

**British Winter  
Sim Pairs  
in memory of  
Peter Jordan**



**Tuesday  
14<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

2024 Winners:



**Keith Collins**



**Clive Finney**

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 Mike Pomfrey.

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/](http://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>♠62<br/>♥KJ10932<br/>♦82<br/>♣632</p> <p>♠Q98            ♠K10754<br/>♥Q4             ♥5<br/>♦A76            ♦KQ543<br/>♣A9854        ♣K10</p> <p>♠AJ3<br/>♥A876<br/>♦J109<br/>♣QJ7</p>  | <p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td colspan="3">All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>I think it's normal to open a substandard weak two as North; the hand is pure, with no defence. East has an obvious overcall (not good enough for a Michaels two-suited bid), and South? You have no idea how many tricks opponents can make, but a simple raise gives them less room for manoeuvre.</p> <p>West has a tricky decision now; unless double would be a game try in spades you have to decide how much you are worth. 4♠ is a bit of a stretch but 3♠ would probably end proceedings.</p> <p>Given a free run, East-West should easily bid game, so this looks like North-South's best chance of talking them out of it.</p> <p>Ten tricks are easy, eleven if you guess the trumps.</p> | <b>West</b>        | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b>        | <b>South</b> |             | 2♥      | 2♠          | 3♥ | 4♠          | All pass |             |  |
|--|---|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|---------|-------------|----|-------------|----------|-------------|--|
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>        | <b>South</b> |                    |              |             |         |             |    |             |          |             |  |
|  | 2♥  | 2♠                 | 3♥           |                    |              |             |         |             |    |             |          |             |  |
| 4♠   | All pass  |                    |              |                    |              |             |         |             |    |             |          |             |  |
| <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">HCP</th> <th style="width: 50%;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣   ♦   ♥   ♠   NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>N - - 1 - -</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12   11</td> <td>S - - 1 - -</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>E 3 5 - 5 -</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>W 3 5 - 5 -</td> </tr> </table> | HCP   | Makeable contracts |              | ♣   ♦   ♥   ♠   NT | 4            | N - - 1 - - | 12   11 | S - - 1 - - | 13 | E 3 5 - 5 - |          | W 3 5 - 5 - |  |
| HCP  | Makeable contracts  |                    |              |                    |              |             |         |             |    |             |          |             |  |
|  | ♣   ♦   ♥   ♠   NT  |                    |              |                    |              |             |         |             |    |             |          |             |  |
| 4  | N - - 1 - -   |                    |              |                    |              |             |         |             |    |             |          |             |  |
| 12   11  | S - - 1 - -   |                    |              |                    |              |             |         |             |    |             |          |             |  |
| 13   | E 3 5 - 5 -   |                    |              |                    |              |             |         |             |    |             |          |             |  |
|  | W 3 5 - 5 -   |                    |              |                    |              |             |         |             |    |             |          |             |  |

|   |  |             |              |             |              |  |  |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |          |  |  |
|---|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|--|----|------|----|------|-----|------|-----|----------|--|--|
| <p>♠ J62<br/>♥ J863<br/>♦ 954<br/>♣ Q76</p> <p>♠ AK95                      ♠ Q74<br/>♥ 742                        ♥ A9<br/>♦ 1072                       ♦ KQ63<br/>♣ KJ2                        ♣ A1053</p> <p>♠ 1083<br/>♥ KQ105<br/>♦ AJ8<br/>♣ 984</p> | <p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Whatever range of No Trump opening you play, all roads will lead to 3NT, but there may be quite a variety in the number of tricks made. Presumably South will start with a top heart. Should declarer duck this, it's important that the partnership has a way of knowing if it's safe to continue. With a choice of high cards, many partnerships can decide whether they want partner to encourage/discourage or to show count. A common style is that the lead of an ace or queen asks for attitude (Ace for Attitude) and King for Kount (well, nearly). If South knows that it's safe to continue hearts, the contract's fate will turn on guessing the clubs; should South go passive there may be other chances.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |  |  | 1♣ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 1NT | Pass | 3NT | All pass |  |  |
| <b>West</b>   | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |  |  |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |          |  |  |
|   |  | 1♣          | Pass         |             |              |  |  |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |          |  |  |
| 1♠  | Pass   | 1NT         | Pass         |             |              |  |  |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |          |  |  |
| 3NT   | All pass   |             |              |             |              |  |  |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |          |  |  |

|     |                    |   |   |   |    |
|-----|--------------------|---|---|---|----|
| HCP | Makeable contracts |   |   |   |    |
|     | ♣                  | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT |
| 4   | N -                | - | - | - | -  |
| 11  | S -                | - | - | - | -  |
| 15  | E 4                | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3  |
| 10  | W 4                | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3  |

|  |   |             |              |             |              |  |  |  |   |
|--|---|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|--|--|---|
| <p>♠ 6<br/>♥ 109<br/>♦ KJ10875<br/>♣ AK92</p> <p>♠ K93                        ♠ AJ<br/>♥ J62                        ♥ AQ43<br/>♦ A62                        ♦ Q43<br/>♣ QJ74                      ♣ 10653</p> <p>♠ Q1087542<br/>♥ K875<br/>♦ 9<br/>♣ 8</p> | <p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>?</td> </tr> </table> <p>Well, do you or don't you pre-empt with a four-card major on the side? First in hand, even at favourable vulnerability, I'm not a fan. With modest spades and a top heart honour it's easy to imagine hands opposite where 4♥ will make and the suit never gets mentioned. If South were to open 3♠, it's likely to be passed out. The computer can only make seven tricks but, on a "safe" club lead, South will do better: Discard a diamond on a top club and play on hearts. To prevent the heart ruff the defence will have to play a trump, giving you a chance to pick them up for five tricks. That's still one down, however. If South passes, North starts with 1♦; East-West may still not get into the auction, which subsides at 2♠, a possible make for a great score.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |  |  |  | ? |
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |  |  |  |   |
|  |   |             | ?            |             |              |  |  |  |   |

|     |                    |   |   |   |    |
|-----|--------------------|---|---|---|----|
| HCP | Makeable contracts |   |   |   |    |
|     | ♣                  | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT |
| 11  | N -                | 1 | - | 1 | -  |
| 11  | S -                | 1 | - | 1 | -  |
| 13  | E 2                | - | 2 | - | 1  |
| 5   | W 2                | - | 2 | - | 1  |

|  |   |             |              |             |              |      |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |          |  |  |
|--|---|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|----|----------|--|--|
| <p>♠ A6<br/>♥ 7<br/>♦ Q10852<br/>♣ Q10942</p> <p>♠ 75                        ♠ KQJ9<br/>♥ Q9432                   ♥ A1085<br/>♦ J763                     ♦ 9<br/>♣ K8                        ♣ AJ73</p> <p>♠ 108432<br/>♥ KJ6<br/>♦ AK4<br/>♣ 65</p> | <p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</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>This looks a fairly normal start. North doesn't have an opening bid, unless you play 2NT as a weak minor two-suiter. With a red singleton, East opens the suit below the singleton (I don't mind starting with 1♥, rebidding no trumps if partner replies in diamonds). There's no point in South overcalling with such a poor suit and values in hearts. East has a clear double raise (six losers) and, with a club honour and a fifth trump, West is worth a pot at game. Anyone for a "mini-splinter" as East? 3♦ would show a raise to 3♥ with short diamonds; that would surely excite West. Whether you play in game or part score, making ten tricks should be good. On repeated diamond leads there's a lot of work to do, picking up the trumps and maybe having to risk a club finesse at the end.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> | Pass | Pass | 1♣ | Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 3♥ | Pass | 4♥ | All pass |  |  |
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |      |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |          |  |  |
| Pass   | Pass  | 1♣          | Pass         |             |              |      |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |          |  |  |
| 1♥   | Pass  | 3♥          | Pass         |             |              |      |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |          |  |  |
| 4♥   | All pass  |             |              |             |              |      |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |          |  |  |

