

EBU SIM PAIRS



10th September 2012

Monday

We are excited that we have three great England women bridge players/writers for the Sim Pairs this month.

Each of our writers are international gold medallists: Sally Brock, Heather Dhondy, Abbey Smith.

Our star today is Heather Dhondy

Heather is a professional bridge player, teacher and writer and learnt to play bridge with her parents at home. At the age of 24, Heather began playing for the Ladies team. Heather has enjoyed two highlights of her international career: in 2008, with her team, she won Gold at the Mind Sports Games in Beijing; and in 2012, she won Gold at the European Championships.

<p>♠AQ10832 ♥A85 ♦2 ♣J106</p> <p>♠J964 ♠K75 ♥Q97 ♥KJ63 ♦10 ♦AK ♣AK974 ♣8532</p> <p>♠- ♥1042 ♦QJ9876543 ♣Q</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>It's not often that you respond 1NT with a 9 card suit, however you are not strong enough for 2♦ and may well end up too high. On this hand you can rebid 3♦, whether you respond 2♦ or 1NT on the first round, and the auction will end there.</p> <p>The defence will begin with a top ♣, and switch to ♥s at trick two. One loser can be discarded on the ♠A, and declarer should make 9 comfortable tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦	All Pass			
West	North	East	South														
	1♠	Pass	1NT														
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<p>♠KQ1082 ♥AJ104 ♦K ♣J95</p> <p>♠9765 ♠- ♥532 ♥976 ♦Q1086 ♦A7542 ♣KQ ♣A10873</p> <p>♠AJ43 ♥KQ8 ♦J93 ♣642</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><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>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>Unless East has a conventional bid to open this hand with, the auction will be passed round to North. Should North accept a limit raise in ♠s? The point count is marginal since we know that partner has 10-11, and the singleton king of diamonds may not be pulling its full weight, so I would be tempted to pass.</p> <p>In ♠s, declarer has 9 tricks in the majors and will lose four minor suit tricks. Those stopping in 3♠ will score well.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass			
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<div><div><div>♠K8532</div><div>♥-</div><div>♦A10965</div><div>♣J93</div></div><div><div>♠Q</div><div>♥QJ7432</div><div>♦K2</div><div>♣KQ85</div></div><div><div>♠AJ74</div><div>♥AK9</div><div>♦J874</div><div>♣42</div></div><div><div>♠1096</div><div>♥10865</div><div>♦Q3</div><div>♣A1076</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>8</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></td><td>13</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>6</td><td></td><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>4</td></tr></table></div>	HCP			Makeable contracts										♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		8		N	-	-	-	1	-	13		13	S	-	-	-	1	-		6		E	2	-	4	-	4				W	2	-	5	-	4	<div>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♥</td><td>1♠</td><td>Dbl</td><td>2♠</td></tr><tr><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>What should you overcall with the North hand over 1♥ by West? In favour of a 2-suited overcall (eg Michael's) is the vulnerability and the chance of finding a sacrifice. However, partner is committed to the three-level unless they have tolerance for ♠s, and with such poor suits, this is unsound. Given that partner is a passed hand, you are likely to be out-gunned, so I wouldn't be inclined to reveal so much about the shape of my hand in case this affects the play in 4♥s. In fact, without any knowledge of the likely bad trump split, declarer may well go wrong in the play on the actual deal.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♥	1♠	Dbl	2♠	3♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass				
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<div><div><div>♠J9</div><div>♥KJ76</div><div>♦10984</div><div>♣Q97</div></div><div><div>♠AQ10852</div><div>♥AQ43</div><div>♦63</div><div>♣4</div></div><div><div>♠7643</div><div>♥102</div><div>♦J2</div><div>♣J8532</div></div><div><div>♠K</div><div>♥985</div><div>♦AKQ75</div><div>♣AK106</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>7</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td><td>2</td><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>19</td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div>	HCP			Makeable contracts										♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		7		N	3	5	3	-	-	12		2	S	3	5	3	-	-		19		E	-	-	-	3	-				W	-	-	-	3	-	<div>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>2♦</td><td>3♠</td><td>Dbl</td></tr><tr><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Dbl</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>This is a tough hand to get right. The top spot is 5♦, which makes rather luckily when both ♥ honours are onside. The auction is likely to start, after two passes, 1♦-1♠-2♦. At this point, East should pre-empt to 3♠ (the level of the fit), especially given the vulnerability. South doubles to show extra values, and West should re-raise to 4♠ given his extra shape. When this is passed back to South, he must guess what to do. There isn't much to the play of either contract. In 4♠, declarer will try a losing ♥ finesse, and in 5♦, declarer will lead to the ♥s and hope for the best.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠	2♦	3♠	Dbl	4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass			
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♠ Q86
♥ A104
♦ Q2
♣ 109632

