

EBU

Club Stratified

Sim Pairs



Monday
10th March 2014

<p>♠ 74 ♥ A106 ♦ 1053 ♣ KJ972</p> <p>♠ Q83 ♠ J95 ♥ 7 ♥ Q985 ♦ KQ98 ♦ J642 ♣ A10654 ♣ Q8</p> <p>♠ AK1062 ♥ KJ432 ♦ A7 ♣ 3</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>11</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>2</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		8	6	11	15	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	1	4	4	2		S	2	1	4	4	2		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<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>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</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>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>South is not strong enough to bid 3♥ over 1NT as that would be forcing to game.</p> <p>North is right to give false preference – the general rule with 2-3 in partner’s suits is to give preference with a decent hand (thus allowing partner to bid again) but to pass with a very weak hand (thereby preventing partner from proceeding).</p> <p>That philosophy works well here as now South rebids 3♥ showing his 5-5 shape and extra values, though non-forcing.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
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<p>♠ A103 ♥ K10 ♦ K7532 ♣ A85</p> <p>♠ 7 ♠ Q98654 ♥ AQJ832 ♥ 9 ♦ AQJ10 ♦ 864 ♣ 104 ♣ K32</p> <p>♠ KJ2 ♥ 7654 ♦ 9 ♣ QJ976</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>14</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>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</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>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		14	5	14	7	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	-	-	-	-		S	3	-	-	-	-		E	-	-	1	-	-		W	-	1	1	-	-		<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : N/S vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Who knows? That is a fairly dreadful weak 2♠ bid but it is in first seat at favourable vulnerability.</p> <p>Then what should West bid?</p> <p>A non-forcing 3♥ would be nice, but most would play it forcing, in which case it’s probably best to go straight to game.</p> <p>It’s hard to predict the number of tricks but a diamond lead looks normal and that would lead to two down.</p>	West	North	East	South			2♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass										
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<p>♠ 54 ♥ AKQ74 ♦ Q1094 ♣ 63</p> <p>♠ 8 ♠ J10632 ♥ J96 ♥ 2 ♦ 8632 ♦ KJ5 ♣ AQ754 ♣ KJ98</p> <p>♠ AKQ97 ♥ 10853 ♦ A7 ♣ 102</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>7</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>1</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</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>	HCP		11	9	7	13	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	1	5	2	2		S	-	1	5	2	2		E	2	-	-	-	-		W	2	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : E/W 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>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>South has a close decision as to whether to raise partner’s 2♥ to 3♥ (non-forcing in standard Acol) or 4♥.</p> <p>The good spade suit along with the 4-card support and outside ace should persuade him to go for the aggressive action.</p> <p>East has a difficult choice of opening lead: a club will hold declarer to 10 tricks, a diamond gives him 12, while on a major-suit lead he will make 11.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass							
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<p>♠ Q87 ♥ 74 ♦ J874 ♣ Q863</p> <p>♠ KJ ♠ A10942 ♥ K853 ♥ AQJ6 ♦ Q952 ♦ - ♣ J75 ♣ AK102</p> <p>♠ 653 ♥ 1092 ♦ AK1063 ♣ 94</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>7</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		5	18	10	7	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	5	2	7	6	5		W	5	2	7	6	5		<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>Pass</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>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>6♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>West's raise to 3♥ is non-forcing, and at first he rejects East's slam try.</p> <p>However, when East moves on with a further try it is time to jump to slam on the strength of his major-suit kings (and his previous limited bidding).</p> <p>Although 13 tricks are available by finessing in spades, the normal line (assuming a top diamond lead) is to ruff out the spades and then finesse the ♣Q before drawing trumps and making 12 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass		
