British Winter Sim Pairs



Wednesday 15th January 2025 Welcome to the British Winter Simultaneous Pairs, whether you are playing online or Face to Face. I sincerely hope you enjoy the event and also the commentary provided by a leading expert who, for this set of hands, is Heather Dhondy.

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

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

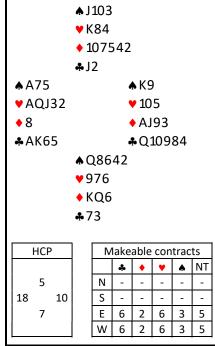
You can find all the full details, results and last year's prize winners at www.ebu.co.uk/sims/

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

Board 1: Dealer North: Love all

Good luck and do enjoy your bridge.

Adrian Darnell, Chairman EBU

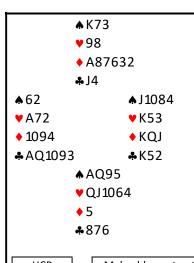


	West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass	Pass
	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
	3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
	4 .*	Pass	4 •	Pass
	4♥	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
	6♣	All pass		
	The West	hand will	be very i	nterested in a club slam when partner
			•	ing, and will make a splinter bid of 3♦.
]	Note that	when part	ner makes	a two-level response, a simple change of
	suit is force	ing, and he	ence a sing	le jump becomes a splinter.

East has diamond values and warns partner with a bid of 3NT but, when

West continues, is happy to co-operate, and anexcellent slam will be

reached.

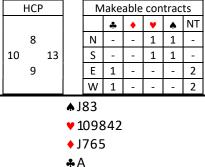


Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable						
West	North	East	South			
		1NT	All pass			

The vulnerability will probably dissuade most Souths from entering the auction over East's 1NT, and there matters will rest.

On the normal ♥Q lead, declarer has seven top tricks, and nine once diamonds are set up. If North manages to find a low spade switch, however, it is possible to cash four of them to hold the contract to eight tricks.

If South does enter in, West will probably compete to 3♣. This looks like a good contract, but if the defence manage to take their diamond ruffs it will fail.

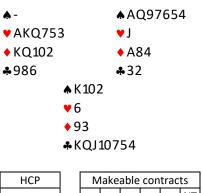


Board 3:	Dealer So	uth : EW v	ulnerable
West	North	East	South
			3♣
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	4 🖍	All pass

I expect most East-Wests to end up in four of a major.

The good news for those in 4 has is that the defence do not have communication in clubs. On a club lead, North will win and probably play a heart. East will discard a club on the second round of the suit which South will ruff. Sadly for the defence, this is with a natural trump trick, and declarer now has just one trump loser and makes the contract.

4♥ is more problematic. On a club lead and a trump switch, declarer will cross to hand and attempt to draw trumps. When they break badly declarer is likely to fail except on an inspired view in diamonds.



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					*	•	*	٨	NT	
14	6	11		Ν	1	ı	-	-	-	
	9			S	1	-	-	-	-	
				Ε	-	4	5	4	2	
				W	-	4	5	4	2	
	♦ A965									

♦ KJ87

♣A1095

♦J104

♥AK962 ♦ 10963 **\$**8

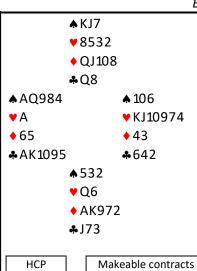
♥ Q873	
♦ Q	
♣ Q432	
	♦ K732
	♥J
	♦A542
	♣ KJ76
♠ Q8	
v 1054	

	НСР		N	lake	able	con	trac	t
				*	•	٧	٨	l
10	N	2	-	-	-			
8		12	S	1	-	-	-	
	10		Ε	1	2	-	1	
			W	-	2	-	1	

Board 4: Dealer West: All vulnerable West North East South Pass Pass 1 • Pass **1** 🗸 Pass 1 **Pass** 3 🔷 All pass

It will be tough for East West to stop in 2♦, as West has a promising hand, especially when partner shows spades. I expect the auction above to happen at several tables and I have sympathy.

