

# British Autumn Sim Pairs



# Monday

7<sup>th</sup> October 2013

<p>♠ K3 ♥ KJ876 ♦ Q3 ♣ Q985</p> <p>♠ 962                      ♠ J874 ♥ 105                      ♥ A9 ♦ K108764              ♦ J9 ♣ AK                      ♣ J6432</p> <p>♠ AQ105 ♥ Q432 ♦ A52 ♣ 107</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>7</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>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>3</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		11		10	7	12		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	4	2	3		S	2	-	4	3	3		E	-	1	-	-	-		W	-	1	-	-	-		<p><b>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</b></p> <p>Four Hearts looks by no means secure on the N/S cards but careful play will see it home on a relatively friendly lie of the cards. On a diamond lead, declarer has to rise with the ace and play three rounds of spades to get rid of the losing diamond. Next he plays on trumps, because if he were to set about clubs at this point he would be worried that the missing nine and ten of hearts might allow the defence to promote an extra trump trick, or at the very least give him an awkward decision later in the play. As it happens, the two-two trump split means that the helpful club position is not required, two clubs being ruffed in dummy after drawing trumps.</p> <p>Though North has some fairly soft values and only 11 HCP, most will open 1♥, pointing to the five-four shape and the fact that, should this be a competitive partscore deal it is good to get in the first blow. Now it is merely a matter of by what route South drives to the heart game. For many that will be a 2NT four-card game-forcing raise. North might well jump to 4♥ over that to show a bad opening bid – a good description of an 11-point hand containing two unsupported queens and no ace.</p>
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<p>♠ 9 ♥ KJ9 ♦ AQ87 ♣ A6542</p> <p>♠ J32                      ♠ A854 ♥ A10                      ♥ Q75 ♦ 5432                      ♦ KJ109 ♣ QJ73                      ♣ K10</p> <p>♠ KQ1076 ♥ 86432 ♦ 6 ♣ 98</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</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>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		14		8	13	5		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	3	1	-		S	-	-	3	1	-		E	-	2	-	-	1		W	-	3	-	-	2		<p><b>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</b></p> <p>If East opens 1NT, will South scrape up a two-suited overcall? It would be aggressive to do so at this vulnerability, but some will undoubtedly do so. Facing a 2♣ Landy bid showing both majors, North is too good to just give preference to hearts. He may respond 2♦, asking for the longer major and South, with equal length, should rebid 2♥. Knowing of an eight-card fit, North can raise that to 3♥ to invite game but South will pass very quickly. Even after the best start of two rounds of trumps, the defence cannot prevent nine tricks.</p> <p>If East is left to play in 1NT, North having no systemic way into the auction, the play will be awkward for both sides, particularly if South finds a heart lead, but declarer can always manage at least seven tricks.</p> <p>Where East opens 1♦, South may overcall 1♠, feeling that he has to do something but is not strong enough to commit to the two level with a Michaels Cuebid. West raises to 2♦ and North doubles to show values – he has far from the ideal distribution for this, but is just too strong to pass. That gets 2♥ from South, which may end the auction, or perhaps West will take the push to 3♦, which rates to go one down on a heart lead but has definite chances on a spade lead.</p>
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<p>♠ AJ103 ♥ KQ65 ♦ K8 ♣ KJ6</p> <p>♠ KQ6                      ♠ 82 ♥ 832                      ♥ 104 ♦ A32                      ♦ 109654 ♣ AQ87                      ♣ 5432</p> <p>♠ 9754 ♥ AJ97 ♦ QJ7 ♣ 109</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>17</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>4</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		17		15	0	8		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	1	4	4	3		S	1	1	4	4	3		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p><b>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</b></p> <p>The N/S hands fit together well and the missing honours are well placed, meaning that game can be made in any of three denominations. Where West opens 1♣, North will overcall 1NT and South use Stayman then raise the 2♥ response to 3♥. North, with a maximum, will accept the invitation and should have no problem in coming to ten tricks for +420.</p> <p>What if West opens a strong no trump? Anyone whose agreements do not permit them to make a penalty double will regret it, as defending 1NT undoubled for down four will be insufficient. Where North can double, East will wriggle out into 2♦. N/S can still bid to their game, but at this vulnerability they will do better to play for a penalty in 2♦ doubled, which is easily defeated by two tricks for +500 and a very good score for N/S. While South can see that his side has game values, he should appreciate that East has nothing and that the penalty is likely to be the way to go.</p>
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<p>♠Q ♥Q98 ♦Q85432 ♣A76</p> <p>♠J753                  ♠AK9 ♥K                    ♥A10653 ♦AJ109                ♦K76 ♣KQ84                ♣105</p> <p>♠108642 ♥J742 ♦- ♣J932</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>2</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>1</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		10		14	14	2		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	1	4	2	3	5		W	1	3	2	3	5		<p><b>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</b></p> <p>With a combined 28 HCP and no eight-card fit it is normal for E/W to get to 3NT. If Wests opens 1♣, North may overcall 1♦, East bid 1♥ and West 1♠. Now East may cuebid 2♦, not wanting to commit to no trump when holding only king-to-three diamonds, and West will bid 2NT, raised to game by East. If West opens 1♦, that will silence North, and it will continue: 1♥ – 1♠ – 2♣ – 2NT – 3NT.</p> <p>If West has opened 1♦, North may lead a low club to the nine and king and, while that perhaps helps in the club suit, there is no good reason why declarer should get the diamonds right.</p> <p>If West opens 1♣, it will not matter whether or not North leads his long suit as his overcall will have marked the position of the queen. Eleven tricks are possible, though that requires a good play in the club suit. Eleven should score very well indeed, with ten tricks the most likely outcome and nine as likely as 11.</p>