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<p>♠ A108 ♥ 109 ♦ QJ9 ♣ AK652</p> <p>♠ J2 ♠ KQ754 ♥ Q87432 ♥ 6 ♦ K6 ♦ A8543 ♣ 1094 ♣ 83</p> <p>♠ 963 ♥ AKJ5 ♦ 1072 ♣ QJ7</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>6</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>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		14	9	6	11	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	-	1	-	2		S	2	-	1	-	2		E	-	-	-	1	-		W	-	-	-	1	-		<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : N/S vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>2♠</td><td>Dble</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>North will probably start with a slightly heavy weak NT. There are many defences around these days but my favourite is Multi Landy, where an overcall of two of a major shows five in the bid major along with a 4-card or longer minor.</p> <p>So East would bid 2♠ and South would make a take-out double.</p> <p>As South might be weaker than he is, at matchpoints it is best for North simply to bid his 5-card suit. And there matters would rest. nine tricks looks normal, as East is unlikely to find the killing lead of a low diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	2♠	Dble	Pass	3♣	All Pass													
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<p>♠ K763 ♥ QJ4 ♦ AK95 ♣ 93</p> <p>♠ AJ42 ♠ 1095 ♥ A953 ♥ K8 ♦ 4 ♦ QJ632 ♣ KQ76 ♣ J54</p> <p>♠ Q8 ♥ 10762 ♦ 1087 ♣ A1082</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>7</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>1</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		13	7	14	6	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	2	1	1	2	1		W	2	1	1	2	1		<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : E/W 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>1♣</td><td>Dble</td><td>1♦</td><td>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>Strictly speaking East should probably pass 1♥ but it's not much fun defending 1-level contracts so a pushy 1NT is acceptable.</p> <p>A heart lead would seem normal from South and declarer should be able to scramble seven tricks: two clubs, two spades, two hearts and a diamond at the end.</p> <p>The defenders may be able to establish seven defensive tricks but they will not be able to cash them as South is short of entries.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♣	Dble	1♦	1♥	Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass								
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<p>♠ 3 ♥ AQJ1083 ♦ QJ5 ♣ A65</p> <p>♠ A764 ♠ QJ952 ♥ 52 ♥ 4 ♦ K764 ♦ A108 ♣ KJ10 ♣ Q974</p> <p>♠ K108 ♥ K976 ♦ 932 ♣ 832</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>11</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>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		14	9	11	6	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	2	-	1		S	-	-	2	-	1		E	3	2	-	3	-		W	3	2	-	3	-		<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All 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>1♥</td><td>1♠</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>It would be easy for either side to go wrong here. West's 3♥ bid shows a good raise to 3♠, a bid for which he is truly maximum. The question then is what North should bid. It is tempting to bid 4♥ but there are two potential problems with that action: first, it might push E/W into a thin game that they can make, and, second, it might just be too expensive. Here even if E/W pass 4♥ out, they will get 200.</p> <p>However, I think West should double 4♥ – after all, he was confident his side would make 3♠ and he has good defence.</p> <p>If North does bid 4♥, East should not let himself be jostled into an undisciplined 4♠, which is his side's only way to go minus.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥	3♥	Pass	3♠	All Pass
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<p>♠ J74 ♥ A5 ♦ AJ43 ♣ KQ98</p> <p>♠ A9852 ♠ K ♥ 1093 ♥ KJ8742 ♦ Q862 ♦ K95 ♣ 6 ♣ A105</p> <p>♠ Q1063 ♥ Q6 ♦ 107 ♣ J7432</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>6</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>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		15	14	6	5	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	-	-	-	-		S	2	-	-	-	-		E	-	2	4	1	1		W	-	2	4	1	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>1♥</td><td>Dble</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>Dble</td><td>3♥</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>Another close competitive deal. Perhaps South is too weak for a negative double but his distribution is right. After West raises to 2♥, North's double shows a wish to compete without four spades (a strong likelihood of holding four clubs). Some Easts might make a game try but at pairs that would be pushy and a simple 3♥ seems preferable. Although South suspects a club fit for his side, he does not have enough to bid again and 3♥ will be the final contract.</p> <p>I imagine South will lead the ♦ 10. Declarer will win, ♣A, club ruff, spade to the king, club ruff, ♠A discarding a diamond and play a trump. North should go in with the ace and play the ♦ A and another diamond, promoting a trick for South's ♥Q and ensuring three tricks for his side. If he plays low declarer can make 11 tricks by rising with the ♥A.</p> <p>Only an unlikely initial trump lead will hold declarer to nine tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♦	1♥	Dble	2♥	Dble	3♥	All Pass				
