



Commentary  
for the  
CBAI Simultaneous Pairs  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

Dear Bridge Player,

Thank you very much for playing in the CBAI Simultaneous Pairs 2025, and for your continued support for the Association.

The funds that you contribute via these Simultaneous Pairs will help the Association in its ongoing development work – training new teachers and new TDs, promoting the game and trying to attract new members, developing junior bridge, and so on. Many of our input costs, like costs generally these days, are increasing significantly, so your support for this event, and for the various live competitions run during the season by the CBAI, is greatly appreciated.

We hope that you enjoyed the chance to test yourself against your fellow players across Ireland (and for those still playing online, maybe overseas as well). As always, the hands (which are randomly generated by computer with no manual intervention whatsoever) provided plenty of difficult decisions. Many thanks to our expert commentators Fearghal O'Boyle (Monday), Paul Delaney (Tuesday), Thomas MacCormac (Wednesday), Brian Senior (Thursday), and Enda Glynn (Friday) for their guidance through the maze. I hope that you have picked up some useful tips from their advice. For Wednesday's game, Thomas has done his commentary in a series of videos rather than as a written text, which is a new innovation begun in the IBU Simultaneous Pairs in November; we hope you'll like it, and would welcome your feedback.

Don't forget to check your standing in the national results at [www.ecatsbridge.com/sims](http://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims). You'll find the daily commentaries there too.

**Catherine Byrne**

**President, Contract Bridge Association of Ireland**

**Commentary on the Hands – Some Food for Thought - Fearghal O'Boyle**

For the purposes of our discussion, let us assume that we are playing simple ACOL: 4-card majors, weak No-Trump, Stayman, Transfers, Weak 2's in 3 suits, RKCB and natural signals (High Encouraging). We will mention other variations where relevant but as is often the case, the bidding system used will make little or no difference.

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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A87 ♥ AK843 ♦ J7 ♣ Q54</p> <p>♠ K62            ♠ J9543 ♥ 1075           ♥ Q92 ♦ AK965        ♦ 84 ♣ A10            ♣ 732</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q10 ♥ J6 ♦ Q1032 ♣ KJ986</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		14		14	3	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	1	2	-	2	S	3	1	2	-	2	E	-	-	-	1	-	W	-	-	-	1	-	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1NT All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>On the face of it, this looks like a routine partscore but nevertheless there are pitfalls for over-bidders and defenders.</p> <p><b>The Bidding:</b>          What does North open? 1♥? or 1NT (weak)? or even 1NT (strong)? Will North pass a 1NT response or rebid 2♥ or maybe invent a 2♣ rebid? The jury is still out on the answers to these questions but the best advice in these situations is that whatever approach you decide to take - just make sure to stick with it every time i.e. if you always rebid 2♥ here then always rebid 2♥, if you always pass the 1NT response then always pass the 1NT response - don't spend time agonising over the decision every time it comes up.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♥	Pass	1NT All Pass
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Possible contracts for N/S are 1NT, 2♥ and an unlikely 3♣. I've even seen a few North players upgrade this type of hand and open a Strong NT and if that happens, South might take an equally optimistic view and raise to 3NT. E/W are unlikely to win the auction but if they do, they should score well especially if they can escape undoubled e.g. West might try his hand at 2♦ and if he can escape with 6 tricks he should score well.

**The Play:**

Regardless of the bidding, this hand is all about what happens in the play i.e. will N/S make 8 tricks or do they make 9 tricks in whatever contract they end up in? It seems that if declarer guesses to play East for the ♠J he will have a chance of 9 tricks against most defenders, thereby making 1NT+2, 2♥+1 and 3NT.

To hold declarer to 8 tricks it seems E/W need to engineer a spade and a heart trick to go with their 3 top tricks. So difficult is the defence that I predict that any declarer who guesses the spade position correctly will make 9 tricks. If E/W remain silent then declarer will have very little to help him with the spade guess while if West makes some noise, then maybe he becomes favourite to hold the ♠K?

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AQ5 ♥ K94 ♦ QJ4 ♣ QJ82</p> <p>♠ 10832      ♠ 64 ♥ A3            ♥ QJ8762 ♦ 10965        ♦ 32 ♣ AK5           ♣ 1074</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ KJ97 ♥ 105 ♦ AK87 ♣ 963</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		15		11	3	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	4	-	4	4	S	3	4	-	4	4	E	-	-	1	-	-	W	-	-	1	-	-	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : N/S vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Dbf (1)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b>  (1) Negative Double showing 4 cards in spades. A very useful convention to have in your armoury - it also means that a 1♠ response in this sequence can be used to show 5+ cards in spades.</p> <p>Even though E/W are non-vul, a weak 2♥ on only 3 HCP is not to be recommended (at least not in your first 10 years). As it happens, a 2♥ opening works quite well on this hand, even if it tempts partner into competing further. East cannot be prevented from making 7 tricks so even if E/W lose 500 in 4♥ doubled it will still be a great sacrifice against N/S's 600 or 630 in 3NT.</p> <p>The 1♥ overcall is not recommended either but East may feel he has shown enough restraint by passing on the previous round.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥	Dbf (1)	Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
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If N/S are playing a strong NT then they will need some sort of lebensohl agreement if East comes in with a 2♥ overcall (although most Easts will not overcall). A typical lebensohl auction would be a 3♥ response showing 10+ points, 4 cards in spades and 'no stopper' in hearts (to show 10+ points, 4 cards in spades and a heart stopper, responder bids 2NT first followed by 3♥ over opener's forced 3♣). As always seems to be the case in bridge, some partnerships play lebensohl the other way around!

