

EBED



Sim Pairs

Commentary by Graham Osborne

Wednesday
7th September 2022

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 works to improve and develop the infrastructure for bridge teaching in England. This has been achieved, by providing focussed training for bridge teachers (members of EBTA, our English Bridge Teaching Association) to support them with the new skills needed for online teaching and adapting methods used in classroom-based learning. We continue to provide a gentle introduction for new players, to online 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, Inter-Schools League and Youth Grand Prix, and runs the Junior Summer Camp. 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](https://www.amazon.com/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

♠ 9862 ♥ Q8 ♦ AQ5 ♣ AK95 ♠ J54 ♥ 105 ♦ 1076 ♣ QJ743 ♠ A107 ♥ J9732 ♦ K42 ♣ 82 ♠ KQ3 ♥ AK64 ♦ J983 ♣ 106		Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all West North East South Pass 1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass 1NT Pass 3NT All Pass																																										
<table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>13</td></tr> </table>	HCP		15	8	4	13	<table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	5	4	5	5	S	4	5	3	5	5	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	Strict adherents to four card major openings might disapprove of the 1♣ opening, but when I have a very weak major in a strong balanced hand I prefer an alternative if possible, as I don't want to catch a raise to 2♠. Strong no-trumpers will have a Stayman sequence to the same contract. After a ♥ lead run to the Q, it feels natural to try a ♠ to the K and, when that wins, a ♦ to the Q and K. After the ♥ continuation won in dummy, cross to the ♦A and try another ♠. This isn't totally without risk (West may have ducked with AJTxx) but here should lead to 11 tricks. With ♣s, ♦s and ♠s lying so well for declarer, it's likely that 10 tricks or worse will score below average for declarer.
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<p> ♠ Q6 ♥ K65 ♦ AQ94 ♣ 8762 ♠ AJ95432 ♠ 10 ♥ 3 ♥ AQ10872 ♦ 3 ♦ KJ102 ♣ KQ105 ♣ J9 ♠ K87 ♥ J94 ♦ 8765 ♣ A43 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11		N	-	-	-	-	10	11	S	-	-	-	-	8		E	2	2	3	3			W	3	2	3	3	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>If West has reached 4♠ and gets a ♣ lead to the A and a ♣ continuation, then declarer can win in hand and take a ♥ finesse to dispose of his ♦ loser. However, say North has led the ♣7 (second highest from a bad suit): South should be able to work out that it is mostly likely high from bad cards (it can be only be low if the original holding is exactly QT7 or KT7, giving declarer 5 ♣s), which suggests playing a ♦ at trick two to cash partner's ace given that South can see that the ♥ finesse is right. Declarer has a second line of play for ten tricks, hoping the ♠s play for one loser, which he should adopt in 3♠ as he is not risking the contract: Cross to the ♥A and run the ♠T, hoping South has Qx, Kx KQ or KQx in trumps.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠	All Pass		
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<p>♠ Q1075 ♥ A10 ♦ Q95 ♣ 10642</p> <p>♠ J4 ♠ K83 ♥ J85 ♥ KQ9764 ♦ KJ84 ♦ A76 ♣ Q853 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ A962 ♥ 32 ♦ 1032 ♣ AK97</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="71 577 193 748"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 577 475 748"> <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>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		8		8	13	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	-	2	-	S	2	-	-	2	-	E	-	2	2	-	1	W	-	2	2	-	1	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="497 136 999 241"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>South's double is marginal at unfavourable vulnerability, but we do have prime cards and four ♠s which I think makes it a worthwhile risk. Here the double does its job, enabling North to compete to 2♠ pushing the opponents to the 3 level, but the defence has to be accurate to take advantage of this. After a top ♣ lead with North discouraging, a ♦ switch looks risky (although it happens to be safe here) so it looks natural to switch to a trump, and North will play Ace and another. Declarer will try the ♦ finesse and now the defence will prevail as long as North does not play a ♠.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♥	Dble	2♥	2♠	3♥	All Pass								
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<p>♠ K ♥ A1072 ♦ J762 ♣ AK96</p> <p>♠ 1083 ♠ 9765 ♥ K86 ♥ QJ54 ♦ K109 ♦ A8543 ♣ Q873 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ AQJ42 ♥ 93 ♦ Q ♣ J10542</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="71 1243 193 1413"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>15</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 1243 475 1413"> <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>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		15		8	7	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	-	1	4	2	S	5	-	1	3	2	E	-	1	-	-	-	W	-	1	-	-	-	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="497 801 979 987"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North can open 1♥ as 1NT looks like an easy rebid over the likely 1♠ response. If South can show a 5-5 hand then North should definitely go for the game in ♣s since ♦s may well be a weak spot in NT, as indeed is the case here. With ♣s falling over, 3NT should fail whether East leads a ♥ or a ♦. 5♣ looks routine but is complicated by the 4-0 break. If West leads a low ♦ to the Ace, declarer ruffs the ♦ return, plays a ♣ to Ace discovering the break, unblocks ♠K, and ruffs another ♦, developing a trick for the ♦J. Now running ♠s through West should be sufficient to wrap up the game. The reality will be that any North-Souths going plus should score well.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass	
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1♠	2♣	2♥	3♦														
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3♠	4♦	4♠	All Pass														

