

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

♠AJ
♥Q73
♦1054
♣J9853

♠Q432 ♠K9765
♥AK ♠10854
♦K2 ♠Q83
♣Q10642 ♠K
 ♠108
 ♠J962
 ♠AJ976
 ♠A7

Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1♣	Pass	1♠	Dbl
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

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.

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♠.

HCP	
8	
14	8
10	

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

♠KQ754

♥KJ10

♦62

♣AK7

♠1032

♥986532

♦-

♣J864

♠A986

♥A

♦AKQJ

♣Q1093

♠J

♥Q74

♦10987543

♣52

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
16		N	-	1	-	-
1	20	S	-	1	-	-
3		E	3	-	1	1
		W	3	-	1	1

Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**

1♦ Pass

Pass Dbl Rdbl Pass

2♥ 2♠ Dbl All Pass

At favourable vulnerability, should West respond to the 1♦ opening? It is possible that a response would make life difficult for NS, but also possible that any response would get his side too high. However, we are taught that we need 5 or so HCP to respond, so let's go with a pass. North is too strong for an overcall in 4th seat, and so starts with a double. East is happy to redouble with 20 HCP. South has nothing to say, and now it seems a good idea for West to bid 2♥. He can't have much other than this for his original pass, and at least now he has got his hand across. It looks normal for North to show his 5-card suit and decent values, and East's double closes proceedings.

Surely East will start with a top diamond, and probably switch to a trump to cut out the club ruff. It looks as if North will go at least one down for -200 and a predictably poor matchpoint score.

♠AQ95

♥K7

♦76

♣K9532

♠8

♥AJ82

♦K5432

♣Q107

♠KJ64

♥93

♦AQJ108

♣86

♠10732

♥Q10654

♦9

♣AJ4

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
12		N	2	-	2	-
10	11	S	2	-	1	2
7		E	-	3	-	2
		W	-	3	-	2

Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**

Pass

Pass 1♣ 1♦ Dbl

2NT 3♠ Dbl All Pass

A very interesting competitive deal! The opening bid looks clear (though some might like a weak NT). After the 1♦ overcall, South makes a negative double, and West has a really good hand given that he has already passed. He can't really have a natural 2NT bid (with that he would start with a redouble) so he uses that to show a good raise in diamonds.

When the opponents get in your way, a good rule is to bid one more than you would have done without their bidding, but no more. Here, North would have been happy to bid 2♠ after the double, so now he tries 3♠. At matchpoints, East should exercise an opinion about that contract by doubling. This is the par contract and should go one down for +100 to EW.

♠-

♥A654

♦AKQ1086

♣862

♠Q9853

♥Q108

♦J

♣QJ74

♠K1076

♥KJ732

♦932

♣10

♠AJ42

♥9

♦754

♣AK953

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
13		N	5	6	1	-
8	7	S	5	6	1	-
12		E	-	-	-	1
		W	-	-	-	1

Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**

Pass 1♦ 1♥ 2♣

2♥ 3♦ Pass 3♠

Pass 4♣ Pass 4♦

Pass 4♥ Pass 6♦

All Pass

East is marginal for a 1♥ overcall; it probably helps his opponents more than his side. The South hand is clearly interested in a slam after North freely rebids his diamonds. Once he hears the heart cue-bid, he is happy enough to take a pot at it.

The slam needs a little care. With clubs 4-1, any line that tries to draw trumps and set up clubs will not work well. Better is to draw one round of trumps, then lead a club, ♠A, ruff a spade and another club. It doesn't help East to ruff a club because that is declarer's loser. Declarer should make one spade, one heart, six diamonds, two heart ruffs and two clubs.

♠8654
 ♥9876
 ♦7
 ♣QJ82

 ♠1073 ♠AJ
 ♥A104 ♥KJ53
 ♦J1098 ♦64
 ♣654 ♣A10973

 ♠KQ92
 ♥Q2
 ♦AKQ532
 ♣K

HCP	
3	
5	13
19	

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

Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**
 Pass 1NT Dbl
 Pass Pass 2♣ 2♦
 Pass Pass 2♥ 2♠
 All Pass

When I play weak No Trump (and I am a fan) I like to open 1NT whenever possible: the strength of the system is that partner knows you are either strong or unbalanced when you open something else. Here East opens 1NT and South doubles. I would not bid with either the West hand (too balanced) or the North hand (no 5-card suit). But I would reopen with 2♣ as East. Now South bids 2♦ and there is still no reason for West or North to bid. There is quite a good case, however, for East taking another bid - he is at favourable vulnerability and a little off-centre for his initial action. If he bids 2♥ now, South can bid 2♠ which everyone will pass. (Note that East's enterprise has not worked well for him as the hand plays better in spades than diamonds). The defenders can hold declarer to eight tricks by playing three rounds of hearts (maybe cashing the ♣A first). Then East can play a fourth heart when he is in with the ♠A and that will promote a trump trick for his partner.

