

British Spring Sim Pairs



8th April 2013

Monday

<div><div><div>♠ Q763</div><div>♥ 643</div><div>♦ KJ1087</div><div>♣ K</div></div><div><div>♠ J9</div><div>♥ 10752</div><div>♦ 962</div><div>♣ J1082</div></div><div><div>♠ AK10542</div><div>♥ J8</div><div>♦ A3</div><div>♣ A97</div></div><div><div>♠ 8</div><div>♥ AKQ9</div><div>♦ Q54</div><div>♣ Q6543</div></div><div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div></div>	HCP		9		2	16	13		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	4	2	-	-	S	-	4	1	-	-	E	-	-	-	1	-	W	-	-	-	1	-	<div>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Dble</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>East has a good hand here but the auction is likely to freeze him out on the second round. South has an obvious take-out double of 1♠ and North has just about enough to respond 3♦ rather than a feeble 2♦. This isn't forcing, of course, and South should have no temptation to bid again holding a minimum and only three trumps. There are ten tricks available in diamonds but it takes careful declarer play to garner them in. North may be able to ruff a couple of spades on the table or he may be able to get the long club going. Certainly he'll have to be careful to get the ♣Q set up for a spade discard fairly early on in the piece or West may be able to overruff the dummy.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♠	Dble	Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass	Pass															
HCP																																																																									
9																																																																									
2	16																																																																								
13																																																																									
Makeable contracts																																																																									
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																																				
N	1	4	2	-	-																																																																				
S	-	4	1	-	-																																																																				
E	-	-	-	1	-																																																																				
W	-	-	-	1	-																																																																				
West	North	East	South																																																																						
	Pass	1♠	Dble																																																																						
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass																																																																						
Pass																																																																									
<div><div><div>♠ J1042</div><div>♥ 42</div><div>♦ 873</div><div>♣ 9854</div></div><div><div>♠ A987</div><div>♥ AK105</div><div>♦ A9</div><div>♣ AKQ</div></div><div><div>♠ K63</div><div>♥ QJ93</div><div>♦ KQ64</div><div>♣ 106</div></div><div><div>♠ Q5</div><div>♥ 876</div><div>♦ J1052</div><div>♣ J732</div></div><div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>24</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr></table></div></div>	HCP		1		24	11	4		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	6	7	5	6	W	4	6	7	5	6	<div>Board 2 : 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>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♣</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>5NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>7♥</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>A cold grand slam for East-West but only if they can locate their 4-4 major fit. The thirteenth trick materialises by ruffing a diamond in the West hand. The interesting point in the auction is what 3♣ means after 2♣ – 2NT – 3♣. Is it natural or is it Stayman? Certainly the latter would be a useful arrangement here as the heart fit would be located quickly. Have you discussed this point with <i>your</i> partner? Thought not. Some East players may choose to respond with 2♥ and that will shorten the auction somewhat. Those who temporise with 2♦ may emerge unscathed after West rebids 2NT – now 3♣ from East will located the crucial eight-card heart fit.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass	5NT	Pass	7♥	All Pass
HCP																																																																									
1																																																																									
24	11																																																																								
4																																																																									
Makeable contracts																																																																									
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																																				
N	-	-	-	-	-																																																																				
S	-	-	-	-	-																																																																				
E	4	6	7	5	6																																																																				
W	4	6	7	5	6																																																																				
West	North	East	South																																																																						
		Pass	Pass																																																																						
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass																																																																						
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass																																																																						
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass																																																																						
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass																																																																						
5NT	Pass	7♥	All Pass																																																																						
<div><div><div>♠ KJ</div><div>♥ AK84</div><div>♦ KQ2</div><div>♣ AKQ3</div></div><div><div>♠ 8543</div><div>♥ Q1092</div><div>♦ 873</div><div>♣ 96</div></div><div><div>♠ 1096</div><div>♥ 753</div><div>♦ J65</div><div>♣ J1082</div></div><div><div>♠ AQ72</div><div>♥ J6</div><div>♦ A1094</div><div>♣ 754</div></div><div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>25</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div></div>	HCP		25		2	2	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	6	7	6	7	7	S	6	7	6	7	7	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<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>Pass</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Marvellous! You wait ages for a grand slam and then two turn up at once... Not only that but the same auction problem occurs as in Hand 2: after 2♣ – 2NT what should North bid? He wants to try 3♣ as Stayman, looking for a heart fit but is that what it means in your system? With no 4-4 fit many will play in 6NT, maybe reached as above. However, the grand slam in No-trumps is just about on the right side of the odds, requiring the diamonds to come in (about 53%) or the clubs to break 3-3 (about 36%) or for there to be some sort of fancy double squeeze (address all correspondence to the editor – the author of this will be away). As the cards lie, few will fail to rake in all the tricks and I can see 1020 for 6NT+1 being a very common score with a few 1520s scattered about. How many 7NTs making? Who knows?</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass	6NT	All Pass									
HCP																																																																									
25																																																																									
2	2																																																																								
11																																																																									
Makeable contracts																																																																									
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																																				
N	6	7	6	7	7																																																																				
S	6	7	6	7	7																																																																				
E	-	-	-	-	-																																																																				
W	-	-	-	-	-																																																																				
West	North	East	South																																																																						
			Pass																																																																						
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT																																																																						
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠																																																																						
Pass	6NT	All Pass																																																																							

