

EBED



Sim Pairs

Commentary by John Williams

Wednesday
8th September 2021

Welcome to the English Bridge Education & Development (EBED) Simultaneous Pairs. The proceeds raised by this event will go to EBED, the national charity for the promotion and development of duplicate bridge. EBED have responded to the challenges of the past year by continuing to improve and develop the infrastructure for bridge teaching in England. This has been achieved by enabling our EBTA (English Bridge Teaching Association) teachers the flexibility to deliver online and classroom-based learning. We have also established a gentle introduction to duplicate bridge through our weekly EBS (English Bridge School) relaxed games. EBED additionally supplies "Bridge for All" teaching materials, organises teacher and director training courses, administers the Junior Award Scheme, organises the Schools Cup and runs the Junior Teach In. We continue to support county organisations and individual volunteers at the local level to run youth events. You can read more about EBED's activities in the current issue of English Bridge and at www.ebedcio.org.uk. If you wish to arrange a donation in favour of the charity, please do so at www.ebedcio.org.uk/donate. Amazon customers can effortlessly support us by switching to AmazonSmile. Do please encourage your friends to come to play in these events which are open to all and raise vital funds for our work. We sincerely thank you for your support.

Giorgio Provenza

Chief Executive English Bridge Education & Development, Registered Charity No: 1153543

<p>♠ J10875 ♥ A9765 ♦ KQ3 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ K942 ♠ Q3 ♥ J4 ♥ 32 ♦ 954 ♦ AJ7 ♣ AKQ2 ♣ J109876</p> <p>♠ A6 ♥ KQ108 ♦ 10862 ♣ 543</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>This is a real baptism of fire for anyone aspiring to the top spot of 4♥. NS have a mere 19 HCPs between them but anyone who just counts points isn't made for the modern world. Firstly, North has to realise that 1♠ is a fully-fledged opening bid, holding 5-5 in the majors and an outside void. He then has to respect South's 1NT response (which may well include unwanted values in clubs) and rebid a quiet 2♥. Now it's South's turn to shine: all his 9 points are in partner's suits, making an invitational 3♥ raise something of an underbid. Be bold and raise to 4♥: if it comes unstuck, partner will surely sympathise. Now all that remains is to justify optimism in the play. It all comes down to managing the spade suit, winning the likely club lead and advancing Jack of Spades: with careful play thereafter, that's enough to garner an overtrick. However, other lines should still result in a making game and a fine score.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass																													
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<p>♠ AK53 ♥ Q102 ♦ K3 ♣ KJ76</p> <p>♠ Q8 ♥ J65 ♦ A1084 ♣ AQ94</p> <p>♠ J972 ♥ AK73 ♦ Q95 ♣ 105</p> <p>♠ 1064 ♥ 984 ♦ J762 ♣ 832</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>An absolute death-trap for NS. As always, the vital thing is to stay calm and avoid making a bad situation worse. It's equally important for EW to stay equally calm and not run to the safety of a partscore (for most of us, after 1NT is doubled, rdbl would promise a 5-card suit somewhere and 2♥ would show the lower of two 4-carders: impeccable in its way, but who wouldn't fancy their chances in 1NT doubled – probably with an overtrick or so?). The play could follow several routes, opening leader being endplayed at trick 1. Best is to start with Ace, King and another spade (who knows – declarer may try the 9 on the third round). However play goes then, the end result seems to be +380 or +480 for EW. That's hard to take but there are far worse outcomes possible if NS decide to wriggle. After all, they're vulnerable. Those who don't play a weak NT may seem to have let NS off the hook, though they have every chance of then hooking themselves back on!</p> <p>What a pair of boards to start!</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1NT	Dbl	All Pass	
West	North	East	South										
		Pass	Pass										
1NT	Dbl	All Pass											

HCP	
16	
13	10
1	

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

<p>♠ J843 ♥ AJ10 ♦ 542 ♣ Q42</p> <p>♠ 752 ♥ K875 ♦ KJ10 ♣ K87</p> <p>♠ A6 ♥ Q962 ♦ AQ986 ♣ A9</p> <p>♠ KQ109 ♥ 43 ♦ 73 ♣ J10653</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <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>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>OK everyone, take a deep breath and relax!</p> <p>The auction above looks to be fairly automatic, as does the end result. 4♥ has three obvious and unavoidable losers, regardless of the opening lead. Anything other than +620 to EW will be a disaster for one side or the other. The only way that is likely to happen is if EW get excited and stray a level too high, when the unlucky trump-break undoes them. Otherwise, a timely flat board – and none too soon for some!</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South																		
			Pass																		
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass																		
1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass																		
4♥	All Pass																				

