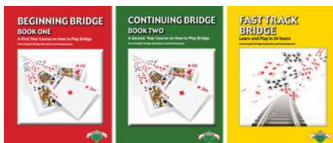


About the Bridge for All books and how to order

All items are sold and despatched by English Bridge Education & Development



Beginning Bridge Book 1 is ideal for those who want to learn using the 'traditional' method of a lesson once a week, for three terms. It progresses at a steady pace, allowing more time to digest each topic. The cost is £30 plus P&P

Fast Track Bridge is ideal for those who want to learn more quickly, perhaps on a condensed course over a long weekend, or through a number of more intensive classes. It is designed to get you to the table quicker. The cost is £30 plus P&P.

Using either of these programmes will get you to the point at which you can play at a local club.

Continuing Bridge Book 2 covers more advanced topics, for those who have grasped the basics – whether having completed Book 1, or a Fast Track course – and wish to improve their game. The cost is £30 plus P&P.



Beginning Bridge Book 1 and Continuing Bridge Book 2 are accompanied by the refreshed **Practise Beginning Bridge Book 1** and **Practise Continuing Bridge Book 2**, to help consolidate knowledge gained from our Bridge For All books. They provide the bridge student with sets of hands to practice at home with friends. With each hand there is a commentary that highlights one or two topics of bidding and play which feature in teaching books. The cost is £8 each plus P&P.

Completing the set of materials is the **System Summary Card**, which gives the Standard English system taught in the Bridge For All books in an easy to use reference format. The cost is £2.50 plus P&P



NEW: SET OF 3 FLIPPERS - £13.50 + P&P

Table top flippers designed to act as either a student aid or teaching aid. Each flipper covers one term of the first year of learning and are compatible with Beginning Bridge Book One. The Flippers are made of sturdy plastic coated card and are spiro bound.

You can also buy them individually for £4.99 each + P&P

How to order these products

All these products are available to purchase directly from English Bridge Education & Development: please call Lisa on 01296 317217 from Monday to Wednesday or if you wish to order online please do so through the website of [the Bridge Warehouse](#).

EBED

Sim Pairs



In aid of Cancer Research UK as part of the Bridge - It's a big Deal! Festival

BRIDGE



IT'S A BIG DEAL!

Commentary by Sally Brock

Thursday 5th September 2024

Welcome to the English Bridge Education & Development (EBED) Simultaneous Pairs.

For this event, the Trustees of EBED have agreed that all proceeds will be donated to Cancer Research UK, the charity that the English Bridge Union is supporting as part of the "Bridge – it's a Big Deal" Festival.

The EBU aims to raise £60,000 for Cancer Research during the festival this autumn and EBED is delighted to support that target by ensuring that all sim pairs fees received will be donated to the appeal.

It's been a somewhat turbulent time for EBED this year, we have a new board of trustees and I will be stepping down soon from my role as CEO, to be replaced by Richard Croot.

The good news is that the organisation is in great hands and our new leadership remains focussed on EBED's two main priorities:

- A national bridge education and training framework and,
- Youth bridge initiatives to encourage those still in full time education to learn and play bridge.

Next year we will hold sim pairs events as usual in the spring and autumn and these will revert to our normal mode of operation with revenue being used to help us deliver our priorities to grow the game of bridge.

I hope that you enjoy playing these hands and competing against others, I'll be playing these at my club too. We sincerely thank you for your support."

Mark Humphris

Chief Executive English Bridge Education & Development, Registered Charity No: 1153543

