

# TRIAL SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS

## 6th December 2011

Welcome to the test event for the English Bridge Union's new Simultaneous Pairs system.

As I'm sure you're aware, the English Bridge Union will be taking over the running of its own Sim Pairs events with effect from April 2012. It will also be running the 'British Sim Pairs' on behalf of all the Home Unions. The purpose of today's event was to test out procedures and software so that we are ready for next April. It is almost a certainty that some things will go wrong on the first occasion. We welcome constructive feedback, but please be patient with us!

We decided to do something a little different for the commentary booklet: During our lunch breaks over a few weeks, a group of us actually went ahead and played the boards; so rather than telling you what we think **should** have happened, we've told you what **actually** happened. There are some good bids and leads, but we haven't hidden from you the terrible ones, or the messes that we got into! We hope you find it entertaining.

### Dramatis Personae:

Barry Capal (EBU General Manager). Barry plays a lot in the U.S.A., so his favoured system is 'Standard American', which includes a Strong No Trump and 5-card majors.

Gail Nancarrow (Accounts Manager). Gail learned to play only a few years ago through the 'Bridge for All' scheme, and her system is based on 'Standard English' – four card majors and a Weak No Trump – with Weak Twos in three suits. She now plays almost exclusively on online site BridgeClubLive.

Michael Clark (IT and website). Michael is the most experienced tournament player on the team. His preferred system is MOSCITO, but nobody else was prepared to play that with him.

Ian Mitchell (Master Points and IT). Ian is well known to tournament players as a director and scorer and has also been known to hold a hand of cards from time to time.

Peter Jordan (Competitions). Peter plays at a few clubs in the Oxfordshire area and you will also catch him playing for Thame in the Berks and Bucks league. You may know him also as the friendly 'front of house' at some of our larger tournaments, as well as our overseas congresses.

We swapped around a little bit – depending on who was available each lunchtime! Always there was one pair playing Standard American, and one playing a variation on Standard English, though they switched between North-South and East-West.

<p>♠K9865 ♥J8 ♦QJ3 ♣854</p> <p>♠J10 ♥AK109 ♦A95 ♣7632</p> <p>♠742 ♥Q654 ♦87642 ♣Q</p> <p>♠AQ3 ♥732 ♦K10 ♣AKJ109</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><td>GN</td><td>BC</td><td>PJ</td><td>MC</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td><td>South</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>contract: 2♠ by South</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>lead: ♥A</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>result: 10 tricks, N/S +170</td></tr></table> <p>4♠ isn't a wonderful contract as it needs there to be no spade or club losers, but you shouldn't be unhappy to be there, particularly when it makes. Michael erred at our table when he opened a 15-17 1NT – this hand with its excellent clubs is clearly better than that and should be upgraded. A start of 1♣ – 1♠ – 2NT would have swiftly got them to the top spot and I'm sure this is an auction that will be repeated in all corners of the land.</p> <p>Declarers should be careful not to go off-track in the trump suit when West plays an honour on the first round. Crossing to table and running the ♠9 is only recommended if you're very sure that they would never play an honour from ♠J10x.</p>	GN	BC	PJ	MC		West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1NT	contract: 2♠ by South	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	lead: ♥A	All Pass				result: 10 tricks, N/S +170																																																
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<p>♠KQ ♥107 ♦A10985 ♣Q1087</p> <p>♠A ♥KQJ8652 ♦74 ♣642</p> <p>♠J98653 ♥A43 ♦KQ ♣K5</p> <p>♠10742 ♥9 ♦J632 ♣AJ93</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><td>GN</td><td>BC</td><td>PJ</td><td>MC</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td><td>South</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>contract: 3♥ by West</td></tr><tr><td>3♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td>lead: ♣Q</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>result: 10 tricks, N/S -170</td></tr></table> <p>A normal, albeit very maximum, 3♥ opening from Gail gave Peter a problem as East. After some thought he eventually opted for a pass but you could see it was through gritted teeth. As it happens ten tricks will always be made, even with the ♣A sitting poorly. Should Peter raise? Losing Trick Count adherents will say yes, but it's close and you can see situations where the raise will work out badly. Not today, though.</p> <p>Many will open 1♥ as West and will get to game very easily, often via 1♥ – 1♠ – 2♥ – 4♥.</p>	GN	BC	PJ	MC		West	North	East	South					Pass	contract: 3♥ by West	3♥	All Pass			lead: ♣Q					result: 10 tricks, N/S -170																																																
