

British Winter Sim Pairs



Monday
13th January 2025

Welcome to the British Winter Simultaneous Pairs, whether you are playing online or Face to Face. I sincerely hope you enjoy the event and also the commentary provided by a leading expert who, for this set of hands, is Graham Osborne.

Simultaneous Pairs are a great opportunity to play against new opposition – all the pairs from the other participating Clubs from all over the country. It's always fascinating to see how your 'local' score in your own Club (against opponents whom you know) can change once all the national results are incorporated.

This is the start of the 2025 Simultaneous Pairs season, so it's a new year for prizes. Every host club will be entered in to a prize draw made at the AGM in November, so every participating club has a chance to win one of eight cash prizes of £200. Not only clubs win prizes, but so do players – the prize for the overall winners of each Sim Pairs is £100, and we wish you luck.

You can find all the full details, results and last year's prize winners at www.ebu.co.uk/sims/

Blue points are awarded to the top third of the field but please don't be impatient for the results! Although provisional results will appear quickly they won't be finalised, nor will the Master Points, until all the results are in and any score corrections have been made. This can take up to three weeks. It really helps us sort any issues if you have kept your scorecard.

Good luck and do enjoy your bridge.

Adrian Darnell, Chairman EBU

<p>♠ 10972 ♥ 96 ♦ J64 ♣ J865</p> <p>♠ AKJ3 ♠ 8654 ♥ 1072 ♥ AKQ5 ♦ AKQ108 ♦ 972 ♣ K ♣ 97</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ J843 ♦ 53 ♣ AQ10432</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Double</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Over the pre-empt West has an easy take-out double, and it is reasonable for East to stretch slightly with 4♣, which should ensure his side get to the 4-4 major suit fit.</p> <p>The defence starts with a couple of rounds of clubs, forcing West to ruff. Declarer tests the trumps, discovering the split. Leaving North with the master trump outstanding, declarer can cash diamonds to discard his losing heart, succeeding on this deal when North has to follow to the first three rounds. Playing hearts first will see declarer do a trick worse, as North can discard a diamond on the third round of hearts. Now, when declarer turns his attention to diamonds, North can ruff the third round and exit with a club, leaving declarer with a losing heart. Perhaps best of all is to start with two rounds of hearts to see if the Jack falls doubleton. If it does, cross to the 10 to unblock the suit and start diamonds.</p> <p>Pairs that arrive in the 4-3 heart fit should do okay. If South leads his singleton, win in dummy and play ♣K to prepare the way for a ruff. Win the return, cross to a high heart, ruff a club, pull two more rounds of trumps and play diamonds for 11 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	3♣	Double	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
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<p>♠ 42 ♥ AQ10652 ♦ K ♣ AQ93</p> <p>♠ AKQJ98 ♠ 5 ♥ KJ9 ♥ 43 ♦ AQ ♦ 108743 ♣ 102 ♣ J7654</p> <p>♠ 10763 ♥ 87 ♦ J9652 ♣ K8</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>West finds himself in an awkward spot when the 2♥ overcall comes back to him. It is not unreasonable to try 3NT with the six running spade tricks, hoping for a heart round to his honours and perhaps one useful card in dummy. Indeed, it works here on a heart lead if declarer attempts to just cash his tricks, as he finds a miracle lie in diamonds. Many Wests will no doubt try some number of spades; three seems reasonable, as to make four you will need to find a couple of useful cards in dummy, in which case partner will often find a raise.</p> <p>I suspect many declarers will accrue nine tricks in a spade contract when the defence missteps in some way – perhaps on an initial ♥A lead. An accurate defence might start with a trump lead. Declarer draws trumps and gets off play with a club, hoping for something good to happen. If that runs to South's King, he can play a heart through, and then North can play two more rounds of clubs to ensure that he ends up with two more heart tricks in the endgame.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥	Pass	Pass	3NT	All Pass																												
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<p>♠ A742 ♥ KJ5 ♦ K2 ♣ KQ96</p> <p>♠ 95 ♠ K1063 ♥ 43 ♥ 1097 ♦ QJ98764 ♦ 3 ♣ 54 ♣ A10732</p> <p>♠ QJ8 ♥ AQ862 ♦ A105 ♣ J8</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This deal will see a mixture of pairs in 4♥ and 3NT. If you open a weak NT with the 5-card heart suit, then 3NT is your destination unless you have a way of unearthing the 5-card major in the NT opener. Playing a strong No-trump and 5-card majors, the fit will naturally come to light and 4♥ is a more likely conclusion although it is possible that someone will offer 3NT as a possible contract, depending on how the bidding goes.</p> <p>Heart contracts will, more likely than not, score ten tricks. The vulnerability will no doubt have kept the opponents silent, so it looks natural for South to try and ruff a diamond in dummy, but this will allow the defence to score a third trick with one of East's small trumps. With diamonds 7-1, eleven tricks in NTs should be okay by taking five hearts and two in each of the side suits. Perhaps a possible line is to win the ♦K in dummy, play a club to the Jack, and then take a losing spade finesse.</p>	West	North	East	South				1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass																											
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<p>♠ 10 ♥ QJ86 ♦ QJ764 ♣ K76</p> <p>♠ QJ8732 ♠ AK65 ♥ AK54 ♥ 103 ♦ 3 ♦ A95 ♣ 52 ♣ A1093</p> <p>♠ 94 ♥ 972 ♦ K1082 ♣ QJ84</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>A bidding test for East-West on this deal as there is nothing to the play, with 12 tricks always available in spades. With 6-4 and all the points in the long suits, West is well worth an opening bid but, even then, it will require good judgement or system to reach slam. East, with his ruffing value and four key cards, has a very good hand in support, and most pairs will be able to start with a support-showing 2NT bid. In my suggested auction above, West shows his second suit and diamond control, which is music to East's ears and will allow him to take control. Other pairs might rebid 3♦ on the West hand showing diamond shortage first, and then be able to cuebid 4♥ on the next round of the auction. With only 25HCPS, I suspect many pairs will miss this one, so reaching slam should be handsomely rewarded.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass																				
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<p>♠ K107 ♥ Q2 ♦ AKJ96 ♣ KJ9</p> <p>♠ AQ93 ♠ 54 ♥ KJ ♥ A9876 ♦ 1072 ♦ Q83 ♣ AQ76 ♣ 1084</p> <p>♠ J862 ♥ 10543 ♦ 54 ♣ 532</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>When North opens a strong NT, no-one will have anything to say, although I suppose you could gamble Stayman on the South hand hoping to improve the contract. East leads a heart to the King and plays two more rounds of the suit to set up his two long cards. In dummy, North will naturally try the losing diamond finesse, enabling East to cash his two established hearts, putting the North hand under some pressure. If declarer keeps his black Kings guarded, he will have to throw a diamond. Whatever East exits with declarer is likely to score three diamond tricks and a black King for the dreaded -200. When North opens 1♦ it is uncertain what will happen, as West does not have a clear action in the pass-out seat. All the possible actions have flaws, but what is your poison? 1♠ on the chunky four card suit; double with only a doubleton heart; 1NT with a heavy point count and no diamond stop; or pass and hope North is going down? Here 1♠ will probably work out worst as accurate defence – ♦AK and a ruff, and a club through West – should defeat it, but the other actions may well end up with a positive score.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South						
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	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
17	N	-	-	1	-
16 6	S	-	-	1	-
1	E	-	1	-	1
	W	1	1	1	-