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<p>♠10654 ♥KJ109 ♦K32 ♣64</p> <p>♠Q982                  ♠AJ73 ♥A63                    ♥5 ♦9876                 ♦A ♣87                      ♣AKQJ1095</p> <p>♠K ♥Q8742 ♦QJ1054 ♣32</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</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>7</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>7</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		7		6	19	8		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	1	-	-		S	-	-	1	-	-		E	7	-	-	7	7		W	7	-	-	7	7		<p><b>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</b></p> <p>E/W can make a black-suit slam on this deal but it is unclear how they will get there unless East just drives to slam on hearing partner bid spades. After 1♣ – 1♠, East may splinter with 4♥, but West will sign-off and will sign-off again if East makes a second slam try. Perhaps the only route which ends up in slam is if East opens 2♣. If he rebids 3♣ and follows through with a spade bid, West may be sufficiently interested to co-operate.</p> <p>In 6♣ on the likely diamond lead, declarer will draw a few rounds of trumps before broaching spades. While laying down the ace results in all 13 tricks, most will cross to the ace of hearts and take the spade finesse. Though the jack will lose to the king, the next spade play can be left until the very end of the play and it should by then become clear that it is North who has the remaining length.</p> <p>Six Spades is likely to fail, irrespective of which red suit is led, because declarer will usually take the spade finesse and then the East hand can be forced to ruff, after which it is not possible to pick up North's spades. It is easy to say that declarer can lay down the ♠A at trick two, but if North has king-to-four instead of ten-to-four that could cost the contract.</p>
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<p>♠AQ8632 ♥A ♦A62 ♣A32</p> <p>♠J7                      ♠4 ♥KQJ43                ♥1087652 ♦J5                      ♦Q1084 ♣K976                ♣108</p> <p>♠K1095 ♥9 ♦K973 ♣QJ54</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>18</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>9</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>-</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		18		11	2	9		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	5	5	-	5	5		S	5	5	-	5	5		E	-	-	1	-	-		W	-	-	1	-	-		<p><b>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</b></p> <p>The vulnerability should persuade even the most aggressive of Easts not to open with a weak two bid, though it would be a serious consideration if the vulnerabilities were switched. After a pass from South, West will open 1♥ and North, who is too strong for an overcall, will double. Any red-blooded East will now pre-empt all the way to 4♥.</p> <p>If South bids 4♠ over 4♥, North may drive to slam. With neither minor breaking evenly, 6♠ is just a club or diamond spot card short of being successful. If South makes a responsive double over 4♥, North will have a difficult choice. He may feel that, even facing a passed hand, he is too good for a simple 4♠ bid, but what else can he do? A jump to 5♠ would get across the power of the hand but would not sound as though North had the first-round heart control, so South would rarely be able to go on to slam. If North instead cuebids 5♥, all South can do is admit to four spades. Again, North ends up guessing. Perhaps, then, North will settle unhappily for 4♠ and be pleasantly surprised to find that slam is not making.</p>
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<p>♠ K108652 ♥ 1032 ♦ 97 ♣ Q5</p> <p>♠ 93 ♥ 85 ♦ QJ865 ♣ A973</p> <p>♠ J4 ♥ KJ94 ♦ AK102 ♣ KJ2</p> <p>♠ AQ7 ♥ AQ76 ♦ 43 ♣ 10864</p> <table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>7      16</td></tr><tr><td>12</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP	5	7      16	12	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	2	-	S	-	-	-	2	-	E	3	3	1	-	-	W	3	3	1	-	-	<p><b>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</b></p> <p>If South opens 1♣ and North responds 1♠, or 2♠ (weak), the auction is quite straightforward, with East doubling for take-out and West bidding diamonds at the required level, probably after a raise to 2♠ from South. Three Diamonds is a comfortable spot for E/W, even with the hearts offside; +110.</p> <p>If South opens 1NT, North will transfer to spades. Now it will depend on E/W's agreements – does a double of the transfer show the suit, or does it show a double of 1NT? My preference is to play the latter if 1NT was weak, the former if it was strong. If double shows a penalty double of 1NT, that is what East will do, and West will compete with 3♦ over South's 2♠ completion. If double would show hearts, East may double anyway, as he has four decent hearts. Alternatively, he may pass then double 2♠ for take-out. The immediate double of 2♥ looks the better option as East can then double again to show a good hand, while passing then doubling could be much weaker than this with spade shortage.</p>
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<p>♠ K54 ♥ J10953 ♦ KJ5 ♣ KQ</p> <p>♠ Q97 ♥ 87 ♦ Q32 ♣ J9762</p> <p>♠ 103 ♥ AKQ2 ♦ A4 ♣ A8543</p> <p>♠ AJ862 ♥ 64 ♦ 109876 ♣ 10</p> <table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>5      17</td></tr><tr><td>5</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr></table>	HCP	13	5      17	5	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	-	1	-	S	-	1	-	1	-	E	3	-	1	-	2	W	3	-	1	-	2	<p><b>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</b></p> <p>E/W can make either 3♣ or 2NT, while N/S are limited to seven tricks in either spades or diamonds.</p> <p>Where North opens 1NT, East will double and South run out, either to 2♠ or perhaps via a method that shows two suits. It doesn't matter which suit they alight in, as down one is better than defending, even if doubled. However, East is likely to double for take-out and West responds 3♣, which is a straightforward make.</p> <p>If North opens 1♥, East will overcall 1NT and that may end the auction. Unless South leads a diamond and declarer puts up the queen he can come to eight tricks by winning the ace and clearing clubs. South may compete, particularly as the vulnerability is one which encourages both sides to try to declare the final contract on a partscore deal. Either 2♦ or 2♠ is rather committal, but works out fine on this layout. Ideally, South would like to have an artificial option, just as over a 1NT opening bid – it is much safer to compete if South can show, for example, spades and another.</p>
