

EBU Spring Sim Pairs



13th May 2013

Monday

<p>♠ 2 ♥ J6 ♦ J876 ♣ AK9763</p> <p>♠ 1075 ♠ AQ93 ♥ 109874 ♥ Q532 ♦ 1042 ♦ A3 ♣ 105 ♣ J42</p> <p>♠ KJ864 ♥ AK ♦ KQ95 ♣ Q8</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>0</td><td>13</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>18</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>3</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>	HCP			9			0	13			18		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	5	5	1	3	5		S	5	5	1	3	5		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <p>North is just short of what is required for a 1♣ opening, though anyone who likes to mix it up a little might fancy a 3♣ pre-empt. The hand is not exactly a book example of a pre-empt, but the lack of major-suit length suggests that the deal will often belong to the opposition, when a pre-empt could work out well. South is likely to respond 3NT and, after a heart lead, knock out the ♦A and claim eleven tricks.</p> <p>If East opens 1NT, South will double and West run to 2♥, possibly via some artificial wriggle. Is 3♣ sufficient from North now – he should want to play game facing a double of a weak no trump? The more system-minded may have agreed that 3♣ is forcing, with 2NT Lebensohl to cater to merely competitive hands. That would be useful here. Anyway, South has enough to spare that he should bid 3NT over 3♣, forcing or not. If he instead tries to find a spade fit, North will not be able to bid NT over 3♠, and now the partnership may alight in five-of-a-minor for a poor matchpoint score.</p>
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<p>♠ K973 ♥ K95 ♦ J107 ♣ K108</p> <p>♠ QJ ♠ 64 ♥ Q ♥ A10742 ♦ KQ985432 ♦ - ♣ 95 ♣ QJ7632</p> <p>♠ A10852 ♥ J863 ♦ A6 ♣ A4</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>13</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			10			10	7			13		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	4	2	5		S	-	-	4	2	5		E	-	1	-	-	-		W	-	1	-	-	-		<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <p>Unless E/W are playing weak two-suited openings, East will pass and South open 1♠. At the prevailing vulnerability, West pre-empts with 4♦ – he has a whole extra trick over a mere 3♦ bid – and that bullies North into bidding 4♠, which ends the auction. East will either lead the ♦K or his singleton heart, either of which should lead to a defensive crossruff taking the first five tricks for two down. There is some danger of a slip-up if the partnerships lead king from ace-king to get a count signal. If East discards at trick one, playing partner for the ace, declarer will grab the ace, draw two rounds of trumps, and live happily ever after. Thanks to the favourable heart layout, the contract makes even if declarer follows restricted choice and loses a spade trick. Double dummy, no trump is the place to play, but nobody can sensibly get there. And, with 4♠ going down on accurate defence, defending 4♦ doubled would also be a good idea. Again, once the spade fit is established, how can anyone do this? It is part of the inbuilt safety net for these pre-empts that, even when theoretically they can go for an expensive penalty, it is often impossible to judge to take that penalty.</p>
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<p>♠ Q3 ♥ A1054 ♦ 1065 ♣ 10872</p> <p>♠ K98 ♠ AJ752 ♥ 6 ♥ K7 ♦ KJ98 ♦ 732 ♣ AQJ94 ♣ 653</p> <p>♠ 1064 ♥ QJ9832 ♦ AQ4 ♣ K</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>12</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>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>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			6			14	8			12		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	1	-	-		S	-	-	1	-	-		E	4	4	-	5	3		W	4	4	-	5	3		<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <p>Although the bare king is a dubious value, most Souths will give it enough weight to justify a 1♥ rather than a 2♥ opening. West will double and North raise hearts pre-emptively. 3♥ looks normal at favourable vulnerability but East has just enough, courtesy of the fifth spade, to compete with 3♠, despite the questionable heart value.</p> <p>Knowing that he is outgunned, South should not dream of bidding 4♥ now. All that can achieve is to make it more likely that E/W will bid on to their cold spade game. Without the push of an opposing 4♥ bid, West may well pass 3♠. From his point of view, East may have only four spades and has bid under pressure so may not be full value for his bid.</p> <p>Of course, every single missing card lies perfectly for E/W, so eleven tricks can be made in a spade contract. However, just because a cold game has been missed doesn't necessarily mean that someone has made a bad bid. Sometimes, two perfectly sensible actions can combine badly, as here.</p>
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<p>♠AK97 ♥KJ8 ♦732 ♣K86</p> <p>♠8532 ♠QJ6 ♥AQ1095 ♥63 ♦K ♦Q10954 ♣Q94 ♣732</p> <p>♠104 ♥742 ♦AJ86 ♣AJ105</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		14		11	5	10		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	5	3	4	3	4		S	5	3	4	3	4		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <p>This time a hand containing a stiff king is not worth an opening bid so North will get to open, often a weak no trump. That will run around to West, who may have a bid to show the majors but, even if just playing natural methods, will compete.</p> <p>This deal has the potential to be very unfortunate for West, who has a normal balancing action if 1NT comes around to him. Remarkably, it is N/S who can make ten tricks in a heart contract, while nothing else is much better for E/W. On this layout, West should be very grateful if he escapes undoubled in any contract, even if that still means –400 or even –500. That should rarely happen because South has ample values for a take-out double of 2♥/♠, planning in the former case to correct a 2♠ response to 3♣, and North has a good enough trump holding to leave in the double.</p> <p>Where North opens one-of-a-suit, there may be slightly less temptation for West to get involved – though perhaps a 1♥ overcall after 1♣ – (Pass) – 1♦, is normal enough. It is unlikely that N/S will be able to play for a penalty at such a low level, though 1♥ doubled can be taken for –1100.</p>