Declarer always has two trumps, a club and two spades to lose, and the key will be to ensure that the contract is only one down. The lead is likely to be a heart, since all other leads are unattractive. Declarer will win and play a club. When North plays low, declarer is likely to try the jack, which loses to the ace. Now declarer is in good shape for eight tricks on cross-ruff lines. Attempting to draw trumps will result in two down.



HCP

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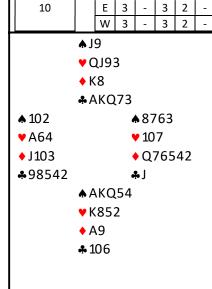
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Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable						
West	North	East	South			
	Pass	Pass	Pass			
1 🛦	All pass					

Do you protect with the South cards when West's 1 is passed round to you?

Again, the vulnerability is against you and the hand is rather flat, but 2 • finds partner with four-card support.

The trouble is that East-West won't go quietly, and if they find a heart part-score this makes one more trick than spades, when the ♥Q falls. In hearts, they have just two diamonds, one spade and one club to lose, whereas in spades there are two trump tricks, two diamonds and one club since there is no communication to the long hearts in dummy.



Makeable contracts

♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT

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5 1 5 6 6

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Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable							
West	North	East	South				
		Pass	1♠				
Pass	2.	Pass	2♥				
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT				
Pass All pass	5♥	Pass	6♥				

The is a tough hand for Acol bidders. The first three bids are clear, and the only way for North to get hearts agreed is to begin with fourth suit forcing, or leap to Blackwood. Both are problematic.

The first route leaves you out of room to get hearts agreed, and in the auction above the jump to 5♥ just showed a hand too good to bid four. South has an easy raise with extra values and great cards.

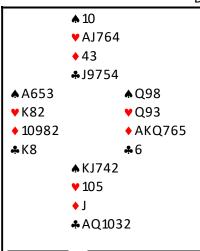
Jumping to Blackwood is not ideal either since, when you are missing a keycard, can you be certain that the defence are not cashing the ace and king of spades?

	16			Ε	-	-	-	-		
Ĺ				W	-	-	-	-		
			^	\J62	2					
	♥ QJ973									
			♦ 7	2						
			. (23						
•	♦ 875	4			•	١K٥	23			
•	∨ K86			v 10						
•	• Q10	8		♦ J965						
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	8	10		S	-	-	3	1	T	
1			i	- -	i	i	i		t	

Board 7:	Dealer So	uth : All vi	ulnerable
West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass All pass	2♣	Pass	2♥

The North hand is only worth a part-score facing 1NT and could transfer to hearts, but weak Stayman is better here since a potential four-four spade can be found.

Here the auction will peter out quietly in 2♥. Declarer always has a trump, a spade and two club tricks to lose, but that should be all. Nine tricks in hearts will be a popular result.



	НСР			Makeable contracts							
					*	•	٧	٨	NT		
	6	13	13	N	3	-	2	-	-		
10				S	3	1	2	-	-		
	11			Е	-	4	-	1	2		
				W	-	4	-	1	2		

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	* A	J75	5				
	• C	ĮJ					
	. C	274					
♦ 53			•	NΑ	5		
♥Q1043			•	P K9	96		
♦ AK62			•	10	954	4	
4 1065			•	₽ ΚJ	93		
	٨K	J 10	72				
	v 8	2					
	♦ 8	73					
	. A	82					
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				*	•	>	٨	NT
12			Ν	1	1	-	1	-
	11		S	-	-	-	1	-
8			Ε	4	4	3	•	1
			8	4	4	3	1	1
. 4								

Board 8: Dealer West: Love all West North South Pass 1 • 1 Pass 2 🏚 Pass 3 🔷 All pass

What call do you make with the South cards after East opens 1 ♦ in third seat? You are not able to show both suits in one bid, so just settle for 1 . Unfortunately for you, your big fit is in your other suit, but East-West can out-compete you in diamonds anyway.

Playing in 3♦, some will make nine and some will make ten tricks, and the lead is an important part of this. On the ♥10 lead, declarer can put up the king, and later finesse the nine on the second round, losing just one heart. Then leading towards the &K will give you ten tricks. On a spade lead, you can play low from dummy and also make ten tricks. On a ◆J or ♣A lead, you will probably make just nine.