|     |                    |   |   |   |    |
|-----|--------------------|---|---|---|----|
| HCP | Makeable contracts |   |   |   |    |
|     | ♣                  | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT |
| 8   | N -                | 2 | - | - | 1  |
| 6   | S -                | 2 | - | - | -  |
| 15  | E -                | - | 4 | 1 | -  |
| 11  | W -                | - | 4 | - | -  |

|   |  |             |              |             |              |  |    |      |      |     |      |    |          |
|---|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|----|------|------|-----|------|----|----------|
| <p>♠KQ<br/>♥3<br/>♦J98<br/>♣J1076542</p> <p>♠J1075            ♠86432<br/>♥K9865            ♥A74<br/>♦AK3                ♦Q106<br/>♣Q                   ♣AK</p> <p>♠A9<br/>♥QJ102<br/>♦7542<br/>♣983</p> | <p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>North's pre-empt, vulnerable against not, is no thing of beauty, but we all do, don't we? East has no excuse for bidding, but make sure you don't give any indication you were thinking about it.</p> <p>The reason is that West, in the pass-out seat, has a perfectly reasonable takeout double, and you don't want to compromise partner. East will now clearly go to 4♠, which surprisingly turns out to be a little fortunate, requiring a 2-2 trump break, or perhaps some sort of unlikely ruff and discard. It's all because AKQ of clubs are only worth two tricks. Without the pre-empt, East would open a weak no trump (much better than 1♠) and the same game is reached.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |  | 3♣ | Pass | Pass | Dbl | Pass | 4♠ | All pass |
| <b>West</b>   | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |  |    |      |      |     |      |    |          |
|   | 3♣   | Pass        | Pass         |             |              |  |    |      |      |     |      |    |          |
| Dbl   | Pass   | 4♠          | All pass     |             |              |  |    |      |      |     |      |    |          |

|          |                    |   |   |   |    |
|----------|--------------------|---|---|---|----|
| HCP      | Makeable contracts |   |   |   |    |
|          | ♣                  | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT |
| 7        | N 1                | - | - | - | -  |
| 13    13 | S 1                | - | - | - | -  |
| 7        | E -                | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1  |
|          | W -                | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1  |

|   |  |             |              |             |              |  |  |      |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |          |
|---|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|--|------|------|----|------|----|------|-----|------|----|----------|
| <p>♠983<br/>♥J875432<br/>♦Q62<br/>♣-</p> <p>♠AJ52            ♠Q764<br/>♥A6                ♥109<br/>♦K73                ♦A8<br/>♣AK83            ♣J9754</p> <p>♠K10<br/>♥KQ<br/>♦J10954<br/>♣Q1062</p> | <p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>At the vulnerability, North might venture some sort of pre-emptive overcall, but it would only alert opponents to possible bad breaks. Not blessed with second sight, it would be normal to win the opening lead, cross to dummy and pick up the trumps. Then you'll lay down one top club and pick up the suit for one loser, making eleven tricks in all. Flat board? At this game, not necessarily.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |  |  | Pass | Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 3NT | Pass | 4♠ | All pass |
| <b>West</b>   | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |  |  |      |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |          |
|   |  | Pass        | Pass         |             |              |  |  |      |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |          |
| 1♠  | Pass   | 2♠          | Pass         |             |              |  |  |      |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |          |
| 3NT   | Pass   | 4♠          | All pass     |             |              |  |  |      |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |          |

|         |                    |   |   |   |    |
|---------|--------------------|---|---|---|----|
| HCP     | Makeable contracts |   |   |   |    |
|         | ♣                  | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT |
| 3       | N -                | - | 1 | - | -  |
| 19    7 | S -                | - | 1 | - | -  |
| 11      | E 6                | 2 | - | 5 | 5  |
|         | W 6                | 3 | - | 6 | 5  |

|   |   |             |              |             |              |  |  |  |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |
|---|---|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|--|--|------|-----|------|----|------|----|------|-----|----------|
| <p>♠J54<br/>♥62<br/>♦863<br/>♣QJ1075</p> <p>♠Q3                ♠AK1098<br/>♥Q10754           ♥KJ9<br/>♦A94                ♦K52<br/>♣A83                ♣92</p> <p>♠762<br/>♥A83<br/>♦QJ107<br/>♣K64</p> | <p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>I feel strongly that the West hand is a weak no trump, not a 1♥ opener. East makes the normal raise to game, showing five spades on the way. As it happens, I've done the wrong thing (not for the first time, my partners would say). On the obvious club lead, you have to duck twice to make ten tricks in no trumps, whereas the 3-3 break in spades makes eleven tricks in a heart contract trivial. I'm afraid that's one of the harsh things about pairs; apparently reasonable actions can lead to unreasonable results. At teams it would be an IMP either way.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |  |  |  | Pass | 1NT | Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 3NT | All pass |
| <b>West</b>   | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |  |  |  |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |
|   |   |             | Pass         |             |              |  |  |  |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |
| 1NT   | Pass  | 2♥          | Pass         |             |              |  |  |  |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |
| 2♠  | Pass  | 3NT         | All pass     |             |              |  |  |  |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |

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

|  |   |             |              |             |              |      |    |    |     |      |    |      |      |    |    |          |  |
|--|---|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------|----|----|-----|------|----|------|------|----|----|----------|--|
| <p>♠ A<br/>♥ 9<br/>♦ J752<br/>♣ AQJ9764</p> <p>♠ K9732                  ♠ J104<br/>♥ Q3                      ♥ AJ1062<br/>♦ A964                    ♦ K8<br/>♣ 83                        ♣ K102</p> <p>♠ Q865<br/>♥ K8754<br/>♦ Q103<br/>♣ 5</p> | <p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South has a tricky choice on the first round. With such modest heart pips, you're not going to play for penalties at the one level, so show the four spades with a double. The rest is normal: North is always going to play in clubs and West doesn't want to make it too easy. Against a club contract there are four defensive tricks on top, plus a diamond ruff if you can find it. That ruff will make quite a difference to your match points, especially if North has been made to play at the three level.</p> <p>South's claim to the spade suit has made it impossible for East-West to find their best spot.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> | Pass | 1♣ | 1♥ | Dbl | Pass | 2♣ | Pass | Pass | 2♥ | 3♣ | All pass |  |
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |      |    |    |     |      |    |      |      |    |    |          |  |
| Pass   | 1♣  | 1♥          | Dbl          |             |              |      |    |    |     |      |    |      |      |    |    |          |  |
| Pass   | 2♣  | Pass        | Pass         |             |              |      |    |    |     |      |    |      |      |    |    |          |  |
| 2♥   | 3♣  | All pass    |              |             |              |      |    |    |     |      |    |      |      |    |    |          |  |

|           |                    |   |   |   |    |
|-----------|--------------------|---|---|---|----|
| HCP       | Makeable contracts |   |   |   |    |
|           | ♣                  | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT |
| 12        | N 2                | - | - | - | -  |
| 9      12 | S 2                | - | - | - | -  |
| 7         | E -                | - | 2 | 3 | -  |
|           | W -                | - | 2 | 3 | -  |

