

# EBED



# Sim Pairs

**Commentary by Mike Pomfrey**

**Wednesday**  
**6<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

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. At EBED we focus on two priorities:

- A national bridge education and training framework and,
- Youth bridge initiatives to encourage those still in full time education to learn and play bridge.

EBED supports students and bridge teachers to use the “Bridge for All” syllabus, a coherent framework that takes learners from complete beginner through to competent club player. We provide focussed training for bridge teachers, and make a huge range of teaching materials, available to the hundreds of bridge teachers who are members of EBTA (English Bridge Teaching Association). We support club bridge by providing training of club tournament directors. In 2022 over 100 people qualified with us as club directors and are now helping their clubs to run sessions.

In support of Youth Bridge, we run several events for school level bridge players, including the Schools Cup, Inter-Schools League and Youth Grand Prix. We also run the Junior Summer Camp. We continue to support county organisations and individual volunteers at the local level to run youth events. We provide resources to help schools run bridge clubs.

You can read more about EBED’s activities in the current issue of English Bridge and at [www.ebedcio.org.uk](http://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](http://www.ebedcio.org.uk/donate).

I hope that you enjoy playing these hands and competing against others, I’ll be playing these at my club too. We sincerely thank you for your support.

Mark Humphris

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

<p>♠ Q104 ♥ K63 ♦ A10964 ♣ 75</p> <p>♠ A8763      ♠ K95 ♥ 4            ♥ AJ752 ♦ K8            ♦ 72 ♣ AQJ93      ♣ 1086</p> <p>♠ J2 ♥ Q1098 ♦ QJ53 ♣ K42</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">1♣</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">1♥</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">1♠</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">2♣</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">2♠</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">4♠</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="padding: 5px 0 0 0;">We begin with a marginal decision by West as to how to develop this hand. Often with 5-5 in the black suits it pays to open 1♠, but this time a number of factors suggest otherwise. Opponents have both passed, so you are likely to be able to develop the hand at your leisure. Your club suit is strong, and the hand as a whole has only five losers.</p> <p style="padding: 0 0 0 0;">A controlled auction gets you to a reasonable game. Any two chances out of three – club finesse, diamond to the king, and 3-2 trump break – will see you home. If West opens 1♠, East should raise to 2♠ and it’s a close decision what West should do now.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
	Pass	Pass	Pass																		
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass																		
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass																		
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass																		

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
9	8	N	-	-	-	-	-
14	9	S	-	-	-	-	-
		E	4	-	1	4	2
		W	5	-	1	5	2

<p>♠AJ42 ♥654 ♦1074 ♣1076</p> <p>♠83 ♥K2 ♦AQJ62 ♣K982</p> <p>♠1095 ♥AQ1087 ♦95 ♣AJ4</p> <p>♠KQ76 ♥J93 ♦K83 ♣Q53</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Are we going to have these delicate auctions all day? This one is all down to whether you deem the East hand worth an opening bid. At the vulnerability it's just about worth it. Some purists would start with 1NT but it's a bit top-heavy and you can at least indicate a good lead if your side ends up defending.</p> <p>The contract looks far from cast-iron, but the favourable lie of the red suits means that eleven tricks are a doddle. Opponents will have to take their two spades quickly or they concede twelve.</p> <p>If East passes their side is unlikely to reach game.</p>		West	North	East	South				1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass		2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass		3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass		4♥	All Pass
	West	North	East	South																						
			1♥	Pass																						
2♦	Pass		2♥	Pass																						
3♣	Pass		3♦	Pass																						
3♥	Pass		4♥	All Pass																						