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<p>♠A63 ♥106 ♦J76 ♣AKJ96</p> <p>♠2 ♠J1075 ♥K84 ♥AQ973 ♦AKQ104 ♦32 ♣Q1054 ♣32</p> <p>♠KQ984 ♥J52 ♦985 ♣87</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		13		14	7	6		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	-	1	-		S	1	-	-	1	-		E	-	2	3	-	-		W	-	2	3	-	-		<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <p>If North opens 1NT, East may think he is a little too weak to get involved, even if he has the perfect method, a Landy 2♣ to show both majors, at his disposal. If East passes, South will transfer to spades and pass the response. West has an easy take-out double now and East responds 3♥. Will North compete to 3♠? Non-vulnerable he might do so, but here he would go down two for –200, the kiss of death on a partscore deal. It would not be absurd to bid 3♠ with a decent hand containing three-card support and with the opposition making no move towards bidding game – just unsuccessful and perhaps a long-term losing action because of the vulnerability.</p> <p>If North opens 1♣, East will overcall 1♥ and South bid 1♠. West may bid 2♦, if forcing, otherwise an unassuming cuebid of 2♣, and North bids 2♠ (assuming that 1♠ showed five). When that comes back to West he bids 3♥ and has shown a constructive raise to that level. Of course, East has a complete minimum for his overcall so will decline the invitation.</p> <p>Three rounds of clubs holds a heart contract to nine tricks as it promotes a trump trick for the defence.</p>
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<p>♠542 ♥A1084 ♦KJ106 ♣97</p> <p>♠Q109763 ♠AKJ ♥KQJ96 ♥2 ♦5 ♦9742 ♣5 ♣AJ1082</p> <p>♠8 ♥753 ♦AQ83 ♣KQ643</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		8		8	13	11		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	2	-	-	-		S	1	2	-	-	-		E	-	-	2	5	1		W	-	-	2	5	1		<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <p>East opens 1♣ and South has no sensible bid over that so passes, and West responds 1♠. A raise to 2♠ is far more descriptive than repeating the clubs and now West simply jumps to the spade game.</p> <p>It looks to be a simple matter for West to give up a heart, ruff one, and draw trumps, making eleven tricks without breaking sweat, for a routine +650.</p> <p>Can N/S do anything about it? Well, after East's 2♠ raise, an aggressive South might double, or bid 2NT to emphasise the minors. If N/S find the diamond fit they do have a paying save, 5♦ doubled going three down for –500, but with only an eight-card fit they will rarely be willing to bid to the five level.</p>
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<p>♠ 4 ♥ J102 ♦ 862 ♣ Q107542</p> <p>♠ K ♠ AQJ1073 ♥ 9764 ♥ AQ85 ♦ QJ73 ♦ K10 ♣ K983 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ 98652 ♥ K3 ♦ A954 ♣ AJ</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</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>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		3		9	16	12		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	-	-	-		S	1	-	-	-	-		E	-	3	3	4	4		W	-	3	3	4	4		<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <p>I suppose that most Souths will open 1♠ but I have a lot of sympathy for anyone who passes. Can you imagine opening 1♠ and having to rebid the suit over a 2♥ response? Ugh! The South hand is an empty 12-count, with no useful intermediates or honour combinations and most of the points in the short suits, and he is vulnerable.</p> <p>And yet, for all that there are good arguments in favour of passing, a 1♠ opening could work out well for South as, after two passes, what will East do? He could hardly be blamed for passing out 1♠ and, while accurate defence gets this four down for -400, that is in lieu of a vulnerable game – either 3NT or 4♠ is makeable on the E/W cards, and is likely to be reached after an opening pass from South.</p> <p>It will be interesting to see what proportion of the field manages to bid and make game on the E/W cards. I can imagine there will be some highly unusual auctions after a 1♠ opening by South if East does decide to bid.</p>
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<p>♠ KQ76 ♥ Q64 ♦ K1092 ♣ 64</p> <p>♠ 10953 ♠ - ♥ 87532 ♥ AK10 ♦ A75 ♦ QJ863 ♣ 8 ♣ AKQ109</p> <p>♠ AJ842 ♥ J9 ♦ 4 ♣ J7532</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		10		4	19	7		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	1	-		S	-	-	-	1	-		E	2	4	4	-	1		W	2	4	4	-	1		<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <p>E/W can make 4♥ – ruff the spade lead, ace and king of hearts, then three top clubs for two club pitches. North ruffs but there is only one spade to cash plus a diamond; +420.</p> <p>Getting to 4♥ is more of a challenge, however. East opens 1♦ and South overcalls 1♠. Is the West hand worth a negative double? Only 4 HCP would say no, while the five hearts and partial diamond fit say yes – West converts any club response to diamonds. The vulnerability is also in favour of action, but I would say that West is not worth a double. If he does anything, he might consider a simple raise to 2♦. Whether or not West scrapes up a double, it is hard to see how hearts will be reached as East will show his strong minor two-suiter and West will have to give preference to diamonds. The danger is that the perfectly reasonable diamond game will be reached and that fails due to the bad trump split. Indeed, declarer has to be quite careful to come to ten tricks.</p>
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<p>♠ KQ5 ♥ Q4 ♦ Q1085 ♣ AQJ6</p> <p>♠ 108732 ♠ A ♥ AK105 ♥ J9762 ♦ J9 ♦ 762 ♣ 43 ♣ 10852</p> <p>♠ J964 ♥ 83 ♦ AK43 ♣ K97</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>16</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		16		8	5	11		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	2	-	2	1		S	2	2	-	2	1		E	-	-	2	-	-		W	-	-	2	-	-		<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <p>N/S have a combined 26 HCP yet cannot make more than eight tricks in any denomination – double dummy. Of course, more tricks may materialise in a minor suit contract as East has to get two spade ruffs to hold declarer to eight tricks. With E/W unlikely to get involved, I would expect almost everyone to bid to 3NT and go two down after the automatic heart lead.</p> <p>If North opens 1NT, South will use Stayman then jump to 3NT over the 2♦ response. A 1♣/♦ opening will see South respond 1♠ and North rebid 1NT. While South may worry about the heart situation, he has no real reason not to again simply raise to 3NT.</p>