**The Play:**

It looks like declarer will make 9 or 10 tricks in 3NT on the expected heart lead. He will make 10 tricks if he wins the second round of hearts and only 9 if he holds up his ♥K on the second round of hearts. In hindsight there is probably no point in holding up the ♥K at trick 2 i.e. you have 9 top tricks and holding up the ♥K is simply giving up on any chance to win a 10<sup>th</sup> trick? As the cards lie, the defenders can only manage 3 tricks (♥A and ♣AK) unless declarer gives them a fourth trick by holding up at trick two.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q63 ♥ Q98432 ♦ 64 ♣ J5</p> <p>♠ J109                      ♠ 72 ♥ A7                            ♥ KJ1065 ♦ Q9875                      ♦ AJ10 ♣ 1086                        ♣ AQ2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AK854 ♥ - ♦ K32 ♣ K9743</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		5		7	15	13		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	-	3	-	S	2	-	-	3	-	E	-	2	-	-	-	W	-	2	-	-	-	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : E/W vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b>  There might be some Souths who open 1♣ with their 5-5 in the black suits - I have some sympathy with this approach with 15+ HCP but I'm in the more pre-emptive 1♠ camp on this 12-14 HCP hand.</p> <p>The auction might be a bit messier at other tables. East has the best hand at the table and at some point he will have to enter the auction. Does he double or does he bid 2♥? Double looks to be the right first bid by East as it keeps all denominations in the picture but even so it is hard to see any contract other than a spade contract by N/S. If either side declare in a heart contract they will not be happy when they see the bad trump break.</p> <p>Some North players might give an immediate raise to 2♠ and if so South is worth a raise to 4♠ and this contract is pretty much unbeatable?</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl	2♣	2♦	2♠	All Pass	
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**The Play:**

It looks like declarer will make 10 tricks if he can take advantage of the fact that East has both minor suit aces. Declarer's plan should be to lead a diamond to the king and ruff a diamond and then lead a club to the king and set up the club suit by conceding 2 tricks there. If declarer follows this line he will make 5 spade tricks, 1 diamond trick, 1 diamond ruff and 3 club tricks.

It looks like the only way to stop declarer from making 10 tricks is for West to lead his ♥7 - and any West finding this lead will be awarded the Pat Walshe Brilliancy Prize.

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ J865 ♥ 754 ♦ AQ63 ♣ A6</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q102      ♠ A3 ♥ J92        ♥ A83 ♦ K754      ♦ J92 ♣ Q73        ♣ K10942</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ K974 ♥ KQ106 ♦ 108 ♣ J85</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		11		8	12	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	2	3	-	S	-	-	2	3	-	E	1	-	-	-	1	W	1	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b> Some Easts will open 1NT (12-14) - however I am a 1♣ opener here because a good player once warned me off opening a weak NT in third seat and that advice has proved to be quite helpful. However all is well tonight.</p> <p>Any N/S pair who manage to enter and win the auction will find they can make 8 or 9 tricks in a major suit (provided they play East to have both major suit aces and lead through East towards their major suit honours).</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣	All Pass
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**The Play:**

West might respond 1NT to the 1♣ opening and get to play there and as long as he can avoid the killing heart lead he will survive.

It looks like East will go down in real life whether they are in 1NT or 2♣. East can make 7 tricks in 1NT (and 8 in a 2♣ contract) if he is inspired to play South for the ♣J and refrain from leading a small club from hand towards the Q♣.

It seems that declarer has to lead ♣10 and run it past South but declarer has no reason to find that play when a small club towards to the queen looks like the natural play. However, even when declarer gets the club wrong, the defence still have a bit of work to do to knock 1NT.

If West ends up as declarer in 1NT then North needs to find a heart lead to legitimately beat the contract – and in fact the heart lead might be found by quite a few as the other leads become more and more unattractive the longer we think about it especially if West has bid diamonds.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AK52 ♥ AJ97 ♦ 109 ♣ A76</p> <p>♠ 94                      ♠ J76 ♥ K862                  ♥ 10 ♦ J853                   ♦ 7642 ♣ 1098                  ♣ KQ432</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q1083 ♥ Q543 ♦ AKQ ♣ J5</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		16		4	6	14		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	3	6	6	6	S	2	3	6	6	6	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : N/S vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦ (♦A)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT (KC)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣ (1 or 4)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦ (♠Q?)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♦ (♠Q and ♦K)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b> The first slam hand of the night – not everyone will bid it so bidding and making any of the makeable slams will score very well.</p> <p>We have a fit in both majors – from South’s point of view it seems better to play in the 4-4 spade fit rather than the heart suit because the heart fit might be a 5-4 fit – and experience teaches us that the 4-4 fit plays better because we can use the side suit 5-4 fit to discard a loser.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦ (♦A)	Pass	4NT (KC)	Pass	5♣ (1 or 4)	Pass	5♦ (♠Q?)	Pass	6♦ (♠Q and ♦K)	Pass	6♠	All Pass	
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It is a close call, whether South should try for slam at all but those who are feeling lucky will be rewarded. However bidding 6NT on 30 HCP with no 5-card or longer suit to help out is not a recommended long-term winning policy.

The slam might be harder to visualise if North opens a strong no-trump because the South hand is nothing special i.e. the heart pips are poor and we have most of our strength in our short suits. Some Souths might just raise to 3NT but then again 3NT+3 will score very well too.

**The Play:**

It looks like N/S make 12 easy tricks in hearts, spades or no-trumps (4 spades, 4 hearts, 3 diamonds and 1 club) and there doesn’t seem to be any way for declarer to mess it up – but of course there is always a way to do so?

Even if declarer starts with a heart to the Jack, when the 10 falls from East, declarer will know to lead the next two rounds of the suit towards the A97.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A842 ♥ A64 ♦ Q65 ♣ AQJ</p> <p>♠ Q63                      ♠ K5 ♥ K9                         ♥ 10872 ♦ 104                        ♦ KJ872 ♣ K109852                ♣ 73</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J1097 ♥ QJ53 ♦ A93 ♣ 64</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">17</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		17		8	7	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	2	3	4	4	S	1	2	3	3	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : E/W vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b> N/S have 25 points and an 8-card spade fit so all roads lead to 4♠ by North. As ever there will be a few pairs in 3NT and they will have an easier run.</p> <p>North's 2NT rebid shows 17-18 balanced, catering for the possibility that South might have raised to 2♠ with only 3-card support (sometimes a good bid even if playing 4-card majors). South's 4♠ clarifies that he has 4-card support and a maximum 2♠ raise.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass			
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**The Play:**

If North is in 4♠, then East is kind of endplayed at trick 1 because everything he leads will help declarer. A diamond lead will run to declarer's ♦Q. A heart lead will create a heart entry to dummy to allow declarer take 2 trump finesses. A spade lead will mean declarer only loses one trump trick.