<p>♠ 983 ♥ J ♦ KQ106543 ♣ 65</p> <p>♠ K652 ♠ 7 ♥ A64 ♥ K852 ♦ 7 ♦ J98 ♣ K10732 ♣ AQJ84</p> <p>♠ AQJ104 ♥ Q10973 ♦ A2 ♣ 9</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>When East opens a featherweight vulnerable 1♣, the nice suit and 5-4 shape being possible mitigating factors, he will likely propel his side to the hopeless 5♣ game that has an inescapable loser in each of the side suits. Over the Michaels cue-bid, West's cuebid shows good club support and, although East will attempt to put the brakes on, his partner will likely carry his side too high.</p> <p>An initial pass will work out much better, leaving South to open 1♠ and for East to double North's raise to 2♠. In this scenario West has a fine hand for competing in clubs but won't drive to game.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	2♣	2♥	2♠	3♣	3♠	5♣	All Pass		
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2♥	2♠	3♣	3♠														
5♣	All Pass																

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
6	N	-	3	-	2
10 11	S	-	3	-	2
13	E	4	-	2	-
	W	4	-	2	-

<p>♠ QJ32 ♥ KJ108 ♦ 86 ♣ 1054</p> <p>♠ K75 ♠ A864 ♥ 62 ♥ Q95 ♦ AK109532 ♦ QJ4 ♣ 6 ♣ K82</p> <p>♠ 109 ♥ A743 ♦ 7 ♣ AQJ973</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>That are lots of variations possible here but maybe East-West quite often will get overboard in diamonds. With the six-card suit and two aces, 1♣ is a much sounder opening bid than on the previous deal. West might bid 1♦ or a rather heavy 3♦. After a 3♦ overcall, East might try 3NT, reasoning that his honours will fill in partner's seven-card suit, and a potential club lead will provide a ninth trick. He is right about that here, and 3NT making ten tricks on a club lead will be a very fine score for his side. Of course, a heart lead is a completely different kettle of fish, and best defence sees the defence take the first ten tricks for down six! Heart to the King, ♥J and then clubs at some point.</p> <p>A 1♦ overcall will lead to a slower auction with both sides finding their red suit fits. North-South are unlikely to either bid or make 4♥, and East-West can only make a disappointing nine tricks in diamonds, since East's ♥Q and ♣K turn out to be completely wasted.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♣	1♦	Dble	1NT	2♥	3♦	All Pass		
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	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
7	N	3	-	4	1
10 12	S	3	-	4	1
11	E	-	3	-	-
	W	-	3	-	-

