

WINTER BRITISH SIM PAIRS



7th January 2013

Monday

Our thanks today to Simon Cope who has recently joined our team of writers.



Simon started playing bridge at the age of 14, at school. He then became involved in the Junior squads, and enjoyed several outings for the Junior team at Schools and U25 levels. Since then he has enjoyed some success on the domestic scene, but his favourite bridge experiences have been as coach and NPC of the open team in Beijing 2008 (Silver medal in the World Mind Sports Games) and Dublin 2012 (Qualifying for the Bermuda Bowl for the first time since 2005) respectively.

He teaches bridge and plays professionally on a full time basis, with most of his work being in North London. Away from bridge he enjoys playing tennis and golf, and watching football, rugby and cricket whenever possible.

<p>♠ J83 ♥ Q3 ♦ KQ10972 ♣ K8</p> <p>♠ AK10752 ♠ - ♥ J86 ♥ AK10742 ♦ 6 ♦ 43 ♣ 1096 ♣ J7532</p> <p>♠ Q964 ♥ 95 ♦ AJ85 ♣ AQ4</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>2♥</td><td>dbl</td></tr><tr><td>3♥</td><td>P</td><td>4♥</td><td>dbl</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>The first decision in the auction is North’s – the usual opening will be 1♦ but it would not surprise me to see some opening a weak NT. Then East should choose to make a jump overcall in hearts (some may choose 3♥) rather than bidding the unusual 2NT – his clubs are poor and his hearts are superb. After a takeout double from South, and a raise to 3♥ from West, North passes and East may well break discipline and bid 4♥ with such a shapely hand. South is left with no option but to double again, and North should probably elect to defend, and hope to beat it, as bidding will almost certainly lead to a minus score. On this bidding, South should be aware that East will have an unusual hand, and try the ace of diamonds, a suit in which his partner surely holds length. After this, it seems unlikely that the defence will fail to come to their three club tricks – North should play ♦2 underneath partner’s ace, asking for the lower ranking suit with a singleton in dummy, and perhaps now South switches to a low club (partner must have ♣K)</p>	West	North	East	South		1♦	2♥	dbl	3♥	P	4♥	dbl	P	P	P	
West	North	East	South															
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<p>♠ AQ10 ♥ AQ84 ♦ A9 ♣ A532</p> <p>♠ 98632 ♠ KJ ♥ K962 ♥ J1053 ♦ K83 ♦ J54 ♣ 7 ♣ KQJ9</p> <p>♠ 754 ♥ 7 ♦ Q10762 ♣ 10864</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>1NT</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>2♣</td><td>dbl</td><td>2♥</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>An awkward hand for North in the auction. After 1NT from East, and Stayman from West, some pairs play double now as just showing a strong hand (rather than lead directional for clubs). If that is the case they will surely do that, if it isn’t I think they have to pass. Either way, East will bid 2♥ and that should, as far as I can see; end the auction. North would like to bid – but what sensible call does he have? You might bid 2NT if you have already doubled to show values, but that is not without risk. In defence to 2♥ it is touch and go. On the likely minor suit lead from South, declarer can probably scramble 8 tricks. If South stumbles on a spade lead, though, (less likely as West has shown both majors) then North should win and play back a spade, and East has to play something himself. If he plays a top club, North wins and returns a club. If the last club winner for declarer is cashed, throwing diamonds, the defence now have minor suit winners to play when North gets in with his big trumps, to force declarer’s trump holding. An array of +110s and -50s EW gets my bet.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	P	2♣	dbl	2♥	P	P	P		
West	North	East	South															
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<p>♠ KJ1096532 ♥ QJ ♦ A10 ♣ 2</p> <p>♠ 7 ♠ Q84 ♥ A8 ♥ K102 ♦ Q8654 ♦ KJ2 ♣ AQ643 ♣ KJ105</p> <p>♠ A ♥ 976543 ♦ 973 ♣ 987</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		11		12	13	4		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	2	-		S	-	-	-	2	-		E	5	5	1	-	4		W	5	5	1	-	4		<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>1 ♦</td><td>4 ♠</td><td>dbl</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>5 ♣</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr></table> <p>In the classical style, even in this seat and vulnerability, South should probably not open 2 ♥ with such a poor suit. However in these days of lower standards for an opening bid, I would imagine there will be plenty who disagree! West opens 1 ♦, and North bids the normal 4 ♠. East has little option but to double, the modern “card showing” double. South passes, and West has an easy 5 ♣ bid, and there matters should rest, unless some North players elect to bid 5 ♠ given the vulnerability. 5 ♣ will make with a degree of comfort, indeed 12 tricks will materialise unless North leads a spade, as the favourable heart position will allow a spade discard after drawing trumps, and indeed some may choose a heart lead. Those who decide to press on to 5 ♠ will be doubled by East, and can’t avoid losing one spade, two hearts, one diamond and one club, for down 3 and -500, but a good save against the 600 or 620 that E/W make in 5 ♣. Notice if South does open 2 ♥, West should pass, North will bid 4 ♠, but after two passes West has a difficult decision about whether to back in with 4NT for the minors, vulnerable against not. This might just be a victory for the ill disciplined pre-emptors!</p>	West	North	East	South				P	1 ♦	4 ♠	dbl	P	5 ♣	P	P	P
