

**British Winter  
Sim Pairs  
in memory of  
Peter Jordan**



**Tuesday  
10<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

2022 Winners:



**Graham Arnold**



**Paul Morris**

Welcome to the British Winter Simultaneous Pairs, whether you are playing online or Face to Face. I hope you enjoy the event and also the commentary provided by a leading expert. The commentator for this set of hands is John Williams. Please note that the Tuesday event will be in memory of Peter Jordan, the EBU's widely-known and much-loved Competitions department member who for many years was also responsible for running our overseas congresses. Barbara Jordan will be donating trophies for the winners on that day.

This is the start of the 2023 Simultaneous Pairs season, so it's a new year for prizes. Every host club will be entered in to a prize draw made at the AGM in November. So the club at which you have played today has a chance to win one of eight cash prizes of £200. The prize for the overall winners of each Sim Pairs is £100, and we wish you luck in trying to win it.

You can find all the full details, results and last year's prize winners at [www.ebu.co.uk/sims/](http://www.ebu.co.uk/sims/)

You can earn Blue points and they are awarded to the top third of the field. Don't be too impatient for the results! Provisional results will appear quickly but they won't be finalised and nor will the Master Point awards until all results are in and score corrections have been made. This can take up to three weeks. It really helps us if you can keep your scorecard for that period.

Coming up in February (6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>) is the Junior Squad Simultaneous Pairs which raises money to help Junior Bridge. I hope you will support this event and look forward to you playing.

Ian Payn, Chairman EBU

<p>♠ AQ1063 ♥ 6 ♦ 1094 ♣ J987</p> <p>♠ K987                      ♠ J542 ♥ 9754                      ♥ J3 ♦ 82                            ♦ AKQ3 ♣ KQ6                        ♣ 432</p> <p>♠ - ♥ AKQ1082 ♦ J765 ♣ A105</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</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>1♦</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>Who could resist opening 1♦ with the East cards? Well, a fair few, I suppose, though it has a clear lead-directing message and has a second suit of sorts available, in case of need. The opening bid also poses something of a problem for South, whose hand has enormous potential apart from the self-same diamond suit. However, particularly opposite a passed partner, caution seems advisable, hence the modest overcall: after all, there's plenty of time still available, isn't there? Well no, actually, as there's no good reason for any further bidding.</p> <p>1♥ proves to be a comfortable and trouble-free spot for South. Four rounds of diamonds give West a trump winner he wouldn't otherwise have, and a switch to King of clubs secures a fifth defensive trick (a spade switch would be poor, though declarer might not take full advantage).</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	1♦	1♥
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>						
	Pass	1♦	1♥						

  

HCP	Makeable contracts																														
7	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♦</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	2	2	-	2	S	2	2	2	-	2	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	2	2	2	-	2																										
S	2	2	2	-	2																										
E	-	-	-	-	-																										
W	-	-	-	-	-																										
8      11																															
14																															

<p>♠ 87 ♥ 832 ♦ Q2 ♣ AJ10432</p> <p>♠ K42                      ♠ Q10953 ♥ KQ654                  ♥ A109 ♦ 986                        ♦ A10 ♣ Q5                        ♣ K98</p> <p>♠ AJ6 ♥ J7 ♦ KJ7543 ♣ 76</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Those who choose to treat the East hand as a balanced minimum and open 1NT might live to regret it here: after a 2♦ transfer bid there's really no excuse to do more than correct to 2♥, which West will probably pass. Had he opened 1♠ instead his partner would surely respond 2♥, leading to a raise to 3♥, most likely. By modern standards, West is minimum for his first bid but he will like his spade holding and may well be tempted to push on to a tight game. Now everything depends on playing spades for one loser, whichever major is played in game. Many will get this wrong, which tilts the balance in favour of NS, provided they defend accurately. This is an excellent hand with mixed results possible (anywhere between +420 and -50 to EW, with +140 looking like a worthwhile result after a 1NT opening).</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				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
7	N	- 1	-	-	-
10    13	S	- 1	-	-	-
10	E	-	- 4	4	-
	W	-	- 4	4	-

