

EBU Spring Sim Pairs



Monday

12th May 2014

Welcome to the EBU Spring Simultaneous Pairs. Thank you for playing. I hope you enjoy the event and also the commentary provided by a leading expert. The commentator for this set of hands is Brian Senior.

We now have a revised prize structure with cash prizes both for leading players and also for clubs who run heats. There will be a draw for major prizes at the AGM in November. You can find all the results at www.ebu.co.uk/sims/

You can earn Blue points in these Sim Pairs and they are awarded to the top third of the field. Master points won't 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.

Jeremy Dhondy

Chairman EBU

<p>♠K82 ♥94 ♦J4 ♣QJ10872</p> <p>♠J75 ♥8753 ♦A76 ♣K93</p> <p>♠A93 ♥AQJ10 ♦K952 ♣A5</p> <p>♠Q1064 ♥K62 ♦Q1083 ♣64</p>	<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>7</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>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>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		7	18	8	7	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	-	-	-		S	1	-	-	-	-		E	-	2	3	1	2		W	-	2	3	1	2		<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <p>Left to themselves, EW will normally bid to game, 4♥ being the popular choice but with a significant minority trying 3NT. As the cards lie, unless the defence slips up either game should fail by a trick. However, while a diamond may look to be the normal lead from South against 3NT, anyone who chooses a spade will give the ninth trick. Stopping in a heart partscore should be well above average.</p> <p>Say East opens 1♥ and is raised to 2♥. 2NT is the most descriptive game try and West, with 3-4-3-3 shape and weak hearts, may judge to raise to 3NT, ending the auction. A 1♦ opening gets a 1♥ response and East has a raise to 3♥, though many will overbid slightly and raise to game. If East raises only to 3♥, West will probably pass.</p> <p>But I would open 3♣ with the North hand, not everyone’s style, admittedly. If East overcalls 3NT he will play there and a club lead should see the contract fail. I prefer a take-out double and West may respond 3♥, which East should pass, or West might pass and hope to get a useful penalty. The latter may look strange, but the alternative is to bid a weak four-card suit, and five tricks on defence may be easier than nine on offense. Today, 3♣ doubled costs –300 for a decent EW score.</p>
HCP																																																		
7	18																																																	
8	7																																																	
Makeable contracts																																																		
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																													
N	1	-	-	-	-																																													
S	1	-	-	-	-																																													
E	-	2	3	1	2																																													
W	-	2	3	1	2																																													
<p>♠QJ10 ♥K42 ♦32 ♣Q9865</p> <p>♠8 ♥9876 ♦K1094 ♣AK102</p> <p>♠K97532 ♥A103 ♦75 ♣J7</p> <p>♠A64 ♥QJ5 ♦AQJ86 ♣43</p>	<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>14</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</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		8	8	10	14	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	1	-	-	1		S	1	1	-	-	1		E	-	-	-	1	-		W	-	-	-	1	-		<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <p>A weak main suit and support for the other major is not the ideal combination for a weak two opening but 2♠ will still be a popular choice. It is, after all, match-points and the vulnerability is favourable, and if an occasional heart game is missed this may be outweighed by the number of times that the opposition are given a difficult choice and get it wrong.</p> <p>A five-card suit in a balanced hand offers only limited playing strength, but most will overcall 3♦. While that will frequently end the auction, a hungry West may double despite only holding 10 HCP. If so, he will be delighted with the +500 that is on offer on perfect defence. Plus 200 will also be a handy score, as those who play in 3♦ undoubled will often escape for down one.</p> <p>Where East does not open, South may open 1NT and, after two passes, East overcall 2♠. That is down one for a poor score with most EWs going plus, or South may open 1♦ and North respond 1NT. In the middle of a live auction, East may be less inclined to get involved and, if he passes, 1NT makes exactly.</p>
HCP																																																		
8	8																																																	
10	14																																																	
Makeable contracts																																																		
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																													
N	1	1	-	-	1																																													
S	1	1	-	-	1																																													
E	-	-	-	1	-																																													
W	-	-	-	1	-																																													

<p>♠ Q732 ♥ AKQ732 ♦ 8 ♣ 62</p> <p>♠ J64 ♠ 95 ♥ J6 ♥ 9854 ♦ AQJ1052 ♦ K74 ♣ K3 ♣ AQ94</p> <p>♠ AK108 ♥ 10 ♦ 963 ♣ J10875</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>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		11		12	9	8		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	3	4	-		S	1	-	3	4	-		E	-	3	-	-	-		W	-	3	-	-	-		<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <p>NS can make 4♠ – if the North hand is forced to ruff a diamond declarer continues with ace of hearts then ruffs a heart and draws trumps ending in the North hand. This line gives up on a possible overtrick should hearts be 3-3 all along but, with much of the field not getting to game, taking the line that gives the best chance of making the contract, just as one would in a teams event, is the right policy.</p> <p>Say that West opens 1♦ and North overcalls 1♥. What should East do? For most, double shows four spades so is not an option, while the heart holding is not suitable for 1NT. If the 1♦ opening promised four diamonds, a simple raise to 2♦ may be best.</p> <p>South has the unbid suits and, though his singleton heart is a negative feature, can double for take-out – it is worth taking the risk that partner repeats hearts as NS are non-vulnerable and it is, after all, match-points. While West can reraise himself to 3♦, that will not be sufficient to shut out North. Indeed, if North is confident that his partner has both the unbid suits he can even jump to 4♠. If he is not quite so confident about finding partner with four or more spades, he can always play safe with a 4♦ cuebid and expect South to bid 4♥ if not holding a spade suit.</p>
HCP																																																			
11																																																			
12	9																																																		
8																																																			
Makeable contracts																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
N	1	-	3	4	-																																														
S	1	-	3	4	-																																														
E	-	3	-	-	-																																														
W	-	3	-	-	-																																														
<p>♠ Q2 ♥ AQ8654 ♦ 9 ♣ AK72</p> <p>♠ J854 ♠ 973 ♥ K32 ♥ J1097 ♦ AK105 ♦ 632 ♣ 53 ♣ 1084</p> <p>♠ AK106 ♥ - ♦ QJ874 ♣ QJ96</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>3</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		15		11	1	13		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	6	4	3	4	4		S	6	4	3	4	4		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <p>NS can make a club slam on this deal, but it is a slightly fortuitous contract, with clubs splitting 3-2 and the heart king coming down in three rounds.</p> <p>Assuming a pass from West, North opens 1♥ and rebids 2♣ over a 1♠ response. South bids 2♦, FSF, and North jumps to 3♥. The heart void is bad news and South, playing match-points, may bid 3NT, ending the auction. Only a club lead gives declarer no help. After a club lead, declarer can play three rounds then the nine of diamonds to his queen, and now West is genuinely endplayed. If declarer gets it right, he cannot be prevented from coming to an overtrick for a useful matchpoint score.</p> <p>Some Souths will prefer a 2♦ response and now North may bid 3♣ to show his extra values. If South now bids 3♦ and hears 3♥ from his partner, he may again choose 3NT. As he could have bid 3NT a round earlier, this combination implies interest in alternative contracts which, facing a different North hand, might see partner able to bid on when it is right to do so.</p>
HCP																																																			
15																																																			
11	1																																																		
13																																																			
Makeable contracts																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
N	6	4	3	4	4																																														
S	6	4	3	4	4																																														
E	-	-	-	-	-																																														
W	-	-	-	-	-																																														
<p>♠ 4 ♥ Q75 ♦ 10942 ♣ KJ1097</p> <p>♠ K103 ♠ J952 ♥ AKJ984 ♥ 103 ♦ 7 ♦ AKJ85 ♣ A32 ♣ Q8</p> <p>♠ AQ876 ♥ 62 ♦ Q63 ♣ 654</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>11</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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		6		15	11	8		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	1	3	4	3	4		W	1	3	4	3	4		<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <p>With 5-4 distribution, most Easts will open the 11-count with 1♦. While many will do so, I am not sure that there is any need for South to overcall at adverse vulnerability and facing a passed partner. If he passes, West will respond 1♥, or maybe stretch to a strong jump shift if those are in his repertoire. Over 1♥, East bids 1♠ and South is pleased to have kept silent. West bids 2♣, FSF, and rebids his hearts over the 2♦ response. Will East now show his heart tolerance or the partial club stopper to complete the picture of his hand? Whichever his choice, West will bid game in that denomination.</p> <p>Double dummy, there are ten tricks in either NT or hearts, though if North leads a non-spade at trick one he may get both the trump queen and a later spade ruff when declarer takes the heart finesse. A club lead will be a disaster for North, as declarer wins the queen and ace and ruffs the third round. Playing hearts from the top would result in 11 tricks now, though the finesse is still the more likely choice.</p> <p>Where South does overcall, West bids 2♥ and one or other of EW is likely to suggest NT at some point with the other happy to agree.</p>
HCP																																																			
6																																																			
15	11																																																		
8																																																			
Makeable contracts																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
N	-	-	-	-	-																																														
S	-	-	-	-	-																																														
E	1	3	4	3	4																																														
W	1	3	4	3	4																																														

