

Board 1
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ 6 3 2	♠ Q 8 5 4		♠ J 10 9
♥ K 10 6 4	♥ J 9 2	N	♥ 8 3
♦ 10 7 2	♦ 4	W	♦ A K J 8 6
♣ K 6 4	♣ A Q J 3 2	S	♣ 10 8 7
	♠ A K 7		
	♥ A Q 7 5		
	♦ Q 9 5 3		
	♣ 9 5		

NS 5♠; NS 4N; NS 4♥; NS 5♣; NS 2♦; Par +450; NS 4♠+1

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3 NT
All pass			


South opens a Strong No Trump with a balanced 15 points. North has 4 spades so uses Stayman to find out what South has. East may consider bidding their good diamonds for the lead, but with such a balanced hand, it is too risky to do so. South bids their 4 card heart suit and North patterns out. Bidding 3♣ shows 5 clubs and 4 spades with a game forcing hand. South has no fit so simply returns to 3 NT.

West will most likely lead a diamond as the unbid suit - remember that North has shown spades! The ♦ 7 works as the 2nd highest from a poor suit. East needs to pop in the ♦ J to place South under the most pressure. Because East has no outside entry, they need to play a low diamond early on to keep communication open. South will win the first trick and take stock. 3♠, 1♥, 1♣ and 1♦ in the bank means declarer needs another 3 tricks. These could come from the club finesse, spades breaking, clubs breaking or the heart finesse. A lot of choices! With the danger in diamonds, declarer needs to select the option that immediately gives the amount of tricks required. Going after clubs could lead to 4 extra tricks so declarer should tackle those first by leading towards the ♣ AQJ. When the finesse succeeds, transport should be managed with a spade before repeating the club finesse. Cashing out the black suits leads to 11 tricks.

Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

	♠ 8 5 4 2		
	♥ K 9 5 2		
	♦ K Q 10 8		
	♣ J		
♠ J 9		♠ K 10 7 6	
♥ Q		♥ A 8 7 4	
♦ 9 5		♦ A 6 3 2	
♣ A K 8 7 5 4 3 2		♣ 10	
	♠ A Q 3		
	♥ J 10 6 3		
	♦ J 7 4		
	♣ Q 9 6		

NS 2N; NS 2♥; EW 3♣; NS 1♦; Par -110; EW 3♣=

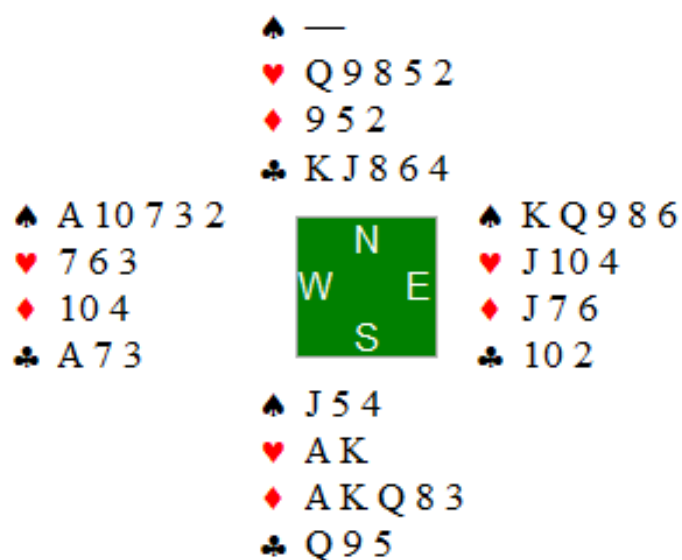
West *North* *East* *South*

Pass Pass

4♣ All pass

East has a close call - they might open this hand, I would certainly be tempted, however, with such sparse spot cards it leans towards passing and coming back into the auction later. West starts with 4♣ and buys the auction. There is consideration for 1♣ or 3♣, but with only 3 cards in the majors, putting in the pressure is key. There is not much in the play, losing 2♠, 1♦ and 1♣ on the unfortunate split.

