

British Winter Sim Pairs



**Wednesday
14th January 2026**

Welcome to the British Winter 2026 Simultaneous Pairs, whether you are playing online or Face to Face. I sincerely hope you enjoy the event and also the commentary provided by a leading expert who, for this set of hands, is Sally Brock.

Simultaneous Pairs are a great opportunity to play against new opposition – all the pairs from the other participating Clubs from all over the country. It's always fascinating to see how your 'local' score in your own Club (against opponents whom you know) changes once all the national results are incorporated.

This is the start of the 2026 Simultaneous Pairs season, so it's a new year for prizes. Every host club will be entered in to a prize draw made at the AGM in November, so every participating club has a chance to win one of eight cash prizes of £200. Not only clubs win prizes, but so do players – the prize for the overall winners of each Sim Pairs is £100, and we wish you luck.

You can find all the full details, results and last year's prize winners at www.ebu.co.uk/sims/

Blue points are awarded to the top third of the field but please don't be impatient for the results! Although provisional results will appear fairly quickly they won't be finalised, nor will the Master Points, until all the results are in and any score corrections have been made. This can take up to three weeks. It really helps us sort any issues if you have kept your scorecard.

Thanks for choosing to play in this Sim Pairs event. Good luck and do enjoy your bridge.

Adrian Darnell, Chairman EBU

<p>♠AJ ♥Q73 ♦1054 ♣J9853</p> <p>♠Q432 ♠K9765 ♥AK ♥10854 ♦K2 ♦Q83 ♣Q10642 ♣K</p> <p>♠108 ♥J962 ♦AJ976 ♣A7</p>		<p>Board 1 : 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>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Dbl</td></tr><tr><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠	Dbl	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass																							
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<p>What should West rebid after opening 1♣ in 4th seat and hearing a 1♠ response? It is close between a 2♠ and a 3♠ raise. You could argue for 2♠, on the grounds that this should show a decent hand, because, as partner is a passed hand, you could have passed 1♠; alternatively, you do have 5-4 distribution which automatically adds playing strength to your values. Maybe at matchpoints you should take the low road, but I like the jump rebid. Partner has fairly minimal values and 4♠ is completely cold on any 2-2 trump break.</p> <p>Some Souths might open the bidding with 1♦ in third seat. That would make life difficult for West. He has plenty of values but no decent suit. Suppose he passes. North will surely respond 1NT. Maybe East should double that, with both majors, and now West might well bid 4♠.</p>																																									
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<p>♠ J95 ♥ 1052 ♦ K105 ♣ Q862</p> <p>♠ Q87 ♠ 642 ♥ K87 ♥ QJ4 ♦ 63 ♦ J987 ♣ KJ1093 ♣ A75</p> <p>♠ AK103 ♥ A963 ♦ AQ42 ♣ 4</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td></tr></table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>Playing Acol, South would open 1♥, whereas 5-card majorites would open 1♦. In either case North would respond 1NT and probably be raised to 2NT.</p> <p>What should East lead? A diamond lead gives away the contract (provided that declarer wins, takes a spade finesse, and plays for the club blockage) while the defence still has a chance after other leads.</p> <p>Any Souths who choose to open 1NT would regret it because a club lead and club continuation sets up clubs, and surely West will get the lead with a spade or a heart, after which even 1NT will fail.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT																																																
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<p>♠ 4 ♥ KQ93 ♦ A985 ♣ 8764</p> <p>♠ AQJ87 ♠ 3 ♥ 652 ♥ A10874 ♦ QJ107 ♦ 64 ♣ 5 ♣ AKJ92</p> <p>♠ K109652 ♥ J ♦ K32 ♣ Q103</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>It's hard to think of very much to say about this deal. The 1♠ opening is normal and no doubt West will make some sort of limit raise. In Acol, 3♠ is generally played as invitational, but many people who play 5-card majors like to be able to bid 3♠ pre-emptively, as they know partner has a 5-card suit, so would need to use something artificial (often 3♦) to show invitational values. Despite having only 13 high-card points, the East hand is clearly worth bidding game.</p> <p>Whatever South leads, there are 11 tricks for the taking.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass																																																
West	North	East	South																																																										
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<p>♠ Q9 ♥ KQ1042 ♦ K109 ♣ 974</p> <p>♠ J1073 ♠ A86542 ♥ A73 ♥ 8 ♦ 6543 ♦ A2 ♣ KQ ♣ AJ63</p> <p>♠ K ♥ J965 ♦ QJ87 ♣ 10852</p>																																																													