<p>♠ - ♥ J1086 ♦ Q10843 ♣ Q962</p> <p>♠ 1082 ♠ J943 ♥ K52 ♥ AQ973 ♦ AK5 ♦ J96 ♣ AKJ5 ♣ 10</p> <p>♠ AKQ765 ♥ 4 ♦ 72 ♣ 8743</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>9</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		5	8	18	9	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	1	1	3	1	4		W	1	4	4	2	4		<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <p>South will open with a weak two bid or maybe even with 3♠, giving weight to his 6-4 distribution and trading on the favourable vulnerability.</p> <p>Whatever the level of the pre-empt, West has to double for take-out, though his 3-3-3-4 shape is hardly ideal. In response to a double of a 3♠ opening, East will surely bid 4♥, which is easily defeated by the normal defence of four rounds of spades.</p> <p>In response o a double of a 2♠ opening, East can bid 3♥ which, if playing Lebensohl, promises some values. With no assurance of an eight-card fit, West cuebids 3♠ and East bids 3NT, where he plays. It is now or never for South to cash the top spades, not that it matters all that much, as there look to be ten tricks either way – declarer really should play for hearts 4-1.</p> <p>While it is hard to find a route that makes West declarer in either 3NT or 4♥, if North is on lead he is endplayed at trick one, with all leads solving a problem for declarer.</p>
HCP																																																	
5	8																																																
18	9																																																
Makeable contracts																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																												
N	-	-	-	-	-																																												
S	-	-	-	-	-																																												
E	1	1	3	1	4																																												
W	1	4	4	2	4																																												
<p>♠ AKJ5 ♥ 1064 ♦ AJ1087 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ Q10972 ♠ 843 ♥ K853 ♥ J ♦ K2 ♦ Q954 ♣ Q7 ♣ K10986</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ AQ972 ♦ 63 ♣ AJ432</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>10</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>4</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		13	6	10	11	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	4	5	2	3		S	2	4	5	3	3		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <p>Soiuth opens 1♥ and West overcalls 1♠. Now North bids 2♦ and East can raise to 2♠, more to cut out a 2♥ rebid from South than with any great pretensions to winning the auction. The spade raise does its job and 2♠ runs around to North, who may simply jump to 4♥ – he can be pretty sure that South has a fifth heart now even if the partnership is playing four-card majors, as EW presumably have an eight-card spade fit.</p> <p>Without East’s 2♠ bid, South rebids 2♥ and North may try a 4♣ splinter as slam is by no means impossible from his perspective. However, South will not be interested.</p> <p>The play in 4♥ is very pleasant for South. On the likely spade lead, I would take the slight risk of finessing the jack – West has made a vulnerable overcall, after all. One card in each minor goes away on the ace and king of spades and now ace of clubs and a club ruff, ace of diamonds and a diamond ruff, and a third round of clubs is led. What is West to do? If he discards a spade, dummy takes a second cheap ruff, and declarer leads dummy’s last spade, ruffed with the jack and over-ruffed with the queen. Now the last club is led and West comes to just one trump trick.</p> <p>Twelve tricks will score very nicely for NS.</p>
HCP																																																	
13	6																																																
10	11																																																
Makeable contracts																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																												
N	2	4	5	2	3																																												
S	2	4	5	3	3																																												
E	-	-	-	-	-																																												
W	-	-	-	-	-																																												
<p>♠ J9832 ♥ A92 ♦ AK82 ♣ 8</p> <p>♠ K5 ♠ Q4 ♥ K1085 ♥ 6 ♦ J9 ♦ Q10765 ♣ AKJ109 ♣ 76432</p> <p>♠ A1076 ♥ QJ743 ♦ 43 ♣ Q5</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>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		12	4	15	9	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	3	4	1		S	-	-	3	4	1		E	3	1	-	-	-		W	3	1	-	-	-		<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <p>NS make ten tricks in a spade contract. If they get to 4♠, EW have a paying sacrifice in 5♣, which costs only -300.</p> <p>If playing a strong no trump, that is what West should open, as he is too strong to open 1♣ and rebid 2♣, but not strong enough to reverse with 2♥ over a 1♠ response. You might say that a 1NT opening is the least bad option rather than the best one. North will come in with a bid to show spades and another and South may respond 3♠. Now it is up to North to decide whether he has enough to spare to go on to game.</p> <p>Where West opens 1♣, North overcalls 1♠ – modern style suggests catering to a possible 5-3 spade fit rather than doubling. Where 1♣ promised four or more clubs, East should make a pre-emptive raise. With zero defence to the majors, I would go for the big pre-empt of 4♣, though I expect the majority to think that 3♣ is sufficient. On this deal, South will support spades at whatever level is necessary, and game may well be reached. However, West has sufficient distribution that, holding strong clubs, he can save in 5♣, doubled by North.</p>
HCP																																																	
12	4																																																
15	9																																																
Makeable contracts																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																												
N	-	-	3	4	1																																												
S	-	-	3	4	1																																												
E	3	1	-	-	-																																												
W	3	1	-	-	-																																												

