

# Monday

9<sup>th</sup> September 2013



# EBU Autumn Sim Pairs

Welcome to the EBU Autumn Sim Pairs.

Our thanks to our commentator today who is Sally Brock.

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 contact the club scorer and also the players. When checking the frequencies we do find quite a few suspicious scores. Common errors are for scores to be recorded on the wrong side, and for 'passed out' to be recorded when the board should have been recorded as 'not played' or 'average'. 'Passed out' is a genuine bridge result and rests between the plus scores and minus scores. So if there are no plus scores it gets all the match points for the N/S pair. If there are equal numbers of plus and minus scores it gets 50% of the available matchpoints etc. When the board has genuinely not been played, for whatever reasons, then 'averages' (50%) should be given to both pairs – or perhaps 'average minus' or 'average plus'. 'Not played' should almost never be used.

Please do always check that the score has been entered correctly on the traveller or Bridgemate before leaving the table. *After all, it may be you who is being given a bottom instead of a top!*

Of course if it's the scorer who has to type in the travellers late at night human error can creep in and it is very easy to enter the odd score as plus rather than minus so this needs careful checking before uploading the results.

Full results can be found at [www.ebu.co.uk/sims/](http://www.ebu.co.uk/sims/)

<p>♠82 ♥AQJ9753 ♦7 ♣764</p> <p>♠AQJ10953      ♠6 ♥2                    ♥108 ♦863                ♦QJ102 ♣K8                ♣AQ9532</p> <p>♠K74 ♥K64 ♦AK954 ♣J10</p>	<table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7 10      9 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>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP	7 10      9 14	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	3	-	-	S	-	-	3	-	-	E	3	1	-	2	-	W	3	1	-	2	-	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td></tr><tr><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>South might double 4♠, but there is no real reason to suppose it will go down. You only need to change the distribution of North’s side cards and it would be laydown.</p> <p>It is true that West would get a better score for passing 4♥, but that is just not bridge!</p>	West	North	East	South		3♥	Pass	4♥	4♠	All Pass						
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<p>♠Q106 ♥87 ♦K5 ♣K109765</p> <p>♠K752              ♠A8 ♥Q6543            ♥KJ102 ♦64                ♦1073 ♣Q2                ♣A843</p> <p>♠J943 ♥A9 ♦AQJ982 ♣J</p>	<table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8 7      12 13</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>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP	8 7      12 13	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	2	-	2	1	S	2	2	-	2	1	E	-	-	3	-	-	W	-	-	3	-	-	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : North/South vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>2♦</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠/3♦</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>South’s first bid over East’s weak NT opening will depend on his methods. A natural 2♦ would be perfect but not many can do that these days; some variety of Aspro/Astro would be fine too, showing spades and another suit. West bids his 5-card suit and now South should take further action on the second round: if he has bid a natural 2♦ he can bid 2♠, if he has made an Astro-style bid he should bid 3♦.</p> <p>In either case East will surely compete to 3♥ with his 4-card support.</p> <p>Even if South starts with a pass it looks as if all roads will lead to 3♥ played by West or East, and it is hard to see declarer making other than nine tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	2♦	2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠/3♦	Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass
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<p>♠965 ♥J8532 ♦8 ♣J854</p> <p>♠K10 ♥KQ64 ♦Q1073 ♣973</p> <p>♠AQJ8743 ♥A ♦K42 ♣KQ</p> <p>♠2 ♥1097 ♦AJ965 ♣A1062</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>10</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>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>-</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		2	19	10	9	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	-	-	-		S	1	-	-	-	-		E	-	3	-	3	5		W	-	3	-	3	5		<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : East/West vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>5♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>If I were partnering myself I might well get too high here (and I do so like bidding slams!). East has an extremely good hand and may well prefer some stronger opening, depending on methods. West also has nothing to be ashamed of, so the 5-level could well be the outcome. Now what should South lead? On an auction similar to the above it would be overoptimistic to hope for partner to have any high cards to help beat the contract; the best chance is to find him with a singleton in a minor and the odds favour that being a diamond.</p> <p>So ... ♦A, diamond ruff, club to the ace and another diamond ruff. Two down! Those who manage to bid to the lay down game in no-trumps deserve their</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	5♠	All Pass