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

<p>♠74 ♥94 ♦KQ96 ♣Q10874</p> <p>♠A1095 ♥75 ♦J73 ♣AKJ3</p> <p>♠KQJ8 ♥AK10 ♦A42 ♣965</p> <p>♠632 ♥QJ8632 ♦1085 ♣2</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>East clearly isn't worth more than game. The question is: should you look for a 4-4 spade fit on a 4333 hand?</p> <p>I don't know what a computer simulation would show, but my instinct is that, if you have plenty to spare for game, you are likely to make as many tricks in no trumps. Moreover, you don't give opponents any help in their defence.</p> <p>Although it can be right to lead a major against this auction, most Norths will lead a club, which gives declarer a good start. Double-dummy, it's now possible to make eleven tricks in no trumps, which will surely be a top.</p> <p>And if South opens a substandard weak two? West doubles, and East has two issues to consider: whether to look for slam and which strain to choose.</p>		West	North	East	South					Pass	1NT	Pass		3NT	All Pass
	West	North	East	South												
				Pass												
1NT	Pass		3NT	All Pass												

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

<p>♠K10942 ♥952 ♦6 ♣AJ107</p> <p>♠A73 ♥AJ6 ♦Q532 ♣K86</p> <p>♠J85 ♥Q103 ♦AK9874 ♣2</p> <p>♠Q6 ♥K874 ♦J10 ♣Q9543</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>?</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It pays to be aggressive against the weak no trump. North is definitely worth a bid, an Aspro 2♦ or multi-Landy 2♠, if that's your defence.</p> <p>Now, what about East? Without the overcall you'd probably have a bash at 3NT; with a good suit it's just too strong for an invitational auction. Now you only have a choice between 3NT (my choice) and a Lebensohl auction to 3♦. The latter isn't invitational, but I suppose some brave Wests might bid game anyway, with a maximum and a good fit.</p> <p>North probably leads the ♠10 against 3NT. That strongly implies South has a doubleton honour so it's best to win at once. At some stage you have to take a heart finesse; the contract will succeed unless North has both the king of hearts and the ace of clubs.</p>		West	North	East	South		1NT	2♦	?	
	West	North	East	South							
	1NT	2♦	?								

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

<p>♠ K10 ♥ KJ10 ♦ K98 ♣ AJ753</p> <p>♠ 74                      ♠ Q8632 ♥ 765                      ♥ A94 ♦ AJ763                    ♦ 54 ♣ 842                      ♣ Q106</p> <p>♠ AJ95 ♥ Q832 ♦ Q102 ♣ K9</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : 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>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>Not vulnerable, some Easts might overcall; not my cup of tea with a minimum hand, a lousy suit and values in North's suit. East probably leads a spade to 3NT. North wins and is likely to play on hearts. East takes the third round and continues spades. Now what? The contract is secure, but communications are awkward for making as many tricks as possible. I guess most will play on clubs and make the normal ten tricks. But there is a clever, though highly risky, way of making eleven. If you had the foresight to win the first spade with the king and the second with the jack, you don't have to break up your club position. Cash the heart, discarding a club, and guess the diamonds, playing West for the jack. Now East is squeezed and you can look really smug!</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
	1♣	Pass	1♥										
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT										

HCP		Makeable contracts	
15	8	♣   ♦   ♥   ♠   NT	
5		N 4 3 4 3 5	
		S 4 3 4 3 4	
12		E - - - - -	
		W - - - - -	

<p>♠ 52 ♥ A5 ♦ A10542 ♣ A932</p> <p>♠ Q1097                    ♠ J64 ♥ 92                        ♥ KJ1073 ♦ KQJ96                    ♦ 3 ♣ J8                        ♣ 7654</p> <p>♠ AK83 ♥ Q864 ♦ 87 ♣ KQ10</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : 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>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>?</p> <p>South is almost too good for a weak no trump, but most will bid it. Would you risk an Aspro overcall as West? You are vulnerable against not and having only a four-card major means you sometimes have to play at an uncomfortable level. Moreover, you have a nice lead if they stay in no trumps. As it happens, it could be expensive to bid. If West passes, North bids game and West leads a top diamond. If declarer ducks, West probably plays another and dummy wins. East does best to discard a heart, not a club, as there's a small chance declarer will take a first-round finesse in clubs, expecting East to have greater length in the suit. Unless declarer has an excess of imagination, all roads should lead to nine tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	1NT
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>						
		Pass	1NT						