Board 3
 South Deals
 E-W Vul



NS 6♥; NS 6♦; NS 6♣; NS 1N; EW 1♠; Par +980: NS 6♥=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	Dbl	4 ♠	1 ♦
Pass	5 ♣	All pass	Dbl

South opens 1♦ because they are too strong for 1NT. They might consider upgrading into 2NT but ♥AK tight is not ideal. North can make a negative double of 1♠ because they are not quite strong enough to bid 2♥ and East will jump to 4♠ to put the pressure on. Bidding to the level of the fit is always a good idea even adverse - in this instance there is a case for bidding only 3♠ because of our flat shape but we do not know what partner has! South doubles to show a good hand and North pulls to 5♣ because they have such a good distributional hand. South may consider raising to 6♣, expecting North to have a void spade for the auction but it is a good bet to take a safe positive score.

East may try to start the defence with the ♠ King, but I'd recommend leading a trump! North almost certainly is very distributional to pull the double of 4♠ and this suggests a void spade too, so the extra tricks will likely come from the trump suit (ruffs in the short hand) so we should therefore start attacking that immediately.

Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

	♠ K 3 2	
	♥ A	
	♦ K Q 8 5 3	
	♣ K J 10 2	
♠ A Q 10		♠ J 9 6 5
♥ Q 9 8 3		♥ K J 6 2
♦ 10 9		♦ J 6 4
♣ A 5 4 3		♣ Q 8
	♠ 8 7 4	
	♥ 10 7 5 4	
	♦ A 7 2	
	♣ 9 7 6	

EW 2♥; NS 3♦; NS 1N; NS 2♣; EW 1♠; Par +110: NS 3♦ =

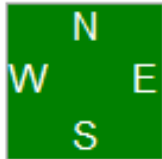
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♣	1 ♦	Dbl	2 ♦
2 ♥	3 ♦	All pass	

West opens 1 ♣ and East doubles the 1 ♦ overcall to show 4-4 in the majors. South raises to the level of the fit, West supports hearts and North has such a good hand they must compete. The play in 3 ♦ is far from trivial, but if declarer realises they have 5 ♦, 1 ♥ and need 3 tricks, they can play clubs out of their hand and use the entry to dummy to take the all important spade finesse, losing 2 ♣ and 2 ♠.

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

	♠ 4 3 2		
	♥ J 10 2		
	♦ J 6 5 4 3		
	♣ A K		
♠ A K J 10		♠ 9 7 5	
♥ 8 6 5		♥ 9 4	
♦ 7		♦ K Q 10 2	
♣ 9 7 5 4 3		♣ Q 8 6 2	
	♠ Q 8 6		
	♥ A K Q 7 3		
	♦ A 9 8		
	♣ J 10		

NS 2N; NS 2♥; EW 2♣; EW 1♠; NS 1♦; Par +100; EW 3♣×-1

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT

All pass

Even with five gorgeous hearts, South should prioritize opening 1 NT. North has a close call between simply blasting 3 NT and inviting, but with ♣ AK tight, we should downgrade to an invite. South has a good five card suit and should have no issue with accepting the invite. The play is quite unfortunate - you would hope for 5 ♥, 2 ♣ and to get the diamonds going. Sadly, the defence is quite simple and will lead to 4 ♠ and 1 ♦ for 1 down. West will lead a top spade and switch to a club when East discourages. Declarer will win and should try a diamond towards the 9, East needs to split! If they are snoozing this will let the contract through.

Board 6

East Deals

E-W Vul


♠ 6 3	♠ K J 9 8 5 4 2	♠ A Q 10 7
♥ Q 10 8 5 3	♥ —	♥ A 6
♦ A 6	♦ J 9 5 2	♦ Q 10 8 3
♣ J 8 6 5	♣ A 9	♣ Q 4 3
	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 5px;"> W N E S </div>	
	♠ —	
	♥ K J 9 7 4 2	
	♦ K 7 4	
	♣ K 10 7 2	

EW 3N; NS 1♠; EW 1♥; NS 1♦; EW 1♣; Par -500; NS 4♦×-3; NS 4♠×-3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♦	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	All pass	

A good exercise in restraint. East opens 1♦ - not upgrading into 1NT due to the doubleton heart. South has a normal 1♥ overcall and West lurks in wait with a trap pass. North has a clear 1♠ response and South should rebid clubs, showing more cards in their hand than a 2♥ rebid. West continues to salivate over the prospect of defending a rounded suit but should still pass. A double from West in this position would show a trap pass of 1♥ but typically has more values. North should rebid spades again, and South should pass. Amusingly, EW can make 3NT even though they only have 21 points. The defence will need to take card to avoid giving the diamond suit to declarer.