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<p>♠ K1094 ♥ 1092 ♦ A109 ♣ AK9</p> <p>♠ 875 ♠ AQJ32 ♥ KQJ643 ♥ A5 ♦ 32 ♦ 654 ♣ 64 ♣ Q52</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ 87 ♦ KQJ87 ♣ J10873</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		14		6	13	7		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	3	-	-	-		S	3	3	-	-	-		E	-	-	3	2	-		W	-	-	3	2	-		<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>2 ♥</td><td>dbl</td><td>3 ♥</td><td>4 ♦</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Most Wests will open 2 ♥ despite the vulnerability and sterile shape, and North has to choose between pass and double – I like double, the heart suit isn’t nice, but we have quite a nice 14 count with aces and kings, 4 spades and tolerance for the minors.</p> <p>East might choose 3 ♥, both trying to compete the part score and hoping for the opponents to bid spades. South has a weak hand, but great shape and good diamonds, so should bid 4 ♦ which will probably end proceedings.</p> <p>Whilst E/W could double, it is far from clear to do so with the East hand. -100 in 4 ♦ will score OK or N/S, whilst if any E/W pairs manage to double that they will secure a huge matchpoint score.</p>	West	North	East	South	2 ♥	dbl	3 ♥	4 ♦	P	P	P					
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<p>♠ 10983 ♥ A5 ♦ Q1083 ♣ Q105</p> <p>♠ J76 ♠ - ♥ 972 ♥ QJ8643 ♦ KJ5 ♦ 762 ♣ K643 ♣ A872</p> <p>♠ AKQ542 ♥ K10 ♦ A94 ♣ J9</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		8		8	7	17		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	3	-	4	4		S	-	2	-	4	4		E	1	-	2	-	-		W	1	-	2	-	-		<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>P</td><td>2 ♥</td><td>3 ♠</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>4 ♠</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Not the most exciting hand; East holds a normal weak-2 opening, and South should bid 3 ♠ as a strong jump overcall. West has no reason to bid, and North now raises to 4 ♠ with his four card support and smattering of values. On a heart lead, South should win, draw three rounds of trumps, cash the second heart winner, and exit with a club.</p> <p>Now the defence either has to set up the third round of clubs for declarer or play diamonds, either way this will lead to an easy 10 tricks.</p> <p>Anybody who manages to steer the N/S cards to the contract of 3NT will score well as long as they guess the diamonds correctly on a heart lead, making the same 10 tricks as were available in spades.</p>	West	North	East	South		P	2 ♥	3 ♠	P	4 ♠	P	P	P			
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<div><div><div>♠ 852</div><div>♥ 3</div><div>♦ Q6543</div><div>♣ AJ82</div></div><div><div>♠ J6</div><div>♥ K9752</div><div>♦ -</div><div>♣ KQ10753</div></div><div><div>♠ 974</div><div>♥ J10864</div><div>♦ AJ1072</div><div>♣ -</div></div><div><div>♠ AKQ103</div><div>♥ AQ</div><div>♦ K98</div><div>♣ 964</div></div><div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>18</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div></div>	HCP		7	6	9	18	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	3	-	1	2		S	1	3	-	1	4		E	-	-	4	-	-		W	-	-	4	-	-		<div>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>P</td><td>4♥</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>South has a nice hand, and after his spade opening will be somewhat disappointed to see the auction come back to him with the opponents having reached 4♥ in two bids. Whilst he has a strong hand, his AQ doubleton in hearts is not worth anywhere near the six points it appears, and South should let discretion be the better part of valour by letting the opponents play. 4♥ has three top losers, but declarer should be able to negotiate 10 tricks by setting the clubs up with a ruffing finesse against North. There may be a twist for the 5-card majors N/S, who will bid 3♠ with the North hand after the Michaels cue bid on their right. That may result in E/W taking the push to 5♥, which will result in +100 for N/S.</div> <div>Whilst South can make 4NT, anyone who finds that contract deserves a very large gin and tonic indeed!</div>	West	North	East	South				1♠	2♠	P	4♥	P	P	P		
