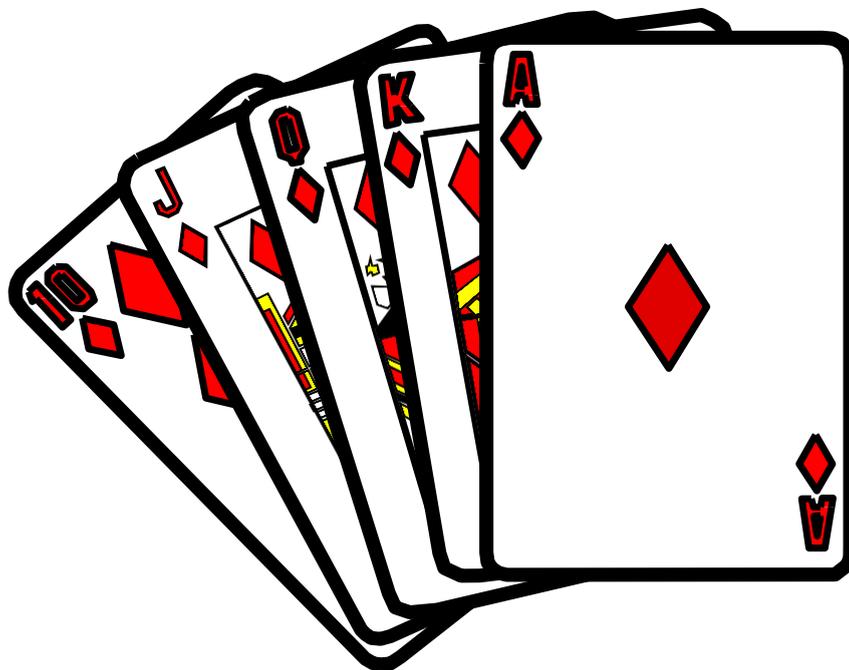


HOUSE OF LORDS

7

HOUSE OF COMMONS



At the House of Lords  
Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019  
*Commentary by Heather Dhondy*

♠ J86  
 ♥ KQ5  
 ♦ Q1032  
 ♣ KJ7  
 ♠ 105                      ♠ 972  
 ♥ 74                              ♥ J9832  
 ♦ AK4                              ♦ 65  
 ♣ AQ9842                      ♣ 1065  
                                  ♠ AKQ43  
                                  ♥ A106  
                                  ♦ J987  
                                  ♣ 3

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

Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	2♥
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All pass			

It is normal enough to reach 4♠ although ideally you want to be in 3NT which is unbeatable. The defence can do nothing to stop you from making ten tricks.

Meanwhile 4♠ is likely to fail since a top diamond is the normal lead. Now the contract suffers from three top minor suit tricks and a diamond ruff if the defence find it before declarer can draw trumps.

♠ 95  
 ♥ AQ2  
 ♦ KQ9  
 ♣ AKQJ3  
 ♠ K743                      ♠ QJ106  
 ♥ 985                              ♥ 643  
 ♦ A63                              ♦ J754  
 ♣ 974                              ♣ 86  
                                  ♠ A82  
                                  ♥ KJ107  
                                  ♦ 1082  
                                  ♣ 1052

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
21		N	5	3	5	2	4
7	4	S	5	3	5	2	4
8		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

There shouldn't be too much variation on this board. North will open 2NT in fourth seat and South will probably try Stayman, but with no major suit fit, 3NT is the normal spot.

The queen of spades is a stand-out lead. This will drive out declarer's only stopper in the suit so that after the heart and club tricks are cashed, declarer will be held to the ten top tricks.

♠ K543  
 ♥ K1043  
 ♦ 643  
 ♣ 73  
 ♠ J                              ♠ Q86  
 ♥ 5                              ♥ QJ9876  
 ♦ 1098                              ♦ A  
 ♣ AQJ109864                      ♣ K52  
                                  ♠ A10972  
                                  ♥ A2  
                                  ♦ KQJ752  
                                  ♣ -

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
6		N	-	5	1	6	-
8	12	S	-	5	1	6	-
14		E	5	-	-	-	-
		W	4	-	-	-	-

Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♦
4♣	Pass	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

What do you open with the South cards? The text books will tell you to open your longest suit, however, there is always a danger of losing a potential five-three spade fit if you do since partner will take some persuading that you have a fifth spade. Never-the-less I would open one diamond. When your second suit is spades you will have less trouble bidding them twice since it won't drive the auction up a level, being the highest ranked suit. Having opened one diamond you have little option but to reopen with 4♠ when West's 4♣ overcall is passed round to you.