<div><div>♠ K84</div><div>♥ J10</div><div>♦ J8653</div><div>♣ 1032</div></div> <div><div>♠ J6</div><div>♥ 87653</div><div>♦ KQ102</div><div>♣ KJ</div></div> <div><div>♠ 1095</div><div>♥ A4</div><div>♦ A97</div><div>♣ Q8765</div></div> <div><div>♠ AQ732</div><div>♥ KQ92</div><div>♦ 4</div><div>♣ A94</div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>5</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>10</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td></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>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP			5			10	10		15			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	1	3	-		S	-	-	1	3	-		E	1	1	-	-	-		W	1	1	-	-	-		<div>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></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></div> <div>Even when I play 4-card majors, I like to raise partner with 3-card support and a ruffing value. So here I would raise 1♠ to 2♠.</div> <div>Many aggressive Souths might raise themselves to 4♠ with that attractive collection, but at matchpoints it often pays to be conservative: South makes only a help-suit game try of 3♣, after which North would sign off.</div> <div>This time the conservative approach works well as there are only nine tricks there.</div>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠	All Pass	
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<div><div>♠ KJ3</div><div>♥ A95</div><div>♦ J732</div><div>♣ AQ5</div></div> <div><div>♠ Q102</div><div>♥ KQ10632</div><div>♦ K6</div><div>♣ 63</div></div> <div><div>♠ 97</div><div>♥ J87</div><div>♦ A984</div><div>♣ K1097</div></div> <div><div>♠ A8654</div><div>♥ 4</div><div>♦ Q105</div><div>♣ J842</div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></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>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP			15			10	8		7			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	2	-	3	-		S	2	2	-	3	-		E	-	-	2	-	-		W	-	-	2	-	-		<div>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1♥</td><td>Dbl</td><td>2♥</td><td>2♠</td></tr><tr><td>3♥</td><td>Dbl</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>Should West open 1♥ or 2♥? For me the hand is a little strong for 2♥ at favourable vulnerability, so I would go along with 1♥. And then should North double or overcall 1NT? It is very minimum for 1NT, and has only one heart stopper, so I go for the more flexible double. East raises to 2♥ and South has an easy 2♠ bid. At favourable vulnerability it is reasonable for West to press on to 3♥. What now? North has some extras but only three spades, which is exactly what his second double shows. He is asking South to do something sensible. With a singleton heart and a 5-card spade suit, South should bid 3♠ and there the matter rests.</div> <div>After a heart lead, declarer might even make ten tricks.</div>	West	North	East	South	1♥	Dbl	2♥	2♠	3♥	Dbl	Pass	3♠	All Pass			
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<div><div>♠ J952</div><div>♥ AJ7</div><div>♦ K8632</div><div>♣ 2</div></div> <div><div>♠ A103</div><div>♥ Q8</div><div>♦ -</div><div>♣ K10987654</div></div> <div><div>♠ 8764</div><div>♥ K932</div><div>♦ 107</div><div>♣ AJ3</div></div> <div><div>♠ KQ</div><div>♥ 10654</div><div>♦ AQJ954</div><div>♣ Q</div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td></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>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP			9			9	8		14			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	4	1	-	-		S	-	4	2	-	-		E	4	-	-	-	-		W	4	-	-	-	-		<div>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td></tr><tr><td>4♣</td><td>4♦</td><td>5♣</td><td>5♦</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>Who knows how high people should bid? Technically ten tricks is the limit in either minor, but 5♣ can be made if North leads a normal-looking diamond: Declarer ruffs, crosses to a trump, ruffs a diamond, and plays the ♥Q. Best is for North to win and play a spade, but declarer plays a heart to the king, ruffs a heart and exits with a spade. North is endplayed. In order to beat 5♣ North must lead a spade which is far from likely. 5♦ on the other hand is a quiet one down, for what should be a good score for NS.</div>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♦	4♣	4♦	5♣	5♦	All Pass			
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<div><div><div>♠ 93</div><div>♥ AK1053</div><div>♦ Q107</div><div>♣ Q52</div></div><div><div>♠ 1076</div><div>♥ 987</div><div>♦ J82</div><div>♣ AJ84</div></div><div><div>♠ AK842</div><div>♥ Q62</div><div>♦ A53</div><div>♣ 106</div></div><div><div>♠ QJ5</div><div>♥ J4</div><div>♦ K964</div><div>♣ K973</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>10</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>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</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		11	13	6	10	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	2	2	-	1		S	1	2	2	-	-		E	-	-	-	1	-		W	-	-	-	1	-		<div>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Playing Acol, East has to choose between opening 1♠ and 1NT. Personally, I'd go for 1NT but I think most would prefer 1♠ with this control-rich hand.</p> <p>Again, playing Acol, it is normal for West to respond 1NT with 3-card support and 4333 distribution (5-card majorites would raise to 2♠).</p> <p>It looks as if 2♠ will go one off, South getting a ruff with his trump trick. 1NT would probably fare better: if North leads a heart, West should go up with the queen and duck a spade. The defence cannot stop declarer from taking seven tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass						
