

# *Junior Squad*

## *Sim Pairs*

*Monday/Tuesday*

*7-8.02.2022*

### *Thanks to our commentators:*

**Charlie Bucknell**, member of the Under-26 squad. Charlie is starting his career as a bridge professional and is also starting his own bridge club in Oxford. He has been playing bridge for roughly six years and has never looked back. He started his partnership with Ewa two years ago filling in for a teams event at the local club and has finally found a partner who doesn't mind his unique style.

**Ewa Wiczorek**, member of the Under 26 squad. Ewa is studying for a PhD in Computational Chemistry when she's not playing bridge. She has previously represented England in the U26 Women's team, where she got a bronze medal at the 2017 European Championships. She is now looking forward to developing her partnership with Charlie.

**Imogen La Chapelle**, member of the Under 21 squad. Imogen is in her second year at the University of East Anglia studying Medicine. She started playing bridge at local clubs in Norwich where her talent was soon spotted and nurtured. For the last three years, she has played for Norfolk in the inter-county Tollemache competition, this year being part of the first Norfolk qualifying team since 2007. Imogen has recently formed a partnership with Henry Rose and by coming third at the Year End Swiss Pairs, Imogen hopes they can do really well in her final year of the Under 21s.

**Oscar Selby**, member of the Under 21 squad. Oscar started playing bridge at 7 years old at the Andrew Robson Bridge Club and has represented England many times at Under 16 and Under 21 levels. He won Young Player of the Year in 2018. Outside of bridge, Oscar gained an A\* in GCSE Maths aged 7 and reached the final week of the TV competition "Child Genius" in 2013. He has also won the British youth Go championships.

**Venetia Anoyrkatis**, member of the Under 16 squad. Venetia lives and goes to school in Devon. She has been part of the squad for the last three years and played in several international events since then. Amongst her successes was winning the EBU Spring Congress Swiss Teams. Venetia is looking forward to playing in the upcoming Peggy Bayer and getting back to face to face bridge.

**Aaron Hutton**, member of the Under 26 squad. Aaron lives in Lincolnshire where he works as a software engineer, having graduated from Cambridge University three years ago. He's played bridge for seven years and been part of the junior squad for the last two.

**Henry Rose**, member of the Under 21 squad. Henry is currently in his last year of school taking A-levels this summer. He first represented England in Italy in 2014 and has played bridge non-stop ever since. His proudest moment is leading his school to win the Schools' Cup for the first time since its inaugural event.

**Oliver Powell**, member of the Under 26 squad. Oliver is in his final year of junior bridge and currently teaches bridge for a living based in Brighton. He started learning bridge in 2008 and taking bridge seriously when joining the U20 squad in 2012. Oliver made his debut for the England junior team in 2013 and hopes to stamp his final year by going to the junior Europeans in the summer and qualifying the Under 26 team for the World Championship the following year.

**Andy Cope**, member of the Under 21 squad. Andy is currently in his final year of school studying for A-levels. He is hoping to do a Maths and Economics degree at university next year. Andy began playing bridge 8 years ago and made his European championship debut in 2017 playing for the Under 16s. He gained a bronze medal in the online U16 world championship in 2018 and then progressed to playing in international events for the Under 21 team.