Board 9: Dealer North: EW vulnerable West North East South 1NT Pass 2 🗸 Pass 2♠ All pass

Should West re-enter this auction when 2♠ is passed round? Yet again the vulnerability is against you and the hand is rather balanced, but it works well to do so on this deal as the cards lie very favourably for you in either minor.

I expect more tables to be playing in 2♠, probably on the ◆10 lead. You have two inescapable losers in each minor to go with a heart and a spade, so seven tricks is the limit of the hand.

♠4 **♥** KJ85 ♦ A43 **♣**KQ953 AQJ6 **↑**109832 **v** 1064 **♦**97 ♦ KQJ8652 ♣A842 **\$** 10 **♠** K75 ♥AQ9732 **10 ♣**J76

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11	13 10	6	

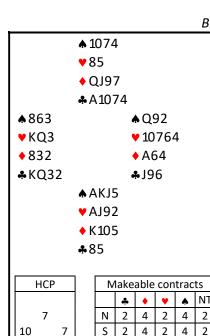
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Makeable contracts							
	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT						
N	3	-	5	-	1		
S	3	-	5	-	1		
Ε	-	6	-	5	-		
W	-	6	-	5	-		

Board 10: Dealer East: All vulnerable East South West North Pass 2 💙 All pass Pass 4 🕶 4

Do you open the East hand? Your diamond suit is ideal for a pre-empt, but the side five-card major is a problem. You may choose to pass and hope to show both suits on the next round. If you do so, South will open a weak 2♥ and North will raise to four. You can't afford to keep passing, but also you do not want to bypass 4 , so you just have to bid it. By a passed hand this guarantees a two-suiter, so if partner has short spades and both minors, they can remove it.

Here it works perfectly, and even though South can pick up a diamond ruff, that is it for the defence and eleven tricks will be made. You can, of course, make 6♦ with the aid of the spade finesse but I don't expect many to reach it. Meanwhile North-South can make 5 , so there will be some variety here, including some doubled contracts making.



Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all							
West	North	East	South				
			1♥				
Pass	1NT	All pass					

A quiet board with all hands too balanced for much action. I expect the auction above to be popular and will probably lead to nine tricks.

The only lead to hold it to eight is a club, and there is no particular reason to find one. On a spade lead, for example, declarer has time to establish diamonds before the defence can establish their clubs. I expect 1NT making two overtricks to be the normal result.

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		W	-	-	-	-	-
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	y 5	3					
	• C	(87	54				
	4 9	64					
♠ Q1096				N KJ	73		
♥ QJ4			•	/ A1	LO		
♦ AK106			•	3			
♣ J2			•	•K(Q 10	873	3
	A 8	34					
	♥ K	(98	762				
	♦ J	92					
	. /	۸5					

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N	Makeable contracts							
	*	•	>	٨	NT			
Ν	1	1	-	-	-			
S	-	-	-	-	-			
Ε	4	1	1	5	4			

| W | 4 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 |

Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

West North East South

1NT Pass 2♣ Pass

2♠ Pass 4♠ All pass

I expect most pairs to be playing 4 from the West hand.

When played by West, it is possible to hold it to ten tricks on a heart lead. Of course, declarer can rise with the ace, and cash two diamonds discarding a heart, but when declarer plays on trumps, North can win and play another heart. This forces dummy's trumps and so declarer can't draw the last trump without being cut off from the dummy assuming South remembers to duck the first club. Instead, declarer must discard a club on the heart return, giving South a heart trick, and settle for ten tricks. If not, the contract might even fail.

	♠ C) J6
	♥ K	Q83
	♦ C	Ų5
	♣ J	102
▲ 1054		♠ A9
♥ 962		♥ AJ74
♦ AK1097		♦ 63
. •Q6		. AK743
	٨K	8732
	v 1	05
	♦ 8	42
	. 9	85
HCP		Makeable contrac

