

EBED



Sim Pairs

Commentary by Sally Brock

Monday
5th September 2016

Welcome to the **English Bridge Education & Development (EBED)** Autumn Simultaneous Pairs. The proceeds raised by this event will be used by EBED, the national charity for the **promotion and development of bridge**, to support EBED's activities in the areas of medical and or social research into the benefits of playing bridge. An Initial part of this research involved the circulation of an online questionnaire to both bridge and non-bridge players of all ages. By the time you see this commentary, the submission deadline for the questionnaire will have just closed and detailed work commenced to analyse the responses.

In addition EBED supplies Bridge for All teaching materials, organises Minibridge/Duplicate Bridge teacher teaching and club director training courses, and supports county organisations and individual volunteers at the local level to introduce Minibridge and bridge into both primary and secondary schools. More information on any of these activities can be requested through info@ebedcio.org.uk

EBED Sims are open to non-affiliated as well as EBU affiliated clubs. If your favourite club hasn't participated this time, please encourage them to do so for next one in May 2017.

Do please encourage your friends to come and play in these events which raise vital funds for our work. We thank you so much for your support!

Richard Banbury

<div><div><div>♠ KJ1082</div><div>♥ Q63</div><div>♦ Q</div><div>♣ J985</div></div><div><div>♠ 3</div><div>♥ AK108</div><div>♦ AJ63</div><div>♣ AK64</div></div><div><div>♠ 4</div><div>♥ J974</div><div>♦ 1098754</div><div>♣ 32</div></div><div><div>♠ AQ9765</div><div>♥ 52</div><div>♦ K2</div><div>♣ Q107</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>19</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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		9	1	19	11	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	1	1		S	-	-	-	1	1		E	-	4	4	-	-		W	-	4	4	-	-		<div>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</div> <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>2♠</td></tr><tr><td>Dble</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Dble</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <div>Although South is too good for a weak 2♠ opening in first or second seat, in third seat there is little chance of game being on for N/S, so the 2♠ opening aims to make life more difficult for E/W. Not this time, though, as West has an easy double, and an easy double of 4♠ on the next round. Some Easts might remove to 5♦, but with such a weak hand there is much to be said for hoping to go plus by defending. Provided East gets a club ruff, N/S will go for 500 which is more than any game E/W might make.</div>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	2♠	Dble	4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass		
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<div><div><div>♠ 9</div><div>♥ K9642</div><div>♦ 106</div><div>♣ AQ1054</div></div><div><div>♠ A10875</div><div>♥ J3</div><div>♦ J952</div><div>♣ K3</div></div><div><div>♠ J32</div><div>♥ 75</div><div>♦ K43</div><div>♣ J9762</div></div><div><div>♠ KQ64</div><div>♥ AQ108</div><div>♦ AQ87</div><div>♣ 8</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>9</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>4</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>2</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></div>	HCP		9	5	9	17	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	4	6	2	4		S	3	4	6	2	4		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<div>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <div>Another 4-4-4-1 hand, and this time South gets to open 1♥ (the middle of three touching suits). West is just worth a 1♠ overcall at favourable vulnerability. North is a little good for a raise to 4♥, so tries a 3♠ splinter bid instead. Although South has significant extras, the spades don't look ideal, and the hand is not as strong as it would be with a fifth heart. As it is, everything lies kindly and 12 tricks should be made without too much difficulty.</div>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♥	1♠	3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass			
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<p>♠ 96 ♥ 10753 ♦ KQ865 ♣ 108</p> <p>♠ K ♠ A843 ♥ Q4 ♥ KJ2 ♦ 973 ♦ A102 ♣ AKQ9732 ♣ 654</p> <p>♠ QJ10752 ♥ A986 ♦ J4 ♣ J</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW 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>2♠</td></tr><tr><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>Some authorities say you should not open with a weak-2 bid when you have four cards in the other major. I disagree, provided the main suit is sufficiently robust. I would always vote for making life as difficult as possible for opponents. Here there should be no problem in E/W reaching 3NT whatever happens, and it will be difficult for South to lead a diamond, which is necessary to stop declarer making 12 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South				2♠	3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass																																																										