<p>♠ KQ1076 ♥ AJ8 ♦ 1032 ♣ 54</p> <p>♠ 2                      ♠ 9853 ♥ KQ10                ♥ 64 ♦ AQ987                ♦ K654 ♣ Q763                ♣ AK10</p> <p>♠ AJ4 ♥ 97532 ♦ J ♣ J982</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>10</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	10		N	-	-	2	1	-	13	10	S	-	-	2	1	-			E	3	4	-	-	1			W	3	4	-	-	1	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Charlie Bucknell &amp; Ewa Wieczorek</b></span></p> <table 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>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>1♦</td><td>1♠</td><td>2♠*</td><td>Double</td></tr> <tr><td>3♦</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>East makes a cue bid raise showing 10+ points and 4+ card support for partner's suit, South doubles to show good spades and a willingness to compete, West has an extra diamond and some shape so competes into 3♦ and buys the auction.</p> <p>North has a clear lead of the ♠K and may be tempted to switch, but looking at dummy there aren't many appealing switches so continuing with a low spade seems natural. Declarer will ruff, draw three rounds of trumps, play a club to dummy (unless they managed to guess trumps were 3-1) and play a heart to the King, losing to the ace. Another spade knocks out declarer's final trump, and declarer has to figure out whether they should take the heart finesse for the extra overtrick. It's better to cash the queen and king of clubs, then the last trump, making eleven on a double squeeze whoever's looking at the jack of hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♦	1♠	2♠*	Double	3♦	All Pass		
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<p>♠ KJ1042 ♥ KQ43 ♦ 1097 ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ 976                      ♠ A853 ♥ A102                    ♥ 8765 ♦ A                         ♦ 84 ♣ AK10862                ♣ 943</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ J9 ♦ KQJ6532 ♣ J75</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>4</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11		N	-	3	-	-	-	15	4	S	-	3	-	-	-			E	2	-	-	-	3			W	2	-	-	-	3	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Imogen La Chapelle</b></span></p> <table 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>1♣</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td></tr> <tr><td>3♣</td><td>3♦</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Some people double with the North hand but it's up to individual style.</p> <p>West will probably lead a top club and since there is a singleton club in dummy, East should now give suit preference for spades by playing the nine of clubs. The defence will then proceed to cash their four aces.</p> <p>If West plays in clubs, only an unlikely small spade lead holds the contract to eight tricks, by taking the entry off dummy before declarer is ready for the second-round finesse. Leading ♠J doesn't work: declarer ducks, then South does best to switch to a small heart, also ducked to North. If North stays off spades, she'll be squeezed without the count in the majors, so she switches to ♠K, ducked again. Now if South ruffs the third round of spades, there'll be a trump entry to dummy to cash a spade winner, and if not declarer can force a trump entry anyway.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♣	1♠	Pass	2♦	3♣	3♦	All pass	
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<p>♠ KQ1053 ♥ Q84 ♦ 6 ♣ KQ53</p> <p>♠ A74                      ♠ 982 ♥ K9                        ♥ J52 ♦ J1095                    ♦ Q743 ♣ 7642                    ♣ AJ9</p> <p>♠ J6 ♥ A10763 ♦ AK82 ♣ 108</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>8</td><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</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	12		N	2	1	4	3	2	8	8	S	2	1	4	3	2			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Imogen La Chapelle</b></span></p> <table 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>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td></tr> <tr><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>On the most likely lead of the ♦J, South realises he has at least a heart, a club and a spade loser. Trying to ruff two diamonds in dummy will produce yet another heart loser, thus declarer should aim to ruff one diamond and pitch one, or pitch them both. One possible line is to try for the ♣A onside and if not, fall back on the spades 3-3. We can achieve this by winning the ♦A and playing a club. A competent East should duck, so we then play a spade to the Jack. West wins this and plays a second diamond which South wins in hand, pitching a spade, and plays another club up. East wins the ♣A and should continue with another diamond which South is forced to ruff in dummy. Next, South plays two rounds of spades, pitching the final diamond, returns to hand with a club ruff and plays a heart towards the Qx. There's nothing West can do as even if he tries playing a club which East ruffs with the Jack, South overruffs and then plays a heart, drawing the remaining trumps.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass			
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<p>♠984 ♥Q65 ♦Q106 ♣AQJ3</p> <p>♠AQ10753      ♠J62 ♥K832            ♥J4 ♦5                 ♦A843 ♣64                ♣K1095</p> <p>♠K ♥A1097 ♦KJ972 ♣872</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Imogen La Chapelle</b></p> <p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Some aggressive players may choose to open the South hand, but with the ♠K singleton and no attractive rebid, pass is preferable. West also has a decision between an aggressive 1♠ opener or the more common 2♠. Since East is a passed hand, West is less worried about missing a heart fit by opening a weak two. At this vulnerability a weak two suggests a sound hand, so East will be willing to compete – here she raises directly to the level of the nine-card fit.</p> <p>With the king of spades and both aces all favourably placed for declarer, game cannot be beaten. On a trump lead, declarer can only ruff one heart in dummy, losing two hearts and a club for ten tricks. On any other lead, West can ruff two hearts in dummy to make eleven.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠	All pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
		Pass	Pass										
2♠	Pass	3♠	All pass										

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

<p>♠Q2 ♥AJ93 ♦3 ♣AKJ543</p> <p>♠AJ1054      ♠K97 ♥KQ65        ♥10874 ♦94            ♦A62 ♣Q7            ♣986</p> <p>♠863 ♥2 ♦KQJ10875 ♣102</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Oscar Selby</b></p> <p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>South should open a pre-emptive 3♦: his hand is perfect hand for it with a strong suit and no defensive tricks.</p> <p>West has the main decision to make here, double seems right, as it's up to the hand with the shorter diamonds to find a bid on this auction (partner could have thirteen points and a four-card major, but can't double holding three diamonds – e.g. 2-4-3-4 shape – so game could be missed if you pass). I don't like 3♠ here as too often you will miss a heart fit (it's also dangerous if next hand has ♠KQ987).</p> <p>South leads diamonds against 3♥, declarer wins and probably plays a heart to the King and Ace. North plays three rounds of clubs, ruffed in dummy. Now if declarer cashes dummy's top heart, he gets a count on the hand, and might decide to take a spade finesse through South. That would be an unlucky four off.</p> <p>In 3♦ all that matters is that East-West cash their three spade tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				3♦	Dble	Pass	3♥	All pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
			3♦										
Dble	Pass	3♥	All pass										

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

<p>♠73 ♥Q108 ♦QJ1053 ♣973</p> <p>♠A                ♠K9 ♥7642            ♥A953 ♦A9                ♦K762 ♣K108542      ♣AJ6</p> <p>♠QJ1086542 ♥KJ ♦84 ♣Q</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Oscar Selby</b></p> <p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>This auction could go a lot of ways, but East-West must either bid game or double their opponents in a contract, otherwise something has gone wrong.</p> <p>With eight spades, bidding just 3♠ would make it too easy for opponents to bid 4♥, so South tries 4♠. Over this West must pass as East could have a six count, and East doubles 4♠ as she is happy to defend it (one must act here with opening+ values). West's bid now is very interesting, I would lean towards bidding as opposite even only something like xx AKQx xxx Axxx which is a thirteen count, 7♥ has good play. If 4NT is available as two places to play then this is much better than 5♣, and should result in East-West playing 5♥, which will make when both hearts and clubs behave.</p> <p>5♣ is a better contract here than 5♥, but scores worse at pairs when both make. And the winning action for West is to pass East's double, scoring +500. Perhaps that's best with two short aces and slam seldom biddable even if it's there.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1♣	Pass	1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble	All pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
1♣	Pass	1♥	4♠										
Pass	Pass	Dble	All pass										