HCP		Makeable contracts	
12	5	♣   ♦   ♥   ♠   NT	
9		N 4 3 3 2 3	
		S 4 3 3 2 3	
14		E - - - - -	
		W - - - - -	

<p>♠ J6 ♥ Q ♦ AQ984 ♣ AJ872</p> <p>♠ Q754                    ♠ AK3 ♥ J2                        ♥ 10973 ♦ K10653                    ♦ 72 ♣ 43                        ♣ KQ96</p> <p>♠ 10982 ♥ AK8654 ♦ J ♣ 105</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dbf</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>There will be some Souths who favour a weak two opening. Not for me, thank you, first to speak, with a hand that could play very well in spades. Just imagine a hand opposite with short hearts and five or six decent spades. You don't need much to make game. The auction is allowed to develop gently. East is just about worth a double, and West just about worth 1♠. But things soon subside. There will be much variation in the play. A club lead looks good for the defence. Declarer ducks and East has a choice, either taking the trump off the table in order to make spade tricks or, conversely, trying to promote trump tricks by making dummy ruff. Most lines seem to result in exactly eight tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	Pass	1♦	Dbf	1♥	1♠	2♣	Pass	2♥
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
			Pass														
Pass	1♦	Dbf	1♥														
1♠	2♣	Pass	2♥														

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

<p>♠ Q105 ♥ 764 ♦ Q8543 ♣ A8</p> <p>♠ AJ72                      ♠ K963 ♥ AQ                         ♥ J108 ♦ A972                      ♦ K106 ♣ K95                        ♣ 743</p> <p>♠ 84 ♥ K9532 ♦ J ♣ QJ1062</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : 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>1♠</td> <td>Pass</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>A five-card major system will have a quite different auction. Either way, it all comes down to judgment (or in my case, guesswork). At teams East might have a pot at game but there are an awful lot of losers. Much will depend on North's lead. Clearly you will go for a red suit. A passive heart, if you play MUD, will give South a problem when declarer plays dummy's jack. Might partner have Q76? If that's the case, playing the king will set up a potential discard but at least you get your heart trick. That will be a very bad idea this time. On the other hand, a diamond lead will give the position in that suit away. The only way to make ten tricks is to get the diamonds right and divine that North has a doubleton ace of clubs. I suspect 140 will be an OK score.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠	All Pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass										
2NT	Pass	3♠	All Pass										

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
8		N	-	-	1	-	-
18	7	S	-	-	1	-	-
		E	1	3	-	4	2
		W	1	3	-	4	2

<p>♠ K984 ♥ J853 ♦ J103 ♣ 92</p> <p>♠ A732                      ♠ 5 ♥ K96                        ♥ 1074 ♦ Q976                      ♦ AK842 ♣ 83                         ♣ AK106</p> <p>♠ QJ106 ♥ AQ2 ♦ 5 ♣ QJ754</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : 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>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dbl</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> </table> <p>When partner opens a minor and the next hand doubles, it can pay to suppress a four-card major and simply raise the ante in partner's suit. I don't suppose many will do so here, especially as the West hand is somewhat in between a constructive and a pre-emptive raise to 3♦. As the auction has gone, West is just about worth 3♦ and East has a difficult choice. If you knew partner had the queen of diamonds you might well be tempted to try 3♥, looking for a heart stop for 3NT. Even 5♦ is not out of the equation. As it is, 3NT is the winner, with spades 4-4 and the ace of hearts inside, neither of which is unexpected. Most pairs will settle for a diamond part score.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	1♦	Dbl	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
	Pass	1♦	Dbl														
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass														
3♦	All Pass																

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
5		N	-	-	-	1	-
9	14	S	-	-	-	1	-
		E	1	4	2	-	3
		W	1	4	2	-	3