HCP	
8	
10	16
6	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	-	4	4	-	3
W	-	4	4	-	3

<p>♠ K9654 ♥ K964 ♦ Q43 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ J1072 ♥ QJ3 ♦ 1092 ♣ J65</p> <p>♠ Q8 ♥ A10 ♦ J76 ♣ KQ10972</p> <p>♠ A3 ♥ 8752 ♦ AK85 ♣ 843</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</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> </tbody> </table> <p>Another routine auction to 4♥. After North's 2♥ rebid his partner might go straight to game but his trumps are poor and discretion argues for caution perhaps. But it's close. If that's the way it goes, North might cry off, despite Queen of Diamonds being a better card than it might have been without the double.</p> <p>In 4♥ declarer has to be careful after a club lead. Crossing to dummy and leading a trump to the King invites disaster, as further club leads leave him very exposed. Better to duck twice in trumps (East has bid and is more likely to hold the Ace).</p> <p>+620 to NS will still be the most likely outcome but other results are certainly possible (+170, +140 - or even the dreaded -100).</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♠	2♣	Dbl	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
West	North	East	South														
Pass	1♠	2♣	Dbl														
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥														
Pass	4♥	All Pass															

HCP	
12	
5	12
11	

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

<p>♠ J432 ♥ Q73 ♦ Q10 ♣ 8642</p> <p>♠ KQ10 ♠ 7 ♥ AKJ1042 ♥ 965 ♦ 42 ♦ K65 ♣ 105 ♣ AQJ973</p> <p>♠ A9865 ♥ 8 ♦ AJ9873 ♣ K</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Opposite a passed hand, South has license to show his two-suiter regardless of strength (here 2♣ would show the extremes, Spades and Diamonds). 4♥ from West looks to be normal and will usually buy the contract: NS are vulnerable and would expect to lose at least two trumps, a club and a heart in any attempted save. This is certainly not a risk worth taking here, as Queen of diamonds lead holds declarer to 9 tricks in hearts. If only the contract could be played by East, 10 tricks would be available (though that involves dropping the Club King singleton, offside).</p> <p>This all suggests that 4♥-1 or -2 by EW will be a very common score. EW might score well by playing 3♥ for +140 or -50 but the best they can hope for otherwise is capitalising on over-robust bidding by the opponents, which will probably entail both doubling them and defending accurately.</p> <p>A good ding-dong sort of hand.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♣	2♣	4♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South										
	Pass	1♣	2♣										
4♥	All Pass												

HCP	Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
5	N	-	1	-	2	-
13 10	S	-	1	-	2	-
12	E	4	-	4	-	3
	W	4	-	3	-	-

<p>♠ A108 ♥ 83 ♦ A10862 ♣ A72</p> <p>♠ QJ65 ♠ 43 ♥ Q652 ♥ A1097 ♦ KQ ♦ J975 ♣ K54 ♣ J108</p> <p>♠ K972 ♥ KJ4 ♦ 43 ♣ Q963</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>It's anyone's guess how this this one will go. 1NT by West may well be the most popular contract, though if NS have a natural 2♦ overcall available - and some do - that would probably buy it. (One down, surely?)</p> <p>It's one of those deals where hardly anything can be made, which makes guessing the outcome rather a fruitless exercise. Much depends on the opening lead, whatever the contract and by whom, and on subsequent guessing in the play. A typical pairs hand, in short, where the end result promises to be more dramatic than anything which could occur at teams.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass		
West	North	East	South										
		Pass	Pass										
1NT	All Pass												

HCP	Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
12	N	2	1	-	1	-
13 6	S	2	1	-	1	-
9	E	-	-	1	-	-
	W	-	-	2	-	-