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

<p>♠ 5 ♥ 109763 ♦ J3 ♣ AQ876</p> <p>♠ 642 ♠ K10973 ♥ A8542 ♥ KQJ ♦ 7 ♦ A42 ♣ J942 ♣ 105</p> <p>♠ AQJ8 ♥ - ♦ KQ109865 ♣ K3</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Double</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>When East opens with 1♠, South will overcall and, if partner scrapes up a responsive double, might chance 3NT, hoping that partner stops ♥s and he can get the ♦ suit going. This is straightforward as with the ♥ suit blocked there are only four tricks for the defence on any lead. An overtrick is quite likely if South arrives in 5♦. After a ♠ lead, declarer can win, ruff a ♠, and then drive out the ♦A for a valuable overtrick. Since some pairs will, no doubt, miss game, making either game should score above average.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♠	2♦	2♠	Double	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
West	North	East	South														
	Pass	1♠	2♦														
2♠	Double	Pass	3NT														
All Pass																	

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

<p>♠ Q10876 ♥ 1076 ♦ Q73 ♣ 52</p> <p>♠ KJ32 ♠ 5 ♥ QJ432 ♥ 985 ♦ 109 ♦ J865 ♣ J8 ♣ AQ943</p> <p>♠ A94 ♥ AK ♦ AK42 ♣ K1076</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North is just about worth a pot at game after the 2NT opening. If you want to be sophisticated, then South should really bid 4♣ to show a super 4♠ bid in case North has a marginal hand for slam.</p> <p>After ♥Q lead, unblock the ♥ honours, cross to the ♦Q and ruff a ♥. Next comes ♠A and I think ♠ to Q is best as you would quite like to win the second round of ♠s and try to ditch a ♣ from dummy if ♦s are 3-3. When ♠s prove to be 4-1 a rethink is in order and a ♣ towards the K is probably best now, although on this layout you will survive if you play ♦s instead.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass			
West	North	East	South																		
		Pass	2NT																		
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠																		
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠																		
All Pass																					