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<p>♠ - ♥ 10942 ♦ QJ7643 ♣ 532</p> <p>♠ KJ10543 ♠ 62 ♥ K7 ♥ Q863 ♦ A8 ♦ K10952 ♣ KJ9 ♣ 74</p> <p>♠ AQ987 ♥ AJ5 ♦ - ♣ AQ1086</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>17</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		3	5	15	17	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	-	1	-	-		S	3	1	1	-	1		E	-	1	-	1	-		W	-	-	-	1	-		<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : E/W 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>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Should South open 1♣ or 1♠?</p> <p>The fashion nowadays is to open 1♠ but I'm not convinced that is the right thing to do with a strong hand.</p> <p>Here I imagine South's 1♠ opening would be passed out, though North might try a semi-psycho 1NT response. If so, whether South rebids a simple 2♣ or a forcing 3♣, I imagine North would pass. Declarer will surely make more tricks in clubs than he would in spades.</p> <p>If South opens 1♣, no doubt West would overcall 1♠ and that would be passed around to South. Although it hurts to pass the opponents out at the 1 level, it is hard to think of anything for him to bid.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♠	All Pass							
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<p>♠KJ8432 ♥KJ954 ♦J ♣Q</p> <p>♠A76 ♠Q5 ♥AQ ♥6 ♦Q92 ♦AK10743 ♣J10643 ♣8752</p> <p>♠109 ♥108732 ♦865 ♣AK9</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>7</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		11	9	13	7	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	4	3	-		S	-	-	4	3	-		E	3	3	-	-	2		W	4	3	-	-	2		<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>2♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2NT</td><td>3♦</td><td>Dble</td><td>4♥</td></tr></table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>This is a good hand for a vulnerable weak 2♦ opener. It is close whether West should bid a simple 3♦, or make a game try of 2NT.</p> <p>The more aggressive action looks attractive because of the outside aces – after all, in practice 3NT will surely make. Now, what is North to do?</p> <p>It is usually right to bid on distributional hands, and although it is a huge overbid, 3♦, showing both majors, does look right. East doubles to show a good suit and South is worth 4♥. The outcome of that is likely to be +620 for NS.</p> <p>The opening lead is likely to reveal the diamond position, after which declarer will surely get the spades right.</p>	West	North	East	South			2♦	Pass	2NT	3♦	Dble	4♥								
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<p>♠86 ♥QJ982 ♦10854 ♣A6</p> <p>♠9752 ♠J3 ♥64 ♥AK53 ♦96 ♦J73 ♣KJ854 ♣Q1092</p> <p>♠AKQ104 ♥107 ♦AKQ2 ♣73</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>18</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</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>	HCP		7	11	4	18	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	5	3	4	4		S	-	5	3	4	4		E	2	-	-	-	-		W	2	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>The first three bids look fairly straightforward, though it might be easier if South rebids a simple 2♦ (as long as North doesn't pass).</p> <p>On the given auction South has to decide what to bid over 3♥ and 4♥ could easily be the winner.</p> <p>On the actual lie, against 4♥ East will surely lead a club. Declarer wins and plays a trump, but East wins and plays two more rounds of clubs. Whichever hand declarer ruffs in he will end up being forced and lose trump control.</p> <p>In 4♠ declarer will either lose two hearts and a club. Or, if the defence start with three rounds of hearts, two hearts and a trump (declarer pitches a club on the third heart).</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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<p>♠KJ9 ♥3 ♦KQ654 ♣AK84</p> <p>♠10732 ♠AQ6 ♥J8 ♥Q542 ♦973 ♦AJ82 ♣10963 ♣J7</p> <p>♠854 ♥AK10976 ♦10 ♣Q52</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>1</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>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		16	14	1	9	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	2	3	2	3		S	3	2	3	1	2		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : N/S 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>Pass</td><td>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr></table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>A combined 25-count but 4♥ is no great prospect.</p> <p>North might prefer to rebid a 15-17 1NT, which would most likely result in South declaring 4♥. Perhaps North would declare 3NT which is a better contract and would make as the cards lie.</p> <p>On the actual auction both North and South have taken conservative actions, but that is no bad thing, and I predict that +140 for N/S will score well.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥								