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

♠ K 9 ♥ 10 5 ♦ K 9 7 3 ♣ A Q J 9 4	♠ A 7 5 4 2 ♥ K Q 4 ♦ J 10 8 6 ♣ K		♠ 10 8 3 ♥ A 9 8 7 2 ♦ A 4 ♣ 8 6 5
♠ Q J 6 ♥ J 6 3 ♦ Q 5 2 ♣ 10 7 3 2			

W 3♥; EW 4♣; EW 2N; E 2♥; NS 1♠; EW 1♦; Par -140: W 2♥+1

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♣	1♠	Dbl	2♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East is not quite strong enough to bid 2♥ over 1♠ so should settle for a negative double. South raises to the level of the fit and that is enough to keep EW out of the auction. North should not grow too excited with 13 points, including a singleton ♣ king. The play is quite exciting - East needs to find a diamond ruff to defeat 2♠. Declarer needs an entry to South to take a spade finesse but they might realise they have a natural trump loser and bang down spades from the top. This would be quite effective if the defence are convinced that they need to force declarer on a club lead.

Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

	♠ A 9 7 4											
	♥ 9 5											
	♦ A K J 5 4 2											
	♣ J											
♠ K J	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		N		W		E		S		♠ 8 3 2	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ K Q 7 4		♥ A 6 3 2										
♦ 10 6		♦ 9 8 7										
♣ A 7 4 3 2		♣ 10 9 5										
	♠ Q 10 6 5											
	♥ J 10 8											
	♦ Q 3											
	♣ K Q 8 6											


NS 3♠; NS 3♦; NS 1N; EW 1♥; EW 1♣; Par +140; NS 2♠+1

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♣	1 ♦	1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♥	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠

All pass

A highly competitive auction! East should definitely reach in with 1♥ for the lead as well as any competitive benefits it may yield. South mentions their spades and North has such a good hand with shape they should bid 3♠ - if South held only ♠KQxx you'd fancy your chances in 4♠. South has a decent hand and should raise to game. Sadly, there are 2♥ 1♠ and 1♣ to lose unavoidably. The best shot declarer has is to run the ♠Q and try to pin singleton Jack in East.

Board 9
 North Deals
 E-W Vul

♠ A K 3 ♥ Q 6 3 ♦ 10 9 5 3 2 ♣ 8 2		♠ J 10 2 ♥ J 7 ♦ Q J 7 ♣ A Q J 6 3	♠ 8 7 5 ♥ A 5 4 2 ♦ 8 6 ♣ K 7 5 4
♠ Q 9 6 4 ♥ K 10 9 8 ♦ A K 4 ♣ 10 9			

NS 2N; NS 2♠; NS 3♣; NS 1♥; Par +120; NS 1N+1

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
All pass			

South bids 2♦ as game forcing checkback to identify if North has 4♠ to play in spades. When North denies 3♥ and 4♠, 3NT is the standout choice. With no finesses working, it is doomed to fail. The defence will need to attack hearts before allowing the declarer to set up the clubs otherwise declarer will take 4♣, 2♠ and 3♦ for 9 tricks.

Board 10

East Deals

Both Vul

	♠ 4											
	♥ K 8 4 2											
	♦ 2											
	♣ A J 9 6 4 3 2											
♠ Q 6 5 3 2	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <table style="border: none; margin: 0;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		N		W		E		S		♠ A J 10 9	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ A J 7 5 3		♥ 10										
♦ Q 8		♦ A J 6 5 3										
♣ 10		♣ K Q 5										
	♠ K 8 7											
	♥ Q 9 6											
	♦ K 10 9 7 4											
	♣ 8 7											

EW 4♠; EW 2N; EW 2♦; NS 2♣; EW 1♥; Par -620; EW 4♠=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♠	3♣	3♠	Pass
4♠	All pass		

North interferes with a pesky 3♣ overcall, even though they have 4♥ on the side, because their partner has passed they know that they will not be concerned about missing a heart game. East still has a clear 3♠ raise and West should bid one more for their 5-5 shape and good values.