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<p>♠ A102 ♥ 93 ♦ A103 ♣ AK872</p> <p>♠ KJ54 ♠ 973 ♥ J86 ♥ KQ72 ♦ KQJ9 ♦ 6542 ♣ 103 ♣ J6</p> <p>♠ Q86 ♥ A1054 ♦ 87 ♣ Q954</p>	<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>1♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>Dble</td><td>Rdble</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Dble</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>If West tries to compete by doubling South's 1♥ for take-out, he might come unstuck. North redoubles to show a hand suited to defence, and East bids 2♦, glad to have 4-card support for one of partner's suits. South has no reason to bid at this stage or on the next round when North doubles 2♦ to suggest taking a penalty. The defence should take two club tricks and then North switches to a heart, ducked by South. When North wins the ♦A, he plays a second heart and then gets a heart ruff. He gets off lead with a trump and the defence make 2 spade tricks at the end for 2 down and 500 to N/S. This should be a great board for N/S as, although they can make 3NT (win whichever red suit is led and play on spades immediately to establish a ninth trick), with only 23 points between them it is unlikely to be bid very often.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥	Dble	Rdble	2♦	Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass																																																							
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<div><div><div>♠ A973</div><div>♥ Q62</div><div>♦ 10842</div><div>♣ 72</div></div><div><div>♠ Q6542</div><div>♥ 8</div><div>♦ 73</div><div>♣ Q10985</div></div><div><div>♠ K10</div><div>♥ A9543</div><div>♦ KQ95</div><div>♣ 64</div></div><div><div>♠ J8</div><div>♥ KJ107</div><div>♦ AJ6</div><div>♣ AKJ3</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>12</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th colspan="2">NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td colspan="2">2</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td colspan="2">2</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr></table></div>	HCP			6			4	12		18			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	2	3	1	2		S	1	2	3	1	2		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<div>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♥</td><td>1NT</td></tr></table> <div>All Pass</div> <div>What should West lead? I confess I'd go for a club which gives declarer a trick immediately – probably his ninth. Leading partner's suit works best as it doesn't give anything away and that should hold declarer to eight tricks and a good score for E/W.</div>	West	North	East	South			1♥	1NT								
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<div><div><div>♠ Q1065</div><div>♥ 732</div><div>♦ K76</div><div>♣ 932</div></div><div><div>♠ -</div><div>♥ QJ4</div><div>♦ QJ53</div><div>♣ AKJ1075</div></div><div><div>♠ KJ97432</div><div>♥ AK9</div><div>♦ 4</div><div>♣ Q4</div></div><div><div>♠ A8</div><div>♥ 10865</div><div>♦ A10982</div><div>♣ 86</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>5</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>13</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th colspan="2">NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td colspan="2">3</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td colspan="2">4</td></tr></table></div>	HCP			5			14	13		8			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	4	2	3	3	3		W	4	2	3	3	4		<div>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <div>A straightforward auction to the wrong contract! I guess East could get scientific and rebid 2♥ over 2♣. West would rebid 2NT perhaps, and then 3NT over 3♠. That would work well but the practical shot with a decent 7-card major is simply to bid game in it.</div>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass
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<p>♠ AJ542 ♥ Q4 ♦ 63 ♣ KQ63</p> <p>♠ Q7 ♠ K1096 ♥ A10932 ♥ - ♦ 109754 ♦ AQ82 ♣ J ♣ 108754</p> <p>♠ 83 ♥ KJ8765 ♦ KJ ♣ A92</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW 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>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>South has a tricky rebid on the second round. He has enough for game but no idea which game. He needs to make a forcing bid and therefore manufactures a 3♣ bid. North, who can't have three hearts for his failure to support them last time, gives false preference to 3♥ (with such a minimum, balanced, hand he does not really want to suggest playing in five of a minor) and South bids game. West is content, though some might double. It looks as if declarer will go two down with the foul trump break.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass																																																			