|  |  |             |              |             |              |  |    |      |    |    |     |      |    |      |     |          |  |
|--|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|----|------|----|----|-----|------|----|------|-----|----------|--|
| <p>♠ A2<br/>♥ AJ754<br/>♦ AKJ<br/>♣ 1074</p> <p>♠ KQJ1085                  ♠ 97<br/>♥ K982                      ♥ Q103<br/>♦ Q10                        ♦ 643<br/>♣ 9                            ♣ J6532</p> <p>♠ 643<br/>♥ 6<br/>♦ 98752<br/>♣ AKQ8</p> | <p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Playing a weak no trump, South is just about worth a two-level response. After your side have both bid, and an opponent overcalls, what does a double mean? Penalties? Support? Or just a good hand? Just as we have nearly all abandoned the idea of a penalty double after an immediate overcall, likewise there isn't much need for one here. If North were bristling with spades, you could just pass and await partner's protective double. I'm a fan of support doubles, showing three cards in partner's suit. South shows a weak hand, but North is not deterred. The cards lie well, and eleven tricks are easy. Be careful to unblock the ♣10.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |  | 1♥ | Pass | 2♦ | 2♠ | Dbl | Pass | 3♦ | Pass | 3NT | All pass |  |
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |  |    |      |    |    |     |      |    |      |     |          |  |
|  | 1♥   | Pass        | 2♦           |             |              |  |    |      |    |    |     |      |    |      |     |          |  |
| 2♠   | Dbl  | Pass        | 3♦           |             |              |  |    |      |    |    |     |      |    |      |     |          |  |
| Pass   | 3NT  | All pass    |              |             |              |  |    |      |    |    |     |      |    |      |     |          |  |

|           |                    |   |   |   |    |
|-----------|--------------------|---|---|---|----|
| HCP       | Makeable contracts |   |   |   |    |
|           | ♣                  | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT |
| 17        | N 4                | 6 | 2 | 1 | 5  |
| 11      3 | S 4                | 6 | 2 | 1 | 5  |
| 9         | E -                | - | - | - | -  |
|           | W -                | - | - | - | -  |

|   |   |             |              |             |              |  |  |     |      |    |     |      |   |
|---|---|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|--|-----|------|----|-----|------|---|
| <p>♠ AKQ<br/>♥ AKQ43<br/>♦ J<br/>♣ KQ98</p> <p>♠ 987                        ♠ 64<br/>♥ 9                            ♥ 2<br/>♦ 107532                    ♦ AKQ9864<br/>♣ A1054                    ♣ J32</p> <p>♠ J10532<br/>♥ J108765<br/>♦ -<br/>♣ 76</p> | <p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </table> <p>Here's a can of worms! East starts with an old-style 3NT opening, a solid minor suit and little else. West knows the suit must be diamonds and applies the pressure. North has little option but to double, but what about South? If opponents know what they're doing you don't expect much of a penalty, so I suppose you have to try 5♥. Will North go on? There's a case for saying that, if partner declines to take the money against a high level contract, it must be with some hopes of making something. But it's a big call. Interestingly, with North on lead to a diamond contract, it's really tough to get five defensive tricks. Suppose you start with a top spade. You have to underlead your hearts at trick 2 or 3 in order not to be endplayed. A mere 500 penalty would be a terrible score, with everyone else making at least 680.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |  |  | 3NT | Pass | 5♦ | Dbl | Pass | ? |
| <b>West</b>   | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |  |  |     |      |    |     |      |   |
|   |   | 3NT         | Pass         |             |              |  |  |     |      |    |     |      |   |
| 5♦  | Dbl   | Pass        | ?            |             |              |  |  |     |      |    |     |      |   |

|           |                    |   |   |   |    |
|-----------|--------------------|---|---|---|----|
| HCP       | Makeable contracts |   |   |   |    |
|           | ♣                  | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT |
| 24        | N 1                | - | 6 | 6 | -  |
| 4      10 | S 1                | - | 6 | 6 | -  |
| 2         | E -                | 2 | - | - | -  |
|           | W -                | 2 | - | - | -  |

| <p>♠ 872<br/>♥ 2<br/>♦ 106542<br/>♣ J654</p> <p>♠ AKQ96      ♠ J4<br/>♥ 75            ♥ AK96<br/>♦ J8             ♦ AQ73<br/>♣ AK97        ♣ Q103</p> <p>♠ 1053<br/>♥ QJ10843<br/>♦ K9<br/>♣ 82</p>   | <p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6NT</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Another hand where an opposition pre-empt makes life really difficult. West is far too good for a simple overcall, so starts with a double, planning to bid spades later. Now there's a good case for East passing: surely you can make game, but 2♥ may well go at least three down. In practice it's four down.</p> <p>3♥ is a reasonable alternative, however. When you bid 3NT over West's response you show a better hand than to have bid 3NT immediately. West might continue with 4♣, but a natural, invitational raise is a good choice. It's possible to make 13 tricks by guessing the clubs and squeezing South in the red suits. But most will just concede a diamond for an easy 990.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |   |   |                    | 2♥ | Dbl | Pass | 3♥ | Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 3NT | Pass | 4NT | Pass | 6NT |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|---|---|--------------------|----|-----|------|----|------|----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>West</b>   | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |   |   |                    |    |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |  |             | 2♥           |             |              |   |   |                    |    |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Dbl   | Pass   | 3♥          | Pass         |             |              |   |   |                    |    |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3♠  | Pass   | 3NT         | Pass         |             |              |   |   |                    |    |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4NT   | Pass   | 6NT         |              |             |              |   |   |                    |    |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> </tr> </table> | HCP  |             | 1            | 16          | 17           | 6 | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> </table> | Makeable contracts |    |     |      |    |      |    | ♣    | ♦   | ♥    | ♠   | NT   | N   | - | - | - | - | - | S | - | - | - | - | - | E | 7 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 7 | W | 7 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 7 |
| HCP   |  |             |              |             |              |   |   |                    |    |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1   | 16   |             |              |             |              |   |   |                    |    |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 17  | 6  |             |              |             |              |   |   |                    |    |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Makeable contracts  |  |             |              |             |              |   |   |                    |    |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | ♣  | ♦           | ♥            | ♠           | NT           |   |   |                    |    |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| N   | -  | -           | -            | -           | -            |   |   |                    |    |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| S   | -  | -           | -            | -           | -            |   |   |                    |    |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| E   | 7  | 5           | 3            | 7           | 7            |   |   |                    |    |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| W   | 7  | 5           | 3            | 7           | 7            |   |   |                    |    |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

