the same number of tricks it's better to play in NT on this occasion. Maybe East would just raise 2NT to 3NT, or even to 4NT if West's 2NT rebid is 15-19, as is played by many Acoul players.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠/3Nt	All Pass																																												
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HCP																																																											
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<p>♠ K654 ♥ KQ854 ♦ A ♣ A96</p> <p>♠ Q872      ♠ 3 ♥ A72      ♥ J96 ♦ K8      ♦ QJ9643 ♣ J1043    ♣ 852</p> <p>♠ AJ109 ♥ 103 ♦ 10752 ♣ KQ7</p>	<p>Board 14: Dealer East: Love all</p> <table><tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td><td>South</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>Dble</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♠</td><td colspan="3">All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>This is one auction to the top spot for EW, but as it happens NS have a good save in 5♦. If defending that, West would need to lead the singleton heart (fairly obvious) and then underlead the spades to get a heart ruff, which requires a little faith that partner will have the ♠K. By that stage, it's probable that East must have this card to justify having bid at all.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♦	1♠	Dble	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass																																												
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S	4	1	1	2	1																																																														
E	-	-	-	-	-																																																														
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West	North	East	South																																																																
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT																																																																
All Pass																																																																			
<div><div><div>♠A5</div><div>♥AK32</div><div>♦1084</div><div>♣J1064</div></div><div><div>♠J63</div><div>♥98</div><div>♦AKJ765</div><div>♣K3</div></div><div><div>♠Q87</div><div>♥J764</div><div>♦Q</div><div>♣Q9875</div></div><div><div>♠K10942</div><div>♥Q105</div><div>♦932</div><div>♣A2</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		12		12	7	9		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	2	2	1		S	-	-	2	2	1		E	-	1	-	-	-		W	-	1	-	-	-		<div>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>This looks a normal auction for weak NT players. With spades breaking 3-3, 8 tricks looks easy for declarer. Some West players may choose to overcall 3♦ non vulnerable and if so that is likely to end the auction. 7 tricks and 2 down will be a good result for East/West at Matchpoints. -100 instead of -110.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	All pass					
HCP																																																																			
12																																																																			
12	7																																																																		
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<div><div><div>♠ 964</div><div>♥ K7</div><div>♦ KQ5</div><div>♣ AKJ93</div></div><div><div>♠ A2</div><div>♥ Q104</div><div>♦ J107432</div><div>♣ 104</div></div><div><div>♠ Q108753</div><div>♥ J5</div><div>♦ 986</div><div>♣ 76</div></div><div><div>♠ KJ</div><div>♥ A98632</div><div>♦ A</div><div>♣ Q852</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>16</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</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><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		16		7	3	14		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	6	2	5	2	5		S	6	2	5	2	5		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<div>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td></tr></table> <div>All pass</div> <p>If East/West do not bid then this is one possible auction for North/South. South could rebid 2♥ but with such a poor suit I think it is better to raise clubs which also promises a 5<sup>th</sup> heart, partner should have at least 4 clubs in this situation.</p> <p>If East/West are aggressive then East might open 2♠ or West might bid 3♦ over 1♥. A 3♦ overcall won't worry North/South as North has a good stop. A 2♠ opening gives South a problem as they will be reluctant to overcall 3♥ vulnerable with this suit quality, if South passes North also doesn't have a clear bid with no spade stop. So possibly a couple of Easts might get to play 2♠ although I expect in practice North or South will find a bid.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
HCP																																																																			
16																																																																			
7	3																																																																		
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West	North	East	South																																																																
		Pass	1♥																																																																
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣																																																																
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT																																																																
<div><div><div>♠ A108642</div><div>♥ KJ74</div><div>♦ 83</div><div>♣ 10</div></div><div><div>♠ Q5</div><div>♥ Q63</div><div>♦ J942</div><div>♣ Q842</div></div><div><div>♠ KJ97</div><div>♥ 85</div><div>♦ AK107</div><div>♣ AJ6</div></div><div><div>♠ 3</div><div>♥ A1092</div><div>♦ Q65</div><div>♣ K9753</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		8		7	16	9		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	3	1	-		S	-	-	3	1	-		E	-	1	-	-	-		W	-	1	-	-	-		<div>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</div> <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>All pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>There are a number of possibilities on this hand. North might bid in 3<sup>rd</sup> seat at favourable vulnerability, either weak 2♠ or 1♠ to keep hearts as a possibility. If North opens 1♠ or 2♠ East can bid no trumps at the lowest level and that will probably end the auction.</p> <p>The above is a possible Acoll auction if North passes. East has a decision on the 2<sup>nd</sup> round whether to pass or bid 2NT. Here the conservative view will work better as 2♦ is more likely to make than 2NT, North/South need to get 2 spade ruffs to defeat 2♦.</p> <p>Although Hearts is the best contract I doubt many will find it.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	2♦	All pass		
HCP																																																																			
8																																																																			