<p>♠ QJ76 ♥ 54 ♦ K1094 ♣ J105</p> <p>♠ 10952 ♠ A84 ♥ 876 ♥ 32 ♦ J875 ♦ AQ32 ♣ 32 ♣ AK96</p> <p>♠ K3 ♥ AKQJ109 ♦ 6 ♣ Q874</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>17</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>15</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>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>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			7			1	17		15			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	-	1	-	2		S	2	-	1	-	2		E	-	1	-	1	-		W	-	1	-	1	-		<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <p>NS can make eight tricks in no trump. Indeed, if East does not very quickly play on diamonds to establish a second trick there, nine tricks can be made. Meanwhile, there are only seven tricks in a heart contract, West getting two club ruffs so long as the suit is led before declarer gets in to draw trumps.</p> <p>If East opens 1NT, South should double, assuming that to be penalty. If that ends the auction, the contract will be two or three down for a huge board for NS. If West can run to show two places to play, the diamond fit will be found. NS do best to double for down one and +200, but South is likely to just give up on a penalty and compete with 2♥.</p> <p>Where East opens 1♣ or 1♦, South makes a simple overcall and that runs around to East, who reopens with a double. South can rebid 2♥ or redouble to show a strong hand then rebid hearts at his next turn. Either way, he is likely to end up in 2♥, as West will not want to get involved and the East hand is far too balanced to justify a third call.</p>
HCP																																																							
7																																																							
1	17																																																						
15																																																							
Makeable contracts																																																							
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																		
N	2	-	1	-	2																																																		
S	2	-	1	-	2																																																		
E	-	1	-	1	-																																																		
W	-	1	-	1	-																																																		
<p>♠ 64 ♥ J5 ♦ K8754 ♣ AJ107</p> <p>♠ 73 ♠ Q852 ♥ AQ76 ♥ 10982 ♦ Q9 ♦ J ♣ KQ962 ♣ 8543</p> <p>♠ AKJ109 ♥ K43 ♦ A10632 ♣ -</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>15</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>5</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>2</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			13	3		15			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	5	2	4	5		S	1	6	2	4	5		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <p>NS can make a diamond slam, but only if played by South, as a heart lead holds North to 11 tricks.</p> <p>When South opens 1♠, what should West do? A 2♣ overcall risks losing the hearts, while double risks a diamond response, which West will have to pass and pray, as to bid on would suggest a much better hand than this one. My preference is the double, but I don't feel very strongly about it and even pass is a realistic option, given that West is facing a passed hand and the opposition own the boss suit.</p> <p>Is there a route to 6♦ played by South? Well, if North can respond 1NT, South rebids 2♦. In Acol, North cannot now hold a natural 2NT rebid, so he can bid 2NT to show a hand that is too good to raise to 3♦. South jumps to 4♣, game-forcing splinter, North bids 4♦ to leave room for South to show a heart control, and South duly does so.</p> <p>Now North jumps to 6♦. This is not an option for those playing, for example, 2-over-1 game-forcing, as for them 2NT could be natural.</p> <p>Declarer does not need to guess to take the spade finesse though, if he does so, he can make all 13 tricks if a heart has not been cashed. Simply ruffing out the spades provides the twelfth trick.</p>
HCP																																																							
9																																																							
13	3																																																						
15																																																							
Makeable contracts																																																							
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																		
N	1	5	2	4	5																																																		
S	1	6	2	4	5																																																		
E	-	-	-	-	-																																																		
W	-	-	-	-	-																																																		
<p>♠ K975 ♥ Q73 ♦ K42 ♣ 1072</p> <p>♠ Q10843 ♠ J6 ♥ A ♥ KJ954 ♦ A83 ♦ J7 ♣ AJ93 ♣ K864</p> <p>♠ A2 ♥ 10862 ♦ Q10965 ♣ Q5</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>9</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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			8			15	9		8			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	1	-	-	-		S	-	1	-	-	-		E	4	-	2	3	1		W	4	-	2	3	1		<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <p>West opens 1♠ and for many pairs 1NT will be the automatic response with the East hand. When West rebids 2♣, East will raise to 3♣, usually ending the auction. Declarer can make ten tricks for +130.</p> <p>Where East can respond 2♥ – the hand is just worth it playing weak no trump Acol – West has to find a rebid. The majority will choose between 2NT, a distortion, and 3♣, a slight overbid, both of which are forcing to game. The other option is to rebid 2♠, a slight underbid. With the defence having two opportunities to find a diamond lead, most of those who get to 3NT should be defeated, with the defence easier to find where West's rebid was 3♣ than where it was the less-revealing 2NT.</p> <p>Those who play in 2♠ should score well, as +140 is the normal outcome. True, they will be outscored by those who bid and make game, but those will surely be a fairly small minority.</p>
HCP																																																							
8																																																							
15	9																																																						
8																																																							
Makeable contracts																																																							
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																		
N	-	1	-	-	-																																																		
S	-	1	-	-	-																																																		
E	4	-	2	3	1																																																		
W	4	-	2	3	1																																																		