Given the pre-empt of West, you should guess the trumps correctly and will emerge with twelve tricks.

♠ KJ932  
 ♥ KJ  
 ♦ J109  
 ♣ QJ10  
 ♠ A8                      ♠ 65  
 ♥ AQ9765                ♥ 1083  
 ♦ 62                        ♦ AKQ843  
 ♣ A42                      ♣ K8  
                               ♠ Q1074  
                               ♥ 42  
                               ♦ 75  
                               ♣ 97653

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
12		N	-	-	-	-	
14	12	S	-	-	-	-	
2		E	1	5	6	1 4	
		W	1	5	6	1 4	

Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♥	1♠	2♦	2♠
3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass

4♥ is the normal contract by East-West. Whilst North-South will be in the auction in spades, they are unlikely to over-reach to four given the vulnerability.

A spade lead is likely to hold declarer to eleven tricks as the trump finesse is likely to be preferred to the line of cashing the ace and attempting three round of diamonds. As it happens this will result in twelve tricks, but is not a normal line.

There could be the odd pair venturing a slam, but the interference of the opponents makes this less likely.

♠ AKQ6432  
 ♥ 1086  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣ A6  
 ♠ -                            ♠ 98  
 ♥ AQ92                    ♥ J753  
 ♦ 10876                  ♦ AJ  
 ♣ K10843                ♣ QJ752  
                               ♠ J1075  
                               ♥ K4  
                               ♦ KQ5432  
                               ♣ 9

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

Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	4♠		All pass

If North opens 4♠, this is likely to shut everyone else out. East-West, however, have a game available in either clubs or hearts, so it is important to pre-empt them out of the auction.

Against 4♠, East-West need to cash their hearts to stop the overtricks, however it is not essential to find the lead as East will have a second chance when in with the ♦A.

If East-West do get into the auction, it will be a five-level battle. North-South may end up saving in 5♠ over the making 5♣ contract, but it does depend on a view in hearts. The choices are to lead low to the queen and play for king doubleton (successfully), or to lead the jack, which should be covered and won in the West hand and then to lead to the nine on the second round finessing for the ten (unsuccessfully). The odds are the same, but you are likely to play North for fewer hearts on the bidding and go down unluckily.

♠ A74  
 ♥ KQJ98762  
 ♦ -  
 ♣ 83  
 ♠ J1083                    ♠ K5  
 ♥ A                            ♥ 4  
 ♦ AKQ98                  ♦ J75432  
 ♣ AQ10                    ♣ J972  
                               ♠ Q962  
                               ♥ 1053  
                               ♦ 106  
                               ♣ K654

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
10		N	-	-	3	- -	
20	5	S	-	-	3	- -	
		E	4	6	-	2 4	
		W	5	6	-	2 4	

Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1♦	4♥	5♦	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

6♦ is not a good contract, however, on an auction such as the one above, it will be very tempting for West to have a go.

North should lead K♥. Declarer will draw the two rounds of trumps, probably ending in dummy, and should now play the J♣. This ensures that the lead is still in the East hand if the finesse works but is not covered. Now you are able to repeat the finesse, and finally you must guess which way to play the spades. You could run the jack or lead to the king. Both are the same odds so toss a mental coin and hope to get lucky!

♠ KQ10643  
♥ A5  
♦ 532  
♣ 52

♠ A98                      ♠ J75  
♥ KJ876                    ♥ 1094  
♦ 9                             ♦ 108  
♣ KQJ6                    ♣ A9873

♠ 2  
♥ Q32  
♦ AKQJ764  
♣ 104

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
9		-	3	-	2	1	
14	5	-	3	-	2	1	
	12	3	-	2	-	-	
		3	-	2	-	-	

Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

**West                      North                      East                      South**  
3NT

All Pass

The Gambling 3NT opening bid shows a solid 7-8 card minor and no more than a queen outside the suit. Partner will pass holding stoppers in the other three suits, and may gamble with stoppers in only two of the other suits, after all the opponents may not find the right lead. For this reason it is recommended that you lead an ace if you have one, to take a look at dummy and you will then have a fair idea about how to beat the contract, if it is possible.