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<p>♠ 97 ♥ Q65 ♦ J7543 ♣ 1096</p> <p>♠ 32 ♠ K5 ♥ K9 ♥ A1074 ♦ K109862 ♥ Q ♣ Q32 ♣ AKJ754</p> <p>♠ AQJ10864 ♥ J832 ♦ A ♣ 8</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>12</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		3	17	8	12	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	2	-		S	-	-	-	2	-		E	5	3	2	-	3		W	4	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></td><td>1♣</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Dble</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♣</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>Whether or not East should reopen over South's 4♠ overcall is a close decision.</p> <p>This is a takeout double and therefore not that attractive with a singleton diamond and ♠K-x. On the other hand East has a good hand and there is a good chance they have been talked out of something. Should West pass?</p> <p>In my view not with a 6-card side suit as East is very likely to hold a singleton spade. Rather than commit his side to diamonds, West chooses the more flexible 4NT, offering a choice between the minors. It is not a difficult decision for East!</p> <p>On the actual lie the defenders are helpless.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣	All Pass
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<p>♠ K62 ♥ K8762 ♦ 2 ♣ AK93</p> <p>♠ 1073 ♠ AQ94 ♥ QJ9 ♥ A ♦ Q9876 ♦ AJ1053 ♣ Q10 ♣ 765</p> <p>♠ J85 ♥ 10543 ♦ K4 ♣ J842</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>15</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>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		13	15	7	5	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	-	2	-	-		S	2	-	2	-	-		E	-	3	-	3	1		W	-	3	-	3	1		<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♦</td><td>3♥</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♦</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>These days most people seem to play some sort of 'inverted minor-suit raises' so that the West hand is a raise to 3♦ rather than 2♦. That gives North something of a problem. It may be right to make a take-out double, but North is bidding because he thinks his side has a fit and, assuming he is right, then that fit is more likely to be in hearts than anything else (South has not overcalled 1♠), and it may be difficult for South to bid a 3-card heart suit.</p> <p>The 3♥ bid sets a problem for East who does not really have enough to make a game try but does not want to sell to 3♥. 3♠ seems to be a compromise and West is not tempted to bid on with his soft values. 4♦ will go one down, though, while the same fate was awaiting 3♥.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	Pass	3♦	3♥	3♠	Pass	4♦	All Pass		
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<p>♠ KJ62 ♥ AJ4 ♦ K102 ♣ Q97</p> <p>♠ A84 ♠ 975 ♥ 875 ♥ Q10963 ♦ QJ85 ♦ 964 ♣ A63 ♣ 82</p> <p>♠ Q103 ♥ K2 ♦ A73 ♣ KJ1054</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>11</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>5</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		14	2	11	13	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	5	3	1	4	5		S	5	3	1	4	4		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : N/S 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>1NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>There is a lot of evidence to suggest that it does not generally pay to use Stayman in response to 1NT when you are 4-3-3-3. I guess it depends a little on what distributions you allow for your 1NT opening in the first place.</p> <p>If South might have a 5-card major, or a singleton somewhere or a 5-4-2-2 distribution then that makes looking for a 4-4 fit more sensible. Here there is no fit anyway.</p> <p>It takes a heart lead (an attractive choice on the above auction) to give declarer a headache, but he will still make 10 tricks on the actual lie.</p>	West	North	East	South				1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass					
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<p>♠K53 ♥942 ♦9854 ♣AKJ</p> <p>♠A ♠J876 ♥AQ10 ♥KJ85 ♦QJ106 ♦K2 ♣Q10984 ♣653</p> <p>♠Q10942 ♥763 ♦A73 ♣72</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>15</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>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>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		11	8	15	6	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	2	-		S	-	-	-	2	-		E	3	1	2	-	-		W	3	1	2	-	-		<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : E/W vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>Dble</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>The first two bids seem clear and the South hand is not really worth an overcall, but it is always good to bid spades, and not a lot can go wrong at favourable vulnerability.</p> <p>West doubles for take-out, suggesting strong NT values, and North cue-bids to show his good 3-card raise. East does not have enough to bid and South signs off. West has bid his hand and it is now passed around to E.</p> <p>Surely N/S have eight spades between them, leaving West with the distribution he actually holds (even if N/S have only seven spades, West must be 2-3-3-5) so, with bad spades, East can put his partner into the 5-3 fit. 3♣ and 2♠ both make so East has earned a good board for his side.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♣	Pass	1♥	1♠	Dble	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣	All Pass								
