

BOARD ANALYSIS
OPENING ONE OF A SUIT - Improve your judgement

OPENING IN 1st and 2nd SEAT with a Borderline Hand (less than 13 HCP)

	N ♠ K8742 ♥ ♦ K9532 ♣ A109		
W ♠ 5 ♥ AK1082 ♦ 86 ♣ J7632		E ♠ A9 ♥ J763 ♦ QJ10 ♣ KQ84	
	S ♠ QJ1063 ♥ Q954 ♦ A75 ♣ 5		

Makes:					
	C	D	H	S	NT
N		4		5	
S		4		5	
E	2		2		
W	3		2		

Should NORTH open with this 10 HCP?

STEP 1: Rule of 20

$10\text{HCP} + 10 \text{ for length points (two longest suits)} = 20.$

STEP 2: Downgrades - Minuses

- Aceless = No.
- Quacks = No.
- Dubious Honours = No.

STEP 3: Upgrades - Pluses

- No need.

NORTH SHOULD OPEN WITH THIS HAND = 1S

HAND 2 Dealer: E

	N		
	♠ 1096 ♥ KQ43 ♦ A975 ♣ 62		
W		E	
♠ AJ3 ♥ 10876 ♦ K102 ♣ K54		♠ Q7542 ♥ A9 ♦ 4 ♣ A10987	
	S		
	♠ K8 ♥ J52 ♦ QJ863 ♣ QJ3		

Makes:	C	D	H	S	NT
	N	1			
S		1			
E	4		2	4	3
W	4		2	4	2

Should EAST open? 10 HCP.

STEP 1: Rule of 20

10 HCP + 10 for length points = 20

STEP 2: Downgrades - Minuses.

Aceless = No.

Quacks = No.

Dubious Honours = No.

STEP 3: Upgrades - Pluses.

No need.

EAST SHOULD OPEN WITH THIS HAND = 1S

HAND 3 Dealer: S

	N ♠ QJ32 ♥ A652 ♦ - ♣ A8532																																
W ♠ 64 ♥ QJ873 ♦ AJ8 ♣ KQ7		E ♠ A75 ♥ 4 ♦ 76542 ♣ J1094																															
	S ♠ K1098 ♥ K109 ♦ KQ1093 ♣ 6		Makes: <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; margin-left: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>C</th> <th>D</th> <th>H</th> <th>S</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <th>N</th> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <th>E</th> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <th>W</th> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		C	D	H	S	NT	N	2	1	3	5	2	S	2	1	3	5	2	E						W					
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S	2	1	3	5	2																												
E																																	
W																																	

Should SOUTH open with this 11 HCP hand?

STEP 1: Rule of 20

$$11 \text{ HCP} + \text{Length Points} = 20$$

STEP 2: Downgrades - Minuses.

- Aceless = YES -1
- Quacks = No
- Dubious Honours = No

$$20 - 1 = 19 \quad \text{but are there any upgrades?}$$

STEP 3: Upgrades - Pluses.

Quick Tricks = No
 Long, Strong Suit = No
 Useful 10's = YES +1
 $19 + 1 = 20$ **OPENING HAND.**

SOUTH SHOULD OPEN WITH THIS HAND = 1S

NOT PLAYED Dealer: W

	N	
	♠ 972	
	♥ A2	
	♦ QJ865	
	♣ 952	
W		E
♠ KQJ10543		♠ A
♥ -		♥ QJ98643
♦ 1043		♦ K7
♣ KQ6		♣ A87
	S	
	♠ 86	
	♥ K1075	
	♦ A92	
	♣ J1043	

Makes:					
	C	D	H	S	NT
N					
S					
E		1	2	4	
W		-	2	4	

Should WEST open 1S or 3S?

STEP 1: Rule of 20

11 HCP + Length Points = 21

STEP 2: Downgrades - Minuses.

- Aceless = YES -1
- Quacks = No
- Dubious Honours = No

21 - 1 = 20

STEP 3: Upgrades - Pluses.

No need.

WEST SHOULD OPEN 1S WITH THIS HAND, NOT 3S.

West can meet the promise of a hand that has *better than average trick-taking potential*.

If West opens 3S a Game may be missed.

HAND 4 Dealer: W

	N	
	♠ 108	
	♥ AK2	
	♦ A5	
	♣ 1097654	
W		E
♠ QJ76		♠ 95432
♥ QJ76		♥ 43
♦ QJ76		♦ K108
♣ K		♣ AQ8
	S	
	♠ AK	
	♥ 10985	
	♦ 9432	
	♣ J32	

Makes:					
	C	D	H	S	NT
N		1		1	
S		1		1	
E	3		1		
W	3		1		

Should WEST open with this hand?

STEP 1: Rule of 20

12 HCP + Length Points of 8 = 20

STEP 2: Downgrades - Minuses.

- Aceless = -1
- Quacks = -1
- Dubious Honours = -1

Total Downgrades = -3

STEP 3: Upgrades - Pluses.

Quick Tricks = No

Useful 10's = No

Long, strong suit = No

Downgrades are -3 and Upgrades are 0: 20 - 3 = 17

NORTH SHOULD NOT OPEN WITH THIS HAND

This hand is likely to take 0 tricks.

This hand does not meet the promise of having better than average trick-taking potential.

NOT PLAYED Dealer: E

	N	
	♠ A10984 ♥ Q73 ♦ 10982 ♣ 10	
W		E
♠ J75 ♥ AJ8 ♦ A65 ♣ J983		♠ Q63 ♥ K10964 ♦ Q ♣ A642
	S	
	♠ K2 ♥ 52 ♦ KJ743 ♣ KQ75	

Makes:					
	C	D	H	S	NT
N		3		1	
S		3			
E	2		2		1
W	2		2		1

Should EAST open with this 11 HCP hand?