On this hand, therefore, West will lead the ace of spades, and, on seeing dummy switch to clubs, taking the contract two down. A heart lead is fatal as declarer can run it round to the queen and make nine tricks. You may say that a club lead is obvious anyway for the same result, but reverse North and East's black suit holdings and you will see why the A♠ is the correct lead.

♠ Q1065  
♥ J98  
♦ 76  
♣ KQ92

♠ AKJ3                      ♠ 987  
♥ A542                      ♥ 3  
♦ QJ543                    ♦ A92  
♣ -                             ♣ A87654

♠ 42  
♥ KQ1076  
♦ K108  
♣ J103

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
8		-	-	-	-	-	
15	8	-	-	-	-	-	
	9	2	4	-	3	2	
		2	4	-	3	2	

Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all

**West                      North                      East                      South**  
1♦                      Pass                      2♦                      Pass  
2♥                      Pass                      3♣                      Pass  
3♦                      All pass

East-West will do well to stop low here and there is no reason to be higher given the point count, however the bidding is not obvious.

It is not clear what to respond with the East hand. 2♣ is a bit of an overbid with just eight points, and 1NT is an unacceptable distortion. Therefore I would settle on 2♦. The point count is right and, although I only have three-card support, partner frequently holds five in a weak NT four-card major structure, and I do have a ruffing value (singleton) in hearts. Partner will still probably make a try with 2♥, and now I can show my six-card suit. Partner is not at all happy in clubs, however, so will return to 3♦.

3♦ on the eight-card fit is a comfortable spot, and a couple of heart ruffs in the short trump hand should land you with an overtrick.

♠ K2  
♥ AJ106  
♦ KJ7  
♣ 9864

♠ J10874                    ♠ AQ965  
♥ 752                        ♥ K4  
♦ 96                         ♦ A1084  
♣ QJ2                      ♣ A7

♠ 3  
♥ Q983  
♦ Q532  
♣ K1053

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
12		1	1	1	-	-	
4	17	1	-	1	-	-	
	7	-	-	-	4	1	
		-	-	-	4	1	

Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

**West                      North                      East                      South**  
1NT                      Dbl                      Pass  
2♠                      Pass                      4♠                      All pass

The auction is likely to begin with a weak NT, doubled by East and West will probably remove to 2♠ out of weakness. This will come as a very pleasant surprise for East, and given that nearly all the defenders high cards will be in the North hand, those finesses are going to be working so you can afford to be bold and have a go at game.

Even though the club finesse fails, the ♥A and ♠K are onside as expected so the contract has just three tricks to lose.

♠ 8  
 ♥ Q765  
 ♦ Q109873  
 ♣ K3  
 ♠ A10632      ♠ KQ5  
 ♥ KJ83      ♥ A42  
 ♦ -      ♦ 542  
 ♣ QJ109      ♣ 8654  
 ♠ J974  
 ♥ 109  
 ♦ AKJ6  
 ♣ A72

HCP	
7	9
11	13

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

Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT
2♣	2♦	2♠	3♦
3♠	All Pass		

Have you discussed a defence to 1NT? One useful one is Landy, where 2♣ shows both majors. You should have at least a 5-4 shape for the bid, so the West hand is a good example. Unfortunately partner doesn't know which your five-card suit is, however when North bids 2♦, East will try 2♠ on the grounds that, firstly it is the stronger suit, but also, if the opponents persist with their diamonds you are worth another go and will be able to try 3♥ on your next turn offering a choice. As it happens, you pick the right suit first-time so partner is happy enough to raise, given you made a free bid of 2♠ (in other words you weren't forced to bid once North had called 2♦).

