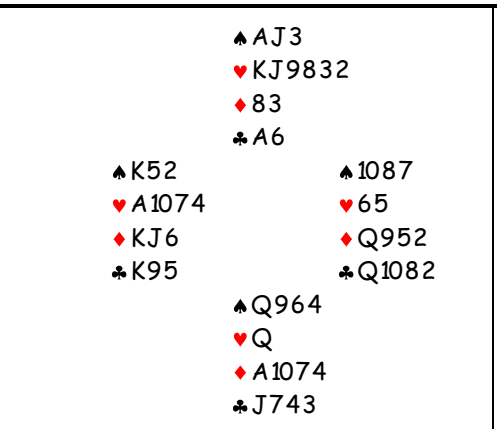
	♠93 ♥J432 ♦J ♣AK8632	Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all Immediately, we have a hand of many possibilities. The conservative Souths (myself included) will open 1D. N is just good enough to respond 2C, rather than 1H, and S would probably bid 3NT, though 2NT (if forcing) allows for more investigation. 6C is a bit of a punt, though it makes even on a spade lead : win AS, cash two diamonds, discarding a spade and ruff a diamond, losing just a trump. Many Norths, though, would simply pass 3NT; yes, you can make 13 tricks by playing on diamonds and squeezing West, but most will be happy to duck a club and make 12 tricks, choosing to finesse diamonds rather than spades (if a spade is not led anyway). Making fewer than 12 tricks will certainly earn a poor score. If S does decide his hand justifies a strong 2-opener (which I don't), then NS will probably get to 6NT.
♠K742 ♥Q107 ♦986 ♣J104		♠J10865 ♥985 ♦Q72 ♣Q9
	♠AQ ♥AK6 ♦AK10543 ♣75	
	♠K4 ♥AK842 ♦K82 ♣J105	Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable The vulnerability favours a 3rd-in-hand weak 1NT by W, as it is a very attractive 11-count. Alternatively, N will open 1H, S responds 1S and N will rebid 2H to conclude the auction; some may open 1NT as N and play there. A spade lead is safest for E against 2H and could hold NS to 8 tricks, losing 2 diamonds, 2 clubs and a heart, though some will scramble 9 tricks somehow. As there are also 8 tricks available in NT, making 8 in hearts will be good for EW. Even better will be 1NT - 2, the likely result if W opens and is allowed to play there.
♠Q1062 ♥J106 ♦AQ43 ♣Q7		♠J85 ♥Q3 ♦1076 ♣A6432
	♠A973 ♥975 ♦J95 ♣K98	
	♠AQ62 ♥86 ♦KJ542 ♣A6	Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable The bidding should start competitively 1D - 1H - 2D (not good enough for 2C) - 2H. N can push on to 3D (no point in bidding 2S when S has denied the suit), and that might be it. That contract is safe, via a spade ruff in dummy. Trump leads can restrict EW to 7 tricks in hearts (denying club ruffs), though some might scrape 8 tricks.
♠J985 ♥A92 ♦8763 ♣K5		♠1043 ♥KQ743 ♦A ♣J984
	♠K7 ♥J105 ♦Q109 ♣Q10732	