<p>♠ J8 ♥ J762 ♦ 97 ♣ J10953</p> <p>♠ 3                              ♠ K976 ♥ 1054                        ♥ AQ983 ♦ 1042                        ♦ 863 ♣ AKQ742                    ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ AQ10542 ♥ K ♦ AKQJ5 ♣ 8</p>	<p>Board 10 : 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>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Here's an interesting situation. It's not a completely automatic 2♣ opening but, with only three losers, most of us will. West has a reasonable overcall. Now, in days gone by, North might well double for penalties, suggesting a trump stack but a very weak hand. South would be expected to pass most of the time. As it happens, by dropping the king of hearts West can get out for a very lucky minus 500. Should the defenders start with two rounds of spades, then amazingly it can get even better for West. 3♣ doubled actually becomes makeable! But most people treat double as something quite different these days and the auction comes to an early end in the obvious 4♠.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	2♣	3♣	Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
		Pass	2♣														
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♠														
Pass	4♠	All Pass															

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

<p>♠ AK4 ♥ 8432 ♦ A9 ♣ Q643</p> <p>♠ QJ105      ♠ 9762 ♥ K109      ♥ AQ5 ♦ J32      ♦ Q10876 ♣ A75      ♣ K</p> <p>♠ 83 ♥ J76 ♦ K54 ♣ J10982</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		13		11	11	5		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	-	-	-	S	2	-	-	-	-	E	-	2	1	2	-	W	-	2	1	2	-	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>?</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>East has a tricky decision over 1NT. It's certainly a hand where you want to get involved but with no ideal way of doing so. If you play Aspro you might dredge up 2♦, but such a weak anchor suit is a liability. If you pass and lead a diamond, your side should get it two down for 100. But there's scope for an accident. Declarer wins the first or second diamond and plays on clubs. East wins and clears the diamonds and declarer clears the clubs. Now, could you blame West for trying the queen of spades? East could have shown interest in hearts by playing the lowest diamond and should be able to discourage spades on the clubs. Of course, East can get +110 by bidding, provided West doesn't get too excited.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	?	Pass
HCP																																																					
13																																																					
11	11																																																				
5																																																					
Makeable contracts																																																					
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<p>♠ J985 ♥ AKQ98 ♦ Q9 ♣ K10</p> <p>♠ A      ♠ K102 ♥ 1052      ♥ J6 ♦ 832      ♦ J1064 ♣ J97632      ♣ AQ54</p> <p>♠ Q7643 ♥ 743 ♦ AK75 ♣ 8</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>1</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		15		5	11	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	3	4	-	S	-	1	3	4	-	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>North's rebid is slightly marginal, but it is a six-loser hand. With five trumps, South may perhaps make a move anyway over a single raise. On a passive diamond lead, South plays on trumps. There are two possible plays to sneak an overtrick. One is to play low from dummy at trick one and win with the king, sowing a seed in West's mind that East might have the ace. So, when West wins the first spade, another diamond may come. But that shouldn't help; East ought to realise that there's no chance of getting two club tricks. The other possible ruse is to win trick one in dummy and lead the jack of spades. Will East fall for it and cover? Of course, to make such a play declarer has to have a clue that West may be short in trumps.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
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<p>♠ J109542 ♥ 52 ♦ K87 ♣ 42</p> <p>♠ AK6      ♠ Q83 ♥ A86      ♥ K9 ♦ Q62      ♦ 543 ♣ A1098      ♣ KJ765</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ QJ10743 ♦ AJ109 ♣ Q3</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		4		17	9	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	2	-	-	S	-	-	2	-	-	E	4	1	-	1	3	W	4	1	-	2	4	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>I'm trying to generate some interest in this one. Some may roll out a weak 2♠ as North, though vulnerable, with a jack high suit, it's pretty repulsive. After two passes there's more scope for South, who has good playing strength, to be imaginative. It shouldn't matter what North-South do, it looks like an obvious 3NT for the opposition. Played by West, it's safe for ten tricks, so long as you don't play the clubs in a creative way. Might a pre-empt by South persuade West that South could be short in clubs?</p>	West	North	East	South	3NT	Pass	Pass	3♥		All Pass		