<p>♠ A762 ♥ 74 ♦ K764 ♣ AK7</p> <p>♠ J843 ♠ 109 ♥ AJ96 ♥ Q1085 ♦ AQ9 ♦ 10532 ♣ 43 ♣ 982</p> <p>♠ KQ5 ♥ K32 ♦ J8 ♣ QJ1065</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 611 188 801"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="226 611 470 801"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</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> </tbody> </table>	HCP		14		12	2	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	1	-	2	2	S	4	1	-	3	3	E	-	-	1	-	-	W	-	-	1	-	-	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="494 129 965 197"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>When West opens a weak NT, the auction should have a certain simplicity about it. If the defence start by cashing eight black tricks, finishing in the South hand to play a diamond through, West will be down to his winning spade and two cards in each red suit. If he finesses the diamond (it would be good play for South to lead the ♥8 rather than the ♥J, which will make the winning play less obvious) he will be down four, as North can win to return a diamond, South later collecting his ♥K. If declarer rises with the ♦A, then cashing the spade and playing ♦Q to squash the Jack will see declarer do a trick better. No doubt declarers in 1NT will end up with a variety of tricks, with some perhaps doing as well as down two. The strong no-trumpers will open 1♣ or 1♦ depending on what system dictates. 1♣ passed out won't be a pleasure to play, potentially finishing the same four down that was the fate of 1NT. After a 1♦ opening North-South might reach 3NT. This is cold if played by South, with the ♥K protected, but also likely to make by North unless East's methods allow him to lead a 'third and fifth' ♥8 – the ♥5 just won't get the job done.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	All Pass						
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<p>♠ 6 ♥ KJ82 ♦ Q52 ♣ AK943</p> <p>♠ AQ53 ♠ KJ972 ♥ Q74 ♥ 10 ♦ 10983 ♦ KJ7 ♣ J7 ♣ Q1062</p> <p>♠ 1084 ♥ A9653 ♦ A64 ♣ 85</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1267 188 1458"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="226 1267 470 1458"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		13		9	10	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	4	-	2	S	2	-	4	-	2	E	-	1	-	3	-	W	-	1	-	3	-	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="494 862 965 974"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>1♣</td><td>1♠</td><td>Dble</td></tr> <tr><td>3♠</td><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The classic major suit battle here, although the vulnerability may mean that the heart suit wins out for a change. With the aid of the diamond finesse, East-West have a pretty easy nine tricks in spades. Making 4♥ looks very tricky, but of course making at least eight tricks will have the consolation prize of being better than defending a spade partial. A possible line after two rounds of spades is to set about your clubs. West overruffs the third round and taps dummy with another spade. Now declarer ruffs the fourth round of clubs high with the ♥A and finesses West for the ♥Q. That makes six heart tricks, one diamond and three clubs, for what would be a very satisfying +420. Double dummy par is the vulnerable-against-not save in 4♠ doubled, down one, but it is hard to see that being anything but a bad score for East-West.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♣	1♠	Dble	3♠	4♥	All Pass	
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<p>♠ AK ♥ J843 ♦ A8752 ♣ 92</p> <p>♠ Q542 ♠ J963 ♥ AK965 ♥ Q10 ♦ 1043 ♦ KQ ♣ 5 ♣ KJ1074</p> <p>♠ 1087 ♥ 72 ♦ J96 ♣ AQ863</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1944 188 2134"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="226 1944 470 2134"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		12		9	12	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	2	-	-	-	S	1	2	-	-	-	E	-	-	2	2	-	W	-	-	2	2	-	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="494 1505 965 1617"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A slightly offbeat 1NT opener but, with more than half your points in your doubletons, there is a case for it. You can also make a case for a vulnerable pass, as it is a really bad 12 with perhaps the goodish five-card suit the only redeeming feature. Anyway, not many people pass 12HCP hands these days, so virtually everyone will open 1♣ or 1NT, both of which should lead to the spade partial. Eight or possibly nine tricks should be the result in spades. An initial heart lead, which looks favourable, will in fact hold declarer to the contract for certain if North continues hearts when in with a spade honour. On two rounds of diamonds, declarer plays a spade to the 9 and ruffs the diamond continuation. They can continue drawing trumps, but will at some point have to make the unlikely play of a heart to the ten to emerge with nine tricks. All in all, eight tricks looks a lot more likely than nine.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	All Pass
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<p>♠ J764 ♥ 3 ♦ J1084 ♣ KJ54</p> <p>♠ KQ952 ♠ A103 ♥ K9875 ♥ AQ106 ♦ AK6 ♦ 75 ♣ - ♣ Q1073</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ J42 ♦ Q932 ♣ A9862</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 ♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td>2 ♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 ♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td>4 ♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 ♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td>5 ♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 ♥</td> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>You can pat yourself on the back if you reach the grand slam in hearts here. Unfortunately, you are likely to go minus so you will have to make do with my congratulations rather than any matchpoints.</p> <p>On the ♦ J lead, the indicated line is to test trumps by cashing a couple of rounds (2-2 is enough to claim). When they don't break, you can draw the last one, ruff a diamond and hope spades play for five tricks – either the suit is 3-2 or South has Jxxx or the Jack is singleton. That is a 40% shot in the heart suit and over 80% in the spade suit for a combined chance of around 90%.</p> <p>I hope you at least have the consolation that most of the field isn't languishing in game, in which case bidding the small slam would have been enough for a good score.</p>		West	North	East	South					Pass	1 ♠	Pass		2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass		4 ♥	Pass	5 ♣	Pass		5 ♠	Pass	6 ♥	All Pass			
	West	North	East	South																											
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HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
6	N	1	-	-	-
15 12	S	1	-	-	-
7	E	-	-	7	7
	W	-	-	7	7