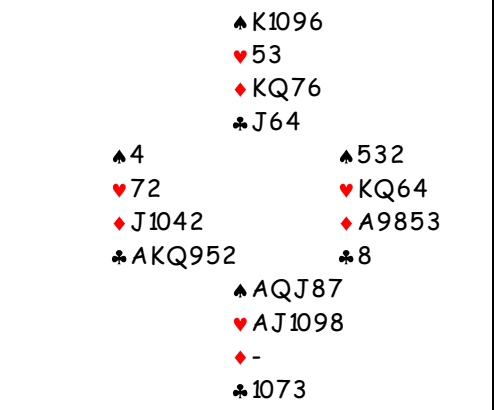
♠AKJ ♥J8 ♦A75 ♣AQ975 ♠9654 ♠1032 ♥AK76 ♥543 ♦KJ ♦9432 ♣K104 ♣632 ♠Q87 ♥Q1092 ♦Q1086 ♣J8	Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable This is not a good hand for W to be opening a weak 1NT!! N will double and E has nowhere to go, holding a flat 0-count with just two cards higher than a 6. A club lead produces carnage, 4 tricks at the very most. Otherwise NS play a routine 3NT making 9 or 10 tricks, though if EW are playing strong NT and 5-card majors, a 1C opening by W gives N a problem; he has to double, bid 2NT over S's response and be raised to 3NT.
♠98 ♥AKQ6 ♦J542 ♣K95 ♠KJ1073 ♠AQ5 ♥32 ♥J10854 ♦63 ♦A98 ♣10743 ♣AJ ♠642 ♥97 ♦KQ107 ♣Q862	Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable Here N opens 1NT, E doubles and S does a minor suit wriggle, after which W will probably play 2S, making 9 tricks. If NS are playing a strong NT, N will open a minor, E will overcall 1NT and W will transfer to 2S, though NS can now profitably (if not doubled) compete to 3D for 1 off.
♠J105 ♥A863 ♦95 ♣10765 ♠8 ♠KQ963 ♥K1074 ♥J ♦KQ72 ♦J1086 ♣KJ98 ♣A43 ♠A742 ♥Q952 ♦A43 ♣Q2	Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable As E, I would probably open 1S, which should silence S. W bids 2C, E rebids 2D and W might prefer 2NT to 3D, for which he is a bit too good. E will pass either bid. 2NT should make only 8 tricks, whereas 3D makes 10 tricks for a better score. If E passes initially, S can open 1NT, passed round to E, who will now compete, though it works better if he makes a 2-suited bid, and finishes in 3D, rather than simply bidding 2S, which could scrape home but 110 will not be a good score.
♠J107 ♥A75 ♦Q8763 ♣74 ♠Q2 ♠654 ♥J83 ♥Q106 ♦J10954 ♦A2 ♣1052 ♣AKQ96 ♠AK983 ♥K942 ♦K ♣J83	Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable The bidding probably starts 1S - pass - 2S - 3C. S's best option now is to pass and lead a trump (not cashing AS first); that is an unlikely defence but would yield 200. I think, also, that he is more likely to compete to 3S; this makes if, against the odds, he drops QS, but should otherwise go 1 down.

♠9 ♥KJ752 ♦A42 ♣A982 ♠KJ872 ♠Q ♥83 ♥Q1064 ♦KQJ87 ♦1053 ♣K ♣Q10743 ♠A106543 ♥A9 ♦96 ♣J65	Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all The bidding should start 1S - double (better than 2H with such a poor suit) - 1NT - pass - 2D, and this should be passed out. I'm not sure that S should consider a natural 2S, when W is known to hold five. EW should make 2D; 8 tricks is the limit on best defence, but some will make 9. NS can make 2H, but it isn't easy to play there; S could score 7 tricks in 2S, not a bad score if undoubled.
♠AJ96 ♥Q1053 ♦K2 ♣Q53 ♠Q743 ♠K1052 ♥A76 ♥J8 ♦QJ ♦964 ♣K982 ♣A764 ♠8 ♥K942 ♦A108753 ♣J10	Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable N can open a weak 1NT and S has an interesting systemic problem; if he uses Stayman and gets the likely 2S response, what would 3D now mean?! As it is, if he takes that route, he is blessed with a 2H response and can pass (the real optimists will raise). If he has no satisfactory answer to the earlier question, though, he might prefer just to transfer into 3D initially, or simply pass. This is not a hand for the advocates of the principle of restricted choice, who will cash KD and then finesse. That way, 9 tricks is the limit, even if you guess the hearts right. A declarer in 1NT will do better, probably reasoning that, if the diamonds are 4 - 1, there might be no entry back to make them anyway, so will drop the honours; he would then make a good number of tricks! Anyone bidding and making 4H - possible if you guess the trumps and diamonds correctly - will get an excellent score; even a heart part-score will be good.
♠AK1063 ♥J ♦972 ♣10987 ♠Q82 ♠J754 ♥86 ♥9432 ♦KQJ83 ♦A104 ♣Q32 ♣KJ ♠9 ♥AKQ1075 ♦65 ♣A654	Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable Clearly S opens 1H; W's diamonds are good enough to overcall 2D, though I'm not sure the rest of the hand is good enough! If he does, N should double (NOT bid 2S); E can raise to 3D, S bids 3H and all pass. Left to themselves, NS will bid 1H - 1S and it's difficult to criticise S for bidding 3H, though 2H works better. If S bids 3H, N might look favourably at his JH, plus SAK and raise to 4H. 9 tricks should be the limit, losing 2 diamonds immediately and 2 clubs later.