♠ 4
♥ Q
♦ AK10976
♣ AQ854

♠ K1097532
♥ K985
♦ 4
♣ K

♠ AJ
♥ J7632
♦ J853
♣ J7

HCP			Makeable contracts					
				♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	8		N	-	-	-	-	-
15		9	S	-	-	-	-	-
	8		E	2	2	1	4	1
			W	2	2	1	4	1

Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**

 3♠ All Pass

Should you open 3♠ with the East hand? Personally I like it, since the suit is of reasonable quality, and there is little defence. The distribution makes it a little powerful, and you may miss game occasionally, however for a vulnerable pre-empt it seems a fair shot. I wouldn't raise with the West hand, despite having quite a few values, the singleton trump is a problem, and after a ♥ lead, a trump switch doesn't look hard to find. East will probably emerge with nine tricks, as it is normal to take his percentage play in trumps of leading to the king.

♠ QJ53
♥ 1065
♦ Q6
♣ A874

♠ AK104
♥ Q
♦ K10942
♣ J93

♠ 76
♥ 9432
♦ A7
♣ KQ1062

♠ 982
♥ AKJ87
♦ J853
♣ 5

HCP			Makeable contracts					
				♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	9		N	-	-	1	-	-
13		9	S	-	-	1	-	-
	9		E	3	2	-	1	1
			W	3	2	-	1	1

Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**

 Pass

1♦ Pass 1♥ Pass

1♠ Pass 1NT All Pass

1NT will be a popular contract on the above auction, even though in theory 3♣ scores better for East-West. However in practice, many North-Souths will find it hard to cash five ♥ tricks. It is probably best for South to begin with the king, asking for an unblock. When North unblocks the 10, South will switch, and wait for a ♥ through since he knows that East holds four from the bidding. However I suspect that there will be few defensive accidents here, and anyone holding declarer to seven tricks will score well.

♠ 1042
♥ J9843
♦ 2
♣ AQJ7

♠ Q985
♥ A65
♦ AJ1064
♣ K

♠ AKJ763
♥ K7
♦ Q985
♣ 3

♠ -
♥ Q102
♦ K73
♣ 10986542

HCP			Makeable contracts					
				♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	8		N	3	-	2	-	-
14		13	S	3	-	2	-	-
	5		E	-	5	-	6	-
			W	-	4	-	6	-

Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all

West **North** **East** **South**

1♦ Pass 1♠ Pass

2♠ Pass 4♠ All Pass

The ♠ slam is pretty much just on the ♦ finesse, barring any first round ruffs, and if North-South get into the auction, they might just give East-West the momentum to get there. Left to their own devices, they are unlikely to reach slam. Of course, if East-West reach 6♦ instead, there is a ♠ ruff awaiting, and if North leads the ♣A, South can give a suit preference signal for ♠s. If South makes a Lightner double of 6♦, there is a danger that East-West will move to 6♠.