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<p>♠ KJ72 ♥ 963 ♦ 95 ♣ 7652</p> <p>♠ 83 ♠ 9654 ♥ AK1074 ♥ QJ ♦ J732 ♦ A104 ♣ 94 ♣ KQJ8</p> <p>♠ AQ10 ♥ 852 ♦ KQ86 ♣ A103</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>15</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>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		4	13	8	15	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	1	1	2	-	1		W	1	1	2	-	-		<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <p>Where East opens 1NT, South has a borderline double. Although he has more than opener’s maximum, the lack of an attractive opening lead argues against a double, but many will not worry too much about that.</p> <p>Whether or not South doubles, West will take out into his five-card major. Perhaps, having passed at his first turn, South will double East’s completion of the transfer and North bid 2♠. If left to play there, North should be down two in 2♠ – the defence will start with three rounds of hearts and that will allow East to pitch a diamond, after which a club switch sets up the defensive winners. More likely, North’s 2♠ bid will have the effect of pushing E/W to the three level, West competing with 3♦. That can be down two, while 3♥ is down one, so the N/S competitive bidding proves to be very effective.</p> <p>If South doubles, West may bid a natural 2♥, depending on his agreements, and now will North bid 2♠ freely? If he passes, 2♥ will end the auction.</p> <p>If east opens 1♣, South may overcall 1NT and West compete with 2♥. If North scrapes up a take-out double, South doesn’t really have anywhere to go so will probably bid 2♠ and cross his fingers.</p>
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<p>♠ A8753 ♥ 102 ♦ Q10 ♣ 10542</p> <p>♠ KQJ ♠ 6 ♥ Q ♥ AKJ8754 ♦ A9653 ♦ 82 ♣ AKJ7 ♣ Q83</p> <p>♠ 10942 ♥ 963 ♦ KJ74 ♣ 96</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>20</td><td>4</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		6	10	20	4	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	5	3	6	1	6		W	5	3	6	1	6		<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <p>With my talent for understatement, I have been known to tell partners that to open 2NT when holding a singleton is a ‘crime against humanity’. Well, let’s just say that I don’t like it. This West hand has no excuse for opening anything other than 1♦. A simple soul might just respond 4♥ with the East cards and now West can ask for key cards, bidding 6♥ upon finding that only one is missing.</p> <p>If East responds only 1♥, West can rebid 3♣ and, over East’s 3♥, continue with 3NT, describing both his strength and distribution quite nicely. Four Hearts now could be the same hand with the ♥10 instead of the ace. Perhaps East can jump to 5♥, inviting slam. With good controls and that crucial heart queen, West accepts the invitation. Yes, I admit it, a 2NT opening would have made everything very straightforward, but on another day, where E/W have a minor-suit fit, the fact that West is unbalanced could be the key to bidding a good slam – 2NT tends to become an underbid when a trump fit is found.</p>
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<p>♠ AKQ82 ♥ 85 ♦ J82 ♣ A63</p> <p>♠ J7 ♠ 10543 ♥ J92 ♥ Q764 ♦ 763 ♦ Q ♣ Q9542 ♣ J1087</p> <p>♠ 96 ♥ AK103 ♦ AK10954 ♣ K</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><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>2</td><td>7</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>7</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		14	5	4	17	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	7	5	6	7		S	2	7	5	6	7		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <p>There are thirteen tricks for N/S in either no trump or diamonds, but where you would want to play would be 6NT, which is 100% secure. With more pairs in game than in 6NT, even 6♦ should score OK.</p> <p>Unless one is totally obsessed with opening every balanced hand within the agreed range with 1NT, North should open 1♠ – the suit is good and there are two weak suits. He will rebid 2♠ over South’s 2♦ response and South will continue with 3♥. If North now bids 3NT, South may make one slam try, 4♦ being more descriptive than a more general raise to 4NT, and North should co-operate – he has four top tricks, diamond support and a potential heart ruff.</p> <p>Getting to slam should be straightforward now, the trick being to find away to get to 6NT. This may take a good view from one or other player. North cannot use Key-card, as 4NT from him would be a sign-off. South, on the other hand, cannot be sure that partner has such good spades so may settle for 6♦.</p>
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<p>♠ QJ85 ♥ KQ87 ♦ 83 ♣ A74</p> <p>♠ K7 ♠ A103 ♥ J10 ♥ 653 ♦ AK754 ♦ QJ96 ♣ KQ63 ♣ 852</p> <p>♠ 9642 ♥ A942 ♦ 102 ♣ J109</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th colspan="2">NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">2</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">2</td></tr></table>	HCP		12		16	7	5		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	1	1	-		S	-	-	1	1	-		E	2	3	-	-	2		W	3	3	-	-	2		<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <p>N/S can make seven tricks in either four-four major-suit fit, but E/W can make 2NT or three-of-a-minor.</p> <p>If North opens 1NT, West will double and, if that ends the auction, the diamond lead makes it very easy for the defence to come to its eight winners for +500. If South wriggles, showing the majors, it may be tough for anyone to double 2♥ as neither East nor West has the kind of trump holding with which to seek a penalty.</p> <p>If North opens 1♣, South will probably respond 1♥ in hope of finding a major-suit fit. West can overcall 2♦ and North raise to 2♥. When East now competes with 3♦, West has points to spare but no safety in bidding on so should pass. 3♦ is a quick and easy +110.</p>