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<p>♠KQ8 ♥AQ3 ♦KQJ973 ♣4</p> <p>♠J1062      ♠43 ♥984      ♥1076 ♦86      ♦10542 ♣A1063      ♣KQ97</p> <p>♠A975 ♥KJ52 ♦A ♣J852</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>13</td></tr></table> <table><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>6</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>5</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		17	5	5	13	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	6	6	5	3	S	2	6	6	5	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>GN</th><th>BC</th><th>PJ</th><th>MC</th></tr><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><td>contract: 4♥ by South</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>lead: ♦6</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td>result: 13 tricks, N/S +710</td></tr></table> <p>A fun hand where there will be a lot of different contracts and results. Slam can be made in either red suit and, for those who like to live dangerously, there are a lot of tricks available in no-trumps if the defence don't find a club lead.</p> <p>Barry and Michael stopped slightly cautiously in 4♥ after finding they had a lot of points but no eight-card fit. The major-suit game, along with the precious overtrick when the defence led a diamond, should still score quite well, though.</p> <p>Those who played in 6♠ rather than 6♥ should probably count themselves a little unlucky.</p>	GN	BC	PJ	MC	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	contract: 4♥ by South	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠	lead: ♦6	Pass	4♥	All Pass		result: 13 tricks, N/S +710
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<p>♠QJ7 ♥1074 ♦J53 ♣K1052</p> <p>♠AK9      ♠854 ♥J9      ♥AKQ8 ♦A874      ♦KQ1092 ♣QJ64      ♣A</p> <p>♠10632 ♥6532 ♦6 ♣9873</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>0</td></tr></table> <table><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>4</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr></table>		HCP		7	18	15	0	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	7	6	5	6	W	4	7	6	5	6	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>GN</th><th>BC</th><th>PJ</th><th>MC</th></tr><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>contract: 3NT by West</td></tr><tr><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>lead: ♠Q</td></tr><tr><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td>result: 12 tricks, N/S -490</td></tr></table> <p>There was a misunderstanding here for Gail and Peter. Peter's 2♥, as it is a higher bid than rebidding his diamonds, is a <i>reverse</i> and indicates 16 or more points. He'd have to rebid 2♦ with a weaker hand. If Gail had appreciated this she would no doubt have tried something different to her 3NT and the excellent slam would have been reached.</p> <p>Full marks to those who not only bid to 7♦ but knew they were making it before seeing dummy!</p>	GN	BC	PJ	MC	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♦	Pass	contract: 3NT by West	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	lead: ♠Q	3NT	All Pass			result: 12 tricks, N/S -490
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<p>♠AQ984 ♥876 ♦A872 ♣4</p> <p>♠J52      ♠10763 ♥J92      ♥Q ♦QJ      ♦65 ♣AQJ82      ♣K109765</p> <p>♠K ♥AK10543 ♦K10943 ♣3</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr></table> <table><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>5</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>1</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		10	5	12	13	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	5	5	5	1	S	-	5	5	5	1	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>GN</th><th>BC</th><th>PJ</th><th>MC</th></tr><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>contract: 5♣X by West</td></tr><tr><td>2♣</td><td>2♠</td><td>5♣</td><td>Dbl</td><td>lead: ♥8</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>result: 7 tricks, N/S +1100</td></tr></table> <p>Gail's 2♣ overcall won't be everyone's cup of tea but this is pairs and it does have some preemptive and lead-directing merits. It is undeniably dangerous, though. Peter's barrage to the five level is also understandable, even at the vulnerability. Unfortunately, when both partners step a little too close to the edge one of them is likely to fall off – and take the other with them.</p> <p>It might have worked beautifully, of course. Michael was under considerable pressure after the 5♣ bid and strongly considered trying 5♦. This would have undoubtedly led to a doomed red-suit slam and praise for East/West. Not this time but, as a wise man once said, if you don't go for a large penalty every once in a while you're probably not being aggressive enough.</p>	GN	BC	PJ	MC	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♥	contract: 5♣X by West	2♣	2♠	5♣	Dbl	lead: ♥8	All Pass				result: 7 tricks, N/S +1100
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<div><div>♠ 1094</div><div>♥ Q3</div><div>♦ AQ954</div><div>♣ J73</div></div> <div><div>♠ K63</div><div>♥ 2</div><div>♦ K</div><div>♣ KQ1098652</div></div> <div><div>♠ AQJ8</div><div>♥ AK76</div><div>♦ J1076</div><div>♣ 4</div></div> <div><div>♠ 752</div><div>♥ J109854</div><div>♦ 832</div><div>♣ A</div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr></table></div>	HCP	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		9	N	-	-	1	-	-	11	S	-	-	1	-	-	5	E	5	1	-	4	4		W	5	1	-	4	4	<div>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>GN</div><div>West</div></div><div><div>BC</div><div>North</div></div><div><div>PJ</div><div>East</div></div><div><div>MC</div><div>South</div></div></div> <div><div>Pass</div><div>contract: 4NT by East</div></div> <div><div>4♣</div><div>Pass</div><div>4NT</div><div>All Pass</div><div>lead: ♥J</div><div>result: 10 tricks, N/S -630</div></div> <div><p>Gail was possibly a little excited here by all the preempting that had been going on and wanted to continue along that vein. Her 4♣ might of course force North/South into an error, but 1♣ should usually be enough. Peter converted to 4NT and made ten tricks so no harm was done this time.</p><p>Some pairs will make 12 tricks so the defenders who can find a diamond lead or diamond switch will do well. The Norths who venture an overcall of 1♦ over 1♣ will make things nice and easy for their grateful partners.</p></div>