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<p>♠QJ7 ♥1087 ♦K63 ♣K742</p> <p>♠K10652 ♥43 ♦QJ2 ♣AQ10</p> <p>♠84 ♥KJ5 ♦A9854 ♣963</p> <p>♠A93 ♥AQ962 ♦107 ♣J85</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		9	8	12	11	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	1	-	-		S	1	-	2	-	-		E	-	2	-	1	1		W	-	2	-	1	-		<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Maybe our grandparents would turn in their graves! If you're playing a weak NT you should open 1NT with this hand type (otherwise you may have to rebid a moth-eaten spade suit if partner responds at the two level). When this is passed around to South he should try 2♥ as it is unlikely partner will find the best lead against 1NT. Now West really has to bid again, trusting his partner to hold some bits and pieces. 2♥ looks as if will make exactly. 2♠ is harder to judge – some spot-on defence might be needed (if North leads hearts, South switches to a club, North plays more hearts, when declarer eventually plays a trump to the king, North must unblock an honour so South can win the next trump with the nine to give North a heart ruff thus ensuring the defence get three trump tricks to go with two hearts and a club).</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	Pass	Pass	2♥	2♠	All Pass														
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<p>♠J8632 ♥Q9 ♦Q74 ♣Q97</p> <p>♠A7 ♥J876 ♦1095 ♣J852</p> <p>♠K95 ♥10543 ♦AJ62 ♣K10</p> <p>♠Q104 ♥AK2 ♦K83 ♣A643</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>16</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>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		7	11	6	16	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	-	3	2		S	1	-	-	2	1		E	-	1	2	-	-		W	-	1	2	-	-		<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : North/South vulnerable</p> <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>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Dble</td><td>1NT</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>2♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>A delicate competitive sequence. At favourable vulnerability it seems right for E/W to get into the auction. While North would probably have passed the 1NT rebid, when West bids 2♥ he can show his 5-card suit. So, in truth, the competitive bidding hasn't worked well for EW, as they would have taken more tricks against 1NT than they will against 2♠.</p> <p>Unless declarer plays East for ♣Kx he is unlikely to make 1NT while 2♠ would always make.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠	Dble	1NT	2♥	2♠	All Pass									
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<p>♠96 ♥AQJ2 ♦KJ42 ♣952</p> <p>♠KQJ5      ♠A10843 ♥K95      ♥643 ♦1083      ♦AQ6 ♣A83      ♣104</p> <p>♠72 ♥1087 ♦975 ♣KQJ76</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>6</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>1</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>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		11	10	13	6	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	1	-	-	-		S	2	1	-	-	-		E	-	-	1	2	2		W	-	-	1	2	2		<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : East/West vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>Dble</td><td>Rdble</td><td>3♣</td></tr><tr><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>It looks right for a non-vulnerable North to double 2♠ for takeout, and for East to redouble in the hopes of perhaps penalising his opponents. South bids his good club suit and West shows his good support. On best defence 3♠ can be defeated – it is important for neither defender to touch diamonds. Suppose North leads a club, ducked, now South must switch to the ♥10. The defenders can cash three hearts and switch back to clubs and must come to a diamond. If South makes the mistake of switching to the ♥8 or ♥7, declarer can cover with the ♥9. Now North switches back to clubs, but declarer wins, ruffs a club, draws trumps and now plays hearts. After taking his heart tricks If North plays a low diamond, it will allow declarer to pick up the suit without loss, but a high diamond will ensure a further trick for the defence.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Dble	Rdble	3♣	3♠	All Pass		