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<div><div><div>♠ A4</div><div>♥ J1085</div><div>♦ 9</div><div>♣ AK8652</div></div><div><div>♠ Q873</div><div>♥ AQ6</div><div>♦ Q842</div><div>♣ J3</div></div><div><div>♠ K1062</div><div>♥ K932</div><div>♦ A105</div><div>♣ 74</div></div><div><div>♠ J95</div><div>♥ 74</div><div>♦ KJ763</div><div>♣ Q109</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>7</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>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		12	10	11	7	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	-	-	-	1		S	3	-	-	-	1		E	-	1	2	2	-		W	-	1	2	2	-		<div>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</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>1♦</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>The first four bids in the auction look straightforward enough. It would not be wrong for North to pass 2♣, but it allows East into the auction quite easily (I imagine he would double 2♣ and EW would play in 2♠ making). North wants to keep the opponents out, and so raises himself to 3♣, which will surely end the auction.</p> <p>Although declarer can always make 3♣, he may misguess. A trump lead is best. Declarer will probably win and play a diamond. East should duck this and hope declarer goes wrong. If the ♦J loses to West's ♦Q, then West should continue with another club. Now it does look as if declarer will go one down.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣	All Pass	
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<div><div><div>♠ 1084</div><div>♥ J108</div><div>♦ KQJ</div><div>♣ 9654</div></div><div><div>♠ AJ7</div><div>♥ Q764</div><div>♦ 10842</div><div>♣ AK</div></div><div><div>♠ Q6</div><div>♥ AK9</div><div>♦ A753</div><div>♣ J1082</div></div><div><div>♠ K9532</div><div>♥ 532</div><div>♦ 96</div><div>♣ Q73</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>5</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>4</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		7	14	14	5	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	4	5	5	3	4		W	4	5	5	3	4														
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HCP																																																													
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HCP																																																													
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HCP																																																													
13	3																																																												
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<p>♠986 ♥A103 ♦Q4 ♣KQ972</p> <p>♠AK10753 ♠QJ42 ♥J98 ♥K7652 ♦1087 ♦K5 ♣3 ♣A5</p> <p>♠- ♥Q4 ♦AJ9632 ♣J10864</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>Maybe some North-Souths will find a way into the auction, but North does not have enough to overcall 3♣, and it is not so easy for South to enter the bidding, vulnerable. I guess South could bid 4 NT but (1) he has a pretty weak hand, and (2) if North has equal length in the minors he is going to get to the wrong one. If he does bid 4 NT it is a huge success, because North will bid 6♣ which can't be beaten with East on lead.</p> <p>As it is, suppose North leads a top club against 4♠. The defence might have to be on its toes. Declarer wins, ruffs a club, draws trumps and plays a heart. North has to duck to have any chance, but now declarer plays a second heart and South is endplayed. So, is there a defence? Yes, South must unblock the ♥Q on dummy's ♥K. Then there are four tricks for the defence. Full marks if you found that one!</p>	West	North	East	South	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass								
West	North	East	South														
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass														
<p>♠K1076 ♥AJ10 ♦98 ♣AKQ8</p> <p>♠J843 ♠A2 ♥94 ♥Q832 ♦J7654 ♦KQ ♣43 ♣109765</p> <p>♠Q95 ♥K765 ♦A1032 ♣J2</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></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>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>The bidding for weak no-trumpers is uncontroversial; strong no-trumpers might just bid 1NT - 3NT.</p> <p>There is much guessing to be done in the majors. Best play is to win the club lead in the dummy and run the ♠9. Later play East for the ♥Q and come to 11 tricks. That is not an unreasonable line of play, but equally it would not be stupid to win the club lead and play a heart to the ten, losing to East's queen. Now you would be lucky to come away with nine tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South														
	1♠	Pass	2♦														
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠														
Pass	3NT	All Pass															
<p>♠KQ32 ♥J983 ♦KJ ♣AJ9</p> <p>♠96 ♠J1074 ♥7654 ♥AQ102 ♦7632 ♦A85 ♣Q76 ♣K2</p> <p>♠A85 ♥K ♦Q1094 ♣108543</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW 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>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>Not a good hand for the weak No Trump! If I held the West hand I would want to remove 1NT before it was doubled, hopefully reducing the likelihood of going for a penalty. Indeed, on the auction here I am unlikely to be doubled. And I was lucky that partner did not respond 2♠ to Stayman. I was thinking that it might be better to transfer into my poor heart suit, but that is no less likely to lead to a big minus.</p> <p>Against 2♥, suppose South leads a club around to declarer's king. I would be inclined to play a spade now, to North's ♠Q, and a trump switch looks right. It probably works well, as they lie, for declarer to play the ♥A, but say he plays low and South wins the ♥K and the defence play a couple more rounds of clubs. Declarer ruffs and exits with a spade. It looks as if declarer must come to two spade ruffs, three hearts, one diamond and one club, hopefully not too bad a score.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	All Pass				
West	North	East	South														
		1NT	Pass														
2♣	Pass	2♥	All Pass														