<p>♠ 3 ♥ AJ873 ♦ 875 ♣ J762</p> <p>♠ Q1076 ♠ K854 ♥ Q62 ♥ K94 ♦ KQ4 ♦ A1062 ♣ 543 ♣ 98</p> <p>♠ AJ92 ♥ 105 ♦ J93 ♣ AKQ10</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>After a thrilling opening few minutes, we are becalmed in turgid waters. NS would dearly like to play in clubs or hearts – and some may have the mechanics to do so – whilst EW could manage a spade contract up to the two level but seem to have no chance of getting there. Their most realistic chance of success is via defending 1NT effectively. Four diamond tricks represent a good start but after that the spade switch may not be easy to diagnose and it's entirely necessary, as after a safe club or heart exit declarer can set up 4 heart tricks to go with 4 clubs and the Ace of Spades.</p> <p>It's easy to picture a few NS pairs missing their club fit but still picking up a handy plus in 1NT.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South										
			1♠										
Pass	1NT	All Pass											

HCP	Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
6	N	3	-	2	-	-
9 10	S	3	-	2	-	-
15	E	-	-	-	2	1
	W	-	-	-	2	1

<p>♠ 10632 ♥ 5 ♦ KJ107 ♣ AJ96</p> <p>♠ Q7 ♠ AKJ854 ♥ AK9743 ♥ J2 ♦ A95 ♦ 82 ♣ 105 ♣ 873</p> <p>♠ 9 ♥ Q1086 ♦ Q643 ♣ KQ42</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="73 577 193 763"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="233 577 475 763"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		9		13	9	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	3	-	-	-	S	2	3	-	-	-	E	-	-	2	4	3	W	-	-	2	4	3	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td><td>South</td></tr> <tr><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Many will bid only 2♠ with the East hand at their second turn, but the sixth spade and the possible usefulness of Jack of hearts will persuade others to stretch a bit. When they do, partner will be happy to raise to game and declarer then has to justify his optimism in the play. That won't be easy, particularly on a trump lead: now the chance of ruffing a club in dummy has disappeared (not that it was strong in the first place). The only alternative is to set up hearts for a discard in declarer's hand, but the timing has to be very precise: win the trump lead in dummy and duck a diamond in both hands (key play, for later entry reasons). Win the next trump and draw two more, throwing clubs from dummy. Play Jack of hearts (covered), win in dummy and play Ace and another diamond, ruffing. Heart to the 9 (pew!) and throw a club on the other top heart. Sequence of tricks taken may vary. Any way, though, 10 tricks. Well played (but how much simpler to claim 9 tricks in 3NT, with only 4 club tricks to lose!). Those who go down in 4♠ by playing for hearts 3-2 will feel aggrieved.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
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<p>♠ KJ1092 ♥ 1098 ♦ 762 ♣ K5</p> <p>♠ 873 ♠ A6 ♥ 43 ♥ AQJ7 ♦ K1054 ♦ J98 ♣ AJ107 ♣ Q832</p> <p>♠ Q54 ♥ K652 ♦ AQ3 ♣ 964</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="73 1243 193 1429"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="233 1243 475 1429"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		7		8	14	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	1	-	S	-	-	-	1	-	E	3	2	2	-	1	W	3	2	2	-	1	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td><td>South</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>All Pass</td></tr> </table> <p>Strong No-trumpers may start 1♣-1♦-1♥ and then West has to guess between 2♣ and 1NT (unless 1♠ is 4th suit but non- forcing). Playing in 1NT West won't be pleased to attract a spade lead, whereas, played by East, South will raise a few eyebrows if he finds a spade lead rather than a heart. The latter improves declarer's prospects considerably, particularly if he then attacks diamonds rather than clubs, which yields a fairly immediate +90 (one, spade, two hearts, three diamonds and a club). Anything else is a bonus. By contrast, playing in clubs yields an easy +110. Such is life... The traveller will feature a range of results, from +100 to NS to +110 to EW, with doubtless a few others besides.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1NT	All Pass								
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<p>♠ - ♥ KJ982 ♦ AQ9852 ♣ 107</p> <p>♠ AQJ93 ♠ 10862 ♥ A64 ♥ 73 ♦ - ♦ K1074 ♣ AQ632 ♣ J54</p> <p>♠ K754 ♥ Q105 ♦ J63 ♣ K98</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="73 1917 193 2103"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="233 1917 475 2103"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		10		17	4	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	2	-	-	S	-	2	3	-	-	E	3	-	-	4	1	W	4	-	-	5	1	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td><td>South</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>1♠</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td></tr> <tr><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>In the good old days West would have an easy strong 2♠ bid. Nowadays, however, he has the choice between a cautious 1♠ (praying it won't be passed out) and a crude but practical 4♠. His prayer is answered when North looks at his punchy 11 cards in the red suits and can't resist bidding whatever system dictates to show them (3♣ is the Ghestem option). After 3♦ or 3♥ by South, West will surely take the bull by the horns and close the auction with 4♠ (no doubt offering another silent prayer): he can hardly risk 3♠ being passed out. Careful play is called for. North will lead either a small heart or Ace of diamonds, depending on partner's response earlier. Ace of diamonds is the least convenient in the grand scheme of things, although it sets up to King for a discard, it's not easily reached and forces declarer in trumps in the meantime. Declarer does best to discard a heart on the diamond Ace and rely on losing just a diamond, a club and a heart. However, it's easy to go wrong and go minus, as many will. Tricky!</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♠	3♣	Pass	3♥	4♠	All Pass		
HCP																																																													
10																																																													
17	4																																																												
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<p>♠ 2 ♥ 9754 ♦ AQJ3 ♣ AJ105</p> <p>♠ J108543 ♠ K9 ♥ Q102 ♥ AKJ83 ♦ K972 ♦ 854 ♣ - ♣ 842</p> <p>♠ AQ76 ♥ 6 ♦ 106 ♣ KQ9763</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>It's all very uncertain up to the point where North finds 4♣. Then it's fair enough for South, looking at that precious singleton heart, to rely on partner for two winning cards apart from Ace of Clubs – not bad odds when he has shown such good values in the red suits, supposedly. And South has bid cautiously up to then.</p> <p>OK, dummy is a disappointment when it comes to the heart suit but he makes up for it in diamonds. And OK, it comes down to the winning diamond finesse. But 5♣ would not have figured to score well at pairs.</p> <p>A very close decision by South – and very brave!</p>	West	North	East	South				1♣	2♠	Dbl	3♠	Pass	Pass	4♣	Pass	6♣
West	North	East	South														
			1♣														
2♠	Dbl	3♠	Pass														
Pass	4♣	Pass	6♣														