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<p>♠ Q10974 ♥ 8 ♦ 543 ♣ 6543</p> <p>♠ 3 ♠ AK2 ♥ J109753 ♥ K64 ♦ QJ1086 ♦ K92 ♣ 2 ♣ QJ107</p> <p>♠ J865 ♥ AQ2 ♦ A7 ♣ AK98</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>This board might well be passed out at many tables, but that North hand is worth opening in 3rd seat. It might work well to open a weak NT. South could use Stayman and sign off in 2♠ facing no major. That should make nine tricks. However, if North prefers to open 1♦, the likely contract is 3♦ which won't score so well.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass																																																			
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<p>♠ 93 ♥ 83 ♦ A10653 ♣ AK85</p> <p>♠ A42 ♠ Q76 ♥ Q76 ♥ K954 ♦ K9 ♦ Q74 ♣ Q9762 ♣ J103</p> <p>♠ KJ1085 ♥ AJ102 ♦ J82 ♣ 4</p>	<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>10</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		11	8	11	10	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	1	4	2	3	2		S	1	4	2	3	2		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-																					
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<div><div><div>♠ Q109</div><div>♥ K87</div><div>♦ K1097</div><div>♣ 1083</div></div><div><div>♠ K753</div><div>♥ AJ1094</div><div>♦ 8</div><div>♣ AK2</div></div><div><div>♠ A842</div><div>♥ Q53</div><div>♦ Q</div><div>♣ QJ964</div></div><div><div>♠ J6</div><div>♥ 62</div><div>♦ AJ65432</div><div>♣ 75</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		8		15	11	6		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	2	-	-	-		S	-	2	-	-	-		E	5	-	5	4	-		W	5	-	5	4	-		<div>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</div> <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>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>This deal will work well for 5-card majorities who tend to support directly with 3-card heart support and only four spades. Acolites, on the other hand, would tend to bid spades. This time, because of the source of tricks in clubs, being in hearts scores a trick more than spades.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass								
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<div><div><div>♠ K87</div><div>♥ 97654</div><div>♦ 9632</div><div>♣ 3</div></div><div><div>♠ Q1052</div><div>♥ AQ8</div><div>♦ K5</div><div>♣ A654</div></div><div><div>♠ A9</div><div>♥ KJ2</div><div>♦ 84</div><div>♣ J109872</div></div><div><div>♠ J643</div><div>♥ 103</div><div>♦ AQJ107</div><div>♣ KQ</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>15</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>-</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>2</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		3		15	9	13		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	1	-	-	-		S	-	1	-	-	-		E	4	-	2	2	2		W	4	-	2	2	2		<div>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</div> <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>Dble</td><td>3♦</td><td>4♣</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>Souths 1♦ opening is normal, as is Wests take-out double. So, what, if any, action should North take. One of the advantages of playing Acol (and opening the major with 4-4 major/minor outside the NT range) is that partner will only have four hearts when they have five diamonds and if that is the case then surely the opponents will outbid us in spades. Hence no harm can really come from raising diamonds as high as you dare. Here, after the double, 3♦ is known to be pre-emptive and seems right. After East bids 4♣, some Wests may be tempted to raise to 5♣ which looks to have three losers. However, to beat 5♣, South must start with a top club. If he leads, say, a heart, declarer wins in hand and plays a diamond. South wins the ace and plays, perhaps, another heart. Now declarer cashes the ♣A, ♦K and his third heart trick before exiting with a trump to force South to open up spades. Now a good guess (likely given North has shown no HCP at all) will see him home.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♦	Dble	3♦	4♣	All Pass								