<p>♠ Q6532 ♥ J ♦ J9542 ♣ 63</p> <p>♠ J107                      ♠ AK4 ♥ A7653                  ♥ 9842 ♦ 76                        ♦ Q10 ♣ J74                        ♣ A1098</p> <p>♠ 98 ♥ KQ10 ♦ AK83 ♣ KQ52</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dbf</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>A 1♣ opening on the South hand always seems preferable (at least to me) on the grounds of flexibility. As it happens, a 1♦ opening here would make little difference, as EW would still probably wind up contesting the auction with 3♥ over 3♦. However, the 1♣ opening might result in a club lead against 3♥, resulting in a mega 200 to NS unless declarer can conjure up a coup. A coup is still just possible provided declarer doesn't panic and rise with the Ace. South has to switch and, whatever he chooses, declarer can win now or later to cash Ace of trumps and switch to three rounds of spades. South will end up being end-played to give a ruff and discard or lead away from King of clubs. As NS can make +110 in spades or diamonds, -100 should score OK.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1♣	Pass	Pass	1NT	Dbf	2♥	2♠	3♥	All Pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
			1♣														
Pass	Pass	1NT	Dbf														
2♥	2♠	3♥	All Pass														

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

<p>♠ 84 ♥ 854 ♦ A ♣ KJ97542</p> <p>♠ 3                              ♠ KQJ76 ♥ AKQ1092                  ♥ - ♦ K863                        ♦ QJ1074 ♣ 103                        ♣ Q86</p> <p>♠ A10952 ♥ J763 ♦ 952 ♣ A</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>1♥</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Dbf</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Absolutely anything could happen here. It's very difficult for a commentator with a sight of all four hands to bid honestly. 1♥ and 2♣ look reasonable and whilst 2♠ is attractive for East on the surface he might well be pushing partner into 3♥, which leaves him uncomfortably placed (can he really bid 3♠ or 4♦ now with confidence?). All things considered, a takeout double promising spades and diamonds is perhaps a preferable option. But will this deflect partner from re-bidding his lovely heart suit? Possibly not: however, 2♦ may not end the auction so it's not stupid... The winning bid for EW is 3NT. Anyone who finds this will fully deserve his top. It seems unlikely but there are those among us who bid 3NT, given the chance, at the drop of the most ill-shapen hat. Here it can't be touched. There'll be a very mixed bag of results otherwise....</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1♥	2♣	Dbf	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦	All Pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
1♥	2♣	Dbf	Pass										
2♦	Pass	3♦	All Pass										

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

<p>♠ Q ♥ AJ87 ♦ 1096 ♣ A9632</p> <p>♠ 43 ♥ Q932 ♦ AJ5 ♣ J1075</p> <p>♠ J1072 ♥ 105 ♦ KQ87432 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ AK9865 ♥ K64 ♦ - ♣ KQ84</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>We're taught at a young age not to pre-empt when holding a 4-card major outside, but rules are made to be broken (and mostly are these days!). Another rule is to always have a good hand when bidding over pre-empts. If East indeed opens 3♦, South has a choice between double and 3♠ and many of us will prefer the good 6-card suit to the takeout double. Providing South has obeyed the rules to his partner's satisfaction the latter should have no difficulty raising to 4♠, which is likely to bring an end to the proceedings. A few may open the North hand 1♣ – and if they do, they can be sure of playing in a slam (1♣-2♠-3♣-4♦-4♥-6♣ looks eminently sensible). Otherwise those in 4♠ will be mildly irritated to have missed out, despite racking up 12 tricks. No disgrace, though.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	3♦	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
Pass	Pass	3♦	3♠										
Pass	4♠	All Pass											

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

<p>♠ J94 ♥ AQ7 ♦ Q8 ♣ A10964</p> <p>♠ AQ532 ♥ 6542 ♦ A5 ♣ Q7</p> <p>♠ 876 ♥ J103 ♦ K73 ♣ J852</p> <p>♠ K10 ♥ K98 ♦ J109642 ♣ K3</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Really? South's opening bid is certainly not recommended: indeed, it's only included here as a salutary lesson showing what disasters can ensue when basics are disregarded. Perhaps all our Souths have passed in practice, in which case they can feel virtuous and contemplate a completely different auction where West opens 1♠ and East contemplates a 2♠ raise over a slightly dubious 2♣ overcall (and hopefully declines to make it!) The silly thing is that NS can make 3♦ easily and that's probably the least likely final contract. This is the sort of hand most of us would be happy to sit out on!</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	1♦	1♠	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
		Pass	1♦																		
1♠	2♣	Pass	2♦																		
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦																		
Pass	3NT	All Pass																			