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
12		N	6	3	-	1	2
6	11	S	6	3	1	1	2
		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ AK3 ♥ 742 ♦ A1073 ♣ Q86</p> <p>♠ J865 ♠ Q7 ♥ 1053 ♥ AQJ86 ♦ KQJ86 ♦ 942 ♣ 2 ♣ K107</p> <p>♠ 10942 ♥ K9 ♦ 5 ♣ AJ9543</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>An annoying hand for NS, who do nothing wrong in settling for a club part-score (2NT being to play in either minor – or on occasion something more, unless 2NT is played as a simple transfer to clubs).</p> <p>So what went wrong? The answer is, nothing. There is no suggestion that game is a realistic proposition. 5♣ relies on Ace of hearts onside, together with K10X of clubs – and there is no guarantee that the club suit will be brought in without loss.</p> <p>Even 3NT is a solid affair after the same good guess in clubs.</p> <p>Anyone in game can expect to score very well indeed and +150 in clubs may well be above average, so it's not all doom and gloom by any means.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	All Pass	
West	North	East	South										
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT										
Pass	3♣	All Pass											

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
13		N	5	-	-	3	4
7	12	S	5	-	-	3	4
		E	-	1	1	-	-
		W	-	1	-	-	-

<p>♠ 974 ♥ 10953 ♦ 4 ♣ K9543</p> <p>♠ 8 ♠ J1063 ♥ KJ642 ♥ Q ♦ J93 ♦ AK875 ♣ A1072 ♣ QJ6</p> <p>♠ AKQ52 ♥ A87 ♦ Q1062 ♣ 8</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>West is a tad short of the values for 2♥ after South's overcall, despite his encouraging shape. In fact, 2♥ would not have filled partner with joy anyway, whereas a 2♦ rebid is more comfortable all round. It also means that South will be happy to defend, despite 2♠ being an unlikely make for his side.</p> <p>And what of a diamond contract? A top spade is likely to be followed by a club switch and declarer does best to win this with the Ace in order to play a heart to his Queen. South can win but has no good reply. Furthermore, his shape is now revealed for all to see. Declarer is sure to emerge with a minimum of 8 tricks – and very likely 9, losing just one trick in each suit. Of course, this entails leading a low trump away from AK but that should be no problem for a resourceful player.</p> <p>Expect +110 to score well for EW – and +90 will be respectable.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♦	1♠	Dbl	Pass	2♦	All Pass
West	North	East	South										
	Pass	1♦	1♠										
Dbl	Pass	2♦	All Pass										