| <p>♠ QJ3<br/>♥ 1064<br/>♦ K109654<br/>♣ 5</p> <p>♠ K92            ♠ A7<br/>♥ 752            ♥ AKQJ93<br/>♦ Q3             ♦ 82<br/>♣ QJ1084       ♣ AK6</p> <p>♠ 108654<br/>♥ 8<br/>♦ AJ7<br/>♣ 9732</p>   | <p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♦</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Dbl</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Will you two stop interfering with our auctions?! This time it's only a modest weak two but it might have an effect. Again, East is far too strong for any sort of overcall, so starts with a double.</p> <p>It's an interesting tactical and psychological question as to what action South should take. You can be sure opponents have at least a game contract, probably in hearts. Especially at this vulnerability, it would be a bad idea to bid too high; you can't stop them that way. A simple raise takes just a little space away; alternatively, you might choose to be creative. How about 2NT?</p> <p>It should matter little; East is certain to go to 4♥. At least the opening bid has ensured the lead to get the defence two tricks.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> | Pass | 2♦  | Dbl                | 3♦ | Pass | Pass | 4♥ | All pass |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------|---|--------------------|----|------|------|----|----------|--|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |      |   |                    |    |      |      |    |          |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Pass   | 2♦   | Dbl         | 3♦           |             |              |      |   |                    |    |      |      |    |          |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Pass   | Pass   | 4♥          | All pass     |             |              |      |   |                    |    |      |      |    |          |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">21</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> </table> | HCP  |             | 6            | 21          | 8            | 5    | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> </table> | Makeable contracts |    |      |      |    |          |  | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT | N | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | S | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | E | 5 | - | 5 | - | 1 | W | 5 | - | 5 | - | 1 |
| HCP  |  |             |              |             |              |      |   |                    |    |      |      |    |          |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 6  | 21   |             |              |             |              |      |   |                    |    |      |      |    |          |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 8  | 5  |             |              |             |              |      |   |                    |    |      |      |    |          |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Makeable contracts   |  |             |              |             |              |      |   |                    |    |      |      |    |          |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|  | ♣  | ♦           | ♥            | ♠           | NT           |      |   |                    |    |      |      |    |          |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| N  | -  | 2           | -            | 1           | -            |      |   |                    |    |      |      |    |          |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| S  | -  | 2           | -            | 1           | -            |      |   |                    |    |      |      |    |          |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| E  | 5  | -           | 5            | -           | 1            |      |   |                    |    |      |      |    |          |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| W  | 5  | -           | 5            | -           | 1            |      |   |                    |    |      |      |    |          |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

| <p>♠ J7<br/>♥ 10432<br/>♦ K10<br/>♣ AJ964</p> <p>♠ Q965            ♠ A10432<br/>♥ KQ8            ♥ 965<br/>♦ Q6             ♦ 942<br/>♣ K753        ♣ 102</p> <p>♠ K8<br/>♥ AJ7<br/>♦ AJ8753<br/>♣ Q8</p>   | <p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>So, what would you rebid as South? The diamonds are not good enough for 3♦, and it's not really suitable for a heart raise. Playing a strong no trump, that would have been my choice on the first round so, despite your shortage of black cards, it is my choice now. North's raise to game is a slight stretch but a five-card suit on the side may be useful.</p> <p>On a spade lead it turns out to be on a diamond guess, which South may get wrong. Hey ho, can't win 'em all.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |    | Pass  | Pass               | 1♦ | Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 1NT | Pass | 3NT | All pass |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|----|---|--------------------|----|------|----|------|-----|------|-----|----------|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>West</b>   | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |    |   |                    |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |          |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | Pass  | Pass        | 1♦           |             |              |    |   |                    |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |          |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Pass  | 1♥  | Pass        | 1NT          |             |              |    |   |                    |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |          |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Pass  | 3NT   | All pass    |              |             |              |    |   |                    |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |          |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> </tr> </table> | HCP   |             | 9            | 4           | 12           | 15 | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> </table> | Makeable contracts |    |      |    |      |     |      | ♣   | ♦        | ♥ | ♠ | NT | N | 5 | 5 | 4 | - | 5 | S | 5 | 5 | 4 | - | 5 | E | - | - | - | - | - | W | - | - | - | - | - |
| HCP   |   |             |              |             |              |    |   |                    |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |          |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 9   | 4   |             |              |             |              |    |   |                    |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |          |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 12  | 15  |             |              |             |              |    |   |                    |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |          |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Makeable contracts  |   |             |              |             |              |    |   |                    |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |          |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | ♣   | ♦           | ♥            | ♠           | NT           |    |   |                    |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |          |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| N   | 5   | 5           | 4            | -           | 5            |    |   |                    |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |          |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| S   | 5   | 5           | 4            | -           | 5            |    |   |                    |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |          |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| E   | -   | -           | -            | -           | -            |    |   |                    |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |          |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| W   | -   | -           | -            | -           | -            |    |   |                    |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |          |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

| <p>♠ A84<br/>♥ J765<br/>♦ 43<br/>♣ KQJ3</p> <p>♠ J5                      ♠ Q10932<br/>♥ 832                      ♥ K4<br/>♦ K10862                  ♦ QJ<br/>♣ 764                      ♣ A1095</p> <p>♠ K76<br/>♥ AQ109<br/>♦ A975<br/>♣ 82</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>11</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>12</td><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>3</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>13</td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table> | HCP   |                    | Makeable contracts |   |   |    |   |  |  |  | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT | 11 |  | N | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 12 | S | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 3 |  |  | E | - | - | - | - | - |  | 13 | W | - | - | - | - | - | <p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table 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>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>All pass</p> <p>How strong do you play your protective 1NT? Given that the player in second seat may have had to pass on quite a number of respectable hands, it makes sense to play it wide-ranging, say something like 11-15. South is certainly interested in game and tries 2♣, which is Stayman-style, but also asks ~ about partner's range. 2♥ shows four hearts and lower range. That'll do nicely, thanks.</p> <p>Ten tricks are easy, and the favourable heart position makes it possible to get eleven, for what is sure to be a great score. See if you can work out the timing on a likely diamond lead.</p> | West | North | East | South |  |  | 1♠ | Pass | Pass | 1NT | Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 4♥ |
|---|-------|--------------------|--------------------|---|---|----|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|----|----|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|-------|------|-------|--|--|----|------|------|-----|------|----|------|----|------|----|
| HCP   |       | Makeable contracts |                    |   |   |    |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |       |      |       |  |  |    |      |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |    |
|   |       | ♣                  | ♦                  | ♥ | ♠ | NT |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |       |      |       |  |  |    |      |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |    |
| 11  |       | N                  | 3                  | 2 | 5 | 2  | 3 |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |       |      |       |  |  |    |      |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |    |
| 4   | 12    | S                  | 3                  | 2 | 5 | 2  | 3 |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |       |      |       |  |  |    |      |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |    |
|   |       | E                  | -                  | - | - | -  | - |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |       |      |       |  |  |    |      |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |    |
|   | 13    | W                  | -                  | - | - | -  | - |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |       |      |       |  |  |    |      |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |    |
| West  | North | East               | South              |   |   |    |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |       |      |       |  |  |    |      |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |    |
|   |       | 1♠                 | Pass               |   |   |    |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |       |      |       |  |  |    |      |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |    |
| Pass  | 1NT   | Pass               | 2♣                 |   |   |    |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |       |      |       |  |  |    |      |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |    |
| Pass  | 2♥    | Pass               | 4♥                 |   |   |    |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |       |      |       |  |  |    |      |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |    |