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

Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable

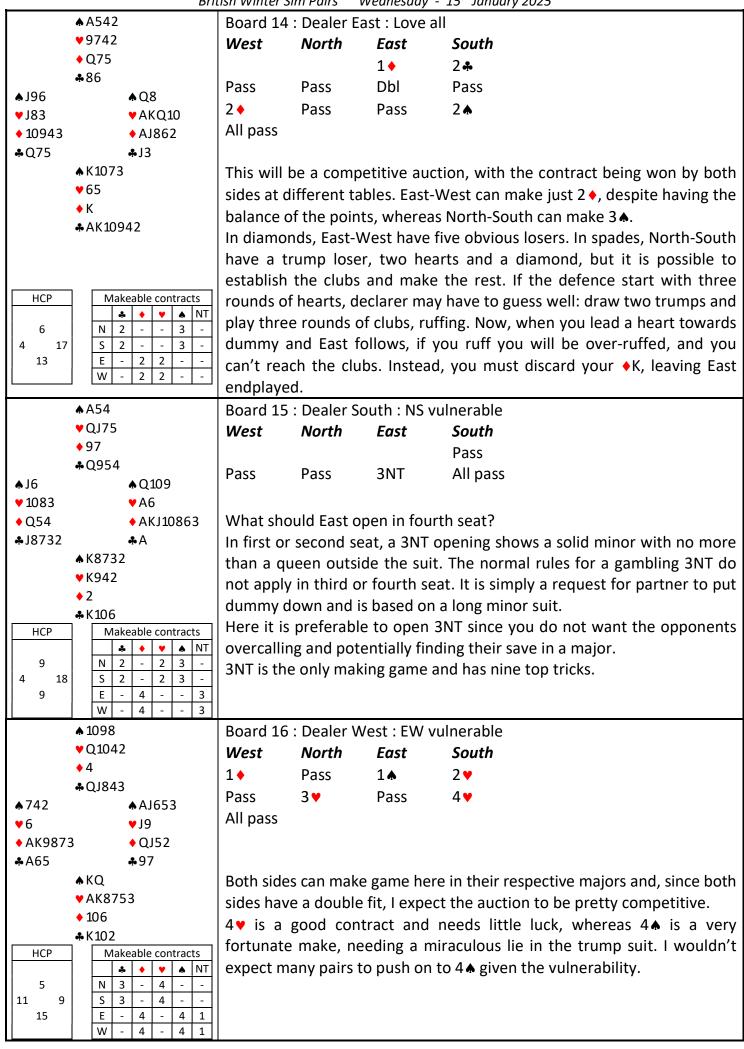
West North East South

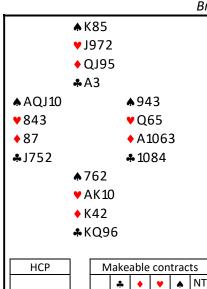
1NT Dbl 2♠

3♦ Pass 3NT All pass

The North hand is a pretty awful twelve count, but I still expect most people to open 1NT. They won't feel too well when East doubles, but when partner removes to 2 • at least you have three of them.

It is unlikely that East-West will stop off to double you, although that is their best option since the penalty is greater than game. Instead, I expect most to reach 3NT. This has nine easy tricks when the clubs divide, and probably no more on a spade lead since the defence have set up sufficient winners to take the rest.





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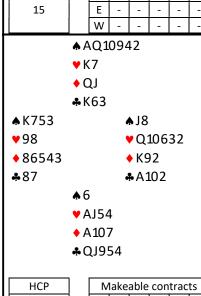
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Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all						
West	North	South				
	Pass	Pass	1.			
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT			
Pass	3NT	All pass				

A straightforward auction to the normal contract. Some Norths will choose to respond 1♥ but it makes no difference to the rest of the bidding, or to the lead which I would expect to be the ♠Q.

Declarer has a nasty decision to make on this lead. Should you duck twice, and play East for Axx or Ax, or rise with the king on the second round? If you do the former and East began with Axx, you will also need East to hold the A to succeed. At teams scoring, therefore, it is better to play for West to hold the A. However this is pairs, and everyone will be in the contract, so you must simply guess right. Good luck with that!



3 4

3 4

2 3

4

4 | 3 | 3

♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT

S | 6 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6

5 6

N | 6 | 3 | 4

Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable						
West	North	East	South			
		Pass	1.			
Pass	1 🖍	Pass	2♣			
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT			
Pass	3NT	All pass				

Although slam can be made, it is very fortunate, needing three working finesses, and the values are not there.