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

<p>♠ A9872 ♥ J97 ♦ K53 ♣ 63</p> <p>♠ KQJ ♠ 53 ♥ K1032 ♥ A864 ♦ AQJ7 ♦ 10986 ♣ A9 ♣ 1082</p> <p>♠ 1064 ♥ Q5 ♦ 42 ♣ KQJ754</p>	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>3♣ is a highly acceptable pre-emptive opening, non-vulnerable, and proves highly effective here. If West tries 3NT the opening bid bears fruit: declarer has to duck the opening lead and now a spade switch leads to a slow death. The defence can win Ace and another spade and force out the last spade when in with King of diamonds. Declarer has only eight tricks to run and has to concede when North also turns up with a heart winner.</p> <p>It's more likely, however, that the auction will proceed as shown above. Now declarer has to lose a trick in each suit, even in the unlikely event that a club is not led.</p> <p>In fact EW's only winning action is to double 3♣ and hope the double is left in (very unlikely!). So -50 won't be too bad a score.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	3♣	Dbl	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass																																		
West	North	East	South																																														
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HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
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<p>♠ - ♥ A983 ♦ 42 ♣ AQJ8543</p> <p>♠ 1094 ♠ J86 ♥ K10754 ♥ QJ6 ♦ A87 ♦ KQJ1095 ♣ 106 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ AKQ7532 ♥ 2 ♦ 63 ♣ K92</p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">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>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Many would open 4♠ in the first place (or, better, 4♦ if they had the Texas convention in their armoury to show a strong pre-empt in spades, where 4♠ would be weaker by definition). In the auction shown, 4♠ may even be a dangerous rebid, given the King of clubs (partner may just have the right cards for slam), but you can't have everything.</p> <p>In fact the kindly trump break ensures 11 tricks – or indeed 13 unless the defence scores its two top diamonds straight away. This will surely happen a time or two, meaning that +650 may even be somewhat below average. If so, the result would be cruel to NS.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass																																			
West	North	East	South																																														
			1♠																																														
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<p>♠ 8 ♥ KQ9643 ♦ J32 ♣ J53</p> <p>♠ KQ6432 ♠ AJ10975 ♥ J8 ♥ A7 ♦ 6 ♦ KQ10 ♣ 10964 ♣ AK</p> <p>♠ - ♥ 1052 ♦ A98754 ♣ Q872</p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Who could blame East for blasting the slam? Well, I suppose East could, if he's that kind of partner. But really, slam needs partner to hold only the Kings of spades and hearts (or even heart Queen if North has the King). Or it's possible that a heart lead can't be found.</p> <p>As the cards lie, the traveller looks likely to feature only +650 to EW, or -100. However, particularly aggressive NS pairs might shoot themselves in the foot, firstly by overcalling 2♠ with 3♥ and then by saving at the seven level. Even -1100 represents a save against -1430.</p> <p>Fanciful? Let's wait and see....</p>	West	North	East	South	2♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass																																								
West	North	East	South																																														
2♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass																																														
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HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
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<p>♠ J65 ♥ 7 ♦ 9852 ♣ AJ875</p> <p>♠ 7 ♠ Q98 ♥ KJ6 ♥ AQ8542 ♦ AQJ103 ♦ 74 ♣ Q932 ♣ K4</p> <p>♠ AK10432 ♥ 1093 ♦ K6 ♣ 106</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</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>The auction is straightforward enough. Note that opposite a passed partner, South's jump overcall can be quite wide-ranging. Note also that the West's 3♣ bid usually promises game-going values with 3-card heart support</p> <p>There is nothing of great interest in the play of 4♥.</p> <p>However, an enterprising North might seize the opportunity to play 4♠ doubled – a fine save if losses can be held to -300. This is clearly possible double-dummy. Not quite so easy at the table. Declarer has to ruff two losing hearts in dummy and then run Jack of trumps, without any clue as to whether this incorrect or not. And -500 would be a disaster.</p> <p>I suspect 4♥+1 by EW will be the overwhelmingly popular score, however.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♥	2♠	3♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass																																				
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<p>♠ QJ84 ♥ 974 ♦ Q1082 ♣ J6</p> <p>♠ AK ♠ 9653 ♥ 10652 ♥ K3 ♦ J9643 ♦ K5 ♣ 82 ♣ AK1095</p> <p>♠ 1072 ♥ AQJ8 ♦ A7 ♣ Q743</p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>East might consider opening 1NT, ignoring the spade suit. It's a close call but 1♣ means there is a good suit posted on the board and – who knows, partner might have a 1♠ response. No go, so a 1♠ rebid is correct as partner could still have a spade raise. 1NT is something of a disappointment – but never mind. North has a safe option in leading H7 (second highest) and this draws the Jack from partner, followed by the Ace to drop the King, on which North drops the 9. Continuing the good work, South has an easy choice of ♠7 (another second-best!) to declarer's King. The hearts suit is now frozen, so declarer does best to run ♣8, which holds, He can now try a diamond to the King but this allows the defence to knock out spade Ace and wait for further tricks in diamonds, spades and hearts - for 2 down. The alternative of playing three rounds of clubs is no better, so minus 100 looks normal against tight defence.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass																																		
West	North	East	South																																														
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<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>13</td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>13</td> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	6	13	N	-	-	-	1	2	8		S	-	-	-	1	2		13	E	1	1	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
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	13	E	1	1	-	-	-																																										
		W	-	-	-	-	-																																										