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
4		N	1	3	1	4	3
8	7	S	2	3	1	4	3
		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ A1097654 ♥ K42 ♦ 52 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ K ♠ J83 ♥ 1076 ♥ AJ953 ♦ Q1083 ♦ J ♣ AK1042 ♣ Q983</p> <p>♠ Q2 ♥ Q8 ♦ AK9764 ♣ J75</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="71 571 191 750"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 571 470 750"> <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>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		7		12	9	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	-	3	-	S	-	1	-	3	-	E	4	-	3	-	2	W	4	-	3	-	2	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="494 123 981 324"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1NT</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>Dble</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>2♠</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>4♣</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The offbeat weak no-trump opening isn't to everyone's taste, but the major suit queens are positional for declaring no-trumps and maybe you pre-empt the opponent's major fit. East chances a double of the transfer to show ♥s and West can cue the opponent's suit to show a good raise. When North competes in ♠s, West might suggest an alternative trump suit. As ever, when the vulnerability is love all, it is usually right to keep bidding; indeed 4♣ here, which is one down on best defence, has a decent chance to make. Say East leads his singleton ♦, declarer wins and plays a ♣. With the ♠K singleton, declarer has two entries to get the ♦ suit going but even one down doubled would be better than letting the opponents make 4♣. ♥s is held to nine tricks providing the defence play ♣s before declarer plays a round of ♥s.</p>	West	North	East	South				1NT	Pass	2♥	Dble	Pass	2♠	3♠	Pass	Pass	4♣	All Pass		
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<p>♠ AK952 ♥ 1073 ♦ 32 ♣ 872</p> <p>♠ Q1073 ♠ 6 ♥ AKQ ♥ J85 ♦ A9 ♦ KQJ8754 ♣ KQ109 ♣ 54</p> <p>♠ J84 ♥ 9642 ♦ 106 ♣ AJ63</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="71 1265 191 1444"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 1265 470 1444"> <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>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		7		20	7	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	5	2	2	3	W	2	5	2	2	4	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="494 828 981 907"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This should be everyone's 3NT and after the unrevealing auction, North is likely to lead a low ♠ which will give declarer an eleventh trick. With no outside entry a low ♠ lead looks normal, but anyone that chooses a high ♠ will give themselves a chance to earn a top score by viewing to cash-out when the source of tricks in dummy is revealed. South discourages on the first ♠ and then plays a suit preference 8 on the second round which in some fantasy world enables North to switch to a ♣ for a top!</p>	West	North	East	South	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass												
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<p>♠ J72 ♥ 2 ♦ AQ1075 ♣ A875</p> <p>♠ AK1083 ♠ Q964 ♥ 3 ♥ 8764 ♦ K632 ♦ J98 ♣ K93 ♣ QJ</p> <p>♠ 5 ♥ AKQJ1095 ♦ 4 ♣ 10642</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="71 1937 191 2116"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 1937 470 2116"> <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>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		11		13	6	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	-	4	-	2	S	4	-	4	-	2	E	-	1	-	2	-	W	-	1	-	2	-	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="494 1500 981 1657"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td></tr> <tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>4♥</td></tr> <tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>4♥ is an easy make losing a ♠ and two ♣s, so anyone that finds the 4♠ save has done very well, since the best the defence can do is a ♥ to south and then three rounds of ♦s with South ruffing and the ♣A to come for 500. East might try 3♠ non-vulnerable but 2♠ looks normal vulnerable. It is hard to appreciate that the doubleton ♣QJ is a great holding. Any North-Souths that push on to 5♥ over 4♠ will be disappointed as despite the ♦ finesse being right there is no useful discard.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass	2♠	4♥	All Pass							