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<div><div>♠ AQJ106</div><div>♥ Q8</div><div>♦ KJ53</div><div>♣ 43</div></div> <div><div>♠ K942</div><div>♥ A5</div><div>♦ Q108742</div><div>♣ 6</div></div> <div><div>♠ 8</div><div>♥ K10942</div><div>♦ 96</div><div>♣ KJ1097</div></div> <div><div>♠ 753</div><div>♥ J763</div><div>♦ A</div><div>♣ AQ852</div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><td></td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div>	HCP	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		13	N	1	1	1	4	4	9	S	1	1	1	4	4	7	E	-	-	-	-	-	11	W	-	-	-	-	-	<div>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</div> <div><div><div>GN</div><div>West</div></div><div><div>BC</div><div>North</div></div><div><div>PJ</div><div>East</div></div><div><div>MC</div><div>South</div></div></div> <div><div>2♦</div><div>2♠</div><div>Pass</div><div>4♠</div><div>contract: 4♠ by North</div></div> <div><div>All Pass</div><div>lead: ♦9</div><div>result: 9 tricks, N/S -50</div></div> <div><p>The four-card major on the side should usually deter West from preempting – you risk either missing a better fit yourself or dissuading the opponents from finding a fit in a suit which is breaking badly – but that won’t stop our Gail! Barry and Michael shrugged it off, though, and quickly reached the spade game.</p><p>4♠ can make but it’s complex. Barry won the diamond lead and finessed in spades, then ruffed a diamond. He then finessed in spades again and when they didn’t break he lost two hearts, a diamond and a trump. Playing on hearts while there’s still a trump on the table to stop the defence from setting up a diamond trick happens to work, but it’s hard to find a logical reason for why that’s right!</p></div>
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<div><div>♠ AK8742</div><div>♥ 105</div><div>♦ A</div><div>♣ 7532</div></div> <div><div>♠ J95</div><div>♥ 6</div><div>♦ Q108764</div><div>♣ Q94</div></div> <div><div>♠ 10</div><div>♥ AQ7432</div><div>♦ K93</div><div>♣ A108</div></div> <div><div>♠ Q63</div><div>♥ KJ98</div><div>♦ J52</div><div>♣ KJ6</div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><td></td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div>	HCP	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		11	N	1	-	-	3	1	5	S	1	-	-	3	1	13	E	-	3	1	-	-	11	W	-	3	1	-	-	<div>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>GN</div><div>West</div></div><div><div>BC</div><div>North</div></div><div><div>PJ</div><div>East</div></div><div><div>MC</div><div>South</div></div></div> <div><div>1♠</div><div>3♥</div><div>All Pass</div><div>contract: 3♥ by East</div></div> <div><div>lead: ♠3</div><div>result: 5 tricks, N/S +400</div></div> <div><p>We’re not sure what Peter had for breakfast on the morning we played these boards, but he was certainly feeling in an aggressive mood! His 3♥ overcall is not usually recommended, but these sorts of actions can occasionally strike gold at pairs. Michael, smelling blood, had to pass and hope that Barry could protect with a takeout double but Barry didn’t feel able to do so with his minimum opener. Still, +400 ought to score well. That said, those who do somehow bid to 4♠ will probably make it, unless East leads the ♥A and gives his partner a ruff.</p></div>
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<p>♠ J5 ♥ QJ8 ♦ KQJ2 ♣ AQJ7</p> <p>♠ 3                      ♠ A42 ♥ K102                  ♥ A97543 ♦ A10975                ♦ 6 ♣ K1094                  ♣ 532</p> <p>♠ KQ109876 ♥ 6 ♦ 843 ♣ 86</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>5</td></tr></table> <table><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>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr></table>		HCP		17	8	10	5	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	2	-	S	-	-	-	2	-	E	1	-	3	-	-	W	1	1	4	-	1	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>GN</th><th>BC</th><th>PJ</th><th>MC</th><th></th></tr><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th><th></th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>contract: 4♠ by South</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Dbl</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>lead: ♥2</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>result: 9 tricks, N/S -100</td></tr></table> <p>How strong does your partnership play a 2NT overcall after a Weak Two is opened and there are two passes? Barry thought he was too strong for this and so started with a Double. He must have been a little worried when Michael jumped all the way to 4♠! The defence did well. Gail led a heart and Peter switched to a diamond. Making no mistake, Gail gave her partner the ruff he desired and so the contract went one off.</p> <p>A super-human defence would actually take the contract two off, but there will be more people who make 4♠ than suffer this fate.</p>	GN	BC	PJ	MC		West	North	East	South				2♥	Pass	contract: 4♠ by South	Pass	Dbl	Pass	4♠	lead: ♥2	All Pass				result: 9 tricks, N/S -100