<p>♠ Q854 ♥ A9743 ♦ Q8 ♣ Q10</p> <p>♠ K1093 ♠ AJ62 ♥ KQ6 ♥ J10 ♦ K9743 ♦ 1065 ♣ 6 ♣ K985</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ 852 ♦ AJ2 ♣ AJ7432</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1 ♦</td> <td></td> <td>1 ♥</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>2 ♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 ♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3 ♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="5">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Everyone may have something to say on this competitive deal. After the light opening, the spade fit will come to light after East's negative double showing four spades. It will be difficult for South to sell out to 2 ♠ with his singleton spade, despite his three small hearts.</p> <p>A heart lead would put the defence in charge against 3 ♥, as they will threaten to draw trumps and cash some spade winners, but otherwise declarer will probably be able to scramble eight tricks.</p> <p>That will be okay as long as East-West are going plus in a spade contract. There are four losers outside trumps, and the 4-1 split will complicate matters if declarer plays South for the Queen. Overall, eight tricks feels middle of the road, but it wouldn't be a surprise to see the odd declarer emerge with either seven or nine tricks.</p>		West	North	East	South	1 ♦		1 ♥	Dble	2 ♦	2 ♠	Pass		Pass	3 ♥	All Pass				
	West	North	East	South																	
1 ♦		1 ♥	Dble	2 ♦																	
2 ♠	Pass		Pass	3 ♥																	
All Pass																					

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
10	N	2	-	1	-
11 9	S	2	-	1	-
10	E	-	3	-	2
	W	-	2	-	2

<p>♠ 3 ♥ KQ83 ♦ 98542 ♣ 943</p> <p>♠ QJ108765 ♠ AK ♥ 2 ♥ A10654 ♦ KQ10 ♦ AJ73 ♣ 108 ♣ Q2</p> <p>♠ 942 ♥ J97 ♦ 6 ♣ AKJ765</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1 ♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 ♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 ♠</td> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The vulnerability should keep South out of the auction, which should pretty rapidly reach the inevitable conclusion of 4 ♠.</p> <p>A club lead will get the defence their two tricks immediately but on other leads declarer should be able to manage more overtricks. How about on a diamond lead: win in hand and unblock the ♠AK. Now ♥A and a high ruff back to hand is safest to continue drawing trumps (a diamond back instead will concede a defensive ruff leading to a disastrous ten tricks), and then declarer can discard a club loser on the long diamond.</p> <p>In fact, you can do even better on a diamond lead: win in hand, play ♥A and ruff a heart, cross to ♠K, heart ruff, cross to ♠A, and ruff another heart. Now draw the remaining trump and you have two discards, the established heart and the fourth diamond, for your two losing clubs.</p>		West	North	East	South			Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass		2NT	Pass	4 ♠	All Pass			
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	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
5	N	2	-	-	-
8 18	S	2	-	-	-
9	E	-	3	1	5
	W	-	3	1	5