The least helpful lead for declarer is a club lead because it doesn't give declarer any trick that he could not get himself and declarer might not immediately see that his ♣J is a 'red herring'. Declarer needs two entries to dummy in order to finesse twice in trumps and the first of those entries might need to be a club ruff in dummy (cash ♣A and ruff the ♣J). Of course, East will find it difficult to keep finding safe exits each time he gets back in but those Easts that do find safe exits might well find that declarer will struggle to make that 10<sup>th</sup> trick.

3NT on a diamond lead should lead to 10 tricks (3 spades, 2 hearts, 2 diamonds and 3 clubs). On a non-diamond lead 9 tricks is easy but the 10<sup>th</sup> trick will require a bit of care and will probably involve endplaying East on the 4<sup>th</sup> round of hearts into leading away from his ♦K.

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q1084 ♥ AQ952 ♦ 95 ♣ 102</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ J2                      ♠ K753 ♥ KJ43                  ♥ 1076 ♦ AKJ73                 ♦ 84 ♣ 84                      ♣ KQ53</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ A96 ♥ 8 ♦ Q1062 ♣ AJ976</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8		13	8	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	1	2	1	S	2	-	1	2	1	E	-	1	-	-	-	W	-	1	-	-	-	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">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>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b> The first question is whether or not South should open the bidding. For sure if the minors were the other way round (5 diamonds and 4 clubs) it would be more attractive. Still in this modern era of lighter and lighter openings, I expect a few will open 1♣.</p> <p>If South does open, what does West bid? 1♦ or double? Double is best when you have 2 suits to show.</p> <p>If South does open 1♣ and West overcalls 1♦, what does North respond? 1♥ or a negative double showing both majors? Again 'double' is probably the most flexible call as it tells partner about 8 cards in your hand compared to 1♥ which only tells of four.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	All Pass		
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If South passes and West opens 1♦, is North worth a 1♥ overcall? In my view, no - a vulnerable opening bid tends to show a bit more by way of high card strength. And another big disadvantage about bidding 1♥ is that partner will expect more from you and he will make some noise with his 11 HCP and now you might get too high. Furthermore, 1♥ over 1♦ does not eat any bidding space on the opponents and in fact can only help to distinguish between 4-card and 5-card spade suits via a negative double of their own.

**The Play:**

As long as N/S are patient in defence they should come to 6 tricks in defence against West's 2♦ contract (2 spades, 2 hearts, a trump and a club).

If South finds himself in 1NT he will score at least 7 tricks and probably 8 if the defence is not card perfect. If South lands in 2♣ he will end up with 8 or 9 tricks.

As is usual in a matchpoint game any plus score will score well.



<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 763 ♥ Q72 ♦ A64 ♣ A982</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AKJ                      ♠ 10982 ♥ A654                    ♥ 1098 ♦ 98                         ♦ 1075 ♣ 10543                  ♣ KQJ</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q54 ♥ KJ3 ♦ KQJ32 ♣ 76</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>6</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>12</td> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		10		N	-	2	-	-	-	12	6	S	-	2	-	-	-			E	1	-	1	1	-		12	W	1	-	1	1	-	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table style="margin: 5px 0;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p><b>The Bidding:</b> If West opens a weak NT then most Souths will bid 2♦.</p> <p>If E/W are playing a strong NT then most Souths will still come in with 2♦. If E/W are playing support doubles then West can double to show 3 card spade support and now East can bid 2♠. If he can escape undoubled then 2♠-1 will be an excellent matchpoint score for his side.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1NT	Pass	Pass	2♦
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**The Play:**

This hand plays itself in 2♦ in that South makes 5 diamond tricks 1 club trick and 2 heart tricks. The only chance of a 9<sup>th</sup> trick is if West cashes ♠A and ♠K but surely East will have given West a discouraging attitude signal on the ♠A lead to stop West from doing so?

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J108 ♥ A97 ♦ KJ7 ♣ A1065</p> <p>♠ A975            ♠ 62 ♥ K4                ♥ QJ1082 ♦ 962                ♦ Q1083 ♣ KQJ3            ♣ 42</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ KQ43 ♥ 653 ♦ A54 ♣ 987</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		13		13	5	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	-	1	1	S	1	-	-	1	1	E	-	1	2	-	-	W	-	1	2	-	-	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : E/W vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b> If North opens a weak NT then that will probably silence the vulnerable opponents.</p> <p>Even if N/S are playing a Strong NT, we probably meet a silent E/W too. East is not worth a vulnerable 1♥ overcall – and if he does bid 1♥ he might hear his partner bid 3NT which will not be a good score for E/W.</p> <p>West too might be endplayed in the bidding - he can't really double after 1♣ - P - 1♠ when the opponents have bid both of his suits? And yet doubling might be the only way to get to the making 2♥ by E/W?</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1NT	All Pass	
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**The Play:**

The popular contract will be 1NT by North with East leading ♥Q.

Ideally, West should unblock ♥K at trick 1 but in practice declarer will still only make 7 tricks whether West unblocks or not (3 spades, 1 heart, 2 diamonds and 1 club).