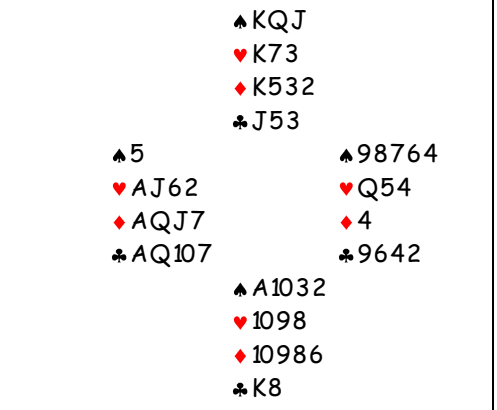
Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all

This could simply go 1NT - 2H, passed out. This contract always makes 8 tricks, and can make 9 if declarer is allowed time to discard a minor-suit loser on the fourth spade. I don't see much variation here.



Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

W should open either 1C or, perhaps, a heavy 3C; E would reply 1D to the former and pass the latter. S is strong enough to compete against either and NS are always likely to reach 4S, which must, unfortunately go 1 down after W cashes 3 clubs. Well done if you managed to stop below game somehow!



Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable

N can open a weak 1NT, which W must surely double. Unfortunately, E's escape is to 2S and now it is difficult for EW to emerge with a plus score. W can try 2NT and might emerge with 7 tricks, but surely no more. E might cleverly decide initially to give himself two chances of escaping the double by bidding 2C and now they are safe, even if W optimistically raises to 3C. It is easier to find this contract if NS are playing strong NT because the bidding starts 1D - pass - 1S - dbl - pass - 2C (N gets himself into worse trouble if he bids 2S).

♠J94 ♥75 ♦A10653 ♣J109 ♠852 ♠AQ10763 ♥1063 ♥K984 ♦9 ♦Q8 ♣KQ7642 ♣3 ♠K ♥AQJ2 ♦KJ742 ♣A85	Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all This should start 1S - dbl - 2S. It is a brave N who bids 3D (and probably hears 5D from partner); otherwise, unless E raises the ante by bidding 3S, which would be a good bid and could buy the contract, it is left to S to double again and now 3D by N sounds a little more reluctant but, if S makes another effort (or doubles E's bid of 3S), N should bid 5D. E leads his singleton club and N must read it as such by going up with A and using trump entries to hand to take heart finesses for a club discard. Now 5D makes, but it is, of course, off if E is allowed his ruff. 3NT makes 10 tricks on spade leads but is almost impossible to bid. A diamond lead and a heart return can hold a spade contract to 7 tricks but some could well do better.
♠A107 ♥KJ6 ♦KJ83 ♣Q54 ♠KJ8 ♠Q632 ♥Q85 ♥A10732 ♦A ♦Q9 ♣AJ8763 ♣109 ♠954 ♥94 ♦1076542 ♣K2	Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable W will open 1C and N should really pass without a 4-card major; E will bid 1H anyway. W is too good for 2C, so might bid 3C, but it is not easy for E to push on, so it might stop there. If E bids 3H (or even 3S - but either is pushy), W should bid 4H. 10 tricks in hearts are reasonably comfortable, playing either a heart to Q and then finessing against J, or simply leading a heart through N. 3C also makes 10 tricks. 3NT by E is a disaster! W might consider 2H over the 1H response, but E is unlikely to advance beyond that, though 10 tricks in hearts score better than in clubs. A diamond contract by NS would be extremely costly.
♠K2 ♥1085 ♦J9753 ♣1054 ♠Q1083 ♠J6 ♥QJ72 ♥AK63 ♦KQ8 ♦642 ♣83 ♣AJ76 ♠A9754 ♥94 ♦A10 ♣KQ92	Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable E has a weak 1NT, over which S might choose to compete. This should lead to W doubling a 2S contract, which goes at least 1 down on a heart lead; holding trump tricks, W should not lead his short club but may consider KD; however, he can recover by finding the heart switch when back in with QD. EW have a comfortable 9 tricks in a heart contract and might even come to 9 tricks in NT on the natural spade lead, though a club switch by N can hold them to 8.