<p>♠ Q10874 ♥ 2 ♦ K95 ♣ KQ106</p> <p>♠ A93 ♠ 2 ♥ Q109843 ♥ K5 ♦ Q ♦ J76432 ♣ J53 ♣ 9874</p> <p>♠ KJ65 ♥ AJ76 ♦ A108 ♣ A2</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>5</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>4</td> <td>S</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		10		N	5	3	1	6	5	9	4	S	5	3	1	6	5	17		E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Anyone that bids slam here has done exceptionally well. In the suggested auction above South opens a strong NT and, after the transfer to spades, breaks the transfer to show a maximum with four trumps. When North splinters over this, South has a truly great hand and can take control.</p> <p>If South opens an Acol style 1♥ things are much harder, as the singleton in the North's hand will not feel like an asset.</p> <p>Slam is pretty good, nearly laydown if trumps are 2-2, and with chances in the minors if they are 3-1.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass	6♠	All Pass	
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<p>♠ K94 ♥ AKJ94 ♦ K8 ♣ 873</p> <p>♠ A108 ♠ J7 ♥ 1076 ♥ Q853 ♦ 1094 ♦ J765 ♣ KQ96 ♣ J52</p> <p>♠ Q6532 ♥ 2 ♦ AQ32 ♣ A104</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>14</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>5</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		14		N	2	2	3	5	2	9	5	S	2	2	3	5	2	12		E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This should be everyone's 4♠.</p> <p>To make eleven tricks, you need to win the ♣K lead and play ♥AKJ squashing the ten, and then later the play of the ♥9 forces West to ruff with his second trump trick. Nobody is going to play that way though, so more realistically you might play ♥AK throwing a club, and then cash three rounds of diamonds and ruff a fourth.</p> <p>This will lead to the probably most popular result of ten tricks, but anyone who tries the heart finesse, whether or not they have cashed three rounds of diamonds first, will fail by a trick.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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<p>♠ J ♥ Q10963 ♦ 1098732 ♣ 10</p> <p>♠ 72 ♠ AK10954 ♥ AJ87 ♥ 52 ♦ A4 ♦ Q5 ♣ KJ732 ♣ Q65</p> <p>♠ Q863 ♥ K4 ♦ KJ6 ♣ A984</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>3</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>11</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		3		N	-	4	1	-	-	13	11	S	-	4	1	-	-	13		E	3	-	-	3	3			W	3	-	-	3	1	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The West hand is awkward after the 1♠ response, as 2♣ on the motheaten suit is not a great description, which is why some players will open a weak NT to obviate this problem. Strong NT players, of course, have a comfortable rebid. I think West is just about worth a raise to 4♠ in the sequence above. You have no spade honour but do have a doubleton and nice controls in the side suits. Played by East, 4♠ is tricky to defeat for certain but also tricky to make! South, with an unpleasant choice of leads, might pick a diamond. This looks bad as it runs to the Queen. After three rounds of trumps, with South winning, East has the issue of how to get back to hand without promoting South's ♠8. There are lots of possible variations, but ♥K switch will certainly put declarer to the test. Played by West, the defence is straightforward on the ♣J lead, South winning and playing a suit preference ♣3 back.</p> <p>The matchpoint fiends in 3NT will be immediately off on a diamond lead from North, and will likely fail on a heart lead as well.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
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<p>♠ 9643 ♥ 95 ♦ A53 ♣ AQ43</p> <p>♠ A10 ♠ KQ5 ♥ KQJ632 ♥ 107 ♦ 104 ♦ J72 ♣ 1086 ♣ KJ975</p> <p>♠ J872 ♥ A84 ♦ KQ986 ♣ 2</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>10</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	10		N	-	2	-	3	1	10	10	S	-	2	-	3	1			E	2	-	1	-	-			W	2	-	1	-	-	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td></tr> <tr><td>2♥</td><td>Dble</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td></tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>Okay I hate to admit it, but some pairs might pass out this board with everyone holding 10 HCPs, but surely most Souths with blood flowing through their veins will open 1♦ with the strong suit in third position non-vulnerable. Those that do will be rewarded as it proves to be their side's deal. West overcalls 1♥/2♥, North can double to show four spades, and his side should get to a partial in spades.</p> <p>After a heart lead, declarer sets about trumps and, with spades breaking and diamonds also playing for five tricks, that should be nine tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♦	2♥	Dble	Pass	2♠
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																										
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																						
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<p>♠ 975 ♥ AJ3 ♦ KQJ5 ♣ J85</p> <p>♠ K ♠ 8632 ♥ 85 ♥ K10976 ♦ 9762 ♦ 43 ♣ AK9742 ♣ 103</p> <p>♠ AQJ104 ♥ Q42 ♦ A108 ♣ Q6</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>3</td><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	12		N	1	4	2	4	4	10	3	S	1	4	2	4	4			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td></tr> <tr><td>3♣</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>North-South have 27 HCPs here and deep finesse makes game in two strains, but I'll wager that most pairs will fail.</p> <p>When South opens a strong no-trump, North will raise to game, declining Stayman with a 4333 shape. On a low club lead, South wins the Queen, crosses to a high diamond in dummy and takes the losing spade finesse for down two.</p> <p>The defence against 4♠ should be relatively straightforward as well. After ♣AK, West can play a third round for his partner to ruff out the Jack. Now, after a losing spade finesse, declarer will only be able to pitch one of his hearts on the diamonds and thus still needs the losing heart finesse to make his contract.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♠	3♣	4♠	All Pass	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																										
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																						