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

<p>♠ J43 ♥ AK108 ♦ 53 ♣ J1075</p> <p>♠ AK109 ♥ 974 ♦ AJ982 ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ 82 ♥ Q65 ♦ 1064 ♣ K8642</p> <p>♠ Q765 ♥ J32 ♦ KQ7 ♣ A93</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Some Wests may have a bid available to show a diamond suit (or spades and diamonds), but many won't: in any case it's arguably better to defend 1NT, with good values and a promising diamond lead available. It's a knife-edge affair for both declarer and defenders. Declarer does best to win the first trick and lead a spade (somewhat double-dummy by comparison with the 50/50 heart finesse but it works here, at least for the moment). West does best to let the Jack win and then take the Jack of clubs with the Queen, followed by a switch to hearts. Declarer can win, finesse again in clubs – successfully this time – but he's now at the end of the line and should finish one down. There will be many variations on this theme and a few declarers will score a magic +90, no doubt. Others may lose 90 defending 2♦ but EW pairs scoring +100 will do very well.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1NT	All Pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
			1NT										
All Pass													

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

<p>♠ Q62 ♥ A653 ♦ A54 ♣ 943</p> <p>♠ AK98                      ♠ 75 ♥ K4                          ♥ QJ9872 ♦ 10986                      ♦ Q72 ♣ A108                        ♣ Q6</p> <p>♠ J1043 ♥ 10 ♦ KJ3 ♣ KJ752</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This will be a common enough auction, to which NS have no worthwhile reply. The play in 2♥ won't take long, once the 10 of hearts falls on the first round of the suit. That means two spades, five hearts and a club on top for declarer.</p> <p>8 tricks and +110 for EW is a good start and declarer will have eyes on a possible overtrick. He's in no hurry to cash out (or shouldn't be) and will be hoping that three rounds of diamonds or two rounds of clubs do the business. The defence can thwart this by attacking spades, but all too often North will try a club when in with the Ace of trumps – and Bob's your favourite Uncle suddenly. +140 looks to be a frequently shared top for EW with +110 a lower middle.</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				
10	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
14      7	N	2	-	-	1 1
9	S	2	-	-	1 1
	E	-	-	2	-
	W	-	-	2	-

<p>♠ 108 ♥ 10832 ♦ 86 ♣ KQ653</p> <p>♠ 973                          ♠ AK652 ♥ A5                          ♥ KQ ♦ KJ9732                      ♦ Q4 ♣ 74                          ♣ J982</p> <p>♠ QJ4 ♥ J9764 ♦ A105 ♣ A10</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></td> </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>Only the most carefree Souths will overcall 2♥ here. The bid has absolutely nothing to commend itself to homo sapiens – rock-bottom minimum values and a wretched suit of only five cards, opposite a passed partner. What could be worse? Double? 1NT?</p> <p>There are times in life when it's best (and simplest) to just go quietly. Declarer can make an untroubled 8 tricks in spades (or 9 in diamonds for the same score). The defence needs to take overtricks out of the equation when defending a spade contract and the only hope of doing that is a low diamond at trick 1, threatening a third-round ruff (promoting a second trump winner) unless declarer cashes Ace and King of trumps (in which case he will lose a third club). That would be a brilliancy for NS, as bidding 3NT would be for EW!</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				
5	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
8      15	N	1	-	1	-
12	S	1	-	1	-
	E	-	3	-	2 3
	W	-	3	-	2 3

<p>♠ QJ754 ♥ 10873 ♦ K87 ♣ 10</p> <p>♠ A63                          ♠ K10 ♥ 96                          ♥ AKQ ♦ J4                          ♦ Q109632 ♣ QJ8752                      ♣ K3</p> <p>♠ 982 ♥ J542 ♦ A5 ♣ A964</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>The bidding is mama-papa stuff so it's all about the play. Can EW make an overtrick in 3NT? The answer is yes, but it comes in an unlikely fashion. Maybe North will lead a low spade rather than the Queen. That means declarer is safe to attack diamonds after winning with the 10 and will lose no more than two diamonds and a club. However, that can't be assumed. On the Queen of spades lead there will be a spade winner to go with two diamonds and a club, if the defence is careful. The answer is a little fanciful and relies on declarer winning the Queen of spades lead and attacking clubs, not diamonds. The fall of the 10 and a subsequent finesse of the 8 allows declarer two spades, three hearts and five clubs. Will that happen? Probably not, so any 630s will be comparatively rare.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1NT	Pass	1♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT	Pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
1NT	Pass	1♦	Pass										
3NT	All Pass	2NT	Pass										

HCP	Makeable contracts				
6	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
8      17	N	-	-	1	1
9	S	-	-	1	1
	E	4	3	-	-
	W	4	3	-	-