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
5		N	-	-	-	1	-
11	15	S	-	-	-	1	-
		E	6	3	5	-	6
		W	6	3	5	-	6

<p>♠ K762 ♥ A976 ♦ K874 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ 1085            ♠ QJ ♥ 10                ♥ KQ543 ♦ J10965          ♦ A2 ♣ Q1075          ♣ A963</p> <p>♠ A943 ♥ J82 ♦ Q3 ♣ K842</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Oscar Selby</b></p> <p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North has an interesting decision when 1♥ is passed to her. Passing is wrong with so many points (eleven in a passed hand). 1♠ is a very reasonable bid (South will raise to 2♠ and will get a great score as this avoids a heart lead through the Ace), or in my auction North chooses double after which South bids 1♠, West, who has limited his hand, can safely make a takeout double and North, who is also limited, ends the auction by raising to 2♠.</p> <p>Against 2♠, ♥K lead looks natural (but a trump is less risky and would work better). From the bidding North knows the ♥10 was a singleton so she wins and plays ♠A, ♠K and a club towards ♣K. It doesn't matter whether East takes the ♣A or not, North will ruff two clubs in hand while establishing tricks in hearts and diamonds, losing one trick in each suit for +140.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	1♠	Dble	2♠	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
	Pass	1♥	Pass														
Pass	Dble	Pass	1♠														
Dble	2♠	All pass															

HCP		Makeable contracts					
11	16	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
3	10	N	-	1	1	3	1
		S	-	-	1	2	1
		E	1	-	-	-	-
		W	1	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ Q974 ♥ A54 ♦ AJ84 ♣ Q5</p> <p>♠ AK103            ♠ 85 ♥ KQ102           ♥ J973 ♦ Q975             ♦ 62 ♣ J                   ♣ K9864</p> <p>♠ J62 ♥ 86 ♦ K103 ♣ A10732</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Venetia Anoyrkatis</b></p> <p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>West opens 1♥ in third seat, North would love to bid but with no five-card suit and only two clubs she passes – adventurous Norths who do decide to double here will likely end up as dummy in clubs, which won't fare too well with a 5-1 break. When North passes, East raises to 2♥ and West plays there.</p> <p>The simplest defence to 2♥ is for North to lead a small trump. Declarer wins and leads a club covered all round and the defence plays two more rounds of trumps. Now declarer can take a ruffing finesse in clubs to set up the eight, but one club, four trumps and two spades makes one off.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥	All pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
		Pass	Pass										
1♥	Pass	2♥	All pass										

HCP		Makeable contracts					
13	4	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
15	8	N	1	2	-	3	2
		S	1	2	-	2	2
		E	-	-	1	-	-
		W	-	-	1	-	-

<p>♠ Q652 ♥ Q64 ♦ AK9 ♣ AK6</p> <p>♠ A93                ♠ J108 ♥ K                   ♥ AJ1052 ♦ 7542              ♦ J86 ♣ J9852            ♣ Q4</p> <p>♠ K74 ♥ 9873 ♦ Q103 ♣ 1073</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Venetia Anoyrkatis</b></p> <p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Playing Acol, North opens 1♠. East with only nine points and a 5332 shape passes, followed by South who only has five points, and with three spades is happy to play there. With a singleton heart and not much in high cards West also passes. With spades 3-3 this is an easy seven tricks, making two spades, three diamonds and two clubs.</p> <p>If South responds to the opening bid, whether with 1NT or 2♠, his side will get too high. The best result will go to pairs playing a method where North can open 1♣ and rebid 1NT to show 18-19 balanced — that contract will make the same seven tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	Pass	1♠	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
			Pass										
Pass	1♠	All pass											