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<p>♠3 ♥J98762 ♦85 ♣K1074</p> <p>♠KJ104 ♠A92 ♥AK10 ♥Q ♦Q1094 ♦AKJ73 ♣AJ ♣Q865</p> <p>♠Q8765 ♥543 ♦62 ♣932</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>18</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>5</td><td>7</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>7</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>7</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		4	16	18	2	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	5	7	2	5	7		W	5	7	3	5	7		<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>2♥</td><td>Dble</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>5NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>6♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>6NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>The very weak 2♥ opening (I would always be happy to open that with 6-4 shape non-vulnerable) makes it hard for EW. East doubles for takeout, West cue-bids and East shows his 5-card diamond suit. 4NT seems a good place for West to start and he discovers that his side has all the aces.</p> <p>What now? It is actually quite hard to see a grand slam being cold unless East has the ♣K, so West bids 5NT. The responses to this are a matter of partnership agreement but for me East should bid the king he holds and sign off without a king, hence the 6♦ response. So West knows that a grand slam is unlikely to be cold and the question is whether the matchpoint element should persuade him to go for the higher-scoring small slam. I think his hand justifies the risk.</p>	West	North	East	South		2♥	Dble	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass	5NT	Pass	6♦	Pass	6NT	All Pass		
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<p>♠A2 ♥AK87 ♦AK32 ♣A53</p> <p>♠QJ103 ♠75 ♥- ♥J953 ♦Q10874 ♦965 ♣Q1062 ♣K984</p> <p>♠K9864 ♥Q10642 ♦J ♣J7</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>22</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>7</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>1</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		22	4	7	7	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	1	6	5	4		S	1	1	6	5	4		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : N/S 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>Pass</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Probably playing with myself I would respond 2♠ but I do not have any great requirements for a positive response at the 2 level. I imagine 2♦ is more normal. North rebids 2NT showing 23-24 (upgraded because of all those controls).</p> <p>Now it is a matter of system, but discovering if there is a 5-4 fit seems a reasonable start. When South bids 3♥ North could cue-bid 4♦, but is that what it means?</p> <p>What would South do with a fair hand with four spades and five or more diamonds. It is simpler just to show a generally decent hand by raising to 5♥ and letting North bid on to the slam with all his controls.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass	
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<p>♠QJ6 ♥10873 ♦84 ♣J852</p> <p>♠A10 ♥KQ54 ♦AJ62 ♣A109</p> <p>♠98732 ♥6 ♦975 ♣K643</p> <p>♠K54 ♥AJ92 ♦KQ103 ♣Q7</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>3</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>-</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>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		4		18	3	15		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	2	2	-	2	1		W	2	2	-	2	1		<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : E/W 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>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Maybe West is a tiny bit too strong for a 1NT overcall, but the simple bid always has its attractions.</p> <p>There is not a great deal to the play. Declarer just wins the lead whenever he can and plays the ♠A and another spade.</p> <p>There is nothing the defenders can do.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♥	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass										
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<p>♠984 ♥Q42 ♦J65 ♣A1053</p> <p>♠AJ32 ♥A ♦K109832 ♣76</p> <p>♠Q75 ♥KJ7 ♦AQ7 ♣KQ98</p> <p>♠K106 ♥1098653 ♦4 ♣J42</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		7		12	17	4		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	4	6	2	5	6		W	4	6	2	5	6		<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>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>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>6NT</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>OK, it's not much of a contract! But I like bidding slams.</p> <p>The problem was that in making any sort of slam try East makes it difficult for his side to stop in 3NT, and 5♦ will not score well on this deal.</p> <p>At the end of the day the decision has to be made as to whether to play 6♦ or 6NT. Either could be right but it looks preferable to declare from the East side, and when unsure you might as well go for the higher scoring slam.</p> <p>With both missing black-suit honours right declarer can hardly go wrong.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass	6NT	All Pass