| <p>♠ Q109<br/>♥ AJ1098<br/>♦ J109<br/>♣ 65</p> <p>♠ AK                      ♠ 76543<br/>♥ KQ32                  ♥ 764<br/>♦ K75                      ♦ 32<br/>♣ A973                  ♣ KQJ</p> <p>♠ J82<br/>♥ 5<br/>♦ AQ864<br/>♣ 10842</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>-</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>6</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>7</td><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> </table> | HCP      |                    | Makeable contracts |   |   |    |   |  |  |  | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT | 8 |  | N | - | - | - | - | 19 | 6 | S | - | 1 | - | - |  |  | E | 2 | - | 1 | 3 | 2 |  | 7 | W | 2 | - | 2 | 3 | 2 | <p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table 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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Playing four-card majors, I would open mine. 2NT is 18-19 and East may be tempted to bid on, certainly at teams. But it shouldn't be a success on this hand. As both majors have been bid, North is likely to lead a diamond, South ducks twice and 3NT has no chance.</p> <p>I wish I were playing five-card majors this time, as hearts would probably go unmentioned, which may tempt North to lead one. On a heart lead you have little choice but to hope for a 3-3 spade break. With the ace of diamonds onside you can now come to nine tricks; ten if the defenders fail to switch to diamonds when they win their spade.</p> | West | North | East | South |  |  |  | Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2NT | All pass |  |  |
|---|----------|--------------------|--------------------|---|---|----|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|----|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|-------|------|-------|--|--|--|------|----|------|----|------|-----|----------|--|--|
| HCP   |          | Makeable contracts |                    |   |   |    |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |       |      |       |  |  |  |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |  |  |
|   |          | ♣                  | ♦                  | ♥ | ♠ | NT |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |       |      |       |  |  |  |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |  |  |
| 8   |          | N                  | -                  | - | - | -  |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |       |      |       |  |  |  |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |  |  |
| 19  | 6        | S                  | -                  | 1 | - | -  |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |       |      |       |  |  |  |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |  |  |
|   |          | E                  | 2                  | - | 1 | 3  | 2 |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |       |      |       |  |  |  |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |  |  |
|   | 7        | W                  | 2                  | - | 2 | 3  | 2 |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |       |      |       |  |  |  |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |  |  |
| West  | North    | East               | South              |   |   |    |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |       |      |       |  |  |  |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |  |  |
|   |          |                    | Pass               |   |   |    |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |       |      |       |  |  |  |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |  |  |
| 1♥  | Pass     | 1♠                 | Pass               |   |   |    |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |       |      |       |  |  |  |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |  |  |
| 2NT   | All pass |                    |                    |   |   |    |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |       |      |       |  |  |  |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |  |  |

| <p>♠ 9432<br/>♥ 10<br/>♦ 87<br/>♣ Q106542</p> <p>♠ J7                      ♠ AQ865<br/>♥ 8532                  ♥ 64<br/>♦ AK92                  ♦ Q10543<br/>♣ A83                      ♣ K</p> <p>♠ K10<br/>♥ AKQJ97<br/>♦ J6<br/>♣ J97</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>2</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>11</td><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>15</td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> </table> | HCP   |                    | Makeable contracts |   |   |    |   |  |  |  | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT | 2 |  | N | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | 12 | 11 | S | 2 | - | 1 | - | - |  |  | E | - | 4 | - | 3 | 1 |  | 15 | W | - | 4 | - | 3 | 1 | <p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table 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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>?</p> <p>A fairly common situation leads to some interesting decisions. If a transfer bid is doubled, it's normal to complete the transfer with 3-card support, but pass with two. That rule doesn't apply when the intervention takes away a level of bidding: you would only complete with a positive liking for partner's suit. Double is East's most flexible choice – West may have good enough hearts to pass. What West should do on this hand is anyone's guess. Passing the double can get you 300 if you find your club ruff.</p> <p>4♦ makes an easy ten tricks, but you have to be careful in a spade contract on continued heart leads, North discarding diamonds. Ruff the third heart and play a low spade. South wins and continues hearts. Unusually, you should accept the force, play a spade to the jack and then diamonds. North just makes the long trump: nine tricks.</p> | West | North | East | South | 1NT | Pass | 2♥ | 3♥ | Pass | Pass | Dbl | Pass |
|---|-------|--------------------|--------------------|---|---|----|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|----|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|------|-------|------|-------|-----|------|----|----|------|------|-----|------|
| HCP   |       | Makeable contracts |                    |   |   |    |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |      |       |      |       |     |      |    |    |      |      |     |      |
|   |       | ♣                  | ♦                  | ♥ | ♠ | NT |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |      |       |      |       |     |      |    |    |      |      |     |      |
| 2   |       | N                  | 2                  | - | 1 | -  | - |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |      |       |      |       |     |      |    |    |      |      |     |      |
| 12  | 11    | S                  | 2                  | - | 1 | -  | - |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |      |       |      |       |     |      |    |    |      |      |     |      |
|   |       | E                  | -                  | 4 | - | 3  | 1 |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |      |       |      |       |     |      |    |    |      |      |     |      |
|   | 15    | W                  | -                  | 4 | - | 3  | 1 |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |      |       |      |       |     |      |    |    |      |      |     |      |
| West  | North | East               | South              |   |   |    |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |      |       |      |       |     |      |    |    |      |      |     |      |
| 1NT   | Pass  | 2♥                 | 3♥                 |   |   |    |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |      |       |      |       |     |      |    |    |      |      |     |      |
| Pass  | Pass  | Dbl                | Pass               |   |   |    |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |      |       |      |       |     |      |    |    |      |      |     |      |



|   |   |             |              |             |              |  |    |    |          |
|---|---|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|----|----|----------|
| <p>♠ A5<br/>♥ AQ875<br/>♦ KJ8<br/>♣ 876</p> <p>♠ Q<br/>♥ J1062<br/>♦ 107<br/>♣ AKQJ32</p> <p>♠ K109643<br/>♥ 4<br/>♦ Q9432<br/>♣ 9</p> <p>♠ J872<br/>♥ K93<br/>♦ A65<br/>♣ 1054</p> | <p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>This looks a pretty tame auction and indeed it is. But who should have done anything different?</p> <p>There's a slight case for North treating that hand as a weak no trump but, for me, the five-card suit makes it a little too strong. As East you really want to be a nuisance, and a weak jump overcall looks a reasonable way of being just that. Who has anything else to say? One down looks the most likely outcome.</p> <p>Apparently North (but not South) can make 3♥. I guess that means a diamond lead from West sets the greatest challenge. But even with North declaring, you would have to make an unlikely play in trumps to get nine tricks.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |  | 1♥ | 2♠ | All pass |
| <b>West</b>   | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |  |    |    |          |
|   | 1♥  | 2♠          | All pass     |             |              |  |    |    |          |

| HCP |   | Makeable contracts |   |   |   |    |   |
|-----|---|--------------------|---|---|---|----|---|
|     |   | ♣                  | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT |   |
| 14  |   | N                  | 1 | - | 3 | -  | 1 |
| 13  | 5 | S                  | 1 | - | 2 | -  | 1 |
|     |   | E                  | - | 1 | - | 1  | - |
| 8   |   | W                  | - | 1 | - | 1  | - |

|   |  |             |              |             |              |  |  |    |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |  |
|---|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|--|----|-----|------|----|------|----|------|-----|----------|--|
| <p>♠ J985<br/>♥ 1087<br/>♦ KQ8<br/>♣ J42</p> <p>♠ AK10762<br/>♥ 965<br/>♦ 74<br/>♣ K9</p> <p>♠ 4<br/>♥ 43<br/>♦ J109653<br/>♣ A865</p> <p>♠ Q3<br/>♥ AKQJ2<br/>♦ A2<br/>♣ Q1073</p> | <p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>We've had a number of hands where a player is forced to double a pre-emptive bid on a somewhat off-centre hand. There's a slight risk in South doing so here. One can imagine partner being weaker and the auction getting out of hand. But the hand is clearly too strong for a simple overcall, and not ideal for anything else.</p> <p>All is well. With a flat hand and good diamonds, it looks clear for North to choose no trumps. It's easy to develop a black trick to go with the eight red ones and the defenders had better cash out to prevent an overtrick.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |  |  | 2♦ | Dbl | Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 3♥ | Pass | 3NT | All pass |  |
| <b>West</b>   | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |  |  |    |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |  |
|   |  | 2♦          | Dbl          |             |              |  |  |    |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |  |
| Pass  | 2♠   | Pass        | 3♥           |             |              |  |  |    |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |  |
| Pass  | 3NT  | All pass    |              |             |              |  |  |    |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |  |