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			Pass																																																																
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass																																																																
2♦	All pass																																																																		
<div><div><div>♠ AQ43</div><div>♥ KJ65</div><div>♦ KJ</div><div>♣ AQ6</div></div><div><div>♠ 65</div><div>♥ Q9742</div><div>♦ 9752</div><div>♣ J9</div></div><div><div>♠ KJ108</div><div>♥ A103</div><div>♦ 3</div><div>♣ K10752</div></div><div><div>♠ 972</div><div>♥ 8</div><div>♦ AQ10864</div><div>♣ 843</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>20</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		20		3	11	6		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	5	-	3	4		S	-	4	-	1	4		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	1	-	-		<div>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</div> <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>3NT</td></tr></table> <div>All pass</div> <p>East is likely to give declarer their 9<sup>th</sup> trick on the lead. If East does manage to lead a diamond which is the only lead which doesn't cost a trick then declarer needs to play a heart to the Jack when they are in dummy after running the diamonds to set up their 9<sup>th</sup> trick. Depending on discards declarer might take the club finesse but in practice this will probably work as East will have to play something back and East will have been struggling for discards on 6 rounds of diamonds.</p> <p>If East leads a spade or club to start with then declarer may well now make 10 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT								
HCP																																																																			
20																																																																			
3	11																																																																		
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<div><div><div>♠K83</div><div>♥Q86</div><div>♦K732</div><div>♣Q64</div></div><div><div>♠76</div><div>♥K1054</div><div>♦1065</div><div>♣AKJ9</div></div><div><div>♠QJ105</div><div>♥A9</div><div>♦Q84</div><div>♣10753</div></div><div><div>♠A942</div><div>♥J732</div><div>♦AJ9</div><div>♣82</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		10		11	9	10		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	1	1	1	1		S	-	1	1	1	1		E	1	-	-	-	-		W	1	-	-	-	-		<div>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</div> <table><tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td><td>South</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>This hand might pass out. Playing weak NT West might open 1NT and if so that will probably end the auction.</p> <p>Provided North/South play diamonds correctly then West in 1NT will lose 4 diamonds, 1 club and 2 spades for 1 down.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT	All pass										
HCP																																																																							
10																																																																							
11	9																																																																						
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W	1	-	-	-	-																																																																		
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	Pass	Pass	Pass																																																																				
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<div><div><div>♠Q742</div><div>♥J1083</div><div>♦10</div><div>♣A1084</div></div><div><div>♠A865</div><div>♥A64</div><div>♦K92</div><div>♣KQ5</div></div><div><div>♠J1093</div><div>♥-</div><div>♦Q543</div><div>♣J7632</div></div><div><div>♠K</div><div>♥KQ9752</div><div>♦AJ876</div><div>♣9</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		7		16	4	13		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	4	-	1		S	-	-	4	-	1		E	3	-	-	1	-		W	3	-	-	1	-		<div>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td><td>South</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>1NT</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>There is a saying “6-5 come alive” and this certainly applies to the South hand here! Partner has a great fit with 4 hearts and singleton diamond. South might even bid 4♥ over 2♥ but may be wary of the 1NT overcall on their left. If South makes a trial bid with 3♦ then North should bid 4♥ with the singleton as they know South can ruff diamonds in their hand. Even if West leads Ace of hearts and another heart to cut down the diamond ruffs South can still ruff 2 diamonds and then lose a diamond to set up the 5<sup>th</sup> diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♥	1NT	2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass	4♥	All pass					
HCP																																																																							
7																																																																							
16	4																																																																						
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<div><div><div>♠AQJ4</div><div>♥A975</div><div>♦83</div><div>♣1085</div></div><div><div>♠963</div><div>♥J10</div><div>♦Q10642</div><div>♣AQJ</div></div><div><div>♠10852</div><div>♥Q86</div><div>♦K</div><div>♣K9432</div></div><div><div>♠K7</div><div>♥K432</div><div>♦AJ975</div><div>♣76</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		11		10	8	11		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	2	3	2	1		S	-	2	3	2	1		E	1	-	-	-	-		W	1	-	-	-	-		<div>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td><td>South</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1♦</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td></tr><tr><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>For some people South’s 2♥ bid here might only promise 3 card support and so North would bid 2NT to invite game whilst also checking if partner has 3 or 4 hearts. Here partner has 4 hearts but a minimum hand and so would bid 3♥.</p> <p>With hearts 3-2 this should be a fairly straight forward 9 tricks.</p> <p>On a spade lead declarer can make 10 tricks by drawing 2 rounds of trumps and then throwing clubs on spades allowing them to then ruff 2 clubs in dummy.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	All pass			
HCP																																																																							
11																																																																							
10	8																																																																						
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S	-	2	3	2	1																																																																		
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Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥																																																																				
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♠ A53