<div><div><div>♠ 1052</div><div>♥ KQ42</div><div>♦ K8</div><div>♣ KQ95</div></div><div><div>♠ KQ73</div><div>♥ J76</div><div>♦ QJ9</div><div>♣ 432</div></div><div><div>♠ 98</div><div>♥ A1053</div><div>♦ A7543</div><div>♣ A10</div></div><div><div>♠ AJ64</div><div>♥ 98</div><div>♦ 1062</div><div>♣ J876</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>13</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td><td>12</td><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>6</td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr></table></div>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		13		N	1	-	-	-	-	9		12	S	1	-	-	-	-		6		E	-	4	3	1	2				W	-	4	3	1	2	<div>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>There will be some variations here according to what methods East-West play against 1NT. A popular British method is some form of Astro, which will lead to the top pairs spot of 2♥.</p> <p>North should lead ♣K (trump length, lead strength), and this gives declarer the most challenging defence. However, with both honours onside, and the ♠A also onside, declarer is likely to come to eight or nine tricks, if he establishes ♦s in time.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	2♣	Pass	2♥	All Pass														
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<div><div><div>♠ A105</div><div>♥ 85</div><div>♦ KQ32</div><div>♣ A983</div></div><div><div>♠ K98</div><div>♥ AJ62</div><div>♦ A9764</div><div>♣ 6</div></div><div><div>♠ J4</div><div>♥ K10973</div><div>♦ 85</div><div>♣ QJ102</div></div><div><div>♠ Q7632</div><div>♥ Q4</div><div>♦ J10</div><div>♣ K754</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>13</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td><td>7</td><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>8</td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr></table></div>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		13		N	1	-	-	2	-	12		7	S	1	-	-	2	-		8		E	-	1	3	-	1				W	-	1	3	-	1	<div>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>A part-score deal which is likely to be won by East-West in 3♥. If North-South bid on to 3♠, East-West will have to find a tight matchpoint double to get a good result.</p> <p>In 3♥, the defence will do well to avoid leading ♠s at any stage, since if declarer guesses correctly, he will now make 10 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass						
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<div><div><div>♠ 8</div><div>♥ AKJ942</div><div>♦ 83</div><div>♣ K1084</div></div><div><div>♠ Q973</div><div>♥ 8653</div><div>♦ 75</div><div>♣ A73</div></div><div><div>♠ K654</div><div>♥ 10</div><div>♦ AKQ942</div><div>♣ QJ</div></div><div><div>♠ AJ102</div><div>♥ Q7</div><div>♦ J106</div><div>♣ 9652</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>11</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td><td>15</td><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>8</td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		11		N	3	-	3	-	-	6		15	S	3	-	3	-	-		8		E	-	3	-	3	-				W	-	3	-	3	-	<div>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>2♦</td><td>Dbl</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td></tr><tr><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Despite the negative double from South revealing the bad break, East-West want to be competing to 3 over North-South's 3♥, since both contracts are making.</p> <p>In 3♥, North may have to take a good view in ♣s. Three rounds of ♦s, followed by a trump to dummy and a ♣ to the ten. Now declarer draws trumps and crosses to dummy with a ♠ to lead a second ♣ off dummy. If West ducks smoothly, declarer may go wrong.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	2♦	Dbl	Pass	2♥	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥	3♠	All Pass		
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																																											
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<div><div><div>♠ Q862</div><div>♥ 5</div><div>♦ K85</div><div>♣ A10872</div></div><div><div>♠ AJ93</div><div>♥ QJ</div><div>♦ J72</div><div>♣ KJ54</div></div><div><div>♠ 107</div><div>♥ 108762</div><div>♦ 10963</div><div>♣ Q9</div></div><div><div>♠ K54</div><div>♥ AK943</div><div>♦ AQ4</div><div>♣ 63</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>9</td><td></td><td></td><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></td><td>2</td><td></td><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>16</td><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div>	HCP					♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		9			N	3	2	2	3	2	13		2		S	3	2	2	3	2		16			E	-	-	-	-	-					W	-	-	-	-	-	<div>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>It's hard to see a way for North-South to enter the auction, unless North makes an aggressive pre-protective double of 2♥, which will obviously be converted to penalties. 2♥ is not a pretty contract, and will probably drift three down, which will beat any part score that North-South may attempt even undoubled. Despite holding a combined 25 count, North-South have no game on.</div>	West	North	East	South	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass										