<p>♠Q1083 ♥54 ♦AJ842 ♣106</p> <p>♠A76 ♠KJ9 ♥Q932 ♥J1076 ♦Q76 ♦K53 ♣K74 ♣A93</p> <p>♠542 ♥AK8 ♦109 ♣QJ852</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	7		N	-	1	-	-	11	12	S	-	1	-	-			E	-	-	2	1	10		W	-	-	2	1	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th style="width: 15%;">West</th><th style="width: 15%;">North</th><th style="width: 15%;">East</th><th style="width: 15%;">South</th></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>I hate 4333 hands. I always deduct a point. My second hate is invitational sequences! It seems to me that partner accepts and goes down, or passes and either makes game or goes down. Hence my passing 1NT with 11 HCP.</p> <p>You will also notice that, after the normal club lead, seven tricks are the limit for EW. Strong no-trumpers will no doubt reach 2♥, which, despite both hands being 4333, should make.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	All Pass	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																	
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																													
7		N	-	1	-	-																																													
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		E	-	-	2	1																																													
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<p>♠Q103 ♥A763 ♦10952 ♣K8</p> <p>♠J87654 ♠92 ♥K92 ♥J4 ♦43 ♦QJ7 ♣AJ ♣1076542</p> <p>♠AK ♥Q1085 ♦AK86 ♣Q93</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>4</td><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	9		N	2	5	5	2	9	4	S	2	5	5	2			E	-	-	-	-	18		W	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th style="width: 15%;">West</th><th style="width: 15%;">North</th><th style="width: 15%;">East</th><th style="width: 15%;">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>3NT</td></tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>In a competitive auction, it is normal for jump support to be pre-emptive while a cue-bid shows a normal limit raise. With only four hearts and a strong balanced hand there is a lot to be said for South trying to play in 3NT. This time both hearts and No Trumps score the same number of tricks, just losing a heart and a club. So, +660 would be likely to be a near top. After a spade lead, maybe declarer plays a heart (the ♥8) to the ♥A and another heart to the ♥J, ♥Q and ♥K. Now another spade. Declarer wins in hand, cashes two more hearts ending in dummy and leads the ♦10, covered and won. Now a club to the king and another diamond. Declarer can cash two more diamonds ending in dummy and then the ♠Q for 11 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♥	1♠	2♠	Pass	3NT								
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<p>♠Q7532 ♥8542 ♦A10 ♣96</p> <p>♠K1084 ♠- ♥K9 ♥QJ1076 ♦K532 ♦Q874 ♣A73 ♣J852</p> <p>♠AJ96 ♥A3 ♦J96 ♣KQ104</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>6</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	6		N	-	-	2	-	13	6	S	-	-	2	-			E	2	3	2	-	15		W	1	2	2	-	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th style="width: 15%;">West</th><th style="width: 15%;">North</th><th style="width: 15%;">East</th><th style="width: 15%;">South</th></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td>1♠</td></tr> </table> <p>Pass 2♠ All Pass</p> <p>It is difficult for EW to compete here; East has the distribution, but West the high cards. It looks as if 2♠ should make eight tricks pretty much all the time.</p> <p>It is likely to be a bit more exciting if South opens a strong NT. North will bid a 2♥ transfer and South will probably jump to 3♠, ending the auction. As long as the defenders set up their diamond trick quickly, declarer should go down; otherwise he may be able to establish a club for a diamond pitch.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	2♠	All Pass	1♠												
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																													
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																									
6		N	-	-	2	-																																																									
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Pass	2♠	All Pass	1♠																																																												
<p>♠KQ74 ♥A1062 ♦10854 ♣3</p> <p>♠653 ♠A9 ♥87543 ♥J9 ♦Q2 ♦AK96 ♣874 ♣KQJ109</p> <p>♠J1082 ♥KQ ♦J73 ♣A652</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>18</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	9		N	-	-	3	-	2	18	S	-	-	3	-			E	3	-	-	-	11		W	3	-	-	-	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th style="width: 15%;">West</th><th style="width: 15%;">North</th><th style="width: 15%;">East</th><th style="width: 15%;">South</th></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>Dble</td><td>1♦</td><td>2♠</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Pass Pass 1♣ Pass Pass Dble 1♦ 2♠ Pass Pass 3♣ Pass Pass 3♠ All Pass</p> <p>Close decisions here. The first round of the auction looks clear. Then, with a 9-count and perfect distribution, North's reopening double looks right. East could redouble to show his good hand, but there is a strong case for showing his minor-suit shape in order to make it easier to compete. He could pass out 2♠, but he has good playing strength, so at favourable vulnerability I would have another go. I think it is right for North to press on to 3♠, with his perfect distribution. His hand is improved by having nothing in diamonds.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass	Pass	Dble	1♦	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																													
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																									
9		N	-	-	3	-																																																									
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Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass																																																												
Pass	Dble	1♦	2♠																																																												
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass																																																												
Pass	3♠	All Pass																																																													

♠K10
♥AQJ
♦103
♣AJ9742

♠2 ♠AJ93
♥K10743 ♥9865
♦J862 ♦A94
♣K65 ♣Q3

♠Q87654
♥2
♦KQ75
♣108

HCP	
15	11
7	7

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	1	-	3	2
S	3	1	-	3	2
E	-	-	1	-	-
W	-	-	2	-	-

Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

All very unclear. I am OK with the 2♠ opening with a poor suit because 6-4 distribution is so powerful, and North seems worth a game try. However, after South shows a diamond feature, I'm not sure either North or South are worth pushing on to game. Even 3♠ is quite a big ask with the spades breaking as they do.

The play is complicated and depends on the opening lead, but there are many lines to success.

♠9742
♥Q942
♦1075
♣65

♠J1086 ♠AKQ53
♥3 ♥K75
♦AQ6 ♦98
♣KQJ93 ♣A104

♠-
♥AJ1086
♦KJ432
♣872

HCP	
2	16
13	9

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	1	-	-
S	-	-	1	-	-
E	6	-	-	6	6
W	5	-	-	6	2

Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♠	Dble
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♣	All Pass

An EW slam hand. The first couple of bids are clear. Then, what should South bid? Non-vulnerable it looks worth bidding something. Double is a little modest – maybe 2♠ (Michaels) would be better.

West is well worth 3♠ with his good playing strength. A couple of cue-bids follow and then West can bid 4NT (because of his source of tricks). When he hears of three key cards opposite, he can ask for the ♠Q, which East shows.

♠102
♥87432
♦K53
♣1072

♠K9763 ♠AJ854
♥AJ1065 ♥K
♦Q10 ♦A8642
♣Q ♣65

♠Q
♥Q9
♦J97
♣AKJ9843

HCP	
3	12
12	12

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	-	-	-	-
S	2	-	-	-	-
E	-	4	4	5	-
W	-	4	4	5	-

Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♠	3♣
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Both East and West have said enough, and everything peters out at 4♣. All quite close. If East had had the ♦K instead of the ♥K, slam would have been excellent. But East knows that, and with better diamonds would not have signed off.

Assuming South starts off with two rounds of clubs, declarer will lose just a club and a diamond.

♠J8642
♥AQ
♦93
♣10542

♠K103 ♠AQ75
♥K43 ♥1062
♦QJ105 ♦K86
♣KJ6 ♣987

♠9
♥J9875
♦A742
♣AQ3

HCP	
7	9
13	11

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	-	-	-	-
S	2	-	-	-	-
E	-	-	-	1	1
W	-	-	-	1	1

Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

Maybe South should pass with that uninspiring 11-count: bad quality main suit, lack of supporting spot cards, second in hand vulnerable against not, etc. The best opening lead for EW is a trump. And that is not so farfetched, given West's strong diamond holding. The ♥Q holds the first trick. I guess a club is declarer's likely next action. And now a second trump. Declarer looks to have six more losers (one club, one spade, three diamonds and at least one trump), for two down. On other leads declarer is likely to scramble seven tricks and escape for -100.

Note that it is better for EW to be out of the auction. Maybe some Wests will double 1♥, but then North will bid 1♠ and East 1NT. Alternatively, South might pass and West open 1NT. Although that will make, it will not score as well as +200.

♠A52
♥A95
♦10854
♣K106

♠Q10 ♠J9876
♥Q104 ♥7632
♦KJ9732 ♦6
♣75 ♣432

♠K43
♥KJ8
♦AQ
♣AQJ98

HCP	
11	1
8	20

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	5	3	4	2	5
S	5	4	4	3	5
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The North hand is not quite worth a slam try in my opinion – the aforementioned 4333 distribution being a reason to downgrade (or at least not to upgrade). However, even if North does bid a quantitative 4NT, it is not clear that South should accept.

At matchpoints, what should West lead? Maybe a passive club is best. Declarer can make 11 tricks, by cashing his black-suit winners and ♥A-K before exiting in hearts, but why should he? It is more likely he will take a heart finesse, and later a diamond finesse. Though maybe he should get it right because of West's passive lead.

♠109
♥82
♦AK98
♣QJ962

♠A76542 ♠KJ3
♥93 ♥KQ7
♦65 ♦Q72
♣K103 ♣A854

♠Q8
♥AJ10654
♦J1043
♣7

HCP	
10	15
7	8

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	2	2	-	-
S	-	2	2	-	-
E	1	-	-	3	3
W	1	-	-	3	3

Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Maybe that West hand does not have a good enough spade suit to open 2♠ vulnerable; maybe that East hand is too full of soft values to make a game try.

Anyway, EW should be able to stop in 3♣. Mind you, in practice 4♣ will surely make. North will either lead a top diamond, or the ♣Q, after which game is cold (in theory after a club lead; in practice declarer is likely to play for North to hold the ♥A rather than the ♦A-K).

The only way to beat 4♣ for sure is for North to lead a heart and South to switch to a club.

♠Q7
♥1032
♦82
♣KQ8632

♠KJ64 ♠1085
♥KQ954 ♥A8
♦5 ♦AKJ1074
♣J54 ♣A7

♠A932
♥J76
♦Q963
♣109

HCP	
7	16
10	7

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	1	4	4	4	4
W	1	4	4	4	4

Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	2♣	Dble	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

A tricky hand to bid. In my view, if you are playing weak NT, a double after fourth seat intervention should show strong NT values with an unsuitable stopper. That would be enough to persuade West to force to game, but it is unclear which the best game is. 4♥ looks a likely outcome to me. Suppose North leads a top club: declarer wins and discards his third-round club loser on a diamond. Now what? He needs to play on spades. North might have opened with a good 6-card club suit and the ♠A (especially if he had some minor honours in the red suits), so it would not be unreasonable to play a spade to the king. Now declarer is home: he just draws trumps and exits with a low spade, eventually forcing an extra trick in the suit.

♠AJ1094
♥3
♦J63
♣10943

♠Q87 ♠K62
♥AKJ1072 ♥Q865
♦85 ♦AQ942
♣Q2 ♣8

♠53
♥94
♦K107
♣AKJ765

HCP	
6	11
12	11

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	4	-	-	2	-
S	4	-	-	2	-
E	-	2	4	-	-
W	-	2	4	-	-

Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1♦	2♣
2♥	2♣	3♥	Pass
4♥	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Although East would not be happy to have to find a rebid if his partner responded 2♣, more often West will bid a major and East will be content to raise. As it is, South overcalls 2♣, West bids 2♥ and North decides to introduce his spades. When EW bid their game, North has to decide whether or not to sacrifice. He has good distribution, and the vulnerability is in his favour. 5♣ doubled goes only one down, so should be a good score even if some EWs don't bid game. However, to make 4♥ after a club lead and spade switch, declarer must play the ♠Q from hand.

♠QJ74
♥32
♦632
♣K843

♠A ♠106532
♥107 ♥AQJ85
♦A1098754 ♦KQ
♣1065 ♣2

♠K98
♥K964
♦J
♣AQJ97

HCP	
6	12
8	14

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	-	-	1	-
S	2	-	-	1	-
E	-	4	2	-	2
W	-	4	2	-	2

Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♣
3♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

South reopens with a double because he is worried his partner might have a penalty double of 3♦. Not this time. North tries 3♣, which would not work out well. It would seem reasonable for East to double 3♣ (and then West would surely double if NS managed to scramble back to 4♣). It looks as if either contract would go two down on accurate defence, +500 to EW.

♠J52
♥J98762
♦75
♣K3

♠Q863 ♠AK1097
♥K54 ♥103
♦AJ2 ♦8
♣Q108 ♣J9752

♠4
♥AQ
♦KQ109643
♣A64

HCP	
5	8
12	15

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	3	2	-	-
S	-	3	3	-	-
E	3	-	-	3	2
W	3	-	-	3	2

Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♥	3♦
3♠	Pass	4♣	All Pass

East's 4♣ bid is a bit pushy and probably best only at teams, but the 5-5 shape is particularly useful. 4♣ could obviously go down if North leads the ♣K, but that does not seem particularly likely. After a diamond lead, declarer simply wins, draws trumps and knocks out the ♣A-K.

♠96
♥J42
♦9642
♣K752

♠A105 ♠J832
♥AQ ♥K1083
♦AKQ3 ♦J107
♣AQ43 ♣86

♠KQ74
♥9765
♦85
♣J109

HCP	
4	5
25	6

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	3	5	4	4	4
W	3	5	5	5	5

Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West picked up his hand and it was full of promise. Unfortunately, that promise withered, and the deal is nothing out of the ordinary. The best lead is a diamond, giving away nothing. It looks as if declarer should be able to make two spades, four hearts, four diamonds and one club.

♠A9
♥KQ10872
♦KQ74
♣9

♠QJ1072 ♠K6
♥54 ♥93
♦A10982 ♦J3
♣8 ♣AJ76532

♠8543
♥AJ6
♦65
♣KQ104

HCP	
14	9
7	10

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	4	-	1
S	-	-	4	-	1
E	-	1	-	-	-
W	-	1	-	-	-

Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		3♣	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Maybe East's club suit is not strong enough for an unfavourable vulnerability 3♣ opening, but it is a decent hand, and it's not as if pass has no downsides either. South would be hoping North would reopen with a double, but it is not to be. North has a normal 3♥ overcall, and South will raise to 4♥. What should East lead? For the defence to take three tricks, EW have to knock out declarer's ♠A before the ♣A is dislodged. Hence either a spade or a diamond lead. In that case declarer will be held to ten tricks, but after the ♠A or a trump it will be eleven.

♠J107
♥J3
♦9753
♣8762

♠A632
♥K84
♦J4
♣A1053

♠-
♥A1097
♦AKQ1062
♣Q94

♠KQ9854
♥Q652
♦8
♣KJ

HCP	
2	
12	15
11	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	1	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	5	6	5	-	5
W	5	6	5	-	5

Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	2♣
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West has a difficult choice of bid if East opens 1♦ and South overcalls 2♣ (a reasonable shot with a good suit and partner a passed hand). The hand is too good to pass, and double would promise four hearts. 2NT is far from ideal, as the lead coming through any spade holding that East has could be fatal, but it is probably best of a bad lot.

As it is, there are ten tricks on top and a skilful declarer should be able to read the end position and manage an extra one after ducking the first spade and then running all the diamonds. South will have to discard all his spades, and now declarer can throw him in with a heart to force him to lead a club at the end.

♠AK63
♥K1097
♦KJ6
♣54

♠Q10954
♥A3
♦975
♣Q63

♠J7
♥Q642
♦AQ1082
♣82

♠82
♥J85
♦43
♣AKJ1097

HCP	
14	
8	9
9	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	-	2	-	-
S	2	-	1	-	-
E	-	1	-	1	1
W	-	1	-	1	1

Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Anything could be right here. It might work well for those who play that a transfer bid of 2♣ finds out whether or not partner has a fit for clubs. Then it could be right to have a pot at 3NT. As it is, the auction might get competitive. I like to play that a double of 1NT by a passed hand shows 4 in a major and 5 in a minor. That seems to fit the East hand and now a 3♣ bid by South surely shows this hand-type. Here that will probably go one down.

Note that, in 1NT, a diamond lead will let that contract through as long as declarer plays on hearts and not clubs.

♠A92
♥A763
♦Q10
♣KJ65

♠874
♥KQJ85
♦92
♣742

♠K5
♥94
♦AJ653
♣Q1098

♠QJ1063
♥102
♦K874
♣A3

HCP	
14	
6	10
10	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	2	1	4	4
S	2	2	1	4	3
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♣	All Pass	

The cards lie well for NS and 4♠ will make, losing just one trump, one heart and one diamond.

I would think that East would lead a heart, ducked, and a heart continued won by declarer's ace. It would look sensible to go for a diamond ruff in the short hand, so I'd play the ♦Q won by East's ♦A, followed by another diamond. Not being psychic, I'd win the ♦K and ruff a diamond, then the ♣K and ♣A (we don't want West discarding too many clubs) and ruff another diamond. All I have left in dummy now are my spades, along with the ♠A in hand. I am only going to lose one more trick. A good moment for South to be aggressive.

♠A653
♥KQ1063
♦10
♣1052

♠104
♥A9852
♦72
♣8743

♠J8
♥-
♦QJ8543
♣AKQJ9

♠KQ972
♥J74
♦AK96
♣6

HCP	
9	
4	14
13	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	4	5	1
S	-	-	4	4	1
E	2	1	-	-	-
W	2	1	-	-	-

Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Pass	3♥	4♣	4♠
All Pass			

This deal gives North the chance to make a 'fit-jump'. As a passed hand there can be no reason for North to jump to 3♥ unless he has a good spade fit. That pushes East to 4♣ and South to 4♠.

It would be tempting for West to bid 5♣ with his 4-card support, but he would be wise to refrain. At Love All, careful defence would see him losing 500 (NS can take a diamond ruff as well as two A-Ks).

♠AQ862
♥A10
♦642
♣Q65

♠KJ109
♥K62
♦J1098
♣84

♠-
♥QJ543
♦A5
♣AKJ732

♠7543
♥987
♦KQ73
♣109

HCP	
12	
8	15
5	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	1	-
S	-	-	-	1	-
E	4	2	5	-	2
W	4	1	5	-	2

Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1NT	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

With such a distributional hand after the 1NT opening, East does best to start with 2NT, showing either the minors or a very strong hand with any 2-suiter. West shows his preference for diamonds, and East's correction to 3♥ shows a strong 2-suiter including hearts. East would surely not hold both majors (or he would have started with a 2♣ overcall), so West raises hearts directly.

Whatever the lead, declarer should not have any trouble making 11 tricks.

♠10
♥10543
♦A10842
♣A54

♠Q9652
♥86
♦973
♣KJ2

♠8743
♥AK92
♦KJ
♣1083

♠AKJ
♥QJ7
♦Q65
♣Q976

HCP	
8	
6	11
15	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	2	2	-	1
S	1	2	2	-	1
E	-	-	-	2	-
W	-	-	-	2	-

Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

North has a tricky bid after his partner's 1NT rebid. At teams, maybe I'd try 3NT (as either the hands fit or they don't), but at matchpoints, 2NT is a wiser move.

I would not expect many Wests to resist a spade lead, and then declarer has a fairly easy eight tricks: win the lead and play the ♦A and another diamond.

♠KQ54
♥KQ1095
♦853
♣4

♠96 ♠732
♥3 ♥AJ842
♦QJ1064 ♦K97
♣AQ1053 ♣92

♠AJ108
♥76
♦A2
♣KJ876

HCP: 10, 9, 8, 13

Makeable contracts		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	2	3	-	-
S	-	-	2	3	-	-
E	1	2	-	-	1	-
W	1	2	-	-	1	-

Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all
West North East South
1♦ Dble 1♥ 1♠
Pass 2♣ All Pass

It is close decision for North between 2♣ and 3♣ at his second turn. It seems reasonable to downgrade his hand a little because of the badly placed heart values and the singleton club. Certainly 4♣ has little play after a heart to the ace, a heart ruff and a diamond shift. Even if declarer draws just one round of trumps and then discards a diamond loser on a heart, he is a trick short and East's ♠7 gets promoted in the ending.

♠J10432
♥Q74
♦J973
♣9

♠A9 ♠Q6
♥J109 ♥86532
♦10865 ♦AKQ2
♣AJ42 ♣Q6

♠K875
♥AK
♦4
♣K108753

HCP: 4, 10, 13, 13

Makeable contracts		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	-	-	3	-	-
S	1	-	-	3	-	-
E	-	2	3	-	2	-
W	-	2	2	-	1	-

Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable
West North East South
Pass Pass 1NT All Pass

Maybe the East hand should be opened 1♥ but with those two queen doubletons and such a bad heart suit, I fancy 1NT. I guess South will lead a club, which does declarer no harm at all. He will win with the ♣Q and play a heart to South's ♥K. Now is the moment of truth; if South continues clubs declarer will make nine tricks, but a spade switch holds declarer to eight.

♠93
♥A10
♦Q1083
♣A10732

♠AJ10865 ♠Q7
♥8652 ♥KQJ97
♦K76 ♦42
♣- ♣QJ86

♠K42
♥43
♦AJ95
♣K954

HCP: 10, 8, 11, 11

Makeable contracts		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	2	-	-	-	-
S	1	2	-	-	-	-
E	-	-	5	4	1	1
W	-	-	5	4	1	1

Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable
West North East South
All Pass

This is a realistic outcome if everyone is playing Acoll! North has only a 10-count; East has one of the most horrible 11-counts I've ever seen; South might open a prepared minor if playing such a system but a vulnerable weak No Trump is unattractive; and West, despite his good playing strength, has only 8 HCP. Maybe East is the most likely to open, and then EW will surely bid to 4♥, making 11 tricks on the actual lie.

♠KJ
♥AJ7532
♦K2
♣KQ4

♠42 ♠Q98653
♥KQ94 ♥-
♦8764 ♦AJ3
♣872 ♣A1053

♠A107
♥1086
♦Q1095
♣J96

HCP: 17, 5, 11, 7

Makeable contracts		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	2	4	1	3	-
S	1	2	4	1	3	-
E	-	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-	-

Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all
West North East South
1NT Dble 2♣ Pass
Pass 3♥ Pass 4♥
All Pass

I imagine most Easts will lead a spade around to declarer's jack. Declarer might well play ace and another heart now, hoping for just one heart loser, and one each in the minors. That would not work well this time. The successful line is very difficult to find. Win the ♠J and then play the ♠K overtaking with the ♠A. Now a heart. West does best to play a top honour and declarer wins. Now the ♦K and, if it holds, another diamond. East wins and plays the ♠Q, ruffed by declarer while West discards a club. Now, in order to succeed, declarer must play a low club. If instead he plays the ♣K, East can duck and later give West a club ruff. But after a low club, East either ducks, allowing declarer to get to dummy, or wins the ace when he can no longer give the club ruff.

♠10765
♥KJ5
♦A86
♣A73

♠AKQ432 ♠98
♥A63 ♥Q102
♦102 ♦Q9743
♣106 ♣K42

♠J
♥9874
♦KJ5
♣Q985

HCP: 12, 13, 8, 7

Makeable contracts		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	1	1	-	-	-
S	3	-	1	-	-	-
E	-	-	-	2	-	-
W	-	-	-	2	-	-

Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable
West North East South
1♠ Pass 1NT Pass
2♣ All Pass

Although NS can make 3♣, it is very difficult (if not impossible) for them to get into the bidding. The play in 2♣ turns out to be fairly straightforward. Best is a trump lead. Declarer might as well draw trumps and give North his trump trick. He will surely make five spades, two hearts and one club.

♠1064
♥97
♦843
♣Q8732

♠K3 ♠AQ97
♥KQ105 ♥863
♦KJ95 ♦7
♣964 ♣AKJ105

♠J852
♥AJ42
♦AQ1062
♣-

HCP: 2, 12, 14, 12

Makeable contracts		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-	-
E	4	1	4	4	5	5
W	4	1	4	4	5	5

Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable
West North East South
1NT Pass 2♣ Pass
2♥ Pass 3♣ Pass
3NT All Pass

When Stayman reveals West's 4-card heart suit, East should investigate possible contracts other than 3NT. 3♣ is natural and forcing, and implies a 4-card suit (spades) to go with the clubs. With diamonds the unbid suit, West should bid 3NT to guarantee a good holding in that suit. Careful play should allow declarer to limit his losses to the red-suit aces.