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<p>♠ A10 ♥ KQ93 ♦ AKJ642 ♣ 4</p> <p>♠ KQ6                      ♠ 8532 ♥ 75                          ♥ A86 ♦ 105                         ♦ Q8 ♣ AQJ1062                 ♣ K875</p> <p>♠ J974 ♥ J1042 ♦ 973 ♣ 93</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		17		12	9	2		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	4	4	-	-	S	-	4	4	-	-	E	2	-	-	-	-	W	2	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>1♣</td><td>1♦</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>4♣</td><td>Dbl</td><td>Pass</td><td>?</td></tr> </table> <p>After two passes, I might fancy a pre-empt by West. Terence Reese was fond of saying “a pre-empt that is known to be weak is a blunt sword”. With a hand like West’s, you may sometimes persuade opponents to over-estimate their assets and their fit. But let’s play the game and start with a one-level bid.</p> <p>This time East-West would have been well advised to say as little as possible, as bidding too aggressively might push opponents to get to a heart game they wouldn’t have reached in a month of Sundays.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦	3♣	Pass	4♣	Dbl	Pass	?
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<p>♠ AKQ ♥ AQ42 ♦ KJ84 ♣ 97</p> <p>♠ J72                         ♠ 9653 ♥ J1053                      ♥ 6 ♦ 103                         ♦ A975 ♣ AJ84                        ♣ KQ52</p> <p>♠ 1084 ♥ K987 ♦ Q62 ♣ 1063</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		19		7	9	5		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	3	1	2	S	-	2	3	1	2	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>Dbl</td><td>2♥</td></tr> <tr><td>2NT</td><td>Dbl</td><td>3♣</td><td>3♥</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>?</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Left to their own devices, North-South might bid 1♥-2♥-3NT-4♥. That’s cold if trumps break 3-2, but unfortunately it’s not your day. However, at favourable vulnerability, East decides to insert a wafer-thin double. South still raises and it’s West’s turn to introduce a diversion. 2NT is Lebensohl, showing a hand with modest values that wishes to compete. East is expected to relay with 3♣ (except with a very strong double) and West will pass. An immediate 3♣ would have been stronger. Goodness knows what will happen now. North shows a big hand, East obeys orders and South doesn’t want to defend. North can now expect four trumps and may well bid game.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	Dbl	2♥	2NT	Dbl	3♣	3♥	Pass	?		
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<p>♠ A7 ♥ AQ8 ♦ K10862 ♣ K65</p> <p>♠ 10843                      ♠ J5 ♥ KJ64                      ♥ 10953 ♦ 7                             ♦ QJ54 ♣ Q972                        ♣ A43</p> <p>♠ KQ962 ♥ 72 ♦ A93 ♣ J108</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>3</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>3</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>	HCP		16		6	8	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	4	2	4	3	S	3	4	2	4	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></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>2♣</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td></tr> </table> <p>Back to relative sanity. North’s rebid is 15-17 and 2♣ is checkback, asking for more definition. With a reasonable five card suit North decides to treat it as maximum, without three spades, and South bids the obvious game. East leads a heart.</p> <p>Many players would struggle to make this one. A diamond to the ace and another diamond and you are in trouble. The defenders clear the hearts and now you are pretty certain to go down.</p> <p>Was there a case for playing a diamond to the 9? You gain on the actual distribution but lose out when West has a singleton honour, slightly less likely.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
HCP																																																													
16																																																													
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<p>♠ A53 ♥ K10543 ♦ 9 ♣ 10865</p> <p>♠ K87642      ♠ Q10 ♥ 8              ♥ Q72 ♦ QJ103        ♦ K8764 ♣ J3              ♣ AQ4</p> <p>♠ J9 ♥ AJ96 ♦ A52 ♣ K972</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : 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>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>What's this? North-South have a game in hearts, provided they get the trumps right, and they sell out to 2♠? What's more, it's not easy to get your diamond ruffs with East as declarer, so 2♠ may well make.</p> <p>There are two ways for North-South to get in the auction. One is for North to double the transfer bid to show hearts. I don't like that very much with West still unlimited.</p> <p>The other way is for South to double 2♠ for takeout. That's more realistic, though still risky as North could be very weak.</p> <p>I suspect West will compete to 3♠ anyway and North-South will give up, but at least they are pretty certain to get a plus score.</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	
7	N 4	-	4	-	1	
7      13	S 4	-	4	-	1	
13	E -	3	-	1	-	
	W -	3	-	1	-	