<div><div>♠ 932</div><div>♥ 96</div><div>♦ J83</div><div>♣ K9874</div><div>♠ AJ1084</div><div>♥ J874</div><div>♦ 95</div><div>♣ 53</div><div>♠ K76</div><div>♥ Q1053</div><div>♦ K76</div><div>♣ AJ10</div><div>♠ Q5</div><div>♥ AK2</div><div>♦ AQ1042</div><div>♣ Q62</div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>613</td></tr><tr><td>17</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>1</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP	4	613	17	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	3	-	-	-		S	3	3	-	-	-		E	-	-	3	1	1		W	-	-	2	1	-		<div>Board 4 : 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>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Dble</td></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Dble</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>An interesting part-score deal with possibilities galore. Weak No-trumpers will start there and South will surely double. Now, West may have some sort of rescue manoeuvre that enables his side to located the 4-4 heart fit with nine tricks a real possibility (North has to lead a diamond to hold West to eight tricks in hearts; 3♥ is makeable from East). If West simply runs to 2♠ (and you couldn't blame him) then South might double again (is that for take-out in your methods?) and North might play in 3♣, quite possibly making. Strong No-trumpers may start proceedings with 1♣ on the East cards leading heaven knows where – South may overcall 1♦ or he may well try 1NT. So we have a deal that could be played in all five denominations across the field.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1NT	Dble	2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	3♣	All Pass	
HCP																																																															
4																																																															
613																																																															
17																																																															
Makeable contracts																																																															
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																										
N	3	3	-	-	-																																																										
S	3	3	-	-	-																																																										
E	-	-	3	1	1																																																										
W	-	-	2	1	-																																																										
West	North	East	South																																																												
Pass	Pass	1NT	Dble																																																												
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble																																																												
Pass	3♣	All Pass																																																													
<div><div>♠ KQ</div><div>♥ J10732</div><div>♦ J986</div><div>♣ 97</div><div>♠ 932</div><div>♥ A5</div><div>♦ AQ</div><div>♣ AQ10642</div><div>♠ 1086</div><div>♥ 9864</div><div>♦ K74</div><div>♣ K85</div><div>♠ AJ754</div><div>♥ KQ</div><div>♦ 10532</div><div>♣ J3</div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>166</td></tr><tr><td>11</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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP	7	166	11	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	1	1	-	-		S	-	1	1	-	-		E	4	-	-	1	2		W	4	-	-	1	2		<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>2♣</td><td>Dble</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♣</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>East-West have ten easy tricks in clubs and could make 3NT if it weren't for the fact that North-South can cash the first five spades. Most Souths will, I suppose, open 1♠ in third seat (although it's a pretty ropery opening bid in other positions). Now West can do little but overcall 2♣, North has an obvious double (what else?) and East might try an obstructive 3♣. Now West might fancy his chances of running off nine tricks should East have the decency to have a spade stopper so he might try 3♠, asking for help there. When East retreats to 4♣ West can do little but pass. There are only ever ten tricks in clubs regardless of whether North-South lead spades or not so 130 should be a very common score to East-West.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♠	2♣	Dble	3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣	All Pass
HCP																																																															
7																																																															
166																																																															
11																																																															
Makeable contracts																																																															
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																										
N	-	1	1	-	-																																																										
S	-	1	1	-	-																																																										
E	4	-	-	1	2																																																										
W	4	-	-	1	2																																																										
West	North	East	South																																																												
	Pass	Pass	1♠																																																												
2♣	Dble	3♣	Pass																																																												
3♠	Pass	4♣	All Pass																																																												
<div><div>♠ Q1052</div><div>♥ 107</div><div>♦ 1072</div><div>♣ 7654</div><div>♠ K9643</div><div>♥ A95</div><div>♦ K98</div><div>♣ Q10</div><div>♠ AJ7</div><div>♥ KQJ64</div><div>♦ A53</div><div>♣ A8</div><div>♠ 8</div><div>♥ 832</div><div>♦ QJ64</div><div>♣ KJ932</div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>1219</td></tr><tr><td>7</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>1</td><td>4</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>7</td><td>5</td><td>7</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP	2	1219	7	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	1	4	7	6	7		W	-	3	7	5	7		<div>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</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>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>This isn't a comfortable deal for steam-age methods and the auction above actually has little to commend it. If East is able to rebid 2NT (many pairs play that as 18-19 these days) then West has an easy 3♥ bid and East-West will play in a major suit game. However... although, theoretically, you'd want to play in 4♥ or 4♠ those in 3NT will do very well after an innocent South leads a club. Winning in dummy (probably after an agonising "guess" at trick one!) declarer can try a spade to the ♠J and emerge with 12 tricks in quick time. Slams are poor contracts you will note although, as our old and respected friend <i>Deep Finesse</i> points out, you can actually make all 13 tricks in hearts and No-trumps. Of course you can – all you have to do is to cross to the West hand and lead the ♠9, pinning South's singleton ♠8 (!) If anyone actually did that I can only suggest to the victimised North-South that they keep their cards up in future...</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass		
HCP																																																															
2																																																															
1219																																																															
7																																																															
Makeable contracts																																																															
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																										
N	-	-	-	-	-																																																										
S	-	-	-	-	-																																																										
E	1	4	7	6	7																																																										
W	-	3	7	5	7																																																										
West	North	East	South																																																												
		1♥	Pass																																																												
1♠	Pass	3NT	Pass																																																												
Pass	Pass																																																														

<div><div><div>♠ KQ52</div><div>♥ 976</div><div>♦ 103</div><div>♣ Q1086</div></div><div><div>♠ J9873</div><div>♥ J102</div><div>♦ K95</div><div>♣ K3</div></div><div><div>♠ A6</div><div>♥ K84</div><div>♦ AQ874</div><div>♣ AJ5</div></div><div><div>♠ 104</div><div>♥ AQ53</div><div>♦ J62</div><div>♣ 9742</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>7</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>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		7	18	8	7	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	1	4	3	2	4		W	1	4	3	2	4		<div>Board 7 : 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>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <p>This seems to be a straightforward hand with all East-Wests likely to reach the obvious 3NT. The bidding above is going to be very common, whether East-West play a weak No-trump or a strong one and the main point of interest is going to be about how many tricks are recorded. Many players dislike leading from A Q × × so some will eschew a heart lead here. A club lead will make clear to East where his ninth trick is coming from and it will be easy to develop a slow heart trick for the tenth. A heart lead will be won in the dummy with the ♥10 and it will be safe for declarer to take the club finesse – so again East should emerge with an overtrick. Some Souths may try a fancy ♠10 as the opening shot. That will allow 11 tricks if the ♠J is allowed to hold and maybe just ten tricks if North covers it. Not comfortable... Still, 630 to East-West is likely to be a very common score?</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
HCP																																																																					
7	18																																																																				
8	7																																																																				
Makeable contracts																																																																					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																																
N	-	-	-	-	-																																																																
S	-	-	-	-	-																																																																
E	1	4	3	2	4																																																																
W	1	4	3	2	4																																																																
West	North	East	South																																																																		
			Pass																																																																		
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass																																																																		
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass																																																																		
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass																																																																		
<div><div><div>♠ AQJ6</div><div>♥ J</div><div>♦ K1072</div><div>♣ Q1043</div></div><div><div>♠ 103</div><div>♥ Q942</div><div>♦ 953</div><div>♣ KJ76</div></div><div><div>♠ K87</div><div>♥ 1076</div><div>♦ AQ64</div><div>♣ 985</div></div><div><div>♠ 9542</div><div>♥ AK853</div><div>♦ J8</div><div>♣ A2</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>12</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>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</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></div>	HCP		13	9	6	12	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	2	2	3	1		S	2	1	1	3	2		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<div>Board 8 : 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>Pass</td><td>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>North-South have a 4-4 major fit and a combined 25 count – it’s hard for them to stay out of game on these cards. The bidding above is normal enough but the foul lie of the opposing high cards means that game is a level too high. Surely declarer must lose a club, two diamonds and a spade? Certainly there are no obvious places to discard any of these losers on any normal defence. Someone is sure to play in 3NT (I’ve seen it many times) but that doesn’t seem to have anywhere near enough tricks either. So there is likely to be an unbroken line of East-West plus scores, mostly of +50. We shall see.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass					
HCP																																																																					
13	9																																																																				
6	12																																																																				
Makeable contracts																																																																					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																																
N	2	2	2	3	1																																																																
S	2	1	1	3	2																																																																
E	-	-	-	-	-																																																																
W	-	-	-	-	-																																																																
West	North	East	South																																																																		
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥																																																																		
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♠																																																																		
Pass	Pass	Pass																																																																			
<div><div><div>♠ 76</div><div>♥ 987</div><div>♦ AQ43</div><div>♣ AJ109</div></div><div><div>♠ K10832</div><div>♥ 102</div><div>♦ K862</div><div>♣ Q2</div></div><div><div>♠ AQJ9</div><div>♥ AQJ6</div><div>♦ J5</div><div>♣ K86</div></div><div><div>♠ 54</div><div>♥ K543</div><div>♦ 1097</div><div>♣ 7543</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>3</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>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		11	18	8	3	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	-	1	2	3	1		W	-	2	2	3	3		<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>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <p>Boards 8 and 9 form an unfriendly pair. On 8 North-South can’t make a perfectly reasonable 4♠ and here on 9 it’s East-West’s turn to bemoan their ill fortune. 4♠ is a very good contract on the East-West cards, quite possibly reached by the sequence above. However, the three key cards are all badly placed – as far as declarer is concerned, anyway. The ♦A Q lie over the ♦K and the ♥K is offside to boot. All North has to do is to lead a major suit card and wait patiently – South will get in sometime or other and lead a diamond, leading to a rapid one off. Some pairs may play 4♠ from East. Here South is very likely to lead a diamond at trick one and that’s goodbye to the contract almost immediately, unless North decides to cash the ♣A, allowing a heart discard from the dummy. Lots of 100s to North-South?</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass				
HCP																																																																					
11	18																																																																				
8	3																																																																				
Makeable contracts																																																																					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																																
N	-	-	-	-	-																																																																
S	-	-	-	-	-																																																																
E	-	1	2	3	1																																																																
W	-	2	2	3	3																																																																
West	North	East	South																																																																		
	Pass	1♥	Pass																																																																		
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass																																																																		
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass																																																																		