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<p>♠ A103 ♥ AQ864 ♦ Q ♣ KJ82</p> <p>♠ Q87 ♥ K1073 ♦ J765 ♣ 107</p> <p>♠ 965 ♥ 95 ♦ K10983 ♣ 543</p> <p>♠ KJ42 ♥ J2 ♦ A42 ♣ AQ96</p> <table><tr><th>HCP</th></tr><tr><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>6      3</td></tr><tr><td>15</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>7</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>7</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>7</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>7</td><td>5</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	16	6      3	15	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	7	2	5	7	5	S	7	2	5	7	5	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p><b>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</b></p> <p>The double dummy program assures us that we can make all 13 tricks in either black suit. However, nobody would want to be in a grand slam on this layout. The trick will be to get to 6♣, which is an excellent contract and which will score very well for those who get there.</p> <p>North opens 1♥ and rebids 2♣ over the 1♠ response and now South is both a little too good for a simple jump to 3NT and also has the wrong type of diamond holding to do so. South therefore bids 2♦, FSF, and North shows his pattern and extra values with a jump to 3♠. When South follows up with 4♣, there may be some confusion as to whether he is agreeing clubs or is cuebidding for spades. Are you confident that your partnership would know what was going on in this situation?</p> <p>If North now cuebids 4♦ or 4♥, South will be scared to cuebid 4♠ in case that sounds like a sign-off, so he may ask for key-cards or simply jump to 6♣. Of course, asking for key-cards is also fraught with danger, as again which suit is agreed will affect North's response.</p>
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<p>♠ J7652 ♥ A6532 ♦ 9 ♣ J6</p> <p>♠ A93                      ♠ 84 ♥ 87                        ♥ Q104 ♦ AQ42                    ♦ K763 ♣ Q732                    ♣ 10954</p> <p>♠ KQ10 ♥ KJ9 ♦ J1085 ♣ AK8</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th colspan="2">NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td colspan="2">3</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td colspan="2">3</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr></table>	HCP		6		12	5	17		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	1	5	5	3		S	-	1	5	5	3		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p><b>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</b></p> <p>Not only is game in either major cold on the N/S cards – indeed, normal play leads to an overtrick – but either game is a very good contract which we would want to be in. But how to get there?</p> <p>If South opens 1♣/♦, North will respond 1♠ and South rebid 1NT. With two weakfish suits and only 6 HCP, North will bid a non-forcing 2♥ and South give preference to 2♠, which will usually end the auction.</p> <p>If South opens 1NT, North may respond 2♣, Stayman, and follow up with 2♥, scrambling Stayman showing a weak hand with both majors, and South will pass. Other than someone taking an optimistic view of their hand, perhaps the most likely route to game is where N/S play that a 1NT rebid is only 15-16, and 17-18 jumps to 2NT. Now North will have to show his second suit at the three level and may go on to game after hearing South’s spade preference. I can’t say that I like this particular no trump range, but that doesn’t mean it cannot have its successes.</p>
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<p>♠ AQ9 ♥ 9862 ♦ Q107643 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ KJ72                      ♠ 1043 ♥ A                        ♥ KJ74 ♦ J98                        ♦ 2 ♣ AJ1086                  ♣ KQ754</p> <p>♠ 865 ♥ Q1053 ♦ AK5 ♣ 932</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>9</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>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr></table>	HCP		8		14	9	9		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	4	2	-	-		S	-	4	2	-	-		E	4	-	-	2	-		W	4	-	-	2	-		<p><b>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</b></p> <p>E/W have ten tricks in a club contract while N/S can make ten in diamonds. The likelihood is that N/S will think they have done enough bidding by the time they push E/W to the four level, so +130 E/W will be a common result.</p> <p>When West opens 1♣, North overcalls 1♦ and East bids 1♥. South will support diamonds, either with a simple 2♦ bid or perhaps a 2♣ unassuming cuebid. West will have to pass now and North will convert 2♣ to 2♦ or perhaps raise 2♦ to 3♦. East has a good hand now, with both five-card club support and diamond shortage. He may compete with 3♣, or perhaps will double then convert partner’s response to clubs in an attempt to show a better hand. However the auction goes, it is hard to see East being willing to defend below the four level. Indeed, he is more likely to overbid and get to the doomed game. While West will not go on to game in a merely competitive auction, if East were to jump to 4♣ over 2♦ – which his hand is worth in terms of losers – that might tempt West to go on to 5♣.</p>
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<p>♠ Q943 ♥ K986 ♦ A1075 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ J7                        ♠ K82 ♥ A10                    ♥ Q752 ♦ KJ83                   ♦ Q642 ♣ J9875                  ♣ 43</p> <p>♠ A1065 ♥ J43 ♦ 9 ♣ KQ1062</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>7</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 colspan="2">NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td colspan="2">2</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td colspan="2">2</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr></table>	HCP		13		10	7	10		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	1	3	4	2		S	2	1	3	4	2		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p><b>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</b></p> <p>North opens 1♥ or, if playing five-card majors, 1♦, and South responds 1♠. North will raise to 2♠ and South has to make a decision. If the partnership style is that the 2♠ bid always promises four cards, South may just jump to 4♠. If, however, 2♠ will sometimes be based on only three-card support, South will only be worth a game try. Whether that should be 3♣ or 3♥, or even 2NT where the opening bid was 1♦, will be a matter of personal or partnership style. In all cases, North will like his ruffing value so will probably jump to 4♠.</p> <p>Incidentally, many expert partnerships would play that, after 1x – 1♠ – 2♠, 2NT is an artificial game try, asking partner to describe his hand further. He can now differentiate between a maximum and a minimum, and also between three- and four-card support. The convention can be played at virtually no cost, as if you had a hand that wanted to bid a natural 2NT in this situation, you would still want partner to describe his hand in response.</p> <p>With only one spade loser and hearts providing a second trick due to the fall of the ten, 4♠ should make for a solid +620.</p>