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<p>♠ K104 ♥ A8 ♦ J64 ♣ K8542</p> <p>♠ A98762 ♠ 5 ♥ K1092 ♥ Q763 ♦ K3 ♦ Q10972 ♣ 9 ♣ J106</p> <p>♠ QJ3 ♥ J54 ♦ A85 ♣ AQ73</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th colspan="2">NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">2</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">2</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr></table>	HCP		11		10	5	14		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	-	-	-	2		S	2	-	-	-	2		E	-	1	3	1	-		W	-	1	3	1	-		<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <p>With both majors dividing evenly, E/W can make nine tricks in a heart contract. However, they are heavily outgunned in high-card terms so may not get the opportunity to declare the final contract.</p> <p>If South opens 1♣, West will overcall 1♠ and North cuebid to show a constructive club raise. If South now bids 2NT, North will raise to game. Double dummy, 3NT is defeated. I said double dummy – West must lead the ♦K, which declarer has to duck, and now a heart switch establishes five tricks for the defence. On a major-suit lead there are nine tricks.</p> <p>If South opens 1NT, West will either overcall 2♠ or make a bid to show a two-suiter. Over 2♠, North may make a penalty double, if his methods permit it, or may just bid 3NT – few can bid 2NT these days as it is played as Lebensohl by the tournament players, and even if North does bid 2NT natural South will go on to game.</p> <p>The interesting auction comes where West bids, say, 2♣, to show both majors. Now East may compete to 3♥. If that is doubled, it can be made for a huge score to E/W. Or perhaps, fearing the heart situation for no trump, N/S will compete to 4♣, a hopeless spot.</p>
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<p>♠ J6 ♥ QJ83 ♦ J9 ♣ A10983</p> <p>♠ 954 ♠ AQ83 ♥ 9654 ♥ K102 ♦ KQ1086 ♦ A542 ♣ Q ♣ 54</p> <p>♠ K1072 ♥ A7 ♦ 73 ♣ KJ762</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th colspan="2">NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr></table>	HCP		9		7	13	11		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	4	-	-	-	1		S	4	-	-	-	1		E	-	2	-	1	-		W	-	2	-	1	-		<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <p>N/S have a ten-card club fit but, if West makes a wafer-thin 1♦ overcall, they will be pushed all the way to their comfort level of 4♣ before being allowed to declare the contract. North will bid 1♥ and East perhaps double to keep spades in the game before supporting diamonds at his next turn. Having opened the bidding, South will leave any competitive action to his partner, which will work out just fine as, with five-card support, North will keep going as long as is necessary.</p> <p>If West does not overcall, North bids 1♥ and East, with four-four in the unbid suits and opening values, can double. South will show the spades and West jump to 3♦. That obliges North to compete with 4♣, and probably nobody has anything more to say, though West may at least contemplate bidding a fourth diamond.</p>
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<p>♠ 7 ♥ 106543 ♦ J972 ♣ J109</p> <p>♠ Q852 ♠ A10 ♥ Q82 ♥ AJ97 ♦ KQ6 ♦ A8 ♣ AQ3 ♣ K7652</p> <p>♠ KJ9643 ♥ K ♦ 10543 ♣ 84</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</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>7</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>7</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>7</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		2		15	16	7		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	7	4	6	3	7		W	7	4	6	3	7		<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <p>E/W have a thin slam but will rarely bid it. Indeed, double dummy all thirteen tricks can be made by dropping the bare ♥K. Only the singleton spade lead from North followed by a losing heart finesse will defeat 6♣/NT, while slam is cold if played by East.</p> <p>However, West is usually going to show a strong no trump, 15-17, either with his opening or his rebid, and the most that East should do is to invite slam – an invitation which West has no reason whatsoever to accept.</p> <p>The variation may come where West opens 1♣ and East responds 1♥. Now South can make a weak jump overcall and the E/W auction suddenly becomes more complicated. West will presumably pass over 2♠ and East reopen with a double. As spades is his only four-card suit, West may choose to pass the take-out double and try for a penalty. Unless a lot of E/Ws get to slam, that will be a good decision, because 2♠ doubled should be down four for –800, more than the value of E/W’s vulnerable game.</p> <p>If, instead. West bids 2NT, we will be back in the scenario where East invites slam and West says ‘no thanks’.</p>
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<p>♠ QJ63 ♥ 4 ♦ AKQ ♣ J10965</p> <p>♠ K84 ♠ 105 ♥ K1097 ♥ Q8532 ♦ J762 ♦ 8543 ♣ Q2 ♣ K7</p> <p>♠ A972 ♥ AJ6 ♦ 109 ♣ A843</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		13		9	5	13		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	5	-	-	5	2		S	5	-	-	5	4		E	-	1	1	-	-		W	-	1	1	-	-		<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <p>Not the most exciting deal of all time. I would expect most N/Ss to bid, uncontested: 1♣ – 1♠ – 2♠ – 4♠ – Pass.</p> <p>North might argue that the losing trick count gives him a raise to 3♠, not 2♠, but like all evaluation methods the LTC should only be a guide, not a straightjacket. With 9 HCP out of 13 tied up in a three-card suit and with no flexibility to decide when to use these values, the hand is not sufficiently above a minimum opening to justify the jump rebid.</p> <p>As the cards lie, there is no real scope to go wrong in the play, and just one trick in each black suit should be lost. Anyone who scores other than +450 can expect to score very well or very badly.</p>