<p>♠ 32 ♥ Q9 ♦ KJ1064 ♣ AJ96</p> <p>♠ QJ ♠ K1097654 ♥ A108763 ♥ 52 ♦ 2 ♦ Q ♣ 10754 ♣ KQ8</p> <p>♠ A8 ♥ KJ4 ♦ A98753 ♣ 32</p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This looks like a normal if rather adventurous auction which is rewarded with 9 tricks when East has no quick entry for his long spades after the suit is led and ducked once. The Ace of hearts can then be knocked out painlessly to garner no less than 10 tricks. Very fortunate!</p> <p>The vulnerability is wrong for EW to save in 4♠ (assuming it's doubled). There are eight tricks available without too much difficulty but the defenders have only to avoid rushing in with Ace of clubs to net a sweaty +500.</p> <p>Good competitive hand!</p>	West	North	East	South				1♦	2♥	3♦	3♠	3NT	All Pass																																			
West	North	East	South																																														
			1♦																																														
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HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
11	10	N	2	4	-	-	4																																										
7		S	2	4	-	-	4																																										
	12	E	-	-	1	2	-																																										
		W	-	-	1	2	-																																										

<p>♠ 54 ♥ K86 ♦ AQ873 ♣ KQ2</p> <p>♠ 2 ♠ AQ763 ♥ AJ1072 ♥ Q53 ♦ 1096 ♦ K2 ♣ J975 ♣ A63</p> <p>♠ KJ1098 ♥ 94 ♦ J54 ♣ 1084</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</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>East's hand is not very good for a penalty double of 1NT (minimum points and poor source of tricks) – or indeed for a 2♠ overcall (similar considerations apply). His reward for so mature and practical an approach is to defend a 2♠ contract. Could he have asked for more, against vulnerable opponents? There's no good choice of opening lead against 2♠, so a heart is <i>faute de mieux</i>. A heart lead to the Ace and a heart return is reasonable, after which declarer will try a spade to the 8 before running the Jack of diamonds. In with the King, Queen of hearts forces dummy to ruff. An unsuspecting declarer will now try a club to King and Ace, probably. A club to 10, Jack and Queen follows, after which it's all tit for tat. The least EW can expect is +100. Will that be enough? Yes, if only for a respectable above average yield.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South										
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥										
Pass	2♠	All Pass											

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
14	-	2	-	1	-	
6	-	1	-	1	-	15
5	2	-	2	-	1	
	1	-	3	-	1	

<p>♠ 10 ♥ AKQ86 ♦ KJ63 ♣ 1075</p> <p>♠ AKQ72 ♠ 9854 ♥ - ♥ J9 ♦ A1052 ♦ Q87 ♣ AJ62 ♣ Q943</p> <p>♠ J63 ♥ 1075432 ♦ 94 ♣ K8</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>West might bid 4♠ rather than double, of course, and East might bid 4♠ opposite a double of 4♥ which shows values. Nothing is certain. It's clear, however, that 4♥ doubled is a brilliant spot for NS theoretically, even when it costs 500 or 800 at the prevailing vulnerability. This is because 6♣ – or more likely 6♠ – is cold for a superior score to EW. Does this mean that EW have failed if they fail to bid a slam? Not a bit of it. North is more likely on balance to hold missing key cards in the minors, so slam is undoubtedly lucky. Despite all the above, I suspect that a sight of the traveller will reveal that 4♥ doubled is the biggest earner for EW, in practice. It'll be fascinating to find out.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	4♥	Dbl	All Pass		
West	North	East	South										
	1♥	Pass	4♥										
Dbl	All Pass												