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<p>♠ A762 ♥ A108 ♦ 9654 ♣ A2</p> <p>♠ Q853 ♠ KJ94 ♥ Q76 ♥ KJ932 ♦ A102 ♦ Q7 ♣ KQ6 ♣ 73</p> <p>♠ 10 ♥ 54 ♦ KJ83 ♣ J109854</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		12		13	10	5		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	2	-	-	-		S	3	2	-	-	-		E	-	-	1	3	1		W	-	-	1	3	2		<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <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>2NT*</td></tr><tr><td>dbl</td><td>3♣</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>3♠</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr></table> <p>After a weak NT from North, most pairs will have a way to enter the auction showing both majors, although East is very minimum for the action at unfavourable vulnerability. South may well venture a *Lebensohl 2NT showing a desire to compete in a suit, which West should double to show values. After the requested 3♣ from North gets back to West, they should bid 3♠, as their club values are not great. That will end the auction, and it looks like 9 tricks are there for the taking. Whilst 9 tricks in spades doesn't seem too tricky to negotiate, it requires both East to bid vulnerable on a borderline hand, and West not to get too carried away, so I would expect 140 to E/W to be an excellent result.</p> <p>Anyone who finds a way to 4♣ will get doubled, but may score reasonably by getting out for only one down.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	2♣	2NT*	dbl	3♣	P	P	3♠	P	P	P				
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<p>♠ Q10 ♥ AQJ82 ♦ 85432 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ 8732 ♠ AK6 ♥ 43 ♥ K10976 ♦ K1076 ♦ AQJ ♣ 762 ♣ K4</p> <p>♠ J954 ♥ 5 ♦ 9 ♣ AQJ10983</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		9		3	20	8		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	4	-	-	-	1		S	4	-	-	-	1		E	-	2	1	1	-		W	-	1	1	1	-		<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>2NT</td><td>3♣</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>East as dealer has a regulation 2NT opening – the hand would be very difficult to accurately describe after a 1♥ opener. South has an enormous amount of playing strength – however vulnerable with 20-22 on his right, 3♣ is probably enough. Two passes back to the 2NT opener, who should probably pass – his K x clubs looks a very poor holding now, and other suits are likely to be breaking badly. In addition, partner heard his opening bid the first time!</p> <p>West might select a spade or a heart against 3♣ – a heart would probably be my choice. Either way, declarer is likely to score one heart, two spades and seven clubs, for +130.</p> <p>Anyone who takes a second bid on the East hand will be in trouble, as North should bring down the rod of justice and collect a juicy penalty.</p>	West	North	East	South			2NT	3♣	P	P	P									
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<p>♠ QJ84 ♥ 94 ♦ A53 ♣ QJ103</p> <p>♠ A72 ♠ 10965 ♥ A10 ♥ J876532 ♦ K64 ♦ 2 ♣ A9862 ♣ 4</p> <p>♠ K3 ♥ KQ ♦ QJ10987 ♣ K75</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		10		15	1	14		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	3	-	1	3		S	3	3	-	1	3		E	-	-	3	-	-		W	-	-	3	-	-		<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1♦</td></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>dbl</td><td>3♥</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>dbl</td><td>P</td><td>4♦</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>A lively deal to be sure. South will usually open 1♦ (some may choose 1NT). West's hand is best described by a 1NT overcall rather than mentioning that moth-eaten club suit. North will double, and East should jump to 3♥. When your side has been doubled in a NT contract, if you jump in a new suit, it shows a weak hand with a long suit and some playing strength – a fair description of the East hand. South and West have nothing to add, but at this vulnerability (love all is a bidder's paradise at MPs) North may well venture a takeout double if he has one available, and then South should bid 4♦ and that will end the auction. West will probably lead the ♥A, and when East discourages there are two chances for West to beat the contract – he can cash the ace of spades (where partner can't be singleton) and when partner discourages he should play ace and another club, to beat it by one.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♦	1NT	dbl	3♥	P	P	dbl	P	4♦	P	P	P	
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<p>♠ J985 ♥ A9 ♦ Q43 ♣ 10982</p> <p>♠ AKQ43 ♠ 10 ♥ 1065 ♥ KQJ82 ♦ 8 ♦ 1097 ♣ QJ74 ♣ AK65</p> <p>♠ 762 ♥ 743 ♦ AKJ652 ♣ 3</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>8</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		7	13	12	8	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	2	-	-	-		S	-	2	-	-	-		E	4	-	4	4	-		W	4	-	4	4	-		<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>P</td><td>2♥</td><td>3♦</td></tr><tr><td>3♥</td><td>4♦</td><td>4♥</td><td>?</td></tr></table> <p>A normal looking 4♥ game for E/W, but after hearing his opponents bid 1♠-2♥, South should definitely take advantage of the vulnerability and bid 3♦ – it is so important to get partner off to the right lead on hands wherever possible, and your hand could easily produce a profitable sacrifice. After that, West should raise to 3♥. North will probably bid 4♦, and East will bid 4♥. Then it will be up to South whether or not to sacrifice – given his partner’s likely heart shortage and his club shortage he may well save, which will do well as it is only 500.</p> <p>If, however, E/W misjudge (East should double 5♦) and push on to 5♥, then the defence should beat it – with a diamond lead and a club switch – then when North gets in with the ♥A he gives partner a club ruff, resulting in a huge score for N/S.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	P	2♥	3♦	3♥	4♦	4♥	?								