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<p>♠ - ♥ K109653 ♦ 54 ♣ A9765</p> <p>♠ AQ642                  ♠ KJ1098 ♥ J87                      ♥ AQ ♦ A7                        ♦ QJ109 ♣ KJ8                      ♣ Q10</p> <p>♠ 753 ♥ 42 ♦ K8632 ♣ 432</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>3</td></tr></table> <table><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>3</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>5</td></tr></table>		HCP		7	15	15	3	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	3	1	6	5	W	1	4	1	6	5	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>IM</th><th>GN</th><th>BC</th><th>MC</th><th></th></tr><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th><th></th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>contract: 3NT by West</td></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>2♥</td><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td>lead: ♥10</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>result: 11 tricks, N/S -460</td></tr></table> <p>Barry faced an interesting decision here, after Ian opened a 15-17 1NT and Gail overcalled 2♥. If North can be trusted then presumably slam is unlikely, especially with so few Aces and Kings, so he decided to ignore his spades and took a shot at the highest scoring match point contract. He hoped that even if there was a spade fit it would score the same number of tricks. This time he was unlucky and Ian could only make 11 tricks in No Trumps, with an easy 12 available in spades.</p>	IM	GN	BC	MC		West	North	East	South					Pass	contract: 3NT by West	1NT	2♥	3NT	All Pass	lead: ♥10					result: 11 tricks, N/S -460
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<p>♠ A87 ♥ 4 ♦ KJ10652 ♣ 1063</p> <p>♠ K532                      ♠ QJ94 ♥ 87532                    ♥ KQ109 ♦ Q                          ♦ A87 ♣ 875                        ♣ 42</p> <p>♠ 106 ♥ AJ6 ♦ 943 ♣ AKQJ9</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>15</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr></table>		HCP		8	12	5	15	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	5	-	-	3	S	4	5	-	-	3	E	-	-	2	1	-	W	-	-	2	1	-	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>IM</th><th>GN</th><th>BC</th><th>MC</th><th></th></tr><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>Dbl</td><td>3♦</td><td>contract: 5♦ by North</td></tr><tr><td>3♥</td><td>4♦</td><td>4♥</td><td>5♦</td><td>lead: ♥K</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>result: 12 tricks, N/S +620</td></tr></table> <p>Gail's Weak Two opening at our table led to a competitive auction where nobody could tell who could make what. After Barry's takeout double, Michael just raised quietly to 3♦, happy that if things stopped there it would probably be ok, and if things didn't he would be in a better position to know what to do. Gail's 4♦ after Ian's 3♥ is bidding her hand twice – a preemptor should usually have a very good reason to raise herself later in the auction – but it did make it easy for Michael to bid the vulnerable diamond game rather than try his luck against 4♥.</p> <p>Those who land in 3NT will usually make eleven tricks, unless the defence get off to an unlikely spade lead.</p>	IM	GN	BC	MC		West	North	East	South		Pass	2♦	Dbl	3♦	contract: 5♦ by North	3♥	4♦	4♥	5♦	lead: ♥K	All Pass				result: 12 tricks, N/S +620
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<p>♠ 3 ♥ K3 ♦ KQ1064 ♣ Q9843</p> <p>♠ 5 ♥ Q986 ♦ 872 ♣ AKJ62</p> <p>♠ AKQJ6 ♥ J1042 ♦ A53 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ 1098742 ♥ A75 ♦ J9 ♣ 105</p> <table><tr><th>HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr></table>		HCP	Makeable contracts						10		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	10	N	-	-	-	-	-	15	S	-	-	-	-	-	5	E	1	-	4	1	1		W	1	-	4	1	1	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><td>IM</td><td>GN</td><td>BC</td><td>MC</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td><td>South</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>contract: 4♥ by East</td></tr><tr><td>2♣</td><td>2♦</td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>lead: ♦J</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td>result: 9 tricks, N/S +100</td></tr></table> <p>To make 4♥ here you have to win the diamond lead and then pitch a losing diamond on the ♣K. But who would guess to do that? Barry tried the more promising spade suit for his discards, so the defence made three trump tricks and one diamond.</p> <p>It's often right, when the opposition bid two suits and settle in a third, to lead a trump in order to cut down on a cross-ruff but that would be wrong here. Not only is partner marked with shortness in spades (and so can over-ruff dummy), but declarer is known to have such good spades that he won't want to do much ruffing anyway. And besides, when partner goes out of her way to ask you to lead a diamond it would be very rude not to!</p>	IM	GN	BC	MC		West	North	East	South			Pass	1♠	Pass	contract: 4♥ by East	2♣	2♦	2♥	Pass	lead: ♦J	4♥	All Pass			result: 9 tricks, N/S +100					
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<p>♠ J84 ♥ - ♦ Q87432 ♣ 10876</p> <p>♠ 10962 ♥ K10 ♦ AKJ9 ♣ K94</p> <p>♠ K73 ♥ Q7532 ♦ 105 ♣ QJ3</p> <p>♠ AQ5 ♥ AJ9864 ♦ 6 ♣ A52</p> <table><tr><th>HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><td>3</td><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr></table>		HCP	Makeable contracts						3		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	14	N	2	1	1	1	-	8	S	2	1	1	-	-	15	E	-	-	-	-	1		W	-	-	-	-	1	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table><tr><td>IM</td><td>GN</td><td>BC</td><td>MC</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td><td>South</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>contract: 2♥X by South</td></tr><tr><td>Dbl</td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>2♥</td><td>lead: ♠9</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Dbl</td><td>All Pass</td><td>result: 7 tricks, N/S -100</td></tr></table> <p>A very sharp match point double from Barry here led to the good score of +100, far better than all those measly +90s that will be scored his way. Michael's 2♥ is not without danger, but the suit is good and the hand is strong and he wasn't too confident about defeating 1NT so he tried to improve matters. He didn't reckon on Barry "the Assassin" Capal, though!</p>	IM	GN	BC	MC		West	North	East	South				Pass	1♥	contract: 2♥X by South	Dbl	Pass	1NT	2♥	lead: ♠9	Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass	result: 7 tricks, N/S -100					
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<p>♠ - ♥ QJ1094 ♦ Q1064 ♣ AJ102</p> <p>♠ K432 ♥ A32 ♦ AKJ95 ♣ 8</p> <p>♠ J965 ♥ K65 ♦ 2 ♣ K9743</p> <p>♠ AQ1087 ♥ 87 ♦ 873 ♣ Q65</p> <table><tr><th>HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr></table>		HCP	Makeable contracts						10		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	15	N	-	-	-	-	-	7	S	-	-	-	-	1	8	E	1	1	1	3	-		W	1	1	2	3	-	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><td>IM</td><td>GN</td><td>BC</td><td>MC</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td><td>South</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>contract: 2♦ by West</td></tr><tr><td>1♦</td><td>1♥</td><td>Dbl</td><td>1♠</td><td>lead: ♥Q</td></tr><tr><td>Dbl</td><td>1NT</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>result: 6 tricks, N/S +100</td></tr><tr><td>2♦</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>At the time, Michael regretted bidding 1♠ and keeping Ian and Barry out of their 4-4 spade fit. When dummy went down, though, he was quite happy that they instead found an even worse spot!</p> <p>A lot of pairs will end up in 2♠, especially if East bids 1♠ after the overcall rather than double, and will actually do pretty well in that contract. South won't be able to get in to play trumps too many times and declarer will be able to make a lot of low trumps on a cross-ruff.</p>	IM	GN	BC	MC		West	North	East	South					Pass	contract: 2♦ by West	1♦	1♥	Dbl	1♠	lead: ♥Q	Dbl	1NT	2♣	Pass	result: 6 tricks, N/S +100	2♦	All Pass			
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<p>♠ 1065 ♥ AK1076 ♦ A96 ♣ 42</p> <p>♠ K8                      ♠ AQ974 ♥ J85                      ♥ 42 ♦ 87                        ♦ K542 ♣ QJ10986                ♣ 75</p> <p>♠ J32 ♥ Q93 ♦ QJ103 ♣ AK3</p>		<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><td><i>PJ</i></td><td><i>GN</i></td><td><i>BC</i></td><td><i>MC</i></td></tr><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>Pass</td><td>1NT</td></tr><tr><td>2♣</td><td>3♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>contract: 3♥ by North lead: ♣7 result: 9 tricks, N/S +140</p> <p>Not a good hand for light openers. A 1NT or 1♥ opening from Gail would have sailed the partnership into the game which is never going to make. Instead, Michael was able to open a 12-14 1NT in fourth seat and, brushing aside Peter’s petulance, Gail settled for a simple invitation. Michael could see no reason to go further and Gail easily wrapped up 9 tricks for what should be a fairly good score.</p> <p>The heart game is on a straight finesse, so don’t feel too bad if you finished too high. Next week it’ll make.</p>		<i>PJ</i>	<i>GN</i>	<i>BC</i>	<i>MC</i>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT	2♣	3♥	All Pass																																																									
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<p>♠ J ♥ A7653 ♦ AQJ653 ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ A107542      ♠ Q ♥ Q109          ♥ J842 ♦ 10              ♥ K987 ♣ AK2          ♣ J943</p> <p>♠ K9863 ♥ K ♦ 42 ♣ 108765</p>		<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><td><i>PJ</i></td><td><i>GN</i></td><td><i>BC</i></td><td><i>MC</i></td></tr><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>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1 ♠</td><td>2 ♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2 ♠</td><td>3 ♦</td><td>Dbl</td><td>3 ♥</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>contract: 3 ♥ by North lead: ♠ Q result: 4 tricks, N/S -250</p> <p>This won't be a common auction! Gail and Michael hadn't discussed any two-suited overcalls so, scared of the heart suit getting lost, Gail decided to show her suits in the opposite order. The bad news was that Michael, wary of Barry's swift double, gave preference to the 6 card fit rather than the 8 card one. The good news was that neither defender felt confident enough that they could beat this to double!</p> <p>-250 won't score well, but it's the sort of board where anything could happen and we expect to see plenty of nice large numbers across the field.</p>		<i>PJ</i>	<i>GN</i>	<i>BC</i>	<i>MC</i>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1 ♠	2 ♥	Pass	Pass	2 ♠	3 ♦	Dbl	3 ♥	All Pass																																											
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<p>♠ K1084 ♥ 1073 ♦ 1085 ♣ 972</p> <p>♠ A53          ♠ 762 ♥ K52          ♥ Q6 ♦ J763          ♥ K942 ♣ KQ5          ♣ J1064</p> <p>♠ QJ9 ♥ AJ984 ♦ AQ ♣ A83</p>		<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><td><i>BC</i></td><td><i>GN</i></td><td><i>IM</i></td><td><i>MC</i></td></tr><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>1 ♠</td><td>2 ♦</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>contract: 3NT by North lead: ♠ J result: 10 tricks, N/S +630</p> <p>Gail's 2NT is a good bid and actually quite brave given the general standard of Michael's overcalls!</p> <p>A heart lead would have seen the end of this 3NT contract, but it's hard to fault Ian for leading his more solid suit. On another day leading the ♥K could have been costly. And how often have you been put off the killing lead of your own bid suit – or your partner's – just because declarer implied that she had a good stop?</p> <p>Gail set up her 10 obvious tricks and quickly racked up what should be a common +630.</p>		<i>BC</i>	<i>GN</i>	<i>IM</i>	<i>MC</i>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	1 ♠	2 ♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass																																															
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<div><div>♠ 10</div><div>♥ AKJ103</div><div>♦ J103</div><div>♣ 7542</div><div>♠ AQ8642</div><div>♥ 82</div><div>♦ AKQ76</div><div>♣ -</div><div>♠ J9753</div><div>♥ 9654</div><div>♦ 952</div><div>♣ J</div><div>♠ K</div><div>♥ Q7</div><div>♦ 84</div><div>♣ AKQ109863</div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div>	HCP	Makeable contracts						9		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	15	N	4	-	3	-	-	2	S	4	-	4	-	-	14	E	-	4	-	5	-		W	-	4	-	5	-	<div>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>BC</th><th>GN</th><th>IM</th><th>MC</th><th></th></tr><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th><th></th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♣</td><td>contract: 5♠ by West</td></tr><tr><td>Dbl</td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>lead: ♥A</td></tr><tr><td>Dbl</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♣</td><td>result: 11 tricks, N/S -650</td></tr><tr><td>4♠</td><td>5♣</td><td>5♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>An exciting auction! Barry’s first decision was whether to double first or overcall 1♠. The latter certainly makes his life simpler, but doesn’t exactly get across the playing strength of the hand. Those playing a two-suited overcall system that caters for this hand will get the best of both worlds. He decided to double and doubled again when Michael’s speculative 3NT came back round to him. When Michael ran into 4♣ he was left with no choice but to finally bid his spade suit. Gail’s sacrifice didn’t deter Ian and 11 tricks were easily wrapped up.</div> <div>A particularly inspired North/South will sacrifice profitably in 6♣, but it would be very hard for them to know that this is anything other than a complete gamble.</div>	BC	GN	IM	MC		West	North	East	South				Pass	1♣	contract: 5♠ by West	Dbl	1♥	Pass	3NT	lead: ♥A	Dbl	Pass	Pass	4♣	result: 11 tricks, N/S -650	4♠	5♣	5♠	All Pass	
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<p>♠10942 ♥1095 ♦AQ3 ♣763</p> <p>♠KQ853      ♠J6 ♥A42      ♥KJ8 ♦J4      ♦9875 ♣QJ4      ♣K1098</p> <p>♠A7 ♥Q763 ♦K1062 ♣A52</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>13</td></tr></table> <table><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>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr></table>		HCP		6	8	13	13	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	1	-	2	1	W	2	1	-	2	1	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>BC</th><th>GN</th><th>IM</th><th>MC</th></tr><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td></tr></table> <p>contract: 1NT by South lead: ♠5 result: 7 tricks, N/S +90</p> <p>All Pass</p> <p>An unusually quiet board, given the preceding 24! Barry resisted overcalling the 1NT opening and Michael took the tricks available, making two spades, four diamonds and a club.</p> <p>There will be plenty of people who do overcall 2♠, but at this vulnerability it's very dangerous and deserves to go for -200 or worse. The fact that this time it makes +110 is neither here nor there!</p>	BC	GN	IM	MC	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1NT								
HCP																																																																
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<p>♠5432 ♥K9642 ♦5 ♣A72</p> <p>♠Q9      ♠J86 ♥AQ8      ♥J ♦AKQ108      ♦J432 ♣KQJ      ♣108543</p> <p>♠AK107 ♥10753 ♦976 ♣96</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>23</td><td>7</td></tr></table> <table><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>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr></table>		HCP		7	3	23	7	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	2	2	-	S	-	-	2	2	-	E	2	4	-	-	2	W	2	4	-	-	2	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>BC</th><th>GN</th><th>IM</th><th>MC</th></tr><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>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>contract: 3NT by West lead: ♥4 result: 11 tricks, N/S -660</p> <p>Nobody's going to realistically beat 3NT here. If North's on lead she needs to lead a spade and South needs to win and switch to a heart. If declarer lets this run to the dummy, North will win and go back to spades, setting up a long trick there. If declarer instead wins the ♥A, North can win the ♣A, put partner in with a high spade and a heart through will send the contract flying.</p> <p>Back in the real world, the key here is for North to be aware enough of South's carding to switch to a spade when she regains the lead. Otherwise 11 tricks are there for the taking, and what should be a very good score.</p>	BC	GN	IM	MC	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
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<p>♠AK954 ♥964 ♦J872 ♣4</p> <p>♠J8      ♠Q3 ♥107532      ♥KJ ♦Q105      ♦A943 ♣987      ♣K10652</p> <p>♠10762 ♥AQ8 ♦K6 ♣AQJ3</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>16</td></tr></table> <table><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>3</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>4</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		8	13	3	16	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	3	3	6	4	S	2	3	3	6	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>BC</th><th>GN</th><th>IM</th><th>MC</th></tr><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>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>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>contract: 4♠ by North lead: ♣5 result: 11 tricks, N/S +450</p> <p>A normal auction here which strong no-trumpers should be equally comfortable with (although those playing precisely a 14-16 NT will find it a bit more difficult). You're always going to lose a diamond trick, so the play revolves entirely around which way you take the club finesse to set up a heart discard. Guess right and it's 12 tricks; guess wrong and it's back to 11. Gail fell into the latter camp, rising with the Ace at trick one and later running the ♣Q to the ♣K.</p>	BC	GN	IM	MC	West	North	East	South				1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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<p>♠ J8742 ♥ J ♦ K7643 ♣ 54</p> <p>♠ AQ3                      ♠ 105 ♥ 10943                    ♥ KQ7652 ♦ QJ2                        ♦ A8 ♣ A76                        ♣ QJ3</p> <p>♠ K96 ♥ A8 ♦ 1095 ♣ K10982</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>10</td></tr></table> <table><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>1</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>5</td></tr></table>	HCP		5	12	13	10	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	1	5	1	5	W	1	1	5	1	5	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>BC</th><th>GN</th><th>IM</th><th>MC</th><th></th></tr><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>1 ♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>1 ♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>contract: 4 ♥ by East</td></tr><tr><td>2 ♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4 ♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td>lead: ♣10</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>result: 11 tricks, N/S -450</td></tr></table> <p>Ian and Barry were playing a strong NT, so Barry started with a “could be three” 1 ♦ opening. Those who open 1NT will probably play in 4 ♥ from the West hand, but it makes no difference to the fate of the contract. Ian probably thought it was his birthday when every finesse worked and made the overtrick. Actually, North/South do have to be careful at the end to not to concede a 12<sup>th</sup> trick so hopefully they’re counting the hand out carefully.</p>	BC	GN	IM	MC		West	North	East	South		1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass	contract: 4 ♥ by East	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	All Pass	lead: ♣10					result: 11 tricks, N/S -450															
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<p>♠ KJ52 ♥ A10764 ♦ 65 ♣ A7</p> <p>♠ 73                              ♠ 84 ♥ KQ9853                    ♥ J2 ♦ 102                            ♦ 843 ♣ Q42                        ♣ KJ10653</p> <p>♠ AQ1096 ♥ - ♦ AKQJ97 ♣ 98</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>16</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>7</td><td>2</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>7</td><td>2</td><td>7</td><td>7</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		12	5	7	16	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	7	2	7	7	S	1	7	2	7	7	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>BC</th><th>GN</th><th>IM</th><th>MC</th><th></th></tr><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th><th></th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1 ♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>2 ♦</td><td>contract: 6 ♠ by South</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2 ♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>2 ♠</td><td>lead: ♣Q</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3 ♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4 ♦</td><td>result: 13 tricks, N/S +1460</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4 ♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>5 ♦</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>5 ♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>5NT</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6 ♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>A hand where a regular partnership will be disappointed to miss 7NT, but which proved too tough for Gail and Michael’s limited agreements. They made a good fist of it but in the end subsided in 6 ♠. As it turns out, agriculturally blasting Roman Key Card Blackwood after the 3 ♠ bid would lead to a very confident 7NT bid, but this is not recommended when you hold a void.</p>	BC	GN	IM	MC		West	North	East	South			1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦	contract: 6 ♠ by South	Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	lead: ♣Q	Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♦	result: 13 tricks, N/S +1460	Pass	4 ♠	Pass	5 ♦		Pass	5 ♥	Pass	5NT		Pass	6 ♠	All Pass		
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<p>♠ Q ♥ Q73 ♦ 432 ♣ AQ10765</p> <p>♠ 64                              ♠ AKJ83 ♥ AKJ1092                    ♥ 54 ♦ J65                            ♦ 1097 ♣ J8                            ♣ 942</p> <p>♠ 109752 ♥ 86 ♦ AKQ8 ♣ K3</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>12</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP		10	8	10	12	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	3	-	1	2	S	4	3	-	1	2	E	-	-	1	-	-	W	-	-	1	-	-	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>BC</th><th>GN</th><th>IM</th><th>MC</th><th></th></tr><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th><th></th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>contract: 3 ♣ by North</td></tr><tr><td>2 ♣</td><td>Dbl</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>lead: ♥5</td></tr><tr><td>2 ♥</td><td>3 ♣</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td>result: 11 tricks, N/S +150</td></tr></table> <p>Michael made a slightly off-shape 1NT opening on this hand but couldn’t face rebidding his spades should his partner respond 2 ♥ and so pretended that he had a small spade caught in with his clubs. It made little difference as Gail would have competed to the three level with her good club suit anyway.</p> <p>Ian’s ♥5 lead probably cost his side an overtrick when Barry couldn’t find the spade switch at trick three, instead trying a heart in case his partner held ♣Q 10 or similar.</p> <p>Barry’s 2 ♣ overcall was Capalletti, showing a long suit somewhere – a popular convention in America.</p>	BC	GN	IM	MC		West	North	East	South				Pass	1NT	contract: 3 ♣ by North	2 ♣	Dbl	Pass	Pass	lead: ♥5	2 ♥	3 ♣	All Pass		result: 11 tricks, N/S +150															
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<p>♠AQ8 ♥AK98762 ♦Q ♣76</p> <p>♠KJ943                      ♠52 ♥-                                ♥Q10543 ♦A865                         ♦10 ♣A1082                      ♣KQ954</p> <p>♠1076 ♥J ♦KJ97432 ♣J3</p>		<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><td>BC</td><td>GN</td><td>IM</td><td>MC</td></tr><tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td><td>South</td></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>3♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td>2♦</td></tr></table> <p>contract: 3♥ by North lead: ♠5 result: 7 tricks, N/S -200</p> <p>At this vulnerability, the South hand is borderline for a 3♦ opening and, with a Weak Two in diamonds available to him, Michael decided to err on the side of caution. Those who can't open 2♦ should open 3♦ instead of passing but it does carry some risk. The 2♦ opening did let Barry into the auction with a 2♠ overcall and Gail did remarkably well not to just jump straight to 4♥ which wouldn't make even without the brutal trump split.</p> <p>Not many East/West pairs will bid to 5♣, and even fewer will be able to bring it in!</p>		BC	GN	IM	MC	West	North	East	South	2♠	3♥	All Pass	2♦																																
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<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		15		12	7	6		<table><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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr></table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	1	-	-	S	-	2	1	-	-	E	5	-	-	2	2	W	5	-	-	3	2		
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<p>♠QJ976 ♥AK742 ♦J10 ♣2</p> <p>♠A8543                      ♠- ♥J63                         ♥95 ♦982                         ♦KQ7543 ♣64                         ♣J10985</p> <p>♠K102 ♥Q108 ♦A6 ♣AKQ73</p>		<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><td>BC</td><td>GN</td><td>IM</td><td>MC</td></tr><tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td><td>South</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>2NT</td><td>Dbl</td></tr><tr><td>3♦</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>5♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Dbl</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>contract: 6♠ by North lead: ♦K result: 12 tricks, N/S +1210</p> <p>6♠ is slightly the better contract as it can cope with some worse breaks. Even the 5-0 trump break isn't enough to scupper it, so long as declarer plays carefully. The key is not to play a second round of trumps when you get the bad news. Instead, rely on West holding three hearts and play on cross-ruff lines. This way you can score three hearts, two clubs, one diamond and six trumps. If West ruffs high and plays another trump you can draw trumps and cash more hearts, and if he ruffs high and plays a diamond you just continue along your cross-ruff path.</p> <p>At our table, Gail did draw a second round of trumps, but managed to recover when Barry over-ruffed the fourth round of hearts instead of discarding, thus allowing Gail to retain trump control.</p>		BC	GN	IM	MC	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♠	2NT	Dbl	3♦	3♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass																				
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