<p>♠K43 ♥854 ♦1084 ♣Q873</p> <p>♠Q865            ♠J102 ♥Q96             ♥KJ32 ♦K9762          ♦AQ5 ♣6                 ♣AK2</p> <p>♠A97 ♥A107 ♦J3 ♣J10954</p> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>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>-</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>1</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		5		7	18	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	4	4	3	4	W	1	4	4	3	4	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width:25%;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="width:25%;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="width:25%;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="width:25%;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>For most of us nowadays, a 1NT rebid shows 15-17 HCPs and 2NT 18-19. So here, West will be confident that there are just about enough points to justify a raise to game, provided diamonds come in and East has two club stops. Worth a shot, knowing that any failure will be matched regularly elsewhere. There's nothing to the play, as it happens. Declarer can win the opening club lead, test that diamonds are breaking and knock out the Ace of hearts in great comfort, making three hearts, five diamonds and two clubs, whilst the opponents can make no more than two spades and a heart. 630s all round, then? Not quite: some may play 4♥ or 4♠ and a few might miss game altogether.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass
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<p>♠AKJ754 ♥965 ♦QJ9 ♣9</p> <p>♠8                    ♠Q96 ♥AQJ4             ♥832 ♦864                ♦72 ♣107532          ♣AKQJ8</p> <p>♠1032 ♥K107 ♦AK1053 ♣64</p> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>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>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		11		7	12	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	-	2	-	S	-	2	-	2	-	E	4	-	2	-	-	W	4	-	2	-	-	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width:25%;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="width:25%;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="width:25%;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="width:25%;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♣</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Spade contracts above the two level are doomed against best defence, so it comes down to this: will North go 2 down in 4♠ or 1 down in 3♠? The braver souls in the North seat will blast game immediately when they hear of decent values and a 5-card diamond suit opposite. Slightly more timid ones might venture a 3♠ rebid and get raised to game. And even craven cowards, after 2♦ from partner, will surely rebid 2♠ and go on to game after a 3♠ raise. If West bids 4♣ boldly, it just serves to push NS into the spade game. All in all, perhaps -200 won't be the absolute kiss of death. Perhaps... Can anything go wrong? It shouldn't do: after King of clubs draws an odd-number response from partner, a heart switch (the 3) should be automatic and with the King in dummy West will win cheaply and rely on East's trump trick to get another heart through. NS will feel there's no justice. EW will disagree!</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♠	2♣	2♦	4♣	4♠	All Pass									
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<p>♠9753 ♥J8642 ♦10843 ♣-</p> <p>♠106                ♠AQ ♥KQ                ♥A973 ♦965                ♦KJ72 ♣K87432          ♣QJ5</p> <p>♠KJ842 ♥105 ♦AQ ♣A1096</p> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>14</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>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		1		8	17	14		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	3	-	S	-	-	1	3	-	E	3	1	-	-	1	W	3	1	-	-	-	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width:25%;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="width:25%;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="width:25%;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="width:25%;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Life doesn't have to be this cruel. West may not tempt fate with his sub-minimum 2♣ bid, North doesn't have to raise the bar so high with his pre-emptive (and how!) 3♠ raise but, after all, EW do have 25 HCPs between them and a double spade stop, so we're not in fairy-land. On another more normal day, clubs will be 3-1 or even 2-2 and 3NT will roll home. Not today, however: South merely has to be diligent and not rise with his Ace of clubs immediately if a low one is led by declarer at trick 2. Then he can score +200 without even breathing hard. The best EW can do is play 3♣, which makes comfortably. But so does 3♠ by NS! Silly game...</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	1♥	1♠	2♣	3♠	3NT	All Pass								
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<p>♠ Q1072 ♥ AQJ93 ♦ K ♣ A86</p> <p>♠ A4                      ♠ K3 ♥ 52                      ♥ K764 ♦ AQJ863                ♦ 9542 ♣ 1092                   ♣ K54</p> <p>♠ J9865 ♥ 108 ♦ 107 ♣ QJ73</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>16</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>9</td><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	16		N	1	-	1	2	-	11	9	S	1	-	1	2	-			E	-	4	-	-	3	4		W	-	4	-	-	3	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>One or two bullish Wests may open 1NT and after a double by North a 2♦ take-out by East (lower of two 4-card suits) will get the auction back on track (or he may prefer a pass, which lets South in with a weakness 2♠ to steal the auction and a +110 result). However, after 1♦-dbl, East has a choice between 2♦ and 3♦ and this is a matter of partnership style and agreement. 2♦ works out best because partner can make a barrage bid of 3♦ to steal the auction for his own side. After a 3♦ raise, however, he may well make the same barrage a level higher.</p> <p>In 4♦ it's obviously critical to drop the singleton King of trumps offside. Some will, some won't. A variety of results possible here.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♦	Dbl	3♦	Pass	4♦	All Pass		