North will lead a diamond and declarer needs to avoid the trap of taking the finesse! They should fly the ♦A and play a heart to hand. Now play a club towards dummy to give North a problem. Notice we haven't gone for trumps - we actually want to play on those later but we have transport issues, so going after clubs first is logical. We can also use the club to pitch a diamond loser before playing on a cross ruff line (cash ♠A first and then go for it).

Board 11
 South Deals
 None Vul

	♠ 7 6 5 2	
	♥ 8 7	
	♦ 10 9 7	
	♣ J 10 8 5	
♠ A Q J 10	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 9 8 4
♥ A J 4 2		♥ K 10 5 3
♦ 5		♦ A 8 4 3
♣ A Q 9 4		♣ 7 2
	♠ K 3	
	♥ Q 9 6	
	♦ K Q J 6 2	
	♣ K 6 3	

EW 6♠; EW 6♥; EW 5N; EW 4♣; E 3♦; W 2♦; Par -980: EW 6♥=; EW 6♠=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1♦
Dbl	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass

West has a clear double of 1♦ and needs to raise 1♥ to 3♥ to show a powerful hand. Envisioning partner with ♥KQxx is enough to make game so we should be giving partner the chance to bid it! The play is not too challenging - South is marked for all finesses and we should bear that in mind for our order. We should take the club finesse first (after winning the ♦ lead) as it will allow us back into the East hand with a ruff, then we can take a spade finesse and cross with a heart and take another spade finesse - we don't know that South only has 2!

Board 12

West Deals

N-S Vul

♠ A Q 9 8	♠ J 5 2	♠ K 4
♥ A Q J 9 3	♥ K 7 6 2	♥ 10 8 5 4
♦ A 4	♦ J 10 8 3 2	♦ K 7 5
♣ A 5	♣ 2	♣ Q J 10 3

♠ 10 7 6 3	♠ 10 7 6 3	♠ K 4
♥ —	♥ —	♥ 10 8 5 4
♦ Q 9 6	♦ Q 9 6	♦ K 7 5
♣ K 9 8 7 6 4	♣ K 9 8 7 6 4	♣ Q J 10 3

EW 6N; EW 6♥; EW 5♠; EW 3♦; EW 3♣; Par -990; EW 6N=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
2 NT	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	All pass

South may consider doubling Stayman to tip partner off to a club lead but with the Q♦ and a heart void it could be right for those suits depending on the contract! In 4♥, North will lead their singleton club and South **must** duck the ♣ King, identifying that for 2NT must have a doubleton and that for their lead, North does not have the ♣ Ace. Playing the ♣ King establishes the ♣ QJ in the dummy which helps declarer with their entry issues. Now that declarer has won on the dummy, they will likely try the ♥ 8 to take a finesse, discovering the bad news when South shows out. They should duck the heart early as there is no danger of a ruff from North. The rest of the play is reasonably simple, declarer can now afford to cash 2 spades and ruff the third in dummy before drawing the remaining trumps and claiming.

Board 13

North Deals
Both Vul


	♠ K J 2										
	♥ J 10 9 3										
	♦ 2										
	♣ K 7 6 4 2										
♠ Q	<table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 3
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ A 7 5 4		♥ K Q 6 2									
♦ Q J 5 3		♦ A K 9 8 4									
♣ Q 10 5 3		♣ A J 8									
	♠ A 10 9 8 7 6 5 4										
	♥ 8										
	♦ 10 7 6										
	♣ 9										

EW 6♦; EW 5♥; NS 4♠; EW 4♣; Par -500; NS 6♠x-2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	1♦	4♠
Dbl	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	All pass

South has 8 spades so should go for a 4♠ overcall, even at this vulnerability. West has a good enough hand for a double. These doubles are more value showing than penalty oriented - it is far more frequent that you have a hand with "points" than a hand with a spade stack that will blitz 4♠. East, with very little defence is therefore extremely tempted and should bid. But what? They have diamonds and hearts - if we bid 5♥, we take away the option of playing in 5♦ and if we bid 5♦ partner will never know that we had hearts. 4NT in competitive auctions shows two places to play, and when we correct 5♣ to 5♦, West will know that we had diamonds and hearts. Since at the 5 level, all games are made equal, West should stick to diamonds. North might consider bidding 5♠, but given that the strength of 4♠ is unknown and EW don't appear to comfortable in finding a fit, they should leave it and hope to beat 5♦. There is not much in the play, losing a spade and a heart. You can make 6♦ on a club heart squeeze against North.