<div><div><div>♠ 975</div><div>♥ J54</div><div>♦ AJ9</div><div>♣ 10532</div></div><div><div>♠ Q62</div><div>♥ KQ6</div><div>♦ Q85432</div><div>♣ Q</div></div><div><div>♠ AK43</div><div>♥ A87</div><div>♦ K</div><div>♣ K9864</div></div><div><div>♠ J108</div><div>♥ 10932</div><div>♦ 1076</div><div>♣ AJ7</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>6</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td></tr></table></div>	HCP		6	17	11	6	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	4	3	5	3	W	4	4	3	5	3	<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>1♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>A combined 28 points for East-West means that they are surely due to play this hand in game. With no decent fit the only likely resting spot is 3NT, possibly reached after the auction above. Best defence holds 3NT to nine tricks but after a heart lead (say) it is entirely possible that West would be allowed to get his long diamonds going and make extras. In fact, if the defenders aren't careful West may just get away with four diamonds, four spades and three hearts; a score of -660 would be disastrous for North-South.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
HCP																																																											
6	17																																																										
11	6																																																										
Makeable contracts																																																											
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																						
N	-	-	-	-	-																																																						
S	-	-	-	-	-																																																						
E	4	4	3	5	3																																																						
W	4	4	3	5	3																																																						
West	North	East	South																																																								
		1♣	Pass																																																								
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass																																																								
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass																																																								
<div><div><div>♠ 104</div><div>♥ J72</div><div>♦ K63</div><div>♣ J10432</div></div><div><div>♠ 653</div><div>♥ K54</div><div>♦ 842</div><div>♣ AQ95</div></div><div><div>♠ AKQJ9</div><div>♥ 6</div><div>♦ AQ107</div><div>♣ K86</div></div><div><div>♠ 872</div><div>♥ AQ10983</div><div>♦ J95</div><div>♣ 7</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>7</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr></table></div>	HCP		5	19	9	7	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	5	-	5	5	W	4	5	-	5	5	<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>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>Dble</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>East-West can make eleven tricks in spades and should have little difficulty in reaching 4♠ even if North-South were to mess them about in hearts. Many Souths will open 2♥ and North really ought to keep up the pressure by raising defensively to 3♥. That gives East an awkward call now - 4♠ is a possibility but double is a better shot followed by a correction of 4♣ to 4♠. That would give West the option of insisting on his suit on a different day with long clubs or diamonds. As it is, West can pass 4♠ rapidly. Some may just reach 3NT on the East-West cards. After a heart lead declarer will have to decide whether to risk the diamond finesse. If it works (as it does) he will record 460 for a near top. Should it fail 3NT would go down (or make only nine tricks). Nasty.</p>	West	North	East	South				2♥	Pass	3♥	Dble	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass
HCP																																																											
5	19																																																										
9	7																																																										
Makeable contracts																																																											
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																						
N	-	-	-	-	-																																																						
S	-	-	-	-	-																																																						
E	4	5	-	5	5																																																						
W	4	5	-	5	5																																																						
West	North	East	South																																																								
			2♥																																																								
Pass	3♥	Dble	Pass																																																								
4♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass																																																								
<div><div><div>♠ AK1076</div><div>♥ J107</div><div>♦ 965</div><div>♣ 72</div></div><div><div>♠ 53</div><div>♥ 8652</div><div>♦ J8</div><div>♣ AK643</div></div><div><div>♠ Q92</div><div>♥ AKQ4</div><div>♦ K74</div><div>♣ J98</div></div><div><div>♠ J84</div><div>♥ 93</div><div>♦ AQ1032</div><div>♣ Q105</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>8</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>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr></table></div>	HCP		8	15	8	9	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	-	1	-	S	-	1	-	1	-	E	3	-	3	-	3	W	3	-	3	-	3	<div>Board 12 : 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>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <p>East-West can make just 3♥ on this deal and then only if they get the clubs right. The auction above is reasonable although some Wests may overbid their cards and stretch a little to bid 3♥. If they do, East should not be tempted to bid the fourth heart. 15 points, yes, but East has terrible shape and a whole host of losers. Some Easts may start with 1NT and maybe play there. After a diamond lead declarer will probably want to cash his seven tricks – the risky play of running the ♣8 courts disaster with two suits apparently open. Maybe some intrepid Norths will decide to intervene with 2♠ over 2♥. That may pan out well for them if they buy the contract, one down. If East-West bid on (and West may well try 3♣ if 2♠ gets passed to him) then they may well not make 3♥.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	Pass				
HCP																																																											
8	15																																																										
8	9																																																										
Makeable contracts																																																											
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																						
N	-	1	-	1	-																																																						
S	-	1	-	1	-																																																						
E	3	-	3	-	3																																																						
W	3	-	3	-	3																																																						
West	North	East	South																																																								
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass																																																								
2♥	Pass	Pass	Pass																																																								