HCP					♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																														
	9			N	3	2	2	3	2																																																														
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<div><div><div>♠ KJ102</div><div>♥ J1052</div><div>♦ K95</div><div>♣ 85</div></div><div><div>♠ AQ6</div><div>♥ Q9864</div><div>♦ A</div><div>♣ AKQJ</div></div><div><div>♠ 854</div><div>♥ -</div><div>♦ 87632</div><div>♣ 107632</div></div><div><div>♠ 973</div><div>♥ AK73</div><div>♦ QJ104</div><div>♣ 94</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>8</td><td></td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>22</td><td></td><td>0</td><td></td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>10</td><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div>	HCP					♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		8			N	-	-	1	-	1	22		0		S	-	-	1	-	1		10			E	5	2	-	2	-					W	5	2	-	2	-	<div>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♣</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table></div> <div>What do you open with the West cards in fourth seat? Your values make you too strong for 1♥, leaving you with a choice of 2♣, or 2NT. Although you are well short of being able to see game in your own hand, I prefer 2♣ as the shape is imperfect for 2NT, and the hand has too much potential for slam if a fit can be found. The first piece of good news for East comes when partner reveals their second suit. A jump to 5♣ is weaker than bidding 4♣ in a game forcing auction, and West should respect that and pass. Slam is not a good contract, and even five is not without its problems, however when ♥s divide 4-4, the dummy reversal line will generate the eleventh trick for declarer.</div>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass
HCP					♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																														
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<div><div><div>♠ 65</div><div>♥ K1082</div><div>♦ Q1043</div><div>♣ A53</div></div><div><div>♠ QJ983</div><div>♥ AQ76</div><div>♦ 875</div><div>♣ Q</div></div><div><div>♠ AK1042</div><div>♥ -</div><div>♦ AJ9</div><div>♣ K10986</div></div><div><div>♠ 7</div><div>♥ J9543</div><div>♦ K62</div><div>♣ J742</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>9</td><td></td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td><td>15</td><td></td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>5</td><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>3</td></tr></table></div>	HCP					♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		9			N	-	-	1	-	-	11		15		S	-	-	1	-	-		5			E	3	1	-	5	2					W	3	1	-	5	3	<div>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♠</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>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table></div> <div>I suspect that several pairs will get to slam on this board, and I suspect that several will make it as well, since South must find a brave ♦ lead to defeat the contract. Without it, declarer has time to establish a fifth ♣ to dispose of the second ♦ loser. East has a hand with considerable potential after partner's splinter, however the slam has little play on a ♦ lead, requiring the ♥K to fall in three rounds.</div>	West	North	East	South			1♠	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass				
HCP					♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																														
	9			N	-	-	1	-	-																																																														
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<div><div><div>♠92</div><div>♥KQ1054</div><div>♦7</div><div>♣AKJ86</div></div><div><div>♠J103</div><div>♥82</div><div>♦AK8654</div><div>♣102</div></div><div><div>♠KQ75</div><div>♥J3</div><div>♦QJ92</div><div>♣Q95</div></div><div><div>♠A864</div><div>♥A976</div><div>♦103</div><div>♣743</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>13</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td><td>11</td><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>8</td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div>	HCP			Makeable contracts										♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		13		N	4	-	4	1	1	8		11	S	4	-	4	1	1		8		E	-	2	-	-	-				W	-	2	-	-	-	<div>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</div> <table><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>2♥</td><td>4♦</td><td>4♥</td></tr></table> <div>All Pass</div> <div>Playing Acol, East must pass first in hand, which leaves West the decision of what to open third in hand at favourable vulnerability. If they are playing a weak 2♦ opening, this will probably be opened, however if not, West might consider opening 3♦. East-West have a decent save in 5♦ at the vulnerability, however the tempo of the auction makes it unlikely to be found, even if West opens at the three-level since the East hand looks unsuitable for saving with its soft values, and a doubleton ♥.</div> <div>4♥ has little problem in the play, and 5♦ is also a straight-forward three down in top tricks.</div>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	2♦	2♥	4♦	4♥				