| HCP |   | Makeable contracts |   |   |   |    |   |
|-----|---|--------------------|---|---|---|----|---|
|     |   | ♣                  | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT |   |
| 7   |   | N                  | 2 | - | 2 | 1  | 3 |
| 10  | 5 | S                  | 2 | - | 2 | 1  | 3 |
|     |   | E                  | - | 1 | - | -  | - |
| 18  |   | W                  | - | 1 | - | -  | - |

|   |   |             |              |             |              |  |  |  |    |    |       |  |  |
|---|---|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|--|--|----|----|-------|--|--|
| <p>♠ 654<br/>♥ A<br/>♦ KJ98754<br/>♣ A2</p> <p>♠ 8<br/>♥ QJ10987642<br/>♦ 2<br/>♣ 53</p> <p>♠ AQJ109<br/>♥ 3<br/>♦ 103<br/>♣ K10984</p> <p>♠ K732<br/>♥ K5<br/>♦ AQ6<br/>♣ QJ76</p> | <p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>Help!</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This hand is definitely not a good advertisement for a weak no trump and four-card majors. Despite the vulnerability, West should pre-empt to the limit, giving North an unenviable choice of options.</p> <p>What do you do? You might pray that partner has a real spade suit and support them. Or you might cut your losses and bid your own suit. 4♠ is hopeless but 5♦ will make, except on a spade lead.</p> <p>How about a double? South has little option but to pass, which at least gets you a plus score. Sadly, you lose out to anyone able to open a strong no trump, provided, that is, that North can bid a natural 4NT over 4♥. Or would that show the minors?</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |  |  |  | 1♠ | 4♥ | Help! |  |  |
| <b>West</b>   | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |  |  |  |    |    |       |  |  |
|   |   |             | 1♠           |             |              |  |  |  |    |    |       |  |  |
| 4♥  | Help!   |             |              |             |              |  |  |  |    |    |       |  |  |

| HCP |    | Makeable contracts |   |   |   |    |   |
|-----|----|--------------------|---|---|---|----|---|
|     |    | ♣                  | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT |   |
| 12  |    | N                  | 1 | 4 | - | 2  | 5 |
| 3   | 10 | S                  | 1 | 4 | - | 2  | 5 |
|     |    | E                  | - | - | 3 | -  | - |
| 15  |    | W                  | - | - | 3 | -  | - |

| <p>♠ 1087<br/>♥ AK6<br/>♦ K106<br/>♣ KJ93</p> <p>♠ AKQ54      ♠ J962<br/>♥ 4              ♥ QJ1098<br/>♦ 972            ♦ AQ3<br/>♣ AQ54        ♣ 10</p> <p>♠ 3<br/>♥ 7532<br/>♦ J854<br/>♣ 8762</p> | <p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</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>No, I wouldn't double 1♠ on the North hand. It's OK not to have four cards in the other major, but the sterile shape, good defence and eight losers are too much downside.</p> <p>East is about spot on for a Splinter bid. Now, with only five losers, West might give a thought to a slam try. But it's bad news to have such a lot of your values opposite partner's shortage, so you may call it a day. And quite right too. Even with the diamond finesse working and the hearts coming down in three rounds, there's just too much work to do to make slam.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> | 1♠ | Pass | 4♣ | Pass | 4♠ | All pass |  |  |
|--|---|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|----|------|----|------|----|----------|--|--|
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |    |      |    |      |    |          |  |  |
| 1♠   | Pass  | 4♣          | Pass         |             |              |    |      |    |      |    |          |  |  |
| 4♠   | All pass  |             |              |             |              |    |      |    |      |    |          |  |  |

| HCP |    | Makeable contracts |   |   |   |    |   |
|-----|----|--------------------|---|---|---|----|---|
|     |    | ♣                  | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT |   |
| 14  |    | N                  | 1 | - | - | -  | - |
| 15  | 10 | S                  | 1 | - | - | -  | - |
|     | 1  | E                  | - | 1 | 3 | 5  | 3 |
|     |    | W                  | - | 2 | 3 | 5  | 3 |

| <p>♠ AQ975<br/>♥ K875<br/>♦ J7<br/>♣ 43</p> <p>♠ 863              ♠ 104<br/>♥ AJ                ♥ 9632<br/>♦ K943            ♦ Q1085<br/>♣ J1087          ♣ Q65</p> <p>♠ KJ2<br/>♥ Q104<br/>♦ A62<br/>♣ AK92</p> | <p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>2♣ is checkback, asking opener to describe the hand further. North shows a maximum and the 5-3 fit eventually comes to light. Some Souths would bid 3♠ on the second round; I prefer to have a little more shape for that.</p> <p>A diamond lead looks best for the defence. Declarer can win the second round and play a heart from dummy. As long as West plays the jack, the defenders will get a third trick. Since West has three trumps, you have to draw them all, leaving you with a second heart loser.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |  | Pass | Pass | 1♣ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 1NT | Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3♥ | Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ | All pass |  |
|--|---|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|------|------|----|------|----|------|-----|------|----|------|-----|------|----|------|----|------|----|----------|--|
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |  |      |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |    |          |  |
|  | Pass  | Pass        | 1♣           |             |              |  |      |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |    |          |  |
| Pass   | 1♠  | Pass        | 1NT          |             |              |  |      |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |    |          |  |
| Pass   | 2♣  | Pass        | 2NT          |             |              |  |      |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |    |          |  |
| Pass   | 3♥  | Pass        | 3♠           |             |              |  |      |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |    |          |  |
| Pass   | 4♠  | All pass    |              |             |              |  |      |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |    |          |  |

| HCP |    | Makeable contracts |   |   |   |    |   |
|-----|----|--------------------|---|---|---|----|---|
|     |    | ♣                  | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT |   |
| 10  |    | N                  | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4  | 3 |
| 9   | 4  | S                  | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4  | 3 |
|     | 17 | E                  | - | - | - | -  | - |
|     |    | W                  | - | - | - | -  | - |

| <p>♠ QJ9875<br/>♥ 4<br/>♦ 106<br/>♣ AK84</p> <p>♠ K63              ♠ A<br/>♥ Q96              ♥ AKJ7<br/>♦ KQ9532        ♦ AJ84<br/>♣ 6                ♣ 10532</p> <p>♠ 1042<br/>♥ 108532<br/>♦ 7<br/>♣ QJ97</p> | <p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dbf</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♦</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>What an annoying game this is! East has a huge hand opposite a diamond opening, but North-South's aggressive competition leaves you no way of finding out that West has a singleton club and that slam is cold. As West, would you venture 5♣ over 4♠ with a minimum Ace-less hand, and a wasted king of spades?</p> <p>Should East-West find their slam, you'll see that North-South have a cheap sacrifice, -800, in spades. Forget it. Never sacrifice against a slam at Pairs unless you think you can get out for less than the value of an opposing game. That's because many East-West pairs will fail to bid the slam, so you only save a few matchpoints and get a lousy score anyway.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> | 1♦ | 1♠ | Dbf | 2♠ | Pass | 3♠ | 4♠ | Pass | 5♦ | All pass |  |  |
|--|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|----|----|-----|----|------|----|----|------|----|----------|--|--|
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |    |    |     |    |      |    |    |      |    |          |  |  |
| 1♦   | 1♠   | Dbf         | 2♠           |             |              |    |    |     |    |      |    |    |      |    |          |  |  |
| Pass   | 3♠   | 4♠          | Pass         |             |              |    |    |     |    |      |    |    |      |    |          |  |  |
| 5♦   | All pass   |             |              |             |              |    |    |     |    |      |    |    |      |    |          |  |  |