		W	-	-	-	-	-
	^	ιKQ	64				
	♥ K	87					
	♦ 8	3					
	. C	J7					
↑ 732			•	NJ1	085	•	
♥ J6			•	/ A(Q 1 0	4	
♦ AKQJ9			•	10	5		
♣ K106			•	85	52		
	• 9)					
	y 9	53	2				
	♦ 7	64	2				
	. A	94	3				

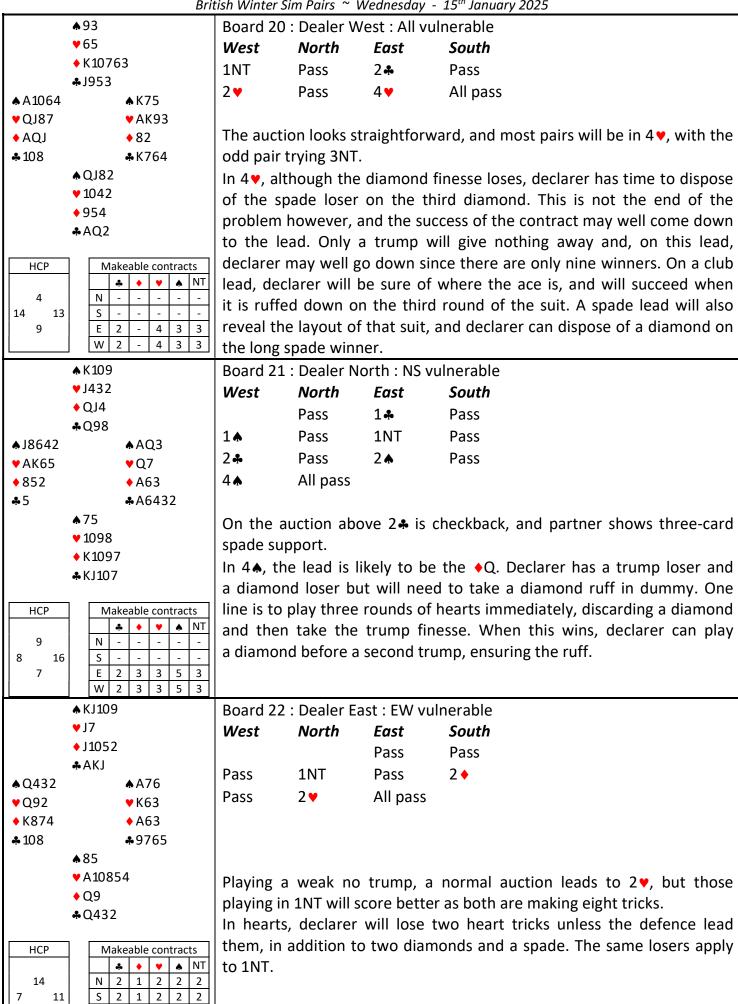
Board 19:	Dealer Sou	uth : EW vu	Inerable
West	North	East	South
			Pass
1NT	Dbl	All pass	

It feels a little embarrassing giving an auction to 1NT doubled that is always making nine tricks! I do, however, think that all the actions in the bidding above are normal, and sometimes you have to say "that's life". I expect there to be several tables where this happens.