<div><div><div>♠43</div><div>♥AQ9832</div><div>♦Q962</div><div>♣6</div></div><div><div>♠KJ1086</div><div>♥J75</div><div>♦K7</div><div>♣KQ3</div></div><div><div>♠-</div><div>♥K104</div><div>♦AJ105</div><div>♣AJ7542</div></div><div><div>♠AQ9752</div><div>♥6</div><div>♦843</div><div>♣1098</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		8		13	13	6		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	5	4	2	1	5		W	5	4	2	1	5		<div>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</div> <div>Playing a strong no trump, West will open 1♠ and North may overcall 2♥, though this is a little aggressive, particularly at the prevailing vulnerability. If North does overcall, East bids 3♣, West 3♥ asking, and East 3NT. Eleven tricks looks to be the normal outcome.</div> <div>If North does not overcall, East bids 2♣, West 2NT, and East perhaps a simple 3NT, knowing that partner will have wasted spade values in a club contract.</div> <div>A weak no trump opening sees North overcall 2♥ and East would like to be playing Lebensohl, such that a 3♣ bid would be forcing. Over 3♣, West would bid 3♥, asking and East admit to a heart stopper by bidding 3NT. The fact that partner has not bid spades should not worry East – neither have the opposition, and this strongly implies that West will have a decent spade holding.</div> <div>If West opens 1NT and North does not overcall, East may transfer to clubs and West say that he likes the suit. A popular method is that a new suit now shows shortage, so East bids 3♠ and can then pass West’s 3NT.</div> <div>6♣ suffers a heart ruff and, even on a non-heart lead, communications are such that the contract should fail.</div>
HCP																																																			
8																																																			
13	13																																																		
6																																																			
Makeable contracts																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
N	-	-	-	-	-																																														
S	-	-	-	-	-																																														
E	5	4	2	1	5																																														
W	5	4	2	1	5																																														
<div><div><div>♠102</div><div>♥Q962</div><div>♦Q832</div><div>♣Q103</div></div><div><div>♠K7</div><div>♥1054</div><div>♦A654</div><div>♣9874</div></div><div><div>♠QJ93</div><div>♥AJ</div><div>♦J109</div><div>♣AK62</div></div><div><div>♠A8654</div><div>♥K873</div><div>♦K7</div><div>♣J5</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</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>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		6		7	16	11		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	1	-	-		S	-	-	1	-	-		E	3	2	-	1	2		W	3	2	-	1	1		<div>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</div> <div>If East opens 1♠, that will shut NS out of the auction and West’s 1NT response should end the auction, probably making exactly after a heart lead.</div> <div>A 1♣ opening sees South overcall 1♠ and he may be left to play there if 1♣ is potentially short, going one down for –100. Where 1♣ promised clubs – what a novel idea these days(!) – West can compete with 2♣. If that ends the auction there is one loser in each suit and a handy +110.</div> <div>A strong no trump from East sees South come in with a bid to show both majors, or perhaps one major plus an unspecified second suit. That would get NS to the heart fit, and it is unclear whether West would be able to compete in the minors or would have to defend 2♥. There are only five obvious losers in a heart contract, but there will surely be too much work to do so that a sixth loser appears in the wash.</div> <div>EW will usually go plus, and the difference between +110 and +90 will be quite significant. If anyone can manage an overtrick in 1NT they should score very well.</div>
HCP																																																			
6																																																			
7	16																																																		
11																																																			
Makeable contracts																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
N	-	-	1	-	-																																														
S	-	-	1	-	-																																														
E	3	2	-	1	2																																														
W	3	2	-	1	1																																														
<div><div><div>♠J8</div><div>♥1097432</div><div>♦J543</div><div>♣9</div></div><div><div>♠A63</div><div>♥K5</div><div>♦A862</div><div>♣A1085</div></div><div><div>♠KQ97</div><div>♥J86</div><div>♦KQ109</div><div>♣J2</div></div><div><div>♠10542</div><div>♥AQ</div><div>♦7</div><div>♣KQ7643</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</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>5</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		2		15	12	11		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	3	5	2	4	5		W	3	5	2	4	5		<div>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</div> <div>If East opens 1NT, South may overcall to show spades and another or, if that is not part of his agreed methods, may have to overcall 3♣ – few will play a 2♣ overcall as natural. In that scenario, West will curse the fact that his agreement is to play take-out doubles, and bid a grumpy 3NT. Well, I would be grumpy, anyway. With the clubs and hearts as they are, there are 11 tricks to be had in 3NT. Mind you, anyone who can make a penalty double of 3♣ could pick up +1100.</div> <div>A 1♦ opening from East sees a simple 2♣ overcall and most Wests will not play for a penalty because they will think they have too much length in partner’s suit. They may cuebid 3♣ to show a constructive diamond raise then bid 3NT over East’s 3♦ sign-off. If EW play a short club, East may have to open 1♣. My belief is that against a potentially two-card 1♣ opening, it is best to play a 2♣ overcall as natural. If you don’t want to give up your Michaels Cuebid to show both majors, you can play a 2♦ overcall as 5-5 in the majors. West will not be able to afford to pass the 2♣ overcall in hope of being able to pass a reopening double, as East will too often hold a weak no trump with three clubs and just pass out 2♣. Hence, West just jumps to 3NT over 2♣.</div>
HCP																																																			
2																																																			
15	12																																																		
11																																																			
Makeable contracts																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
N	-	-	-	-	-																																														
S	-	-	-	-	-																																														
E	3	5	2	4	5																																														
W	3	5	2	4	5																																														