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ KQ743 ♥ 8 ♦ K1052 ♣ A109</p> <p>♠ J8                      ♠ A1092 ♥ 9753                  ♥ J64 ♦ QJ976                ♦ A4 ♣ 75                      ♣ KQJ2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 65 ♥ AKQ102 ♦ 83 ♣ 8643</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">15</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		12		4	15	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	1	2	1	2	S	1	1	2	1	2	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b> Do you know what North's 1♠ bid means in your partnership i.e. is it forcing for one round or simply constructive but not forcing? North has a nice hand especially facing a vulnerable overcall but still we need an 8-card fit somewhere for the hand to fully mature. 1♠ seems to be the best way to start the conversation – constructive.</p> <p>If East opens a Strong NT then some Souths will bid and some will pass - passing seems wiser when vulnerable. If South passes, North is definitely worth a bid and 2♠ seems to fit the bill.</p> <p>The best auction for N/S seems to be to pass and let E/W play the hand - going down vulnerable - but such discipline is rare these days.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	All Pass	
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**The Play:**

N/S can make 8 tricks in No-Trump (5 hearts, 1 club, 1 spade and East can be endplayed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of spades to lead away from his ♦A).

If North is playing in a spade contract he might still emerge with 8 tricks because the defence is not easy and probably involves an uppercut from West with the ♠J on the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of clubs.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J1072 ♥ K103 ♦ AJ107 ♣ Q3</p> <p>♠ AQ8654    ♠ 93 ♥ A52        ♥ Q6 ♦ K8         ♦ 965432 ♣ 75         ♣ AJ8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K ♥ J9874 ♦ Q ♣ K109642</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th style="padding: 2px;">HCP</th> <th colspan="5" style="padding: 2px;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> <th style="padding: 2px;">♣</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">♦</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">♥</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">♠</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">13    7</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">E</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP	Makeable contracts						♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11	N	3	-	3	-	1	13    7	S	3	-	3	-	1	9	E	-	1	-	1	-		W	-	1	-	1	-	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">1♠</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">1NT</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">2♠</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">All Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b> A few pairs could lose their shirts here.</p> <p>This hand is all about South and what he decides to do. Should he open as dealer or should he wait? For sure if we have a two suited opening bid available like a Tartan Two then we can wheel it out.</p> <p>On the plus side this is one of the Nil All boards and the advice on Nil All boards is to bid first and look at your hand second. Another sensible adage comes into play too i.e. "with Six-Five Come Alive".</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	2♣	2♠	All Pass		
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1♠	Pass	1NT	2♣																																																						
2♠	All Pass																																																								

The South hand also conforms to the Rule of 20 which says that if our HCP added to the number of cards in our two longest suits comes to 20 or more, we should open the bidding.

So it looks like there are more reasons to open the bidding than to pass.

Others advise us to pass as dealer with these two-suited hands and then come in later if we have overcalling methods to show 2-suiters e.g. Michaels, Ghestem, Unusual NT. South should also bear in mind that 5 of his 9 HCP are singletons and so may not be pulling their full weight.

If South shows a bit of strength it might encourage North to find a penalty double should E/W get too high.

If South opens 1♣ and North responds a natural 2NT over West's 1♠ overcall, have you discussed with partner whether 3♣ is a signoff or not?

Some Souths might even try a weak 2♥ or 3♣ opening?

**The Play:**

In the unlikely event that South ends up in 3♣ or 3♥ he will need to guess the location of the ♣J in order to succeed. Given that West has opened the bidding the natural play in clubs is small to the Queen and then small to the 10 on the way back but will there be "a way back" because entries to that North hand are scarce?

2♠ by E/W is easy to defeat as declarer has 6 top losers. 4♥ by N/S has 4 top losers. As usual any plus score will score well.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 7 ♥ Q103 ♦ K6532 ♣ KJ85</p> <p>♠ Q86542      ♠ K103 ♥ K9              ♥ A7652 ♦ AQ107         ♦ 8 ♣ 6                 ♣ 7432</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AJ9 ♥ J84 ♦ J94 ♣ AQ109</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		9		11	7	13		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	2	-	-	1	S	1	2	-	-	1	E	-	-	1	4	-	W	-	-	1	4	-	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : N/S vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b> This is a good hand for those of you who place all your trust in LTC (Losing Trick Count). We might even see West play in some doubled contracts? 4-3-3-3 shapes are not great hands so South really has no need to enter the auction. Also worth noting for future reference the fact that East has zero points in the suit that West is short in i.e. East has no wasted points in clubs - a fact that means E/W make game with only 18 HCP between them.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass
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**The Play:**

On the face of it, there is not much to the play in 4♠ - West losing 3 tricks i.e. 2 spades and 1 club. But in fact, the play will turn out to be rather beautiful at most tables. The defence will probably start off with 2 rounds of clubs and declarer will probably try to ruff 3 diamonds in dummy.

The defenders will probably feel confident about beating the contract but declarer simply keeps winning tricks in spite of himself.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 95 ♥ 7 ♦ J109542 ♣ Q532</p> <p>♠ QJ864      ♠ A72 ♥ QJ5          ♥ AK42 ♦ KQ7          ♦ 83 ♣ J6            ♣ 10874</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K103 ♥ 109863 ♦ A6 ♣ AK9</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12    11</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		3	12    11	14	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	3	-	-	-	S	1	3	-	-	-	E	-	-	1	2	2	W	-	-	1	2	2	<p><b>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥*</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b>  Only a partscore board but still a very interesting hand. I don't think North is worth a vulnerable weak 2♦ opening. Whether East is worth an opening bid or not is a more interesting question – a lot of good players consider AK and an A as an automatic opening bid.</p> <p>If East does choose to open, he will find his side in 4♠x very quickly.</p> <p>If East does not open then E/W have every chance of stopping in 2♠ or at most 3♠.</p> <p>Both East and West will be anxious to bid game here but when one of them shows caution then the other should probably rethink and respect that decision too</p> <p>* East's 2♥ bid is an Unassuming Cue Bid - most of the time showing a good raise to 3♠.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass
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**The Play:**

In a spade contract, E/W have 4 inescapable losers: 1 trump, 1 diamond and 2 clubs.