♠ K964  
 ♥ QJ83  
 ♦ A4  
 ♣ KQ3  
 ♠ AQ52      ♠ 873  
 ♥ K10      ♥ A65  
 ♦ K10932      ♦ Q765  
 ♣ 82      ♣ AJ7  
 ♠ J10  
 ♥ 9742  
 ♦ J8  
 ♣ 109654

HCP	
15	11
12	2

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

Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♦	Dbl	Rdbl	1♥
Pass	Pass	3♦	All Pass

It seems likely that East-West will end up in a diamond part-score. Although 3NT is makeable, it is rather fortunate that your clubs provide a double stopper, and you don't have the values to bid it.

In 3♦ you will probably lose a club, a trump and two spades to make exactly.

♠ J83  
 ♥ K108  
 ♦ A32  
 ♣ J753  
 ♠ 107      ♠ 62  
 ♥ AJ974      ♥ Q652  
 ♦ QJ65      ♦ K97  
 ♣ Q2      ♣ K964  
 ♠ AKQ954  
 ♥ 3  
 ♦ 1084  
 ♣ A108

HCP	
9	8
10	13

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

Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
All pass			

This is another likely part-score, but again 3NT is making. It does need the ♥A to be with West however, and the values are not there.

Instead I expect most pairs to play a spade part-score. Once the ♥A is with West, declarer will be able to discard a minor suit loser from the South hand and make nine tricks.

♠ K104  
♥ 92  
♦ Q10875  
♣ K43

♠ QJ73      ♠ A85  
♥ 7            ♥ AK10654  
♦ K3            ♦ A92  
♣ AQ9852    ♣ 7

♠ 962  
♥ QJ83  
♦ J64  
♣ J106

HCP	
8	15
12	5

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

Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All pass		

Sometimes life just isn't fair. On the previous two deals, 3NT was making despite a severe lack of values. Here there are ample values, but 3NT will fail on best defence. On the previous hand you had to play 3NT despite holding a nine-card major suit fit. Here, the only making games are 4♥ or 4♠ on a seven-card fit!

Against 3NT, a diamond lead seems likely and declarer has to decide which six-one fit to play on for extra tricks. The chosen suit will need to divide three-three and in clubs, the finesse also needs to work. For this reason it is better to start with the hearts although in practice neither option works.

♠ A9643  
♥ 832  
♦ AK6  
♣ 54

♠ QJ75      ♠ K8  
♥ A5            ♥ KQ964  
♦ J52            ♦ Q83  
♣ J987        ♣ A63

♠ 102  
♥ J107  
♦ 10974  
♣ KQ102

HCP	
11	14
9	6

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

Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all

West	North	East	South
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	All Pass

We're back to 3NT making without sufficient values. This one is definitely not a good contract however.

A more likely contract is a heart or NT part-score. In either case it is best to drive out the ♠A before playing on hearts since the ♥A is your entry to the third spade if the first round is ducked. Once hearts divide three-three there are eight easy tricks and the opponents are unable to prevent you from scoring a ninth.

♠ Q4  
♥ J874  
♦ 432  
♣ KQ53

♠ 10932      ♠ K5  
♥ Q2            ♥ AK109653  
♦ 1065            ♦ A98  
♣ J874        ♣ 10

♠ AJ876  
♥ -  
♦ KQJ7  
♣ A962

HCP	
8	14
3	15

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

Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	1NT	2♥	Dbl
Pass	2♠	3♥	All Pass

I predict some variety here. Some will play in a heart contract by East, whilst others will continue to compete with the North-South cards.

Those playing in hearts will make eight tricks. Those playing in spades might suffer an uncomfortable time on a heart lead. However if declarer is brave enough to cross to dummy in clubs and take a trump finesse, cash a second trump and play a diamond, it is East who has to win, (which is just as well or else the defence would have the rest of the tricks!) and plays a top heart. West is unable to gain the lead except with a trump, and when that trump is taken West will be forced to concede the remaining club tricks to declarer.

♠ 1043	
♥ 10876	
♦ AQ93	
♣ 63	
♠ Q975	♠ AJ8
♥ Q5	♥ J942
♦ J1065	♦ 8742
♣ A82	♣ 75
	♠ K62
	♥ AK3
	♦ K
	♣ KQJ1094

HCP	
6	6
9	19

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

Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	3NT

All pass

At last we are back to a straight-forward hand. The values are there for 3NT, it is a good contract and it is making.