Board 14
 East Deals
 None Vul

♠ Q 6 3 ♥ K 9 8 3 ♦ A K Q 9 ♣ 5 3	♠ K 10 8 7 4 ♥ Q 10 4 ♦ J 7 3 ♣ 7 4		♠ J 9 5 2 ♥ A J 7 6 ♦ 5 ♣ A K Q 8
♠ A ♥ 5 2 ♦ 10 8 6 4 2 ♣ J 10 9 6 2			

EW 5N; EW 5♥; EW 4♠; EW 3♦; EW 3♣; Par -460: EW 3N+2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♣	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥	All pass

East has just enough to jump to 3♥ with the singleton diamond. West cue bids 4♦ which importantly denies both a club cue *and a spade cue bid*. This allows East to know that they are missing the ♠AK and to sign off in 4♥. This should tip North off to a spade lead, but after that, since South can't return a spade, there is no route to a ruff and the declaring side can't remove the spades to leave just 2 losers when the heart finesse works. At teams, it might be well worth safety playing the heart suit by cashing the ♥Ace and leading towards the ♥K98, but there is a danger that North wins Qx/10x♥ and gives their partner a spade ruff.

Board 15
 South Deals
 N-S Vul

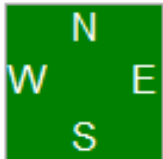
	♠ J 10 9 8 7		
	♥ 6		
	♦ J 7		
	♣ A J 9 3 2		
♠ 5 3	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q 4 2	
♥ A J 9 4		♥ K 10 2	
♦ K Q 9 2		♦ A 8 6 5 4	
♣ 10 6 4		♣ K 5	
	♠ A K 6		
	♥ Q 8 7 5 3		
	♦ 10 3		
	♣ Q 8 7		

E 3N; NS 3♠; EW 4♦; EW 2♥; W 1N; NS 2♣; Par -200; NS 4♠×-1

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	1 ♥
1 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

South might open 1♥, but I prefer to have a better quality primary suit to open light. North may also consider a very light 1♠ opener in third, but again, we want to have a better quality suit to open light. East opens 1♦ and South definitely comes in with 1♥. West has a choice - they can raise diamonds, they can trap pass or they can bid NT. It looks like 1NT to me, a bit heavy but important to put the hand across to partner. If partner takes another bid we're well placed to bid game.

Board 16
 West Deals
 E-W Vul

<p>♠ 9 2 ♥ A 10 8 ♦ 8 6 4 2 ♣ A K J 6</p>	<p>♠ J 6 5 ♥ Q 7 3 ♦ J 10 9 7 5 ♣ 9 5</p>	<p>♠ A 3 ♥ K J 6 2 ♦ A 3 ♣ 8 7 4 3 2</p>
		
<p>♠ K Q 10 8 7 4 ♥ 9 5 4 ♦ K Q ♣ Q 10</p>		

EW 6♣; EW 5N; EW 5♥; EW 2♦; EW 1♠; Par -1370: EW 6♣=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
Dbl	2♠	Dbl	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All pass

West sadly has to open 1♦ with 44 in the minors, even though the clubs are so nice. East starts with 1♥ to bring the major in first. South mentions their spades and West makes a support double, showing 3♥. North raises to the level of the fit which gives East a really tough decision. Doubling for takeout seems reasonable - we plan to bid 3NT which shows a tenuous spade stop, otherwise we would have bid 3NT over 2♠. West leaves it in, hoping that they have just enough!

The play is quite simple - declarer has 5♣, 1♦, 2♥ and 1♠. If North South pitch hearts on clubs, they may end up making some overtricks. Note that you shouldn't take the heart finesse in case you guess wrong and now you go down!

Board 17
 North Deals
 None Vul

	♠ A J 10 7 4		
	♥ 10 8 6		
	♦ Q 3		
	♣ Q 5 2		
♠ Q 8	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K 2	
♥ A K Q 3		♥ J 2	
♦ A 6 2		♦ J 10 7 5 4	
♣ 9 7 6 4		♣ A J 8 3	
	♠ 9 6 5 3		
	♥ 9 7 5 4		
	♦ K 9 8		
	♣ K 10		

EW 2N; EW 2♥; EW 3♦; EW 3♣; NS 1♠; Par -120; EW 2N=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Quick auction to 3NT and a most probable quick 2 down! Declarer has 4♥, 1♠, 1♣ and 1♦. The most likely line will be to set up diamonds. What's the best way of doing that? Without the ♦ 8 or ♦ 9 we have to hope North has Hx. Therefore, we are forced to play a diamond towards the ♦ Jack. This is quite counter-intuitive because it accepts that you are never making your contract. Once you make that step, you will potentially win the board!