<p>♠ Q5 ♥ Q843 ♦ J10974 ♣ Q8</p> <p>♠ 873 ♠ AJ94 ♥ 105 ♥ K97 ♦ AQ63 ♦ K5 ♣ J1093 ♣ K765</p> <p>♠ K1062 ♥ AJ62 ♦ 82 ♣ A42</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>14</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>12</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			7			7	14			12		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	1	2	-	-		S	-	1	2	-	-		E	2	-	-	1	2		W	2	-	-	1	2		<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <p>If South opens 1NT, East may double in fourth seat and North will have a decision whether to run or to hope that his 7-count will be sufficient to allow seven tricks to be made. The decision he makes will say a lot about North's general approach to life, the universe, and everything.</p> <p>Today, running is a big winner, as the routine club lead sees 1NT doubled two down for a dreadful -500. If North runs, it would be good if he had methods to allow him to show two places to play. Here, a simple 2♦ leads to one down, presumably doubled, which is better than playing 1NT doubled but not great. However, if 2♦ shows diamonds and a major, the heart fit can be found and 2♥ comes to eight tricks for an excellent score to NS.</p> <p>Where South opens 1♣ and North responds 1♦ or 1♥, East has the wrong shape to come in. If he passes a 1♦ response, South rebids 1NT and that comes back around. It is not clear that East is any better placed now and he may pass again, collecting +200 for down two. If North's response was 1♥, South will raise to 2♥. It is maybe a little easier to double this time, but East still has the problem that he has the wrong shortage so may go quietly.</p>
HCP																																																							
7																																																							
7	14																																																						
	12																																																						
Makeable contracts																																																							
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																		
N	-	1	2	-	-																																																		
S	-	1	2	-	-																																																		
E	2	-	-	1	2																																																		
W	2	-	-	1	2																																																		
<p>♠ A10954 ♥ - ♦ A93 ♣ Q9852</p> <p>♠ 872 ♠ J ♥ J1052 ♥ AQ9763 ♦ KQ42 ♦ J65 ♣ 63 ♣ AKJ</p> <p>♠ KQ63 ♥ K84 ♦ 1087 ♣ 1074</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>16</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><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>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			10			6	16			8		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	-	-	2	1		S	2	-	-	2	1		E	-	2	4	-	-		W	-	2	4	-	-		<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <p>I suppose some will open the North hand, though I would not do so myself – at least, not unless playing the weak two-suited Lucas style, when 2♠ would be fine. Such an opening adds momentum to an auction which may or may not get to game after a pass from North but which will surely end up in game after a 2♠ opening.</p> <p>Over 2♠, East has a sound 3♥ overcall and South will bid 4♠, an advance sacrifice, as he expects 4♥ to be cold for his opponents. When that gets back to East, he will double to show his extra values. Should West look at his heart fit and the vulnerability and take out to 5♥, or should he settle for whatever penalty is available, not expecting there to be 11 tricks available facing a simple overcall? Not an easy decision, but 5♥ rates to be a long way from being cold, so taking the penalty may be the long-term winner.</p> <p>If North passes, East opens 1♥ and West raises to 2♥. North will probably come in now, perhaps with a double, and East will bid 3♦ as a game try. Should West accept the invitation? He has a minimum 2♥ bid but everything he has got is in the right place, so I would bid 4♥, whether or not South bids 3♠.</p> <p>Four Spades doubled costs -300, while ten tricks is the limit in a heart contract.</p>
HCP																																																							
10																																																							
6	16																																																						
	8																																																						
Makeable contracts																																																							
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																		
N	2	-	-	2	1																																																		
S	2	-	-	2	1																																																		
E	-	2	4	-	-																																																		
W	-	2	4	-	-																																																		
<p>♠ - ♥ Q876 ♦ KQ982 ♣ AK42</p> <p>♠ A942 ♠ KQJ10753 ♥ AJ93 ♥ 42 ♦ 1063 ♥ A5 ♣ 93 ♣ J8</p> <p>♠ 86 ♥ K105 ♦ J74 ♣ Q10765</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>11</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>6</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			14			9	11			6		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	5	4	1	-	-		S	5	4	2	-	-		E	-	-	-	3	2		W	-	-	-	3	2		<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <p>When North opens 1♦, East has an interesting choice, Take away the diamond ace and this would be a book example of a 3♠ pre-empt. East could overcall 4♠, arguing that he simply has one extra trick on top of a 3♠ bid, or could decide that his 7-2-2-2 shape is unsuitable for that action when he has the boss suit and might win the auction at a lower level. If he thinks that way, he will bid a simple 1♠, planning to come again at whatever level proves to be required. Pre-emption is a personal thing, but the one thing I would not do is overcall 3♠ – either 1♠ or 4♠ is OK with me. A 1♠ overcall will see West show a constructive raise to 2♠, or perhaps make a Mixed Raise (semi-balanced 6-9 HCP) if that is in his kitbag. Whatever the level of the EW spade contract, North will double for take-out. If it is 4♠ which North doubles, South may respond 4NT, two places to play, to offer a choice between the minors, though on this occasion this will get to the same 5♣ contract as would a simple bid of 5♣.</p> <p>Five Clubs is cold, while there are only ten tricks available in a diamond contract. Meanwhile, EW have nine tricks in a spade contract. Any EW to go plus will score very well indeed, while -50 should also be good.</p>
HCP																																																							
14																																																							
9	11																																																						
	6																																																						
Makeable contracts																																																							
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																		
N	5	4	1	-	-																																																		
S	5	4	2	-	-																																																		
E	-	-	-	3	2																																																		
W	-	-	-	3	2																																																		

<p>♠98 ♥QJ4 ♦Q103 ♣Q10985</p> <p>♠AQJ1072 ♠654 ♥10 ♥A7653 ♦AJ75 ♦84 ♣42 ♣AJ3</p> <p>♠K3 ♥K982 ♦K962 ♣K76</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>12</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>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		7	9	12	12	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	-	1	1	4	3		W	-	1	1	4	3		<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <p>Most Souths will open, though four empty kings could quite reasonably be passed at this vulnerability. I doubt that it will matter all that much.</p> <p>Where South opens 1NT, West will overcall 2♠ and that may end the auction. Yes, East is worth a raise to 3♠, but he will not want to punish partner for an enterprising overcall at Pairs.</p> <p>Where South passes, West will open 1♠ and East either raise to 2♠ – this looks normal facing a five-card major opening – or scrape up 2♥ if playing weak no trump Acol. In the latter case, West will rebid a quiet 2♠ as, though he has something to spare for the opening bid, the response in his shortage has not improved things. East will, of course, pass the 2♠ rebid.</p> <p>The king of spades is in the slot so there are only two obvious losers, however, declarer cannot ruff his fourth diamond in dummy as North can ruff in with the eight or nine. That still means ten tricks, but the EW hands fit well together – imagine if East’s hearts were headed by king-jack instead of the ace, for example – and one should not worry about missing well-fitting low-point count games at match-points.</p>
HCP																																																	
7	9																																																
12	12																																																
Makeable contracts																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																												
N	-	-	-	-	-																																												
S	-	-	-	-	-																																												
E	-	1	1	4	3																																												
W	-	1	1	4	3																																												
<p>♠K ♥A62 ♦KQ103 ♣AJ1093</p> <p>♠96542 ♠Q7 ♥Q73 ♥KJ10984 ♦J862 ♦754 ♣2 ♣Q5</p> <p>♠AJ1083 ♥5 ♦A9 ♣K8764</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>3</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>7</td><td>7</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		17	8	3	12	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	7	7	1	6	7		S	7	7	1	6	7		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <p>Seven No Trump is a very lucky make for NS, succeeding as it does only because the queen of spades falls doubleton. Without that huge piece of good fortune, even 6NT would require something good to happen.</p> <p>The place to play is 7♣, which will always make as long as there is no trump loser. A 3-0 break is only 22% and declarer will guess right half of that time, even without any outside clues, making 7♣ an 89% shot.</p> <p>South opens 1♠ and North responds 2♣. If South can jump to 3♥ as a splinter bid, showing club support and heart shortage, North can just check on key cards. Though South does not hold the trump queen, he can say that he does have it, as North will surely have five trumps to immediately launch into RKCB and, with ten trumps between the two hands, the queen will not be required. A 5♠ response to 4NT means that North can bid the grand slam, perhaps going via 5NT just in case there is way to get to 7NT when that is a good spot.</p>
HCP																																																	
17	8																																																
3	12																																																
Makeable contracts																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																												
N	7	7	1	6	7																																												
S	7	7	1	6	7																																												
E	-	-	-	-	-																																												
W	-	-	-	-	-																																												
<p>♠AKQ87 ♥K986 ♦AK2 ♣6</p> <p>♠103 ♠542 ♥Q1043 ♥J7 ♦10863 ♦J7 ♣A42 ♣KJ10973</p> <p>♠J96 ♥A52 ♦Q954 ♣Q85</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>19</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>6</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>4</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</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		19	6	6	9	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	4	4	5	1		S	-	4	4	5	4		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <p>This looks to be a dull board, with everyone playing in 4♠ on the NS cards and, on normal play, making an overtrick.</p> <p>Playing four-card majors, North opens 1♠ and South responds 1NT. This is not one of the best parts of standard bidding, as North has to jump to 3♥ to make a forcing rebid, and partner doesn’t know whether that is based on a good 5-5 shape or, as here, the second suit is only king to four. South will jump to 4♠ over 3♥ and that will end the auction.</p> <p>Playing five-card majors, South will raise to 2♠ and North will either simply jump to game or, if in optimistic mood, may splinter with 4♣, as a perfect fit would mean that slam was possible. South has an OK hand, with a wasted queen but still 7 HCP that are working. He can afford to cuebid 4♥ over 4♣ and now North, who had a borderline slam try at best, signs off in 4♠, trusting partner to go on with a really good hand for his simple raise. That is not the case this time, so South passes and 4♠ is, again, the final contract.</p> <p>To ensure the eleventh trick, declarer plays three rounds of hearts as soon as he gains the lead to ensure that he can ruff the fourth round when the suit is not dividing evenly.</p>
HCP																																																	
19	6																																																
6	9																																																
Makeable contracts																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																												
N	-	4	4	5	1																																												
S	-	4	4	5	4																																												
E	-	-	-	-	-																																												
W	-	-	-	-	-																																												