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
13	-	-	3	-	-	
18	-	-	3	-	-	5
4	6	3	-	6	1	
	6	3	-	6	1	

<p>♠ 5 ♥ Q6532 ♦ 86 ♣ KJ653</p> <p>♠ AK842 ♠ J963 ♥ A10 ♥ 9 ♦ AJ10 ♦ Q972 ♣ AQ2 ♣ 10987</p> <p>♠ Q107 ♥ KJ874 ♦ K543 ♣ 4</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</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>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>West has "only" 22 HCPs but a couple of 10s and a five-card suit, so it's well worth a slight upgrade to 2♣. Now 5-card Stayman comes into its own (though ordinary Stayman happens to work also here) and 3♠ is manna from heaven to East. Assuming game is reached, it's all about the play. Whilst it's true that trumps can be picked up without loss, a 2-2 break is a decent chance so it's better to use the only entry to dummy to play Queen of diamonds through, which, assuming two top trumps are played early, yields 10 easy tricks via 5 spades (including the heart ruff), a heart, 3 diamonds and a club. Anyone who's got to game will surely be satisfied with that, leaving any possibility of an overtrick to chance. +620 will be a fine score, +650 pure magic.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South																		
		Pass	Pass																		
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass																		
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass																		
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass																		

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
6	-	-	2	-	-	
22	-	-	3	-	-	3
9	2	3	-	5	2	
	3	3	-	5	2	

<p>♠ A632 ♥ K3 ♦ K98 ♣ QJ42</p> <p>♠ KQJ5 ♠ 10974 ♥ 1094 ♥ Q52 ♦ 105 ♦ AQ32 ♣ 9753 ♣ K8</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ AJ876 ♦ J764 ♣ A106</p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</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 will be a popular pairs auction – unless South opens 1♥ somewhat light and reaches 3NT (probably played by North). A spade lead will cause palpitations but the outrageously kind distribution means that no less than 10 tricks can be taken, thanks to the winning club finesse and the 3-3- heart break.</p> <p>4♥ can also be made, thanks to the same distribution, and there’s even an unlikely overtrick available if the contract is played by North, but that is for the birds, as they say.</p> <p>In the real world +170 in hearts by North will prove to be a regular (and rather unlucky) entry on the traveller, beaten by +620 or +630 on rare but telling occasions.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass	
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦														
Pass	2♥	All Pass															

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

<p>♠ K10932 ♥ A2 ♦ QJ3 ♣ AJ4</p> <p>♠ 5 ♠ QJ874 ♥ K107 ♥ J95 ♦ AK10875 ♦ 6 ♣ 1065 ♣ KQ98</p> <p>♠ A6 ♥ Q8643 ♦ 942 ♣ 732</p>	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There’s no great drama here.</p> <p>Playing in diamonds West has 9 easy tricks via two hearts, five diamonds and two clubs (if North holds up his Ace twice, there’s no entry to the thirteenth club). There are 8 tricks in NTs for EW but it’s difficult to see that as a runner! NS have no making contract available and are unlikely to try one.</p> <p>This looks for all the world like a flat board, unless the defence allows declarer to take three club tricks in a diamond contract. That will happen somewhere or other, no doubt about it.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	1♠	1NT	Pass	2♦	All Pass		
West	North	East	South										
1♦	1♠	1NT	Pass										
2♦	All Pass												

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
15	9	N	-	-	-	-	-
10		S	-	-	-	-	-
	6	E	2	3	-	1	2
		W	2	3	-	1	2

<p>♠ K9 ♥ QJ32 ♦ J ♣ A108732</p> <p>♠ 76 ♠ J54 ♥ 105 ♥ AK98 ♦ KQ1098754 ♦ A3 ♣ 9 ♣ QJ65</p> <p>♠ AQ10832 ♥ 764 ♦ 62 ♣ K4</p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South might try a penalty double of 1NT in preference to a non-forcing 2♠. 4♦? Really? I’ve obviously looked at all four hands!</p> <p>However, 4♦ isn’t so stupid. It guarantees not being in a silly contract and East has licence to raise to game if he has (say) Ace of clubs instead of Queen. Some Wests won’t be able to resist raising to 3NT, which earns a gold sticker for courage but nothing else. It takes nerve on South’s part to lead a spade but the reward is +400 to NS – not a bad result and another gold sticker. Results here will be all over the place. And some of them will be wild!</p>	West	North	East	South		1♣	1NT	2♠	4♦	All Pass		
West	North	East	South										
	1♣	1NT	2♠										
4♦	All Pass												