Board 18

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ A K 10 6	♠ 4 3	♠ J 7						
♥ 7 5 4	♥ Q 10 3	♥ A K J 9 8						
♦ K J 9 8	♦ A Q 10 2	♦ 7 3						
♣ Q 8	♣ J 10 6 3	♣ A 5 4 2						
<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W</td><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td><td style="padding: 5px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="3" style="padding: 5px; text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>			W	N	E	S		
W	N	E						
S								
♠ Q 9 8 5 2								
♥ 6 2								
♦ 6 5 4								
♣ K 9 7								

W 4N; EW 4♥; E 3N; EW 2♠; W 3♣; E 2♣; EW 1♦; Par -430; W 3N+1

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
4 ♥	All pass		

A quick and easy auction to 4♥. South will likely lead a diamond through the unbid suit in dummy. Declarer has a tough set of lines to consider. They could run the spade hoping to pitch clubs and similarly set up the diamonds to do the same, or they might try to ruff clubs in dummy. If we count tricks, assuming trumps are favourable, we have 5 heart tricks, 2 spades and a club is 8. We can ruff a club for 9 and a spade finesse will give us ten. Declarer therefore should end up making!

Board 19

South Deals

E-W Vul

	♠ Q 7 4	
	♥ J 5 4 3	
	♦ 9 8 2	
	♣ Q 4 2	
♠ A K 6 5	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 9 8 3 2
♥ K 10 8		♥ Q 7
♦ K 10 5		♦ Q J 6 4
♣ A J 9		♣ 10 6 5
	♠ J 10	
	♥ A 9 6 2	
	♦ A 7 3	
	♣ K 8 7 3	

EW 3♠; EW 2N; EW 3♦; EW 2♣; EW 1♥; Par -140; EW 1♠+2

West	North	East	South
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1♣

1 NT	All pass
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West has a tough decision - they could start with a double but a practical, slightly heavy, 1 NT is reasonable. It will also end the auction! North will lead their longest suit, hearts, which South should put the ♥ 9 on! It is really good technique to marry your high cards to high cards in the dummy so that you capture them efficiently. Declarer will win and set about spades, eventually leading to 3♠, 3♦, 2♥ and 1♣. They don't have enough tempo to do everything before losing 1♠, 2♥ and 1♦.

Board 20

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ 9 8 5 3	♠ 6 4 2	♠ Q J 7
♥ Q 7 5 4	♥ 8 3	♥ A K J 9 2
♦ K 5	♦ J 7 3	♦ 9 6 4
♣ 9 6 2	♣ A Q J 10 4	♣ 8 7
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; width: 100%;"> S </div> </div>	
	♠ A K 10	
	♥ 10 6	
	♦ A Q 10 8 2	
	♣ K 5 3	

NS 4♦; NS 4♣; NS 2N; NS 1♠; EW 1♥; Par +130: NS 2♣+2; NS 2♦+2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	1 ♥	Dbl
3 ♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	4 ♣	All pass	

South has a very tricky call over 3♥, it isn't certain that the hand belongs to NS. Doubling feels quite risky - we could miss out on the diamonds but bidding is too much when 3NT might still be in the frame. There's a case for bidding 2♦ earlier, but when we can double we should. Generally, my advice is that when you aren't sure if you should take an action or not, take the action. You'll be surprised how often it is right. In this case, double has the upside of 3♠, 4♣ and 4♦ and sometimes 3NT. There is downside that you might go down but if that's true, the opponents are likely making 3♥.

The play in 4♣ is quite simple, losing 2♥ and 1♦ when the ♦ King is offside.