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<p>♠AKJ42 ♥AJ10 ♦765 ♣J9</p> <p>♠76      ♠10953 ♥Q7432      ♥8 ♦AK4      ♦Q32 ♣642      ♣AQ1073</p> <p>♠Q8 ♥K965 ♦J1098 ♣K85</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>9</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>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		14	8	9	9	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	2	2	3	3		S	-	2	2	3	3		E	1	-	-	-	-		W	1	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <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>1NT</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Some close decisions in the bidding here. Although North has a 5-3-3-2 14-count I would prefer to open 1♠, which may lead to my upgrading the hand, than a weak 1NT.</p> <p>It is touch and go whether South should respond 1NT or 2♦ with nine HCP, but non-vulnerable at matchpoints I would go for the underbid. And there South will play, surely making at least nine tricks on a heart lead.</p> <p>Should South decide to respond 2♦ instead, then North will rebid 2NT and game will be reached, declarer should make it on the lead of a low club, but the imaginative lead of the ♣Q would mean having to pick up the hearts immediately.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass											
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<p>♠AQ6 ♥- ♦108752 ♣AQ954</p> <p>♠J53                      ♠K872 ♥Q8752                  ♥AK964 ♦J43                      ♦KQ9 ♣82                        ♣7</p> <p>♠1094 ♥J103 ♦A6 ♣KJ1063</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>15</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>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			12			4	15		9			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	6	2	-	-	1		S	5	2	-	-	1		E	-	-	3	1	-		W	-	-	3	1	-		<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : East/West vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td><td>1♥</td><td>2♣</td></tr><tr><td>3♥</td><td>4♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♣</td></tr></table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>With diamonds 3-3, 6♣ will always make played by North, and also by South unless West leads a spade.</p> <p>This type of hand works better for Acot than for systems where you need more for a 2-level response. Playing Acot the problem may well be how to stop, while other systems may not be able to find the club fit at all.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♦	1♥	2♣	3♥	4♥	Pass	5♣								
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<p>♠Q109 ♥932 ♦A ♣AK10843</p> <p>♠75                      ♠AJ864 ♥AJ1084              ♥K6 ♦742                    ♦863 ♣Q52                    ♣J97</p> <p>♠K32 ♥Q75 ♦KQJ1095 ♣6</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>9</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</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			13			7	9		11			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	3	-	1	1		S	1	3	-	1	-		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td></tr></table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>In truth, North might take a view and pass 3♦ at matchpoints. Although the points are there for game there are danger signs when South can't bid 2NT over 2♠. Surely he doesn't have a full heart stopper.</p> <p>However, that is a bit of a view (since North's 2♠ would usually be played as forcing to game), and the more mainstream position would be the inexorable route to 3NT going two down.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
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<p>♠AQJ1093 ♥Q754 ♦Q ♣75</p> <p>♠764                      ♠52 ♥92                      ♥AJ ♦AJ954                  ♦K8763 ♣K62                      ♣AJ108</p> <p>♠K8 ♥K10863 ♦102 ♣Q943</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>13</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>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>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			11			8	13		8			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	3	3	-		S	-	-	3	3	-		E	3	4	-	-	1		W	3	4	-	-	1		<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>3♠ is my sort of opening bid in third seat! But it might not be everyone's cup of tea. In third seat there is not much chance of a game for N/S unless there is a spade fit, and if the hand belongs to E/W I want to make life as difficult for them as I can.</p> <p>I don't mind my heart suit on the side because if partner has a heart fit, as here, it will help me make 3♠.</p> <p>Here, no doubt, 3♠ will silence everyone and it will make on the nose.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass									