STEP 1: Rule of 20

$$11 \text{ HCP} + \text{Length Points of } 9 = 20$$

STEP 2: Downgrades - Minuses.

- Aceless = No
- Quacks = No
- Dubious Honours = YES. -2 (Qxx and Q singleton)

Downgrades: -2

STEP 3: Upgrades - Pluses.

Quick Tricks = 1.5 (not enough for an upgrade – need 2.5QT=+1)

Useful 10's = No

Long, strong suit = No

Upgrades: 0

$$20 - 2 = 18$$

EAST SHOULD NOT OPEN WITH THIS HAND

This hand does not have the values (trick-taking potential) needed to open one of a suit.

NOT PLAYED Dealer: S

	N	
	♠ Q75 ♥ Q76 ♦ A64 ♣ QJ73	
W		E
♠ 64 ♥ AJ105 ♦ J1092 ♣ K64		♠ 32 ♥ 8432 ♦ KQ53 ♣ A52
	S	
	♠ AKJ1098 ♥ K9 ♦ 87 ♣ 1098	

Makes:					
	C	D	H	S	NT
N	2			3	1
S	2			3	1
E		1	1		
W		1	1		

Should SOUTH open with this hand?

STEP 1: Rule of 20

11 HCP + Length Points of 8 = 19

STEP 2: Downgrades - Minuses.

- Aceless = No
- Quacks = No
- Dubious Honours = No

STEP 3: Upgrades - Pluses.

Quick Tricks = Yes +1 (2.5 Quick Tricks)

Useful 10's = Yes +1

Long, strong suit = Yes +1 (Honours snuggled together)

No downgrades and +3 upgrades: 19+ 3 = 22. Plenty good enough to open.

SOUTH SHOULD OPEN WITH THIS HAND = 1S

HAND 5 Dealer: N

	N	
	♠ -	
	♥ -	
	♦ Q8765432	
	♣ AQ1084	
W		E
♠ AKQJ		♠ 65432
♥ AKQJ		♥ 109872
♦ AK9		♦ J10
♣ KJ		♣ 9
	S	
	♠ 10987	
	♥ 6543	
	♦ -	
	♣ 76532	

Makes:	C	D	H	S	NT
	N	7	3		
	S	7	3		
	E			5	5
	W			4	4

Should NORTH open with this 8 HCP hand?

STEP 1: Rule of 20

$$8 \text{ HCP} + \text{Length Points of } 13 = 21$$

STEP 2: Downgrades - Minuses.

- Aceless = No
- Quacks = No
- Dubious Honours = No

STEP 3: Upgrades - Pluses.

No need.

If they wish to, NORTH can open 1D and keep bidding to show Clubs as well.

There may be other opening options but this hand meets the requirements of an opening hand.

An 8 HCP hand with opening values is rare – once or twice in a life-time perhaps.

Note that the NS can make the Grand Slam with only 8HCP. This is despite the opposition having 32 HCP.

OPENING IN 3rd SEAT with less than opening values

HAND 6 Dealer: E

	N	
	♠ K743 ♥ K872 ♦ 4 ♣ AK87	
W		E
♠ 10962 ♥ 10965 ♦ AKQ ♣ 93		♠ A ♥ 3 ♦ J1087532 ♣ Q654
	S	
	♠ QJ85 ♥ AQJ4 ♦ 96 ♣ J102	

Makes:					
	C	D	H	S	NT
N	3		3	4	
S	3		3	4	
E		4			
W		4			

Should WEST open light in 3rd seat?

- 1 Do I have opening values? (Adjusted Rule of 20) = NO
- 2 Can I cope with anything partner says? = YES

1D – 1H? Yes

1D – 1S? Yes

1D – 1NT? Yes

1D – 2C? Yes – a 7 fit is OK at the two level

1D – 2D? Yes

WEST should open light in 3rd seat.

WEST should then keep PASSING no matter what partner says.

NB. When partner opens in 3rd seat, Responder should have a 5-card suit to bid two of a minor.

HAND 7 Dealer: S Nil VUL

	N	
	♠ Q742 ♥ KJ106 ♦ K8 ♣ 1072	
W		E
♠ J8 ♥ Q83 ♦ J65 ♣ QJ854		♠ A106 ♥ A ♦ AQ43 ♣ AK963
	S	
	♠ K953 ♥ 97542 ♦ 10972 ♣	

Makes:					
	C	D	H	S	NT
N			2	1	
S			2	1	
E	6	4			4
W	6	4			4

Should NORTH open light in 3rd seat?

1. Do I have opening values? (Adjusted Rule of 20) = NO
2. Can I cope with anything partner says? = YES

NORTH SHOULD OPEN LIGHT IN 3RD SEAT, THEN PASS.

NB If playing 2C DRURY, Responder will use 2C to show a Major fit and an invitational hand. Opener would then bid 2H to show that the opening was light.

OPENING IN 4th SEAT – The Spades have it!

HAND 8 Dealer: W All VUL

	N ♠ QJ3 ♥ K75 ♦ 1093 ♣ A987	
W ♠ 542 ♥ QJ32 ♦ KQ86 ♣ K6		E ♠ K10 ♥ A964 ♦ J542 ♣ J52
	S ♠ A9876 ♥ 108 ♦ A7 ♣ Q1043	

Makes:					
	C	D	H	S	NT
N	3			3	1
S	3			3	1
E		2	2		
W		2	2		

Should SOUTH open in 4th seat?

Rule of 15 (Pearson's Points).

STEP 1: HCP = 10

STEP 2: Number of spades = 5

10 + 5 = 15 = OPEN

SOUTH SHOULD OPEN IN 4TH SEAT WITH THIS HAND.

This hand makes the Rule of 15 (HCP plus length of Spades = 15)