| HCP |    | Makeable contracts |   |   |   |    |   |
|-----|----|--------------------|---|---|---|----|---|
|     |    | ♣                  | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT |   |
| 10  |    | N                  | 1 | - | - | 2  | - |
| 10  | 17 | S                  | 1 | - | - | 2  | - |
|     | 3  | E                  | - | 6 | 4 | -  | 3 |
|     |    | W                  | - | 6 | 4 | -  | 3 |

| <p>♠ J10743<br/>♥ Q8762<br/>♦ 92<br/>♣ K</p> <p>♠ A652                      ♠ K8<br/>♥ AK105                    ♥ J4<br/>♦ A5                            ♦ KQJ3<br/>♣ Q103                      ♣ A9652</p> <p>♠ Q9<br/>♥ 93<br/>♦ 108764<br/>♣ J874</p> | <p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</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>6♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6NT</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>I have to admit that this auction is a little contrived. The first three bids are clear; in the modern style 2NT is wide ranging, around 15-19. At Pairs, it's marginal whether East should try for slam but, if you do, it's still possible that West has four diamonds, which would greatly improve slam prospects. As it happens, West has a great hand for clubs, and says so. 4NT is discouraging, not ace asking, but West isn't to be denied. East can't see a reason why clubs will make more tricks than no trumps. 6NT is a reasonable spot; it all depends how you play the clubs. Low from the West hand (or ace first) will work, but nothing else will.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |  |  |  | Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3♦ | Pass | 4♣ | Pass | 4NT | Pass | 6♣ | Pass | 6NT | All pass |
|--|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|--|--|------|----|------|----|------|-----|------|----|------|----|------|-----|------|----|------|-----|----------|
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |  |  |  |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |     |          |
|  |  |             | Pass         |             |              |  |  |  |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |     |          |
| 1♥   | Pass   | 2♣          | Pass         |             |              |  |  |  |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |     |          |
| 2NT  | Pass   | 3♦          | Pass         |             |              |  |  |  |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |     |          |
| 4♣   | Pass   | 4NT         | Pass         |             |              |  |  |  |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |     |          |
| 6♣   | Pass   | 6NT         | All pass     |             |              |  |  |  |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |    |      |     |          |

| <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">14</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">17</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> </table> | HCP |   | 6 | 14 | 17 | 3 | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>6</td></tr> </table> | Makeable contracts |  |  |  |  |  |  | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT | N | - | - | - | - | - | S | - | - | - | - | - | E | 6 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 6 | W | 6 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 6 |
|---|-----|---|---|----|----|---|--|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HCP   |     |   |   |    |    |   |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 6   | 14  |   |   |    |    |   |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 17  | 3   |   |   |    |    |   |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Makeable contracts  |     |   |   |    |    |   |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | ♣   | ♦ | ♥ | ♠  | NT |   |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| N   | -   | - | - | -  | -  |   |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| S   | -   | - | - | -  | -  |   |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| E   | 6   | 5 | 4 | 4  | 6  |   |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| W   | 6   | 5 | 4 | 4  | 6  |   |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

| <p>♠ K984<br/>♥ 1093<br/>♦ 1084<br/>♣ AK10</p> <p>♠ Q102                      ♠ AJ53<br/>♥ 874                        ♥ QJ6<br/>♦ K932                      ♦ AQ65<br/>♣ J85                        ♣ 96</p> <p>♠ 76<br/>♥ AK52<br/>♦ J7<br/>♣ Q7432</p> | <p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>After all that excitement we have what is ostensibly a pretty tame hand. However, there's still plenty to play for. Aficionados of Aspro might venture an overcall as South, but it's dangerous with only four cards in the anchor major. As it happens, 2♥ might make for North-South unless the defenders lead diamonds. 1NT will fail on a club lead, the defenders taking the first seven tricks. Here's a possible way in which they might do better still. North wins the first trick and, recognising that the clubs are running, returns a <i>low</i> heart. Can you blame declarer for playing an honour? Now the defenders can make three heart tricks to go with their five clubs and, if they're brave enough, can even untangle both suits for three down.</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> | Pass | Pass | 1NT | All pass |
|--|---|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------|------|-----|----------|
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |      |      |     |          |
| Pass   | Pass  | 1NT         | All pass     |             |              |      |      |     |          |

| <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">14</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td></tr> </table> | HCP |   | 10 | 14 | 6  | 10 | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> </table> | Makeable contracts |  |  |  |  |  |  | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT | N | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | S | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | E | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | W | - | 2 | - | 1 | - |
|--|-----|---|----|----|----|----|--|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HCP  |     |   |    |    |    |    |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 10   | 14  |   |    |    |    |    |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 6  | 10  |   |    |    |    |    |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Makeable contracts   |     |   |    |    |    |    |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|  | ♣   | ♦ | ♥  | ♠  | NT |    |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| N  | 2   | - | 1  | -  | -  |    |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| S  | 2   | - | 1  | -  | -  |    |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| E  | -   | 2 | -  | 1  | -  |    |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| W  | -   | 2 | -  | 1  | -  |    |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

| <p>♠ AQ86<br/>♥ 107<br/>♦ A10954<br/>♣ 92</p> <p>♠ 1032                      ♠ KJ54<br/>♥ Q5                        ♥ J32<br/>♦ 8763                      ♦ KQ2<br/>♣ Q1083                    ♣ KJ6</p> <p>♠ 97<br/>♥ AK9864<br/>♦ J<br/>♣ A754</p> | <p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>There are a number of marginal decisions here: Firstly, has North an opening bid? For me, yes. It's a seven-loser hand, two aces, decent intermediates and favourable vulnerability. South has a good hand but, with no fit, it's not clear whether to push to game. Incidentally, North's third bid is consistent with that shape: you've already shown 5-4 in your suits, so 2♥ is in effect false preference. 4♥ is far from a great contract, especially with the spade finesse losing. But at least the defence can't lead trumps at trick one and the favourable diamond position gives you a chance. Good luck!</p> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |  | 1♦ | Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 4♥ | All pass |  |  |  |
|--|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|----|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|----|----------|--|--|--|
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>   | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |             |              |  |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |          |  |  |  |
|  | 1♦   | Pass        | 1♥           |             |              |  |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |          |  |  |  |
| Pass   | 1♠   | Pass        | 2♣           |             |              |  |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |          |  |  |  |
| Pass   | 2♥   | Pass        | 4♥           |             |              |  |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |          |  |  |  |
| All pass   |  |             |              |             |              |  |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |          |  |  |  |

| <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">14</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td></tr> </table> | HCP |   | 10 | 14 | 4  | 12 | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table> | Makeable contracts |  |  |  |  |  |  | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT | N | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | S | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | E | - | - | - | - | - | W | - | - | - | - | - |
|--|-----|---|----|----|----|----|--|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HCP  |     |   |    |    |    |    |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 10   | 14  |   |    |    |    |    |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4  | 12  |   |    |    |    |    |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Makeable contracts   |     |   |    |    |    |    |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|  | ♣   | ♦ | ♥  | ♠  | NT |    |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| N  | 2   | 2 | 3  | 3  | 2  |    |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| S  | 1   | 2 | 4  | 2  | 2  |    |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| E  | -   | - | -  | -  | -  |    |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| W  | -   | - | -  | -  | -  |    |  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