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<div><div><div>♠ 10</div><div>♥ AQJ943</div><div>♦ J864</div><div>♣ K3</div></div><div><div>♠ K975432</div><div>♥ -</div><div>♦ 32</div><div>♣ A1082</div></div><div><div>♠ 6</div><div>♥ 1062</div><div>♦ A107</div><div>♣ QJ9764</div></div><div><div>♠ AQJ8</div><div>♥ K875</div><div>♦ KQ95</div><div>♣ 5</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>7</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>4</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		11		7	7	15		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	4	5	-	2		S	-	4	5	-	2		E	4	-	-	2	-		W	4	-	-	2	-		<div>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>3♠</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>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>That West hand is difficult. It is usually good to open with a pre-empt with a 7-4 hand but that spade suit is particularly feeble. 3♠ would be my choice with both sides vulnerable, but I am aware that purists would not agree with me. The spotlight shifts to North. I can see that he would be reluctant to bid to the 4-level all his own, but needs must ... Blackwood looks to be the logical choice for South and he signs off when there are two aces missing. Should North pass 3♠, South has to choose between passing out 3♠ (which goes 2 down) and bidding 3NT. If he does the latter, should North pass or remove? If he passes, a club lead (surely normal on that bidding) beats the game.</p>	West	North	East	South	3♠	4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥	All Pass			
HCP																																																																			
11																																																																			
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<p>♠ KQ9763 ♥ 72 ♦ K ♣ 10764</p> <p>♠ 842 ♠ 105 ♥ Q106 ♥ AK5 ♦ Q962 ♦ J1074 ♣ 983 ♣ AKQJ</p> <p>♠ AJ ♥ J9843 ♦ A853 ♣ 52</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>18</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>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			8			4	18		10			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	1	2	-		S	-	-	1	2	-		E	1	2	-	-	-		W	1	2	-	-	-		<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</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>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♦</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>This deal shows the use of the Lebensohl convention, which is in widespread use at tournament level. When East doubles the weak 2♠ for takeout, 2NT shows a poor hand, say fewer than 7 points. East is obliged to bid 3♣ (unless he is very strong – stronger than here) and West can pass or bid his own suit. Here he bids 3♦ and with no spade stopper East should be conservative as, despite his 18 high card points, game is a long way off. Had West bid 3♦ directly it would have shown decent values, say 8-11 high card points.</p>	West	North	East	South		2♠	Dble	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass		
HCP																																																																							
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<p>♠ Q965 ♥ 9763 ♦ A73 ♣ J2</p> <p>♠ 108 ♠ K7432 ♥ J8 ♥ Q105 ♦ KQJ8 ♦ 10954 ♣ K10984 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ AJ ♥ AK42 ♦ 62 ♣ AQ753</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>2</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			7			10	5		18			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	-	4	1	2		S	3	-	4	1	2		E	-	1	-	-	-		W	-	1	-	-	-		<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>These days most people play splinter bids in support of partner. So, for example, had South bid 3♠ or 4♦ over the 1♥ response that would have shown a singleton in the bid suit and a good hand with 4-card heart support. The corollary of this is that a direct raise to game, as here, shows lots of high card points and no shortage. I hope no East led their singleton. This is a good example of when <i>not</i> to lead a singleton. Declarer simply plays low and you get a ruff with your trump trick, thereby setting up 2 tricks for declarer and making his task much easier. On any other lead you cannot fail to make the three tricks to which you are entitled.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass			
HCP																																																																							
7																																																																							
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<p>♠ A94 ♥ J105 ♦ 85 ♣ J8764</p> <p>♠ K2 ♠ Q87 ♥ A64 ♥ K98 ♦ J1063 ♦ KQ7 ♣ AK32 ♣ Q1095</p> <p>♠ J10653 ♥ Q732 ♦ A942 ♣ -</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>12</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>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP			6			15	12		7			Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	1	-		S	-	-	-	1	-		E	3	3	1	-	2		W	3	2	1	-	4		<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>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>This is a much better hand for strong no-trumpers. They will bid 1NT-3NT, and that game cannot be defeated played by West. Unfortunately, weak no-trumpers are likely to bid as shown above, and the normal spade lead will soon see the game one down.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
HCP																																																																							