<div><div><div>♠832</div><div>♥103</div><div>♦QJ85</div><div>♣Q873</div></div><div><div>♠K965</div><div>♥K875</div><div>♦62</div><div>♣AK9</div></div><div><div>♠1074</div><div>♥J9642</div><div>♦AK109</div><div>♣5</div></div><div><div>♠AQJ</div><div>♥AQ</div><div>♦743</div><div>♣J10642</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>138</td></tr><tr><td>14</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>1</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP	5	138	14	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	1	3	5	4	3		W	1	3	5	4	3		<div>Board 13 : Dealer North : All 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>1NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Is this a good hand for the weak No-trump? We'll see. With the very favourable lie of the cards East-West can make 4♥ and 4♠ but it's hard for them to bid at all if South opens 1NT. A diamond lead and a heart switch will make a massive wreck of 1NT, of course, but West may well lead a spade (wouldn't you?) Now, if South takes the ♠10 with the ♠Q and plays clubs West may decide to win and play another spade – and South may actually make his contract for an unlikely score of +90. Those who play some sort of artificial methods over a weak No-trump and decide to employ them on 4-4-3-2 hands will score reasonably well here as East-West are likely to play in a heart part-score. This is likely to make eleven tricks for 200. How good will that be as a score? Who knows? That may well match some 1NT contracts going two off.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass													
HCP																																																																							
5																																																																							
138																																																																							
14																																																																							
Makeable contracts																																																																							
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																																		
N	-	-	-	-	-																																																																		
S	-	-	-	-	-																																																																		
E	1	3	5	4	3																																																																		
W	1	3	5	4	3																																																																		
West	North	East	South																																																																				
	Pass	Pass	1NT																																																																				
Pass	Pass	Pass																																																																					
<div><div><div>♠63</div><div>♥Q10962</div><div>♦10642</div><div>♣J6</div></div><div><div>♠10987</div><div>♥75</div><div>♦AKJ7</div><div>♣AQ2</div></div><div><div>♠A2</div><div>♥AK843</div><div>♦Q983</div><div>♣K4</div></div><div><div>♠KQJ54</div><div>♥J</div><div>♦5</div><div>♣1098753</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>1416</td></tr><tr><td>7</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>1</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP	3	1416	7	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	1	6	4	3	4		W	-	6	4	3	4		<div>Board 14 : 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>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>Dble</td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <p>3NT is the very likely resting spot here although some may reach the thin 6♦. I think 1♠ is a normal sort of overcall on those South cards although many will disagree and will try 2♥ (Michaels) or some other sort of two-suited noise. This will not go well for them, I suspect, as West can double that and double again whatever North responds. At the vulnerability a penalty of 500 is going to outscore all the 3NT contracts. Those who reach 6♦ are unlikely to make it. Yes, indeed, <i>Deep Finesse</i> says the slam can be made but East-West are going to have to play the hand double dummy in order to succeed with trumps 4-1 and hearts 5-1. Of course, if South has said too much in the auction and revealed his two-suited shape then maybe declarer can get the hand right. That's another reason not to bid too much on a hand like South's...</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	1♠	Dble	Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass								
HCP																																																																							
3																																																																							
1416																																																																							
7																																																																							
Makeable contracts																																																																							
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																																		
N	-	-	-	-	-																																																																		
S	-	-	-	-	-																																																																		
E	1	6	4	3	4																																																																		
W	-	6	4	3	4																																																																		
West	North	East	South																																																																				
		1♥	1♠																																																																				
Dble	Pass	1NT	Pass																																																																				
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass																																																																				
<div><div><div>♠3</div><div>♥9</div><div>♦AKQ9765</div><div>♣A843</div></div><div><div>♠Q642</div><div>♥8732</div><div>♦10843</div><div>♣6</div></div><div><div>♠J1087</div><div>♥AK</div><div>♦J2</div><div>♣QJ1075</div></div><div><div>♠AK95</div><div>♥QJ10654</div><div>♦-</div><div>♣K92</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>212</td></tr><tr><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>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>3</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></div>	HCP	13	212	13	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	4	5	4	1	3		S	3	5	4	1	3		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<div>Board 15 : 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>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>?</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>A decidedly difficult deal, this one. With diamonds 4-2 and South void of his partner's suit the only making games are 3NT, 4♥ and 5♦. It's very difficult for North to give up on his hand early after South has opened the bidding and many pairs will carry the bidding too high. Some Easts may decide to double on the first round of the auction after 1♥ – Pass – 2♦. That may alert North to some distributional storms and that may get him to pass 3NT. It might also get East-West playing the hand in spades – something that South would be delighted to double. Whether North would stand it at the vulnerability is doubtful but at least it would tell him that his hand does not fit with his partner's!</p>	West	North	East	South				1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass	?		
HCP																																																																							
13																																																																							
212																																																																							
13																																																																							
Makeable contracts																																																																							
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																																		
N	4	5	4	1	3																																																																		
S	3	5	4	1	3																																																																		
E	-	-	-	-	-																																																																		
W	-	-	-	-	-																																																																		
West	North	East	South																																																																				
			1♥																																																																				
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥																																																																				
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT																																																																				
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥																																																																				
Pass	?																																																																						