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<p>♠ 973 ♥ A53 ♦ A82 ♣ Q1042</p> <p>♠ AK84 ♠ QJ2 ♥ KJ862 ♥ Q7 ♦ 3 ♦ K1097 ♣ K63 ♣ AJ75</p> <p>♠ 1065 ♥ 1094 ♦ QJ654 ♣ 98</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		10		14	13	3		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	4	2	5	5	4		W	4	2	5	5	4		<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <p>As the cards lie, there are eleven tricks available in either major, however, the normal contract is 3NT, where there are only ten tricks after a diamond lead.</p> <p>If East opens 1NT, by agreement West has a number of ways to show his five-four in the majors. Many will transfer to hearts then bid 2♠, invitational or better, and will pass East’s jump to 3NT. An alternative method is to use Smolen, an American idea, whereby responder uses Stayman then jumps to three of the four-card major to show five-four. Here, that means a 2♣ response followed by a jump to 3♠, the idea being to make opener declarer if there is a five-three fit.</p> <p>After a 1♦ opening, West will bid 1♥ and use checkback over East’s 1NT rebid. When no eight-card fit comes to light, West will settle for 3NT.</p> <p>The only time that someone might shy away from 3NT is where East opens a natural 1♣ then rebids 1NT. While most will still get to 3NT, a few may worry about their small singleton in an unbid suit and choose to play the five-two heart game. If they do so, they should score very well for their +450 and will feel very pleased with themselves.</p>
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<p>♠ KJ72 ♥ Q4 ♦ KQ1075 ♣ 84</p> <p>♠ AQ ♠ 4 ♥ 107 ♥ AJ9865 ♦ AJ932 ♦ 6 ♣ KQJ6 ♣ A10752</p> <p>♠ 1098653 ♥ K32 ♦ 84 ♣ 93</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		11		17	9	3		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	1	-		S	-	-	-	1	-		E	6	2	6	-	2		W	6	2	6	-	5		<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <p>Were you up against me and my clone, South would open 2♠ and North raise to 4♠, whatever West's intervention over the weak two bid. Sometimes this aggressive pre-emptive style is going to work and, if you can still get to the cold slam then good luck to you.</p> <p>A 2NT overcall would be the normal action over 2♠. Over North's 4♠ raise, East may bid 5♥ and play there. If he has the agreement that a balanced hand would double, he may have the option of bidding 4NT, two places to play. That gets clubs into the game and West would respond 5♣, but can East now guess to raise to slam?</p> <p>Where South passes, West will open 1♦ and rebid 2♣ over the 1♥ response – no, when I have a five-four hand which can be conveniently shown I do not agree with a 2NT rebid. East is too strong for any straightforward club raise and may splinter with 3♠ or, failing that, go through fourth-suit-forcing then bid 4♣ to set up a slam try. West has sufficient extra values, good controls and good trumps, that he should co-operate quite vigorously in a slam hunt and, while the eventual slam will be in clubs not hearts, getting there at all should score OK.</p>
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<p>♠ K62 ♥ A63 ♦ 1072 ♣ J1043</p> <p>♠ QJ10743 ♠ 8 ♥ K ♥ QJ742 ♦ A98 ♦ KJ653 ♣ KQ2 ♣ A7</p> <p>♠ A95 ♥ 10985 ♦ Q4 ♣ 9865</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		8		15	11	6		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	2	5	4	4	4		W	2	5	4	4	4		<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <p>West opens 1♠ and east responds 2♥. West has a tricky rebid – is he worth a game-force or should he bid only 2♠ and risk playing there if partner has a minimum 2♥ response? And if he is worth a force to game, are the spades good enough for a jump to 3♠ or should he find some lower mark-time bid?</p> <p>Well, if West held a balanced 15 HCP, he would rebid 2NT, game-forcing, so a 15 HCP hand with a fair six-card suit should also force to game as it has greater potential than the balanced hand, despite the bare king. And, while the spades are not that great, the ten just tips the balance for me and I would rebid 3♠ rather than cause possible complications by distorting my distribution with some other rebid.</p> <p>Over 3♠, East will not feel able to introduce his second suit – with only a five-three fit in prospect at best, he would need to be a good deal stronger to bid 4♦ – and will no doubt try 3NT, which ends the auction.</p> <p>The play on a club lead is quite awkward. Declarer should win the king and play the ♥K – if he wins the club in hand and plays a heart he may be held to one heart trick if North ducks. It will be normal to lose a trick to the ♦Q as declarer cannot afford to gamble on a doubleton queen as, when the queen is guarded, he would cut himself off from the long diamonds. Nine tricks will score OK.</p>
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<p>♠ K32 ♥ AJ2 ♦ Q1072 ♣ KQ2</p> <p>♠ 1085 ♠ QJ76 ♥ Q86 ♥ 43 ♦ J95 ♦ K84 ♣ A973 ♣ 10654</p> <p>♠ A94 ♥ K10975 ♦ A63 ♣ J8</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>3</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>	HCP		15		7	6	12		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	5	5	3	5		S	2	5	5	3	5		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <p>Get everything right and there are eleven tricks to be had on the N/S cards in either 3NT or 4♥. Get the hearts wrong and 3NT will be held to nine tricks while two wrong guesses in the red suits sees 4♥ fail by a trick.</p> <p>If North opens 1NT, South will transfer then bid 3NT. Though holding three decent hearts, North may judge to play 3NT as he has strength in every suit and no ruffing value. Where North opens 1♣/♦ and rebids 1NT, South may judge to simply raise to 3NT rather than go via checkback, arguing that the partnership is known to have some extra values and there could easily be the same tricks available in either game contract even when there is a five-three heart fit.</p> <p>Declarer will tend to get hearts wrong more often than not as it is easier to pick up queen-to-four by playing East for the length, plus he may wish to keep East off lead if he judges East to have the spade length after a spade lead.</p> <p>Those who play 4♥ on a spade lead must win in the South hand and play on clubs before hearts to ensure a pitch for the spade loser on the ♣Q. Only once that is taken care of can declarer worry about who to play for the trump queen.</p>