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<p>♠ K874 ♥ AJ63 ♦ J83 ♣ K6</p> <p>♠ J9 ♠ 652 ♥ K72 ♥ Q10984 ♦ A9754 ♦ KQ6 ♣ A72 ♣ J4</p> <p>♠ AQ103 ♥ 5 ♦ 102 ♣ Q109853</p>	<table><tr><th>HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	12	N	4	-	-	4	-	12	S	4	-	-	4	-	8	E	-	2	3	-	-		W	-	2	3	-	-	<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>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Dble</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td></tr></table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>A finely balanced competitive auction. The opening 1NT and 2♦ transfer seem normal enough, and it also looks normal for South to protect when 2♥ is passed round to him, but double risks partner bidding diamonds, while bidding 3♣ risks missing the spade fit. After the double, how do E/W know to compete further: West doesn't know East has any values, and East doesn't know West has any hearts. I like to play that a redouble by West shows three hearts, but that is quite a sophisticated agreement. Anyway, Love All is the best vulnerability to compete, so one way and another West bids 3♥ and South, with more distribution than he might have, pushes on to 3♠. As the cards lie, of course, 4♠ is cold.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass	3♠
HCP	Makeable contracts																																																															
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<p>♠ A109 ♥ A10543 ♦ Q82 ♣ Q6</p> <p>♠ 6 ♠ KQ72 ♥ Q82 ♥ K7 ♦ 965 ♦ A107 ♣ 1098542 ♣ KJ73</p> <p>♠ J8543 ♥ J96 ♦ KJ43 ♣ A</p>	<table><tr><th>HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr></table>	HCP	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	12	N	-	3	3	3	-	2	S	-	2	2	2	-	16	E	2	-	-	-	1	10	W	2	-	-	-	1	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>Dble</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td></tr></table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>When East doubles the weak NT, South, with 10 high card points, is content and has no reason to bid anything. (In the old days he would have redoubled, but that is usually played as conventional in some way these days.) West runs to his long suit, and when South now bids 2♠ he is showing a good hand – otherwise he would have bid over the double. Still, there is no reason to proceed and 2♠ becomes the final contract. It looks as if nine tricks will be made at most tables.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Dble	Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass	2♠								
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<p>♠ KJ9 ♥ AK96 ♦ K1097 ♣ K5</p> <p>♠ 108532 ♠ A64 ♥ 843 ♥ 7 ♦ J864 ♦ A52 ♣ 4 ♣ A108762</p> <p>♠ Q7 ♥ QJ1052 ♦ Q3 ♣ QJ93</p>	<table><tr><th>HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr></table>	HCP	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	17	N	2	2	3	-	4	1	S	2	2	3	-	4	12	E	-	-	-	-	-	10	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>1♣</td><td>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>I guess North might bid something more sophisticated with his 17-count and 4-card support but it is pretty much inconceivable that slam is on. Of course, here 4♥ will go one down as West will get a club ruff, and 3NT is the top spot. How to reach that is beyond me, though. Even if South passes over 1♣ (and it is not much of a vulnerable overcall) and North doubles, the 5-4 heart fit will still come to light and it is hard not to play in it.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	1♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass									
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		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																										
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<p>♠ AJ9862 ♥ 43 ♦ QJ2 ♣ A7</p> <p>♠ 104 ♥ 972 ♦ 8743 ♣ Q1085</p> <p>♠ Q3 ♥ KJ10865 ♦ 1065 ♣ 96</p> <p>♠ K75 ♥ AQ ♦ AK9 ♣ KJ432</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>20</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>6</td><td>3</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		12	6	2	20	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	5	6	3	7	7		S	5	6	3	7	7		E	-	-	-	-	-		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>2NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>5♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>6NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Everyone as their own way of bidding after a 2NT opening. I like to play what they call ‘two-under’ transfers. So 4♣ shows hearts and 4♦ shows spades (4♥=♣, 4♠=♦). The 4♥ bid shows some suitability. The trouble with transferring and then cue-bidding is that that is more likely to be five of the major with a second suit. When the ♠Q is missing, North does not want to risk a grand slam, but at match-point scoring it must be with the odds to go for the higher-scoring small slam. This time spades is better as the club suit can be ruffed out. However, after cashing lots of spades declarer will probably be able to guess the right finesse to take for his overtrick.</p>	West	North	East	South				2NT	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass	5♠	Pass	6NT	All Pass	