<p>♠ 73 ♥ A75 ♦ 984 ♣ K10843</p> <p>♠ AJ64 ♠ Q8 ♥ K862 ♥ Q4 ♦ A ♦ J10632 ♣ J965 ♣ AQ72</p> <p>♠ K10952 ♥ J1093 ♦ KQ75 ♣ -</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>9</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>4</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		7	11	13	9	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	4	2	2	1	2		W	4	2	1	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>1♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td><td>Dble</td></tr><tr><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>East-West should play this deal in a part-score, and 3♣ looks about right. After South enters the auction with a take-out double it's a moot point whether West should continue with 1♥ or whether he should pass. If he does the latter, North will probably try 1♥ (or 1NT) and now it isn't clear where the auction is headed. If North bids 1NT East may well double and that could become the final contract with any possible outcome. In clubs, the 5-0 trump break comes as something of a shock but the computer analysis shows, remarkably, that East-West can make ten tricks in clubs. In practice, I reckon anyone who manages to make 3♣ on those cards will breathe a deep sigh of relief and be pleased with a score of 110.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♣	Pass	1♦	Dble	1♥	Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass	Pass		
HCP																																																																	
7	11																																																																
13	9																																																																
Makeable contracts																																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																												
N	-	-	-	-	-																																																												
S	-	-	-	-	-																																																												
E	4	2	2	1	2																																																												
W	4	2	1	1	1																																																												
West	North	East	South																																																														
1♣	Pass	1♦	Dble																																																														
1♥	Pass	3♣	Pass																																																														
Pass	Pass																																																																
<p>♠ 1083 ♥ KQ842 ♦ 6 ♣ Q974</p> <p>♠ Q76 ♠ AJ42 ♥ 75 ♥ AJ9 ♦ A54 ♦ Q1098 ♣ AK1085 ♣ 63</p> <p>♠ K95 ♥ 1063 ♦ KJ732 ♣ J2</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>13</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>-</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>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		7	12	13	8	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	3	3	1	4	4		W	3	3	1	3	4		<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>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <p>This is an easy bidding hand for weak No-trumpers as the auction will be over in two bids. South will lead an unfortunate diamond and declarer is likely to make his contract by one means or another. Variations may well come if North opens with a fashionable 2♥ (Lucas style – a weak hand with hearts and a minor) or where East opens 1♦. Now there will be variations in the bidding (although East-West are still likely to reach 3NT) and in the play. Without a favourable diamond lead declarer has some decisions to take as how to play 3NT (play on diamonds? Play on clubs?) and the hand could get quite messy. Although <i>Deep Finesse</i> says that ten tricks can be made against any lead I suspect that a score of 430 to East-West will score very well.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass				
HCP																																																																	
7	12																																																																
13	8																																																																
Makeable contracts																																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																												
N	-	-	-	-	-																																																												
S	-	-	-	-	-																																																												
E	3	3	1	4	4																																																												
W	3	3	1	3	4																																																												
West	North	East	South																																																														
	Pass	1NT	Pass																																																														
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass																																																														
<p>♠ 10 ♥ Q1083 ♦ 10987532 ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ KJ743 ♠ AQ95 ♥ 52 ♥ K74 ♦ Q6 ♦ AKJ ♣ J872 ♣ 1093</p> <p>♠ 862 ♥ AJ96 ♦ 4 ♣ AK654</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>12</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>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		4	17	7	12	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	3	4	-	-		S	2	3	4	-	-		E	-	-	-	2	-		W	-	-	-	2	-		<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>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>This is a strange deal. East-West have the balance of the cards and the highest ranking suit but can make nothing beyond 2♠. North-South, by contrast, can make game although prudent bidders will pass throughout on their cards. All very odd. No doubt some will venture a 2♣ overcall as South but it isn't really a sensible overcall, vulnerable, with the "death" holding in spades (it's rarely right to come into the auction at the two-level with three low cards in the suit bid on your right). Even if South were to overcall 2♣ it's hardly likely to stir North into meaningful action and how anyone is going to locate the 4-4 heart fit on the North-South cards is beyond me. If East opens a strong No-trump South is still likely to pass and a 2♥ transfer response from West is likely to propel East-West into 4♠. 4♠ is easy to defend – South leads three rounds of clubs and North returns a heart for two off. Even a diamond switch won't let 4♠ make.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass		
HCP																																																																	
4	17																																																																
7	12																																																																
Makeable contracts																																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																												
N	2	3	4	-	-																																																												
S	2	3	4	-	-																																																												
E	-	-	-	2	-																																																												
W	-	-	-	2	-																																																												
West	North	East	South																																																														
		1♠	Pass																																																														
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass																																																														
Pass	Pass																																																																

<div><div><div>♠A75</div><div>♥AJ102</div><div>♦A73</div><div>♣874</div></div><div><div>♠862</div><div>♥97</div><div>♦J10842</div><div>♣K105</div></div><div><div>♠KQJ10</div><div>♥KQ3</div><div>♦Q65</div><div>♣A93</div></div><div><div>♠943</div><div>♥8654</div><div>♦K9</div><div>♣QJ62</div></div><div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>417</td></tr><tr><td>6</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>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr></table></div></div>	HCP	13	417	6	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	-	-	S	-	-	1	-	-	E	1	2	-	1	1	W	1	2	-	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>Dble</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <div>If North opens 1NT in third seat East has an obvious double and both South and West some decisions. Some Souths, playing one of many multi-farious conventions, will wriggle out of 1NT× and may well end up in 2♥. Whether East doubles that is questionable – anyway, it should be one down. If South passes the double (as will many) then West has a marginal decision whether to pass or whether to run to 2♦. 1NT can be defeated but it is a close run thing and the defence to 1NT doubled often goes sour so maybe bidding 2♦ is the prudent move. 2♦ should prove easy for East-West, although whether +90 scores well for them is hard to say.</div>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1NT	Dble	Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass	Pass
HCP																																																									
13																																																									
417																																																									
6																																																									
Makeable contracts																																																									
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																				
N	-	-	1	-	-																																																				
S	-	-	1	-	-																																																				
E	1	2	-	1	1																																																				
W	1	2	-	1	1																																																				
West	North	East	South																																																						
			Pass																																																						
Pass	1NT	Dble	Pass																																																						
2♦	Pass	Pass	Pass																																																						
<div><div><div>♠K7</div><div>♥3</div><div>♦KJ109862</div><div>♣643</div></div><div><div>♠AQ1096</div><div>♥AQ87</div><div>♦5</div><div>♣A52</div></div><div><div>♠J8</div><div>♥J1096</div><div>♦43</div><div>♣KQJ97</div></div><div><div>♠5432</div><div>♥K542</div><div>♦AQ7</div><div>♣108</div></div><div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>168</td></tr><tr><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>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div></div>	HCP	7	168	9	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	-	-	-	S	-	3	-	-	-	E	4	-	4	5	-	W	4	-	4	5	-	<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>1♠</td><td>3♦</td><td>Dble</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <div>It looks fairly easy for East-West to find their heart fit and reach 4♥. Maybe a 3♦ weak jump overcall is a little frisky, vulnerable, on that North hand but it is pairs (a perennial excuse for making unsound pre-empts). Ten tricks should prove no problem for declarer but the eleventh is tricky. Two rounds of diamonds instantly promotes a trump trick for South and the defenders have a diamond, a heart and a spade. Even a trump lead doesn't allow an overtrick. West can draw trumps and cash the clubs but a losing spade finesse has North cashing all the diamonds; West can only take one spade, four hearts and five clubs. Frustratingly, you can always make eleven tricks in spades; West only has to lose one trump and one diamond. Bridge is a funny game, sometimes...</div>	West	North	East	South	1♠	3♦	Dble	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass				
HCP																																																									
7																																																									
168																																																									
9																																																									
Makeable contracts																																																									
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																				
N	-	3	-	-	-																																																				
S	-	3	-	-	-																																																				
E	4	-	4	5	-																																																				
W	4	-	4	5	-																																																				
West	North	East	South																																																						
1♠	3♦	Dble	Pass																																																						
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass																																																						
<div><div><div>♠AKQJ76</div><div>♥Q</div><div>♦Q</div><div>♣KQ865</div></div><div><div>♠95</div><div>♥K10743</div><div>♦875</div><div>♣1032</div></div><div><div>♠8</div><div>♥AJ85</div><div>♦AK10932</div><div>♣94</div></div><div><div>♠10432</div><div>♥962</div><div>♦J64</div><div>♣AJ7</div></div><div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>312</td></tr><tr><td>6</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>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div></div>	HCP	19	312	6	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	-	-	5	-	S	5	-	-	5	-	E	-	3	3	-	-	W	-	3	3	-	-	<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>1♠</td><td>2♦</td><td>2♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <div>North-South can make 4♠ without difficulty on this deal – in fact there are eleven top tricks. East-West would score well if they could sacrifice at the five-level; in fact three down in 6♦ or 6♥ doubled would get them a good score. How they are ever going to judge that, though, is impossible to say. As it goes, East is probably going to overcall 1♠ with a simple 2♦, South has an easy raise to 2♠ and North's only concern is that he might miss a slam should South have two Aces. Blackwood is no solution, of course; should South have no Aces North would have to bail out at the five-level with no parachute – a potential embarrassment. Here, though, North would not be punished for wheeling out bonhomie Blackwood as 5♠ is quite safe. The best effort is probably a splinter bid of 4♦, trusting partner not to sign off in 4♠ with two Aces. Lots of scores of 650 to North-South?</div>	West	North	East	South		1♠	2♦	2♠	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass	
HCP																																																									
19																																																									
312																																																									
6																																																									
Makeable contracts																																																									
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																				
N	5	-	-	5	-																																																				
S	5	-	-	5	-																																																				
E	-	3	3	-	-																																																				
W	-	3	3	-	-																																																				
West	North	East	South																																																						
	1♠	2♦	2♠																																																						
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠																																																						
Pass	Pass	Pass																																																							