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<p>♠ K32 ♥ 6 ♦ KJ1076 ♣ J1062</p> <p>♠ A106 ♠ 7 ♥ AJ85 ♥ K97432 ♦ A92 ♦ Q853 ♣ AQ9 ♣ 74</p> <p>♠ QJ9854 ♥ Q10 ♦ 4 ♣ K853</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>5</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	8		N	-	-	-	1	-	19	5	S	-	-	-	1	-			E	-	3	6	-	4			W	-	3	6	-	4	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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></td><td></td><td></td><td>2♠</td></tr> <tr><td>Dble</td><td>3♠</td><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td></tr> </table> <p>When South opens a down-the-middle weak two, West will feel he is a little too strong for a direct 2NT, so starts with a double. Over a simple barrage raise, East has enough to try 4♥. West has a lot of extra high cards and can picture a singleton spade in his partner's hand but no source of tricks. If he makes a move towards slam with 4♠, East won't be interested.</p> <p>If North blasts 4♠ over the double and East chances 5♥, I can see some Wests raising to the poor slam that requires both minor suit finesses.</p> <p>If South takes advantage of the position and vulnerability and tries 3♠ with his 6-4 shape, West will be boxed into bidding 3NT. North might try saving in 4♠ over that, and now it is less attractive for East to bid 5♥, as he might be sitting opposite only two hearts, or on a bad day a singleton. The best defence to 4♠ doubled is impossible, requiring an underlead of the ♥A to partner's King, for a club through to collect a ruff. Thus two down and -300 for North-South is the likely result.</p>	West	North	East	South				2♠	Dble	3♠	4♥	All Pass
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																										
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																						
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<p>♠ J62 ♥ QJ32 ♦ Q9842 ♣ 4</p> <p>♠ AK83 ♠ 10975 ♥ K9 ♥ 10854 ♦ AK5 ♦ 763 ♣ 10952 ♣ K6</p> <p>♠ Q4 ♥ A76 ♦ J10 ♣ AQJ873</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This superficially looks like a quiet partscore board but there are quite a few possible variations in the auction. Firstly, West might open a strong NT, probably passed out. On a diamond to the ten ducked and diamond continuation, declarer wins and plays three rounds of spades, with North winning and clearing diamonds. Declarer crosses to the good spade in dummy and leads a heart towards the King. This should be six tricks for declarer unless South has erred by throwing a heart, in which case he will have no entry to his partner's hand and will have to give declarer a seventh trick in the club suit. When West opens 1♣, that may well be passed out. A heart lead looks natural, but in fact hands declarer a sixth trick, whilst a lead in any other suit potentially leads to two down and a top score.</p> <p>Finally, when West opens 1♠ and East has the discipline to pass, South will protect with 2♣ and then East can take the push to 2♠, earning his side a great score, as it is an easy make. If East raises to 2♠ on the first round, then his side will get overboard as West will naturally make a move towards game.</p>		West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass	All Pass																																	
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<p>♠ Q64 ♥ KJ543 ♦ Q76 ♣ 43</p> <p>♠ AK872 ♠ 93 ♥ Q ♥ 108762 ♦ AJ1093 ♦ K8 ♣ 107 ♣ AJ85</p> <p>♠ J105 ♥ A9 ♦ 542 ♣ KQ962</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2♠ will be a popular contract here.</p> <p>On a club lead from North, perhaps the best approach is to win the ace and play three rounds of diamonds, ruffing the third in dummy. This yields a satisfactory result, and now declarer can play three rounds of trumps, that suit splitting as well, leading to ten tricks.</p> <p>There are potential issues if declarer ducks the first round of clubs to one of South's honours. He switches to Ace and another heart, forcing declarer to ruff. Declarer ruffs out the diamonds as before, but now has only four trumps in hand, so playing three rounds of trumps risks defeat whenever trumps split 4-2, since declarer would not be able to enjoy his long diamonds, notwithstanding the defence potentially being able to cash some heart tricks.</p>		West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	All Pass																												
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<p>♠ 9862 ♥ 92 ♦ QJ652 ♣ K10</p> <p>♠ Q10 ♠ K53 ♥ J10874 ♥ 53 ♦ 3 ♦ A10987 ♣ A9832 ♣ QJ7</p> <p>♠ AJ74 ♥ AKQ6 ♦ K4 ♣ 654</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A good hand for weak no-trump, as those playing the stronger variety may miss their spade fit. On the lead of the ♣Q to the Ace, and a diamond switch, the defence collect their ruff and exit in clubs, say. Ace and another spade looks a practical choice here, and leads to immediate success. The bidding should tell you that East does not have both spade honours, as they have already shown ♦A and ♣Q, and presumably ♣J. Finessing in spades also works, but you have to be careful. You need to ruff a club back to hand then lead the ♠9, holding the lead in the North hand to cash a diamond trick, since trying to ruff a heart in the North hand won't work.</p> <p>If a strong no-trump opening is passed out, then the likely ♥J lead is okay for declarer. They have time to establish a couple of diamond tricks, and have the ♣K as an entry. A club lead at trick one should see declarer fail by a trick.</p>		West	North	East	South				Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass																																
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<p>♠ J532 ♥ 10543 ♦ 10 ♣ 10763</p> <p>♠ 10 ♠ A76 ♥ 986 ♥ Q7 ♦ 862 ♦ AKQJ73 ♣ AQJ854 ♣ K2</p> <p>♠ KQ984 ♥ AKJ2 ♦ 954 ♣ 9</p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: left;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Whether North passes the 1♠ opening, raises to 2♠, or has a pre-emptive 3♠ available, it is tempting for East to try 3NT. If that is passed out, and South rather naively leads a spade, that will be all the tricks for the declaring side. On the ♥K lead, asking for the unblock of an honour or count, the defence should be able to arrange to get their four tricks. Even better would be for North-South to find their spade save, but perhaps this is only possible where North can bid 3♠ on the first round. Indeed, on a diamond lead, 4♠ is cold, since the defence is powerless to stop two diamonds being ruffed. If North-South do get to 4♠, it looks tempting for West to push on to 4NT with his source of tricks, but this will end in disappointment if the defence get their act together in the heart suit.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	2♠	3NT	All Pass
West	North	East	South										
			1♠										
Pass	2♠	3NT	All Pass										