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<p>♠J42 ♥AQ1073 ♦AKQ2 ♣J</p> <p>♠85 ♥2 ♦9753 ♣KQ6542</p> <p>♠KQ97 ♥K964 ♦J1086 ♣8</p> <p>♠A1063 ♥J85 ♦4 ♣A10973</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>17</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>5</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>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		17		5	9	9		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	3	5	4	4		S	3	3	5	4	4		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : N/S vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>3♣</td><td>Dble</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>It was all going to be a question of whether to play 4♥ or 3NT, but then West entered the fray.</p> <p>In truth, it was not unreasonable (at least not in my eyes) for West to put his oar in at favourable vulnerability, but when North doubled for take-out, South was not hard pressed to pass.</p> <p>No doubt North will start off with his top diamonds and give South a ruff, and after that there should be no problem in the defenders getting 800.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	1♠	3♣	Dble	All Pass													
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<p>♠ K6 ♥ J1074 ♦ 84 ♣ KQ742</p> <p>♠ Q942 ♠ A108 ♥ Q98 ♥ AK ♦ AJ9765 ♦ KQ103 ♣ - ♣ AJ86</p> <p>♠ J753 ♥ 6532 ♦ 2 ♣ 10953</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		9		9	21	1		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	2	6	2	5	6		W	2	6	2	5	6		<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : E/W vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>5♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>6♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>6♦</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Again, how you bid this depends on your methods. Simple Stayman would get a 3♦ response and it seems straightforward for West to bid 4♦. A couple of cue-bids follow and East would be wondering if it was a small or a grand slam deal.</p> <p>His 6♣ over 5♣ must also promise the ♠A (for West has denied it when he did not bid 4♠ over 4♥).</p> <p>But West does not have that good a hand and settles for the small slam.</p>	West	North	East	South			2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣	Pass	6♦	All Pass		
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<p>♠ - ♥ QJ10975 ♦ 10952 ♣ K107</p> <p>♠ 962 ♠ AKJ105 ♥ 842 ♥ K63 ♦ 73 ♦ Q8 ♣ AQJ32 ♣ 654</p> <p>♠ Q8743 ♥ A ♦ AKJ64 ♣ 98</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>13</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>-</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</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	13	14		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	6	4	-	1		S	-	6	4	-	1		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All 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>1♠</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>North does not have enough for a 2-level response on the first round, even playing Acol, so has to settle for 1NT. South bids his second suit and now is the time for North to introduce hearts (this suit is worth introducing at any form of scoring, but particularly pairs). There is no reason for anyone to bid more.</p> <p>The defence may need to be on their toes to keep declarer to 10 tricks.</p> <p>On a club lead West needs to play one of his lower honours, otherwise the timing is right for declarer to either ruff a club in the dummy, or, if the defence play a trump to prevent that, for declarer to discard his club loser on a long diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass									
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<p>♠ QJ985 ♥ Q93 ♦ QJ5 ♣ 106</p> <p>♠ K42 ♠ A106 ♥ AJ10762 ♥ 85 ♦ K72 ♦ 1093 ♣ 9 ♣ J8742</p> <p>♠ 73 ♥ K4 ♦ A864 ♣ AKQ53</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</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		8		11	5	16		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	2	-	1	-		S	2	2	-	1	-		E	-	-	1	-	-		W	-	-	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>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>2♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>North has a horrible hand for a 1st-round overcall, with all those soft values, but over 2♥ he is effectively in a balancing position.</p> <p>South should remember that North passed on the first round and not punish him for his enterprise.</p> <p>Although in theory West cannot make 2♥, in practice North will surely lead the ♠Q and let it through. The defence should prevail against 2♠, but -50 should still score well for N/S.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	2♠	All Pass													