HCP		Makeable contracts					
18	9	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
8	5	N	1	1	1	1	1
		S	1	1	1	1	1
		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ KQ ♥ J1086 ♦ KQJ87 ♣ 62</p> <p>♠ J86                      ♠ 107543 ♥ 732                      ♥ A ♦ A1062                  ♦ 953 ♣ A93                      ♣ KJ107</p> <p>♠ A92 ♥ KQ954 ♦ 4 ♣ Q854</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Venetia Anoyrkatis</b></span></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♥</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♥</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="5">All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>North opens one diamond in second seat, South responds one heart, and North raises to 2♥. Although South only has eleven high-card points and a singleton diamond opposite partner's suit, with six losers opposite an opening hand I think he should raise to 4♥. Unfortunately, when dummy goes down it's not looking hopeful. You have one heart, one diamond and two clubs to lose. On a spade lead, declarer plays a top diamond at trick two. East-West need to cash their two club tricks or they may not get them.</p>		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥		Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥		All pass																				
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<p>♠ 9864 ♥ K4 ♦ 764 ♣ AK96</p> <p>♠ AKJ1072              ♠ 3 ♥ A832                  ♥ J10765 ♦ 108                    ♦ AK9 ♣ 4                      ♣ J532</p> <p>♠ Q5 ♥ Q9 ♦ QJ532 ♣ Q1087</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Aaron Hutton</b></span></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td colspan="4">All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>After three passes West opens 1♠, then East should be able to find a 2♥ bid in any system as a passed hand. This may look light, but as a passed hand we can add a few more hands into our two-over-one auctions, as we're already quite limited, and the upside of finding a five-three heart fit, which might be lost otherwise, is big. After hearing 2♥ from partner West has a clear 4♥ bid, knowing that East has five of them. Give East a hand like xx xxxxx Axx xxx, we just need hearts two-two, and that's only given East four points!</p> <p>In 4♥ declarer will lose a club and a trump and with the ♠Q falling should have a quick claim after drawing trumps. The defence do have to be careful to cash the club, either initially or after winning a trump trick, or it can go away on the spades.</p>		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass		4♥	All pass																			
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<p>♠ J9742 ♥ J96543 ♦ 6 ♣ 2</p> <p>♠ A106                      ♠ K3 ♥ AQ82                    ♥ K7 ♦ J9                         ♦ KQ8754 ♣ K876                    ♣ J105</p> <p>♠ Q85 ♥ 10 ♦ A1032 ♣ AQ943</p>	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all <span style="float: right;"><b>Aaron Hutton</b></span></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td colspan="4">All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Over East's 1♦ opening South has to decide whether they want to try a five-card 2♣ bid or simply pass. I would vote for pass as I don't think my clubs are good enough and I have a conservative style for most two-level overcalls, although taking up almost a level of bidding over 1♦ is tempting. Whatever South decides, West is likely to end up declaring 3NT and receive a spade lead.</p> <p>After winning the ♠K in dummy and playing a diamond to the Jack and a diamond back declarer will get the bad news. South will win the diamond and continue spades. Now declarer must be careful to win the third round of spades, cash the ace and king of hearts, then play diamonds, hoping that South has the ♣A and ♣Q, in which case he can't stop us getting back to the dummy to cash our diamonds. South could have beaten the contract by returning a heart, retaining his spade exit. Declarer should have ducked at trick one!</p>		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass		3NT	All pass																			
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<p>♠ 85 ♥ A54 ♦ Q9874 ♣ J109</p> <p>♠ AKJ962      ♠ Q1074 ♥ J              ♥ K32 ♦ K106         ♦ A2 ♣ AQ3           ♣ K742</p> <p>♠ 3 ♥ Q109876 ♦ J53 ♣ 865</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Aaron Hutton</b></p> <p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>After East shows a good hand with spade support, whether that is via Jacoby 2NT, a pudding-raise 3NT (as shown) or a delayed raise to 4♠ via 2♣, West can envision many hands with the ♦A/♥A and ♣K where slam is good, and, with controls in every suit, has no excuse not to try 4NT asking for aces. Once partner says they have one ace and a ten-card fit is known, 6♠ is the obvious contract.</p> <p>Whether defending 4♠ or 6♠ North must be awake to take her ♥A when the ♥J is led because she only has one chance.</p> <p>Matchpoint specialists might try 6NT, which makes with clubs 3-3 or the ace of hearts onside, but you can't always try both.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♠	Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	6♠	All pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
			Pass																		
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4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass																		
6♠	All pass																				

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
7	12	N	-	-	-	-	-
18	3	S	-	-	-	-	-
		E	6	2	2	6	6
		W	6	2	2	6	6

<p>♠ J74 ♥ 987 ♦ 10962 ♣ A108</p> <p>♠ K82              ♠ 109653 ♥ Q5                ♥ 43 ♦ Q843             ♦ AK ♣ KQJ4             ♣ 9763</p> <p>♠ AQ ♥ AKJ1062 ♦ J75 ♣ 52</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Henry Rose</b></p> <p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X*</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Here North-South need to find a way to compete to 3♥ but no further to score well. In my auction, where East-West play strong notrump, South easily shows his hand by overcalling in hearts. One bid of note is West's conventional 'support' double, often played by strong notrump players, which shows exactly three-card support for responder. This fits well with a strong notrump as you will often have a minimum balanced hand with three-cards in partner's major. If West can open a weak notrump, then when East transfers with 2♥ some South players may double 2♥ instead of bidding, perhaps even passing 2♠ out. In my book South should get this right and bid 3♥ anyway as he is so strong, and at this vulnerability West should certainly pass despite his spade fit.</p> <p>In 3♥, South does best to duck the club lead. Then even on an unlikely diamond switch, East cashing his winners and putting a spade through, declarer can make by rising ace and running trumps to squeeze West.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1♦	Pass	1♠	2♥	X*	3♥	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
1♦	Pass	1♠	2♥										
X*	3♥	All pass											

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
5	7	N	-	1	3	-	2
13	15	S	-	1	3	-	2
		E	2	-	-	1	-
		W	2	-	-	1	-