HCP			Makeable contracts																																																																				
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<div><div><div>♠AK109</div><div>♥K853</div><div>♦875</div><div>♣K4</div></div><div><div>♠J</div><div>♥Q10642</div><div>♦QJ109</div><div>♣J76</div></div><div><div>♠7643</div><div>♥A</div><div>♦A4</div><div>♣A109852</div></div><div><div>♠Q852</div><div>♥J97</div><div>♦K632</div><div>♣Q3</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>13</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td><td>12</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>8</td><td></td><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr></table></div>	HCP			Makeable contracts										♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		13		N	-	-	-	2	-	7		12	S	-	-	-	2	-		8		E	3	1	1	-	1				W	3	-	1	-	1	<div>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <div>Whether East can find a way into the auction will depend on their methods in defence to 1NT. Playing some form of Astro, East can bid 2♦ to show ♠s and another suit. Partner's 2♥ response denies spade support, and now East tries his second suit. This all works out well for East-West who find their top spot of 3♣. There are only three obvious losers, however if South finds an unlikely trump lead, declarer will be restricted to nine tricks.</div>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1NT	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣	All Pass
HCP			Makeable contracts																																																																				
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<div><div><div>♠AK4</div><div>♥KJ10874</div><div>♦A</div><div>♣J103</div></div><div><div>♠1087632</div><div>♥92</div><div>♦Q</div><div>♣A986</div></div><div><div>♠J9</div><div>♥AQ653</div><div>♦87542</div><div>♣4</div></div><div><div>♠Q5</div><div>♥-</div><div>♦KJ10963</div><div>♣KQ752</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>16</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td><td>7</td><td>S</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>11</td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div>	HCP			Makeable contracts										♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		16		N	6	5	3	1	4	6		7	S	6	5	3	1	4		11		E	-	-	-	-	-				W	-	-	-	-	-	<div>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</div> <table><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>2♦</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td></tr></table> <div>All Pass</div> <div>The top contract on this deal is 6♣, and anyone reaching it will score very well. In practice North-South may well end up in 3NT, which becomes a slightly uncomfortable contract when the defence are able to hold up the ♣A for two rounds. However, all is well when the ♥9 falls doubleton, giving declarer four ♥ tricks to go with two ♣s, three ♠s and a ♦.</div> <div>In 6♣, declarer's problems are soon over when the ♦Q drops on the first round of the suit.</div>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT				
HCP			Makeable contracts																																																																				
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<div><div><div>♠J9843</div><div>♥KQ32</div><div>♦AQJ</div><div>♣4</div></div><div><div>♠A5</div><div>♥854</div><div>♦987653</div><div>♣53</div></div><div><div>♠10762</div><div>♥A10</div><div>♦K10</div><div>♣K10962</div></div><div><div>♠KQ</div><div>♥J976</div><div>♦42</div><div>♣AQJ87</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>13</td><td></td><td></td><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td></td><td>10</td><td></td><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>13</td><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div>	HCP					Makeable contracts										♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		13			N	2	1	4	3	3	4		10		S	2	1	4	3	3		13			E	-	-	-	-	-					W	-	-	-	-	-	<div>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</div> <div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div> <div><div></div><div>1♠</div><div>Pass</div><div>2♣</div></div> <div><div>Pass</div><div>2♥</div><div>Pass</div><div>4♥</div></div> <div>All Pass</div> <div>A simple enough auction, and 4♥ just making will be a popular result. Declarer needs to ruff one ♠ in dummy to establish the suit, and when the ♦ finesse fails will end up losing three tricks. Those who end up in 3NT will score less well since they will end up losing two ♠ tricks and thus will only make nine tricks.</div>
