

Hands for "Take a Seat"

<p>1/17 Love All Dir: North</p>	<p>♠ 8643 ♥ A87 ♦ 962 ♣ KQ7</p>	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">1(17)</div>	<p>♠ KQ1092 ♥ 943 ♦ Q8 ♣ 1052</p>	<p>North and East will Pass. South gets a third seat liars licence to bid her great ♦ suit.</p> <p>Not wanting to mislead partner too much (she might still have an 11 count) you should make a bid that shows good ♦, but doesn't promise much outside.</p> <p>So you open 2♦ (if you play that as weak and you are honest) or use your licence and bid 3♦.</p> <p>Then life gets difficult for West. A double will get a 3♠ response and West will need some grit to Pass that.</p> <p>On the lie of the cards 3♦ can make if a ♥ is not led early (declarer can set up a ♣ to throw a losing ♥ away)</p>
<p>2/18 N/S Vul Dir: East</p>	<p>♠ K ♥ K1095 ♦ AK75 ♣ Q972</p>	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">2(18)</div>	<p>♠ 8532 ♥ J63 ♦ Q1032 ♣ 103</p>	<p>East Passes. South has a borderline opener, but vulnerable with poor intermediates and in "the reliable 2nd seat" should also Pass. West's has a solid 1♠ opener, but with this shape, game could be on either way. You want to play this contract (2 ♠ opposite is a near certainty) - so check that your licence is valid, then decide whether to open a weak 2♠ or 3♠ to get your claim in early. (What would you do over 1♠ (2♥) Pass (3♥) ??)</p> <p>On the cards, North will probably double. East should bid up <i>because there is a ♠ fit</i>. When you are Green v Red you can BAFL (Bid At Fit Level) (almost) irrespective of your point count. So East can raise to 4♠. (Only 2♠ over a 1♠ opener - not so useful!)</p> <p>Yes this does go 3 down, and yes that is -500 if doubled; but what score does their vulnerable 4 (or 6!) ♥ earn you? Declarer finds dummy to be a big disappointment, so must play to be ONLY -500. With 2♥, 2♦, 1♣ and maybe a ♠ to lose, a ♦ ruff will ruin things. So play your ♦J under the ♦A (without a pause!). If that diverts them, play ♠A and another to stop the ♦ ruff. On the layout, you might only be -100!</p>
<p>6/22 EW Vul Dir: East</p>	<p>♠ A4 ♥ J6432 ♦ AJ2 ♣ Q85</p>	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">6(22)</div>	<p>♠ K652 ♥ Q7 ♦ K10754 ♣ J6</p>	<p>East and South Pass.</p> <p>West has AAQ and good intermediates but 8 losers and poor "trick prospects". Pass is the best option by far.</p> <p>North has a 12 count in 4th seat. But the ♥ are poor and with only 2♠, she scores (12+2 => 14 so the Rule of 15 fails. Pass is best.</p> <p>If North succumbs and opens 1♥, then NS are likely to go negative. E-W can make 3♦ or 2♠, South will probably push on to 3♥ and go down.</p> <p><i>(The ♥ suit layout is a common example of a suit not to be lead! It is called a "frozen suit". If N or S lead it, they get no ♥ trick. If E or W lead it, they lose a trick.)</i></p>
<p>11/27 Love All Dir: South</p>	<p>♠ A7643 ♥ Q86 ♦ AJ ♣ 1084</p>	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">11(27)</div>	<p>♠ - ♥ A109753 ♦ KQ9 ♣ KQ93</p>	<p>South and West will Pass.</p> <p>North has 8 losers, but is sat with her licence. With two solid defensive tricks and non vulnerable, she can cheerfully open 1♠.</p> <p>East has an excellent hand - especially if the opponents have points in ♠. East might bid 2♥ or Double first (Dbl then bid ♥ to show 6 ♥ in a powerful hand).</p> <p>Either way, South should bid 4♠ with that fit and shape. (This is near certain to be either a good game contract or a good save.) Will EW manage to bid (and stop in) 5♥ over that?</p>