<p>♠ Q1094 ♥ 9854 ♦ J53 ♣ 106</p> <p>♠ AK8              ♠ - ♥ Q106             ♥ J732 ♦ AQ10864        ♦ K ♣ A                 ♣ KQJ87542</p> <p>♠ J76532 ♥ AK ♦ 972 ♣ 93</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Henry Rose</b></p> <p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♦*</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠*</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♣</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This is a wild board in which I'm sure there will have been many different auctions, probably based on East's opening choice. I like 4♣ because it shows the good eight-card suit immediately, and although ignoring a side four-card major can be risky when bidding a six-card suit, with eight it's very rare that the major will factor into the decision. Furthermore, partner will expect me to have a decent hand to pre-empt second in, as I am only pre-empting one unpassed opponent, whereas first in I can make some exceptions because I will be depriving both opponents of room. Against that you will likely never show your true shape or strength this way, and opening 1♣, 5♣ or perhaps even passing may well have their day. After 4♣ the partnership can only play in clubs, so 4♦ is control showing. East can bid 4♠, showing a spade control but denying a heart control, and the partnership will stop safely below slam.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♠*	Pass	5♣	All pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
	Pass	4♣	Pass														
4♦*	Pass	4♠*	Pass														
5♣	All pass																

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
3	10	N	-	-	-	-	-
19	8	S	-	-	-	-	-
		E	5	5	5	1	5
		W	5	5	5	1	5

<p>♠ AK42 ♥ Q10954 ♦ - ♣ A863</p> <p>♠ 96                      ♠ 3 ♥ J2                      ♥ A76 ♦ J1084                  ♦ KQ97632 ♣ QJ1095                ♣ 42</p> <p>♠ QJ10875 ♥ K83 ♦ A5 ♣ K7</p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Henry Rose</b></span></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♦</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦*</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣*</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This board is a simple question of getting to slam with the North-South cards, although it may prove not so simple in practice. After East's pre-empt South has a clear-cut 3♠ bid, and although North is too good for a simple 4♠, bidding Blackwood with a void is inadvisable. Best is a cuebid of 4♦, setting spades with slam interest. South should show a heart control with his solid opening hand and North-South will bid to slam. Or if West has raised East's pre-empt to 4♦ then North can cue 5♦ with her void and North-South should get to slam anyway. Some Wests might choose to save, but most will prefer to find out whether the slam makes.</p> <p>In the play, South should ruff clubs to get a count, and may eliminate the minors. With East known to have three hearts, declarer may well finesse the wrong way.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			3♦	3♠	Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥*	Pass	5♣*	Pass	5♦*	Pass	6♠	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
		3♦	3♠																		
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥*																		
Pass	5♣*	Pass	5♦*																		
Pass	6♠	All pass																			

HCP		Makeable contracts			
			♣	♦	♥
13		N	2	-	6
5	9	S	2	-	6
		E	-	2	-
13		W	-	2	-

<p>♠ Q ♥ KQ109732 ♦ 7 ♣ K1075</p> <p>♠ 987643                ♠ A5 ♥ -                      ♥ 854 ♦ QJ653                ♦ K42 ♣ J4                      ♣ A9832</p> <p>♠ KJ102 ♥ AJ6 ♦ A1098 ♣ Q6</p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Oliver Powell</b></span></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </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>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>After 4♥, the North hand has the potential to make a lot of tricks and slam will be odds on to make with South holding as little as a perfect fourteen count – ♥A, ♣AQ and a pointed suit Ace – so trying for slam seems reasonable. When North finds out they are missing two aces however the brakes are sharply applied.</p> <p>If playing Roman Keycard Blackwood, please note that North holds the ♥Q, so she knows that South won't respond 5♠ and take the auction too high.</p> <p>5♥ should be a trivial eleven tricks as spades can be established to throw the small clubs away.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥	All pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
			1♠																		
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥																		
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥																		
All pass																					

HCP		Makeable contracts			
			♣	♦	♥
10		N	1	-	5
4	11	S	1	-	5
		E	-	-	1
15		W	-	-	1

<p>♠ Q73 ♥ K75 ♦ A ♣ KQJ852</p> <p>♠ AJ1084                ♠ 52 ♥ Q6                    ♥ 984 ♦ Q92                    ♦ KJ10654 ♣ A109                 ♣ 73</p> <p>♠ K96 ♥ AJ1032 ♦ 873 ♣ 64</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable <span style="float: right;"><b>Oliver Powell</b></span></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>A hot topic for debate among Acol players is whether to open the West hand 1♠ or 1NT; the modern approach tends to be to open 1NT and get across your precise point range and that you have a balanced hand shape. This avoids running into a rebid problem on the auction 1♠ (P) 2♣ (P) ?, where 2♠ normally shows six and 2NT would show 15+ high-card points.</p> <p>After a penalty double from North and East running to her long suit, a 2♥ bid from South would be non-forcing, so he jumps to 3♥ to show enough values to play in game.</p> <p>West leads the two of diamonds, and declarer deduces that East has something in diamonds, marking West with most of the rest of the high cards. One possible line is to lead clubs from dummy. West wins the second round and forces in diamonds, declarer leads another club, ruffed and overruffed, and makes eleven tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1NT	Dble	2♦	3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
1NT	Dble	2♦	3♥										
Pass	4♥	All pass											