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<p>♠ A862 ♥ Q107 ♦ 1032 ♣ QJ8</p> <p>♠ J9 ♠ 10753 ♥ A9 ♥ J862 ♦ AKJ8 ♦ Q54 ♣ K10532 ♣ A9</p> <p>♠ KQ4 ♥ K543 ♦ 976 ♣ 764</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>8</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</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>4</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		9	7	16	8	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	3	4	1	1	2		W	3	4	1	1	2		<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <p>I would open a strong no trump with the West hand rather than open 1♣ and have to either underbid with a 2♣ rebid or overbid with a 2♦ reverse. One No Trump would end the auction. Playing weak no trump, West can open 1♣ and rebid 1NT over the 1♥ response, again ending the auction.</p> <p>North will lead a low spade against 1NT but the sight of four spades in dummy may convince South to try his luck elsewhere, perhaps switching to a diamond in hope of finding partner with four cards in the suit. That will not be a success, as declarer can win and clear the clubs and has nine tricks for a handy +150.</p> <p>The winning defence, though it does not defeat the contract, is for South to switch to a low heart at trick two or three. That establishes two heart winners for the defence. Does that mean only seven tricks for declarer then? Probably, but if North wins the queen and returns the seven to declarer's ace, there is still the possibility to guess the heart position, crossing to the club ace and leading the heart jack to pin the ten for the eighth trick. And, of course, if a wooden North returns the heart ten instead of the seven, declarer has a sure thing in hearts for his overtrick.</p>
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<p>♠ KJ10 ♥ J10952 ♦ J4 ♣ J107</p> <p>♠ A985 ♠ 72 ♥ A76 ♥ Q4 ♦ 1062 ♦ AK8753 ♣ 932 ♣ AQ6</p> <p>♠ Q643 ♥ K83 ♦ Q9 ♣ K854</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>10</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>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>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		7	15	8	10	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	1	-	-		S	-	-	1	-	-		E	1	4	-	1	4		W	-	4	-	1	3		<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <p>East has one of those hands which, while some players will be perfectly happy to open 1♦ and rebid 2/3♦, will for many seem a little good for 2♦ but a little thin for 3♦. The solution for some will be to either open 1NT, if strong, or open 1♦ then rebid 1NT to show 15-17. It is not clear that either of these routes gets to game as West, with an empty 4-3-3-3 hand, may pass 1NT – there is, after all, no premium to be gained by bidding thin games at matchpoints.</p> <p>A simple 2♦ rebid will also end the auction, so only those who rebid 3♦ can be sure of getting to game, as West will close his eyes and try 3NT, his diamond length improving the chance that the suit will run or become quickly established.</p> <p>Of course, it is much better for East to be declarer so those who do get to 3NT from the East seat will almost certainly outscore those who play it from West. A heart lead through the doubleton queen is likely to hold West to nine tricks, while a club or heart lead from South will give an overtrick.</p> <p>I am rarely a fan of opening 1NT with a six-card suit – all my partners do so far more often than I do – but the compromise of opening 1♦ and rebidding 1NT, if strong, looks reasonable to me.</p>
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<p>♠ AK832 ♥ J96 ♦ A10 ♣ K107</p> <p>♠ Q1054 ♠ 7 ♥ 7 ♥ AKQ543 ♦ 5432 ♦ KQJ6 ♣ J432 ♣ 95</p> <p>♠ J96 ♥ 1082 ♦ 987 ♣ AQ86</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>3</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>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		15	15	3	7	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	-	-	3	1		S	2	-	-	3	1		E	-	2	3	-	-		W	-	2	3	-	-		<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <p>Is East too strong for a simple 2♥ overcall of North's 1♠ opening? If he thinks so he will start with a double then plan to bid hearts at his next turn. That is the classical way to describe such a hand and, with two such chunky suits, I would be a little concerned were I to overcall 2♥ and hear everyone pass. I have a friend who is obsessive about six-four hands, believing that they should either open or overcall at the four level. Though 3♠ can be made double dummy, it rates to fail more often than not, so 4♥ down one may not score all that well on this occasion.</p> <p>Where North opens with a 15-17 no trump, East may start with a double, as he is too good for 2♥ and many pairs play 3♥ as pre-emptive these days. West will remove the double to 2♣ and East convert to 2♥ and it will be up to N/S to compete in spades, perhaps after a take-out double from South, who has the values for that action if not exactly the classic distribution.</p>
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<p>♠ A76 ♥ J109743 ♦ A7 ♣ K6</p> <p>♠ 1095432 ♠ QJ8 ♥ K62 ♥ AQ8 ♦ 94 ♦ KQJ108 ♣ 83 ♣ J7</p> <p>♠ K ♥ 5 ♦ 6532 ♣ AQ109542</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>16</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th colspan="2">NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</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			12			3	16		9			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	5	-	2	-	4		S	5	-	2	-	4		E	-	-	-	2	-		W	-	-	-	2	-		<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <p>Once again East may feel that he is a little good for a simple 2♦ over North's 1♥ opening, but this time his solution will be to overcall 1NT instead. South's action will now rather depend on his agreements. If he can bid 3♣ as a mostly pre-emptive measure, he may choose to do so in hope of cutting out a likely spade bid on his left. If, however, 3♣ would be a strong bid, South may feel that he has to bid a quiet 2♣. Three Clubs would achieve its object, as West does not have enough to bid at the three level, and the adverse vulnerability may prevent east from competing in his chunky five-card diamond suit – just as well, as 3♦ can certainly be defeated by a couple of tricks for –200 (or perhaps 500 as South could make a penalty double). Over 2♣, West will compete with 2♠ and, when South now competes in turn with 3♣, East will be able to bid 3♠. I would expect that few red-blooded Souths could bear to defend against 3♠ now so would bid a fourth club, and that makes exactly. Actually, the running clubs and two top side-suit tricks mean that N/S can make 3NT, but it is hard to find a convincing auction to get there.</p>