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<p>♠ Q104 ♥ - ♦ 86543 ♣ A10652</p> <p>♠ 93 ♠ AJ86 ♥ AJ1084 ♥ 96532 ♦ KJ92 ♦ Q ♣ K7 ♣ Q43</p> <p>♠ K752 ♥ KQ7 ♦ A107 ♣ J98</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th colspan="2">NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		6		N	2	2	-	1	-	12	9	S	2	1	-	1	-			E	-	-	3	-	2			W	-	-	3	-	2	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>West overcalls to show ♥s and a minor. With five trumps, an ace and a singleton, it's tempting to just blast game, but stretching to thin games doesn't pay at matchpoints, and maybe partner has done a good thing just by overcalling in the first place.</p> <p>The defence is entitled to a trick in each suit and a ♠ lead will pretty much ensure that happens. Things are more delicate on a ♦ lead to the A, which, with the ♦10 falling, threatens to allow declarer to dispose of his ♠ loser. South has to find the play of a ♠ away from his K into dummy's strong holding to prevent this. Note that the bidding should alert declarer to the safety play in trumps to prevent the loss of two tricks in that suit.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1NT	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	All Pass
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<p>♠ 542 ♥ AJ103 ♦ A98 ♣ 965</p> <p>♠ KJ9763 ♠ 10 ♥ 5 ♥ Q9764 ♦ 76 ♦ KQ3 ♣ KJ84 ♣ A1073</p> <p>♠ AQ8 ♥ K82 ♦ J10542 ♣ Q2</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th colspan="2">NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		9		N	-	1	-	-	-	8	11	S	-	1	-	-	-			E	3	-	1	3	1			W	3	-	1	3	1	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>With 6-4 shape in the West hand, it is well worth getting involved over the weak no-trump opening. North would like to make a take-out double if his system permits but the three little ♠s are a very bad holding. In a ♠ partial declarer merely has to play the opening bidder for the ♣Q, or indeed have the suit picked up for him on the opening lead, to make nine tricks.</p> <p>When South has opened 1♦ and West has made a weak jump overcall of 2♠, the negative double for North looks a lot more attractive with the nice ♦ fit. Appearances can be deceiving, however, and with both ♦ honours wrong and wasted black suit Qs the likely result is -200 whether South finishes in 2NT or 3♦.</p>	West	North	East	South				1NT	2♠	All Pass						
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<p>♠ KQ10976 ♥ - ♦ 943 ♣ A832</p> <p>♠ A53 ♠ J8 ♥ Q94 ♥ A1052 ♦ 8762 ♦ AK105 ♣ 1076 ♣ 954</p> <p>♠ 42 ♥ KJ8763 ♦ QJ ♣ KQJ</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th colspan="2">NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</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> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		9		N	3	-	1	3	-	6	12	S	3	-	1	3	-			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>If you play a loose style of weak two opening, then the North hand will be too strong for 2♠ and you will have to open 1♠. Acting over 1♠ or 2♠ with the East hand is risky at the prevailing vulnerability and opposite a passed partner. Perhaps you could persuade me that there is enough upside over 1♠, but over 2♠ it is definitely too rich for my blood.</p> <p>Against a ♠ partial the key to stopping declarer making 10 tricks is to prevent the ♦ ruff. Cashing ♦AK and switching to a trump is OK but trying the ♥A next would be less successful.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	2♠	All Pass									
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West	North	East	South																																																														
Pass	2♠	All Pass																																																															