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
1	-	-	2	3	-	
7 19	N	-	-	2	3	-
	S	-	-	2	3	-
	E	5	5	-	-	3
13	W	5	5	-	-	3

<p>♠ A865 ♥ A8 ♦ Q965 ♣ KQ10</p> <p>♠ K10432 ♠ QJ ♥ 642 ♥ Q1053 ♦ A103 ♦ 742 ♣ 85 ♣ A642</p> <p>♠ 97 ♥ KJ97 ♦ KJ8 ♣ J973</p>	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: left;">South</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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>3NT isn't great here, failing a lot of the time when the spades are 4-3. But with the spades blocked and West only having one entry, the heart finesse right, and diamonds splitting, nine tricks should be a breeze. When spades aren't attacked early, some declarers will make ten tricks, and that should be a decent score even if you are not in game. If North opens a strong no-trump, South has a pretty ropey 9HCP with three jacks, partially compensated by some good spot cards. Inviting through Stayman is probably the route to go at matchpoints, and North with his unexciting minimum will decline; at teams you will probably blast game. Weak no-trumpers will arrive in a similar position either after 1♦-1♥-1NT. If North opens 1♠, South will have to decide whether to respond 2♣ or 1NT playing an Acol style.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass			All Pass
West	North	East	South										
	1♠	Pass	1NT										
Pass			All Pass										

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
15	N	4	4	3	1	3
7 9	S	4	4	3	1	3
	E	-	-	-	-	-
9	W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ A42 ♥ AQ743 ♦ Q3 ♣ 763</p> <p>♠ J98763 ♠ KQ5 ♥ J86 ♥ - ♦ AKJ ♦ 10542 ♣ 4 ♣ AKQ852</p> <p>♠ 10 ♥ K10952 ♦ 9876 ♣ J109</p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="text-align: left;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>When North opens his long suit, East overcalls, and South raises the ante pre-emptively, West will have to close their eyes and chance their Jack-high suit at the four level. The Jxx holding in hearts suggests that partner is very short, and that you will buy some sort of fit in spades, but it is not guaranteed. 4♠ looks potentially awkward on a heart lead, forcing dummy to ruff. You might try three rounds of clubs to get rid of your remaining hearts, and when that passes off successfully, advance the ♠K from dummy. Back in dummy with the ♠Q, you will have a decision to make about the diamond finesse. If the play has suggested that South has the ♥K, South also having shown the ♣J, it is very likely that North has the ♦Q, so playing for the drop is the route indicated, with satisfying results. Once again North-South have a paying save with just five losers in the minors. If North opens a weak no-trump, the auction will take a completely different course – perhaps a 3♣ overcall by East passed out?</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	2♣	4♥	4♠			All Pass
West	North	East	South										
	1♥	2♣	4♥										
4♠			All Pass										