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<p>♠ J1094 ♥ J6 ♦ A72 ♣ AJ32</p> <p>♠ KQ862 ♠ A53 ♥ K532 ♥ 7 ♦ KJ ♦ Q83 ♣ 85 ♣ K109764</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ AQ10984 ♦ 109654 ♣ Q</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>9</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>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		11		12	9	8		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	3	2	-	-		S	-	3	2	-	-		E	3	-	-	2	1		W	3	-	-	2	1		<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : E/W 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>3♥</td></tr></table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>In 3rd seat at favourable vulnerability, South's offensive hand suggests a 3-level opening, and on the actual layout there seems no reason for anyone to bid if he opens 3♥.</p> <p>The defenders should manage to beat that contract, though; if they keep playing black suits, South will run out of trumps and have to go one down.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	3♥								
HCP																																																																			
11																																																																			
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	Pass	Pass	3♥																																																																
<p>♠ 2 ♥ Q9765 ♦ 762 ♣ AQJ6</p> <p>♠ Q6 ♠ K8743 ♥ KJ1043 ♥ 2 ♦ 93 ♦ K10854 ♣ 8543 ♣ 97</p> <p>♠ AJ1095 ♥ A8 ♦ AQJ ♣ K102</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>19</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		9		6	6	19		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	4	4	5	4	4		S	5	4	5	4	5		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<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>Pass</td><td>2NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>4NT</td></tr></table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>South's 19-count is well worth 20: A-J-10-9 is my favourite holding for upgrading – though it is of little direct use here.</p> <p>North transfers into hearts and then bids his second suit as a slam in clubs would be favourite facing 4-card support.</p> <p>With a minimum and no fit but plenty of values in the pointed suits, it is an easy decision for South to sign off.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
HCP																																																																			
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<p>♠ Q9 ♥ 8654 ♦ 9752 ♣ J65</p> <p>♠ A73 ♠ J1064 ♥ Q10973 ♥ AJ ♦ A63 ♦ J10 ♣ 73 ♣ Q9842</p> <p>♠ K852 ♥ K2 ♦ KQ84 ♣ AK10</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		3		10	9	18		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	4	-	-	1		S	1	4	-	-	1		E	-	-	1	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<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>1♠</td></tr></table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>Playing standard Acoll, South's 1♠ opening bid would be passed out. It will be a bit touch and go, but I would expect to succeed because of the favourable position in the minors.</p> <p>Strong no-trumpers would start with 1♣ or 1♦ and now West will overcall 1♥, leaving South to rebid 1NT.</p> <p>The favourable layout in the minors suggests that N/S will make 1NT or 2♦ (with overtricks), so +80 may not score well.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠								
HCP																																																																			
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West	North	East	South																																																																
			1♠																																																																

<p>♠ K42 ♥ AK953 ♦ Q53 ♣ 75</p> <p>♠ A8 ♥ J72 ♦ K10984 ♣ KJ8</p> <p>♠ Q953 ♥ Q108 ♦ J7 ♣ A642</p> <p>♠ J1076 ♥ 64 ♦ A62 ♣ Q1093</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>9</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>7</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>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>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			12			12	9		7			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	1	-	-		S	-	-	1	-	-		E	1	1	-	-	1		W	1	1	-	-	1		<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : N/S vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Where West opens a weak no-trump, that will usually be the final contract.</p> <p>After the normal low heart lead, declarer will win in dummy, and run the ♦ J. North will win and cash hearts but the favourable position of the ♠ K means that the defenders cannot set up their 7th defensive trick before declarer has seven tricks.</p> <p>If South rises with the ♦ A on the first round and switches to a spade, declarer can succeed in a different way: two spades, one heart, one diamond and three clubs.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	All Pass										
HCP																																																																							
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<p>♠ 108 ♥ 8763 ♦ AQ8 ♣ 10543</p> <p>♠ J976 ♥ AK1094 ♦ 953 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ AQ53 ♥ 2 ♦ J10642 ♣ KQ9</p> <p>♠ K42 ♥ QJ5 ♦ K7 ♣ J8762</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>12</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</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>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			6			12	12		10			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	-	-	-		S	1	-	-	-	-		E	-	3	1	3	2		W	-	3	1	3	2		<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>Pass</td><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>I'm not sure what the most likely opening lead is from that South hand, but I doubt it would be a diamond!</p> <p>On any other lead it looks as if declarer will make 11 tricks, losing just one diamond and one trump.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass
HCP																																																																							
6																																																																							
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4♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass																																																																				
<p>♠ K742 ♥ Q1053 ♦ Q ♣ 10952</p> <p>♠ AQ5 ♥ A74 ♦ K986 ♣ J43</p> <p>♠ 1086 ♥ 98 ♦ AJ10542 ♣ AQ</p> <p>♠ J93 ♥ KJ62 ♦ 73 ♣ K876</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>11</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>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>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			7			14	11		8			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	1	-	-		S	-	-	1	-	-		E	-	4	-	1	3		W	-	4	-	1	3		<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>1♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Maybe if you play inverted minor-suit raises you would choose a different response with that West hand, but 3NT to show a balanced 13-15 with no 4-card major seems to fit the bill well.</p> <p>On a normal heart lead from North, it looks as if there are only nine tricks, but who knows what might happen after declarer runs six rounds of diamonds?</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass						
HCP																																																																							
7																																																																							
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<p>♠ KJ9 ♥ A9875 ♦ K543 ♣ 2</p> <p>♠ 63 ♠ Q42 ♥ Q32 ♥ KJ106 ♦ 92 ♦ Q108 ♣ 987654 ♣ QJ3</p> <p>♠ A10875 ♥ 4 ♦ AJ76 ♣ AK10</p>		<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : N/S 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>1♠</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><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>5♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>5NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>A complex hand and a complex bidding sequence.</p> <p>However, with a fit in two suits and both other suits well controlled, it certainly should be bid to slam.</p> <p>It could be right to play in spades or diamonds, but the better spot cards in spades, along with the matchpoint scoring make spades the better choice.</p> <p>South's 5NT bid at the end of this type of auction invites North to pick the trump suit.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass	5NT	Pass	6♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South																											
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<p>♠ 109642 ♥ KQ4 ♦ J64 ♣ Q8</p> <p>♠ Q7 ♠ A5 ♥ 8732 ♥ J95 ♦ 52 ♦ 10973 ♣ 109754 ♣ J632</p> <p>♠ KJ83 ♥ A106 ♦ AKQ8 ♣ AK</p>		<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : E/W 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>2NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>5♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♦</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>5♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>With plenty of high-card points, a balanced hand and a poor 5-card major it seems better to me to give up on a 5-3 fit and only play in the major if partner has 4-card support. So North starts with Stayman rather than a transfer. Then after the 3♠ rebid 4♥ is a cue-bid agreeing spades. North now uses Roman Key Card Blackwood to discover that the ♠A is missing, and then asks for the ♠Q, signing off when North denies it.</p> <p>The slam is pretty much an even proposition, though, so it's not such a bad thing to bid it.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass	5♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South																											
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Pass	5♠	All Pass																												

Welcome to the fourth 'Club Stratified Sim Pairs'.

Our commentator today is Sally Brock, experienced bridge teacher and author.

You may wonder how the stratification works and which strat you are in. There are four categories of strats. The main strat 'A' is open to everyone but if either member of the pair is a Tournament Master or above you will be in the 'A' strat and can only get master points from the overall ranking. If both of you are below the rank of Tournament Master you will be 'B' strat; both below Master means you will be in 'C' strat and both below District Master will make you 'D' strat.

Blue points and local points will be awarded to the top third of the overall ranking list. In addition the top third of each strat will get blue points and local points.

If you are entitled to overall points and points for your strat, you will only get the higher of the awards – you won't get two lots of points.

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