<div><div><div>♠ QJ984</div><div>♥ A96</div><div>♦ Q532</div><div>♣ K</div></div><div><div>♠ A6</div><div>♥ KQ10743</div><div>♦ 10974</div><div>♣ 3</div></div><div><div>♠ 72</div><div>♥ J52</div><div>♦ J8</div><div>♣ QJ9542</div></div><div><div>♠ K1053</div><div>♥ 8</div><div>♦ AK6</div><div>♣ A10876</div></div><div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>14</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div></div>	HCP	12	9	14	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	5	-	6	1	S	2	5	-	6	1	E	-	-	1	-	-	W	-	-	1	-	-	<div>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW 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>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>5♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>6♠ is a decent contract here for North-South although it isn't all that obvious to reach it. After the first round of the auction South is full value for a raise to 3♠; he has good shape, decent trumps and good controls. After North has bid 1♠ freely a raise to 2♠ would just be wet. North is certainly worth a cue-bid of 4♥ and now it gets tricky. If South cue-bids 4♣ North is a little stuck. 4♠ may well end the auction (South can see lots of club losers). However, if North tries the effect of 5♣ (the ♣K may be just what South needs, to fill in his suit) South is obviously going to bid the slam. If you did bid (and make!) 6♠ on these cards you did really well as I suspect not many will do so.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣	Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass	
HCP																																																																	
12																																																																	
9																																																																	
14																																																																	
Makeable contracts																																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																												
N	2	5	-	6	1																																																												
S	2	5	-	6	1																																																												
E	-	-	1	-	-																																																												
W	-	-	1	-	-																																																												
West	North	East	South																																																														
		Pass	1♣																																																														
1♥	1♠	Pass	3♠																																																														
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♣																																																														
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♠																																																														
Pass	Pass	Pass																																																															
<div><div><div>♠ AJ8</div><div>♥ KQJ5</div><div>♦ 764</div><div>♣ K54</div></div><div><div>♠ Q976</div><div>♥ A9862</div><div>♦ KJ5</div><div>♣ 3</div></div><div><div>♠ 1043</div><div>♥ 103</div><div>♦ Q1032</div><div>♣ AJ72</div></div><div><div>♠ K52</div><div>♥ 74</div><div>♦ A98</div><div>♣ Q10986</div></div><div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>10</td></tr><tr><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>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div></div>	HCP	14	10	9	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	1	1	1	2	S	3	1	1	1	2	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<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>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>North may well open a weak No-trump in third seat and that is surely going to get passed to West. Now, at pairs, no red-blooded player is going to pass out that hand so many will gird their loins and enter the fray. There are all sorts of conventional gadgets against 1NT these days so it is impossible to say what will happen up and down the country. If West just bids 2♣ for the majors (as some will) East will have little option but to try 2♠. Whether South passes or competes with 3♣ is moot – he actually does best to pass and watch East struggle in 2♠. Best defence will hold 2♠ to six tricks and the kiss-of-death score of -200. Meanwhile, where North has opened 1♣ (playing a strong No-trump) the outcome is far less clear. Maybe West will bid something and North-South will finish in 3♣?</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass					
HCP																																																																	
14																																																																	
10																																																																	
9																																																																	
Makeable contracts																																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																												
N	3	1	1	1	2																																																												
S	3	1	1	1	2																																																												
E	-	-	-	-	-																																																												
W	-	-	-	-	-																																																												
West	North	East	South																																																														
			Pass																																																														
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass																																																														
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass																																																														
Pass	Pass	Pass																																																															
<div><div><div>♠ K9872</div><div>♥ K83</div><div>♦ 62</div><div>♣ A83</div></div><div><div>♠ Q1065</div><div>♥ 2</div><div>♦ KQ975</div><div>♣ 962</div></div><div><div>♠ -</div><div>♥ AQJ754</div><div>♦ A84</div><div>♣ KJ104</div></div><div><div>♠ AJ43</div><div>♥ 1096</div><div>♦ J103</div><div>♣ Q75</div></div><div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>8</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr></table></div></div>	HCP	10	7	15	8	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	3	5	4	1	3	W	4	5	4	1	3	<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>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Hmmm. This isn't easy. <i>Deep Finesse</i> has it that East-West can make 3NT and 4♥ on this deal (not to mention 5♦, too) but these contracts are, to say the least, unlikely. (3NT, for instance, needs some sort of squeeze-endplay on North after a spade lead and continuation). How should the bidding go? Well after 1♥ – 1♠ – East has an awkward choice. Some will opt for 3♥ but the most flexible rebid looks to be 2♣. Unfortunately, West doesn't look likely to bid again over that (unless East-West are playing a change of suit as forcing). West is quite likely to pass whatever East rebids, including 3♥ as well. So, although the computer is blithely saying that game is available in three denominations most pairs look likely to end up playing this in part-scores. Those who play in hearts are likely to score best as 170 will outscore all the 110s and 130s.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass	Pass									
HCP																																																																	
10																																																																	
7																																																																	
15																																																																	
8																																																																	
Makeable contracts																																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																												
N	-	-	-	-	-																																																												
S	-	-	-	-	-																																																												
E	3	5	4	1	3																																																												
W	4	5	4	1	3																																																												
West	North	East	South																																																														
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass																																																														
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass																																																														
Pass	Pass																																																																