<p>♠4 ♥A1085 ♦9762 ♣Q932</p> <p>♠Q62 ♠AJ1085 ♥9 ♥6432 ♦K843 ♥A105 ♣KJ765 ♣A</p> <p>♠K973 ♥KQJ7 ♦QJ ♣1084</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>13</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</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>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			6			9	13		12			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	1	-	-		S	-	-	1	-	-		E	2	3	-	4	2		W	2	3	-	3	2		<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <p>Acol players with the EW cards will begin: 1♠ – 2♣ – 2♥. Now comes the key decision. Queen to three spades is very good, compared to some of the small doubletons with which West would now give preference to 2♠. Against that, East is known to be short in the minor suits, so one of the diamond and club kings rates to be of little value as often as not. Should West therefore give simple preference to 2♠, or make the strongly invitational jump to 3♠? Well, it is a close decision, but I would go for the cautious choice of 2♠ – which works out badly on this deal as 4♠ played by East is unbeatable. Admittedly, that is because of the very fortunate diamond situation but, against that, on a good day spades would play for no loser.</p> <p>Of course, if West does bid 3♠, East will go on to game, while he has no reason at all to bid again facing simple preference to 2♠.</p>
HCP																																																							
6																																																							
9	13																																																						
12																																																							
Makeable contracts																																																							
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																		
N	-	-	1	-	-																																																		
S	-	-	1	-	-																																																		
E	2	3	-	4	2																																																		
W	2	3	-	3	2																																																		
<p>♠Q109 ♥J9842 ♦A4 ♣A105</p> <p>♠7 ♠K532 ♥63 ♥Q7 ♦QJ98653 ♦K7 ♣J72 ♣KQ963</p> <p>♠AJ864 ♥AK105 ♦102 ♣84</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>13</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>6</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			4	13		12			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	6	6	6		S	1	-	6	6	6		E	-	1	-	-	-		W	-	1	-	-	-		<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <p>With both majors behaving as declarer would wish, NS have a small slam in either major. However, slam is very poor and the deal will be all about getting to the cold game.</p> <p>When East opens 1♣, South will overcall 1♠. West doesn't have enough to get involved, particularly when vulnerable, so North gets to make an unassuming cuebid of 2♣. With something in hand for the initial overcall, South can rebid 2♥, natural and showing at least some willingness to consider greater things – turn one of the top heart honours into a small card and South would just rebid 2♠ to deny extra values. If partner has five spades and four hearts plus an above-minimum overcall, North has a pretty decent hand, with no wasted values facing partner's short suits, and several useful honours and intermediate cards in partner's long suits, so North can jump to 4♠ over 2♥.</p> <p>Plus 480 should be a very common result for NS, with anyone missing game scoring very poorly.</p>
HCP																																																							
11																																																							
4	13																																																						
12																																																							
Makeable contracts																																																							
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																		
N	1	-	6	6	6																																																		
S	1	-	6	6	6																																																		
E	-	1	-	-	-																																																		
W	-	1	-	-	-																																																		
<p>♠QJ764 ♥96 ♦Q75 ♣A74</p> <p>♠A532 ♠9 ♥AK2 ♥J543 ♦AJ104 ♦K932 ♣95 ♣K632</p> <p>♠K108 ♥Q1087 ♦86 ♣QJ108</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>7</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>-</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>4</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			9			16	7		8			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	2	4	3	1	2		W	2	4	3	1	2		<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <p>If West opens with a strong no trump he will play there on a low spade lead. He will duck until the third round, at which point he is likely to know that spades are 5-3. The fact that South has more unknown cards than North suggests that South is a little more likely to hold the queen of diamonds. However, to finesse into the North hand risks going two or three down when North does hold the ♦Q and South has the club ace. Most declarers will therefore finesse the other way in diamonds as that is less committal. As the cards lie, that works very well, and eight tricks are possible if declarer then leads a club towards the king.</p> <p>A 1♦ opening may see North overcall 1♠ and now East makes a negative double. Though South can raise to 2♠, West may double and East bid 3♦, ending the auction. Ten tricks are possible in a diamond contract and +130 should score well for EW.</p> <p>While this will be a rare outcome, if NS get to play in a spade contract, a club ruff will hold them to six tricks, and –200 will be a disaster.</p>
HCP																																																							
9																																																							
16	7																																																						
8																																																							
Makeable contracts																																																							
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																		
N	-	-	-	-	-																																																		
S	-	-	-	-	-																																																		
E	2	4	3	1	2																																																		
W	2	4	3	1	2																																																		