<p>♠ Q765 ♥ A108 ♦ 653 ♣ AK5</p> <p>♠ AJ83 ♠ - ♥ K7432 ♥ J65 ♦ J ♦ KQ974 ♣ 984 ♣ QJ732</p> <p>♠ K10942 ♥ Q9 ♦ A1082 ♣ 106</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : 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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>After the weak no-trump and transfer response, North is close to a break with four trumps and top cards although the poor shape would probably dissuade me. This gives East a chance to make an unsound 2NT bid to show the minors. South's double announces the balance of the points and North is happy to wield the axe over West's ♣ preference. Three rounds of ♣s will stop declarer ruffing a ♦ and he will still be left with 2 losers in each red suit for down two. The ♦K lead against ♠ contracts by North will simultaneously solidify dummy's holding in the suit and suggest that playing West for ♠ length looks right and should result in nine tricks. ♠ contracts played by South on the ♦J lead are much harder and will probably result in declarer making a trick fewer.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	2NT	Dble	3♣	Dble	All Pass	
West	North	East	South														
	1NT	Pass	2♥														
Pass	2♠	2NT	Dble														
3♣	Dble	All Pass															

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

<p>♠ KJ1083 ♥ 93 ♦ 43 ♣ Q963</p> <p>♠ A65 ♠ 7 ♥ KJ642 ♥ Q108 ♦ A9 ♦ QJ10872 ♣ AJ8 ♣ 752</p> <p>♠ Q942 ♥ A75 ♦ K65 ♣ K104</p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : 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></td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>If East can open a weak 2♦, then West will probably enquire and then subside in 3♦ when his partner shows a minimum. If South gets to open a weak NT then West will double, North will run to ♠s and again a ♦ partscore is a likely final resting place. Only if South opens a minor will West get to overcall in ♥s, unlocking his side's most profitable fit. Reaching game is still unlikely but making 10 tricks in a ♥ partial should be good enough for a decent number of matchpoints. On a ♣ lead win the A, play ♠A and ruff a ♠, then a ♦ to the 9, ruff a second spade and play the trump Q. On some layouts there may be a trump promotion in ♦ (after ducking the ♥Q) but not today.</p>	West	North	East	South			2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦	All Pass
West	North	East	South										
		2♦	Pass										
2NT	Pass	3♦	All Pass										

HCP		Makeable contracts			
6	5	♣	♦	♥	♠ NT
17	5	N	-	-	2 -
12	5	S	-	-	2 -
12	5	E	1	3	4 - 2
12	5	W	1	3	4 - 2

<p>♠ K732 ♥ - ♦ AKQ75 ♣ K643</p> <p>♠ AJ1085 ♠ 64 ♥ AQ6 ♥ K109832 ♦ 1096 ♦ 43 ♣ 109 ♣ A87</p> <p>♠ Q9 ♥ J754 ♦ J82 ♣ QJ52</p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Competing to the 4 level over 3♥ is difficult. If West opens 1♠, North will overcall 2♦ and East will make a negative double or ♥ bid. If South scrapes up a raise to 3♦ with his unappetising collection, then maybe North with the extra playing strength of a void might judge to take the push over 3♥. 3♥ is doomed as declarer can't quite manoeuvre around the 4-0 trump break, whether he plays for a ♣ ruff or to develop two ♠ tricks. The silver lining to this is that North-South can make 10 tricks in either minor. In fact, the defence needs to be accurate to stop 11 tricks in ♣s. Against a ♣ contract by North, say you lead a ♥ ruffed and declarer lays down the ♣K, East needs to duck otherwise declarer has the entries to ruff two ♥s, draw trumps and wrap up 11 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Dble	3♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass														
2♥	Dble	3♥	All Pass														

HCP		Makeable contracts			
15	7	♣	♦	♥	♠ NT
11	7	N	4	4	- 1 -
11	7	S	4	4	- 1 -
11	7	E	-	-	2 - -
11	7	W	-	-	2 - -

<p>♠ Q953 ♥ KQ64 ♦ J93 ♣ 93</p> <p>♠ AJ1087 ♠ K2 ♥ J9 ♥ 1073 ♦ - ♦ 10876542 ♣ KJ10642 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ 64 ♥ A852 ♦ AKQ ♣ Q875</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">West</td> <td style="width: 15%;">North</td> <td style="width: 15%;">East</td> <td style="width: 15%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</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>It is a question of style how you treat the West hand: do you pass and hope to show both suits later, open 1♠ and hope to keep out the opponents, or mundanely open your longest suit?</p> <p>After three rounds of ♥s against 2♠, the trick is to score all your trumps in hand, so ruff, cross to ♣ A, ruff a ♦, Ruff a ♣ (instead of cashing ♣K), ruff another ♦, now comes the ♣K which North has to ruff and then we can ruff a third ♦ in hand to bring home the contract. Very well done if you manage all that. The defence is tricky against ♣ contracts as well. Two rounds of ♥s is no good as you lose communication for a ♠ ruff. So after one top ♥, a trump switch is good enough, and now declarer has to play two rounds of ♠s finishing in hand otherwise he gets tapped off with the trumps 4-2. South wins the third round of ♣s and can cross to North for a ♠ ruff to hold declarer to eight tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South										
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass										
2♣	Pass	2♠	All Pass										