<div><div><div>♠ 76</div><div>♥ 84</div><div>♦ AQ976</div><div>♣ KJ76</div></div><div><div>♠ AJ1093</div><div>♥ 972</div><div>♦ 82</div><div>♣ A52</div></div><div><div>♠ KQ8</div><div>♥ AQ105</div><div>♦ J1043</div><div>♣ 104</div></div><div><div>♠ 542</div><div>♥ KJ63</div><div>♦ K5</div><div>♣ Q983</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>912</td></tr><tr><td>9</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>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP	10	912	9	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	2	-	-	-		S	3	2	-	-	-		E	-	-	1	2	1		W	-	-	1	2	1		<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>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <div>Where East-West are playing a weak No-trump the auction might just be over at reasonable speed. East will open 1NT and West will transfer to spades, Passing out the forced 2♠. That looks to be an easy contract (if East is allowed to play in it) but 3♠ looks as though it should fail. Actually, though, North shouldn't Pass out 2♠, he should protect with 2NT on the second round (showing the minors) and South has an easy bid of 3♣. As the cards lie that's very much the right thing for North-South to do - 3♣ can (indeed, should) make and 3♠ should go off. Where East-West are playing a strong No-trump East may well open 1♦ and rebid 1NT over a 1♠ response, West probably Passing that. After a club lead that will make just 90 points; whether that's a good score or a bad score will depend how many enterprising Norths there are.</div>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass	Pass	
HCP																																																																			
10																																																																			
912																																																																			
9																																																																			
Makeable contracts																																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																														
N	3	2	-	-	-																																																														
S	3	2	-	-	-																																																														
E	-	-	1	2	1																																																														
W	-	-	1	2	1																																																														
West	North	East	South																																																																
	Pass	1NT	Pass																																																																
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass																																																																
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣																																																																
Pass	Pass	Pass																																																																	
<div><div><div>♠ J82</div><div>♥ 107654</div><div>♦ 953</div><div>♣ K8</div></div><div><div>♠ AK109743</div><div>♥ A</div><div>♦ KQ84</div><div>♣ 9</div></div><div><div>♠ Q6</div><div>♥ K832</div><div>♦ A1062</div><div>♣ 1073</div></div><div><div>♠ 5</div><div>♥ QJ9</div><div>♦ J7</div><div>♣ AQJ6542</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>169</td></tr><tr><td>11</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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP	4	169	11	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	-	-	-		S	1	-	-	-	-		E	-	6	1	6	-		W	-	6	1	6	-		<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>4♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <div>Oh, heavens! What do we have here? East-West can make slams in two suits but how are you supposed to reach them? After South opens 1♣ what do you think the right bid is on that West hand? A 4♠ overcall probably isn't very sensible, but 1♠ and double don't look right at all. Some Wests will certainly overcall 1♠, arguing that, "It can't possibly get Passed out" – but actually, if North passes, as he certainly will, what can East bid? He may just decide that he has nothing to do and pass. If East does pass and South reads the runes correctly that player may decide that re-opening the bidding holding only clubs is not the right thing at all – and now we would have a case of West playing a laydown slam in 1♠! This deal could cause all sorts of headaches in the bidding but I have a little wager that more play this in a part-score than bid a slam.</div>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♣	4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass								
HCP																																																																			
4																																																																			
169																																																																			
11																																																																			
Makeable contracts																																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																														
N	1	-	-	-	-																																																														
S	1	-	-	-	-																																																														
E	-	6	1	6	-																																																														
W	-	6	1	6	-																																																														
West	North	East	South																																																																
		Pass	1♣																																																																
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass																																																																
<div><div><div>♠ Q10</div><div>♥ K43</div><div>♦ KQ632</div><div>♣ 1087</div></div><div><div>♠ A74</div><div>♥ 62</div><div>♦ 974</div><div>♣ Q9654</div></div><div><div>♠ K9632</div><div>♥ Q8</div><div>♦ J108</div><div>♣ KJ3</div></div><div><div>♠ J85</div><div>♥ AJ10975</div><div>♦ A5</div><div>♣ A2</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>610</td></tr><tr><td>14</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>5</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>5</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></div>	HCP	10	610	14	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	5	5	1	5		S	1	5	5	1	5		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<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>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <div>This seems a routine game to bid for North-South. Some might just pass 2♥ on those North cards but really, that's double-crossing partner. If you are thinking of doing that you are better off raising 1♥ to 2♥ than responding 2♦ and then passing a 2♥ rebid. Anyway, that hand is clearly worth a 3♥ raise on the second round. With friendly breaks in both red suits there are eleven top tricks, and twelve if East-West don't cash the first two spades. As West is unlikely to lead a spade (a low club lead seems entirely normal) most pairs will end up making 4♥+2, I suspect.</div>	West	North	East	South				1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass	
HCP																																																																			
10																																																																			
610																																																																			
14																																																																			
Makeable contracts																																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																														
N	1	5	5	1	5																																																														
S	1	5	5	1	5																																																														
E	-	-	-	-	-																																																														
W	-	-	-	-	-																																																														
West	North	East	South																																																																
			1♥																																																																
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥																																																																
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥																																																																
Pass	Pass	Pass																																																																	