HCP					Makeable contracts																																																								
					♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																				
	13			N	2	1	4	3	3																																																				
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	13			E	-	-	-	-	-																																																				
				W	-	-	-	-	-																																																				
<div><div><div>♠AQ87654</div><div>♥A</div><div>♦976</div><div>♣K6</div></div><div><div>♠J32</div><div>♥K9653</div><div>♦85</div><div>♣752</div></div><div><div>♠K</div><div>♥QJ1042</div><div>♦AKQ432</div><div>♣8</div></div><div><div>♠109</div><div>♥87</div><div>♦J10</div><div>♣AQJ10943</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>13</td><td></td><td></td><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td></td><td>15</td><td></td><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>8</td><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div>	HCP					Makeable contracts										♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		13			N	5	-	-	4	1	4		15		S	5	-	-	4	1		8			E	-	3	4	-	-					W	-	3	4	-	-	<div>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</div> <div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div> <div><div></div><div></div><div>1♦</div><div>3♣</div></div> <div><div>Pass</div><div>4♠</div><div>4NT</div><div>Pass</div></div> <div><div>5♥</div><div>All Pass</div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>An exciting deal where both sides can make game. The first decision is what to open the East hand. The ♦s are both longer and stronger, and with sufficient strength to reverse, I would open 1♦. You are likely to have to take your next bid at a high level, and on the sequence above, 4NT suggests ♥s as a second suit. Partner is delighted to play in ♥s, although the five level is one too high, missing three aces. 4♠ is makeable if declarer guesses well in trumps, however it will frequently fail when declarer leads to the queen and loses to the singleton king.</div>
HCP					Makeable contracts																																																								
					♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																				
	13			N	5	-	-	4	1																																																				
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				W	-	3	4	-	-																																																				
<div><div><div>♠QJ9</div><div>♥AQJ9</div><div>♦AKJ</div><div>♣943</div></div><div><div>♠K842</div><div>♥K2</div><div>♦Q875</div><div>♣AQ5</div></div><div><div>♠A106</div><div>♥874</div><div>♦6432</div><div>♣1082</div></div><div><div>♠753</div><div>♥10653</div><div>♦109</div><div>♣KJ76</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>18</td><td></td><td></td><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td></td><td>4</td><td></td><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>4</td><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div>	HCP					Makeable contracts										♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		18			N	2	-	3	1	1	14		4		S	2	-	3	1	1		4			E	-	-	-	-	-					W	-	1	-	-	-	<div>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</div> <div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div> <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div>Pass</div></div> <div><div>1NT</div><div>Dbl</div><div>All Pass</div><div></div></div> <div>I would expect this auction to occur at several tables where a weak notrump is played. It turns out to be an awkward hand to defend, and will get let through a few times. The first problem is what to lead. I confess that I might well lead the ♠Q which turns out disastrously. Best is probably to begin with a top ♥ in practice, although the double-dummy lead to defeat it by two tricks is the ♣9, which forces an entry in partner's hand to lead a ♥ through declarer, or if declarer ducks, the tempo to switch to ♥s, with a ♣ trick in the bag. However collecting 200 in 1NT doubled will get North-South a decent score on this part-score deal.</div>
HCP					Makeable contracts																																																								
					♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																				
	18			N	2	-	3	1	1																																																				