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<p>♠ Q9742 ♥ 108743 ♦ 5 ♣ Q9</p> <p>♠ J63 ♥ A2 ♦ A104 ♣ J7543</p> <p>♠ K85 ♥ KQJ5 ♦ Q632 ♣ 86</p> <p>♠ A10 ♥ 96 ♦ KJ987 ♣ AK102</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</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		10	11	15		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	1	1	1	S	-	1	1	1	1	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p><b>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</b></p> <p>Double dummy, N/S can make seven tricks, but no more, in any denomination but clubs. However, some of those contracts are easier than others, and actually stopping at the one level is almost impossible – unless North passes South’s opening bid, which is not recommended.</p> <p>If South opens 1♦, North will respond 1♠ and, if South rebids 1NT, follow up with 2♥, which South will convert to 2♠, ending the auction. However, most Souths will not rebid 1NT, preferring to bid out their shape by bidding 2♣. That gives North an impossible decision, because 2♥ would not be natural. Passing 2♣, which could be a four-two fit, or giving preference back to a singleton, will seem too horrible to contemplate. Most Norths will probably grit their teeth and rebid 2♠, though the suit is well short of what is normally expected for such a bid, and will be very relieved by the sight of dummy. While 2♠ will often go down, it has the best chance of any two-level contract to succeed.</p>
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<p>♠ KQ104 ♥ QJ93 ♦ 95 ♣ A75</p> <p>♠ AJ76 ♥ A6 ♦ 104 ♣ 108632</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ K10854 ♦ QJ632 ♣ KJ</p> <p>♠ 9532 ♥ 72 ♦ AK87 ♣ Q94</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP		12		9	10	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	2	1	S	-	-	-	2	1	E	-	1	1	-	-	W	-	1	2	-	-	<p><b>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</b></p> <p>If East can open 2♥ to show a weak two-suiter, he will do so and play there, making exactly for a handy +110. The hand is not worth a one-level opening so at most tables North will get to open in fourth seat. Where that opening is 1NT, East will overcall, either a natural 2♥ or some two-suited bid. After E/W have bid to 2♥, either quickly or slowly, South can double for take-out and North respond 2♠, which will end the auction and which should make exactly.</p> <p>I should say that the vast majority of experts play take-out doubles when the opposition come in over 1NT. It is far more flexible than a penalty double and by no means gives up on ever taking a penalty as some might have you believe.</p> <p>If North opens 1♣, East will overcall 1♥ and South double to show four spades. Facing a passed partner, North may only bid 1♠, allowing East to introduce his second suit, but North will then go on to 2♠ so the normal contract will be reached.</p>
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<p>♠ A63 ♥ K54 ♦ 965 ♣ K872</p> <p>♠ 109 ♥ J7 ♦ KJ104 ♣ 109643</p> <p>♠ Q742 ♥ 1083 ♦ A87 ♣ AJ5</p> <p>♠ KJ85 ♥ AQ962 ♦ Q32 ♣ Q</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</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></tr></table>	HCP		10		5	11	14		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	3	2	2	S	-	-	3	2	2	E	2	-	-	-	-	W	2	-	-	-	-	<p><b>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</b></p> <p>This one looks like a heart partscore for N/S, making nine tricks for +140. It is hard to see how E/W can get into the auction, even at favourable vulnerability.</p> <p>If West leads from strength, choosing the jack of diamonds, the defence should take three quick tricks there and, on the club switch, East should see that there is no benefit to putting in the jack so should take his ace. Declarer will win the next trick, draw trumps and take a pitch on the king of clubs then take the spade finesse – all very simple.</p> <p>If West leads a club, however, there is a real danger that East will play the jack, losing to the bare queen. Ten tricks can now be made by taking two rounds of trumps then taking the spade finesse and ruffing the fourth spade in dummy. It is also possible to make ten tricks after drawing three rounds of trumps. Declarer can take a first-round spade finesse and, after the fall of the ten-nine, take the marked finesse of the eight on the third round. There is also a possible black-suit squeeze if the defence does not lead spades to break up the communications, so that trick one play appears to be fatal to the defence.</p>
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<p>♠ 5 ♥ K8652 ♦ 752 ♣ 9762</p> <p>♠ AK1073      ♠ QJ982 ♥ J74      ♥ 3 ♦ AQ98      ♦ J43 ♣ 8      ♣ KQJ10</p> <p>♠ 64 ♥ AQ109 ♦ K106 ♣ A543</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>13</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		3	10	14	13	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	1	4	-	5	2		W	1	4	-	5	2		<p><b>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</b></p> <p>When West opens 1♠, East is well worth a 4♥ splinter response. South may double that for the lead but, with values in all three side suits, this is unnecessary and actually helps West out in a slightly tricky situation.</p> <p>Say that South does not double 4♥. Now West looks at a hand with some heart length but little wastage in the suit, and wants to make a slam try. However, to do so commits the partnership to the five level, and on a heart lead and diamond switch the diamond finesse is required.</p> <p>If South doubles, West can make a slam try without going beyond game. How? By passing. If he had no interest in slam, he would simply sign off in 4♠, so pass is forward-going. With his actual hand – singleton heart rather than void, minimum values and no ace – East will bid 4♠ and West can trust his partner and stop at a safe level. With a heart void, East could redouble to show first-round control, or with a good hand but singleton heart could make a five-level cuebid.</p> <p>On the actual deal, there are 11 tricks for +650, so getting to the five level is no problem.</p>