<p>♠ K764 ♥ 109743 ♦ 3 ♣ 962</p> <p>♠ QJ83              ♠ 52 ♥ K                  ♥ AJ862 ♦ A9854            ♦ KJ2 ♣ AJ7                ♣ Q105</p> <p>♠ A109 ♥ Q5 ♦ Q1076 ♣ K843</p>	<p>Board 18 : 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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>At favourable vulnerability many Easts will consider this hand worth an opening bid, and 1NT is a far better description than 1♥. It makes no difference to the contract, or to who plays it.</p> <p>With no attractive alternative, South probably leads a club. Best is to win with the jack (you can always repeat the finesse later) and try a diamond to the jack. South wins and has a choice between continuing clubs or trying a low heart. It matters not, as declarer's next move is a diamond to the king. Now we see the real benefit of our play at trick one. We can finesse in clubs and still be in hand to finesse in diamonds, cashing the ace of hearts first and getting the good news.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
		1NT	Pass														
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass														
3NT	All Pass																

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

<p>♠ 974 ♥ 1082 ♦ A53 ♣ J1042</p> <p>♠ AQ102            ♠ 653 ♥ K743              ♥ AJ65 ♦ K8                  ♦ QJ74 ♣ K63                ♣ A9</p> <p>♠ KJ8 ♥ Q9 ♦ 10962 ♣ Q875</p>	<p>Board 19 : 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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>I've not put an auction here as it all depends on your methods. Those who play a Jacoby 2NT as forcing to game will probably just about wheel it out here. For me 2NT is either a sound raise to three or better than just game so I'd bid 3NT as a balanced raise to game only.</p> <p>Whatever your system all roads will end in 4♥, apart from the odd pair who try no trumps.</p> <p>As we can see, both spade finesses win and the queen of trumps is doubleton offside. However, without X-ray vision you'll probably take all the finesses going, losing a trump but emerging with eleven tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♥	Pass	?	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
			Pass										
1♥	Pass	?											

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
5	N -	-	-	-	-	
15      12	S -	-	-	-	-	
8	E 3	5	6	6	6	
	W 3	5	6	6	6	

<p>♠ A87 ♥ J102 ♦ QJ76 ♣ Q104</p> <p>♠ KQ96543      ♠ J10 ♥ K              ♥ A8653 ♦ 4                ♦ 1093 ♣ 9876           ♣ K53</p> <p>♠ 2 ♥ Q974 ♦ AK852 ♣ AJ2</p>	<p>Board 20 : 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>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This one looks as though it's going to be interesting, but in practice may turn out rather straightforward. West has a very solid pre-empt and South an obvious double. Now what is North supposed to do? I guess Hamman's rule applies; if you have a choice of bids, one of which is 3NT, that's the one to go for. Anything else would be speculative on North's hand.</p> <p>East leads spades and you take the second round. It looks clear to try the club finesse, which gives you nine tricks. 4♠ doubled would be only two down; should East-West have bid it? I wouldn't save with the East hand; it may well be too expensive, and you can't be certain 3NT will make. Maybe West should have opened 4♠? I imagine some will.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	3♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl										
Pass	3NT	All Pass											

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
10		N	-	5	4	-	3
8	8	S	-	5	4	-	3
		E	-	-	-	2	-
		W	-	-	-	2	-