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Pass	6NT	All Pass																																																																							
<p>♠ QJ10974 ♥ K4 ♦ 5 ♣ KQ75</p> <p>♠ AK653 ♥ QJ ♦ QJ64 ♣ 86</p> <p>♠ 2 ♥ 1052 ♦ AK987 ♣ A942</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ A98763 ♦ 1032 ♣ J103</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>5</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		11	11	13	5	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	1	1	-		S	-	-	1	1	-		E	-	3	-	-	2		W	-	3	-	-	2		<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS 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>3♦</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>A simple auction to the best contract, with N/S silenced because of the adverse vulnerability. Although Deep Finesse claims declarer can make only nine tricks, that is on a low heart lead, followed by a heart to the ace and a third heart. East cannot score his ♥10 because North will ruff. Given that that is rather farfetched, I am sure most E/Ws will make ten tricks, losing just two hearts and one club.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦	All Pass														
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<p>♠ K842 ♥ QJ ♦ AK10 ♣ J1072</p> <p>♠ 75 ♥ AK74 ♦ J64 ♣ Q843</p> <p>♠ 96 ♥ 9853 ♦ 8532 ♣ K95</p> <p>♠ AQJ103 ♥ 1062 ♦ Q97 ♣ A6</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>10</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>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</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	3	10	13	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	3	1	4	3		S	2	3	1	4	4		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<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>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>When South transfers into spades after the 1NT opening, with a maximum and 4-card spade support, North should ‘break’ the transfer and jump to 3♠. In this case, it is not necessary as South would have bid on in any event. The hands do not fit that well and ten tricks are the limit on virtually any defence.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass											
HCP																																																																									
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<p>♠ K ♥ KJ83 ♦ AQ97 ♣ AK52</p> <p>♠ QJ975 ♠ A43 ♥ 10752 ♥ 9 ♦ K ♦ J1064 ♣ Q93 ♣ J10864</p> <p>♠ 10862 ♥ AQ64 ♦ 8532 ♣ 7</p>	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td></tr></table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>What to open on that North hand? Since partner has not opened a weak 2♠, it is unlikely he will insist on playing in spades if North opens 2NT, making that a safer option than facing a non-passed hand. It would be my choice. As it is, South uses Stayman (or some other toy) and finds the 4-4 heart fit. This needs a little care but should make ten tricks easily enough provided declarer stops drawing trumps as soon as he discovers they are 4-1.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥																																
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<p>♠ A84 ♥ KJ ♦ KQJ ♣ 97652</p> <p>♠ Q65 ♠ J972 ♥ Q10965 ♥ 3 ♦ 3 ♦ A109754 ♣ KQJ10 ♣ A8</p> <p>♠ K103 ♥ A8742 ♦ 862 ♣ 43</p>	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS 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>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>The stakes might be higher at some tables, as an aggressive East might double 2♥ for take-out, and West would surely pass for penalties. What, then, should East lead? A trump is often a good idea when partner has shown good trumps, and here that works perfectly well. A club lead is okay too, but a spade works badly unless East is inspired enough to lead the ♠9. +200 should be a decent score for E/W.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass																																	
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<p>♠ 72 ♥ 943 ♦ QJ1087 ♣ Q92</p> <p>♠ KQ105 ♠ 98 ♥ AK10 ♥ QJ82 ♦ 43 ♦ A62 ♣ K743 ♣ AJ106</p> <p>♠ AJ643 ♥ 765 ♦ K95 ♣ 85</p>	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW 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>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p>Some would prefer to raise to 3♣ when partner has bid their 4-card suit, but I like to show a strong no-trump when I have a strong no-trump. Here, where West is declarer, North has an easy diamond lead. West will duck and win the third round. Now it is clear to finesse clubs the right way as he can't afford to let North in. And then, for the same reason, he needs South to hold the ♠A, so should make ten tricks played from either side.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass																																				
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