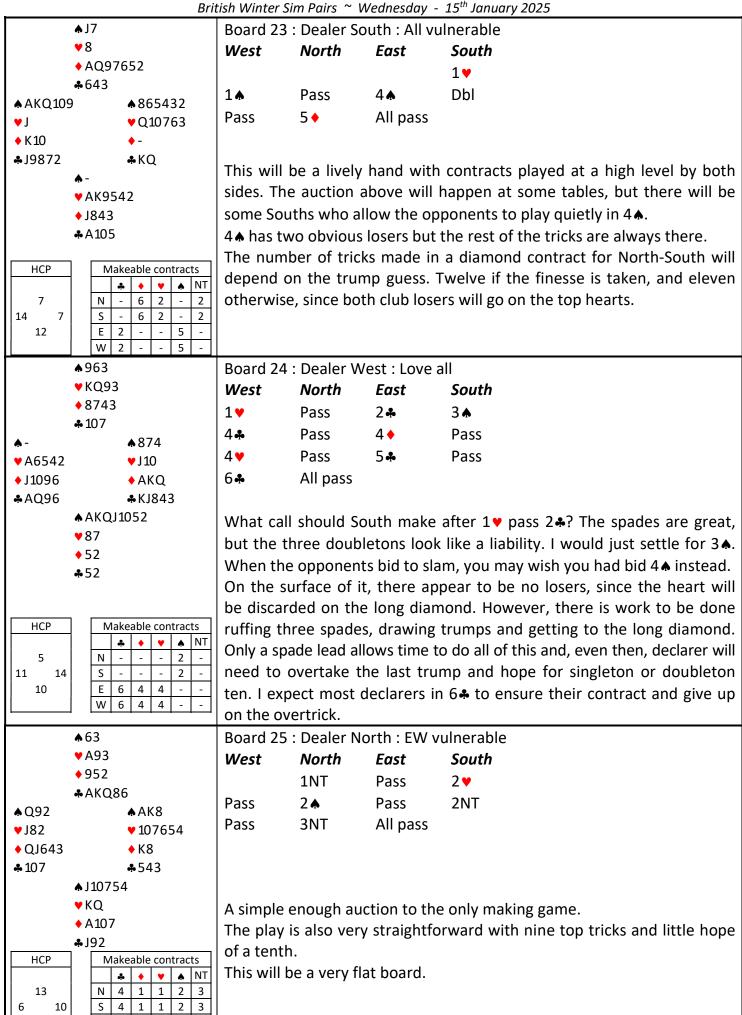
North will start with a top spade and be very disappointed at the sight of dummy. Not only is there a spade stopper, but also the ♥AQ over the king. It could hardly look worse. Declarer always has five diamonds, three hearts and a club, and the defence have four tricks, so there will be little variation in the number of tricks made.

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	W	-	

Makeable contracts					
	*	•	>	٨	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
Е	-	3	2	1	3
W	-	3	2	1	3

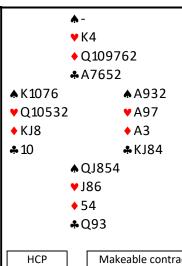


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НСР	,		Makeable contracts					
				*	•	٧	٨	NT
9			N	-	1	-	-	-
16 6		S	-	1	-	-	-	
		Е	-	-	4	4	3	
		W	1	-	4	4	4	

Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

West North East South

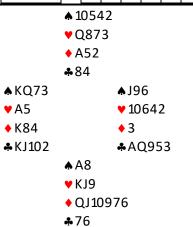
1♠ Pass

2♠ 2NT Dbl 3♣

4♠ All pass

On the auction above, East's double just shows extra values, typically a strong no-trump type. The best option for East-West is probably to double their opponents at the three-level, but West is unlikely to be interested in defending 3.

4♠ looks a normal enough contract, but the bad trump break gives it problems. South will probably lead a club to North's ace and a club return. East may quite understandably put the ♠A on the table, but this turns out to be fatal when North discards. I expect 4♠ to fail more often than it makes.



Makeable contracts					
	*	•	>	٨	NT
Ν	-	3	-	-	-
S	-	3	-	-	-
Ε	4	-	1	2	-
W	4	-	1	2	-

Makeable contracts

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♥ | ♠ | NT

1 4

Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all

West North East South

1 ◆

1NT All pass

This is likely to be a popular auction although it is far from the best contract.

1NT will probably go one down on a heart lead since declarer has just six tricks, and the defence have plenty once they get in and South leads a diamond through declarer's king.

On the other hand, both sides have a minor suit part-score available, 3 ◆ and 4♣ are both making. If the auction continues, there may well be a part-score battle for these contracts.

	^ 2
	♥ 986
	◆Q1086
	♣ KQJ32
♦ A1093	♠ KQJ754
♥ Q753	♥ AJ
♦ K2	♦ 43
♣ A76	♣ 954
	♦ 86
	♥K1042
	♦ AJ975
	4 108
	,

Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerableWestNorthEastSouth1NTPass2 ♥Pass3♠Pass4♠All pass

4♠ will be the normal contract on this deal, although some will stop in a part-score.

Declarer will need to be careful to duck the opening club lead or else, when the heart finesse fails, the defence will have four tricks to cash. Provided the first club is ducked, North has no entries and, after taking the losing heart finesse, declarer will be able to dispose of the final club on the \PQ . Now, when the \PA is onside, the contract will make, losing just one heart, one club and one diamond.



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