♥ A1084

♦ 8

♣ J9873

♠ Q106

♥ 652

♦ J

♣ AK10642

♠ K9742

♥ Q97

♦ A976

♣ 5

♠ J8

♥ KJ3

♦ KQ105432

♣ Q

HCP

9

10

12

9

Makeable contracts

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

Board 27: Dealer South: Love all

West

North

East

South

1♦

2♣

Dbl

Pass

2♦

All pass

On this auction West is likely to lead a top club and then probably switch to a spade when they see dummy and the club position. Presuming declarer wins that and plays a diamond they need to play to the King or Queen to avoid losing to the singleton Jack. It will then come down to which way declarer finesses hearts as to whether they make the overtrick or not.

♠ A6

♥ J10

♦ AK

♣ AK107642

♠ Q9752

♥ 743

♦ Q86

♣ Q5

♠ 43

♥ AQ862

♦ 109542

♣ 9

♠ KJ108

♥ K95

♦ J73

♣ J83

HCP

19

6

9

6

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	6	1	2	3	6
S	6	1	2	3	6
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 28: Dealer West: NS vulnerable

West

North

East

South

Pass

1♣

2NT

Pass

3♥

4♣

Pass

5♣

All pass

2NT here is the *Unusual 2NT* showing 5-5 in the lowest 2 unbid suits. 6♣ and 6NT are good contracts but hard to reach, pairs that do will no doubt score well. The play is straight forward in any contract as both hearts are with East and so declarer can't go wrong in the heart suit.

♠ AJ104

♥ K9854

♦ 10

♣ 732

♠ Q72

♥ AQ6

♦ AJ532

♣ K9

♠ K986

♥ 10

♦ Q974

♣ J854

♠ 53

♥ J732

♦ K86

♣ AQ106

HCP

8

16

10

6

Makeable contracts

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

Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable

West

North

East

South

1♦

Pass

1♠

Dbl

1NT

2♥

3♦

All pass

There are lots of ways this could go and East/West could end up in diamonds or North/South in hearts. North/South might compete to the level of the fit and bid to 3♥. If they do get to 3♥ by North then East needs to lead a club to beat the contract. Declarer can then not avoid losing 2 trumps (or 1 trump and a club ruff), 1 club, 1 spade and 1 diamond. If West is playing in diamonds then they need to play ♦Q on the first round of diamonds and run it if it isn't covered. If West starts with a small diamond to the Jack they will find they can't draw trumps for no loser as well as ruff 2 hearts.

♠QJ87

♥J93

♦1043

♣Q82

♠K5

♥K7

♦Q875

♣K9643

♠10943

♥108652

♦J92

♣7

♠A62

♥AQ4

♦AK6

♣AJ105

HCP

6

11

22

1

Makeable contracts

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

Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all

West

North

East

South

Pass

3NT

Pass

2NT

Pass

All pass

North might bid Stayman but with 4-3-3-3 shape it is likely to be easier to make 9 tricks in 3NT than 10 tricks in 4♠.

West will need to lead a diamond or switch to a diamond the first time they are back on lead in order to hold this to 9 tricks. Otherwise declarer can potentially make 3 spades, 2 hearts, 2 diamonds and 3 clubs for 10 tricks.

♠A10876

♥J53

♦KQ86

♣3

♠K

♥AQ107

♦A973

♣QJ86

♠QJ4

♥986

♦J

♣AK10954

♠9532

♥K42

♦10542

♣72

HCP

10

16

3

11

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	6	1	5	-	4
W	6	1	5	-	4

Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable

West

North

East

South

Pass

1♦

1♠

2♣

2♠

3♠

Pass

3NT

All pass

If the auction has gone as above then the defence will likely start with a spade to the Ace and a spade return. Declarer will now just lose one heart trick for a total of 11 tricks.

If North can find a diamond switch at trick 2 then this will put pressure on declarer as they will be worried about North also having the ♥K for their bid and so declarer might settle for their 10 top tricks.

♠J963

♥AQJ83

♦AK84

♣-

♠108

♥97

♦QJ107

♣J10974

♠AK2

♥K10652

♦92

♣K83

♠Q754

♥4

♦653

♣AQ652

HCP

15

4

8

13

Makeable contracts

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

Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable

West

North

East

South

Pass

1♥

Pass

1♠

Pass

3♠

Pass

4♠

All Pass

North/South can easily get too high on this hand. Other than the spade fit their hands do not fit together well. South might take a more pessimistic view and leave the contract in 3♠ although even that will be difficult to make.

With both clubs and diamonds unbid West will have to decide which minor to lead and declarer will get a helping hand if West leads a club.