Board 21
 North Deals
 N-S Vul

<p>♠ 10 5 ♥ K Q 9 4 ♦ J 9 4 3 ♣ K 7 6</p>	<p>♠ J 6 ♥ 6 ♦ A Q 10 6 ♣ A 10 8 5 3 2</p>	<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ A 9 8 7 4 ♥ A J 10 ♦ 7 5 2 ♣ J 4</p>
	<p>♠ K Q 3 2 ♥ 8 7 5 3 2 ♦ K 8 ♣ Q 9</p>		

NS 4♣; NS 1N; NS 1♠; NS 1♥; NS 1♦; Par +130; NS 2♣+2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	1 ♠	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♣	All pass	

Quite a scary auction for NS! North opens with a good shape and after East overcalls, South has three choices. They can bid 2♥, dbl or bid NT. Making a trap pass is not really a consideration here, generally it is better to bid your hand as fast as you can instead of trying to trip up your opponents. I suggest 2♥ for precisely that reason. Once we bid it, we're done, no need to do anything else. North has to rebid 3♣ and South will contentedly pass it. 3NT might be an option but if North couldn't bid 2♠ or even 3♠, 3NT might be stretching.

Board 22
 East Deals
 E-W Vul


♠ 10 7 5 4 2			
♥ J 10 6			
♦ A 8 6			
♣ 10 5			
♠ J 9		♠ A 8 3	
♥ K 2		♥ A Q 8 4	
♦ K J 10 7 2	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> W N S E </div>	♦ Q 9	
♣ K Q J 8		♣ A 9 4 3	
♠ K Q 6			
♥ 9 7 5 3			
♦ 5 4 3			
♣ 7 6 2			

EW 6♦; EW 6♣; EW 4♥; EW 2N; EW 2♠; Par -1370: EW 6♣=; EW 6♦=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 NT	Pass
3 NT	All pass		

West is a bit flat and aceless to go hunting for a slam. You can make 6 minor because of the perfect fit and pitching a spade on the 3rd heart. 3NT is practical and will go plus more often than hunting for 6 minor will. Amusingly, on this board, South can defeat 3NT by leading the ♠ King. I think they should - with only 5 points they need the source of tricks to come from partner's hand, and when West fails to bid Stayman, North is odds on to hold length in a major.

Board 23
 South Deals
 Both Vul

<p>♠ 9 7 4 ♥ 10 6 4 3 ♦ J 8 6 ♣ J 10 7</p>	<p>♠ 10 6 3 2 ♥ J ♦ K 10 7 5 3 2 ♣ Q 5</p>	<p>♠ A Q 5 ♥ A K 7 2 ♦ 9 ♣ K 9 6 4 2</p>
		
<p>♠ K J 8 ♥ Q 9 8 5 ♦ A Q 4 ♣ A 8 3</p>		

N 4♠; N 3N; N 5♦; S 4♦; S 1N; S 1♠; EW 1♥; EW 1♣; Par +620: N 4♠=
West *North* *East* *South*

			1 NT
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
3 ♥	All pass		

2NT from North is a transfer to diamonds, which South accepts. North might be tempted to jump in with 3NT if NS have the methods to identify that South "likes" diamonds by accepting with an honour, but it is still quite a gamble. In any case, over 3♦, East backs in with a takeout double and finds partner with a horrific hand. North might make a takeout double over 3♥ if that's available to them and reach 3NT again. The 4-1 heart split certainly doesn't help the cause for EW!

Board 24

West Deals

None Vul

	♠ 10 5 3		
	♥ J 7 2		
	♦ K Q J		
	♣ A 10 8 7		
♠ Q J 8 6		♠ A 9 2	
♥ A 10 8 4		♥ 9	
♦ 7 4 2		♦ A 9 8 5 3	
♣ Q J		♣ K 6 3 2	
	♠ K 7 4		
	♥ K Q 6 5 3		
	♦ 10 6		
	♣ 9 5 4		

EW 2♠; EW 3♦; EW 1N; EW 1♣; Par -110; EW 2♦+1; EW 2♠=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
Dbl	2♥	All pass	

East can't make a support double of spades since dbl from West only promised 4 spades. West feels no need to bid again when they have such good defence to hearts with ♥A1084.

West should lead the ♠Q and East can safely duck it, knowing partner only has 4 so South must have 3♠. Declarer wins and sets about drawing trumps by leading the ♥3 to the ♥Jack. When they play a second round of hearts, West wins and continues spades. The defence should switch to clubs after cashing two spades which will lead to 2♣, 2♥, 2♠ and 1♦ for -2.