<p>♠ Q108 ♥ A6 ♦ 8752 ♣ Q742</p> <p>♠ K642 ♠ A973 ♥ Q1075 ♥ 32 ♦ AJ10 ♦ Q963 ♣ 103 ♣ K98</p> <p>♠ J5 ♥ KJ984 ♦ K4 ♣ AJ65</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		8		10	9	13		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	-	-	-	-		S	2	-	1	-	-		E	-	2	-	2	1		W	-	2	-	2	1		<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <p>South opens 1♥ in fourth seat and North responds 1NT. At some tables, that will be that, though I have always believed that a 5-4 hand should show the second suit if that can be conveniently done. One No Trump should be at least down one after a spade lead and continuation, the defence finding the diamond through later in the play. To get out for one down declarer will have to play on clubs and, when the king doesn't fall, give up on making his contract.</p> <p>Where South rebids 2♣, North may pass, though false preference to 2♥ is not ridiculous at match-points, if unsuccessful on this lay-out. Two Clubs makes exactly but at Love All East can, and should, balance with a double, and now West bids 2♠. This is unbeatable as the cards lie and there is no longer any way for NS to go plus on the deal.</p>
HCP																																																			
8																																																			
10	9																																																		
13																																																			
Makeable contracts																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
N	2	-	-	-	-																																														
S	2	-	1	-	-																																														
E	-	2	-	2	1																																														
W	-	2	-	2	1																																														
<p>♠ A109 ♥ A108 ♦ K7 ♣ Q8632</p> <p>♠ QJ865 ♠ 74 ♥ 972 ♥ 54 ♦ Q32 ♦ J109865 ♣ J9 ♣ K105</p> <p>♠ K32 ♥ KQJ63 ♦ A4 ♣ A74</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>4</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>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		13		6	4	17		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	5	1	5	3	4		S	5	1	5	3	4		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <p>This looks to be a deal on which I would score badly if sitting NS. If North opens 1♣ and rebids 1NT, I would just raise to 3NT with the South hand, not bothering to check back for a 5-3 heart fit. Similarly, if North opens 1NT, there is a strong case for raising to 3NT, the only reason to consider looking for a heart fit being to explore a possible slam.</p> <p>The point is that the more high cards there are between the two hands, the less likely it is that the 5-3 fit will provide an extra trick. And, of course, 3NT will outscore 4♥ whenever the same number of tricks is made in the two contracts.</p> <p>As you can see, East's diamond lead against 3NT puts the defence a tempo ahead and holds declarer to ten tricks, while eleven are available in 4♥.</p> <p>To be fair, this deal illustrates the sometimes random nature of the game in that just switching the East and West hands around makes 3NT the winner as, with clubs coming in for only one loser, the same twelve tricks are made in the two contracts.</p>
HCP																																																			
13																																																			
6	4																																																		
17																																																			
Makeable contracts																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
N	5	1	5	3	4																																														
S	5	1	5	3	4																																														
E	-	-	-	-	-																																														
W	-	-	-	-	-																																														
<p>♠ A863 ♥ KJ6 ♦ 642 ♣ AK9</p> <p>♠ Q7 ♠ KJ95 ♥ A542 ♥ Q98 ♦ AK7 ♦ 1098 ♣ 8764 ♣ QJ10</p> <p>♠ 1042 ♥ 1073 ♦ QJ53 ♣ 532</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</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>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		15		13	9	3		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	3	2	3	3	3		W	3	2	3	3	3		<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <p>If West opens a weak no trump and North doubles, NS will be in big trouble. EW can come to nine tricks in 1NT doubled, while the least-bad spot NS can run to is 2♦, which can be doubled for down three and -800.</p> <p>A 1♣ or 1♥ opening is less dangerous for NS, at least in theory. With such an empty 15 HCP, I would not overcall 1NT with the North hand when vulnerable. It may look a bit wet, but I prefer to double then pass the response. In theory, that still exposes NS to losing a penalty, but in practice it will be hard for EW to take it. Meanwhile, those who do overcall 1NT should be doubled, and taking nine tricks on defence may actually prove to be easier than when West is declarer. That would, once again, be -800 with nowhere to run.</p> <p>Where West opens one of a suit and North doubles, East may redouble. However, neither East nor West has a trump holding that makes it very attractive to try to penalise whatever contract NS run to (apart from 1♠, perhaps).</p> <p>There will be 800s and 580s for EW, but also plenty of pairs playing a peaceful partscore and scoring relatively poorly.</p>
HCP																																																			
15																																																			
13	9																																																		
3																																																			
Makeable contracts																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
N	-	-	-	-	-																																														
S	-	-	-	-	-																																														
E	3	2	3	3	3																																														
W	3	2	3	3	3																																														

<p>♠AK109 ♥KJ103 ♦109 ♣1094</p> <p>♠4 ♥62 ♦KQJ654 ♣AKJ7</p> <p>♠Q8763 ♥A874 ♦- ♣Q862</p> <p>♠J52 ♥Q95 ♦A8732 ♣53</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</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>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		11		14	8	7		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	1	1	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	3	2	-	-	1		W	3	2	-	-	1		<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <p>When West opens 1♦, North may just scrape up a take-out double – this would not be a consideration at a different vulnerability, particularly when facing a passed partner. However, whether or not North doubles is unlikely to affect the auction to any great extent. East will bid 1♠ either way and, while South might just bid 1NT facing a double, West will rebid either 2♣ or 2♦ anyway.</p> <p>That is the key decision on this deal, whether a 6-4 hand should rebid the strong six-card suit, or offer partner a choice by showing the second suit. The usual approach is to rebid the six-card suit with a complete minimum opener but to show the second suit with a little to spare. Hence, this West hand rebids 2♣.</p> <p>Where East would pass a 2♦ rebid, he may find a raise to 3♣. At teams, West might take one more bid in search of a game contract but, as I have no doubt said before, there is no premium on bidding thin games at match-points, and 3♣ will probably end the auction – and just as well, because nine tricks is the limit in a club contract.</p> <p>Plus 110 should score well. There will be those who get too high in clubs, while 2♦ makes only eight tricks as there are three trump losers.</p>
HCP																																																			
11																																																			
14	8																																																		
7																																																			
Makeable contracts																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
N	-	-	1	1	-																																														
S	-	-	-	-	-																																														
E	3	2	-	-	1																																														
W	3	2	-	-	1																																														
<p>♠63 ♥854 ♦982 ♣AK543</p> <p>♠Q10987 ♥AKQ3 ♦K73 ♣10</p> <p>♠KJ4 ♥1097 ♦J64 ♣QJ86</p> <p>♠A52 ♥J62 ♦AQ105 ♣972</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		7		14	8	11		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	-	1	3	3	1		W	-	1	3	3	1		<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <p>Those playing four-card majors will have no real decision to make with the EW cards. The normal auction is: 1♠ – 1NT – 2♥ – 2♠ – Pass. North should lead a top club and see that a diamond switch is required, thereby holding the contract to nine tricks.</p> <p>If EW are playing five-card majors, East will raise the 1♠ opening to 2♠. It doesn't pay to make thin tries for game at match-points in the way that one does when vulnerable at teams, but it is certainly possible for game to be on if the EW hands fit well. Accordingly, some Wests will bid on. The intelligent game try is 3♦, the suit in which partner's holding will be crucial – a 3♥ game try, while describing the distribution, would be fatuous, as West knows his partner cannot have what he will consider to be a good heart holding. Three Diamonds does not suit East at all, and he will sign off in 3♠. However, swap around East's minor-suit holdings and the hands fit well together. East would now bid the good game.</p>
HCP																																																			
7																																																			
14	8																																																		
11																																																			
Makeable contracts																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
N	-	-	-	-	-																																														
S	-	-	-	-	-																																														
E	-	1	3	3	1																																														
W	-	1	3	3	1																																														
<p>♠J94 ♥AK ♦K9632 ♣1062</p> <p>♠Q107 ♥Q96 ♦84 ♣K8743</p> <p>♠8532 ♥7542 ♦A105 ♣Q9</p> <p>♠AK6 ♥J1083 ♦QJ7 ♣AJ5</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>6</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>3</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		11		7	6	16		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	4	2	3	4		S	3	4	2	3	4		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <p>NS will almost always play in 3NT. After a pass from North, South will either open 1NT or rebid in no trump and be raised to game.</p> <p>After West's club lead, there are two club tricks and ten in all simply by knocking out the ace of diamonds. Plus 630 will then be a common result, but there is a possibility for something better. If eight tricks are played in the minors, declarer can come down to ace-king doubleton facing jack to three in both majors. West cannot keep queen to three in both majors so, if declarer can read which suit has been unguarded, he can make an eleventh trick. That ending is called a criss-cross squeeze, and anyone who finds it can feel very pleased with themselves.</p> <p>If the opening lead goes to the queen and ace of clubs and East returns a club when in with the ace of diamonds, it does not help West to duck the second club, as he is still squeezed on the run of the diamonds, this time in three suits instead of two.</p>
HCP																																																			
11																																																			
7	6																																																		
16																																																			
Makeable contracts																																																			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																														
N	3	4	2	3	4																																														
S	3	4	2	3	4																																														
E	-	-	-	-	-																																														
W	-	-	-	-	-																																														