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<p>♠ AK9864 ♥ 6 ♦ K ♣ KQ632</p> <p>♠ Q10      ♠ J73 ♥ AKQ10983      ♥ 7 ♦ 9852      ♦ A74 ♣ -      ♣ A109874</p> <p>♠ 52 ♥ J542 ♦ QJ1063 ♣ J5</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>11</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>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>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		15	9	11	5	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	-	1	-		S	1	-	-	1	-		E	-	1	3	-	3		W	-	1	3	-	3		<p><b>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</b></p> <p>I can see a lot of unsuccessful contracts being reached on this one. After a 1♠ opening from North, many Easts will overcall 2♣, which will silence South. Despite the club void and questionable spade holding, most Wests will drive to 4♥ now. Three rounds of spades ruffs out dummy's spade winner and, though that solves the trump position for declarer, there is nowhere to park the two diamond losers so the contract is one down.</p> <p>Were it not for the 2♣ overcall, North would be tempted to save in 4♠ over 4♥ – his excellent distribution means that he needs only to find a little help in dummy for this to be a winning decision. However, knowing that the clubs are stacked on his left, and that partner could not scrape up a raise to 2♠, discretion should overcome valour and convince North to go quietly. And rightly so – not only is the save a phantom, with 4♥ going down, but 4♠ doubled can be beaten by three tricks for – 500, more than the value of the opposing game even had it been making.</p>
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<p>♠ 875 ♥ AK4 ♦ 873 ♣ 9762</p> <p>♠ J3      ♠ AKQ94 ♥ 9875      ♥ Q103 ♦ 92      ♦ J1064 ♣ AKJ85      ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ 1062 ♥ J62 ♦ AKQ5 ♣ 1043</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>9</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>-</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>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		7	14	9	10	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	3	2	3	3	2		W	3	2	3	3	2		<p><b>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</b></p> <p>Whether systemic considerations require a 2♣ or a 1NT response to East's 1♠ opening, he will rebid 2♦ and West give simple preference to 2♠, ending the auction. It is difficult to see any variation, though no doubt someone somewhere will come up with something.</p> <p>Despite declarer having bid the suit, most Souths will kick off with a top diamond. They may switch to a low heart at trick two and North take the ace and king. North should then switch back to diamonds – if South has the heart queen he can cash it himself after winning the diamond, while if he hasn't got it a third heart could cost a trick. The normal defence leads to nine tricks for +140.</p> <p>An imaginative North might consider winning the first heart with the ace and returning the four to put declarer to a guess. That play comes at some risk, as declarer might have doubleton queen, and no guess. There is an argument that South would have switched to the jack from any jack-ten combination, which improves the odds in favour of finding the imaginative defence, but few will think that way.</p>
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<p>♠83 ♥9 ♦A8753 ♣KQ1083</p> <p>♠Q10                      ♠A764 ♥K107532                ♥QJ86 ♦K                         ♦Q6 ♣J542                      ♣A96</p> <p>♠KJ952 ♥A4 ♦J10942 ♣7</p>	<p><b>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</b></p> <p>When West opens 2♥ in second seat, North has no way to show both minors at a sensible level so has to pass. An optimistic East may bid 2NT, inquiry, but most will simply raise to 3♥ to cut out the opposition. The 3♥ bid does its work well, as South would have bid 2♠ but is unlikely to bid 3♠. N/S are not quite dead yet, however. While North could not bid at his first turn, he could gamble with an unusual 3NT bid now – this must be for the minors, as any natural no trump hand would have bid on the previous round. That would work splendidly, finding a five-five fit and a likely +130, but it is a gamble.</p> <p>Three Hearts is defeated by a spade lead – if ducked a club switch sets up five defensive winners, while if declarer wins and plays a diamond North wins and plays a second spade and comes to two slow club tricks.</p> <p>On a top club lead, 3♥ should be made. Declarer wins and plays a diamond and has a discard for his spade loser.</p> <p>Those who play two-suited weak 2♠ openers will do well on this deal, as they will routinely find the diamond fit.</p>																																																		
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<p>♠K1075 ♥J73 ♦KQJ32 ♣6</p> <p>♠AQ42                      ♠63 ♥104                        ♥AQ9865 ♦84                         ♦107 ♣AQ1083                 ♣KJ4</p> <p>♠J98 ♥K2 ♦A965 ♣9752</p>	<p><b>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</b></p> <p>The major suits sit very well for N/S, meaning that they can make ten tricks in a diamond contract. However, while there will be many different auctions and a number of different final contracts, I would guess that 3♥ by East will be the most popular.</p> <p>West will open 1♣, North overcall 1♦, and East bid 1♥. Now South will either raise to 3♦ or, perhaps, make an unassuming cuebid of 2♣ to show a good diamond raise. Whether forced to that level or not, East may rebid 3♥, as he is worth an invitation facing an opening bid. West, however, will decline any invitation. With everyone else having done their bidding, it will now be down to North whether to defend 3♥ or compete to the four level. With everyone vulnerable, the majority will probably judge to defend.</p> <p>Three Hearts can be beaten, but it takes a club lead, setting up the possibility of two club ruffs. In practice, the precise defence required to hold declarer to eight tricks will not often be found, and 3♥ will make far more often than not.</p>																																																		