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<p>♠J75 ♥96 ♦Q87 ♣J9653</p> <p>♠Q8                      ♠106 ♥Q7432                  ♥J1085 ♦A52                      ♦J96 ♣842                      ♣KQ107</p> <p>♠AK9432 ♥AK ♦K1043 ♣A</p> <table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>8              7</td></tr><tr><td>21</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>6</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP	4	8              7	21	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	6	1	6	3	S	2	6	1	6	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : North/South vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</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>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Any N/S pairs overreaching to the poor slam here will not be punished as the cards lie very well.</p> <p>In truth, South has done enough when North signs off in 4♠. There is room for North to have a number of useless cards in hearts and clubs.</p> <p>North’s actual hand is very minimum but what cards he has are very useful.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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<p>♠J2 ♥AJ1087 ♦A986 ♣64</p> <p>♠KQ87654                  ♠1093 ♥K5                      ♥6 ♦Q54                      ♦J2 ♣9                      ♣KQJ10732</p> <p>♠A ♥Q9432 ♦K1073 ♣A85</p> <table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>10              7</td></tr><tr><td>13</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>5</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP	10	10              7	13	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	5	6	-	3	S	-	5	6	-	3	E	1	-	-	2	-	W	1	-	-	2	-	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>Nobody really has a clear bid over East’s 3♣ opening.</p> <p>Perhaps North might try 3♥ as he is a passed hand. That would ensure game is reached.</p> <p>12 tricks can always be made: say East leads the ♣K, dummy wins, heart finesse, spade to the ace, another heart, ruff a spade, ♦A, ♦K and another diamond. West must win and with no clubs left, must give declarer a ruff and discard.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	3♣	All Pass												
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<p>♠K6 ♥A83 ♦J1087 ♣KQ105</p> <p>♠1094                      ♠AJ8 ♥K109                      ♥J642 ♦K963                      ♦54 ♣J42                      ♣A987</p> <p>♠Q7532 ♥Q75 ♦AQ2 ♣63</p> <table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>7              10</td></tr><tr><td>10</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>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP	13	7              10	10	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	-	1	-	S	-	2	-	2	-	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>It is normal to transfer out of a weak NT whenever you have a 5-card major. If you try to guess when to do it and when not, you are unlikely to be a consistent winner.</p> <p>Here it doesn’t make a great deal of difference.</p> <p>If East leads a low heart, both 1NT and 2♠ are in jeopardy and look to go down against normal good defence.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass					
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<p>♠AQ653 ♥J9 ♦A10 ♣A987</p> <p>♠9                      ♠K107 ♥AQ6543              ♥102 ♦J93                    ♦KQ62 ♣653                    ♣KQ102</p> <p>♠J842 ♥K87 ♦8754 ♣J4</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>5</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		15	13	7	5	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	2	-		S	-	-	-	2	-		E	3	2	3	-	1		W	3	2	3	-	1		<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : North/South vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>2♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>The first round of the auction looks normal, but who is to press on to 3♥ E/W?</p> <p>If you play sound weak twos, then it would be reasonable for East to bid – it is likely that either 2♥ or 2♠ will make.</p> <p>However, it is not so easy if West’s 2♥ opening could often be made on a 5-card suit at favourable vulnerability in first seat.</p> <p>The play in either 2♠ or 3♥ is straightforward, with both contracts making.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	2♥	2♠	All Pass									
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<p>♠A6 ♥10943 ♦J1084 ♣AQ6</p> <p>♠832                      ♠KJ94 ♥KQJ6                    ♥A8 ♦A9                        ♦K7632 ♣KJ105                   ♣42</p> <p>♠Q1075 ♥752 ♦Q5 ♣9873</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>14</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>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		11	11	14	4	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	2	2	2	2	2		W	2	3	2	2	2		<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : East/West vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Everyone’s system is different after a 1NT opening, but this sequence is common enough: East’s 2♠ shows a 4-card suit and invitational values – West can pass or bid on as he sees fit.</p> <p>With a maximum and no fit it looks normal for West to bid 3NT.</p> <p>However, on the actual lie of the cards there would seem to be no way for declarer to succeed on the normal diamond lead from North (or any other lead except a club, for that matter).</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass						