♠QJ92 ♥A107 ♦53 ♣K732 ♠105 ♠AK3 ♥QJ85 ♥K932 ♦J9864 ♦K102 ♣64 ♣Q109 ♠8764 ♥64 ♦AQ7 ♣AJ85	Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all E will open 1H and W will bid 2H, which will be passed back to S, who should compete with a double. Now NS find their spade fit, in which they make 10 tricks, though bidding game seems highly unlikely! Equally, EW should be held to 7 tricks in hearts, assuming N finds his diamond ruff. A strong 1NT opening by E would probably be passed out and should scramble 5 tricks in the major suits, so will score better for them than N playing in spades.
♠AQ10 ♥J10 ♦A1087 ♣Q986 ♠8764 ♠K532 ♥A975 ♥843 ♦63 ♦QJ54 ♣KJ3 ♣A10 ♠J9 ♥KQ62 ♦K92 ♣7542	Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable N opens a weak 1NT in fourth seat and this will probably be passed out, though a desperate W might find a Landy 2C and leave partner in 2S. Against 1NT, E does better to lead a spade than the diamond some will choose; the contract can be held to 7 tricks but I suspect that many will make 8. 2S by EW should escape for 1 down and a good score.
♠952 ♥K103 ♦AJ106 ♣1093 ♠1086 ♠AKQ43 ♥AQ9864 ♥52 ♦2 ♦Q95 ♣J76 ♣A85 ♠J7 ♥J7 ♦K8743 ♣KQ42	Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable S should not open such a poor suit, even with a simple 2C rebid, so W may be left to open a weak 2H, or something similar. E is good enough to make an enquiry but should certainly stop in 3H. Perfect defence - club lead, diamond back and a second club lead - can hold it to 8 tricks, but many will make 9, thanks to N holding 3 spades alongside the third heart. 3S is safe, assuming diamond ruffs are negotiated; NS can make 9 tricks in diamonds, but that should be academic.
♠Q963 ♥A7 ♦J2 ♣K10987 ♠AJ7542 ♠- ♥3 ♥KQ954 ♦53 ♦Q10876 ♣A653 ♣QJ2 ♠K108 ♥J10862 ♦AK94 ♣4	Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable W has rather a good-looking weak 2S opener (though it doesn't turn out that way). This should be passed round to S, who should surely pass, neither 3H nor a double having any real appeal. 2S should attract at least a 2-trick penalty from, eg, JD lead and a club return. However, at least it hasn't suffered a double, which should be the fate of any higher-level contract by either side! Definitely a hand to defend! If EW are not playing weak 2s, anyone, other than N, might choose to open at the 1-level and will subsequently regret it.