If any N/S find the Master Defence to defeat 3♠ by West then let CBAI HQ know immediately because 'your country needs you'. The winning defence is not easy to see even looking at all four hands. North makes his natural diamond lead but South needs to duck at trick 1. Then when South gets in with his ♠K, he cashes his ♦A and puts North in with ♣Q on the first or second round of the suit, to get a diamond ruff for his side's 5<sup>th</sup> defensive trick. Beautiful.

The International Committee would also like to hear from any declarer who makes 3♠ after the more normal defence of a diamond lead to the ace and a diamond return to the queen - declarer needs to ruff his ♦K with the ♠A at trick 3 to be certain make 3♠. Very Hanlon-esque!

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 8643 ♥ AQ873 ♦ A3 ♣ J10</p> <p>♠ KQ10975    ♠ J2 ♥ 54            ♥ KJ92 ♦ Q54           ♦ 862 ♣ 98            ♣ A642</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A ♥ 106 ♦ KJ1097 ♣ KQ753</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		11		7	9	13		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	5	4	-	1	S	5	5	4	-	1	E	-	-	-	1	-	W	-	-	-	1	-	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</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>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b> This is the most difficult hand of the evening in terms of bidding. A few of us will land in 3NT and if North had the ♠9 instead of the ♠8 we might have some fighting chance at making it but as it lies 3NT has no chance.</p> <p>Landing in 4♥ is nice bidding, particularly if you and your partner have investigated and ruled out 3NT and are now on your way to 5 of a minor.</p> <p>Of course making any of these contracts is another matter and maybe the N/S pairs who languish in a partscore will score best?</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♦	1♠	2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
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**The Play:**

N/S will make 5 of a minor if declarer plays West for the ♦Q - a reasonable guess given that West has bid.

While 4♥ looks like it has 3 trump losers and the ♣A, declarer can succeed by following the guiding principle of setting up the side suit first. So declarer wins the spade lead in dummy and sets about dislodging the ♣A. As long as declarer does not draw trumps he will succeed – losing 2 trump tricks to the Jack and King along with the ♣A.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ QJ3 ♥ AJ82 ♦ J2 ♣ A853</p> <p>♠ 6                      ♠ K10954 ♥ KQ965                ♥ - ♦ AKQ84                ♦ 10973 ♣ 104                    ♣ KJ76</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A872 ♥ 10743 ♦ 65 ♣ Q92</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		13		14	7	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	5	-	1	1	W	1	5	-	1	1	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : N/S vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">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>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b>  This is one of those rare hands in a matchpoint event, where it is better to be in 5 of a minor than in 3NT. On the other hand, it's hard to see which player could possibly bid 3NT - West is wide open in both black suits and East has a 5<sup>th</sup> spade and 4-card diamond support to show.</p> <p>There is nothing N/S can do to help E/W make 3NT.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass		
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**The Play:**

Not that a 5♦ contract is any easier – in fact declarer will have to play like Garozzo to make it. The winning line seems to combine setting up dummy's spade suit with taking a ruffing heart finesse as well as getting the club guess right by playing a club to the king - and all this without any clues from the opponents!

I suspect the big E/W winners will be those who stop in a diamond partscore.



<p style="text-align: center;">♠ KJ94 ♥ 97642 ♦ KQ3 ♣ K</p> <p>♠ 1086            ♠ Q752 ♥ A103            ♥ K ♦ A1065           ♦ 974 ♣ J104            ♣ AQ972</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A3 ♥ QJ85 ♦ J82 ♣ 8653</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50px;"></td> <td style="width: 50px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px;">♣</td> <td style="width: 20px;">♦</td> <td style="width: 20px;">♥</td> <td style="width: 20px;">♠</td> <td style="width: 20px;">NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	12		N	-	-	3	-	-	9	11	S	-	-	3	-	-			E	2	1	-	1	2			W	2	1	-	1	2	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : E/W vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b>  North opens 1♥ and East has to choose between a 2♣ overcall and double. The general advice is that if you have 2 suits to show and one of them is a 4-card major you should start off with a takeout double.</p> <p>South's raise to 3♥ over the double shows a hand that would raise to 2♥ if East had instead passed. This common and useful treatment goes by two names 'Jordan' and 'Truscott'.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♥	Dbl	3♥	All Pass			
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**The Play:**

All will be well for North in 3♥ as long as declarer leads towards his heart honours - if he makes the error of leading an honour from dummy on the first round he will lose 3 heart tricks (if West plays low) or 1 heart trick (if West mistakenly covers).

If E/W play in 2♠ or 3♣ then N/S need to knock out dummy's ♦A before declarer gets a chance to unblock his ♥K.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AKJ10932 ♥ K9 ♦ Q93 ♣ 8</p> <p>♠ Q85                      ♠ - ♥ -                              ♥ AQ1087432 ♦ A1087                      ♦ 542 ♣ AKJ1064                  ♣ 93</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 764 ♥ J65 ♦ KJ6 ♣ Q752</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		13		14	6	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	3	-	S	-	-	-	3	2	E	4	3	4	-	-	W	4	3	4	-	-	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b> There might be fireworks on this board. West has the best hand at the table and yet the auction might be at 4♥ before he gets a chance to bid.</p> <p>East has a decision to make over the 1♠ opening – does he bid 2♥? 3♥? Or 4♥? Being non-vulnerable and with a Suit Quality Test score of 11, he may as well get his hand of his chest with an immediate 4♥ overcall?</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		1♠	4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass		
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I imagine most tables will have N/S get to 4♠ either quickly or slowly and then the spotlight turns on E/W.

Some East's, with their 8-card suits, will bid one more for the road while others will follow the wise adage that "the 5-level belongs to the opponents". While the adage is true in theory, on this particular hand, it takes an inspired diamond lead from South to defeat even 6♥ so the 5♥ bidders will probably score best in practice.

West will double 4♠ if he gets a chance and will certainly be happy to double 5♠.

**The Play:**

In practice, East will probably make 12 tricks in a heart contract if he can avoid the unlikely diamond lead and if he plays ace and a small heart when he decides to draw trumps.

North should be held to 9 tricks in a spade contact because he loses 3 aces and a heart ruff although there are ways that the E/W defenders can allow North to succeed in 4♠.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AK8 ♥ AJ652 ♦ J ♣ AK85</p> <p>♠ J2                      ♠ 943 ♥ 103                     ♥ Q4 ♦ Q765432             ♦ A108 ♣ J9                        ♣ Q10642</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q10765 ♥ K987 ♦ K9 ♣ 73</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		20		4	8	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	1	6	6	6	S	3	1	6	6	6	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : N/S vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>4♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b> While there are 12 easy tricks on this board for N/S in a major or in a No-Trump contract - once declarer cashes ♥A♥K, it is not all that obvious in the auction that this is the case.</p> <p>If slam is to be bid, South will need to show a good hand - but if he shows too good of a hand he might tempt North into bidding the doomed Grand Slam!</p> <p>If a cuebid of 4♦ is available to South, it shows a good hand with both majors. Maybe it is an overbid but if partner had opened 1♥ or 1♠ South would be worth a raise to game so perhaps 4♦ isn't completely insane?</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	3♦	Dbl	4♦	Dbl	Pass	6♥	All Pass	
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Most Souths will bid 3♠ if they can, and will be raised to game. For sure if South jumps to 4♠, North should be very tempted to make a move. Once East bids 4♦, then double from South, showing both majors, is best.

As ever, there will be some Norths who love their hand so much that they will bid slam even if South bids a simple 3♠.

**The Play:**

All will be well if declarer follows the adage “8 ever 9 never” - but spare a thought for some good players who will finesse the ♥J on the second round of hearts and go one down as a result. They probably read the small print to the adage which says that finessing is slightly better when you can see a singleton in either hand.

On the other hand, maybe declarer's thinking should be that since West has shown 7 cards in diamonds, the odds are better than the normal 50-50 that East has the ♥Q. So cashing ♥A first in case West has the singleton ♥10 is a nice winning compromise.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 4 ♥ 10763 ♦ AQ643 ♣ K108</p> <p>♠ 1092            ♠ KQJ83 ♥ 9                    ♥ AQ4 ♦ K1072            ♦ 98 ♣ AJ972            ♣ Q64</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A765 ♥ KJ852 ♦ J5 ♣ 53</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		9		8	14	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	4	-	1	S	-	2	4	-	1	E	2	-	-	2	-	W	2	-	-	2	-	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : E/W vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b> Although N/S have a play for 4♥, it is not exactly a piece of cake for them to even enter the auction.</p> <p>Some Souths will have a gadget to show both majors and a weak hand – I wonder will Gay Keaveney try a light version of his favourite Flannery convention here?</p> <p>Some West players will wheel out their Drury convention checking to see if the fourth-seat 1♠ opening is full value or not.</p> <p>West's hand is a bit heavy for the 2♠ response but 2♣ might be passed or might be Drury. 3♠ needs 4-card support (for the 4-card major players) and might be too high if West has opened light.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass		
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If the N/S cards were reversed, then South would have an easy take-out double of 2♠ and they would get to play in 3♥ or 4♥ or defend 3♠ (on the other hand it is not easy for N/S to back in to the auction given that neither of them could open the bidding)?

Those of you follow Andrew Robson or Larry Cohen will know that their solution is to double in the direct seat with the North hand - an OBAR bid (Opponents Bid And Raise) - problem solved.

### The Play:

Declarer can make 10 tricks in hearts once he decides to place the ♥Q with East and play a heart towards the Jack. If East rises with the Ace on the first round, declarer still needs to back himself and finesse the ♥J on the second round.

To beat 3♠ by East, South needs to engineer a club or a diamond ruff for himself.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 92 ♥ 7643 ♦ AQ874 ♣ K8</p> <p>♠ AKQJ84     ♠ 1063 ♥ Q5            ♥ KJ109 ♦ 105            ♦ J932 ♣ Q62           ♣ 93</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 75 ♥ A82 ♦ K6 ♣ AJ10754</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b> This is another board where individual styles will determine the auction – some Easts will pass, others will respond 1NT while others will respond 2♠. (This is considerably easier if West’s opening promises five cards.)</p> <p>Respect for the vulnerability will curb enthusiasm for bidding - so much so that N/S might not get into the auction at all. On the other hand they might simply be content to double 3♠ if they are offered the opportunity.</p> <p>If either side were non-vul we might see all four players finding a bid in the early rounds of the auction.</p> <p>Those N/S pairs who do not allow E/W to rest in 2♠ will be well rewarded for their good bidding.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	3♣	All Pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
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**The Play:**

If N/S end up playing the hand then declarer will be inclined to place West with the ♣Q if for no other reason than West opened the bidding. If so, then South can limit his losers to 2 spades and 1 heart making 4♣.

If E/W end up in a spade contact they should be held to 8 tricks i.e. losing 1 heart, 2 diamonds and 2 clubs. On the other hand, if N/S do not take their 5 tricks then declarer will make 9 tricks i.e. 6 spades and 3 hearts.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 5 ♥ A54 ♦ AJ532 ♣ AK103</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ Q4</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ AK73</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ J10</td> <td>♥ KQ63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ KQ1097</td> <td>♦ 86</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ QJ72</td> <td>♣ 654</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J109862 ♥ 9872 ♦ 4 ♣ 98</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> </table>	♠ Q4	♠ AK73	♥ J10	♥ KQ63	♦ KQ1097	♦ 86	♣ QJ72	♣ 654	HCP		16		11	12	1		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	1	-	S	-	-	-	1	-	E	-	1	-	-	2	W	-	1	-	-	2	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : N/S vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♦</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Dbl</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b>  North's 1♦ opening and East's takeout double should be standard at all tables. After that however the paths will differ.</p> <p>Some Souths might try 1♠ or even a weak jump to 2♠ if that bid is available to them. In my opinion, bidding with only 1 HCP vulnerable is asking for trouble – especially when there is every chance your 10 cards in the majors could be a nasty surprise for any E/W declarer.</p> <p>If South passes then West has an interesting decision - does he bid 2♣, 3♣, 2NT or even 3NT - or does he simply pass 1♦ doubled and hope to put his vulnerable opponents two or more down?</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♦	Dbl	All Pass
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West should be very tempted to pass the double, thereby converting East's takeout double into a penalty double, because his diamonds are so good. West hopes to put his vulnerable opponents 2 down for 500 - a score that will beat any non-vulnerable game score that his side might make. Even one down for 200 might be enough for a great E/W board?

### The Play:

West's pass of his partner's take-out double is a command to East to lead a trump. As it happens it doesn't matter what East leads but generally we try to draw the declarer's trumps when we have them doubled at a low level. It looks like North should only make 5 tricks in his 1♦x contract (500 to E/W).

If West decides to bid in response to his partner's take-out double then he will probably land in 2NT or 3NT. It takes careful defence to beat 3NT - the diamond lead is normal but then North needs to switch to a spade when he gets in again to mess with declarer's entries.

If declarer gets the chance he can sneak home with 9 tricks in 3NT in the form of 3 spades, 3 hearts and 3 diamonds.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 42 ♥ AJ98732 ♦ 7 ♣ K95</p> <p>♠ Q1076      ♠ AK ♥ K5            ♥ 64 ♦ KJ62        ♦ AQ954 ♣ 864           ♣ Q1032</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J9853 ♥ Q10 ♦ 1083 ♣ AJ7</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%;">8</td><td style="width: 50%;">15</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>8</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8	15	9	8	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	4	-	-	S	-	-	4	-	-	E	-	2	-	-	-	W	1	2	-	-	-	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : E/W vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b> It looks like it boils down to what North decides to do on the first round. Does he bid 2♥? 3♥ or 4♥?</p> <p>North will probably just bid 4♥ if only because he won't be sure how his partner will interpret a 3♥ bid and also because he knows that a 7-card suit should be the trump suit.</p> <p>East-West have 24 HCP and it looks like they will only have two options - double or bid 3NT and since 3NT might not be available to them they will probably have to double.</p> <p>Fair play to East if he finds the restraint not to double!</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	4♥	1♦	Pass			Dbl	All Pass
HCP																																																							
8	15																																																						
9	8																																																						
Makeable contracts																																																							
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																		
N	-	-	4	-	-																																																		
S	-	-	4	-	-																																																		
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W	1	2	-	-	-																																																		
West	North	East	South																																																				
1♠	4♥	1♦	Pass																																																				
		Dbl	All Pass																																																				

**The Play:**

If West finds himself in 3NT, he will make 9 tricks unless he gets an unlikely club lead in which case he will make only 3 tricks – a 6-trick swing on the choice of opening lead, a great reward for anyone who finds the club lead.

In a 4♥ contract, North has 10 easy tricks because both the heart finesse and the club finesse work, so they will score 7 heart tricks and 3 club tricks.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AQ985 ♥ K4 ♦ 103 ♣ K842</p> <p>♠ K102            ♠ 763 ♥ 76                ♥ Q985 ♦ A74                ♦ KQ9862 ♣ AQJ93           ♣ -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J4 ♥ AJ1032 ♦ J5 ♣ 10765</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		12		14	7	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	2	1	-	S	1	-	1	-	-	E	-	2	-	-	-	W	-	2	-	-	1	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>2NT*</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b> There will be a wide variety of auctions on this board. The weak No-Trump players will probably end in up 3♦ played by East.</p> <p>*The above auction shows lebensohl in action - East's 2NT response asked West to bid 3♣ and now the 3♦ bid showed a weak hand with 6+ diamonds, and is strictly to play.</p> <p>The strong no-trump pairs who open 1♣ might end up defending 2♥ or 2♠ by N/S.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1NT	2♠	2NT*	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass
HCP																																																													
12																																																													
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3♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass																																																										

**The Play:**

3♦ will do down one as long as South leads his partner's spade suit early on thereby setting up a spade ruff for himself.

If North plays in 2♠ he will probably go down one but if he is of a mind to play West for the ♠K and ♠10 he might be allowed to get to dummy twice to finesse twice in spades. The Defence of the Night award goes to any East player who spots the need to rise with the ♥Q if a small heart is played towards the ♥AJ10.



<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 54 ♥ 7652 ♦ 10632 ♣ 1073</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">♠ AK3</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">♠ J7</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">♥ K83</td> <td style="border: none;">♥ AJ104</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">♦ KQ5</td> <td style="border: none;">♦ A97</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">♣ K982</td> <td style="border: none;">♣ AJ65</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q109862 ♥ Q9 ♦ J84 ♣ Q4</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> </table>	♠ AK3	♠ J7	♥ K83	♥ AJ104	♦ KQ5	♦ A97	♣ K982	♣ AJ65	HCP		0	15	18	7	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	7	6	7	4	7	W	7	6	7	3	7	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT<sub>(18-19)</sub></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b> E/W have 33 HCP and 2 balanced hands so 6NT is where they want to be. If South stays silent or makes a simple 1♠ overcall then E/W will probably still get to 6NT because West will show 18 HCP and East with 15 HCP will know what to do.</p> <p>However if South makes a more aggressive 2♠ overcall it might sow seeds of doubt in the E/W minds - maybe West can make a simple 3NT rebid? Those of you playing Support Doubles have that option available to you too.</p> <p>The Strong No-Trump players will face the same rebid problem.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♣	Pass	1♥	1♠	2NT <sub>(18-19)</sub>	Pass	6NT	All Pass
♠ AK3	♠ J7																																																														
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**The Play:**

While it is true that you can make 6NT+1, you can also score 6NT-1 so maybe keeping your opponents out of 6NT will not be a 100% score for the defenders?

If declarer plays for North to hold either the ♥Q or the ♣Q he will go down when both finesses lose to South. On the other hand, those declarers who place South (if he overcalls) with the missing 7 HCP will make 12 or 13 tricks by running the ♥J through South and then spurning the club finesse by cashing the ♣AK (or running the ♣J through South hoping for a doubleton ♣10 somewhere).

If South does not bid at all then I imagine most Wests, with nothing to guide them, will go down in 6NT.

Bridge is a wonderful game!

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q832 ♥ AKJ953 ♦ 7 ♣ 96</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ K765      ♠ AJ94 ♥ 42          ♥ Q86 ♦ J862        ♦ K1043 ♣ Q107       ♣ A2</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 10 ♥ 107 ♦ AQ95 ♣ KJ8543</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10		6	14	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	-	3	-	1	S	3	-	3	-	-	E	-	1	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : E/W vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Rdbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b> North as dealer has the first decision to make: does he open 1♥, 2♥ or maybe even pass?</p> <p>The North hand is a good hand in that it has all of its high card points in its two longest suits and it also satisfies the Rule of 20 (HCP added to the length of our two longest suits) and so a 1♥ opening seems justified. Opening a weak 2♥ with a 4-card spade suit is not recommended.</p> <p>Both North and South might consider doubling the 2♠ contract. South might toy with the idea of bidding 3♣ at his second turn but is the South hand really worth a game force opposite a dead minimum opener?</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Dbl	Rdbl	1♠	2♥	2♠	All Pass
HCP																																																									
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Sometimes, leaving your vulnerable opponents to declare a few hands often pays dividends because they often drift 2 or more off of their own accord for a great matchpoint score for the defenders.

East's initial takeout double might not be everyone's cup of tea but he does have a good 14-point hand with 2 nice 4-card suits – one of them being spades.

South's redouble shows 10+ HCP without heart support. North's 2♥ rebid says 'I opened light'.

**The Play:**

It seems that all North has to do to make 9 tricks is to place both the ♥Q and ♣A with East. If he guesses those 2 cards correctly, East will find himself endplayed every time he gets on lead.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ KQJ43 ♥ K43 ♦ QJ ♣ Q52</p> <p>♠ 1095                      ♠ A862 ♥ AQJ86                    ♥ 109 ♦ AK6                        ♦ 10954 ♣ J4                           ♣ AK6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 7 ♥ 752 ♦ 8732 ♣ 109873</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		14		15	11	0		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	4	4	4	4	W	2	4	4	4	4	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The Bidding:</b> E/W will land in 3NT, one way or another, although some might have West as declarer.</p> <p>East's choice of response is not an easy one – he won't really like bidding NT because ideally, from East's point of view, any NT contract should be played by the West hand. Nor will he like to respond 2♦ on such a poor diamond suit so in the end East might just settle for a simple negative double showing values with no obvious bid?</p> <p>Those of you who play some sort of Jacoby 2NT response to 1♥ or 1♠ openings will need to decide whether or not it still applies after an overcall? If it does, then obviously that will prevent East from bidding 2NT naturally, as in the bidding above.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
HCP																																																													
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**The Play:**

The ♠8 in the East card is a big card, since it provides a second stopper in the suit, meaning that even if West is declarer and North leads a spade, North can only cash 2 spade tricks when in with his ♥K.

The story is the same from the East seat – as long as South trusts his partner and leads a spade, East will be held to 10 tricks.

Declarer makes 11 tricks on a non-spade lead from either hand.

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 6 ♥ KQ1063 ♦ KQ654 ♣ 102</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ A                      ♠ KJ932 ♥ AJ84                  ♥ 952 ♦ A83                    ♦ J107 ♣ 98653                ♣ Q4</p> <p style="margin: 0;">                              ♠ Q108754                               ♥ 7                               ♦ 92                               ♣ AKJ7</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♣</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♦</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♠</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	10		N	1	2	2	-	1	13	7	S	1	2	2	-	1	10		E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♠</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin: 0;">Dbl            All Pass</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>The Bidding:</b> It looks quite reasonable for South to take some action in first seat - whether it be 2♠ or 1♠. It also looks routine for West to make a takeout double of whatever South opens.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">So it looks like South will end up in 2♠ one way or another. The E/W pairs who manage to double it will score very well.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">However if South decides to pass as dealer he will be pleasantly surprised when East starts bidding spades.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				2♠
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**The Play:**

If South ends up in 2♠ he might sneak home with 7 tricks which should be a good board - especially if he has not been doubled. However the natural club lead from West seems to hold declarer to only 6 tricks.

It will be a real cat and mouse affair between East and South and my money is on South to get out for one down.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 97 ♥ 754 ♦ KQ985 ♣ 842</p> <p>♠ KJ854      ♠ AQ62 ♥ K            ♥ AQ1032 ♦ AJ            ♦ 32 ♣ J9653      ♣ Q10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 103 ♥ J986 ♦ 10764 ♣ AK7</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50px;"></td> <td style="width: 50px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px;">♣</td> <td style="width: 20px;">♦</td> <td style="width: 20px;">♥</td> <td style="width: 20px;">♠</td> <td style="width: 20px;">NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	5		N	-	-	-	-	-	13	14	S	-	-	-	-	-	8		E	5	1	3	5	3			W	5	1	3	5	3	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : N/S vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The bidding:</b> Some Easts might be tempted to make a slam try but most West players will show a minimum hand and now East should respect that and get off the bus before they reach slam.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
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**The Play:**

This looks like a flat 11 tricks all around the room - West loses 2 club tricks - his diamond loser being discarded on the second round of hearts. So sadly there is no way to make 12 tricks - there is nothing the South defender can do to avoid winning two tricks with his ace and king of clubs.