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<p>♠ K84 ♥ AKJ64 ♦ Q1084 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ 10963                      ♠ J2 ♥ 83                          ♥ Q1072 ♦ J92                          ♦ K7653 ♣ Q983                      ♣ 64</p> <p>♠ AQ75 ♥ 95 ♦ A ♣ AKJ1052</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>13</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>S</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	13		N	6	3	5	5	5	3	6	S	6	3	5	5	5			E	-	-	-	-	-	18		W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</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>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This is a horrid hand to bid, for North in particular. Following the obvious start, 2♠ is game forcing, after which North is too strong for 3NT, so 2NT is the obvious waiting bid. South can emphasise his long, strong clubs and North can offer a further waiting bid with 3♦. His subsequent raise of 3NT to 4NT is NOT Ace-asking but quantitative, suggesting that the values may be there for slam somewhere. South can't really go the extra mile, it would seem, and has to give up in the highest-scoring non-slam contract. The play is straightforward, the likely diamond lead being ducked all round to the Ace, followed by three rounds of clubs. Declarer luckily can now cover West's next diamond card and claim 11 tricks for a fine score. The computer suggests slam is there in clubs, which involves ruffing a second round of diamonds and then taking a ruffing finesse on the third round. It's difficult to see 6♣ being bid, let alone made!</p>	West	North	East	South				1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT	All Pass	
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<p>♠ 8 ♥ K842 ♦ J10762 ♣ A104</p> <p>♠ A1065                      ♠ K942 ♥ A107                      ♥ J963 ♦ A43                          ♦ Q9 ♣ J86                          ♣ 975</p> <p>♠ QJ73 ♥ Q5 ♦ K85 ♣ KQ32</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>8</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>6</td><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</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>13</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	8		N	2	3	1	1	1	13	6	S	2	3	1	1	2			E	-	-	-	-	-	13		W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : 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>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Passing 1NT is the safe option for South. Some play double in fourth seat as less than full-blown (which is clearly an option) and may lead to a worthwhile penalty or a handy partscore in diamonds. However, not everyone will have that understanding and many will avoid possible risk anyway.</p> <p>Let's suppose that NS defend 1NT, whether doubled or not, and North leads the Jack of diamonds. This is highly promising and is sure to lead to at least 8 defensive tricks – possibly 9.</p> <p>Those who find the double and leave it in will reap a rich harvest, whilst those who don't manage a double will still score reasonably well at this vulnerability. Those EWs playing a strong NT may fare marginally better – but not much, unless they can stop in 1♠ – unlikely! Very difficult to estimate results across the board, which is the essence of pairs, of course.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	All Pass		
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<p>♠ J63 ♥ A762 ♦ Q875 ♣ 52</p> <p>♠ A9 ♥ 98 ♦ K2 ♣ AKJ10986</p> <p>♠ 1085 ♥ KQJ43 ♦ J103 ♣ Q3</p> <p>♠ KQ742 ♥ 105 ♦ A964 ♣ 74</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Those playing Lucas Twos will be able to open 2♠ third in hand (perfect: 6-10 points with 5 spades and a four-card side-suit). Those who don't have this luxury will certainly consider a light 1♠ opening (only just short of the rule of 19): risky, but probably too tempting to resist. West than has a problem: he looks to be a tad strong for 2♣ and may settle for a takeout double, prepared to go to 4♣ over 3♥ from partner. In practice, however, 3♥ will tempt him to try 3NT – which nearly works but not quite: an opening spade lead yields 8 quick tricks but the moment he goes for a ninth the opponents can cash out. So a modest 2♣ stands a good chance of scooping the pool, yielding an unbeatable +130. So often at pairs, caution pays off!</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	Pass	1♠	Dbl	2♠	3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
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<p>♠ AK982 ♥ K10642 ♦ J ♣ J6</p> <p>♠ 1054 ♥ 7 ♦ AQ1063 ♣ AKQ3</p> <p>♠ QJ3 ♥ 98 ♦ 98754 ♣ 954</p> <p>♠ 76 ♥ AQJ53 ♦ K2 ♣ 10872</p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>This time we'll suppose that only the Lucas Two bidders will be allowed the luxury of a 2♥ opener, yielding a quick game contract. No matter: North will certainly intervene over a 1♦ opening, a 1♠ overcall being the "book" bid with some opting for a takeout double (again, no matter: all roads seem to lead to 4♥). There are two clubs and a diamond to lose – no more and no less. However, at favourable vulnerability EW can save profitably in 5♦, if they dare. The defence can start with three rounds of spades to hold declarer to 9 tricks but, even if they don't, there's no entry to dummy to pick up the King of trumps. So, there are only two likely results: +300 or +620 to NS. (Unless NS go overboard in 5♥ – surely not!)</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠	2♦	2♥	3♦	4♥	5♦	Dbl	All Pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
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N	-	-	4	3	-																										
S	-	-	4	3	1																										
E	1	3	-	-	-																										
W	1	3	-	-	-																										