HCP		Makeable contracts	
8	7	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT	
10	15	N	- - 1 - 2
		S	- - 1 - 2
		E	2 - - 2 -
		W	2 - - 2 -

<p>♠ AK74 ♥ 1063 ♦ A4 ♣ AQ85</p> <p>♠ J95 ♠ 10632 ♥ K75 ♥ 2 ♦ J1063 ♦ Q982 ♣ J42 ♣ K963</p> <p>♠ Q8 ♥ AQJ984 ♦ K75 ♣ 107</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">West</td> <td style="width: 15%;">North</td> <td style="width: 15%;">East</td> <td style="width: 15%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The ♥ slam is excellent here but I expect only a minority to bid it. This would be a good hand for 1430 RKCB responses since, over a 5♣ response showing one, North would have room to ask for the trump queen.</p> <p>Slam is much better played by North (The ♣ AQ are protected) but unless you can open a 19/20 2NT, or perhaps play a strong ♣ system, that will be impossible. In 6♥ played by South on a ♣ lead, go up with the ace and dispose of your other ♣ on the third round of ♠s. Now you can try a ♥ finesse for an overtrick, but remember to keep the ♥10 as that will make your ♦ ruff secure.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass	
West	North	East	South																						
	1♠	Pass	2♥																						
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥																						
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦																						
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦																						
Pass	6♥	All Pass																							

HCP		Makeable contracts	
17	5	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT	
6	12	N	3 2 6 3 5
		S	3 2 6 3 5
		E	- - - - -
		W	- - - - -

<p>♠ AQ643 ♥ 105 ♦ K6 ♣ 10932</p> <p>♠ 108 ♠ 7 ♥ AKQ873 ♥ 64 ♦ 983 ♦ AJ1075 ♣ Q7 ♣ AKJ85</p> <p>♠ KJ952 ♥ J92 ♦ Q42 ♣ 64</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">West</td> <td style="width: 15%;">North</td> <td style="width: 15%;">East</td> <td style="width: 15%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>5♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Slam is decent here, requiring a bit more than a 3-2 trump break: either being allowed to ruff a ♠ in dummy or ♠s playing for five tricks will do. In the face of a ♠ barrage from the opponents it may even be difficult to judge to go to the five level, although East has a good hand for ♥s when partner shows a long suit. 4♠ is a decent save, so any East-Wests that stop off to double will be disappointed. Indeed, if you are unfortunate enough for your opponents to bid 6♥, then you might save a matchpoint or two by bidding 6♠.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠	2♣	3♠	4♥	4♠	5♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South														
		1♦	Pass														
1♥	1♠	2♣	3♠														
4♥	4♠	5♥	All Pass														

HCP		Makeable contracts	
9	13	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT	
11	7	N	- - - 2 -
		S	- - - 2 -
		E	6 5 6 - 2
		W	6 5 6 - 2