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<p>♠ 9 ♥ K987 ♦ A108 ♣ 65432</p> <p>♠ KJ43 ♠ 86 ♥ QJ52 ♥ 1063 ♦ K2 ♦ 97643 ♣ QJ9 ♣ K108</p> <p>♠ AQ10752 ♥ A4 ♦ QJ5 ♣ A7</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th colspan="2">NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>4</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>	HCP			7			13	3		17			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	3	2	4	3		S	3	3	2	4	3		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <p>When South opens 1♠, West has the values to double but not the distribution and, with insufficient extra values to balance the poor shape, does best to pass. When North responds 1NT, South will jump to 3♠, invitational. North has an ace and a king, which suggests bidding on, while the singleton spade suggests passing. I would be inclined to pass, disliking the misfit, but the rest of the hand fits very well and, despite the two trump losers, 4♠ cannot be defeated. If North does go on over 3♠, however, he is more likely to try 3NT. Again, the cards N/S hands fit together too well and, with the exception of the spades, the missing cards are too well placed for this contract to be defeated. Three No Trump should be held to nine tricks, so scores less well than 4♠, but bidding and making either game should score well enough as there will be a good number of pairs stopping in 3♠.</p>
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<p>♠ Q4 ♥ K987 ♦ J9543 ♣ J3</p> <p>♠ J10 ♠ AK8532 ♥ A1062 ♥ 4 ♦ 10872 ♦ KQ6 ♣ 1085 ♣ A74</p> <p>♠ 976 ♥ QJ53 ♦ A ♣ KQ962</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>16</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th colspan="2">NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			7			5	16		12			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	3	-	-		S	1	-	3	-	-		E	-	1	-	4	2		W	-	1	-	4	2		<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <p>Double dummy, E/W can make 4♠. However, that requires declarer to play to drop the bare ♦A offside after using his dummy entry to pick up the spade without loss – unless, of course, South has cashed the ♦A at trick one, hoping to be able to put partner in to give him a ruff. It is unlikely that anyone is going to get to game. After 1♣ – 1♦ from South and North, East overcalls a simple 1♠, planning to either follow through with a double or rebid spades at whatever level is necessary. One Spade cuts out South's natural 1♥ rebid so South may instead repeat the clubs, or may just pass. After this start it is likely that East will buy the hand pretty cheaply in spades. N/S will do a little better where the style is for North to respond 1♥ to the 1♣ opening. Now South will have an easy raise to 2♥ over the overcall and, with nobody vulnerable, may also take the push to 3♥ over 2♠ at his next turn. If E/W fail to compete to 3♠, N/S will score very well, because 3♥ can be made and, even if it fails by a trick, –50 should score well enough with the opposition cold for +140.</p>
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<p>♠A652 ♥AQ ♦AKJ6 ♣J94</p> <p>♠94 ♠KJ1087 ♥K8543 ♥76 ♦102 ♦Q98 ♣K1083 ♣AQ2</p> <p>♠Q3 ♥J1092 ♦7543 ♣765</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>19</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>12</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			19			6	12		3			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	2	-	-	-		S	-	2	-	-	-		E	1	-	1	1	-		W	1	-	1	1	-		<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <p>If North's style is to open 1♠ he will play there and, unless East leads a diamond to give the contract, should be down one, making two spades, two hearts and two diamonds.</p> <p>A 1♦ opening will get a 1♠ overcall from East and when that comes back to North he may bid 1NT. That can be defeated but it is a rather double dummy defence. If East leads a spade, declarer puts up the queen and takes the losing diamond finesse. After the spades have been cleared, he can cash three diamonds ending in dummy and take the heart finesse for his contract. To defeat 1NT, East must lead his doubleton heart. Say that declarer wins the queen and plays a spade. East wins the king and plays a second heart to the ace. When declarer concedes a diamond to the queen, the defence has four clubs and a heart to cash for down one.</p> <p>Personally, I would lead the ♠J into the strong balanced hand and that would give seven quick and painless tricks to declarer. Any other lead could work, but could also help declarer even more.</p>
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<p>♠J6 ♥K ♦K73 ♣Q1096542</p> <p>♠AK52 ♠983 ♥10 ♥J85432 ♦A109654 ♦QJ8 ♣K8 ♣7</p> <p>♠Q1074 ♥AQ976 ♦2 ♣AJ3</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			9			14	4		13			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	-	1	-	-		S	3	-	1	-	-		E	-	2	-	-	-		W	-	2	-	-	-		<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <p>Some will say that the suit is too weak, or that there are too many high cards outside the club suit, but I would open 3♣, even vulnerable. 3♣ is exactly what North can make but, of course, with good support, South is likely to bid and take him too high. 3♥, looking for a five-three fit for game, may see West double to show the other two suits, and that will relieve North of the obligation to bid. East would leave in this double and South run to the relative safety of 4♣. Perhaps West will double again. If South simply increases the level of the pre-empt by raising 3♣ to 4♣, West will overcall 4♦ – though a double would cater to a spade fit, West just knows that partner is going to bid hearts, not spades. While 4♦ can be beaten by two tricks double dummy, the likely club lead means that declarer can get rid of East's third spade on the king and play to ruff spades in the dummy for down one.</p>