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<p>♠ KJ94 ♥ K2 ♦ A975 ♣ 743</p> <p>♠ Q10852 ♠ 73 ♥ Q96 ♥ AJ108 ♦ KQ4 ♦ 102 ♣ A2 ♣ KQJ105</p> <p>♠ A6 ♥ 7543 ♦ J863 ♣ 986</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>5</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		11	11	13	5	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	1	-	-	-		S	-	1	-	-	-		E	4	-	3	2	3		W	4	-	3	2	3		<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>P</td><td>1♣</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>P</td><td>2♣</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>3NT</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr></table> <p>This is one of our quieter deals of the evening. North should not open his collection at this vulnerability, especially if playing a weak NT. I would open the East hand, despite the potential rebid issue – rebidding that chunky club suit is no disaster. Sure enough that is what he has to do, and West should probably just close proceedings with a jump to 3NT. North has an unpleasant choice of leads, and the likely diamond will go to the ten, jack and when West wins, he needs the heart finesse for his contract, so should place the ♥Q on the table, and when North covers (as he should in case partner has 9 x x x or longer) declarer can claim ten tricks. I expect +630 for E/W to be an extremely common result.</p>	West	North	East	South		P	1♣	P	1♠	P	2♣	P	3NT	P	P	P				
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<p>♠ J753 ♥ 984 ♦ A842 ♣ K7</p> <p>♠ AQ ♠ 10942 ♥ 10763 ♥ Q ♦ QJ1076 ♦ K953 ♣ J4 ♣ A1053</p> <p>♠ K86 ♥ AKJ52 ♦ - ♣ Q9862</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>13</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		8	9	10	13	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	2	1	-		S	-	-	3	1	-		E	-	4	-	-	1		W	-	3	-	-	1		<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>P</td><td>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>1♠</td><td>P</td><td>2♣</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>2♥</td><td>P</td><td>2♠</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>3♥</td><td>all pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>An interesting auction with choices for both N/S players. In a 4-card major base, North will probably prefer to respond 1♠. South then has to choose between 2♣ and 2♠ – I expect most will try 2♣, and over partner’s 2♥ they will see things through with 2♠, showing some extra values (which they scarcely have) in the process – as weak openings should prefer to raise 1♠ to 2♠ directly. North should go back to 3♥, and it will be down to South to cover his optimism in the auction by bringing it home. A reasonable line of play would be to win ♦A throwing a spade, playing a heart to the ace, and a club to the king and ace. East will probably play a diamond to force declarer (knowing partner to have heart length). You ruff that, cash ♣Q, and play a club, if West ruffs with the 10 and plays a heart, you win in hand, ruff another club with the last trump in dummy, and ruff a diamond back to hand, draw West’s last trump and cash your established club for nine tricks. If West declines to ruff, you make your tricks on a cross ruff. Those making 9 tricks will score very well indeed.</p>	West	North	East	South			P	1♥	P	1♠	P	2♣	P	2♥	P	2♠	P	3♥	all pass	
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<p>♠ K1043 ♥ J8 ♦ K76 ♣ AQ96</p> <p>♠ AQJ92 ♠ 5 ♥ Q532 ♥ K1076 ♦ 94 ♦ 1052 ♣ 102 ♣ KJ743</p> <p>♠ 876 ♥ A94 ♦ AQJ83 ♣ 85</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>11</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>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP		13	7	9	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	-	-	2	S	-	3	-	-	2	E	1	-	2	-	-	W	1	-	2	-	-	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>1N</td><td>P</td><td>2♣</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>2♠</td><td>P</td><td>2N</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Weak NT pairs will probably pass the South hand as dealer at this vulnerability, leaving North to open 1NT. South will invite game (sometimes via non promissory Stayman). Anyone who overcalls 2♠ with the West hand (we have all done worse, haven't we?) will get harshly dealt with. That will leave north as declarer in 2NT (he should not accept with 13 opposite a passed partner). East will have to choose well on lead – a club gives declarer an easy route to nine tricks, whereas on a heart lead the defence will have five tricks to score – three hearts, one spade and eventually one club. If any pairs bid to 3NT, I would expect it to be the strong NT pairs who may well open the chunky south hand. West will overcall a spade, and North will end up declaring 3NT. Once again East will have to choose their lead carefully – but a heart lead for down one seems normal if West has bid spades and North has bid clubs, as is quite likely.</p>	West	North	East	South				P	P	1N	P	2♣	P	2♠	P	2N	P	P	P	