| <p>♠ J53<br/>♥ -<br/>♦ K1098652<br/>♣ 1052</p> <p>♠ AQ6                      ♠ -<br/>♥ KJ97643                ♥ A852<br/>♦ AJ                         ♦ Q7<br/>♣ J                            ♣ KQ98764</p> <p>♠ K1098742<br/>♥ Q10<br/>♦ 43<br/>♣ A3</p>  | <p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4NT</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>East may start by wondering whether to open a large number of clubs, but this hand is far too good, especially with a good four-card major on the side. South's sterile shape and fair values argue against more than a simple overcall.</p> <p>On this particular hand, you would like 2♥ to be forcing in your methods, though many players these days play a bid in a major that has been "disturbed" by an overcall as weak. As it goes, East suddenly has a terrific hand and says so by cue-bidding the enemy suit. West needs no further invitation, and pushes to the cold slam.</p> | <b>West</b>        | <b>North</b>       | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |   |    | 1♣ | 1♠ | 2♥ | 2♠ | 3♠ | Pass | 4NT | Pass | 5♦ | Pass | 6♥ | All pass |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|--|---|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|-----|------|----|------|----|----------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>        | <b>South</b>       |             |              |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |          |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|  |   | 1♣                 | 1♠                 |             |              |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |          |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| 2♥   | 2♠  | 3♠                 | Pass               |             |              |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |          |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| 4NT  | Pass  | 5♦                 | Pass               |             |              |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |          |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| 6♥   | All pass  |                    |                    |             |              |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |          |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| <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> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>11</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </table> | HCP   |                    | Makeable contracts |             |              |   |    |    |    |    |    | ♣  | ♦    | ♥   | ♠    | NT | 4    |    | N        | - | 1 | - | 3 | - | 16 | 11 | S | - | 1 | - | 3 | - | 9 |  | E | 4 | - | 6 | - | 5 |  |  | W | 5 | - | 6 | - | 6 |  |
| HCP  |   | Makeable contracts |                    |             |              |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |          |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|  |   |                    | ♣                  | ♦           | ♥            | ♠ | NT |    |    |    |    |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |          |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| 4  |   | N                  | -                  | 1           | -            | 3 | -  |    |    |    |    |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |          |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| 16   | 11  | S                  | -                  | 1           | -            | 3 | -  |    |    |    |    |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |          |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| 9  |   | E                  | 4                  | -           | 6            | - | 5  |    |    |    |    |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |          |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|  |   | W                  | 5                  | -           | 6            | - | 6  |    |    |    |    |    |      |     |      |    |      |    |          |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |

| <p>♠ J875<br/>♥ Q<br/>♦ AQJ10543<br/>♣ 2</p> <p>♠ AK                         ♠ Q92<br/>♥ A962                     ♥ J4<br/>♦ 62                         ♦ K98<br/>♣ QJ1054                 ♣ K9763</p> <p>♠ 10643<br/>♥ K108753<br/>♦ 7<br/>♣ A8</p>   | <p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>A lot of possibilities on this one; I've given one of the more prosaic. Firstly, I don't like a weak two on the South hand: a moderate suit, good controls and, crucially, four spades would put me off. We seem to have had a few such decisions today. West has a normal opening bid and, opposite a passed partner, North has fewer scruples about losing the spade suit.</p> <p>East has a problem now. You don't want to rule out 3NT as a possible spot but, if it's to be an option, you have to bid it now. That's a big ask. I would expect many players to go for the "safe" option. However, 4♣ should fail on a diamond ruff, whereas in 3NT the defence have no means of establishing and running their suit. Funny old game.</p> | <b>West</b>        | <b>North</b>       | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |   |    |  | Pass | 1♣ | 3♦ | 4♣ | All pass |   |   |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|--|---|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|---|----|--|------|----|----|----|----------|---|---|----|----|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| <b>West</b>  | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>        | <b>South</b>       |             |              |   |    |  |      |    |    |    |          |   |   |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|  |   |                    | Pass               |             |              |   |    |  |      |    |    |    |          |   |   |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| 1♣   | 3♦  | 4♣                 | All pass           |             |              |   |    |  |      |    |    |    |          |   |   |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| <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> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>9</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table> | HCP   |                    | Makeable contracts |             |              |   |    |  |      |    |    | ♣  | ♦        | ♥ | ♠ | NT | 10 |  | N | - | 2 | 1 | 3 | - | 14 | 9 | S | - | 2 | 1 | 3 | - | 7 |  | E | 3 | - | - | - | 3 |  |  | W | 3 | - | - | - | 3 |  |
| HCP  |   | Makeable contracts |                    |             |              |   |    |  |      |    |    |    |          |   |   |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|  |   |                    | ♣                  | ♦           | ♥            | ♠ | NT |  |      |    |    |    |          |   |   |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| 10   |   | N                  | -                  | 2           | 1            | 3 | -  |  |      |    |    |    |          |   |   |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| 14   | 9   | S                  | -                  | 2           | 1            | 3 | -  |  |      |    |    |    |          |   |   |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| 7  |   | E                  | 3                  | -           | -            | - | 3  |  |      |    |    |    |          |   |   |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|  |   | W                  | 3                  | -           | -            | - | 3  |  |      |    |    |    |          |   |   |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |

| <p>♠ A10<br/>♥ AK52<br/>♦ K3<br/>♣ KQ653</p> <p>♠ KJ62                     ♠ 975<br/>♥ 10963                 ♥ J874<br/>♦ J76                      ♦ A10<br/>♣ A9                        ♣ J1084</p> <p>♠ Q843<br/>♥ Q<br/>♦ Q98542<br/>♣ 72</p>  | <p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>How long is North going to be restrained? I'm not a fan of jumping on the second round; there's still too much uncertainty about where you are heading. But it's a really good hand and I can imagine many players shutting their eyes and blasting 3NT next time. Fourth suit doesn't get you anywhere; that ace-ten of spades is crying out for you to be declarer.</p> <p>But South has a horrible hand and 3NT looks a hopeless spot. The only good news is that East may lead a spade and make your task a lot easier. On a heart lead you'll do really well to get out for one down. Anyone bringing home this contract can expect a huge score.</p> | <b>West</b>        | <b>North</b>       | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> | Pass | 1♣ | Pass | 1♦ | Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 3NT | All pass |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|-----|----------|----|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| <b>West</b>   | <b>North</b>  | <b>East</b>        | <b>South</b>       |             |              |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| Pass  | 1♣  | Pass               | 1♦                 |             |              |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| Pass  | 1♥  | Pass               | 2♣                 |             |              |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| Pass  | 3NT   | All pass           |                    |             |              |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| <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> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>6</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</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       | 19 |  | N | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 6 | S | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 |  | E | - | - | - | - | - |  |  | W | - | - | - | - | - |  |
| HCP   |   | Makeable contracts |                    |             |              |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|   |   |                    | ♣                  | ♦           | ♥            | ♠    | NT |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| 19  |   | N                  | 3                  | 3           | 2            | 2    | 2  |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| 9   | 6   | S                  | 3                  | 4           | 2            | 2    | 2  |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| 6   |   | E                  | -                  | -           | -            | -    | -  |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|   |   | W                  | -                  | -           | -            | -    | -  |      |    |      |    |      |    |      |     |          |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |