

Spring British Sims

Monday 16th April



Welcome to the Spring British Sim Pairs.
Our thanks to our commentator today who is Brian Senior.



Brian is a bridge professional and journalist and has represented both Great Britain and Ireland at international level. He is the current editor of the World Championship book series.

If you haven't read one of his many bridge books or articles on bridge you will probably have seen him and possibly even played against him at an EBU event.

Forward Dates

2012

- EBU 75th Anniversary Sims: Tue 8th - Fri 11th May + Mon 14th May 2012
- Summer British Sims: Mon 30th - July Fri 3rd August 2012
- Autumn EBU Sims: Mon 10th - Fri 14th September 2012
- Autumn British Sims: Mon 8th - Fri 12th October 2012

2013

- Winter British Sims: Mon 7th - Fri 11th January 2013
- Bridge England Sims: Tue 5th - Wed 6th February 2013
- Stratified EBU Sims: Mon 11th - Fri 15th March 2013

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Anna Gudge and Mark Newton of ECATs, a commercial company, for providing us with an excellent service over the years. ECATs will still run their Children in Need Sims, the World Bridge Federation and European Bridge League Sims, and the Kidney Research event. www.ecatsbridge.com

<div>: Board 1</div> <div>: Dealer North</div> <div>: Love all</div> <div><div><div>♠ 2</div><div>♥ 104</div><div>♦ QJ872</div><div>♣ AJ1063</div></div><div><div>♠ 109864</div><div>♥ AJ2</div><div>♦ 4</div><div>♣ 7542</div></div><div><div>♠ AQ75</div><div>♥ 763</div><div>♦ A1063</div><div>♣ Q9</div></div><div><div>♠ KJ3</div><div>♥ KQ985</div><div>♦ K95</div><div>♣ K8</div></div></div>	<div>3NT, N/S, cannot be beaten – which is not to say that it will always be made. Where East opens the bidding the spade fit will be found and spades led against 3NT. Declarer wins the second spade with the jack and plays on diamonds, getting the bad news. The spades are cleared and now the contract will depend on bringing in the clubs. If East has the ♥A, West must have the ♥J and ♣Q, while if West has the ♥A the ♣Q will normally be with East. There is no way to be certain but queen-doubleton with East looks to be more likely than queen-to-three with West, making the winning play quite attractive.</div> <div>Of course, N/S will often not play 3NT. If East opens 1NT and South doubles, West will run to 2♠. Doubling would be a bad decision as 2♠ cannot be defeated. More likely, North will bid 2NT, showing two places to play, and the decision will be whether to go on if South responds 3♦. Even having two trump losers, 3♦ should be OK. But North will think game is possible facing a 15+ hand. To try with a 3♠ cuebid would get 3NT from South. Committing to diamonds leads to 4/5♦ and a negative score.</div>	<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>	HCP		8	12	5	15	<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>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	4	2	-	3	S	2	4	2	-	3	E	-	-	-	2	-	W	-	-	-	2	-
HCP																																													
8	12																																												
5	15																																												
Makeable contracts																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																								
N	2	4	2	-	3																																								
S	2	4	2	-	3																																								
E	-	-	-	2	-																																								
W	-	-	-	2	-																																								
<div>: Board 2</div> <div>: Dealer East</div> <div>: NS vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>♠ 6432</div><div>♥ 1087</div><div>♦ 98762</div><div>♣ 2</div></div><div><div>♠ 1087</div><div>♥ J6</div><div>♦ Q1054</div><div>♣ J764</div></div><div><div>♠ K95</div><div>♥ AK54</div><div>♦ K3</div><div>♣ AQ85</div></div><div><div>♠ AQJ</div><div>♥ Q932</div><div>♦ AJ</div><div>♣ K1093</div></div></div>	<div>Whether East opens with 1♣ or 1♥ – there are no plus features to justify a stretch to 2NT – South has a routine 1NT overcall. North may run immediately, using Stayman and passing the response (it makes sense to play essentially the same methods facing a 1NT overcall as facing a 1NT opening bid), or may pass and wait until East doubles. Now North will surely use whatever wriggle is at his disposal. N/S can make nothing above the one level, so E/W can score very well by doubling whatever contract N/S choose to play, collecting at least +200 against their own partscore.</div> <div>One other possibility, where East's opening bid is 1♣, is for West to compete with 2♣ over 1NT. East will surely bid on, 2NT being sufficient with an empty 19-count. Either 2♣ or 2NT can be made. In either contract, South has the dubious pleasure of being endplayed on opening lead, and probably not for the last time during the play.</div>	<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>0</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>17</td></tr></table>	HCP		0	19	4	17	<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>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr></table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	-	1	-	S	-	1	-	1	-	E	2	-	1	-	2	W	2	-	-	-	2
HCP																																													
0	19																																												
4	17																																												
Makeable contracts																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																								
N	-	1	-	1	-																																								
S	-	1	-	1	-																																								
E	2	-	1	-	2																																								
W	2	-	-	-	2																																								
<div>: Board 3</div> <div>: Dealer South</div> <div>: EW vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>♠ A953</div><div>♥ Q76</div><div>♦ AKJ4</div><div>♣ J6</div></div><div><div>♠ J842</div><div>♥ 43</div><div>♦ 962</div><div>♣ AQ92</div></div><div><div>♠ 6</div><div>♥ KJ2</div><div>♦ Q1053</div><div>♣ K10875</div></div><div><div>♠ KQ107</div><div>♥ A10985</div><div>♦ 87</div><div>♣ 43</div></div></div>	<div>If North treats his hand as being a 15-count, it will be routine for N/S to get to 4♠, though systemic considerations may decide who becomes declarer. With no tens and only one honour combination, it would not be ridiculous for North to downgrade and open with a weak no trump, but that will be very much a minority choice. Even now, if South uses Stayman then raises the 2♠ response to 3♠ to invite, the spade game will be reached.</div> <div>On straightforward defence, 4♠ is simply dependent on a winning decision in trumps – the double finesse in hearts is pretty automatic. If South declares on a heart lead – unlikely as he will have shown the suit whenever he becomes declarer, he will need to duck at trick one as otherwise he either runs into a heart ruff or has to pull all the trumps and then has no control of the clubs. Alternatively, the really threatening defence is three rounds of clubs, giving the ruff and discard. Ten tricks are still possible but declarer is under very serious pressure.</div>	<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>9</td></tr></table>	HCP		15	9	7	9	<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>1</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>2</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>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	3	4	2	S	-	1	3	4	2	E	2	-	-	-	-	W	2	-	-	-	-
HCP																																													
15	9																																												
7	9																																												
Makeable contracts																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																								
N	-	1	3	4	2																																								
S	-	1	3	4	2																																								
E	2	-	-	-	-																																								
W	2	-	-	-	-																																								

<div>: Board 4</div> <div>: Dealer West</div> <div>: All vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>♠AJ109</div><div>♥K742</div><div>♦A2</div><div>♣Q105</div></div><div><div>♠K84</div><div>♥A85</div><div>♦Q1087</div><div>♣KJ9</div></div><div><div>♠7</div><div>♥QJ93</div><div>♦KJ96</div><div>♣A873</div></div><div><div>♠Q6532</div><div>♥106</div><div>♦543</div><div>♣642</div></div></div>	<div>If West opens with a weak no trump, North has a borderline double. He may be tempted by the useful intermediates in the black suits but, against that, he has no attractive opening lead. Where North passes, East will use Stayman and follow through with 2NT. West has a middling hand with decent but nothing special honour combinations. Some will bid game while some will look at the 4-3-3-3 shape and settle for 2NT. A spade lead should defeat 3NT and also 2NT, though that contract will sometimes succeed. On a non-spade lead, declarer can find a way home even in game as North will be under pressure throughout the play. If North doubles 1NT, South will run to spades – eight tricks can be made here – and E/W may have to settle for a diamond partscore. If West opens 1♦, North will double. With primary diamond support, East may simply bid hearts then use 2♣ Checkback over West's 1NT rebid, or perhaps jump to 3♦ at his second turn. Again, in theory E/W have to stop in partscore but, in practice, the top score will go to those who bid 3NT and avoid a spade lead.</div>	<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		14		13	11	2		<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>3</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr></table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	2	-	S	-	-	-	2	-	E	3	2	2	-	1	W	3	4	3	-	1
HCP																																															
14																																															
13	11																																														
2																																															
Makeable contracts																																															
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
N	-	-	-	2	-																																										
S	-	-	-	2	-																																										
E	3	2	2	-	1																																										
W	3	4	3	-	1																																										
<div>: Board 5</div> <div>: Dealer North</div> <div>: NS vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>♠J1097</div><div>♥K952</div><div>♦AK6</div><div>♣104</div></div><div><div>♠542</div><div>♥J10764</div><div>♦987</div><div>♣A3</div></div><div><div>♠K83</div><div>♥83</div><div>♦10432</div><div>♣K862</div></div><div><div>♠AQ6</div><div>♥AQ</div><div>♦QJ5</div><div>♣QJ975</div></div></div>	<div>Despite the minor-honour combination in spades, there is no strong case for upgrading to open the North hand at this vulnerability. Most tables will see the same start to the auction, with South opening 1♣ and rebidding 2NT over the 1♥ response (please don't tell me that West found an overcall on hand!). Even if the methods allow South to have concealed a four-card spade suit, North may choose to raise to 3NT rather than check back, as the high combined point-count suggests that there may be the same tricks in no trump as in a spade contract even if there is a four-four fit. The universal contract should be 3NT and West may lead a diamond as North has bid his long suit. It is the best lead, as it attacks declarer's communications. However, he wins in hand and plays on clubs and, after winning the diamond continuation, clears the clubs. The defence in turn will clear the diamonds and declarer takes the spade finesse, coming to eleven tricks when it wins. It is not secure to cash the heart king at any point as there could then be a winning heart and the king of spades in the West hand, making the spade finesse unsafe.</div>	<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		11		5	6	18		<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>5</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	4	4	5	5	S	5	4	4	5	5	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
HCP																																															
11																																															
5	6																																														
18																																															
Makeable contracts																																															
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
N	5	4	4	5	5																																										
S	5	4	4	5	5																																										
E	-	-	-	-	-																																										
W	-	-	-	-	-																																										
<div>: Board 6</div> <div>: Dealer East</div> <div>: EW vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>♠AK10</div><div>♥J105</div><div>♦AJ104</div><div>♣842</div></div><div><div>♠Q</div><div>♥AKQ4</div><div>♦Q9875</div><div>♣K75</div></div><div><div>♠97532</div><div>♥982</div><div>♦K6</div><div>♣Q96</div></div><div><div>♠J864</div><div>♥763</div><div>♦32</div><div>♣AJ103</div></div></div>	<div>If you are ever going to open 1NT with a singleton then it is surely on a hand like the one West holds here – if playing strong no trump, of course. The hand is not worth a reverse after 1♦ – 1♠, so 2♥ is not a sound option, yet the diamonds are weak and the overall hand pretty good for a simple 2♦ rebid. Having said which, a 1NT opening works out very badly on this layout when East transfers to spades and West has no option but to do as he is asked. Two Spades will drift a couple off. If playing a weak no trump, West is in the same position after starting with 1♦. A 1NT rebid is less risky than a 1NT opening, of course – here, for example, East will simply pass 1NT. That is better than 2♠, being only one down but, with 2♦ and 2♥ both makeable, that is no great triumph. Nonetheless, that is how I would bid the hand. The winning approach is to open 1♥ and rebid 2♦, misleading partner as to the relative lengths of the two suits. Lest that look like a good idea, bear in mind that partner would probably give preference to 2♥ with his red-suit holdings reversed, and that would not be such a triumph.</div>	<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		13		16	5	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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	-	1	1	S	1	-	-	1	1	E	-	2	2	-	-	W	-	2	2	-	-
HCP																																															
13																																															
16	5																																														
6																																															
Makeable contracts																																															
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
N	1	-	-	1	1																																										
S	1	-	-	1	1																																										
E	-	2	2	-	-																																										
W	-	2	2	-	-																																										

<div>: Board 7</div> <div>: Dealer South</div> <div>: All vulnerable</div> <div><div>♠Q1053</div><div>♥9743</div><div>♦AK104</div><div>♣10</div></div> <div><div>♠KJ9842</div><div>♥10</div><div>♦J8763</div><div>♣2</div></div> <div><div>♠6</div><div>♥A82</div><div>♦Q5</div><div>♣KJ87643</div></div> <div><div>♠A7</div><div>♥KQJ65</div><div>♦92</div><div>♣AQ95</div></div>	<div>There will be many different auctions but most will see South declare 4♥. The first big decision is West's, over South's 1♥ opening bid. The obvious call is 2♠, weak, but some will look at the six-five shape and be more aggressive, overcalling 3♠. Some may prefer a 2♥ cuebid, showing the two-suiter but, when the longer suit is also substantially stronger, I prefer to just jump in the long suit. Depending on the space available and on partnership agreements, North may make a 4♣ splinter bid, which East will double. However, all roads appear to lead to 4♥ and, with or without a double from East, West will usually lead the club singleton. Even without the club lead, declarer may take the club finesse because he has heard a pre-emptive overcall on his left. On a club lead it will be tempting to win and lead a low club, but now West ruffs in front of dummy with the ten and switches to a diamond. When East wins the heart ace, a second diamond lead holds the contract to ten tricks. Without the two diamond plays, West can be squeezed in spades and diamonds to give an overtrick. And there is also an overtrick if declarer plays a heart honour at trick two, preventing West from getting a ruff. And the heart play is surely correct, as declarer can still take two club ruffs in the dummy.</div>	<table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>510</td></tr><tr><td>16</td></tr></table>	HCP	9	510	16	<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>2</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>2</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>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	2	5	1	5	S	1	2	5	2	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-																												
HCP																																																																							
9																																																																							
510																																																																							
16																																																																							
Makeable contracts																																																																							
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																																		
N	1	2	5	1	5																																																																		
S	1	2	5	2	4																																																																		
E	-	-	-	-	-																																																																		
W	-	-	-	-	-																																																																		
<div>: Board 8</div> <div>: Dealer West</div> <div>: Love all</div> <div><div>♠K10</div><div>♥K6</div><div>♦Q754</div><div>♣AQJ53</div></div> <div><div>♠A764</div><div>♥854</div><div>♦J1032</div><div>♣74</div></div> <div><div>♠QJ85</div><div>♥QJ103</div><div>♦K96</div><div>♣62</div></div> <div><div>♠932</div><div>♥A972</div><div>♦A8</div><div>♣K1098</div></div>	<div>If we were a bit dubious about opening or rebidding 1NT with a 1-4-5-3 hand a few deals ago, surely everyone will see that this is the way to handle these North cards. The alternative is to bid and rebid the clubs, as the hand is certainly not worth a reverse. With two strong doubletons this hand looks much more like a balanced hand than a single-suiter. North should therefore be declarer in 3NT. If the opening bid was 1♣, South will have shown the hearts and East may therefore lead the queen of spades. West encourages and declarer should be held to nine tricks. But after a strong no trump opening South will have used Stayman but not specified hearts. Now East will lead the queen of hearts. North wins the king of hearts and five rounds of clubs causes East a lot of problems. Where does he find three discards? With the ace of spades onside, declarer should always make his contract. However, after a heart lead there will be an overtrick if declarer reads the position correctly as East is squeezed in three suits.</div>	<table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>59</td></tr><tr><td>11</td></tr></table>	HCP	15	59	11	<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>5</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</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>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	2	2	1	3	S	5	2	2	1	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-																												
HCP																																																																							
15																																																																							
59																																																																							
11																																																																							
Makeable contracts																																																																							
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																																		
N	5	2	2	1	3																																																																		
S	5	2	2	1	3																																																																		
E	-	-	-	-	-																																																																		
W	-	-	-	-	-																																																																		
<div>: Board 9</div> <div>: Dealer North</div> <div>: EW vulnerable</div> <div><div>♠Q10</div><div>♥Q7653</div><div>♦J74</div><div>♣964</div></div> <div><div>♠J</div><div>♥K</div><div>♦A109852</div><div>♣AK1032</div></div> <div><div>♠K9754</div><div>♥A8</div><div>♦K6</div><div>♣QJ85</div></div> <div><div>♠A8632</div><div>♥J10942</div><div>♦Q3</div><div>♣7</div></div>	<table><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></tr><tr><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>5♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>6♣</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <div>If East is willing to commit to clubs over West's 3♣ rebid, something like the auction above should see the cold slam reached, with West continuing to cuebid at the five level because, if East holds the ace instead of king of spades, 7♣ may be on. East is willing to cuebid 5♦ because the king of diamonds must be a huge card on the auction and, with decent controls elsewhere, he should be happy to commit to slam. Some Easts will fear that 3♣ is merely a no trump probe rather than a genuine suit. If they are scared to go beyond 3NT it will prove to be tougher to bid to slam, even if West follows through with 4♣ at his next turn, though it should still be possible to get there.</div>	West	North	East	South	—	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣	All Pass	<table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>1513</td></tr><tr><td>7</td></tr></table>	HCP	5	1513	7	<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>-</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>6</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr></table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	2	-	-	S	-	-	2	-	-	E	6	5	-	2	5	W	6	5	-	2	4
West	North	East	South																																																																				
—	Pass	1♠	Pass																																																																				
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass																																																																				
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass																																																																				
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass																																																																				
4♠	Pass	5♦	Pass																																																																				
5♥	Pass	6♣	All Pass																																																																				
HCP																																																																							
5																																																																							
1513																																																																							
7																																																																							
Makeable contracts																																																																							
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																																		
N	-	-	2	-	-																																																																		
S	-	-	2	-	-																																																																		
E	6	5	-	2	5																																																																		
W	6	5	-	2	4																																																																		

<div>: Board 10</div> <div>: Dealer East</div> <div>: All vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>♠K94</div><div>♥K9</div><div>♦AKJ63</div><div>♣K104</div></div><div><div>♠A107</div><div>♥A1083</div><div>♦87</div><div>♣Q752</div></div><div><div>♠Q53</div><div>♥74</div><div>♦Q104</div><div>♣J9863</div></div><div><div>♠J862</div><div>♥QJ652</div><div>♦952</div><div>♣A</div></div></div>	<div>Going plus on the N/S cards should score very well on this deal. many Norths will treat their hand as 18 HCP because of the good five-card suit and their 2NT rebid will automatically get them to game – normally 3NT as there is no eight-card major-suit fit. But even if North treats his hand as only being worth 17 HCP South will use Stayman facing a 1NT opening and 2♣ checkback facing a 15-17 1NT rebid. When North shows a maximum, 3NT will once again be the normal resting place.</div> <div>After a club lead dummy's long hearts would be dead even had the suit divided evenly. As it is, declarer can play a heart to the king then three rounds of diamonds but then the clubs are cleared and the defence has six tricks.</div> <div>South will do very well if he downgrades his hand because half the points are a bare ace and the long suits are weak. It would be reasonable to pass after 1♦ – 1♥ – 1NT, particularly if that denies a four-card spade suit with partner. It is hard to pass a 1NT opening as South could still be facing a four-card major. If he uses Stayman then bids 2♥ over the 2♦ response, scrambling Stayman, North will convert to 2♠ as he holds three spades and only two hearts. South can pass that and chalk up a near top.</div>	<div>HCP</div> <div><div>17</div><div>105</div><div>8</div></div>	<div>Makeable contracts</div> <table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</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>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	3	3	1	S	-	3	3	3	1	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																												
N	-	3	3	3	1																												
S	-	3	3	3	1																												
E	1	-	-	-	-																												
W	1	-	-	-	-																												
<div>: Board 11</div> <div>: Dealer South</div> <div>: Love all</div> <div><div><div>♠KQ9854</div><div>♥AQ</div><div>♦J9</div><div>♣542</div></div><div><div>♠A</div><div>♥10765</div><div>♦K1087</div><div>♣AK98</div></div><div><div>♠J106</div><div>♥KJ84</div><div>♦A654</div><div>♣63</div></div><div><div>♠732</div><div>♥932</div><div>♦Q32</div><div>♣QJ107</div></div></div>	<div>The cards lie very favourably for E/W, such that eleven tricks can be made in a heart or diamond contract – but how many will get to game with 14 facing 9 HCP and only an eight-card fit?</div> <div>West opens 1♦ and North overcalls 1♠. East should make a negative double to bring hearts into the game. If West responds just 2♥, which looks normal, game will be missed even if there is subsequent competition. Perhaps South will raise pre-emptively to 2♠ over the double. Now West may bid 3♥ and the game is reached.</div> <div>To guarantee eleven tricks, declarer needs to play two rounds of trumps before ruffing the third spade and, as that risks a third round of trumps being played by the defence, he may not find that line. Say he wins the spade lead and leads a heart to the queen and king, ruffs a spade, crosses to the ace of diamonds and ruffs the last spade before playing a second heart. North can win that and lead a fourth spade and that promotes a trick for the heart nine, holding the contract to ten tricks as there is still a diamond to be lost.</div>	<div>HCP</div> <div><div>12</div><div>145</div><div>9</div></div>	<div>Makeable contracts</div> <table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></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>5</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr></table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	5	5	-	1	W	2	5	5	-	1
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																												
N	-	-	-	-	-																												
S	-	-	-	-	-																												
E	2	5	5	-	1																												
W	2	5	5	-	1																												
<div>: Board 12</div> <div>: Dealer West</div> <div>: NS vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>♠AKQ1072</div><div>♥KQ732</div><div>♦-</div><div>♣K9</div></div><div><div>♠9</div><div>♥J94</div><div>♦J7532</div><div>♣AQ54</div></div><div><div>♠4</div><div>♥A65</div><div>♦AK10864</div><div>♣1073</div></div><div><div>♠J8653</div><div>♥108</div><div>♦Q9</div><div>♣J862</div></div></div>	<div>North holds a good old-fashioned Acol two opening. Of course, not many play those any more, preferring to play weak two bids of some kind. Many will therefore open 1♠ and collect some kind of pre-emptive raise from South after East's 2♦ overcall. West should raise to 5♦ and North will take the push to the five level, perhaps bidding 5♥ as a slam try – which South will swiftly decline. As 5♠ is cold, E/W would do well to save in 6♦ doubled, but many will think that they have done their work by pushing the opposition to the five level and by making them guess.</div> <div>Those playing Benjamin Twos may be sitting smugly thinking that, of course, they can open 2♣ to show the Acol 2♠ opening. Well, this deal is an example of why Benjamin is not such a great system as its users may imagine. North opens 2♣, East overcalls 2♦, and West raises to 5♦. North only gets to show one of his suits, and that at the five level. This time, partner has five-card support and everything is hunky dory but, every time that the partnership belongs in hearts, those who could open with a strong 2♠ or who had to open at the one level are way ahead of you because they get to show both suits, albeit still having to commit to the five level to do so.</div>	<div>HCP</div> <div><div>17</div><div>811</div><div>4</div></div>	<div>Makeable contracts</div> <table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr></table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	2	5	-	S	-	-	2	5	-	E	1	3	-	-	1	W	2	4	-	-	1
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																												
N	-	-	2	5	-																												
S	-	-	2	5	-																												
E	1	3	-	-	1																												
W	2	4	-	-	1																												

<div>: Board 13</div> <div>: Dealer North</div> <div>: All vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>♠Q853</div><div>♥J1062</div><div>♦K10</div><div>♣J85</div></div><div><div>♠KJ109</div><div>♥AQ3</div><div>♦Q93</div><div>♣K103</div></div><div><div>♠74</div><div>♥9754</div><div>♦AJ7</div><div>♣Q964</div></div><div><div>♠A62</div><div>♥K8</div><div>♦86542</div><div>♣A72</div></div></div>	<div>There is no reason at all for South to open in third seat with an empty 11-count and no wish to see his long suit led by partner. Assuming that he passes, West may open a strong no trump and play there, or 1♠ and pass the 1NT response. Even where system dictates a 1♣/♦ opening, it should only be a matter of who is declarer in 1NT.</div> <div>South will lead a diamond and the natural play is for declarer to take the spade finesse at trick two. North returns a diamond and now South can establish his long suit when he wins the next spade and cash it when in with the other black ace. That would mean eight tricks.</div> <div>North may lead a low heart to the king and ace. In the wrong hand to play on spades, declarer will probably play on clubs. If he plays North for the jack, he can come to nine tricks, but a reasonable alternative would be to lead low to the queen, planning to take the spade finesse if that wins. In practice, South will probably win and return a heart, ducked to the ten and a low heart is returned to the queen. With North having an entry in whichever black suit declarer chooses to attack, eight tricks will again be the limit.</div> <div>+150 should score well for E/W.</div>	<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>11</td></tr></table>	HCP		7	7	15	11	<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>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr></table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	3	3	2	3	W	4	3	3	2	3
HCP																																													
7	7																																												
15	11																																												
Makeable contracts																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																								
N	-	-	-	-	-																																								
S	-	-	-	-	-																																								
E	4	3	3	2	3																																								
W	4	3	3	2	3																																								
<div>: Board 14</div> <div>: Dealer East</div> <div>: Love all</div> <div><div><div>♠KQ1032</div><div>♥J762</div><div>♦J873</div><div>♣-</div></div><div><div>♠8765</div><div>♥AQ3</div><div>♦102</div><div>♣Q832</div></div><div><div>♠AJ9</div><div>♥94</div><div>♦A954</div><div>♣J1054</div></div><div><div>♠4</div><div>♥K1085</div><div>♦KQ6</div><div>♣AK976</div></div></div>	<div>This seems to be a recurring theme in this set of boards – what South should rebid after 1♣ – 1♠ – ? The hand is not worth a 2♥ reverse, with a bare 15 and a misfit, so the options are to repeat the clubs or rebid 1NT with a singleton. I'd go for the 1NT rebid, assuming it to be strong. If playing a strong no trump opening, I would not be prepared to do so when the singleton is a small card, so would have no option but to open 1♣ and rebid 2♣.</div> <div>These days, most play 1♣ – 1♠ – 2♣ – 2♦/♥ as a one-round force, so some will play in 2♣ – and score very badly. Those who can rebid 1NT will hear North bid 2♥.</div> <div>Though that is a weak sequence, South may raise to 3♥. However, the club void is bad news and North should decline the invitation.</div> <div>Two Hearts is a comfortable make but 3♥ is in some jeopardy on a diamond lead as it sets up West's diamond ruff and, as the cards lie, that would be the setting tricks. To foil this start, declarer needs to win the diamond in the South hand and throw two diamonds on the top clubs before playing on spades. Now he should be OK, losing just two trumps and two aces.</div>	<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>15</td></tr></table>	HCP		7	10	8	15	<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>1</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>1</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>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	3	1	-	S	-	1	3	1	-	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-
HCP																																													
7	10																																												
8	15																																												
Makeable contracts																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																								
N	-	1	3	1	-																																								
S	-	1	3	1	-																																								
E	1	-	-	-	-																																								
W	1	-	-	-	-																																								
<div>: Board 15</div> <div>: Dealer South</div> <div>: NS vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>♠Q1075</div><div>♥K5</div><div>♦1074</div><div>♣Q1064</div></div><div><div>♠A643</div><div>♥Q92</div><div>♦986</div><div>♣753</div></div><div><div>♠K98</div><div>♥AJ764</div><div>♦32</div><div>♣AK9</div></div><div><div>♠J2</div><div>♥1083</div><div>♦AKQJ5</div><div>♣J82</div></div></div>	<div>If N/S start 1♦ – 1♠, East may overcall 2♥ and play there, making an overtrick for +140 as the hearts come in without loss.</div> <div>If playing a weak no trump, however, most Souths will open 1NT. Despite the powerful five-card suit, 2-3-5-3 is still a balanced hand, not a single-suiter – it might be correct to open one-of-a-major and this shape, planning to rebid the suit, but bidding the same way when the suit is a minor is a long-term losing approach. Having said which, this is a good time to open 1♦.</div> <div>If South opens 1NT, it will go two passes to East, who will double. South could rescue himself now, but I would pass – if North is willing to play 1NT doubled then so am I, given the five-card running suit – while if North runs to 2♣ South can bid 2♦ (North will rarely have a five-card major as he passed the 1NT opening). But on the actual deal North is likely to pass. West may lead a spade and East may put in the eight. If so, declarer should grab that trick and cash out for one down – who knows, the defence might mess up and allow a seventh – anything else risks a worse fate.</div> <div>I'm sure nobody minds reading that I would make the losing decision on this deal at every opportunity as North or South.</div>	<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>12</td></tr></table>	HCP		7	15	6	12	<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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr></table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	-	-	-	S	-	1	-	-	-	E	-	-	3	3	2	W	-	-	3	3	2
HCP																																													
7	15																																												
6	12																																												
Makeable contracts																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																								
N	-	1	-	-	-																																								
S	-	1	-	-	-																																								
E	-	-	3	3	2																																								
W	-	-	3	3	2																																								

<div>: Board 16</div> <div>: Dealer West</div> <div>: EW vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>♠965</div><div>♥KQ4</div><div>♦J105</div><div>♣AJ83</div></div><div><div>♠KQ1083</div><div>♥85</div><div>♦92</div><div>♣K1054</div></div><div><div>♠742</div><div>♥AJ962</div><div>♦AQ64</div><div>♣2</div></div><div><div>♠AJ</div><div>♥1073</div><div>♦K873</div><div>♣Q976</div></div></div>	<div>While North's high cards are all in combinations, the hand still looks a bit weak for an upgrade, so where West has passed East will get to open 1♥ and may raise the 1♠ response to 2♠, ending the auction. Some Wests will have the possibility to open 2♠, weak with spades and another (a minor). Now East may be tempted by his spade support and controls to look for game, settling for 3♠ when West shows a minimum.</div> <div>Double dummy, West can be held to eight tricks in a spade contract. However, with both majors lying very well for declarer, most will come to nine. If the defence leads trumps to prevent ruffs, the hearts can be established for four winners, while never leading trumps allows club ruffs. The best defence requires a diamond lead to knock out the late entry to the hearts, and a later switch to trumps, but the defence has to be very careful not to leave declarer in control of the situation.</div>	<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		11		8	11	10		<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>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	2	-	-	1	S	2	1	-	-	1	E	-	-	1	2	-	W	-	-	1	2	-
HCP																																															
11																																															
8	11																																														
10																																															
Makeable contracts																																															
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
N	2	2	-	-	1																																										
S	2	1	-	-	1																																										
E	-	-	1	2	-																																										
W	-	-	1	2	-																																										
<div>: Board 17</div> <div>: Dealer North</div> <div>: Love all</div> <div><div><div>♠6</div><div>♥J6532</div><div>♦J9842</div><div>♣Q7</div></div><div><div>♠753</div><div>♥AQ10</div><div>♦K75</div><div>♣8543</div></div><div><div>♠Q10842</div><div>♥K987</div><div>♦Q</div><div>♣A109</div></div><div><div>♠AKJ9</div><div>♥4</div><div>♦A1063</div><div>♣KJ62</div></div></div>	<div>If North opens 2♥, weak with hearts and another, South will need to show some discipline once he discovers that the second suit is diamonds. He should discover also that North has a minimum, and now eleven tricks will take some getting – even if the second suit is of five cards – so he should be willing to stop in partscore. There are three unavoidable losers unless East leads a spade. In partscore, declarer will go up with the ace and play safe, but in game he can call for the jack and take two club discards when it holds the trick. From here, a grand crossruff will produce eleven tricks – the crossruff establishes a club winner when the ace falls, which leaves the defence powerless.</div> <div>At most tables, South will get to open either 1♣ or 1♦, according to style. One Diamond will work better as North can respond 1♥ then give comfortable preference to diamonds. After a 1♣ opening, North will respond 1♥ and East overcall 1♠. Unable to make a penalty double in modern style, South may rebid 1NT despite the singleton heart, and now North will introduce the diamonds. South may raise to 3♦ but that will be all.</div>	<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		4		9	11	16		<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>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	4	-	-	1	S	1	4	-	-	1	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
HCP																																															
4																																															
9	11																																														
16																																															
Makeable contracts																																															
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
N	1	4	-	-	1																																										
S	1	4	-	-	1																																										
E	-	-	-	-	-																																										
W	-	-	-	-	-																																										
<div>: Board 18</div> <div>: Dealer East</div> <div>: NS vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>♠A3</div><div>♥Q3</div><div>♦9874</div><div>♣108752</div></div><div><div>♠Q87652</div><div>♥K976</div><div>♦J10</div><div>♣3</div></div><div><div>♠94</div><div>♥J542</div><div>♦Q65</div><div>♣KQ64</div></div><div><div>♠KJ10</div><div>♥A108</div><div>♦AK32</div><div>♣AJ9</div></div></div>	<div>South opens 2NT and is raised to game. West will usually lead a low spade, which declarer will run round to his hand to ensure the third spade trick.</div> <div>While clubs may appear to be the best hope of creating several extra tricks, the shortage of dummy entries means that the suit cannot be played on straight away. Instead, declarer plays three rounds of diamonds, not only establishing an extra diamond trick, but also creating an extra dummy entry.</div> <div>East is likely to return a spade to dummy's bare ace and now declarer can play on clubs. A low club to the jack will win and now declarer may cash the ace, hoping for a three-two split. When that does not materialise, he can lead a heart towards the queen and the well-positioned king means an overtrick.</div> <div>There are a number of possible variations in the play, but ten tricks looks to be the most likely outcome, so anyone who manages eleven will score very well, while defenders who hold declarer to only nine tricks will also be happy with their matchpoint score.</div>	<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>20</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		6		6	8	20		<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>2</td><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>2</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>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	5	2	2	4	S	4	5	2	2	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
HCP																																															
6																																															
6	8																																														
20																																															
Makeable contracts																																															
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
N	4	5	2	2	4																																										
S	4	5	2	2	4																																										
E	-	-	-	-	-																																										
W	-	-	-	-	-																																										

<div>: Board 19</div> <div>: Dealer South</div> <div>: EW vulnerable</div> <div><div>♠ 9</div><div>♥ AK3</div><div>♦ J1084</div><div>♣ AQ763</div></div> <div><div>♠ AK76</div><div>♥ 1085</div><div>♦ K752</div><div>♣ K4</div></div> <div><div>♠ Q10532</div><div>♥ 42</div><div>♦ Q6</div><div>♣ 10985</div></div> <div><div>♠ J84</div><div>♥ QJ976</div><div>♦ A93</div><div>♣ J2</div></div>	<p>After a pass from South, a weak no trump opening by West will normally silence North – for now. However, when East transfers and West completes, even with a break to 3♠, North has the right shortage to make a take-out double. South will think that North is just competing the partscore if the double is at the two level, so may only bid 3♥ – of course, if North has had to double 3♠, South will have to bid the heart game.</p> <p>With N/S able to make at least +110 in every other denomination, any E/W allowed to play 2♠ or 3♠ undoubled will score very well as there are eight tricks available to them. However, that should be a rare outcome. Four Hearts can be made as N/S have little spade wastage and the cards lie very well for them. Indeed, the defence could easily let through an eleventh trick if it begins with a top spade lead. say West switches to a trump. Declarer wins in hand, ruffs a spade and leads a low diamond to his nine. West can win and play a second trump, but declarer has five trumps, a ruff, three diamonds and two club tricks.</p> <p>On this line of play, East needs to play the queen on the first diamond. Declarer wins and takes his second spade ruff but has no way back to hand without conceding the lead so East gets a diamond ruff to hold the contract to ten.</p>	<table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			14			13	4		9			<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>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	3	4	-	2	S	3	3	4	-	2	E	-	-	-	2	-	W	-	-	-	2	-
HCP																																																			
14																																																			
13	4																																																		
9																																																			
Makeable contracts																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
N	3	3	4	-	2																																														
S	3	3	4	-	2																																														
E	-	-	-	2	-																																														
W	-	-	-	2	-																																														
<div>: Board 20</div> <div>: Dealer West</div> <div>: All vulnerable</div> <div><div>♠ 87</div><div>♥ Q103</div><div>♦ AQ93</div><div>♣ AK87</div></div> <div><div>♠ K32</div><div>♥ 74</div><div>♦ 107654</div><div>♣ Q53</div></div> <div><div>♠ AQ5</div><div>♥ AJ8652</div><div>♦ 82</div><div>♣ 42</div></div> <div><div>♠ J10964</div><div>♥ K9</div><div>♦ KJ</div><div>♣ J1096</div></div>	<p>Whether North opens 1NT or one-of-a-minor, East will overcall in hearts and South show spades. With South upgrading slightly because of the minor-honour combinations in the black suits, it is normal to reach the no trump game.</p> <p>East has no reason not to start with a low heart. Declarer can win in dummy with the nine and play the jack of clubs to the ace then cross to dummy in diamonds to take the club finesse. Next comes a heart to establish a tenth trick.</p> <p>If East wins the heart and clears the suit, waiting to get in with his spade ace, he will have presented declarer with a tenth trick. Count declarer's points and it is possible to find the spade switch, holding the contract to nine tricks. Declarer has ♥Q, ♣AK and ♦AQ, so should not also hold the ♠K. It is just possible that West holds the ace of diamonds and has ducked twice, but giving declarer the king of spades instead of the ace of diamonds gives him only 14 HCP, which is not consistent with his bidding, so East should dismiss this possibility.</p>	<table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>11</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			15			5	11		9			<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>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</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>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	2	-	3	3	S	4	2	-	3	3	E	-	-	1	-	-	W	-	-	1	-	-
HCP																																																			
15																																																			
5	11																																																		
9																																																			
Makeable contracts																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
N	4	2	-	3	3																																														
S	4	2	-	3	3																																														
E	-	-	1	-	-																																														
W	-	-	1	-	-																																														
<div>: Board 21</div> <div>: Dealer North</div> <div>: NS vulnerable</div> <div><div>♠ AK7</div><div>♥ QJ2</div><div>♦ A109</div><div>♣ K852</div></div> <div><div>♠ 1065</div><div>♥ K953</div><div>♦ J65</div><div>♣ AJ6</div></div> <div><div>♠ 932</div><div>♥ A74</div><div>♦ Q742</div><div>♣ Q93</div></div> <div><div>♠ QJ84</div><div>♥ 1086</div><div>♦ K83</div><div>♣ 1074</div></div>	<p>This time N/S get a free run to their chosen contract. If North opens 1NT he will play there, while a 1♣ opening and 1NT rebid will also end the auction. While 1NT is high enough on the combined hands, anyone whose methods require a jump rebid of 2NT will also be OK a level higher on this lie of the cards.</p> <p>There is nothing very attractive about a lead from queen-empty-to-four but, if N/S have bid clubs and spades, that is likely to be East's choice. That gives a third diamond trick and declarer can come to nine tricks after that start.</p> <p>After a strong no trump opening, most experienced Easts will prefer the passive lead of a spade and now declarer should only make eight tricks. In the long run, if the bidding has given no real clues about which suits the opposition might hold, leading from moderate four-card holdings costs too many tricks to be a paying proposition. Against a no trump partscore, leading from three small is a very attractive and less committal choice. Usually, the defence will get a second chance to find the killing attack, if there is one, after they have seen dummy and what happens in the early play.</p>	<table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>17</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			17			9	8		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>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	2	2	3	2	S	2	2	2	3	2	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
HCP																																																			
17																																																			
9	8																																																		
6																																																			
Makeable contracts																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
N	2	2	2	3	2																																														
S	2	2	2	3	2																																														
E	-	-	-	-	-																																														
W	-	-	-	-	-																																														

<div>: Board 22</div> <div>: Dealer East</div> <div>: EW vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>♠ J10</div><div>♥ AKJ104</div><div>♦ 753</div><div>♣ Q93</div></div><div><div>♠ K54</div><div>♥ 973</div><div>♦ Q</div><div>♣ J107642</div></div><div><div>♠ A983</div><div>♥ 5</div><div>♦ AKJ10642</div><div>♣ K</div></div><div><div>♠ Q762</div><div>♥ Q862</div><div>♦ 98</div><div>♣ A85</div></div></div>	<div>East opens 1♦ and West responds 1NT. When North overcalls 2♥, East will simply repeat the diamonds, knowing that there cannot be an eight-card spade fit. South has an easy 3♥ now and that comes back to East. It would be easy for East to say that he has done his job already in the auction, but he would surely have bid 3♦ without the seventh card or with 2-2-7-2 distribution, so does have playing strength in reserve. N/S are known to have a nine-card fit and West will usually have more diamonds than is actually the case. All of which leads us to the view that East should compete again with 4♦, which will probably end the auction. West turns out to have only one trump but it is just what East requires and ten tricks are available. Should East be concerned that he may push his opponents into a making game? I don't think so. Yes, it could happen, but far more often than not a competent N/S would already have bid to 4♥ if that was a good contract. East holds 15 HCP and West had a 1NT response. There is no reason to assume that N/S have game on the deal.</div>	<div>HCP</div> <div><div>11</div><div>615</div><div>8</div></div>	<div>Makeable contracts</div> <table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></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>1</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr></table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	2	-	-	S	-	-	2	-	-	E	1	4	-	2	-	W	1	4	-	2	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																												
N	-	-	2	-	-																												
S	-	-	2	-	-																												
E	1	4	-	2	-																												
W	1	4	-	2	-																												
<div>: Board 23</div> <div>: Dealer South</div> <div>: All vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>♠ 52</div><div>♥ 972</div><div>♦ QJ107</div><div>♣ K753</div></div><div><div>♠ 1063</div><div>♥ AJ4</div><div>♦ AK986</div><div>♣ J9</div></div><div><div>♠ J97</div><div>♥ KQ103</div><div>♦ 32</div><div>♣ A1042</div></div><div><div>♠ AKQ84</div><div>♥ 865</div><div>♦ 54</div><div>♣ Q86</div></div></div>	<div>Many players would be happy to open the South hand – after all, it contains an excellent five-card suit. However, I am not willing, vulnerable, to open 1NT when nearly all my strength is in a five-card major. If I open 1♠, I have to rebid 2♠. It is an eight-loser hand and it is just one of my beliefs that these 5-3-3-2 11-counts should be passed if unsuitable for a weak no trump. Many will open 1♠ and most Wests will now overcall 2♦. If left to play there, they should go one down after the obvious spade lead and eventual club switch – North pitches a heart on the third spade so declarer cannot win the trick four switch and cash the top diamonds then play four rounds of hearts for a club pitch. E/W belong in a heart partial, but that is tough to achieve after a 1♠ opening. Hmm, looks like another bad board for me. Where South passes, West may open 1NT and play there. After the lead of the queen of diamonds, ducked, there should be only seven tricks, though North may be seduced into continuing with a low diamond – oops! A 1♦ opening sees a 1♥ response and 1♠ overcall. A support double, showing precisely three hearts, gets E/W to the top spot and +140.</div>	<div>HCP</div> <div><div>6</div><div>1310</div><div>11</div></div>	<div>Makeable contracts</div> <table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></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>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr></table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	1	3	1	1	W	1	1	3	1	1
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																												
N	-	-	-	-	-																												
S	-	-	-	-	-																												
E	1	1	3	1	1																												
W	1	1	3	1	1																												
<div>: Board 24</div> <div>: Dealer West</div> <div>: Love all</div> <div><div><div>♠ 4</div><div>♥ KJ9432</div><div>♦ 1096</div><div>♣ AJ3</div></div><div><div>♠ AQ1075</div><div>♥ A75</div><div>♦ Q2</div><div>♣ Q107</div></div><div><div>♠ K92</div><div>♥ 108</div><div>♦ 875</div><div>♣ K9864</div></div><div><div>♠ J863</div><div>♥ Q6</div><div>♦ AKJ43</div><div>♣ 52</div></div></div>	<div>With a decent five-card suit and two well-placed tens, the West hand looks more like a strong no trump than a weak one, though I can imagine players opening 1NT whichever range they play. Over 1NT, North bids 2♥ and East passes. South is worth a game try, the obvious approach being to raise to 3♥, but North will not be interested. Game can always be made via a winning diamond play but, if the defence does not establish a club winner in time, ten tricks may be made even after taking the diamond finesse. I would lead a club – from strength when partner has opened 1NT – and that works nicely on this deal. If West opens 1♠, North again overcalls 2♥ but this time East competes with 2♠. South may start with a double and will be tempted to go on to game when North shows long hearts. The likely spade lead will give declarer a strong idea about the position of the spade honours, while a club switch will give the clue that those honours are divided. No guarantees, but all of this improves the chance that declarer will play West for the queen of diamonds.</div>	<div>HCP</div> <div><div>9</div><div>146</div><div>11</div></div>	<div>Makeable contracts</div> <table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr></table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	4	-	-	S	-	3	4	-	-	E	2	-	-	2	-	W	2	-	-	2	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																												
N	-	3	4	-	-																												
S	-	3	4	-	-																												
E	2	-	-	2	-																												
W	2	-	-	2	-																												

<div>: Board 25</div> <div>: Dealer North</div> <div>: EW vulnerable</div> <div><div>♠ 43</div><div>♥ AKQ943</div><div>♦ 6</div><div>♣ QJ53</div></div> <div><div>♠ Q95</div><div>♥ 1072</div><div>♦ 8532</div><div>♣ 1062</div></div> <div><div>♠ K10862</div><div>♥ J86</div><div>♦ KJ9</div><div>♣ 97</div></div> <div><div>♠ AJ7</div><div>♥ 5</div><div>♦ AQ1074</div><div>♣ AK84</div></div>	<div>WestNorthEastSouth</div> <div>–1♥1♠2♦</div> <div>Pass2♥Pass3♣</div> <div>Pass4♣Pass4♦</div> <div>Pass4♥Pass4♠</div> <div>Pass4NTPass5♦</div> <div>Pass5NTPass6♣</div> <div>All Pass</div> <div>When South does not bid no trump at his second turn, North should be willing to go past 3NT, committing to clubs – South would have cuebid 2♠ with fewer than four clubs. North is the one who can count tricks so a cuebidding sequence which ends with him asking for key cards is the most accurate. On finding four key cards (it can hardly be only one on this auction), North invites the grand but has to settle for six when South cannot bid seven or show a king.</div> <div>As it happens, thirteen tricks are easy, but that requires something good to happen and I would be happy to play the small slam.</div>	<div>HCP</div> <div>12</div> <div>28</div> <div>18</div>	<div>Makeable contracts</div> <table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>3</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>3</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>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	7	6	7	3	7	S	7	6	7	3	7	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																												
N	7	6	7	3	7																												
S	7	6	7	3	7																												
E	-	-	-	-	-																												
W	-	-	-	-	-																												
<div>: Board 26</div> <div>: Dealer East</div> <div>: All vulnerable</div> <div><div>♠ AJ9</div><div>♥ 63</div><div>♦ KJ7654</div><div>♣ A4</div></div> <div><div>♠ 852</div><div>♥ AQ754</div><div>♦ 8</div><div>♣ 10962</div></div> <div><div>♠ KQ63</div><div>♥ K1092</div><div>♦ Q103</div><div>♣ KQ</div></div> <div><div>♠ 1074</div><div>♥ J8</div><div>♦ A92</div><div>♣ J8753</div></div>	<div>E/W are cold for 4♥ but don't really have the values to bid it and, to be fair, it needs the ace of spades onside or a doubleton club queen to make it so in the long run it is no big deal whether you bid it or don't. Partners, of course, never look at the long run, only at what works today. There are auctions that get there – East opens 1♥ and West raises to 3♥, East going on to game, or perhaps a strong no trump, transfer, transfer break, and West goes on to game.</div> <div>East has a strong no trump – some may wish to downgrade because of the king-queen doubleton, but that is more than balanced by all the tens and nines – very valuable cards, particularly in a balanced hand.</div> <div>If West's first bid is at the two level, North will overcall 3♦. That takes a little of the sting out of East's 3♥ rebid facing a transfer, as it may be based on a decent hand with only three-card support. That makes it less likely that West will raise to game. As the cards lie, the play in a heart contract is very quick and painless.</div>	<div>HCP</div> <div>13</div> <div>615</div> <div>6</div>	<div>Makeable contracts</div> <table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr></table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	-	-	-	S	-	1	-	-	-	E	1	-	4	2	-	W	1	-	4	2	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																												
N	-	1	-	-	-																												
S	-	1	-	-	-																												
E	1	-	4	2	-																												
W	1	-	4	2	-																												
<div>: Board 27</div> <div>: Dealer South</div> <div>: Love all</div> <div><div>♠ J4</div><div>♥ 1096</div><div>♦ 9652</div><div>♣ 10754</div></div> <div><div>♠ Q95</div><div>♥ AK7</div><div>♦ J73</div><div>♣ A982</div></div> <div><div>♠ 1087632</div><div>♥ 432</div><div>♦ A4</div><div>♣ 63</div></div> <div><div>♠ AK</div><div>♥ QJ85</div><div>♦ KQ108</div><div>♣ KQJ</div></div>	<div>South opens 2NT and plays there. West may consider a top heart lead to take a look at dummy and decide what to do next, but the more straightforward lead of a low club looks more sensible and is certainly more successful, the heart lead conceding a valuable tempo and a priceless entry to dummy.</div> <div>Declarer wins the club and may simply play on hearts, the suit where he can be certain to establish extra tricks without creating more winners for the defence in the process. It is a strange hand in that if declarer plays an honour from hand West must duck, while if he leads a low card West has to win. Failure to get this right leads to a dummy entry for declarer for a diamond play.</div> <div>How well declarer will do in his contract depends to a considerable extent on how quickly West works out to switch to a spade. If he never does so, the contract can be made, while if he manages it very early in the play the defence can establish four winners in the suit for three down.</div> <div>It isn't clear how West is going to work it out – East can keep on playing the highest spot-card he has and eventually the message should get across, but it may take a while. And East doesn't actually know that he wants his partner to lead spades – he could easily have a holding from which it would cost a trick.</div>	<div>HCP</div> <div>1</div> <div>144</div> <div>21</div>	<div>Makeable contracts</div> <table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr></table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	2	1	-	-	S	1	2	1	-	-	E	-	-	-	2	2	W	-	-	-	2	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																												
N	1	2	1	-	-																												
S	1	2	1	-	-																												
E	-	-	-	2	2																												
W	-	-	-	2	-																												