<p>♠ J10843 ♥ Q76 ♦ - ♣ AK842</p> <p>♠ K972              ♠ 5 ♥ A5                ♥ KJ10 ♦ AKJ982         ♦ Q10653 ♣ Q                 ♣ 10973</p> <p>♠ AQ6 ♥ 98432 ♦ 74 ♣ J65</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : 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>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Some close decisions on this one. Firstly, what would you open on the North hand? The clubs are stronger, and the auction may develop more economically if you start with 1♣. On the other hand you are minimum, and it pays to get the major in.</p> <p>West has a very solid overcall and East sits up and takes notice. A game try of 3♠ is reasonable and West accepts. East is uncertain but in fact it makes no difference; 5♦ is safer but you should make 3NT. If North were to try an obstructive 3♠ on the second round I guess East just has to punt 5♦.</p> <p>Things will be quite different if North opens 1♣. South responds 1♥, West doubles and North may stick in a "support" redouble, showing three hearts. East has a useful hand now; a 3♦ bid would certainly excite West.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♠	Pass	2♠	3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass	?	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
	1♠	Pass	2♠														
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass														
3NT	Pass	?															

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

<p>♠ Q85 ♥ K98 ♦ AK2 ♣ A1042</p> <p>♠ J763              ♠ K1042 ♥ A42                ♥ J3 ♦ J43                ♦ 10765 ♣ Q98                ♣ K53</p> <p>♠ A9 ♥ Q10765 ♦ Q98 ♣ J76</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : 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>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>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </table> <p>A lot hangs on very marginal decisions here. North's rebid is 15-17, 2♣ is checkback and 2♥ shows three hearts without a maximum. In South's position I would be unsure whether we should be in game and in which strain. Were North to open a strong no trump, South transfers and invites with 2NT; now North has a similar problem. 4♥ is not a nice spot. You have to find the jack of hearts and then decide whether to try to discard a club on spades or, better, vice versa. An opening spade lead would have solved that problem. 3NT is much more promising; the queen of spades is protected, and you might even succeed after misguessing hearts. Maybe with such soft values South should lean towards no trumps.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	?
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
		Pass	Pass																		
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥																		
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣																		
Pass	2♥	Pass	?																		

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

<p>♠ K874 ♥ A764 ♦ A4 ♣ 1083</p> <p>♠ QJ                      ♠ 109653 ♥ K3                      ♥ J95 ♦ K108532              ♦ 96 ♣ Q76                      ♣ AK9</p> <p>♠ A2 ♥ Q1082 ♦ QJ7 ♣ J542</p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The computer says that 2♦ will fail. The best defence looks to be to keep leading clubs and force declarer eventually to open up the hearts. I suspect some will get home by using dummy's spades to exert pressure. But North-South could have made 3♥, with the aid of a successful view in trumps, and they haven't even bid! It looks as though the only time they could have got into the auction is for North to scrape up a double on the first round. It's not to my taste, vulnerable, opposite a passed partner, with eight losers and empty suits. But there's no arguing with success, so long as South doesn't get too excited.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	All Pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
			Pass														
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass														
2♦	All Pass																

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

<p>♠ 9652 ♥ QJ754 ♦ K5 ♣ KJ</p> <p>♠ KQ4                      ♠ AJ1083 ♥ AK9                      ♥ 103 ♦ 9                              ♦ J83 ♣ Q86432              ♣ A107</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ 862 ♦ AQ107642 ♣ 95</p>	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : 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>1♣</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>After the overcall, 1♠ shows a five-card suit (you would double with only four). 3♦ is a jump fit, showing a diamond suit and heart support. West's 3♠ is perhaps a slight underbid; if double were a game try in spades in your system, that might be your choice. 4♠ is a comfortable contract, even with the 4-1 trump break; be careful to establish the club suit before drawing trumps. Some North-South pairs may save in diamonds; there's perhaps a case for North to try 4♦ on the second round, but the hand as a whole is poor. 5♦ doubled is, in theory, too expensive, so long as the defenders find their heart ruff.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1♣	1♥	1♠	3♦	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
1♣	1♥	1♠	3♦										
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass										