HCP		Makeable contracts			
			♣	♦	♥
15		N	4	-	5
13	4	S	4	-	5
		E	-	2	-
8		W	-	2	-

<p>♠ J9 ♥ J10 ♦ J954 ♣ AK875</p> <p>♠ A87543      ♠ K ♥ Q2            ♥ AK98765 ♦ A8            ♦ 7632 ♣ QJ4           ♣ 9</p> <p>♠ Q1062 ♥ 43 ♦ KQ10 ♣ 10632</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Oliver Powell</b></p> <p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>1♥, 3♥ and 4♥ are all possible bids that will be opened in the field. The East hand doesn't fit into any of the traditional heart openings. 3♥ with seven hearts is fine, but East is 1=7=4=1 shape and therefore has more playing strength than a normal 3♥ bid. 1♥ is the choice if East wishes to have a constructive auction, but on another day East will be guessing whether to pull 3NT to 4♥ later in the auction. Bidding 1♥ also might allow the opponents into the auction to find their fit.</p> <p>Opening 4♥ is a practical two-way shot, you will get a good score when 4♥ is making or when North-South have a game and they have to try and sort out the right action at the four or five level immediately. Even when 4♥ is double-dummy off, the defence may let it through with a losing lead due to the lack of information in the auction.</p> <p>On this deal, if East-West reach 4♥, a trump lead will be needed to stop East ruffing a diamond in the dummy for eleven tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	4♥	All pass																																								
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<p>♠ QJ106 ♥ 1087 ♦ 1094 ♣ KQ7</p> <p>♠ 9                      ♠ 32 ♥ K6543              ♥ AJ92 ♦ AQ5                 ♦ KJ83 ♣ AJ98                ♣ 542</p> <p>♠ AK8754 ♥ Q ♦ 762 ♣ 1063</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Andy Cope</b></p> <p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>After a weak 2♠ from South, West has the decision between double and 3♥. A poor-looking heart suit and a lot of outside strength sway the decision towards a double: bidding 3♥ vulnerable could prove costly on a different layout. North chooses between 3♠ and 4♠, with 4♠ resulting in a better outcome for North-South as 4♠ doubled will go down two for -300, or push East-West to a doomed 5♥. After 3♠, East should bid 4♥ and may end up playing there.</p> <p>After a top spade lead against 4♥, a club switch is needed for the defence to come to their three tricks. Else declarer can draw trumps and eliminate spades and diamonds before leading a club to the nine, forcing North to win with the Queen. North is then forced to return a club into dummy's tenace or concede a ruff and discard, resulting in eleven tricks for East-West. With a spade singleton in dummy, North's trick one card should be suit preference — a low spade to suggest a club switch.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	2♠	Dble	3♠	4♥	All pass																																				
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HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
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	9	E	3	4	4	-	1																																										
		W	3	4	4	-	1																																										

<p>♠ 5 ♥ 9843 ♦ K107 ♣ AQ964</p> <p>♠ QJ8643      ♠ A72 ♥ A762           ♥ QJ10 ♦ J                ♦ AQ852 ♣ 52              ♣ J7</p> <p>♠ K109 ♥ K5 ♦ 9643 ♣ K1083</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Andy Cope</b></p> <p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>A controversial pass by West initially, but holding both majors he may refrain from opening a weak 2♠, fearing his side may miss a heart fit. After 1NT, West will need to determine how strong he values his hand to be. If he decides to invite game, he'll be glad to be a passed hand since 3♠ after Stayman is now plainly invitational. If he prefers to play a part score, he can simply bid 2♠ when opener denies a four-card major.</p> <p>The lie is favourable enough, but the auction has been informative, and North may give declarer a problem by leading diamonds, or leading clubs then switching to diamonds. Now declarer will need to guess well to make ten tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All pass																												
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HCP		Makeable contracts																																															
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9		N	1	-	-	-	-																																										
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		W	-	1	2	4	1																																										

<p>♠ 8752 ♥ A96 ♦ 10942 ♣ J2</p> <p>♠ AK964      ♠ 3 ♥ K85      ♥ QJ10732 ♦ 87      ♦ Q ♣ K75      ♣ A9864</p> <p>♠ QJ10 ♥ 4 ♦ AKJ653 ♣ Q103</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Andy Cope</b></p> <p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>4♦</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>After a simple auction to 4♥, declarer finds a suitable dummy and expects to lose only the red aces and a club. South leads out the top diamonds, East ruffs the second round and the only threat to the contract is a possible 4-1 club break and 3-1 heart break, rather unlikely on this auction where North-South have rightly declined to save in 5♦. She starts with ♥Q, which North ducks in tempo. One option now would be to play two rounds of clubs, aiming to lead the second round through the hand with the singleton, and eventually ruff the fourth round in dummy. The other is to test spades. Declarers who take this approach will be rewarded when ♠QJ10 come down in three rounds. Now there are three spade discards for the clubs, and declarer will be pleased with her overtrick.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1♠	Pass	2♥	3♦	3♥	4♦	4♥	All pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
1♠	Pass	2♥	3♦										
3♥	4♦	4♥	All pass										