<div><div><div>♠AJ8</div><div>♥Q87542</div><div>♦K5</div><div>♣J8</div></div><div><div>♠106</div><div>♥6</div><div>♦A1092</div><div>♣KQ9753</div></div><div><div>♠KQ93</div><div>♥AJ109</div><div>♦84</div><div>♣A64</div></div><div><div>♠7542</div><div>♥K3</div><div>♦QJ763</div><div>♣102</div></div><div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>914</td></tr><tr><td>6</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr></table></div></div>	HCP	11	914	6	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	5	2	2	3	4	W	5	2	2	3	4	<div>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>Well, I wouldn't open that West hand nor that North hand but many will do both, I suspect. 3NT is a decent contract for East-West and no doubt players will point out that it's easy to reach game if West opens 1♣. Maybe so... but that doesn't make it right. If West passes and North opens 1♥ then things get interesting. South will presumably respond 1♠ and West will bid something (2♣? double?). If the latter it is possible that North-South end up in something doubled down plenty (don't look for sympathy in this direction); otherwise East may just try his luck in 3NT. If West and North pass, the bidding above is reasonable. 3♣ just says "Bid 3NT if you think you can run my clubs" and East is happy to oblige.</div>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass		
HCP																																																									
11																																																									
914																																																									
6																																																									
Makeable contracts																																																									
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																				
N	-	-	-	-	-																																																				
S	-	-	-	-	-																																																				
E	5	2	2	3	4																																																				
W	5	2	2	3	4																																																				
West	North	East	South																																																						
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass																																																						
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass																																																						
Pass	Pass																																																								
<div><div><div>♠J872</div><div>♥A92</div><div>♦A7</div><div>♣10743</div></div><div><div>♠Q653</div><div>♥J876</div><div>♦K862</div><div>♣5</div></div><div><div>♠A9</div><div>♥K53</div><div>♦QJ105</div><div>♣KJ96</div></div><div><div>♠K104</div><div>♥Q104</div><div>♦943</div><div>♣AQ82</div></div><div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>614</td></tr><tr><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>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div></div>	HCP	9	614	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	-	1	1	S	2	-	-	1	1	E	-	2	1	-	-	W	-	2	1	-	-	<div>Board 29 : 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>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>If East-West are playing a weak No-trump East will open one of those and West has a classic Stayman 2♣ response. When East denies a major West passes, desperately hoping that East isn't precisely 3-3-2-5 and that East-West have just managed to locate a 4-2 fit... As it is, of course, East-West have located a 4-4 fit and 2♦ is the best spot, although 1NT isn't that bad. If East can hold his losses to a spade, two hearts, a diamond and a club he should score well (and the cards do lie very well for him, it has to be said). If East opens 1♣ (playing a strong No-trump) then it is possible that the auction continues 1♦ - 2♦ - pass but it is far more likely that West will respond 1♥ rather than 1♦ and now East-West will play in 1NT, possibly failing by a trick. Some will play in 2♥, with varying degrees of success.</div>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass	Pass		
HCP																																																									
9																																																									
614																																																									
11																																																									
Makeable contracts																																																									
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																				
N	2	-	-	1	1																																																				
S	2	-	-	1	1																																																				
E	-	2	1	-	-																																																				
W	-	2	1	-	-																																																				
West	North	East	South																																																						
	Pass	1NT	Pass																																																						
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass																																																						
Pass	Pass																																																								
<div><div><div>♠Q1063</div><div>♥A105</div><div>♦AK3</div><div>♣K85</div></div><div><div>♠AJ5</div><div>♥J2</div><div>♦76</div><div>♣AJ9742</div></div><div><div>♠K742</div><div>♥K9763</div><div>♦952</div><div>♣3</div></div><div><div>♠98</div><div>♥Q84</div><div>♦QJ1084</div><div>♣Q106</div></div><div><table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>116</td></tr><tr><td>7</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr></table></div></div>	HCP	16	116	7	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	1	-	2	S	-	1	1	-	2	E	1	-	-	1	-	W	1	-	-	1	-	<div>Board 30 : 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>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♣</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>A part-score deal with neither side able to make very much. Whether you think 1NT is the right bid on the North cards over West's 1♣ opening bid or whether you prefer double is very much a question of style and taste. Obviously here 1NT works very well as it hits a very suitable dummy. Eight tricks look easy enough, whether East leads a heart or his partner's suit. 120 to North-South is likely to score well for them as contracts in diamonds are hard pushed to make even eight tricks.</div>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♣	1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass			
HCP																																																									
16																																																									
116																																																									
7																																																									
Makeable contracts																																																									
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																				
N	-	2	1	-	2																																																				
S	-	1	1	-	2																																																				
E	1	-	-	1	-																																																				
W	1	-	-	1	-																																																				
West	North	East	South																																																						
		Pass	Pass																																																						
1♣	1NT	Pass	Pass																																																						
Pass																																																									

<p>♠Q ♥Q10 ♦108532 ♣AKQ42</p> <p>♠J974 ♠A10 ♥J72 ♥K6 ♦7 ♦AKQJ964 ♣109765 ♣83</p> <p>♠K86532 ♥A98543 ♦- ♣J</p>		Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable																																											
<table border="1"><thead><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>13</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>8</td></tr></tbody></table>		HCP		13	17	2	8	<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>Pass</td><td>2♣</td><td>2♦</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>Pass?</td><td>4♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td></td></tr></table>		West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	2♦	2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass?	4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass									
HCP																																													
13	17																																												
2	8																																												
West	North	East	South																																										
			Pass																																										
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠																																										
Pass	2♣	2♦	2♥																																										
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥																																										
Pass	3NT	Pass?	4♥																																										
Pass	Pass	Pass																																											
<table border="1"><thead><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></thead><tbody><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	3	3	-		S	-	-	3	3	-		E	-	2	-	-	1		W	-	2	-	-	1		<p>Yikes! What have we here? This freak show could lead to anything and predicting the various auctions on this one is a mug's game. I think it wrong to open that South hand but many will try 1♠, leading to heaven knows where. If North is allowed to open 1♦ East will blink, at least twice. If South does open 1♠ North may choose to respond 2♦ and again we may have some twitchy eye movement in the Eastern quarter. If North responds 2♣ who knows what East will try? Many will alight in 4♥ on the North-South cards (doubled maybe?) with varying degrees of lack of success. If East gets it into his head to sacrifice in 5♦ he will regret it big time.</p>	
Makeable contracts																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																								
N	1	-	3	3	-																																								
S	-	-	3	3	-																																								
E	-	2	-	-	1																																								
W	-	2	-	-	1																																								

<p>♠KJ763 ♥10943 ♦4 ♣875</p> <p>♠8 ♠109542 ♥AK8 ♥765 ♦108753 ♦QJ2 ♣KQ93 ♣AJ</p> <p>♠AQ ♥QJ2 ♦AK96 ♣10642</p>		Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable																																											
<table border="1"><thead><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>4</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>16</td></tr></tbody></table>		HCP		4	8	12	16	<table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>1NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>		West	North	East	South	1♦	Pass	1♠	1NT	Pass	Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass	Pass																						
HCP																																													
4	8																																												
12	16																																												
West	North	East	South																																										
1♦	Pass	1♠	1NT																																										
Pass	Pass	2♦	Pass																																										
Pass	Pass																																												
<table border="1"><thead><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></thead><tbody><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	1	-	-		S	-	-	1	-	-		E	1	3	-	-	-		W	1	3	-	-	-		<p>This seems to be an innocent board with little at stake. All routes should lead to East-West playing the deal in a modest part-score in diamonds – the above auction being perhaps the most sensible. The only alternative to a 1NT overcall on the South cards being pass, the hand really isn't suitable for a take-out double. If South does pass then West will rebid 2♣ and East can only give preference to 2♦, ending the auction as before. Some North-South pairs may play this hand in 2♥ (someone is sure to double on the South cards!) and that is a very messy contract. However, one off should score very well for them.</p>	
Makeable contracts																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																								
N	-	-	1	-	-																																								
S	-	-	1	-	-																																								
E	1	3	-	-	-																																								
W	1	3	-	-	-																																								

Welcome to the British Spring Sim Pairs.

We would like to thank Paul Bowyer for writing about today's hands. Paul started playing bridge at an early age (about 10!) taught by his father. He first played for his county (Leicestershire) at the age of 16 and was teaching his first bridge class at an evening school aged 17. Since then he has won many competitions locally and nationally, including Britain's premier teams-of-four event, the Gold Cup. He has represented England in the Camrose series four times. Paul has taught many classes and delivered many seminars over the years at all levels from rank beginner to advanced level and has written much of his own teaching material, the majority of it focussing on card-play. Since retiring from his full time job as a maths teacher (he then became a part-time Schools inspector) he has devoted a lot of time to the updating of these teaching resources.

Currently he is working on Vubridge, helping to set up teaching materials for that site.

Other interests include watching Leicester Tigers play rugby and watching Leicestershire play cricket.

As from January this year Blue points are now awarded for Sim Pairs. These go down to the top third of the field. Master points cannot be allocated until after the event is finalised, usually about three weeks. Please keep your scorecard for that period. If we find any unusual scores we may need to a contact the club scorer and also the players.



Full results can be found at www.ebu.co.uk/sims/