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

<p>♠ K52 ♥ QJ2 ♦ J109 ♣ K732</p> <p>♠ 1087                      ♠ AQJ3 ♥ 9875                      ♥ K63 ♦ AQ73                      ♦ K542 ♣ 84                              ♣ 105</p> <p>♠ 964 ♥ A104 ♦ 86 ♣ AQJ96</p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : 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>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Curious hand, as Victor Mollo's Oscar the Owl would have said. Against a No Trump contract either side can make eight tricks in defence. But they may not do so. Would you lead a club from the South hand? Not I; I'd much prefer a passive spade lead and hope partner can get in to lead clubs through declarer's imagined king. East promptly runs for home and claims 120. Oh well, another bottom. If South does manage to find a club lead, presumably the queen, North must return the queen of hearts when in with the club king.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	1NT	All Pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>						
	Pass	1NT	All Pass						

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

<p>♠ A84 ♥ A64 ♦ J952 ♣ KJ10</p> <p>♠ K10972      ♠ QJ5 ♥ KJ73      ♥ 95 ♦ 8      ♦ AQ3 ♣ 853      ♣ A9764</p> <p>♠ 63 ♥ Q1082 ♦ K10764 ♣ Q2</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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</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 looks a pretty standard auction to a standard contract. Although South can infer that partner has a fair hand there's no way into the auction, with hearts marked on your left and possibly diamonds on your right.</p> <p>Nine tricks looks like the likely outcome. The defence may threaten to prevent heart ruffs in the dummy by leading trumps, but declarer can counter by ducking a club, planning to establish the suit for possible discards. Maybe a few declarers will try a diamond finesse, hoping to discard a club loser; that won't be a success.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	All Pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
		1NT	Pass														
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass														
2♠	All Pass																

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

<p>♠ - ♥ KQJ82 ♦ J7543 ♣ 762</p> <p>♠ 973      ♠ AQJ852 ♥ A1054      ♥ 976 ♦ Q109      ♦ 6 ♣ Q85      ♣ AJ4</p> <p>♠ K1064 ♥ 3 ♦ AK82 ♣ K1093</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>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>With South's shape I prefer to open 1♣, the best way to get all three suits into the equation. It doesn't work so well this time. You need partner to come to your rescue on the second round.</p> <p>East might have bid 3♠ on the previous round and isn't inclined to sell out to 3♦, even though West may have a nasty surprise in the trump suit.</p> <p>The 4-1 trump break looks to scupper 3♠ but the defence must be careful. Say South leads a top diamond and switches to the singleton heart. Declarer ducks in dummy and North would be well advised to return a club. There's no scope for an accident now.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1♣	Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass	2♠	Dbl	Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
			1♣																		
Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass																		
2♠	Dbl	Pass	3♦																		
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass																		

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

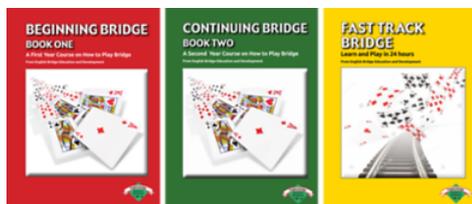
<p>♠ Q65 ♥ QJ542 ♦ 63 ♣ J42</p> <p>♠ 932      ♠ J107 ♥ K      ♥ A1096 ♦ Q985      ♦ KJ102 ♣ KQ1095      ♣ A7</p> <p>♠ AK84 ♥ 873 ♦ A74 ♣ 863</p>	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><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>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Not a very exciting hand to finish, in theory at least. However, what would you lead as South? The choice is between a top spade, choosing the card on which partner will show you attitude rather than count, or something passive. If you go for the spade, North's six looks ambiguous, and you may switch to a heart.</p> <p>Declarer now plays on diamonds. Having taken your ace, you have to act quickly. You can be fairly sure that declarer has the ace of clubs, so there are plenty of tricks now. A low spade gets you your full entitlement of five, before declarer can get more than eight.</p> <p>Any West who thinks that's an opening bid, and a few may, will give partner a headache. It's likely that East will attempt 3NT and now the stakes are somewhat higher.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>						
Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass						

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



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