On a likely spade lead, declarer will drive out the ♣A and the defence will cash their spades after which declarer has the remaining tricks.

♠ AJ32	
♥ K76	
♦ 4	
♣ AK1097	
♠ 4	♠ 108765
♥ AQJ9832	♥ 104
♦ 853	♦ AQ107
♣ Q2	♣ 64
	♠ KQ9
	♥ 5
	♦ KJ962
	♣ J853

HCP	
15	6
9	10

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

Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	1♣	Pass	1♦
3♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	All pass	

Any of 3NT, 5♣ or 4♠ all are making for North-South, and they have the high-card values for game. The play is not problematic in any of the contracts once clubs are coming in for you.

What might be problematic is the interference from West. Non-vulnerable, West should attempt to cause a nuisance by pre-empting in hearts, and then reaching game might become more difficult, however the auction above is one possible solution.

♠ 852	
♥ 874	
♦ 10543	
♣ AQJ	
♠ AQ3	♠ KJ1076
♥ AK653	♥ 2
♦ AKQ6	♦ J7
♣ 4	♣ 107652
	♠ 94
	♥ QJ109
	♦ 982
	♣ K983

HCP	
7	5
22	6

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	3	4	3	6	4
W	3	4	3	6	4

Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
		Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

What do you open with the West cards? If you open 1♥ there is too much danger of being left to play there. On the other hand, opening 2♣ will cramp the auction and may leave you unable to locate the spade fit (as in the auction given above).

6♠ is a very good contract and anyone who reaches it deserves a pat on the back. For those in game, 4♠ or 3NT are safe enough. In 3NT the defence are able to take three club tricks, but then you have the rest. In a spade contract, one club ruff in the West hand before drawing trumps will take you up to twelve tricks.

♠ 109  
♥ KQ97643  
♦ AQ82  
♣ -

♠ K8654      ♠ AQJ7  
♥ 852      ♥ 10  
♦ 106      ♦ K9753  
♣ A109      ♣ KJ2

♠ 32  
♥ AJ  
♦ J4  
♣ Q876543

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
11		N	-	-	4	-	-
7	14	S	-	-	4	-	-
8		E	1	2	-	3	-
		W	1	2	-	4	-

Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			3♣
Pass	3♥	Dbl	4♥
4♠	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

With both sides able to make game, this auction should be highly competitive. Starting with the South hand, do you pre-empt? The location of high cards is not ideal in that you would like the majority of your points to be in your long suit, however you do have a seven-card suit and the vulnerability is on your side, so I would open 3♣. North will introduce the heart suit and East should enter the auction with a take-out double. South has great support for hearts so will raise and West may have a go at 4♠. Now North does best to save in 5♥. Against 4♠ by West, the defence are only able to get one club ruff to go with a heart and a diamond for just making. In a heart contract declarer has two spades and a diamond to lose for ten tricks.

♠ QJ654  
♥ J3  
♦ K10  
♣ KJ104

♠ A      ♠ K987  
♥ A92      ♥ Q108654  
♦ QJ8654      ♦ 2  
♣ Q72      ♣ 53

♠ 1032  
♥ K7  
♦ A973  
♣ A986

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

Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
2♦	3♣	Pass	3♠
All pass			

3♠ is quite high enough on this deal, and you will do well to make nine tricks. Provided the defence stay clear of hearts you will have to lose two of them to go with at least two trumps. If East will almost certainly begin with the singleton diamond which you will win in hand. You will probably play a trump to the ten and ace and now East will give partner a diamond ruff. Now if East leads a heart back to partner's ace and another diamond comes through, East will get the trump promotion needed to defeat the contract. If North ruffs high on the third diamond, East must discard in order to promote the nine of trumps.

♠ K63  
♥ A43  
♦ Q9763  
♣ 107

♠ AQ854      ♠ J972  
♥ 1095      ♥ 82  
♦ K82      ♦ AJ  
♣ 94      ♣ KJ853

♠ 10  
♥ KQJ76  
♦ 1054  
♣ AQ62

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

Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♦	2♥	3♦
Pass	3♥	3♠	All pass

This will be another competitive part-score battle. East-West should not sell out before 3♠ with their nine-card fit and at the favourable vulnerability.