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<p>♠843 ♥107 ♦9753 ♣A982</p> <p>♠AKQ6                      ♠J10972 ♥AK9653                  ♥Q42 ♦Q                            ♦84 ♣Q7                        ♣1065</p> <p>♠5 ♥J8 ♦AKJ1062 ♣KJ43</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>20</td><td>13</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		4	3	20	13	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	4	4	-	-	-		S	4	4	-	-	-		E	-	-	4	4	-		W	-	-	4	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>Pass</td><td>3♦</td></tr><tr><td>Dble</td><td>3NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♣</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>5♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Dble</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Who knows? These are very difficult hands to judge. I like the 3♦ opening bid in third seat. With minor-suit length, it is very likely that the next hand has decent values with the majors, and it is good to make their life as difficult as possible. Of course, you are very strong for the bid, but as partner is a passed hand that is not so important as you will only want to bid to a high level if he has a fit. North wants to suggest little defence but it may be too dangerous to bid 5♦, so he temporises with 3NT to allow South to help him with the decision. When South shows club length too it looks as if the sacrifice will not be too expensive.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	3♦	Dble	3NT	Pass	4♣	4♥	5♦	Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass		
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<p>♠ 1076 ♥ A98 ♦ KJ874 ♣ 94</p> <p>♠ KJ53 ♥ Q105 ♦ Q2 ♣ 10876</p> <p>♠ Q42 ♥ 42 ♦ A9653 ♣ AK3</p> <p>♠ A98 ♥ KJ763 ♦ 10 ♣ QJ52</p> <table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>8      13</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>-</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>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP	8	8      13	11	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	1	-	-		S	-	-	1	-	-		E	1	1	-	2	1		W	1	1	-	1	1		<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : North/South vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Dble</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>3♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>There are a lot of different defences to 1NT out there, but my favourite is to use 2♥/2♠ as showing 5 in the suit bid plus a 4-card or longer minor. Here it is dangerous to bid at adverse vulnerability but at matchpoints it is important to contest the partscore.</p> <p>When 2♥ is passed around to the 1NT opener, it is reasonable for him to reopen with a double with his small doubleton heart. West removes to 2♠, a contract that has good chances, and now the spotlight falls on North. He has a fair hand with good support for hearts, and a raise to 3♥ seems in order.</p> <p>Not this time, though, as on a spade lead (or switch) it is an easy two down.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	2♠	3♥	All Pass													
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<p>♠ 6 ♥ Q8765 ♦ 74 ♣ KJ853</p> <p>♠ J7 ♥ K93 ♦ K9862 ♣ 642</p> <p>♠ 9543 ♥ J1042 ♦ Q103 ♣ 107</p> <p>♠ AKQ1082 ♥ A ♦ AJ5 ♣ AQ9</p> <table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>7      3</td></tr><tr><td>24</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>7</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>7</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>7</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	6	7      3	24	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	7	2	4	7	7		S	7	2	4	7	7		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : East/West vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</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>3♦</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>7♣</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>I like bidding grand slams. I know they say that you should be really cautious in this area, but where is the spirit of adventure? The first few bids look normal enough. When South moves over 3NT with support, North, who so far has shown no values at all, must do something to show his decent clubs and a jump to slam seems right (5♣ is unlikely to score many matchpoints in any event). Good clubs is all South needs to hear – the grand slam must surely have play. Although with the ♠J dropping, both 7♠ and 7NT also make, 7♣ is a better contract (on a club lead, say, declarer wins, cashes the ♥A, plays a club to dummy and ruffs a heart. Now the ♠A and a spade ruff. Draw trumps pitching diamonds and claim.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass	6♣	Pass	7♣	All Pass			