♠J973
 ♥A93
 ♦75
 ♣KQ54

 ♠84 ♠Q52
 ♥105 ♥8764
 ♦AKJ10832 ♦6
 ♣108 ♣AJ976

 ♠AK106
 ♥KQJ2
 ♦Q94
 ♣32

HCP	
10	
8	7
15	

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

Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**

 Pass 1♥
 3♦ Dbl Pass 3♠
 All Pass

The bidding is interesting. How far should North's double be forcing? Does it guarantee 4 spades? Does South's 3♠ show a minimum (I think the hand should be treated as a minimum because of the poor diamond holding)? If NS manage to stop in 3♠, they should be congratulated. There is very little to the play. I am sure West will start with three rounds of diamonds, allowing East to make the ♠Q, with the ♣A to come.

♠J642
 ♥10873
 ♦Q8
 ♣K65

 ♠5 ♠Q987
 ♥Q952 ♥AK6
 ♦AJ76432 ♦K
 ♣9 ♣AJ1073

 ♠AK103
 ♥J4
 ♦1095
 ♣Q842

HCP	
6	
7	17
10	

Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠
NT				
N	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-
E	2	5	4	1
W	2	5	4	1

Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**

 Pass
 Pass Pass 1♣ Pass
 1♦ Pass 1♠ Pass
 2♦ Pass 2NT Pass
 3NT All Pass

West might choose to open 3♦ in second seat but I don't like it. Firstly, there is the heart suit on the side. Secondly, there is the poor quality of the spot cards. Thirdly, second in hand is the least good time to pre-empt because RHO has passed. As it is, East has a close decision as to whether or not to bid on over 2♦. It is a pushy action. Here it works well because the ♦Q is doubleton, but would not work so well otherwise. It looks as if East should make 11 tricks in No Trumps.

$\begin{array}{l} \spadesuit J95 \\ \heartsuit 1052 \\ \diamondsuit K105 \\ \clubsuit Q862 \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{l} \spadesuit Q87 \\ \heartsuit K87 \\ \diamondsuit 63 \\ \clubsuit KJ1093 \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{l} \spadesuit 642 \\ \heartsuit QJ4 \\ \diamondsuit J987 \\ \clubsuit A75 \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{l} \spadesuit AK103 \\ \heartsuit A963 \\ \diamondsuit AQ42 \\ \clubsuit 4 \end{array}$		<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1\heartsuit</td></tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Playing Acol, South would open 1\heartsuit, whereas 5-card majorites would open 1\diamondsuit. 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. 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>				<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	Pass	Pass	Pass	1 \heartsuit	Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT	All Pass																																									
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<p> ♠K84 ♥J10 ♦J8653 ♣1032 ♠J6 ♥87653 ♦KQ102 ♣KJ ♠AQ732 ♥KQ92 ♦4 ♣A94 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 579 473 765"> <tr> <td colspan="2">HCP</td><td colspan="5">Makeable contracts</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr> <td>5</td><td>10</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>15</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	5	10	-	-	1	3	-	10	15	-	-	1	3	-			1	1	-	-	-			1	1	-	-	-	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <p>West North East South</p> <p>1♠</p> <p>Pass 2♠ Pass 3♣</p> <p>Pass 3♠ All Pass</p> <p>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♠. 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.</p> <p>This time the conservative approach works well as there are only nine tricks there.</p>
HCP		Makeable contracts																																									
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<p> ♠KJ3 ♥A95 ♦J732 ♣AQ5 ♠Q102 ♥KQ10632 ♦K6 ♣63 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 1260 473 1455"> <tr> <td colspan="2">HCP</td><td colspan="5">Makeable contracts</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr> <td>15</td><td>10</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>8</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>7</td><td></td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	15	10	2	2	-	3	-	10	8	2	2	-	3	-	7		-	-	2	-	-			-	-	2	-	-	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <p>West North East South</p> <p>1♥ Dbl 2♥ 2♠</p> <p>3♥ Dbl Pass 3♠</p> <p>All Pass</p> <p>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.</p> <p>After a heart lead, declarer might even make ten tricks.</p>
HCP		Makeable contracts																																									
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																					
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<p> ♠J952 ♥AJ7 ♦K8632 ♣2 ♠A103 ♥Q8 ♦- ♣K10987654 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 1949 473 2138"> <tr> <td colspan="2">HCP</td><td colspan="5">Makeable contracts</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>9</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>8</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>14</td><td></td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	9	9	-	4	1	-	-	9	8	-	4	2	-	-	14		4	-	-	-	-			4	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <p>West North East South</p> <p>Pass Pass 1♦</p> <p>4♣ 4♦ 5♣ 5♦</p> <p>All Pass</p> <p>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.</p>
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<p>♠93 ♥AK1053 ♦Q107 ♣Q52</p> <p>♠1076 ♠AK842 ♥987 ♥Q62 ♦J82 ♦A53 ♣AJ84 ♣106</p> <p>♠QJ5 ♥J4 ♦K964 ♣K973</p>		<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <p>West North East South</p> <p>1♠ Pass</p> <p>1NT All Pass</p> <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>																																																	
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		E	-	1	2	2	-																																												
		W	-	1	2	2	-																																												