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<p>♠ 754 ♥ J7 ♦ QJ2 ♣ KQ864</p> <p>♠ 1032 ♠ A86 ♥ 84 ♥ AQ10932 ♦ A108764 ♦ 953 ♣ 32 ♣ 9</p> <p>♠ KQJ9 ♥ K65 ♦ K ♣ AJ1075</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>17</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP		9	10	4	17	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	-	-	3	-	S	4	-	-	3	-	E	-	1	1	-	-	W	-	1	1	-	-	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>2♥</td><td>2NT</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>3NT</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>West should not open even if he has a weak-2 in diamonds available – the vulnerability is against you as is the 6-3-2-2 shape. East however can happily open 2♥ in third seat – a little heavy but much more effective than 1♥. South has a tricky call – and I confess I would try 2NT – it seems to be the best description available. If you double and hear 3♦ you aren't sure what to do. North has an obvious raise to 3NT, and on the predictable heart lead that will go down two – the defence has five heart tricks and two aces, and declarer has no quick source of tricks outside of the club suit. The other option is to double with the South hand – especially those who play Lebensohl. If North bids 2NT over the x to show a bad hand, South can pass. If North bids 3♦ showing some values, South can try 3NT, and if North bids either black suit, South is happy. Anyone who doubles will probably score +130 in 4♣ for a great board.</p>	West	North	East	South	P	P	2♥	2NT	P	3NT	P	P	P							
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<p>♠ J8743 ♥ AJ10 ♦ 9853 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ AQ ♠ K52 ♥ KQ4 ♥ 865 ♦ QJ10 ♦ A42 ♣ 98652 ♣ K1043</p> <p>♠ 1096 ♥ 9732 ♦ K76 ♣ AQ7</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>9</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr></table>	HCP		7	10	14	9	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	1	-	S	-	-	1	1	-	E	3	-	-	-	1	W	3	-	-	-	1	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr></table> <p>Not a very exciting auction, but there may be some players who venture an aggressive entry into the auction having passed already with the North hand to show a 2-suiter – if that is what happens then E/W will have to either find a way to double the likely 2♠ partial and beat it by a trick or to bid on to 3♣ which should make nine tricks. If they fail to do either of these, the likely +50 from defending 2♠ undoubled will not be a success. On a spade lead versus 1NT, declarer will win in hand and play a club, which South will win. Best now is to continue with a spade, which declarer will win and clear clubs. Declarer will now make three clubs, three spades, and two red suit tricks for +120. It looks like a diamond lead would have been better for the defence, but that is unlikely to occur often with a 5-card spade suit available.</p>	West	North	East	South		P	P	P	1NT	P	P	P								
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<p>♠10963 ♥A1083 ♦K6 ♣AKQ</p> <p>♠72 ♠AKJ84 ♥7652 ♥KQ ♦J98432 ♦A107 ♣6 ♣875</p> <p>♠Q5 ♥J94 ♦Q5 ♣J109432</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>6</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		16	17	1	6	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	-	1	-	-		S	3	-	1	-	-		E	-	4	-	1	-		W	-	4	-	1	-		<p>Board 18 : 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>1♠</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>dbl</td><td>P</td><td>2♣</td></tr><tr><td>2♦</td><td>3♣</td><td>3♦</td><td>4♣</td></tr><tr><td>4♦</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr></table> <p>There are several contentious bids possible on this hand. North is too strong to overcall 1NT in protective seat as this usually shows 11-14, so has to kick off with a double. After South bids 2♣, West may venture a cheeky 2♦, and North should probably raise to 3♣, despite having only three of them – A K Q is a mighty fine looking three. East has a good hand and should bid 3♦, and now both South and potentially West have marginal decisions. South has quite a defensive looking hand, with bad shape and a couple of queens which may score in defence, but the 6-card suit will persuade some to bid on, and then it is a question of whether E/W bid on to 4♦ or defend 4♣ – I can't see that anyone can double that.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♠	P	P	dbl	P	2♣	2♦	3♣	3♦	4♣	4♦	P	P	P
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<p>♠A642 ♥A542 ♦K7 ♣532</p> <p>♠K93 ♠1085 ♥J973 ♥KQ1086 ♦AJ ♦1032 ♣AK106 ♣87</p> <p>♠QJ7 ♥- ♦Q98654 ♣QJ94</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>8</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		11	5	16	8	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	2	-	-	-		S	-	3	-	-	-		E	-	-	3	1	2		W	-	-	3	1	2		<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>1♥</td><td>P</td><td>2♥</td><td>3♦</td></tr><tr><td>dbl</td><td>P</td><td>3♥</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>The South hand is unsuitable for any first round action, as a pre-empt in diamonds may cause N/S to miss a good spade contract. West will open 1♥, and East should be content with a raise to 2♥ at this vulnerability and with the lack of shape. South may venture 3♦ now, and West will double to show extras. After North's pass, East should bid 3♥ and E/W will play there.</p> <p>That contract looks like a make as long as declarer notices the spade pips, although in reality North will lead ♦K and when South gets in with ♦Q he will probably switch to the ♠Q. Declarer will have to pay a little attention with trumps 4-0, but should emerge with +140.</p>	West	North	East	South				P	1♥	P	2♥	3♦	dbl	P	3♥	P	P	P		