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<p>♠ A10852 ♥ A83 ♦ Q7 ♣ A74</p> <p>♠ KQ9 ♥ K5 ♦ AJ10932 ♣ K3</p> <p>♠ J643 ♥ 10764 ♦ K54 ♣ Q6</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ QJ92 ♦ 86 ♣ J109852</p> <table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>16      6</td></tr><tr><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>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP	14	16      6	4	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	4	-	1	-	-		S	4	-	1	-	-		E	-	1	-	-	1		W	-	1	-	-	1		<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1♦</td><td>1♠</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>A lot of question marks over this auction too. Playing the Acol 4-card major style where you open a 4-card major before a 4-card minor, I would prefer a raise to 2♦ to a negative double. When a hand is just worth one bid there is a lot to be said for supporting partner.</p> <p>2NT looks to be the way forward with the West hand, but there seems to be no reason for anyone else to bid.</p> <p>What should North lead? I am sure I would lead a spade but that doesn't work well here, as it allows declarer to make nine tricks.</p> <p>With the majority of your side's defensive values it makes more sense to lead your own long suit rather than looking for partner's.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	1♠	2♦	Pass	2NT	All Pass																		
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<div><div><div>♠109543</div><div>♥J72</div><div>♦832</div><div>♣A9</div></div><div><div>♠872</div><div>♥A985</div><div>♦K106</div><div>♣J52</div></div><div><div>♠K6</div><div>♥43</div><div>♦A95</div><div>♣KQ10643</div></div><div><div>♠AQJ</div><div>♥KQ106</div><div>♦QJ74</div><div>♣87</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>12</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>2</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		5	12	8	15	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	2	1	3	-		S	-	2	1	3	-		E	3	-	-	-	-		W	2	-	-	-	-		<div>Board 22 : Dealer East : East/West 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>Dble</td></tr><tr><td>1♥</td><td>1♠</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♣</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>This is how I would have bid with myself in all four seats! But 3♠ would make in practice while 3♣ also makes if declarer plays well.</p> <p>Suppose South leads a trump which North wins and switches to a spade. South now plays three rounds of spades. Declarer draws the remaining trumps, ducks a heart, wins the heart continuation and ruffs a heart.</p> <p>Now on the run of the trumps South is squeezed in the red suits.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	Dble	1♥	1♠	2♣	Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣	All Pass		
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<div><div><div>♠AQJ2</div><div>♥QJ4</div><div>♦876</div><div>♣KQ10</div></div><div><div>♠K10943</div><div>♥K103</div><div>♦KQ5</div><div>♣65</div></div><div><div>♠65</div><div>♥82</div><div>♦AJ942</div><div>♣9872</div></div><div><div>♠87</div><div>♥A9765</div><div>♦103</div><div>♣AJ43</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>11</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>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</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		15	5	11	9	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	-	4	2	2		S	3	-	4	2	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>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td></tr></table> <div>All Pass</div> <p>Game is nothing special for N/S, and indeed South may pass 3♥ at matchpoints.</p> <p>It needs nothing bad in the trump suit as well as the spade finesse.</p> <p>At some tables West might open 1♠ (an easier thing to do when playing 5-card majors and a strong NT than when playing Acoll).</p> <p>Now if North overcalls 1NT, South will transfer to hearts and insist on game.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥				
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<p>♠AKQJ98 ♥1084 ♦Q4 ♣K2</p> <p>♠10652      ♠3 ♥KJ            ♥AQ96 ♦K962        ♦A753 ♣1086        ♣AJ94</p> <p>♠74 ♥7532 ♦J108 ♣Q753</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>7</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>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>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		15	15	7	3	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	1	-		S	-	-	-	1	-		E	3	4	3	-	1		W	3	4	3	-	1		<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Dble</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>2♠</td><td>Dble</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♦</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Maybe North should pass West’s 1NT response to the take-out double – that way he would lose just 90, while as things have turned out he is going to lose 130!</p> <p>However, bidding 2♠ looks normal even if it does help E/W find their diamond fit.</p> <p>The play is straightforward and declarer can only lose a trick each in spades, diamonds and clubs.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♠	Dble	Pass	1NT	2♠	Dble	Pass	3♦	All Pass														