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<div><div><div>♠AK10972</div><div>♥QJ832</div><div>♦85</div><div>♣-</div></div><div><div>♠Q3</div><div>♥K74</div><div>♦7432</div><div>♣K842</div></div><div><div>♠4</div><div>♥1095</div><div>♦AKQ96</div><div>♣A953</div></div><div><div>♠J865</div><div>♥A6</div><div>♦J10</div><div>♣QJ1076</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>10</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td><td>13</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>9</td><td></td><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div>	HCP			Makeable contracts										♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		10		N	-	-	3	4	-	8		13	S	-	-	3	4	-		9		E	1	2	-	-	-				W	1	2	-	-	-	<div>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>2♦</td><td>3♦</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>What do you do with the East cards over North's 1♠ opening? The shape and values are suitable for a take out double, but with such a good suit and poor ♥s, I prefer to overcall 2♦, if nothing else because you want a ♦ lead if South ends up declaring. North-South will end up in ♠s whatever you do and ten tricks are the limit of the hand on the normal ♦ lead.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♠	2♦	3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
HCP			Makeable contracts																																																																				
				♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																															
	10		N	-	-	3	4	-																																																															
8		13	S	-	-	3	4	-																																																															
	9		E	1	2	-	-	-																																																															
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<div><div><div>♠J763</div><div>♥A106</div><div>♦53</div><div>♣J1043</div></div><div><div>♠54</div><div>♥KJ98</div><div>♦Q106</div><div>♣AK82</div></div><div><div>♠A108</div><div>♥742</div><div>♦AK872</div><div>♣97</div></div><div><div>♠KQ92</div><div>♥Q53</div><div>♦J94</div><div>♣Q65</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>6</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></td><td>11</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>10</td><td></td><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr></table></div>	HCP			Makeable contracts										♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		6		N	-	-	-	-	-	13		11	S	-	-	-	-	-		10		E	1	4	3	1	3				W	1	4	3	1	3	<div>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>Nine tricks are available to East-West in NTs, provided they guess correctly in ♥s. With just 24 points between the two hands, however, game is likely to be missed at most tables, and there will be some who go down. Any pairs bidding and making 3NT will score very well.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT	All Pass				
HCP			Makeable contracts																																																																				
				♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																															
	6		N	-	-	-	-	-																																																															
13		11	S	-	-	-	-	-																																																															
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	Pass	Pass	Pass																																																																				
1NT	Pass	2NT	All Pass																																																																				
<div><div><div>♠97643</div><div>♥J8</div><div>♦52</div><div>♣QJ76</div></div><div><div>♠K8</div><div>♥A10942</div><div>♦AJ93</div><div>♣84</div></div><div><div>♠Q1052</div><div>♥765</div><div>♦876</div><div>♣A53</div></div><div><div>♠AJ</div><div>♥KQ3</div><div>♦KQ104</div><div>♣K1092</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>4</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td><td>6</td><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>18</td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div>	HCP			Makeable contracts										♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		4		N	2	-	-	1	1	12		6	S	2	-	-	1	1		18		E	-	-	1	-	-				W	-	-	1	-	-	<div>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div> <table><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></tr><tr><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>North-South do not want to be getting too active on this board as, with nothing making beyond 2♣, a plus score will get them a good result. If North dredges up a 1♠ response, they will get too high, however there is no need to bid when West has overcalled since partner will always get another go. Once 1♥ is raised to two, South should be cautious, knowing that partner is weak and almost certainly has length in ♠s.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♦	1♥	Pass	2♥	All Pass				
HCP			Makeable contracts																																																																				
				♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																															
	4		N	2	-	-	1	1																																																															
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			W	-	-	1	-	-																																																															
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1♥	Pass	2♥	All Pass																																																																				