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<p>♠AKQ1053 ♥10982 ♦- ♣Q83</p> <p>♠8742 ♠J9 ♥K543 ♥AJ76 ♦864 ♦A103 ♣92 ♣KJ75</p> <p>♠6 ♥Q ♦KQJ9752 ♣A1064</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>14</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>3</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>	HCP			11			3	14		12			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	3	1	3	2		S	3	3	1	3	2		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <p>What will South do after a weak no trump on his right? I would look at my shortage in both majors and make a pre-emptive jump overcall of 4♦. Perfect defence beats this – cash the heart trick then switch to a spade to cut declarer off from the long spades, or cash the heart king then switch to a club to set up a ruff. But in practice 4♦ will make a lot of the time as the defence has very little to go on. On a club lead, for example, the heart loser goes away and, though declarer concedes a club ruff, it is losing fourth club which gets ruffed so no harm is actually done.</p> <p>As the cards lie, North can make 3♠, the defence being unable to attack any suit without coming to declarer's aid. If South bids less than 4♦, perhaps North will occasionally get to declare the contract and get a very good score.</p> <p>I would also be inclined to bid 4♦ over a 1♣ opening on my right. The same logic applies, that I have no defence to the majors. Yes, sometimes as here partner is well stocked in the majors, but when he is not 4♦ can be a big winner.</p>
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<p>♠ 107 ♥ QJ32 ♦ QJ9 ♣ K532</p> <p>♠ K8653 ♠ 92 ♥ 94 ♥ AK1075 ♦ 104 ♦ A753 ♣ J964 ♣ 107</p> <p>♠ AQJ4 ♥ 86 ♦ K862 ♣ AQ8</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>11</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th colspan="2">NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</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>	HCP			9			4	11		16			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	2	-	1	2		S	1	2	-	1	2		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <p>This is a borderline game for N/S and one whose prospects would be improved quite significantly if the North hand could have one or more of the missing tens added to its values.</p> <p>Where South opens 1NT, North will use Stayman then bid 2NT, invitational. Now South's lack of tens and nines may convince him to decline the invitation. If South opens 1♦ and rebids 1NT, North will again invite game and South has no reason to change his evaluation from that in the previous scenario. If South opens 1♠, North may respond 1NT and play there but, if he judges his hand to be worth a two-over-one response, South will rebid 2NT and be raised to game.</p> <p>3NT by South requires a non-spade lead to give the defence a chance to beat it. If declarer gets a spade lead to dummy's ten, he knocks out the diamond and the defence is powerless. If East returns a heart to the nine and jack, declarer runs for home with nine tricks. If East does not give him a heart trick, he simply concedes a spade to establish his ninth trick.</p> <p>On a non-spade lead, an early heart switch puts the defence in control.</p>
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<p>♠ K754 ♥ A93 ♦ A52 ♣ A86</p> <p>♠ Q6 ♠ AJ3 ♥ KQ765 ♥ J ♦ 1073 ♦ K864 ♣ J53 ♣ KQ1094</p> <p>♠ 10982 ♥ 10842 ♦ QJ9 ♣ 72</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>14</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th colspan="2">NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			15			8	14		3			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	1	-		S	-	-	-	1	-		E	3	2	2	-	1		W	3	2	2	-	2		<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <p>The North hand, with its four unsupported honours, 4-3-3-3 shape and lack of tens, is the kind of 15-count with which I occasionally open a 12-14 no trump. Don't let anybody kid you that aces are undervalued by the point count – in balanced hands the opposite is true, they are overvalued and hands lacking nines, tens and jacks are hard work to produce extra tricks from.</p> <p>Anyway, a 1NT opening makes it awkward for East, as most people cannot bid on this hand-type any more, using 2♣ as an artificial overcall. Facing a weak no trump, I would use Stayman with the South hand and get lucky when opener shows four spades. Two spades can go only one down for a decent N/S result.</p> <p>If North opens 1♠, East can overcall 2♣ and West raise to 3♣ whether or not South supports spades. 3♣ should make, possibly with an overtrick with declarer losing only one diamond by playing on hearts after a spade lead.</p> <p>A 1♣ opening may even see North left to play there, though most Wests will overcall 1♥ and East convert to 1NT. A spade lead holds that to seven tricks.</p>
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Welcome to the EBU Spring Sim Pairs. Our thanks to our commentator today who is Brian Senior.

Brian is a full-time bridge professional. He plays as a professional partner or team-mate, is a bridge teacher, and a bridge journalist. While he has written many other books on the game, he is perhaps best known as the editor, publisher, and a major contributor to the official world championship book each year. Brian has, at different times, represented Great Britain, England, Northern Ireland and Ireland in international competition, and has won all the major EBU Teams competitions at least once. As a widely travelled player, he has also won bridge tournaments on every continent except Antarctica. Brian is married to Nevena, a regular member of England's highly successful Women's team, and has a 15-year old daughter, Katya. Away from bridge his interests include sport, particularly cricket, cinema, theatre and reading – mostly SF and fantasy, history and biographies. One of the benefits of being widely travelled for bridge, is that he also gets to try a lot of different foreign foods.

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/