<p>♠ AK9532 ♥ 8 ♦ 109 ♣ K764</p> <p>♠ J64 ♥ QJ632 ♦ 762 ♣ 109</p> <p>♠ 108 ♥ AK954 ♦ AQ4 ♣ 852</p> <p>♠ Q7 ♥ 107 ♦ KJ853 ♣ AQJ3</p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>It's no mistake to open 1♦ with the South hand, with a view to re-bidding 2♣. However, some Souths may appreciate the pre-emptive value of a 1NT opening, which happens to work well here. North's 2♥ transfer bid will be doubled for the lead by East and South will pass to deny 3-card support in spades. West is more likely to also pass than to find a vulnerable heart raise, leaving the way open for North to bid an invitational 3♠ (though he would have found the same bid over 3♥, of course). South may or may not go on to game but he's facing a 6-card suit with no wasted values in hearts, so it's probably with the odds. There are no problems in the play and the diamond suit provides an easy overtrick. So it would appear that the only results on the traveller will be +200 or +450 to NS.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1NT	Pass	2♥	Dbl	Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
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	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	5	4	-	5	1																										
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<p>♠ 9752 ♥ KQ3 ♦ K3 ♣ AJ106</p> <p>♠ K1064      ♠ AJ83 ♥ J1052      ♥ 7 ♦ 6            ♦ A10542 ♣ KQ84      ♣ 753</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ A9864 ♦ QJ987 ♣ 92</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>2♥ will be a well-nigh universal contract and +140 a well-nigh universal result for NS.</p> <p>The defence can start with Ace of diamonds and a diamond ruff but that costs them a trump trick they would have won anyway. They do best to keep leading spades but even that fails to sink a heart contract below the water line.</p> <p>Even if EW find their spade fit, it won't give them a plus score against 3♥ – and 3♠ is likely to be punished. For NS, they just need to avoid overbidding slightly to 4♥, which fails unluckily.</p> <p>Sometimes one has to go with the flow and hope the traveller will be kind...</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦										
Pass	2♥	All Pass											