<div><div><div>♠ 2</div><div>♥ J1043</div><div>♦ KJ9</div><div>♣ K10872</div></div><div><div>♠ K4</div><div>♥ K97652</div><div>♦ Q865</div><div>♣ A</div></div><div><div>♠ AJ75</div><div>♥ Q8</div><div>♦ A102</div><div>♣ QJ64</div></div><div><div>♠ Q109863</div><div>♥ A</div><div>♦ 743</div><div>♣ 953</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th><th></th><th></th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td><td>6</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>1</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP			8		14	12		6	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	1	3	4	1	3		W	1	3	4	1	3		<div>Board 23 : Dealer South : All 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>2♠</td></tr><tr><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>So, what should South lead? I don't like either major and so would pick a minor. Which? I think I'd go for a club for no real reason other than the ♣5 looks a little higher (and therefore partner will hopefully work out what I have in the suit) than the ♦4. Declarer will win the ♣A and probably play a heart to the ♥Q and ♥A. Now South must switch to a diamond (the analysis is fairly complicated!) or declarer can succeed (North gets endplayed on some variations, and South on others).</p>	West	North	East	South				2♠	3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass								
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<div><div><div>♠ AJ93</div><div>♥ J542</div><div>♦ 4</div><div>♣ A875</div></div><div><div>♠ 64</div><div>♥ K3</div><div>♦ J98765</div><div>♣ K63</div></div><div><div>♠ KQ1082</div><div>♥ 97</div><div>♦ K10</div><div>♣ QJ42</div></div><div><div>♠ 75</div><div>♥ AQ1086</div><div>♦ AQ32</div><div>♣ 109</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th><th></th><th></th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td><td>12</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>4</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</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			10		11	7		12	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	4	1	2		S	-	-	4	-	2		E	-	1	-	-	-		W	-	1	-	-	-		<div>Board 24 : 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>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>A light opening in third seat, followed by a pushy overcall (I hate 2-level overcalls on 5-card suits, but sometimes you just have to!), leads to the excellent game.</p> <p>I guess West will lead the ♠6, covered by the ♠9 and ♠10. Maybe East returns a high spade. It looks right for declarer to start taking some diamond ruffs, so he plays a diamond to the ace and ruffs a diamond. When the ♦K falls, declarer can take a heart finesse. He loses to the ♥K but when the hearts are 2-2 there is no further problem. Ten tricks made.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass									
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<div><div><div>♠ 87653</div><div>♥ 762</div><div>♦ K108</div><div>♣ 82</div></div><div><div>♠ QJ104</div><div>♥ J3</div><div>♦ 942</div><div>♣ Q1054</div></div><div><div>♠ K92</div><div>♥ Q10954</div><div>♦ 73</div><div>♣ K97</div></div><div><div>♠ A</div><div>♥ AK8</div><div>♦ AQJ65</div><div>♣ AJ63</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th><th></th><th></th></tr><tr><td>3</td><td></td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td><td>23</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>2</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</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			3		8	6		23	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	4	2	2	3		S	2	4	2	2	3		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<div>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</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><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>It's so disappointing, when you pick up a hand like South's, to find that partner cannot contribute and all you can make is game. The 3♦ rebid is a bit clunky, and you might prefer 2NT, but it doesn't matter here. Partner shows his spades and South bids the no-trump game.</p> <p>There is very little to the play, and all that declarer can make is his nine top tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