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<p>♠KJ ♥975 ♦J32 ♣AJ1098</p> <p>♠Q1098752      ♠63 ♥AKQ6            ♥J8 ♦4                ♦AK865 ♣K                ♣Q754</p> <p>♠A4 ♥10432 ♦Q1097 ♣632</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>6</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</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>2</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		10	10	14	6	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	-	2	1	4	1		W	-	2	1	4	1		<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : East/West vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>People may laugh at me for opening 4♠ with such a weak suit and a strong heart suit on the side, but I stand my actions facing a passed partner.</p> <p>Even if a I find partner with four or five cards in hearts, 4♠ could easily prove to be easier to handle.</p> <p>Here the bidding hasn’t helped North with his opening lead. It is a sound practice to lead an ace against a pre-empt, however, so North may well find the best lead anyway.</p> <p>Anything but the ♣A will allow declarer to make an overtrick.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	Pass	4♠	All Pass																		
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<p>♠Q7 ♥QJ97 ♦J10962 ♣K7</p> <p>♠AK6            ♠J943 ♥AK1065        ♥842 ♦K85            ♦A ♣62            ♣AQJ54</p> <p>♠10852 ♥3 ♦Q743 ♣10983</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>2</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>6</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		9	12	17	2	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	6	2	5	6	5		W	6	2	5	6	5		<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>I have often been involved in arguments in expert circles about whether East should rebid 1♠ or 2♥ on his minimum hand with that exact distribution. I like 1♠ (it seems silly to me to play a partscore in a 4-3 fit when there may be a 4-4 fit available), but those in the other camp argue (as I have been saying before) that with a one-bid hand you should raise partner. Here West’s 2♦ forces to game and East can show his minimum with 3-card support. West makes a mild slam try but with the ♦K wasted there is no temptation to get too high. Although six of a black suit might make, I can’t see anyone getting there.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
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<p>♠ A65 ♥ A932 ♦ J4 ♣ A932</p> <p>♠ 1084                  ♠ K2 ♥ QJ1087              ♥ K ♦ 853                  ♦ AKQ1097 ♣ 54                      ♣ J1076</p> <p>♠ QJ973 ♥ 654 ♦ 62 ♣ KQ8</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>3</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>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		13	16	3	8	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	-	-	3	-		S	2	-	-	3	-		E	-	3	-	-	1		W	-	3	-	-	1		<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Dble</td><td>2♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td><td>Dble</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>After East doubles North's weak NT (at least he knows what to lead!) South starts with a weakness takeout into 2♠ (though maybe you will have your special methods to do this slightly differently). When this is passed to East he bids 3♦ and with neither side vulnerable South can take another bid.</p> <p>Surely if he were any stronger he would have passed or redoubled on the first round, so now he can double to allow his partner to pass with good diamonds, bid 3♠ with support even introduce a 5-card heart suit of his own.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1NT	Dble	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♦	Dble	Pass	3♠	All Pass	
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<p>♠ K10987 ♥ 86 ♦ KQ96 ♣ 85</p> <p>♠ J53                      ♠ 42 ♥ Q93                    ♥ K74 ♦ AJ107                 ♦ 85432 ♣ A107                  ♣ K96</p> <p>♠ AQ6 ♥ AJ1052 ♦ - ♣ QJ432</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><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>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</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		8	6	12	14	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	1	2	3	2		S	3	1	3	3	3		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : North/South vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Another deal featuring my aforementioned preferred defence to 1NT: 2♥ showing five hearts plus a 4-card or longer minor.</p> <p>Here that will end the auction. West's most likely lead is a spade. Dummy's ♠7 holds the first trick and declarer plays a heart to the jack and queen. A second spade is won in dummy and another heart finesse taken and trumps drawn. Declarer now exits with the ♣Q and the defenders can't come to more than 3 club tricks to go with the heart already lost.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	Pass	Pass	2♥	All Pass											