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
13	-	1	3	-	1	
9      9	-	1	3	-	1	
9	1	-	-	2	-	
	1	-	-	2	-	

<p>♠ QJ875 ♥ QJ107 ♦ 107 ♣ 104</p> <p>♠ AK3            ♠ 94 ♥ A964           ♥ 53 ♦ K82            ♦ AQ96 ♣ AJ2            ♣ Q9763</p> <p>♠ 1062 ♥ K82 ♦ J543 ♣ K85</p>	<p>Board 21. Dealer North. Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This is just a question of how many tricks declarer can make in 3NT. Low from Jxxx is a notoriously unlucky lead and so it proves here if declarer takes it at face value and finesses ♦8 on the second round. Trouble is, whilst clubs can be played for 5 tricks by starting with the Queen, South can gum the works by refusing to cover, thus blocking the suit. This all means 11 easy tricks, but not 12. Indeed, it's impossible to envisage a route to 12 tricks without divine intervention – and we all know how rare that is...</p> <p>+460 should at least score a mite above average for EW.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
	Pass	Pass	Pass														
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass														
3NT	All Pass																

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
6	-	-	-	-	-	
19      8	-	-	-	-	-	
7	5	5	3	1	5	
	5	5	3	1	5	

<p>♠ 2 ♥ 852 ♦ 86 ♣ AKQ8732</p> <p>♠ KQJ54      ♠ 973 ♥ K104        ♥ J76 ♦ KJ53        ♦ Q942 ♣ 9            ♣ 1065</p> <p>♠ A1086 ♥ AQ93 ♦ A107 ♣ J4</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The search for overtricks is on once again. If West kicks off with King of spades, partner showing three cards, it looks harmless to continue with the Queen. Not so! Declarer can pounce on this with the Ace and continue with the 10, pinning the 9 and promoting the 8. That's the easy way. What if declarer holds up the the Spade Ace once, wins a diamond switch and then rattles off 7 club tricks? His aim will be to throw West in with a spade eventually, to force a heart exit into the AQ. This works: needing to find 6 discards, West can let go three diamonds, a heart and a spade, but the sixth discard must bare the King of hearts or QJ of spades, so Ace and another spade achieves the endplay for 11 tricks. Those who find this will have deserved their (shared) top.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	1♥	1♠	2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
		Pass	1♥														
1♠	2♣	Pass	2NT														
Pass	3NT	All Pass															

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
9	5	-	3	-	5	
13      3	5	-	3	-	5	
15	-	1	-	2	-	
	-	1	-	2	-	

<p>♠ 108742 ♥ 973 ♦ Q7 ♣ 1086</p> <p>♠ A95                      ♠ QJ ♥ K4                        ♥ QJ1085 ♦ 86                         ♦ 10532 ♣ AQJ942                ♣ 53</p> <p>♠ K63 ♥ A62 ♦ AKJ94 ♣ K7</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 573 188 763"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="228 573 470 763"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		2		14	6	18		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	2	-	S	-	1	-	2	-	E	2	-	2	-	1	W	2	-	2	-	1	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td><b>West</b></td><td><b>North</b></td><td><b>East</b></td><td><b>South</b></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1♦</td></tr> <tr><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Dbl</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>This is hair-trigger stuff. 2♣ is an easy make for EW so NS are right to compete. Can they justify their optimism by making 2♠? The answer is yes – by a hairsbreadth. The defence will start with three rounds of clubs, probably, which East does best to ruff, forcing the trump King. Then three rounds of diamonds force West to ruff. Declarer can over-ruff, cross to Ace of hearts and play a fourth round of diamonds. The result of all this give and take is 8 tricks. If West persists with 3♣, can he make it? The answer is no – by a hairsbreadth. The defence will start with three rounds of diamonds, promoting a trump trick, and the lack of quick entries to dummy means that, if the defence stays calm, they are going to take a spade, a heart, two diamonds and a trump. Black-suit contracts will sometimes make – and sometimes fail.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1♦	2♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	2♠	All Pass					
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<p>♠ 64 ♥ J10976 ♦ A1063 ♣ KJ</p> <p>♠ Q1083                      ♠ AJ9752 ♥ 53                         ♥ 4 ♦ QJ75                      ♦ 942 ♣ 752                        ♣ 983</p> <p>♠ K ♥ AKQ82 ♦ K8 ♣ AQ1064</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 1263 188 1453"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="228 1263 470 1453"> <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>6</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>1</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		9		5	5	21		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	6	3	6	-	1	S	6	3	6	-	1	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td><b>West</b></td><td><b>North</b></td><td><b>East</b></td><td><b>South</b></td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Dbl</td></tr> <tr><td>3♠</td><td>4♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4NT</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>5♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>6♥</td></tr> <tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>There's nothing to the play in 6♥ (or 6♣) so all the match-points depend on the bidding. There's an easy +500 waiting for any who defend 4♠ doubled -which beats all the game scores – so slam will be top and game will be bottom. Lucas-Two pairs will have it easy if they decide this is a 2♥ opener (which it isn't really – poor hearts and 4 points outside the main suits – but hey, who's counting?). 6♥ should still prove biddable anyway after an initial pass by North, as per the auction shown. South is risking the position of King of clubs – but it's a fair risk to take, with a possible winning club finesse in reserve.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	2♠	Dbl	3♠	4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass			
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<p>♠ K976 ♥ J9 ♦ A5 ♣ AQ973</p> <p>♠ J10542                      ♠ Q3 ♥ AK7                        ♥ Q108654 ♦ 104                         ♦ K8632 ♣ K62                        ♣ -</p> <p>♠ A8 ♥ 32 ♦ QJ97 ♣ J10854</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 1935 188 2125"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="228 1935 470 2125"> <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>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		14		11	7	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	-	-	-	1	S	4	-	-	-	1	E	-	-	3	1	-	W	-	2	3	1	-	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td><b>West</b></td><td><b>North</b></td><td><b>East</b></td><td><b>South</b></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1♣</td><td>2NT</td><td>3♣</td></tr> <tr><td>3♥</td><td>4♣</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>East is worth his two-suited overcall showing the red suits (usually played as either weak or strong) but has no excuse for bidding on over 4♣, as 4♥ is likely to be doubled and will cost a ruinous 200 unless North rashly starts with Ace of clubs (in which case the ruin is all his own!) So maybe 4♥ isn't so daft after all, as -200 is the only really bad possible outcome: -100 for 1 down undoubled is better than conceding 130 defending 4♣, and 4♥ (whether doubled or not) might prove to be a major killing. This is what makes the game so enticing but also so infuriating sometimes: you want to trust your instincts but have no way of judging with complete accuracy how the opponents will react.</p> <p>A fascinating hand with a variety of possible outcomes – some of them very painful potentially!</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♣	2NT	3♣	3♥	4♣	All Pass									
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<p>♠ 1093 ♥ Q6 ♦ 10 ♣ AK108754</p> <p>♠ AKQ75      ♠ J62 ♥ 8              ♥ K1092 ♦ KQ74        ♦ 8653 ♣ 963           ♣ Q2</p> <p>♠ 84 ♥ AJ7543 ♦ AJ92 ♣ J</p>	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>What should East do when given the chance to support partner? He has the values for 2♠ (just about) but looking ahead, his heart suit is more suitable for defence. Better, on balance, to pass: one thing he doesn't want to do is anything to encourage partner to go to the three level, vulnerable. OK, NS can make +140 in hearts easily enough (better than +130 in clubs), but 3♠ on the lead of AK of clubs and a switch to Queen of hearts is not an appetising prospect: he has 5 trump tricks plus a high club ruff and a diamond, but not much prospect of anything more against best defence – and we all know that -200 is the kiss of death at pairs. Another exercise in damage imitation!</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	1♥	1♠	2♣	Pass	2♥
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
		Pass	1♥										
1♠	2♣	Pass	2♥										