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<p>♠73 ♥A987 ♦98 ♣QJ832</p> <p>♠J6 ♠K1082 ♥Q10432 ♥J ♦K63 ♦AQJ542 ♣K76 ♣109</p> <p>♠AQ954 ♥K65 ♦107 ♣A54</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>13</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		7	11	9	13	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	-	2	1	-		S	3	-	2	1	-		E	-	3	-	-	1		W	-	3	-	-	1		<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>1♦</td><td>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>dbl</td><td>P</td><td>2♦</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>After East's opening in third seat and a normal 1♠ overcall from South, West has to choose between 2♥ and double. My vote for double is because his hand is on the minimum side for 2♥ and his heart suit is poor – K x x diamonds also makes me want to keep them in the game. East rebids his diamonds, and after a pass from South West should let that go as game is very unlikely. Anyone who backs in with a takeout double on the North hand will probably serve to push the opponents to 3♦ and nothing more – and with ♣A onside it looks like nine tricks are available, especially with trumps 2-2 so ruffing the fourth spade is no problem. +110 for E/W should be a very popular result indeed.</p>	West	North	East	South	P	P	1♦	1♠	dbl	P	2♦	P	P	P						
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<div><div><div>♠KJ2</div><div>♥73</div><div>♦Q82</div><div>♣J8752</div></div><div><div>♠A</div><div>♥AKJ109</div><div>♦A1093</div><div>♣A94</div></div><div><div>♠Q6</div><div>♥6542</div><div>♦KJ64</div><div>♣1063</div></div></div> <div><div>♠10987543</div><div>♥Q8</div><div>♦75</div><div>♣KQ</div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>20</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		7	6	20	7	7		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	1	-		S	-	-	-	1	-		E	3	6	6	-	5		W	3	6	6	-	5		<div>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>2♠</td></tr><tr><td>dbl</td><td>3♠</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>dbl</td><td>P</td><td>4♥</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Whilst the South hand is third in with a 7-card suit, the vulnerability, 7-2-2-2 shape and the appalling suit are all warning signs. I can understand 2♠ on the hand though – and that gives West an easy double. After 3♠ from North, and two passes West has to decide whether to double again or bid 4♥ himself – with such a great hand for defending and vulnerable opponents I would double, and East should probably try 4♥ even with such poor hearts – although this time it would have worked well to defend! You can make a lot of tricks E/W, if you win the (say) spade lead, draw two rounds of trumps, play the ace of diamonds, a diamond to the jack, ruff a spade, cash the diamonds and exit with ace and another club, poor South will be endplayed to give a ruff and discard.</p>	West	North	East	South		P	P	2♠	dbl	3♠	P	P	dbl	P	4♥	P	P	P		
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<div><div><div>♠8742</div><div>♥982</div><div>♦J7643</div><div>♣J</div></div><div><div>♠K</div><div>♥AQ753</div><div>♦985</div><div>♣Q976</div></div><div><div>♠AQ105</div><div>♥J104</div><div>♦2</div><div>♣A10832</div></div></div> <div><div>♠J963</div><div>♥K6</div><div>♦AKQ10</div><div>♣K54</div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</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><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		2	11	11	16	16		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	5	-	5	1	2		W	5	-	5	1	2		<div>Board 23 : Dealer South : All 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>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>2♠</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>3♥</td><td>P</td><td>4♥</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>This hand could be a tricky one for E/W to negotiate. You can see the effectiveness of the 4 card major style – the 1♠ opener makes it hard for them to get in barring a really ugly 2♥ overcall from West. After North raises to 2♠ and that gets back to West (South should probably play the percentages and pass with a flat 16 in the Acol style) they might stump up the courage to try 3♥ – and East should raise that to game with a very good hand in support of hearts. On a club lead, declarer will need to rise play very carefully to avoid losing three diamonds when South gets in with the club king – double dummy you can make +650 but I expect +620 to earn E/W a very healthy percentage of the MPs.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	P	2♠	P	P	3♥	P	4♥	P	P	P		