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<p>♠ AJ10632 ♥ Q8 ♦ K1042 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ 954                      ♠ K8 ♥ J5432                 ♥ K1097 ♦ -                         ♦ Q73 ♣ J10982                ♣ AQ76</p> <p>♠ Q7 ♥ A6 ♦ AJ9865 ♣ K43</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><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>5</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		10	14	2	14	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	5	-	3	3		S	-	4	-	3	2		E	4	-	3	-	-		W	4	-	3	-	-		<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1♠</td><td>Dble</td><td>2♦</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>3♦</td><td>3♥</td><td>Dble</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Maybe there are better games – actually, certainly there are better games – but I think this is where I'd end up.</p> <p>However, to beat 4♠ East needs to find the diamond lead at trick one, and how likely is that?</p> <p>Those who do deserve their good result.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Dble	2♦	2♥	3♦	3♥	Dble	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass			
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<p>♠QJ93 ♥632 ♦AK64 ♣62</p> <p>♠K1076      ♠A54 ♥KQ109      ♥754 ♦Q      ♦10972 ♣KQ43      ♣1085</p> <p>♠82 ♥AJ8 ♦J853 ♣AJ97</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>4</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>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</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		10		15	4	11		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	1	-	-	1		S	-	1	-	-	1		E	1	-	-	1	-		W	1	-	1	1	-		<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td></tr></table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>Maybe South should pass out the 1♣ opening, but at Love All there is always a high premium on bidding at low levels.</p> <p>According to Deep Finesse analysis (too difficult for me to work out unaided) West can make 1♣, but surely South will make 1NT.</p> <p>West will start with a top heart but then has to switch. A spade is best, and then East will continue with hearts.</p> <p>It looks as if declarer will come to two spades, a heart, three diamonds and a club before the defenders can establish more than six.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass	Pass	1NT				
HCP																																																																			
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<p>♠94 ♥AQ76 ♦AJ9862 ♣7</p> <p>♠103      ♠A7652 ♥KJ1092      ♥43 ♦74      ♦Q5 ♣J1052      ♣K863</p> <p>♠KQJ8 ♥85 ♦K103 ♣AQ94</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>15</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>6</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>6</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		5	9	15		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	6	3	5	6		S	3	6	3	5	6		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : North/South vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td><td>1♠</td><td>2♣</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></table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>A slightly awkward auction because South is a little too good for 3NT on the first round. With double promising four hearts and a cue-bid promising primary diamond support, South has to start by bidding a 4-card suit. And on the next round has to cue-bid to establish a game force.</p> <p>When North shows his hearts South can bid the game he perhaps might have bid earlier.</p> <p>With the diamond suit coming in and both critical finesses right, there are 12 tricks there for the taking.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♦	1♠	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
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<p>♠105 ♥A92 ♦K987542 ♣8</p> <p>♠A764      ♠QJ9832 ♥Q653      ♥4 ♦A3      ♦Q6 ♣754      ♣A632</p> <p>♠K ♥KJ1087 ♦J10 ♣KQJ109</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		7		10	9	14		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	3	3	-	-		S	2	3	3	-	-		E	-	-	-	3	2		W	-	-	-	4	2		<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : East/West vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Dble</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>When North's 3♦ opening gets passed round to West he can reopen with a double, secure in the knowledge that partner should not get too excited. Maybe a disciplined East should settle for 3♠ at matchpoint scoring, but it's hard to be so conservative with a 6-card suit and some good distribution. Now it all depends on the opening lead. If South starts with a superficially attractive top club declarer can scamper home. He wins the ace, draws trumps and leads a low heart. If West goes in with the king to cash his clubs declarer can eventually ruff out the ♥A for a diamond pitch. So the heart goes to the queen and ace. North can do no better than play a heart back and now declarer eliminates hearts before exiting with ace and another diamond, forcing North to give him a ruff and discard.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	4♠	All Pass				
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