<p>♠ J853 ♥ Q1073 ♦ KQ9 ♣ A3</p> <p>♠ 102 ♠ A974 ♥ AK6 ♥ J954 ♦ A732 ♦ 1086 ♣ KQ62 ♣ 87</p> <p>♠ KQ6 ♥ 82 ♦ J54 ♣ J10954</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">16</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		12		16	5	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	-	1	1	S	1	-	-	1	1	E	-	1	1	-	-	W	-	1	1	-	-	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All 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>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>After the weak no-trump auction above, North is warned off the ♥ lead and will start with a ♠ ducked to the Q, followed by the ♣J switch. This should leave declarer with too much do. After the less informative auction of a strong no-trump opening passed out, North may well lead a ♥ won cheaply in dummy. Now declarer is a tempo ahead and with ♦s 3-3 can arrive at seven tricks even with the ♣A offside.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	All Pass		
HCP																																																									
12																																																									
16	5																																																								
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N	1	-	-	1	1																																																				
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E	-	1	1	-	-																																																				
W	-	1	1	-	-																																																				
West	North	East	South																																																						
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass																																																						
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<p>♠ 7532 ♥ 74 ♦ KJ74 ♣ A93</p> <p>♠ AJ6 ♠ K9 ♥ 109 ♥ KQJ865 ♦ 9652 ♦ Q103 ♣ K1072 ♣ Q6</p> <p>♠ Q1084 ♥ A32 ♦ A8 ♣ J854</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <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>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8		8	13	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	1	-	S	-	-	-	1	-	E	1	2	2	-	2	W	1	2	2	-	2	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : 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></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Love all is the most attractive vulnerability for competing, so an enterprising North might re-open over 2♥, driving his side to 2♠.</p> <p>At tables where the final contract is ♥s, eight tricks are easy and nine are possible on a ♠ lead, if declarer wins the opening lead with the K and finesses the J on the second round. A minor suit lead by South should make it easy for the defence to find their ♦ ruff and hold the contract to eight tricks.</p> <p>There are lots of possible variations in the play of 2♠ with anything between 6 and 8 tricks looking possible. If the play starts with a ♥ ducked and a second ♥ won by the A, followed by ♦AK and a ♠ to the 10 and J, West has to switch to a ♣ and East has to unblock the Q (if declarer rises with the A) to stop the contract sneaking home.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	2♠	All Pass			
HCP																																																																	
8																																																																	
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<p>♠ QJ76 ♥ KJ109863 ♦ 106 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ K42 ♠ A105 ♥ - ♥ A754 ♦ KQ74 ♦ AJ85 ♣ Q109863 ♣ 42</p> <p>♠ 983 ♥ Q2 ♦ 932 ♣ AKJ75</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		7		10	13	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	2	-	-	S	-	-	2	-	-	E	4	4	-	2	2	W	4	4	-	2	2	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : 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>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>The merit of pre-empting with a side four card major is a hotly debated topic. When the side suit is weak and your main suit is strong the argument tilts more to pre-empting, but here that is not the case although the vulnerability is attractive. Against a ♥ contract the defence has five top tricks, but a ♣ lead would allow declarer as many as ten by discarding two ♦s on the top ♣, and then playing a ♠ towards the QJ. Later re-entering dummy via the ♥Q, a second ♠ towards hand completes the job.</p> <p>Speaking of questionable actions would you re-open over 3♥ in the illustrated auction above? The ♥ void suggests action but your defence is weak and you only have three ♠s. To defeat 3NT after ♥Q lead, North overtakes and plays a suit preference J. South leads a ♠ whenever he gets in with a ♣.</p>	West	North	East	South		3♥	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	3NT	All Pass
HCP																																																									
7																																																									
10	13																																																								