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<p>♠ J75 ♥ A10 ♦ AKJ109 ♣ KQ10</p> <p>♠ KQ92 ♠ 86 ♥ 542 ♥ QJ83 ♦ 2 ♦ 8754 ♣ A9652 ♣ 873</p> <p>♠ A1043 ♥ K976 ♦ Q63 ♣ J4</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>18</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</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><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			18			9	3		10			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	4	3	4	4		S	2	5	3	4	4		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>1♦</td><td>P</td><td>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>dbl</td><td>rdbl</td><td>2♣</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>3NT</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>After passing initially and hearing the opponents bid the red suits, it is normal for West to try a double in case his side can compete in the black suits. North will redouble to show strength, and East will be seeking a hole to jump into. Bidding a confident 2♣ will probably be their best chance, and after South's pass (should be forcing after North's redouble) North will have to choose whether to try 3NT or play for penalties. If he doubles, it will be a battle to get 500 to outscore those in 3NT. On a trump lead it looks like declarer will make three trumps, a spade and a heart, for minus three. On a red suit lead, the defence will have to win and switch to trumps to get their three down. In 3NT, it looks like declarer will make 10 tricks as a matter of course.</p>	West	North	East	South	P	1♦	P	1♥	dbl	rdbl	2♣	P	P	3NT	P	P	P			
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<p>♠ Q43 ♥ KQ52 ♦ Q632 ♣ 72</p> <p>♠ 1097 ♠ A8 ♥ A109 ♥ J86 ♦ K104 ♦ J975 ♣ Q1063 ♣ AKJ9</p> <p>♠ KJ652 ♥ 743 ♦ A8 ♣ 854</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>14</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			9			9	14		8			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	2	-		S	-	-	-	2	-		E	2	1	-	-	1		W	3	1	1	-	1		<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>P</td><td>1NT</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>The pre-emptive value of the weak NT strikes again here. On a spade lead, declarer will have to guess diamonds to make his seven tricks (although he may play for two heart finesses, which on this layout would be unsuccessful). Any E/W pair playing a strong NT will open a minor, allowing South to make a (thin) 1♠ overcall, West might raise the minor if it is clubs, or try 1NT without a stopper, but either way North will raise to 2♠ and that will end the auction – and this should be eight tricks for +110 to N/S.</p> <p>This will score well with some N/S pairs going minus, and others only getting +100 from defending 1NT down one.</p>	West	North	East	South		P	1NT	P	P	P										
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<p>♠ 3 ♥ Q985 ♦ AKJ64 ♣ Q98</p> <p>♠ A107 ♠ KQJ964 ♥ 7643 ♥ A ♦ Q107 ♦ 2 ♣ K54 ♣ AJ1073</p> <p>♠ 852 ♥ KJ102 ♦ 9853 ♣ 62</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>15</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			12			9	15		4			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	2	2	-	-		S	-	2	2	-	-		E	6	-	-	6	2		W	6	-	-	6	5		<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♠</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>2♣</td><td>dbl</td><td>3♣</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>4♠</td><td>P</td><td>4NT (?)</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>5♣/♦</td><td>P</td><td>6♠</td><td>End</td></tr></table> <p>After East's 1♠ opener, I prefer a raise to 2♣ with the West hand, despite the shape, with four low hearts and three good spades. North will make a takeout double, and East has to decide how to bid his very promising hand. Slam is not that likely to be good opposite a simple raise, but if the hand is a double fit (partner having something like K x x x clubs and the spade ace) it is possible. Therefore a 3♣ bid is appealing, in case partner can raise that to 4♣ to show the double fit. When West bids game, it is more likely that he has a card in clubs – and some East players will shoot for the moon by bidding Blackwood and then a slam when partner admits to holding an ace. They will be rewarded for their bold approach, as long as they play North (the takeout doubler) for the ♣Q. +1430 for E/W will score a healthy chunk of the matchpoints.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♠	P	2♣	dbl	3♣	P	4♠	P	4NT (?)	P	5♣/♦	P	6♠	End
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<p>♠ KQ74 ♥ Q4 ♦ A762 ♣ 765</p> <p>♠ A986 ♠ 2 ♥ J732 ♥ AK108 ♦ Q8 ♦ K5 ♣ K92 ♣ AJ10843</p> <p>♠ J1053 ♥ 965 ♦ J10943 ♣ Q</p>	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>1♣</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>1♥</td><td>dbl</td><td>3♠</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>4♣</td><td>P</td><td>4♥</td><td>End</td></tr></table> <p>An interesting hand for E/W to bid. After three passes and opening 1♣ and hearing partner (surprisingly) respond 1♥, the East hand is worth a 3♠ splinter bid – whilst only 15 HCPs, the 6-4 shape and excellent controls make the hand worth far more. West has a good hand, and can try a 4♣ cue bid, to tell partner he has the A or K of clubs (no sense in cue bidding shortage in partner's known long suit) and a suitable hand for slamming. After that, East should sign off to limit his hand, and whilst West has a good hand, he has already co-operated, and has poor trumps and a concern about the third round of clubs, as well as knowing his side is missing the diamond ace (partner would surely have cue bid 4♦ with that card). With the ♥Q doubleton onside, and the ♣Q singleton, it looks like all roads will lead to 12 tricks, as even on a non-diamond lead declarer doesn't have 13 tricks. +480 for E/W will be a very common result, and those who bid 6♥ will collect a not unfortunate +980 for most of the matchpoints.</p>	West	North	East	South				P	P	P	1♣	P	1♥	dbl	3♠	P	4♣	P	4♥	End																																																