♠1084
♥J108
♦KQJ
♣9654

♠AJ7
♥Q764
♦10842
♣AK
 ♠Q6
 ♥AK9
 ♦A753
 ♣J1082
 ♠K9532
 ♥532
 ♦96
 ♣Q73

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
7		-	-	-	-	-
14	14	-	-	-	-	-
5		4	5	5	3	4
		4	5	5	3	4

Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all

West **North** **East** **South**
Pass 1NT Pass
3NT All Pass

It is the fashion just now (led by top Polish pair Kalita/Klukowski) not to bother with Stayman on hands like West's here. The argument is that Stayman gives information (not only from East: there is an inference when North does not double 2♣) which can be helpful to the defence. Anyway, with or without Stayman, East is declarer in 3NT. After the normal spade lead, run to the ♠Q, declarer can make 11 tricks, either by ducking a diamond and later giving up a second diamond trick, or by cashing the ♣AK and giving up a trick to South's ♣Q.

♠KQ106
♥AJ5
♦QJ6
♣KJ10

♠A53
♥K104
♦A1083
♣A94
 ♠42
 ♥Q982
 ♦74
 ♣Q8732
 ♠J987
 ♥763
 ♦K952
 ♣65

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
17		-	-	-	2	-
15	4	-	-	-	2	-
4		3	-	2	-	-
		3	-	2	-	-

Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**
Pass Pass
1♦ 1NT All Pass

Strong no-trumpers will open one as West and no doubt play there. Who will succeed, North or West?

If North is declarer, surely East will lead a club, and West will rise with the ♣A and clear the suit. Declarer will play a spade and in the fullness of time West will win the ♠A and play a heart (the ♥10 is best). After cashing the clubs, East will continue hearts, holding declarer to three spades, a heart and a club.

If West is declarer, no doubt North will lead a spade. Declarer will win at some stage and play the ♣A and another club, North ducking. There is more scope for the defence to go wrong, but declarer should still go one down.

♠106
♥Q8
♦QJ86
♣AKJ103
 ♠K8732
 ♥92
 ♦7
 ♣96542
 ♠AQ
 ♥J1064
 ♦A532
 ♣Q87

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
13		3	3	-	-	4
11	3	3	3	1	-	4
13		-	-	-	3	-
		-	-	-	2	-

Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**
1NT
2♣ 3NT All Pass

After the weak 1NT opening, West bids 2♣ for the majors, but with 13 HCP and a fairly balanced hand, North should just bid the no-trump game.

I imagine most Wests will lead a heart. Declarer will win the first trick, test clubs, and play a low diamond towards the dummy, making an easy ten tricks.

Declarer might get a little more ambitious, hoping to make 11 tricks (two spades, two hearts, two diamonds and five clubs) if the diamond finesse is right. Then he would play a club to dummy and run the ♦Q. West has to cash his hearts now to hold declarer to ten tricks.

♠986
♥A103
♦Q4
♣KQ972

♠AK10753 ♠QJ42
♥J98 ♥K7652
♦1087 ♦K5
♣3 ♣A5

♠ -
♥Q4
♦AJ9632
♣J10864

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
11	13	N	6	4	-	-
8	8	S	5	4	-	-
		E	-	-	3	3
		W	-	-	2	1

Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**
2♠ Pass 4♠ All Pass

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. 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!