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<div><div><div>♠AQ1093</div><div>♥J87</div><div>♦2</div><div>♣AQ42</div></div><div><div>♠K7</div><div>♥Q</div><div>♦QJ8743</div><div>♣J963</div></div><div><div>♠65</div><div>♥A10943</div><div>♦AK</div><div>♣K1075</div></div><div><div>♠J842</div><div>♥K652</div><div>♦10965</div><div>♣8</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>914</td></tr><tr><td>4</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>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP	13	914	4	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	2	3	2		S	-	-	2	3	2		E	2	1	-	-	-		W	4	1	-	-	-		<div>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♦</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td></tr></table></div> <div>All Pass</div> <div>Playing Acol, West is just worth a 2♦ response, though it would be difficult to find a second bid if partner rebid 2♥. However, a bold North comes in with his good spade suit. It might seem that South should pass with his 4-count, but this is a good example of why he should increase the pressure. If he passes, EW will probably bid on, and might find their club fit. Defending 4♣ would not be good, but no-one is going to bid over 3♠.</div> <div>After the ♥Q lead, and a heart ruff, a diamond to the ♦K and another heart ruff, declarer can more or less claim the rest.</div>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	2♦	2♠	Pass	3♠
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13																																																											
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		1♥	Pass																																																								
2♦	2♠	Pass	3♠																																																								
<div><div><div>♠J9</div><div>♥9872</div><div>♦10543</div><div>♣742</div></div><div><div>♠AK102</div><div>♥AQJ3</div><div>♦QJ</div><div>♣KQ10</div></div><div><div>♠853</div><div>♥54</div><div>♦K9862</div><div>♣A95</div></div><div><div>♠Q764</div><div>♥K106</div><div>♦A7</div><div>♣J863</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>227</td></tr><tr><td>10</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>4</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP	1	227	10	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	4	6	4	5	4		W	4	6	4	5	4		<div>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</div> <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>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table></div> <div>To open 2♣ or 2NT? For me, it's close. I like being 4-4 in the majors, but I don't like the doubleton ♦QJ.</div> <div>Deep Finesse tells me that EW make 6♦. You might wonder how, given that it looks as if the defence have 2 trump tricks. I'm not quite sure how you get there, but suppose East is declarer and South leads a club. Declarer wins, takes a heart finesse and plays a diamond. Say South wins and returns a diamond. Declarer wins, cashes the ♥A and ruffs a heart. Now he cashes two clubs, the ♥J pitching a spade, and then the ♠AK. Declarer's last two cards are the ♦K and ♦9 and he is in dummy. North must concede.</div>	West	North	East	South				Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
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<div><div><div>♠8542</div><div>♥J53</div><div>♦AJ7</div><div>♣A93</div></div><div><div>♠KJ10</div><div>♥K6</div><div>♦Q9532</div><div>♣K74</div></div><div><div>♠63</div><div>♥Q942</div><div>♦K64</div><div>♣Q1065</div></div><div><div>♠AQ97</div><div>♥A1087</div><div>♦108</div><div>♣J82</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>127</td></tr><tr><td>11</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>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP	10	127	11	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	1	2	1		S	-	-	1	2	1		E	1	1	-	-	-		W	1	1	-	-	-		<div>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>The weak No Trump gets passed out (though some brave Souths might bid 2♣ for the majors in fourth seat).</div> <div>North leads a spade. Perhaps South plays the ♠A and another spade. Declarer plays a diamond to the ♦K and another diamond, ducking to North. North clears the spades, and declarer clears the diamonds. It is a bit of ping pong from here, but the defenders should succeed because after the spades they can switch to hearts and just have sufficient cards there to not give declarer an extra trick. But it would be easy enough to let 1NT make.</div> <div>Any North-Souths who manage to get to 2♠ should make it for an excellent score.</div>	West	North	East	South	1NT	All Pass						
HCP																																																											
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