North-South's 3♥ is always making with just three diamonds and a spade to lose once the club finesse is working. On the other hand 3♠ will fail as clubs and spades are not favourable placed for them. It is unlucky as 3♠ is a reasonable contract and on a good day even four would be making.

♠ K52  
 ♥ QJ943  
 ♦ K5  
 ♣ K97  
 ♠ AQ10986      ♠ 73  
 ♥ A              ♥ 75  
 ♦ QJ97          ♦ 108643  
 ♣ 103            ♣ AQ64  
 ♠ J4  
 ♥ K10862  
 ♦ A2  
 ♣ J852

HCP	
12	6
13	9

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

Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

East-West have a double fit which means that, despite holding a combined nineteen count, they can make a game in spades. It needs trumps to come in for one loser, the club finesse, and no diamond ruff possible so it's not a good contract. They are only likely to reach it, however, if pushed there by North-South. If North-South stay silent, as I would on their cards, East-West will have a quiet auction like the one given above.

If North-South do end up winning the contract, they have nine tricks available in hearts, losing one trump, two clubs and a spade, but they will need to guess the clubs correctly if the defence don't touch the suit.

♠ 87  
 ♥ A954  
 ♦ 952  
 ♣ AKQ7  
 ♠ J10              ♠ AQ5432  
 ♥ 87              ♥ K2  
 ♦ Q1064          ♦ A73  
 ♣ 98652          ♣ J3  
 ♠ K96  
 ♥ QJ1063  
 ♦ KJ8  
 ♣ 104

HCP	
13	14
3	10

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

Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1NT	2♠	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

On the auction above, unless you are playing Lebensohl (and if you've never heard of it, don't concern yourself!) North 3♥ bid is purely competitive. Having said that, the North hand is so suitable for hearts that there will be a temptation to raise given that partner found a free bid to the three level.

In 4♥, provided declarer plays East for the ace of spades and the ace of diamonds, which are both likely to be working given the bidding, the contract will make.

♠ AQ984  
 ♥ AK53  
 ♦ Q  
 ♣ 1042  
 ♠ 65              ♠ K1072  
 ♥ J7              ♥ Q64  
 ♦ AJ1086          ♦ K92  
 ♣ KQJ5            ♣ A73  
 ♠ J3  
 ♥ 10982  
 ♦ 7543  
 ♣ 986

HCP	
15	12
12	1

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

Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	2NT	Pass
3NT	All pass		

East-West are borderline for 3NT so some might reach it and others not. All suits are stopped and when the ♦Q obligingly falls on the first round there are nine easy winners to be taken in the minors.

The only problem on this board is whether you are going to reach game, and given there are only 24 points between the two hands, you can't be blamed for missing it.

# Current victory totals:

**Lords - 23**

**Commons - 20**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Winners</b>
1975	Lords	1998	Commons
1976	Commons	1999	Commons
1977	Commons	2000	Commons
1978	Commons	2001	Lords
1979	Lords	2002*	Commons
1980	Lords	2003**	Lords
1981	Lords	2004	Commons
1982	Lords	2005	Commons
1983	Lords	2006	Lords
1984	Commons	2007	Lords
1985	Commons	2008	Lords
1986	Commons	2009	Commons
1987	Lords	2010	Lords
1988	Lords	2011	Lords
1989	Lords	2012	Lords
1990	Lords	2013	Commons
1991	Commons	2014	Commons
1992	Commons	2015	Lords
1993	Commons	2016	Lords
1994	Lords	2017	Commons
1995	Commons	2018	Commons
1996	Lords	2019	Lords
1997	Lords		

\* played May 2003 / \*\* played July 2003



The 2019 winners, the House of Lords team: Back row: James Cooper, Lord Howard, Lord Hamilton, Richard Cummin-Bruce  
Front row: Kitty Teltscher, Baroness Byford, Lord Kalms, Earl of Caithness

The Tony Berry Trophy is awarded for the best piece of play  
The 2019 winner was Lord Kalms (with judge Tom Townsend)