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<p>♠KJ5 ♥K1098 ♦J92 ♣J82</p> <p>♠93                         ♠AQ1086 ♥6543                    ♥7 ♦Q53                     ♦K8 ♣KQ97                    ♣A10643</p> <p>♠742 ♥AQJ2 ♦A10764 ♣5</p>	<p><b>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</b></p> <p>The friendly spade position means that E/W cannot be beaten in 4♠. Of course, it would be a little odd to get there. Five Clubs is also unbeatable, and if any game is to be reached is a little more likely. Most, however, will stop in a black-suit partscore. After all, it is only a combined 20-count which just happens to fit perfectly. With all E/W partscores making comfortably, any N/S who buy it in 3♥ and go one down undoubled for -100 should score well.</p> <p>Can N/S get to the heart fit? Well, not if South passes or bids 2♦ over East's 1♠ opening. If N/S play 'equal-level-conversion', South can double with the intention of converting any club response to diamonds. South can only do that if the partnership agreement is that this does not promise extra values – if you are not playing 'equal-level-conversion', then double followed by a new suit promises a strong hand – one too good for an initial overcall. It is possible to play the above agreement when your suits are in the right order but not otherwise. Five or six diamonds plus four in the unbid major works just fine, but if the long minor is clubs with diamond shortage, that does not work as the conversion would have to be at a higher level, and that still promises extra values, just as in traditional style.</p>																																																		
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<p>♠ 542 ♥ 9763 ♦ Q632 ♣ AK</p> <p>♠ AKQ863      ♠ 9 ♥ Q2            ♥ K84 ♦ 9             ♦ AKJ10875 ♣ QJ108       ♣ 32</p> <p>♠ J107 ♥ AJ105 ♦ 4 ♣ 97654</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>11</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>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		9	11	14	6	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	2	3	1	4	3		W	2	3	1	4	3		<p><b>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</b></p> <p>This appears to be another one on which the contract will be the same at virtually every table. East opens 1♦ and West responds 1♠. When East rebids 2♦, the practical action is for West to just jump to 4♠. Yes, 3NT might be a better spot, but it will be rare for E/W to be able to get there and know it is better before seeing dummy.</p> <p>Despite his strong six-card suit and 14 HCP facing an opening bid, West needs quite a bit of good fortune to make 4♠. There are three outside losers, so spades have to be three-three, which will only be the case a little over one time in three. On the actual deal, North can cash the top clubs then switch to a heart and South win the ace then play a third club. Dummy's nine of trumps is good enough to prevent North ruffing to good effect. So not only do trumps need to be three-three, but when North has a doubleton club South also needs to have both the missing spade honours.</p> <p>Having said all of that, +620 looks to be a normal result and most will achieve it and move along to the next deal considering that it was their due that 4♠ make, rather than that they had great good fortune.</p>
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<p>♠ A8 ♥ QJ754 ♦ AJ53 ♣ 86</p> <p>♠ KQJ            ♠ 1097542 ♥ K102         ♥ 83 ♦ Q864         ♦ K10 ♣ A74           ♣ J105</p> <p>♠ 63 ♥ A96 ♦ 972 ♣ KQ932</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>15</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>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</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	4	15	9	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	1	2	-	1		S	1	1	2	-	1		E	-	-	-	2	-		W	-	-	-	2	-		<p><b>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</b></p> <p>Vulnerability makes cowards of us all, so I wonder how many Norths will come in over a strong no trump opening by West? Attention to the vulnerability can be overdone. Though neither of North's suits is very good, he does hold opening values and five-four shape, and if a fit exists it will often be correct to compete the partscore. It would, of course, be more comfortable if North's methods permit him to show hearts and another suit rather than just make a natural one-suited overcall. On this deal, N/S have eight tricks in a heart contract.</p> <p>E/W, meanwhile, can make 2♠. Whether or not N/S get involved, East will show his long suit. If North has shown his hearts, South will compete to 3♥, down one. Though West has strong spades, his hand is full of losers, and I am not sure that he should be willing to compete at the three level. Just as well, with only eight tricks available.</p> <p>If West opens 1♦, North has an easy 1♥ overcall and, despite only having 4 HCP, East has enough spade length to justify a 1♠ bid. South bids 2♦, unassuming cuebid, and West 2♠. North will probably compete to 3♥, with -100 perhaps the most common N/S result.</p>
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<p>♠ Q32 ♥ A10862 ♦ J107 ♣ 105</p> <p>♠ AJ9875      ♠ 1064 ♥ 75            ♥ J4 ♦ A985        ♦ KQ2 ♣ 2             ♣ AKQ76</p> <p>♠ K ♥ KQ93 ♦ 643 ♣ J9843</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>15</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>-</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>2</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		7	15	9	9	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	1	-	-		S	-	-	1	-	-		E	2	4	-	4	2		W	2	4	-	4	2		<p><b>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</b></p> <p>West has a very good hand for a weak 2♠ opening, but perhaps not quite enough to open at the one level. East will ask with 2NT and West do whatever his methods require to show the maximum. Whatever that rebid is, facing a maximum East has to bid game – else why bother to make the inquiry in the first place?</p> <p>It takes two rounds of hearts to hold 4♠ to ten tricks, and that will not be easy to find. On the most likely lead of the jack of diamonds, declarer may cash the ace of spades then play three rounds of clubs, hoping to get both hearts away. He is successful, up to a point, in that the hearts do indeed go away, but North can ruff the third club with a low trump so there are two trump losers. Plus 450 will be a common result, but there will be some +420s and a small number who manage to stop short of game and score very badly.</p>