<p>♠AJ9874 ♥A7 ♦J109 ♣53</p> <p>♠106 ♥KQ10932 ♦875 ♣109</p> <p>♠5 ♥J8654 ♦AKQ4 ♣KJ4</p> <p>♠KQ32 ♥- ♦632 ♣AQ8762</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>14</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th colspan="2">NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td colspan="2">3</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td colspan="2">3</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr></table>	HCP			10			5	14		11			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	-	-	4	3		S	2	-	-	4	3		E	-	1	3	-	-		W	-	1	3	-	-		<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <p>East opens 1♥ and South has the choice whether to double or overcall 2♣. I expect the majority to go for the double to get the spades into the game, and that will lead to a very lively auction. West raises to 4♥ over either 2♣ or double. Facing a double, North has an easy 4♠ bid. He should probably make the same call facing a 2♣ overcall, but will feel a little less confident about doing so.</p> <p>Four Spades makes exactly on a diamond lead, while 5♥ doubled would cost only – 300. Can anyone find the heart sacrifice? Well, probably not East, who has weak hearts and plenty of defence in the minors. From his point of view neither game may be making. I suspect that a lot of Wests will take the push to 5♥, but it is by no means clear that this will be a winning action. It is not so much that West should fear that 4♠ might be going down, rather, 5♥ might be going three down and that is too many at Love All – West does have seven potential losers in the side suits.</p>
HCP																																																							
10																																																							
5	14																																																						
11																																																							
Makeable contracts																																																							
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																		
N	2	-	-	4	3																																																		
S	2	-	-	4	3																																																		
E	-	1	3	-	-																																																		
W	-	1	3	-	-																																																		
<p>♠106 ♥KJ104 ♦AJ ♣K8642</p> <p>♠KQJ83 ♥2 ♦9743 ♣1097</p> <p>♠A742 ♥A75 ♦Q52 ♣AQ3</p> <p>♠95 ♥Q9863 ♦K1086 ♣J5</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>16</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th colspan="2">NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td colspan="2">2</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td colspan="2">2</td></tr></table>	HCP			12			6	16		6			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	2	-	-		S	-	-	2	-	-		E	1	2	-	3	2		W	1	2	-	3	2		<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <p>This one belongs to EW in a spade partscore, where nine tricks is the normal outcome. If East gets to either open or overcall 1NT, West will transfer to spades. Should East, looking at four-card spade support, break the transfer? If he does so, West will probably go on to game and go minus. However, bridge is not just about following rules. Yes, it is often correct to break a transfer with four-card support, but East has an empty 4-3-3-3 hand, meaning a lot of losers. He should just bid 2♠, as requested.</p> <p>What about North? Unless playing four-card majors and strong no trump, when a 1♥ opening is a possibility, his options will be to open 1♣ or 1NT, or pass. While I would have opened a weak no trump in first- or second-seat, I would not open 1NT when vulnerable and facing a passed hand – to me this would be an attempt at suicide. If playing weak no trump I would pass. If playing a strong no trump, I would open 1♣, the difference being that I can now rebid 1NT over a 1♠ response, and there is no longer the danger of a penalty double of 1NT.</p>
HCP																																																							
12																																																							
6	16																																																						
6																																																							
Makeable contracts																																																							
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																		
N	-	-	2	-	-																																																		
S	-	-	2	-	-																																																		
E	1	2	-	3	2																																																		
W	1	2	-	3	2																																																		
<p>♠KJ1063 ♥32 ♦875 ♣K97</p> <p>♠A5 ♥AK964 ♦AK42 ♣102</p> <p>♠Q9872 ♥J1087 ♦106 ♣J3</p> <p>♠4 ♥Q5 ♦QJ93 ♣AQ8654</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th colspan="2">NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td colspan="2">1</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td colspan="2">1</td></tr></table>	HCP			7			18	4		11			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	-	-	-	-		S	1	-	-	-	-		E	-	2	4	2	1		W	-	2	4	2	1		<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <p>4♥ for EW is simply a matter of avoiding a trump loser. When West opens 1♥, North can just scrape up a 1♠ overcall. Switch the vulnerabilities around and East might consider a pre-emptive raise to 3♥ but, vulnerable against not, that looks a little wild. If East raises to 2♥, South may compete with 3♣ but, whether or not he does so, West will bid the heart game. Some Easts will pass over 1♠, arguing that, with the spade queen looking to be of little value, they have an effective two-count. Now South has an easy 2♣ call and West should double as that sounds like more high cards than would a 2♦ bid, which might be made more on distribution than on high-card strength.</p> <p>If East does not raise hearts at his first turn, it may be hard for West to realise that game is a good prospect and EW may stop in partscore.</p>
HCP																																																							
7																																																							
18	4																																																						
11																																																							
Makeable contracts																																																							
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																		
N	1	-	-	-	-																																																		
S	1	-	-	-	-																																																		
E	-	2	4	2	1																																																		
W	-	2	4	2	1																																																		