♠K1076

♥AJ10

♦98

♣AKQ8

♠J843 ♠A2
♥94 ♥Q832
♦J7654 ♦KQ
♣43 ♣109765

♠Q95
♥K765
♦A1032
♣J2

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
17	11	N	4	2	4	5
2	10	S	4	2	4	5
		E	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-

Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**
1♠ Pass 2♦
Pass 2NT Pass 3♠
Pass 3NT All Pass

The bidding for weak no-trumpers is uncontroversial; strong no-trumpers might just bid 1NT - 3NT.

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.

♠KQ32

♥J983

♦KJ

♣AJ9

♠96 ♠J1074
♥7654 ♥AQ102
♦7632 ♦A85
♣Q76 ♣K2

♠A85
♥K
♦Q1094
♣108543

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
15	14	N	4	2	-	2
2	9	S	4	2	-	2
		E	-	-	1	-
		W	-	-	1	-

Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**
1NT Pass
2♣ Pass 2♥ All Pass

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.

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.

♠2
 ♥J1043
 ♦KJ9
 ♣K10872
 ♠K4
 ♥K97652
 ♦Q865
 ♣A
 ♠AJ75
 ♥Q8
 ♦A102
 ♣QJ64
 ♠Q109863
 ♥A
 ♦743
 ♣953

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
8		N	-	-	-	-
12	14	S	-	-	-	-
6		E	1	3	4	1
		W	1	3	4	1

Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

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

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).

♠AJ93
 ♥J542
 ♦4
 ♣A875
 ♠64
 ♥K3
 ♦J98765
 ♣K63
 ♠KQ1082
 ♥97
 ♦K10
 ♣QJ42
 ♠75
 ♥AQ1086
 ♦AQ32
 ♣109

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
10		N	1	-	4	1
7	11	S	-	-	4	-
12		E	-	1	-	-
		W	-	1	-	-

Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all

West North East South
 Pass Pass 1♠ 2♥
 Pass 4♥ All Pass

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.

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.

♠87653
 ♥762
 ♦K108
 ♣82
 ♠QJ104
 ♥J3
 ♦942
 ♣Q1054
 ♠K92
 ♥Q10954
 ♦73
 ♣K97
 ♠A
 ♥AK8
 ♦AQJ65
 ♣AJ63

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
3		N	2	4	2	2
6	8	S	2	4	2	2
23		E	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-

Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

West North East South
 Pass Pass 2♣
 Pass 2♦ Pass 3♦
 Pass 3♠ Pass 3NT
 All Pass

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. There is very little to the play, and all that declarer can make is his nine top tricks.

♠AQ1093
♥J87
♦2
♣AQ42

♠K7
♥Q
♦QJ8743
♣J963

♠65
♥A10943
♦AK
♣K1075

♠J842
♥K652
♦10965
♣8

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
13	14	N	-	-	2	3
9		S	-	-	2	3
4		E	2	1	-	-
		W	4	1	-	-

Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**
1♥ Pass
2♦ 2♠ Pass 3♠
All Pass

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♠.

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.

♠J9
♥9872
♦10543
♣742

♠AK102
♥AQJ3
♦QJ
♣KQ10

♠853
♥54
♦K9862
♣A95

♠Q764
♥K106
♦A7
♣J863

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
1	7	N	-	-	-	-
22		S	-	-	-	-
10		E	4	6	4	5
		W	4	6	4	5

Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all

West **North** **East** **South**
Pass
2NT Pass 3NT All Pass

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.

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.

♠8542
♥J53
♦AJ7
♣A93

♠KJ10
♥K6
♦Q9532
♣K74

♠63
♥Q942
♦K64
♣Q1065

♠AQ97
♥A1087
♦108
♣J82

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
10	7	N	-	-	1	2
12		S	-	-	1	2
11		E	1	1	-	-
		W	1	1	-	-

Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

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

The weak No Trump gets passed out (though some brave Souths might bid 2♣ for the majors in fourth seat).

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.

Any North-Souths who manage to get to 2♠ should make it for an excellent score.



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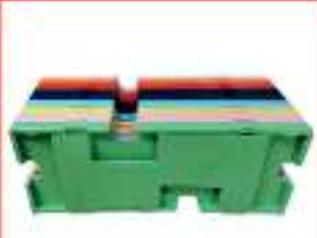
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