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<p>♠ A952 ♥ AJ832 ♦ 62 ♣ 43</p> <p>♠ Q103      ♠ J84 ♥ KQ9      ♥ 10654 ♦ 75      ♦ AQJ43 ♣ A10986      ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ K76 ♥ 7 ♦ K1098 ♣ KQJ72</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>8</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 colspan="2">NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td colspan="2">1</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td colspan="2">1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr></table>	HCP		9		11	8	12		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	-	1	2	1		S	2	-	1	2	1		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p><b>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</b></p> <p>South will open 1♣ after two passes and that will ensure West's silence. Most Souths will have to rebid 2♣ over the 1♥ response and may play there, though it is possible that East may balance with 2♦, knowing that his partner has values when the opposition stop at a low level. If East does bid 2♦, he is likely to be doubled for – 500 or so.</p> <p>In 2♣, declarer can overcome the bad trump break by playing to ruff two hearts in hand with his low trumps. that gives four clubs and three top major-suit tricks, and eventually someone will have to lead a diamond to provide an eighth trick.</p> <p>If playing a strong no trump, South has the option of rebidding 1NT, 12-14, and that will usually end the auction. What West will lead with clubs and hearts bid by his opponents is unclear, though the ten of clubs looks right to me. Apart from the bad club split, everything is very well-placed for South, and 1NT should be made, possibly with an overtrick unless the defence is spot on.</p>
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<p>♠ A6 ♥ KQ85 ♦ Q75 ♣ KJ54</p> <p>♠ Q53      ♠ K108742 ♥ 743      ♥ A92 ♦ J86      ♦ A ♣ Q962      ♣ 1083</p> <p>♠ J9 ♥ J106 ♦ K109432 ♣ A7</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>9</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>5</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr></table>	HCP		15		5	11	9		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	5	5	-	-		S	2	5	5	-	-		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p><b>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</b></p> <p>N/S can make game in either red suit, but it is unlikely that more than one or two pairs will manage to get to one of those rather fortunate contracts. More likely, if game is to be reached it will be the doomed 3NT.</p> <p>East has a hand that doesn't really fit anywhere – too good for a weak 2♠, too good to pass, yet with a bare ace to be downgraded, only just worth a one-level opening. I have no doubt that the majority will open 1♠ and, vulnerable, most Souths will pass. Where South does scrape up a 2♦ overcall, North will drive to game but, with a balanced hand including a spade stopper, this rates to be 3NT, down three on a spade lead.</p> <p>Will West raise to 2♠? It is tempting, and some will, but 5 HCP, three trumps, no ruffing value and no ace or king? Put me down as a passer. After a pass, North may double or may overcall 1NT. Double gets 2/3♦ from South. North passes 2♦ but perhaps bids 3NT over 3♦. A 1NT overcall is usually played as weak in balancing seat, up to either 14 or 15 HCP. Some Souths will pass that, while others will transfer to diamonds – few will invite game.</p> <p>Plus 130 or +150 will score OK for N/S, with quite a number of pairs achieving minus scores.</p>
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<p>♠ KJ754 ♥ K ♦ AQ107 ♣ 964</p> <p>♠ 62      ♠ AQ83 ♥ 109      ♥ AQJ653 ♦ J84      ♦ K5 ♣ KJ10832      ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ 109 ♥ 8742 ♦ 9632 ♣ AQ5</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>16</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 colspan="2">NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td colspan="2">3</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td colspan="2">3</td></tr></table>	HCP		13		5	16	6		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	2	-	4	2	3		W	2	-	4	2	3		<p><b>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</b></p> <p>When North opens 1♠ in third seat, most Easts will consider their hand too strong for a simple overcall. After all, not only does it contain 16 HCP and a good six-card suit, but the spade holding has been upgraded by North's opening. So East will double then bid 2♥ over the 2♣ response, thereby showing five or more hearts and a good hand. However, it is unlikely that West will co-operate, so the final contract will often be 2♥ by East.</p> <p>Ten tricks can be made in a heart contract whatever the lead. On a spade lead, declarer will win and play a club up. There is nothing the defence can do – declarer may have to lose a trump trick after taking a spade ruff, but the fourth spade goes on the king of clubs and a diamond lead towards the king brings home the contract. It is a little more taxing on a trump lead. Declarer wins and leads a club up and, as the cards lie, there is no guess. South may win and play a second trump, but a spade goes away on the club king and declarer can take the spade finesse then draw trumps. In the ending, North is squeezed in spades and diamonds and can then be endplayed with a spade to lead diamonds and the king is declarer's tenth trick.</p>
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<p>♠ AJ107 ♥ Q109 ♦ 95 ♣ J1093</p> <p>♠ 5 ♥ J654 ♦ J1063 ♣ 8754</p> <p>♠ K942 ♥ AK732 ♦ Q84 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ Q863 ♥ 8 ♦ AK72 ♣ AKQ2</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>18</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</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		8	12	2	18	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	4	2	-	4	2		S	4	2	-	4	2		E	-	-	2	-	-		W	-	-	2	-	-		<p><b>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</b></p> <p>When East opens 1♥ in third seat, South has a classic take-out double. In my style, West now has a pre-emptive raise to 3♥, though i suspect some will think that 2♥ is sufficient. While North might bid a free 2♠ over 2♥, the fact that two of his high-card points are the queen of hearts should convince him to pass over 3♥. However, when South doubles for a second time, showing a strong hand, North can commit to game. Some may jump to 4♠, but there is no guarantee that South has four spades, so perhaps a 4♥ cuebid is a safer option. That will see South bid spades whenever he has four of them, as here, so the correct contract will be reached.</p> <p>After a heart lead to the king, East will not be able to continue the suit to good effect, so will probably switch to his singleton club, though a diamond is also possible. Superficially, there is only one more loser, but declarer has some issues with trump control and communications, and will normally lose another trick in the wash. ten tricks for +620 is normal, with those who go down or manage the overtrick scoring very badly and very well respectively.</p>