<div>: Board 28</div> <div>: Dealer West</div> <div>: NS vulnerable</div> <div><div>♠AJ3</div><div>♥AJ73</div><div>♦K106</div><div>♣Q109</div></div> <div><div>♠10862</div><div>♥K6</div><div>♦J952</div><div>♣K83</div></div> <div><div>♠Q54</div><div>♥Q952</div><div>♦7</div><div>♣A7652</div></div> <div><div>♠K97</div><div>♥1084</div><div>♦AQ843</div><div>♣J4</div></div>	<div>North has a strong no trump so the popular auctions will be 1NT – 3NT, for those playing strong, and 1♥ – 2♦ – 2NT – 3♥ – 3NT, for those playing weak. East has a natural club lead and West will probably win the king and return the eight. It should be a matter of routine for East to duck the return to preserve communications and now the contract is doomed unless declarer is truly inspired and crosses to dummy then leads a diamond to the ten.</div> <div>I can't see any reason why declarer should do this, unless West is exposing his hand to him. I suppose that if North opens 1NT and East comes in with a two-suited bid, showing hearts and another – a stomach-churning effort with those two empty suits – declarer could take a view, knowing that East has nine or more cards in hearts and clubs, but even then he will have done very well. Still, at least justice will have been done for the overcall.</div> <div>One down will be a very common result.</div>	<table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>10</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			15			7	8			10		<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>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</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>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	3	3	2	3	S	1	3	3	2	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
HCP																																																			
15																																																			
7	8																																																		
	10																																																		
Makeable contracts																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
N	1	3	3	2	3																																														
S	1	3	3	2	4																																														
E	-	-	-	-	-																																														
W	-	-	-	-	-																																														
<div>: Board 29</div> <div>: Dealer North</div> <div>: All vulnerable</div> <div><div>♠J10954</div><div>♥1098</div><div>♦A10</div><div>♣975</div></div> <div><div>♠632</div><div>♥A7</div><div>♦KQ543</div><div>♣J32</div></div> <div><div>♠AK</div><div>♥KJ542</div><div>♦J62</div><div>♣AKQ</div></div> <div><div>♠Q87</div><div>♥Q63</div><div>♦987</div><div>♣10864</div></div>	<div>Eleven tricks will be the normal result, diamonds breaking but the heart being offside.</div> <div>Six Diamonds is a good contract, though communication difficulties mean that it is a little more complex than simply taking a spade ruff in dummy then drawing trumps. Of course, as the cards lie, that line works OK, as declarer can get to hand with a heart ruff if need be. Setting up the hearts also works and, with diamonds three-two, would do so even if hearts were four-two. That, then, is the route down which declarer should go, drawing trumps then playing on hearts.</div> <div>The problem is that we don't have a way to explore slam when holding a five-card minor in a 5-3-3-2 hand. Had the long suit been a major we could have transferred and gone rebid 3NT then, when partner converted to the major, made a slam try. Even those who have a way to show a single-suited minor-suit slam try would normally expect to be showing a six-card suit.</div> <div>Those who can start with a strong club have a great chance of a big result.</div>	<table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>5</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>21</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			5			10	21			4		<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>6</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr></table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	6	5	3	5	W	4	6	5	3	5
HCP																																																			
5																																																			
10	21																																																		
	4																																																		
Makeable contracts																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
N	-	-	-	-	-																																														
S	-	-	-	-	-																																														
E	4	6	5	3	5																																														
W	4	6	5	3	5																																														
<div>: Board 30</div> <div>: Dealer East</div> <div>: Love all</div> <div><div>♠8</div><div>♥2</div><div>♦A109853</div><div>♣107542</div></div> <div><div>♠Q53</div><div>♥K96543</div><div>♦KJ2</div><div>♣9</div></div> <div><div>♠974</div><div>♥AQJ10</div><div>♦74</div><div>♣AKJ6</div></div> <div><div>♠AKJ1062</div><div>♥87</div><div>♦Q6</div><div>♣Q83</div></div>	<div>Whatever East's opening bid, South has a simple spade overcall. Facing a 1♥ opening, West will raise to 4♥, which is also likely to be his choice opposite a strong no trump opening. Where the opening was 1♣, West may start with a negative double, intending to follow through with a heart bid, showing a hand with a long heart suit but insufficient strength to bid 2♥ immediately.</div> <div>It seems that all roads lead to a final contract of 4♥ and, with a spade lead looking pretty obvious from either side, that is an inevitable one down.</div> <div>Meanwhile, 3NT is cold, but who can bid that?</div> <div>Anyone who stops in a heart partscore should score very well.</div>	<table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>4</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>15</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>12</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			4			9	15			12		<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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr></table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	1	-	-	-	S	1	1	-	1	-	E	-	-	3	-	3	W	-	-	3	-	3
HCP																																																			
4																																																			
9	15																																																		
	12																																																		
Makeable contracts																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
N	1	1	-	-	-																																														
S	1	1	-	1	-																																														
E	-	-	3	-	3																																														
W	-	-	3	-	3																																														

<div>:Board 31</div> <div>: Dealer South</div> <div>: NS vulnerable</div> <div>♠ 10</div> <div>♥ AKQJ63</div> <div>♦ 104</div> <div>♣ 8743</div> <div>♠ KQJ42</div> <div>♥ 975</div> <div>♦ J9</div> <div>♣ Q65</div> <div>♠ 75</div> <div>♥ 10842</div> <div>♦ K75</div> <div>♣ AJ92</div> <div>♠ A9863</div> <div>♥ -</div> <div>♦ AQ8632</div> <div>♣ K10</div>	<table><tr><td>West</td><td>North</td><td>East</td><td>South</td></tr><tr><td>—</td><td>—</td><td>—</td><td>1♦</td></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>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Four Hearts is the place to be on the N/S cards and, left to themselves, it looks reasonable to get there. I like the look of the above sequence.</p> <p>But N/S will rarely get the auction to themselves, West overcalling 1♠. North will still bid 2♥ but South now rebids 3♦, North 3♥, and what is South to do?</p> <p>3NT would be a rather embarrassing effort, with declarer never seeing dummy's six heart winners, except from afar. He would need to be on pretty hot form to raise to 4♥ on his void, so may just pack it in 3♥ rather than keep going in a dubious cause. There are 11 tricks in a heart contract on the normal spade lead, ruffing a spade to hand, drawing trumps and setting up the diamonds before using the club king as an entry to the diamond winners. But that relies on the club being onside as well as the ♦K, and the alternative is to run the ♦10 then take the finesse on the next round.</p>	West	North	East	South	—	—	—	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass		<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></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>4</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP		10		9	8	13		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	4	4	1	1	S	2	4	4	1	1	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
West	North	East	South																																																															
—	—	—	1♦																																																															
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠																																																															
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠																																																															
Pass	4♥	All Pass																																																																
HCP																																																																		
10																																																																		
9	8																																																																	
13																																																																		
Makeable contracts																																																																		
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																													
N	2	4	4	1	1																																																													
S	2	4	4	1	1																																																													
E	-	-	-	-	-																																																													
W	-	-	-	-	-																																																													
<div>: Board 32</div> <div>: Dealer West</div> <div>: EW vulnerable</div> <div>♠ A107</div> <div>♥ AJ986</div> <div>♦ KQ</div> <div>♣ QJ3</div> <div>♠ KQJ86</div> <div>♥ 7</div> <div>♦ 73</div> <div>♣ AK842</div> <div>♠ 95</div> <div>♥ Q1052</div> <div>♦ A1096</div> <div>♣ 975</div> <div>♠ 432</div> <div>♥ K43</div> <div>♦ J8542</div> <div>♣ 106</div>	<p>When West opens 1♠, North has three options – 1NT, 2♥, and double followed by 2♥ if he thinks he is too good for a simple overcall. As 17-counts with a five-card suit go, this one is not exactly inspiring, so I don't think the hand is worth the last option. A simple heart overcall would not be wrong, but the all-around nature of the hand make sit look more like a 1NT overcall to me, hoping to find that the ten of spades has some significance in the play.</p> <p>1NT would run around to West, who would probably compete with 2♣. Now North might try 2♥ and a hungry East might double and get an excellent result.</p> <p>Where North chooses an immediate heart overcall, West may reopen with a double and East, looking at two or three tricks, pass in search of the golden +200 on a partscore deal. That works well, of course.</p> <p>Declarer will find that he cannot shut out East's five of hearts. He wins the second spade and leads the jack of hearts to queen and king then ace and a third heart. The defence takes two clubs and a spade, East pitching his third club, and now a third round of clubs gives East a ruff in front of dummy.</p>	<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>17</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td></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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr></table>	HCP		17		13	6	4		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	-	-	-	S	-	1	-	-	-	E	3	-	-	2	1	W	3	-	-	2	1																				
HCP																																																																		
17																																																																		
13	6																																																																	
4																																																																		
Makeable contracts																																																																		
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																													
N	-	1	-	-	-																																																													
S	-	1	-	-	-																																																													
E	3	-	-	2	1																																																													
W	3	-	-	2	1																																																													



English Bridge Union
Broadfields, Bicester Road
Aylesbury, Bucks
HP19 8AZ
Tel: (01296) 317200 Fax: (01296) 317220
e-mail: postmaster@ebu.co.uk
website: www.ebu.co.uk