<div><div><div>♠K108</div><div>♥AK2</div><div>♦A109532</div><div>♣6</div></div><div><div>♠A9</div><div>♥874</div><div>♦K6</div><div>♣QJ10754</div></div><div><div>♠643</div><div>♥Q63</div><div>♦Q87</div><div>♣A932</div></div><div><div>♠QJ752</div><div>♥J1095</div><div>♦J4</div><div>♣K8</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>14</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td><td>8</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>8</td><td></td><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div>	HCP			Makeable contracts										♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		14		N	-	3	3	4	1	10		8	S	-	3	3	4	1		8		E	2	-	-	-	-				W	2	-	-	-	-	<div>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>2♣</td><td>2♦</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Dbl</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>4♠ is making for North-South when the ♣A is right, allowing a ♥ to be discarded, however most tables will play a part-score. If East-West compete to 4♣, North-South will need to find a matchpoint double to get a good result since collecting 100 will not compensate them for the 140s and 170s their way.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	2♣	2♦	3♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	All Pass	
HCP			Makeable contracts																																																																												
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<div><div><div>♠Q98532</div><div>♥KJ103</div><div>♦2</div><div>♣65</div></div><div><div>♠J76</div><div>♥AQ92</div><div>♦1054</div><div>♣942</div></div><div><div>♠AK10</div><div>♥64</div><div>♦QJ9876</div><div>♣103</div></div><div><div>♠4</div><div>♥875</div><div>♦AK3</div><div>♣AKQJ87</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>6</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td><td>10</td><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>17</td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div>	HCP			Makeable contracts										♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		6		N	5	-	4	3	3	7		10	S	5	-	4	3	3		17		E	-	1	-	-	-				W	-	1	-	-	-	<div>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td><td>Dbl</td></tr><tr><td>1♥</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td></tr></table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>Do you open the East hand? It is marginal considering that you have no shortage, however your suit has decent intermediates and your honours are in good places. South is too strong for a simple overcall, and so starts with a double, showing a strong jump overcall type of hand on the next round, which will allow North-South to reach 3NT.</p> <p>Since it is impossible to misguess in ♥s, 3NT is sure to make.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♦	Dbl	1♥	2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT								
HCP			Makeable contracts																																																																												
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1♥	2♠	Pass	3♣																																																																												
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<div><div><div>♠A95432</div><div>♥A742</div><div>♦A92</div><div>♣-</div></div><div><div>♠J76</div><div>♥QJ5</div><div>♦K10</div><div>♣AQ983</div></div><div><div>♠Q8</div><div>♥1083</div><div>♦QJ87643</div><div>♣K</div></div><div><div>♠K10</div><div>♥K96</div><div>♦5</div><div>♣J1076542</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>12</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></td><td>8</td><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>7</td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div>	HCP			Makeable contracts										♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		12		N	2	-	4	4	-	13		8	S	2	-	4	4	-		7		E	-	1	-	-	-				W	-	1	-	-	-	<div>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td></tr></table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South has an awkward hand to bid. Over 1♠ the choices are 2♣ followed by 3♣, or 1NT. Here 1NT works well, as two of either major plays better than ♣s. East-West don't want to be getting involved given the vulnerability as they are likely to concede the dreaded matchpoint score of -200.</p> <p>The major suits divide favourably for North-South, hence ten tricks are available in either.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠												
HCP			Makeable contracts																																																																												
				♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																																							
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<div><div><div>♠954</div><div>♥4</div><div>♦J1096543</div><div>♣103</div></div><div><div>♠J6</div><div>♥K952</div><div>♦AQ7</div><div>♣AQ62</div></div><div><div>♠AKQ832</div><div>♥Q106</div><div>♦8</div><div>♣K87</div></div><div><div>♠107</div><div>♥AJ873</div><div>♦K2</div><div>♣J954</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>14</td><td></td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>9</td><td></td><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr></table></div>	HCP			Makeable contracts										♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		1		N	-	-	-	-	-	16	14		S	-	-	-	-	-		9		E	5	1	5	5	6				W	5	1	5	5	6	<div>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>6♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>What do you rebid with the East cards after 1♠-2♣? Your partial ♣ fit makes you too good for 2♠, and with your excellent suit you should be happy enough to force to game. A 3♠ rebid is all the encouragement West needs to bid a slam, however if they reach 6♠, they may go down unluckily on a ♥ ruff. If they bid to 6NT, declarer might well be given the contract on the opening lead, for example ♦J from North. Even if not, South becomes very troubled by six rounds of ♠s.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass		
HCP			Makeable contracts																																																																												
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<div><div><div>♠1072</div><div>♥AJ87</div><div>♦J10872</div><div>♣8</div></div><div><div>♠A6</div><div>♥532</div><div>♦K954</div><div>♣J1076</div></div><div><div>♠K9543</div><div>♥KQ4</div><div>♦A</div><div>♣A542</div></div><div><div>♠QJ8</div><div>♥1096</div><div>♦Q63</div><div>♣KQ93</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>6</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>16</td><td></td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>10</td><td></td><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr></table></div>	HCP			Makeable contracts										♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		6		N	-	-	-	-	-	8	16		S	-	-	-	-	-		10		E	4	2	2	3	2				W	4	2	2	3	2	<div>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>A part-score deal where those in ♠s will score best because the suit breaks three-three.</p> <p>The favourable ♠ break also allows ten tricks to be made in ♣s, despite the bad trump break.</p> <p>Those who reach a black suit contract should out-score those in no trumps.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	All Pass								
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<div><div><div>♠Q</div><div>♥A987632</div><div>♦7</div><div>♣J873</div></div><div><div>♠AJ108652</div><div>♥K</div><div>♦J6</div><div>♣654</div></div><div><div>♠K974</div><div>♥4</div><div>♦K952</div><div>♣AKQ9</div></div><div><div>♠3</div><div>♥QJ105</div><div>♦AQ10843</div><div>♣102</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>7</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>15</td><td></td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>9</td><td></td><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div>	HCP			Makeable contracts										♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		7		N	-	2	4	-	-	9	15		S	-	2	4	-	-		9		E	3	-	-	4	-				W	3	-	-	4	-	<div>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>If North wanders into the auction at some stage, he will be rewarded with finding the excellent sacrifice. It is, however, hard to see when he will get in. He is not worth 4♥ over 3♠, and to reopen the auction after East's raise to 4♠ is a bit of a blind guess.</p>	West	North	East	South	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass																
HCP			Makeable contracts																																																																												
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