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

<p>♠ J92 ♥ KQ932 ♦ 8 ♣ QJ93</p> <p>♠ Q654      ♠ A1087 ♥ J7      ♥ A65 ♦ QJ32      ♦ A964 ♣ 752      ♣ K10</p> <p>♠ K3 ♥ 1084 ♦ K1075 ♣ A864</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Charlie Bucknell &amp; Ewa Wieczorek</b></p> <p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South has a tricky decision when 2♠ returns to him at matchpoints, but with three points in the enemy suit and only three hearts, balancing seems visionary. South will most likely lead a heart to the queen and ace. Declarer will want to draw trumps; the natural line is start by cashing the ace but this leads to enormous entry issues. The best play is to lead one towards the queen immediately, preserving the ace in hand. South will win and play another heart, North might immediately play a diamond through, now East needs to read the hand. If she flies ace, draws trumps ending in hand, and plays a low diamond to dummy, she will emerge with eight tricks: three diamonds, four spades and a heart. Double dummy of course says that you can beat it, but you must lead diamonds twice to give a ruff, as the king of diamonds doesn't disappear. Declarer can also go off by running the Queen of diamonds, which ends up with two diamond losers.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	2♠	Pass	1♠	Pass		All pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
2♠	Pass	1♠	Pass										
	All pass												

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

<p>♠ A754 ♥ A10752 ♦ 75 ♣ K6</p> <p>♠ J6      ♠ K1032 ♥ 94      ♥ K863 ♦ Q94      ♦ J1062 ♣ AQJ984      ♣ 2</p> <p>♠ Q98 ♥ QJ ♦ AK83 ♣ 10753</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Imogen La Chapelle</b></p> <p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2♦*</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This auction will vary depending on your system, but most pairs will end up in a part score at the two level. On this auction, South chooses to play in no trumps opposite an invitational hand with no major fit, because it's match points. On the ♣Q lead, South plays the King and sees the two from East, suggesting the clubs are 6-1 since West is unlikely to lead from ♣AQJx. Hearts are the best source of tricks and since this is match points, South should cross to hand with a diamond and lead the sneaky ♥J out of hand. If East correctly ducks twice then declarer has to change tack and go all in on spades for the eighth trick by playing a spade to the Ace, cashing the top heart and then leading a spade towards the Queen.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	P		P	1NT	P	2♦*	P	2♥	P	2♠	P	2NT		All pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
P		P	1NT																		
P	2♦*	P	2♥																		
P	2♠	P	2NT																		
	All pass																				

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

<p>♠ 2 ♥ KJ6 ♦ Q852 ♣ K9763</p> <p>♠ A4                      ♠ KQ10876 ♥ AQ9432                ♥ 8 ♦ AKJ3                    ♦ 74 ♣ 10                        ♣ J852</p> <p>♠ J953 ♥ 1075 ♦ 1096 ♣ AQ4</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Oscar Selby</b></p> <p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</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>It is important that West rebids 3♦ over 1♠ with his very strong eighteen count: he has to make a forcing bid because he expects to make game even opposite a minimum, so 2♦ or 3♥ are wrong. (He might survive an underbid on this deal since East may go back to spades anyway.)</p> <p>Against 4♠, a diamond lead looks most natural (a heart would be fine too but might set up the suit on some layouts). Declarer should win in dummy and play a club. South wins and plays another diamond which should be won in dummy again. Due to a lack of entries to ruff two clubs safely, it's best to play ♠A, ♥A and ruff a heart to hand low, then ruff a club and ruff a diamond back to hand. After cashing the King and Queen of spades declarer will lose a spade and a second club for +420.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All pass																														
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																																														
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3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass																																														
4♠	All pass																																																
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<p>♠ 76 ♥ KQ10 ♦ KJ8742 ♣ J9</p> <p>♠ AK852                      ♠ J9 ♥ A752                        ♥ J963 ♦ 106                         ♦ A ♣ 63                         ♣ KQ10842</p> <p>♠ Q1043 ♥ 84 ♦ Q953 ♣ A75</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Venetia Anoyrkatis</b></p> <p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>West opens 1♠ (eleven points but passes the rule of twenty). North may overcall an aggressive 2♦ (not clear-cut vulnerable with not a great shape). East should double, looking for a heart fit. South raises to 3♦. West bids 3♥, no extras but likely they will have a heart fit and East, with six losers opposite an opening hand, raises to 4♥.</p> <p>I expect North will lead a low diamond. When dummy goes down West can see two heart losers if the suit breaks: so long as they only have one club loser the contract seems good. It's a good idea to keep control of the trump suit, so you cross to hand in spades to lead a club, which South does well to duck, then back to another spade for another club, collecting the Jack, Queen, and Ace. It doesn't help South to give North a club ruff, so he tries forcing dummy with a diamond. Declarer tries dummy's club winner anyway, discarding a spade, and North chooses to discard a diamond rather than shorten his trumps. Now South ducks a round of trumps and is in position to scramble ten tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1♠	2♦	Dble	3♦	3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass																																				
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<p>♠ 7 ♥ Q652 ♦ J107 ♣ A8732</p> <p>♠ AJ1092                      ♠ KQ8643 ♥ 1098                        ♥ A7 ♦ AKQ9                        ♦ 8654 ♣ J                              ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ 5 ♥ KJ43 ♦ 32 ♣ KQ10954</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Aaron Hutton</b></p> <p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>After the normal weak 2♠ bid from East, South isn't strong enough to bid at the three level, although on this hand it might work out as it would allow North-South to find a 5♣ sacrifice over 4♠. When South passes, West must decide whether to just bid 4♠ or look for a slam. It is possible to construct hands for East where East-West are making a slam, swap the hearts and clubs on the actual hand, for example. But without methods to look for a singleton heart, I would simply bid 4♠ on the West hand and hope everyone else does the same.</p> <p>So long as the defence don't give a club ruff-and-discard at trick two, eleven tricks is the limit in spades.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All pass																																						
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<p>♠ K7 ♥ QJ3 ♦ Q9432 ♣ J52</p> <p>♠ 1098643      ♠ Q5 ♥ 1097          ♥ AK4 ♦ 106            ♦ KJ75 ♣ 98             ♣ K743</p> <p>♠ AJ2 ♥ 8652 ♦ A8 ♣ AQ106</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Henry Rose</b></p> <p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></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>Here, although 3NT is the top making spot for North-South, it is hard to bid and not trivial to make. At tables where East opens a strong no-trump North-South will never get into the auction, and East will likely drift one or two off in 2♠. If East opens 1♣ then North-South should power to game with 1NT–3NT; on a spade lead South will do well to get home. One option would be to win the first trick in hand, cross to the king of spades – safe enough with West known to be weak – then lead the Jack of clubs to the King and Ace, then cash the Queen. West obliges with another high club spot, so you exit in hearts and let East help you, eventually coming to three spades, four clubs, and two tricks in the red suits.</p> <p>If 1♦ is opened then South will probably double with such a weak stop and North should respond 1NT, showing about 6-9 high-card points in this position, and probably ending the auction. East is likely to make a helpful opening lead, and declarer will often come to ten tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	All pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
		1NT	Pass										
2♥	Pass	2♠	All pass										

HCP	Makeable contracts					
9 0 15		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	N	3	2	3	-	3
	S	3	2	2	-	3
	E	-	-	-	1	-
	W	-	-	-	1	-

<p>♠ AJ542 ♥ QJ ♦ A875 ♣ Q5</p> <p>♠ K97            ♠ Q103 ♥ 643            ♥ A2 ♦ J96            ♦ K103 ♣ KJ84          ♣ A10763</p> <p>♠ 86 ♥ K109875 ♦ Q42 ♣ 92</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Oliver Powell</b></p> <p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South is light for a weak-two opening at this vulnerability, but the heart spots offer some protection. East would prefer to hold four spades to make a takeout double, but with thirteen high-card points and short hearts it's too dangerous to pass. West should keep this in mind as East is under pressure to take action in the pass-out seat and may not have the perfect shape for her double – my partners never do! – and should bid 2NT if you play that as a Lebensohl negative.</p> <p>During the play, trick number nine will depend on finding the Jack of spades.</p> <p>If South doesn't open then the auction should be uncontested: 1♠–1NT; 2♦–2♥; P, as East-West don't have a good opportunity to come into the auction. 2♥ should make comfortably: one drawback with pre-empts which make opponents guess is that sometimes they guess right.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	Dble	2♥	3♣	All pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
Pass	Pass	Dble	2♥										
3♣	All pass												

HCP	Makeable contracts					
14 8 5		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	N	-	1	2	-	-
	S	-	1	2	-	-
	E	3	-	-	-	2
	W	3	-	-	-	2

<p>♠ Q5 ♥ K74 ♦ KQ104 ♣ AQ95</p> <p>♠ J1098          ♠ AK73 ♥ AJ86          ♥ Q1032 ♦ J                ♦ A93 ♣ J873          ♣ 64</p> <p>♠ 642 ♥ 95 ♦ 87652 ♣ K102</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Andy Cope</b></p> <p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♣*</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>2♣* Landy (Both majors)</p> <p>If East-West can find either of their major-suit fits, they'll be rewarded here. But when North opens a strong no-trump, who should show both majors? East may take the pro-active decision to get in early or West may back in, sitting in the pass-out seat, aiming to steal the contract in two of a major. If West is given the choice of which major to play in, he may instinctively choose to play in hearts but knowing where the majority of the points are located, he should choose spades since finesses through North are more likely to succeed than heart finesses through South. On the King of diamonds lead, declarer will need to be careful to ensure he gets the most out of a simple-looking hand. He wants to ruff two diamonds and should start right away: diamond ruff, spade, diamond ruff, spade. When the Queen comes up he can draw the last trump with the seven of spades, and take the losing heart finesse, scoring four spades plus two ruffs, three hearts and the ace of diamonds, for ten tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1NT	2♣*	Pass	2♠	All pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
Pass	1NT	2♣*	Pass										
2♠	All pass												

HCP	Makeable contracts					
16 8 3		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	N	1	3	-	-	-
	S	1	3	-	-	-
	E	-	-	4	4	-
	W	-	-	4	4	-