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<p>♠ 94 ♥ A873 ♦ AQ872 ♣ KJ</p> <p>♠ 10762 ♥ J ♦ J10653 ♣ 843</p> <p>♠ AKQ3 ♥ KQ10 ♦ 9 ♣ AQ952</p> <p>♠ J85 ♥ 96542 ♦ K4 ♣ 1076</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>2</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>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>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		14	20	2	4	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	1	-	-		S	-	-	1	-	-		E	4	1	-	4	2		W	4	1	-	4	2		<p><b>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</b></p> <p>For the second successive deal we see a powerful take-out double hand. North opens 1♦ and East doubles. If South now passes, West responds 1♠ with little enthusiasm, only to see partner raise all the way to game. If South responds 1♥, West will be happy to pass, but East will double again after North's heart raise, and once again will raise West's spade response to game.</p> <p>Double dummy, 4♠ can be held to ten tricks by leading three rounds of diamonds, forcing the East hand to ruff twice and thereby creating a trump trick for South. On a trump lead, or ace and another heart, declarer has time to pitch two clubs on the heart winners and ruff out the clubs, making 11 tricks. As the diamond defence looks quite difficult to find, at least with North on lead, I expect 11 tricks to be a more common outcome than ten.</p>
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<p>♠ A74 ♥ Q32 ♦ AK1093 ♣ 53</p> <p>♠ QJ963 ♥ 8 ♦ 654 ♣ J842</p> <p>♠ K5 ♥ KJ1097654 ♦ - ♣ AKQ</p> <p>♠ 1082 ♥ A ♦ QJ872 ♣ 10976</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>7</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		13	16	4	7	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	3	-	-	1		S	-	3	-	-	1		E	1	-	4	2	-		W	1	-	4	2	-		<p><b>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</b></p> <p>The East hand is way too good for a 4♥ opener – turn all the clubs into small cards and that would be appropriate – so it will be a choice between 1♥ and 2♣, whether Acol or Benjamin.</p> <p>After a 2♣ opening, West responds 2♦ and North gets an easy entry into the auction via a double, showing diamonds. East will bid his hearts and then South can jump all the way to 5♦ and really put it to his opponents. Now it is vital that West not just pass in sleep. If he does so, East will almost certainly bid 5♥, and that is one down. West should realise that this danger exists. As the last thing he wants is to hear partner go on in hearts, he should double in an attempt to warn him off. if East doesn't get the message, at least West can sleep easily, knowing he has done his best.</p> <p>If East opens 1♥, West should dredge up a 1♠ response in hope of improving things. North may overcall 2♦ and East bid 4♥ or, being so strong, cuebid 3♦ planning to bid hearts at his next turn, but again South can sacrifice in 5♦, with West again needing to double to attempt to silence East. This time, East will be more tempted to bid on regardless, as the 1♠ response suited him quite well.</p>
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<p>♠ Q8 ♥ 7 ♦ KQ852 ♣ AK964</p> <p>♠ -                      ♠ KJ743 ♥ 85432                ♥ AK106 ♦ 64                    ♦ A1097 ♣ QJ10832            ♣ - ♠ A109652 ♥ QJ9 ♦ J3 ♣ 75</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>15</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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>		HCP		14	15	3	8	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	2	1		S	-	-	-	2	1		E	1	1	4	-	-		W	1	-	4	-	-		<p><b>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</b></p> <p>South has a weak 2♠ opening and now, for all his six-five shape, West is well short of what is required to come in. North has an interesting decision – he will not fancy a spade game contract because the play rates to be awkward with only doubleton support and the hearts wide open. But at the same time, the opposition could have a contract in hearts, and passing will make it easy for them to get together. Perhaps therefore, North will make a pre-emptive raise to 3♠ to take some space away. If left to play in a spade contract, South can come to eight tricks. And some will be left to play there, because East has an impossible call when either 2♠ or 3♠ comes around to him. Overcall 2NT with a void and knowing that partner is probably void in spades? Double with a void in an unbid suit? Pass with 15 HCP and four-card support for two of the unbid suits?</p> <p>My guess is that most Easts will do something, because nobody can bear to be robbed of a contract their way. And if they can get to 4♥ they will be very pleased with themselves, because that contract is unbeatable, particularly as both North and South will usually lead a black suit, either of which helps declarer’s cause.</p>
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<p>♠ A10653 ♥ K2 ♦ J85 ♣ K53</p> <p>♠ 87                      ♠ KJ2 ♥ 1053                ♥ AJ96 ♦ KQ109             ♦ 43 ♣ AQ64                ♣ 10987 ♠ Q94 ♥ Q874 ♦ A762 ♣ J2</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>9</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>-</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>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>		HCP		11	9	11	9	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	1	-		S	-	-	-	1	-		E	2	-	2	-	1		W	2	-	2	-	-		<p><b>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</b></p> <p>Either West or North could open on this deal, but neither has an automatic bid so the board may also be passed out at quite a few tables. Opening bids are to a degree a matter of personal style. Personally, I would open a weak no trump with either hand if non-vulnerable, but possibly pass vulnerable. If my methods required me to open the North hand 1♠, I would prefer to pass – this is a no trump hand whose main suit just happens to be a major.</p> <p>What can anyone make? Well, N/S can make 1♠, but fewer than seven tricks in any other contract. E/W can make eight tricks in either clubs or hearts, while West goes down in 1NT on a spade lead but East can make that contract, albeit on a rather double dummy line on a spade lead – win the second spade to block the suit and play on clubs before diamonds to knock out North’s side entry to the long spades. With plenty of tables passing the deal out, plus scores should score OK and minuses poorly.</p>
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## Welcome to the British Autumn Sim Pairs.

*Our thanks to our commentator today who is Brian Senior.*

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 Bridgmate 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/)