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<p>♠ 108 ♥ KQ1076 ♦ 42 ♣ AKQ8</p> <p>♠ A743 ♠ Q2 ♥ A952 ♥ J43 ♦ AJ75 ♦ KQ1098 ♣ 3 ♣ 1075</p> <p>♠ KJ965 ♥ 8 ♦ 63 ♣ J9642</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="71 571 191 750"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 571 470 750"> <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>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		14	8	13	5	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	-	-	1	-	S	3	-	-	1	-	E	-	3	-	-	1	W	-	3	-	-	1	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="494 123 997 246"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <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> </tbody> </table> <p>Quite a variety of contracts are possible on this interesting partscore deal. Strong No-trumpers should have an easy time of it as a 1♦ opening will unearth their side's best fit immediately. ♦ contracts should yield an easy nine tricks via seven trumps and two aces. Four card major players will start with 1♥ enabling them to find a fit in either major. Where this catches a raise they will play an ugly 2♥ contract, but after two rounds of ♣s they should be able to scramble seven tricks with ♦s 2-2. If East tries a 1NT response, that has seven top tricks and a vital eighth if South leads a ♠ away from the K. If South gets frisky and tries a brave 2♠ bid, he is likely to be rewarded with +110, as to defeat it West has to lead his singleton and then underlead in ♦s twice to get two ruffs.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥	All Pass				
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<p>♠ 7 ♥ 10843 ♦ AQ65 ♣ AK107</p> <p>♠ QJ93 ♠ K1052 ♥ 952 ♥ AQJ7 ♦ J87 ♦ K102 ♣ 932 ♣ J5</p> <p>♠ A864 ♥ K6 ♦ 943 ♣ Q864</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="71 1243 191 1422"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 1243 470 1422"> <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>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		13	14	4	9	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	3	2	-	1	S	3	3	1	-	1	E	-	-	-	1	-	W	-	-	-	1	-	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="494 795 997 952"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Another 4441 opening hand and here I prefer a 1♦ opening as after a 1♠ response I can rebid 2♣, potentially misleading partner about my ♦ length but certainly preferable to catching a preference to ♥s should I start with the suit below my singleton. East is not quite strong enough for a 1NT overcall but can chance a double, hoping that the ♣ flaw does not prove fatal. Weak no-trumpers will probably finish in 2♣ or 3♣, but some strong no-trump pairs may alight in 1NT if they try that over the 1♠ response. No-trumps should only have 7 tricks but there are some pitfalls for the defence to avoid; for instance, trying to cash ♥s after the ♥Q lead will gift declarer another trick. In ♣ contracts the defence have to be a little careful: declarer can either set up the long ♦ or ruff two ♥s in dummy for a ninth trick, but not both unless the defence helps by forcing dummy in ♥s when they gain the lead.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♦	Dble	1♠	Pass	2♣	All Pass	
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<p>♠ 1073 ♥ 7 ♦ AKJ1097 ♣ K106</p> <p>♠ Q842 ♠ 95 ♥ AQJ ♥ 1095432 ♦ 6 ♦ 5432 ♣ Q7543 ♣ 2</p> <p>♠ AKJ6 ♥ K86 ♦ Q8 ♣ AJ98</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="71 1937 191 2116"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>18</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 1937 470 2116"> <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>3</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		11	0	11	18	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	6	-	5	5	S	4	6	-	5	6	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="494 1489 997 1624"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>When West opens, as most will, the auction is likely to peter out in 3NT. If West leads his long suit that doesn't give declarer anything that he isn't entitled to. He can repeat the ♣ finesse for four tricks in that suit and then after running the ♦s try for the drop in ♠s (the finesse is known to be a losing proposition) resulting in 12 tricks. If West tries a surprise attack with a ♠ lead declarer will be gifted a thirteenth trick. When West doesn't open, North-South have more of a chance to bid slam, although it is still going to be difficult. 6NT is fairly good by South, being at worst on the ♣ finesse, and will sometimes benefit from a friendly lead. 6♦ is even better since, if the ♥A is onside, declarer gets a discard from the North hand enabling him to test one black suit and still have a fall back position in the other one.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♣	1♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass							
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About the Bridge for All books and how to order

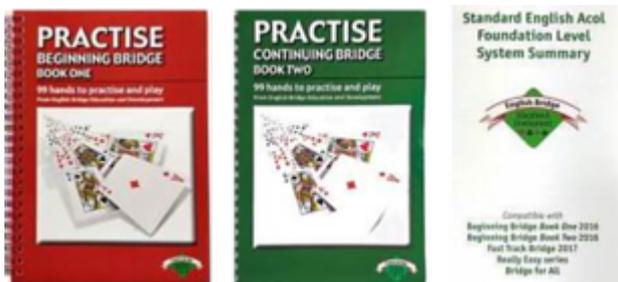


Beginning Bridge Book 1 is ideal for those who want to learn using the ‘traditional’ method of a lesson once a week, for three terms. It progresses at a steady pace, allowing more time to digest each topic. The cost is £26 plus P&P

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