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
12	N	-	-	2	-	-
10 14	S	-	-	2	-	-
	E	5	5	-	6	1
4	W	5	5	-	6	1

<p>♠ KJ10984 ♥ - ♦ Q65 ♣ K1098</p> <p>♠ Q ♠ 763 ♥ KQ1096 ♥ AJ732 ♦ J84 ♦ K1097 ♣ QJ72 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ A52 ♥ 854 ♦ A32 ♣ A543</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>9</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>8</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>12</td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		9		N	3	-	-	4	2	11	8	S	3	-	-	4	2			E	-	-	4	-	-		12	W	-	1	4	-	-	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This a decent enough game, with all of South's values outside of North's void. If the spades come in for six tricks, then you need either the ♦K onside or clubs to play for three tricks. If there proves to be a spade loser, then you need both minors to behave. Left to their own devices, North-South might have an invitational sequence, and South would have to decide whether their three aces and third trump is enough. If East-West find their heart fit, it is almost inevitable they will push the other side into the spade game. They might do this by the marginal passed hand making a lead directing double in the sequence above, or by West overcalling 1♥ after a 1♣ opening. Continuing a theme: this is yet another hand with a paying save since, with the ♦Q onside, East-West are only one off in 5♥.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Dble	2♠	4♥	4♠	All Pass	
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<p>♠ Q9432 ♥ J862 ♦ AK8 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ A65 ♠ J1087 ♥ Q93 ♥ AK104 ♦ 4 ♦ 92 ♣ AJ10432 ♣ Q85</p> <p>♠ K ♥ 75 ♦ QJ107653 ♣ K97</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>10</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>9</td> <td>W</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		10		N	-	3	-	-	-	11	10	S	-	3	-	-	-			E	5	-	5	3	-		9	W	5	-	5	3	-	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>You would love to double as West, as the onus is usually on the hand with the shortage to act. But here there are some significant flaws, since you have no four-card major, and your HCPs are marginal. North has a lot of cards in the majors but the length and strength in diamonds suggest that maybe the opponents can make something after all, so perhaps bumping a level is a wise precaution. This will condemn North-South to a minus score, but the opponents can indeed make game in two strains. If North passes, East may well have chanced a double with both majors and, although a 5♣ bid from West won't be what he was looking to hear, all ends well here. In 5♣, after a couple rounds of diamonds, ruff and cross to the ♥K, and successfully draw trumps by running the Queen and repeating the finesse. With ten tricks now, your eleventh will come from a successful guess in hearts. Perhaps the best play after trumps is to duck a spade. South wins the King and plays another diamond. Declarer ruffs, cashes ♠A and the last trump and North is 'show-up' squeezed in the majors.</p>	West	North	East	South				3♦	Pass	4♦	All Pass	
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<p>♠ A74 ♥ Q106 ♦ 862 ♣ K653</p> <p>♠ J62 ♠ - ♥ AK54 ♥ 97 ♦ AKJ ♦ 1097543 ♣ AJ10 ♣ Q8742</p> <p>♠ KQ109853 ♥ J832 ♦ Q ♣ 9</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>9</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td> <td>2</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8</td> <td>W</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		9		N	-	-	-	3	1	21	2	S	-	-	-	3	1			E	5	6	1	-	-		8	W	5	6	1	-	-	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Weak hands with one or two minors are tricky after a 2NT opening. If you had 6-5 in the majors you could transfer to spades and bid 4♥ hoping that there was a fit in one of the suits, but five of a minor is a long way off. The options here: you might pass, hoping 2NT is the limit (will any Souths bid 3♠ in the pass-out seat? Now you could bid 4NT showing your hand!); you could chance 3NT, hoping that one of your suits runs and that the opponents can't set up a major to run; you could bid 3♠ showing both minors and raise a 4♣/4♦ response to game and otherwise bid 5♦ if partner responds 3NT; or just blast 5♦.</p> <p>Here those that play in No Trumps will surely fail, as South will get a chance to signal when he discards on whatever minor suit declarer plays on. Those who find their way to 5♦ will be delighted that partner has an almost-perfect hand with just one wasted point in spades and a good fit for their suit.</p>	West	North	East	South	2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass	5♦	All Pass
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