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
11	15	N	2	-	1	3	-
5		S	1	-	1	2	-
	9	E	-	4	-	-	-
		W	-	4	-	-	-

<p>♠ KQ ♥ 106 ♦ A742 ♣ QJ532</p> <p>♠ A963 ♠ 104 ♥ 9752 ♥ KQ83 ♦ 3 ♦ KQJ986 ♣ K1074 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ J8752 ♥ AJ4 ♦ 105 ♣ 986</p>	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>For once, an easy problem for EW to solve. The first three bids are easy to predict and so should the next be. West has poor values, poor trumps and a singleton in partner's first-bid suit. There is absolutely no excuse to push on to game. North is likely to lead King of spades, which means declarer has 9 tricks, no more and no less. Had hearts been bid by East, South could be forgiven for leading a passive club, allowing a spade discard in declarer's hand. But +170 (or even +620!) would represent an unfair result. +140 or -100 seem to be the most likely results, with the accent on the former.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	3♥	All Pass																																				
West	North	East	South																																														
		1♦	Pass																																														
1♥	Pass	3♥	All Pass																																														
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HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																											
12		N	1	-	-	-	-																																										
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	6	E	-	3	3	-	2																																										
		W	-	3	3	-	2																																										

<p>♠ J64 ♥ K1084 ♦ KQ82 ♣ AJ</p> <p>♠ Q832 ♠ A10 ♥ A753 ♥ QJ6 ♦ J ♦ A3 ♣ 10972 ♣ KQ8654</p> <p>♠ K975 ♥ 92 ♦ 1097654 ♣ 3</p>	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This strikes me as a perfectly logical sequence on all sides. 4♣ lands on a pin-head and yields a comfortable +130 to EW. An adventurous NS pair might venture 4♦, which would surely be doubled but which would also earn NS a magic top score of -100. How likely is that? Not very, I suspect. No one can be sufficiently confident of the outcome to undertake too many adventures at the four level. A good competitive hand nonetheless (like so many in this set).</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1NT	Dbl	2♦	Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass	4♣	All Pass																										
West	North	East	South																																														
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HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																											
14		N	-	3	-	1	-																																										
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<p>♠ A62 ♥ A53 ♦ 986 ♣ J1053</p> <p>♠ K10 ♠ J985 ♥ J76 ♥ Q1082 ♦ 10753 ♦ AK2 ♣ K962 ♣ A8</p> <p>♠ Q743 ♥ K94 ♦ QJ4 ♣ Q74</p>	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>What a tame end to an otherwise interesting set! It's difficult to foresee an alternative contract but part of the charm (or annoyance) of pairs is that every little contract carries the seeds of triumph or disaster. However, even the final outcome here leaves little to the imagination: spade lead to the Ace and a return to the King. Declarer now attacks hearts, guaranteeing a minimum (and maximum?) of two clubs, 2 diamonds, two hearts and a spade. That leaves NS to attack the minors and earn themselves the remaining six tricks – two spades, two hearts, a diamond and a club. The only possibility of upsetting the balance of nature is for EW to get to an unlikely 2♥, which is worth an obvious +110. Well, it's very rare for any deal to end up completely flat, so there will still be a few winners and losers.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass																																								
West	North	East	South																																														
Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass																																														
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About the Bridge for All books and how to order

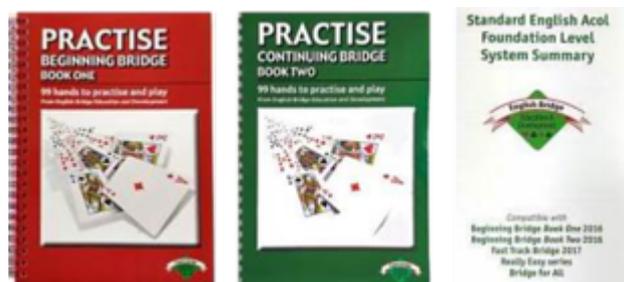


Beginning Bridge Book 1 is ideal for those who want to learn using the 'traditional' method of a lesson once a week, for three terms. It progresses at a steady pace, allowing more time to digest each topic. The cost is £26 plus P&P

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