♠3 ♥954 ♦Q10753 ♣A732 ♠J765 ♠AK1042 ♥AK82 ♥Q3 ♦64 ♦KJ92 ♣Q54 ♣J10 ♠Q98 ♥J1076 ♦A8 ♣K986	Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable E will open 1S; W has a good raise to 3S and E will go on to 4S more often than not. There are 4 top losers but, without a club lead, one can be discarded quickly. Even then, to make 4S, declarer must guess the diamond correctly and must not play his top trumps too early, or S can play Q to draw a third round and prevent the second diamond ruff. Making 4S should be well above average.
♠K6 ♥KQJ ♦AKQ ♣J10987 ♠A543 ♠Q9872 ♥543 ♥106 ♦1098 ♦J7432 ♣A63 ♣K ♠J10 ♥A9872 ♦65 ♣Q542	Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable One or two Es may be able to open a Lucas 2S, but in most cases, it will be left to N, who could open a 19-20 2NT, or simply open 1C; in either case, S will show his hearts and 4H should be reached. Played by S, on the natural diamond lead, this makes comfortably, but, played by N (eg after a transfer over 2NT), E can lead KC (but would you do that into a 2NT opener?), switch to a spade and obtain a club ruff to beat the contract. 3NT by N makes 9 top tricks on a spade lead. EW should not even consider a spade sacrifice at the vulnerability.
♠Q64 ♥AQJ5 ♦Q9743 ♣5 ♠K7 ♠AJ9853 ♥K93 ♥8762 ♦J5 ♦82 ♣AK10872 ♣Q ♠102 ♥104 ♦AK106 ♣J9643	Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable W opens 1C, N should make a lightish double, E bids 1S and S bids 2D. W may now bid 3C, but N will bid 3D anyway. If E rashly bids 3S, he can be heavily punished on best defence : AD lead, heart switch, diamond back and a second heart through. 3D can always make 10 tricks but it needs a high ruff if the defence tries for a promotion in either black suit. The points may be 21-19 to EW, but the hand belongs to NS.
♠AKQ75 ♥J1094 ♦J8 ♣A10 ♠J86432 ♠- ♥- ♥Q76532 ♦KQ9642 ♦- ♣Q ♣J976532 ♠109 ♥AK8 ♦A10753 ♣K84	Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all What a bizarre hand for EW! Left to themselves, NS will settle in 3NT, making a comfortable 10 or 11 tricks once the various finesse positions become exposed. However, are they likely to be left to themselves? If W doesn't open a weak (or Lucas) 2S, E might find himself making some fatuous noise over N's 1S opening. If EW really start arguing, then NS can earn themselves a serious, possibly 4-figure, penalty.

♠QJ85 ♥J98 ♦AKQ9 ♣A9 ♠AK974 ♠10 ♥A10762 ♥KQ54 ♦2 ♦J6543 ♣108 ♣J62 ♠632 ♥3 ♦1087 ♣KQ7543	Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable Much will depend on N's opening bid. 1S - pass - 2S could silence W but, over 1D - 2D, W will show his major 2-suiter and EW will then play in hearts, but may find themselves one too high in 4H. This looks makable but, after an initial minor suit force, there are not the entries to ruff out spades and draw trumps, so 9 tricks may be the limit, though playing a diamond / spade cross-ruff could get close to 10. A strong 1NT by N should see S transferring to clubs, but W will not be left out and 4H - 1 might still result. Best defence to 2S by N is for E to lead KH and switch to a trump, allowing W to play three rounds, leading to a 3-trick defeat.
♠AK10 ♥Q1098 ♦Q64 ♣Q102 ♠J9762 ♠53 ♥J ♥AK42 ♦J109 ♦AK8 ♣A965 ♣J874 ♠Q84 ♥7653 ♦7532 ♣K3	Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable 1H - 1S - 1NT should silence N; alternatively a strong 1NT and transfer to 2S. The 3-3 break should allow 2S to make, but 1NT is trickier : provided the defence plays hearts soon enough, it should go one down. Of course, there are an easy 9 tricks in clubs, but I'm not sure how you manage to play there.
♠Q10 ♥J1073 ♦85432 ♣95 ♠AJ74 ♠9862 ♥Q862 ♥A4 ♦AJ9 ♦1076 ♣32 ♣A764 ♠K53 ♥K95 ♦KQ ♣KQJ108	Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all A strong 1NT by S will be passed out but a 1C opener will attract a double from W and now EW find their spade fit. N's 10S is a crucial card, allowing 1NT to make and holding 2S to 8 tricks. If S braves 3C, he could get out for 1 down.

♠KQJ103 ♥A1083 ♦92 ♣82 ♠5 ♠A4 ♥QJ7 ♥K52 ♦AQ1075 ♦K3 ♣Q743 ♣AKJ1065 ♠98762 ♥964 ♦J864 ♣9	Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable After 1D - 1S - 2C, how many spades should S bid at the vulnerability? He might decide that 3S is enough; now W can bid 4C and the slam is easily found. If S bids 4S, it is not that easy for W to bid 5C, but E may still look for slam and 6C should be bid more often than not. It is of course a completely cold contract. 4S* attracts a penalty of 800, a good save against the slam but not against game. Anyone bidding 5S over 5C hasn't read '5 is for the other side' and deserves what they get (a bottom rather than a near top!). A 6NT contract can make but requires declarer to read the diamond situation when he runs the club suit. If W fails to open, it might not be so easy to get to slam after N opens 1S.