West	North	East	South																																																																		
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<p>♠ Q7542 ♥ K1093 ♦ 10 ♣ A83</p> <p>♠ A108 ♠ 9 ♥ A65 ♥ 874 ♦ AQ63 ♦ J52 ♣ K42 ♣ QJ10765</p> <p>♠ KJ63 ♥ QJ2 ♦ K9874 ♣ 9</p>	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>P</td><td>1NT</td><td>dbl</td></tr><tr><td>3♣</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>After a weak NT from East, South will start by doubling. The West hand is suitable for a jump to 3♣ after the double – to show a long club suit and some playing strength in a weak hand. When that gets back to South, if he had a takeout double available he should certainly try that to get partner to pick a major (he can correct 3♦ from partner to 3♠). Otherwise he will have to take his courage in his hands and try 3♠ directly. That should end the auction, as whilst East has a good hand for defending spades, there is no guarantee whatsoever that his AK of clubs will stand up. That contract looks like it will drift one off, losing two clubs, one diamond and two spades (whilst the spades can in theory be picked up by leading low to the Jack on the first round, there are insufficient entries to the North hand to bring this off). N/S losing 100 should not score too badly, however, as E/W would have made nine or ten tricks in clubs.</p>	West	North	East	South		P	1NT	dbl	3♣	P	P	3♠	P	P	P																																																					
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<p>♠ J742 ♥ Q864 ♦ J72 ♣ 74</p> <p>♠ - ♠ A1096 ♥ J109 ♥ 53 ♦ K854 ♦ Q1093 ♣ J109632 ♣ AK8</p> <p>♠ KQ853 ♥ AK72 ♦ A6 ♣ Q5</p>	<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>18</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		4	13	5	18	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	2	-		S	-	-	1	2	-		E	4	4	-	-	1		W	4	4	-	-	1																					
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<p>♠QJ2 ♥AJ97 ♦AK2 ♣983</p> <p>♠K85 ♥108 ♦Q1086 ♣AK54</p> <p>♠A94 ♥K654 ♦J54 ♣QJ2</p> <p>♠10763 ♥Q32 ♦973 ♣1076</p>	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr></table> <p>After a weak NT opening from West, North and East both hold borderline decisions. North's hand is there or thereabouts for a penalty double of 1NT. However, with a 4-3-3-3 15-count some players may choose to pass. If they pass, I am certain East should pass at matchpoints – with a 4-3-3-3 11-count it is rarely right to invite game opposite a weak NT. If, however, North chooses the aggressive option of doubling 1NT, East will think Christmas has come a little early. If he can make a penalty redouble (either by bidding it or passing forcing a redouble, a popular “escape” from 1N^x) then he will do that, and N/S will find themselves in a world of hurt. If redouble would be artificial, and pass is just neutral, then that is the best East can do. South will probably just take his medicine and it will become a matter of overtricks – on the normal spade lead it looks like eight tricks is the likely outcome – with declarer winning that to play on diamonds. If N/S somehow escape to 2♥ or 2♠ doubled, they may get out for down two, but that will be worse than the -280 they would concede in 1N^x.</p>	West	North	East	South			P	P	1NT	P	P	P																																																												
West	North	East	South																																																																						
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<p>♠K105 ♥AJ8 ♦J ♣AKQJ108</p> <p>♠A873 ♥9732 ♦KQ107 ♣4</p> <p>♠J6 ♥KQ654 ♦986543 ♣-</p> <p>♠Q942 ♥10 ♦A2 ♣976532</p>	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>P</td><td>3♥</td><td>P</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>An awkward hand for N/S. West will open a (minimum at this vulnerability) weak-2 in hearts, and North doesn't have a good call over that, so has to pass. East should boost the pre-empt to 3♥. The spotlight falls on South – who doesn't really have the values to bid, but does have the shortage. Any South who acts will do well, as North will surely raise to game if South bids 3♠, and pass if South doubles. If South fails to act, North will surely feel uncomfortable passing it out. If he does pass, best (normal) defence will net seven tricks, and +300. If not, what can he bid? 3NT would undoubtedly be for the minors, but with only 4-4 shape seems to be pushing it. Double for many partnerships would be “Either/Or” – meaning either an old fashioned penalty double or a takeout double which was too light to act first time round – partner's holding in the enemy suit will tell him which it is. That action seems unsuitable too. I wouldn't be surprised to see a string of +300s on the card for N/S.</p>	West	North	East	South	2♥	P	3♥	P	P	P																																																														
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<p>♠106 ♥863 ♦AK32 ♣AK65</p> <p>♠J87 ♥AQ9752 ♦107 ♣J2</p> <p>♠K94 ♥KJ10 ♦J85 ♣Q1098</p> <p>♠AQ532 ♥4 ♦Q964 ♣743</p>																																																																									
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