HCP	Makeable contracts																														
9 14      6 11	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</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> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	-	3	-	2	S	4	-	3	-	2	E	-	1	-	-	-	W	-	1	-	-	-
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W	-	1	-	-	-																										

<p>♠ 953 ♥ K108752 ♦ 4 ♣ AK6</p> <p>♠ AKJ102      ♠ 64 ♥ A              ♥ Q6 ♦ A10           ♦ 87653 ♣ QJ1085      ♣ 9742</p> <p>♠ Q87 ♥ J943 ♦ KQJ92 ♣ 3</p>	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Very hard for West at his second turn: he certainly has the values (and the temptation) to bid again - but what? The trouble with a takeout double is that partner may have support for his minor but may (as here) opt for diamonds instead of clubs (and a 4♦ bid will be unwelcome, to say the least). The alternatives are 3♠ or 4♣: both suggest a 6-card suit (oh well!) and it may be that 3♠ offers the best chance of a happy outcome. Declarer is sure to be forced in hearts and that, coupled with the need (if in clubs) to knock out both Ace and King of trumps, is not a comforting prospect. But nothing can be taken for granted. In clubs, at least the 3-3 spade break is a big help, so both contracts are likely to make. Phew!</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♠	2♥	Pass	3♥	3♠	All Pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
			Pass														
1♠	2♥	Pass	3♥														
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S	-	1	2	-	1																										
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W	4	-	-	3	-																										

<p>♠ AJ954 ♥ A42 ♦ K853 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ 73              ♠ K1082 ♥ 965            ♥ Q8 ♦ AJ1097       ♦ 6 ♣ 1053          ♣ Q98742</p> <p>♠ Q6 ♥ KJ1073 ♦ Q42 ♣ KJ6</p>	<p>Board 28: Dealer West: NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>An intriguing choice between Hearts and NTs, and between game and slam. North's second bid is exploratory, as he could well be too strong for an immediate 4♥ (and too weak for a 4♣ splinter) and needs more information. 3NT isn't quite what he expected to hear from partner but the news of good clubs opposite – in a balanced hand - suggests that NTs will play at least as well as hearts. At pairs, this is important information. Sure enough, those who conduct an exploratory auction will benefit on the traveller: a diamond lead makes things easy (and the suit becomes safe from further attack) and a club doesn't hurt either. 11 tricks will pile up as often as not, given careful play. Meanwhile, anyone making more than 11 tricks in hearts will deserve his fine score. 6♥ is odds against.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥										
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