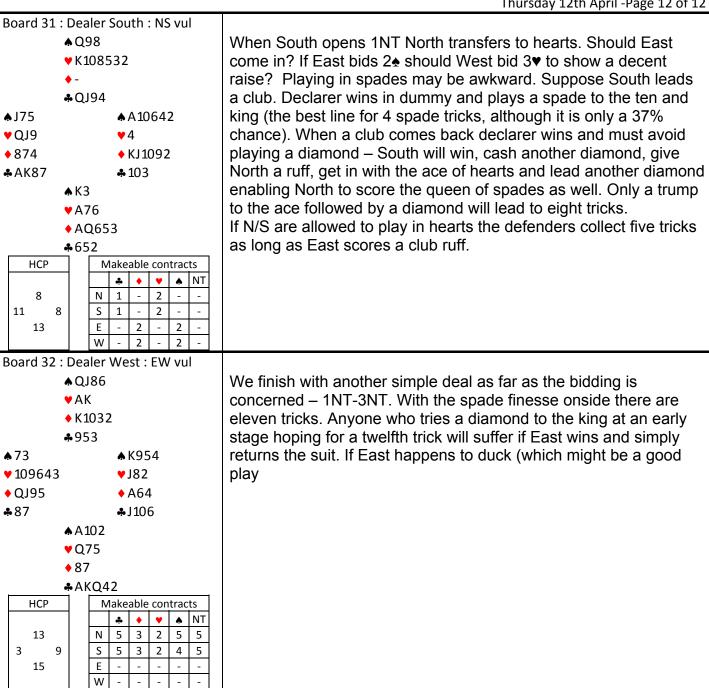
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Spring British Sims



Thursday 12th April

Welcome to the Spring British Sim Pairs.

Our writer today is Mark Horton who lives in Bath with his wife Liz.

A powerful chess player he represented England as a junior and subsequently played for Great Britain in the European Team Correspondence Championship, winning the gold medal on his board as the team took the bronze. He penned a series of articles and booklets on opening theory - and American legend Bobby Fischer used one of his suggestions to win a game against Russian Mark Taimanov on his way to the World title.

Despite claiming he has no time to play he has won events in such far-flung places as Australia, France, Germany, Holland, Romania, Portugal, Egypt Malta, and the USA to name a few. When he is not at his computer you might find him reading (Bernard Cornwell's Richard Sharpe novels and the crime thrillers of Peter James - set in Brighton - are among his favourites) or watching soccer, cricket or baseball. He enjoys restocking his wine cellar, and his latest acquisition is a Margaux 1970.

He recently completed a revision of the ACBL Encyclopedia of Bridge and is currently working on a new collection of Victor Moll's Menagerie stories, a history of bridge since 1950 a collection of Double Dummy problems and a book centered on his adventures with the Rabbi Helman.

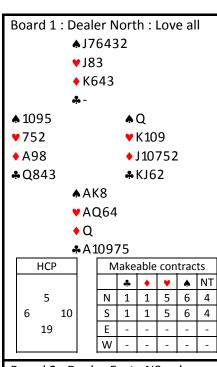
Forward Dates

2012

- EBU 75th Anniversary Sims: Tue 8th Fri 11th May + Mon 14th May 2012
- Summer British Sims: Mon 30th July Fri 3rd August 2012
- Autumn EBU Sims: Mon 10th Fri 14th September 2012
- Autumn British Sims: Mon 8th Fri 12th October 2012

- Winter British Sims: Mon 7th Fri 11th January 2013
- Bridge England Sims: Tue 5th Wed 6th February 2013
- Stratified EBU Sims: Mon 11th Fri 15th March 2013

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Anna Gudge and Mark Newton of ECATs, a commercial company, for providing us with an excellent service over the years. ECATs will still run their Children in Need Sims, the World Bridge Federation and European Bridge League Sims, and the Kidney Research event. www.ecatsbridge.com



If North happens to open a weak 2♠. or a Multi then South might get excited and push to 6♠. Where North elects to pass any East who is tempted to try 1♦ will only be helping South to place most of the missing points. Given a free run South opens 1♠ and rebids 2♥ over 1♠. (unless you fancy a game forcing 3♥). The natural move for North is to rebid 2♠. and now South can jump to 4♦, a splinter in support of spades.

With poor trumps and a void in partner's suit North will probably sign off in 4♠.

How should declarer play a spade contract? Say the defenders start with two rounds of diamonds. Declarer can ruff, ruff a club, come to hand with a trump, ruff a club, cross again with a trump and ruff a club. The last trump is drawn and

After cashing the king of diamonds declarer takes the heart finesse

If East has bid at any point then 6♠ improves, but otherwise it is a poor contract – just consider what you need for it to make – no trump loser, the heart finesse and some good luck in the club suit.

Board 2: Dealer East: NS vul **♦**32 ♥A764 ♦ AJ104 **\$**1073 **♠** AK **♠**Q8 **♥**J1082 ♥KQ9 ♦ Q873 ♦ K96 **♣**AQ2 **♣**KJ954 **♦**J1097654 **♥**53 **♦**52 **.**86 HCP Makeable contracts ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT

1 -

- 1 1 -

E | 5 | 3 | 4 | - | 5

E - 4 1 2 2

W - 4 1 2 2

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This may prove to be the damp squib of the event. East has a perfect 1NT and after using Stayman West will raise to 3NT. With North holding both the missing aces declarer has eleven easy tricks.

The only possible variations will be if South introduces the spades – despite the dreadful suit, the poor 7-2-2-2 distribution and the vulnerability. 3♠ costs 500 if West decides to double, but 2♠ doubled down one would prove to be a triumph. It's a funny old game sometimes.

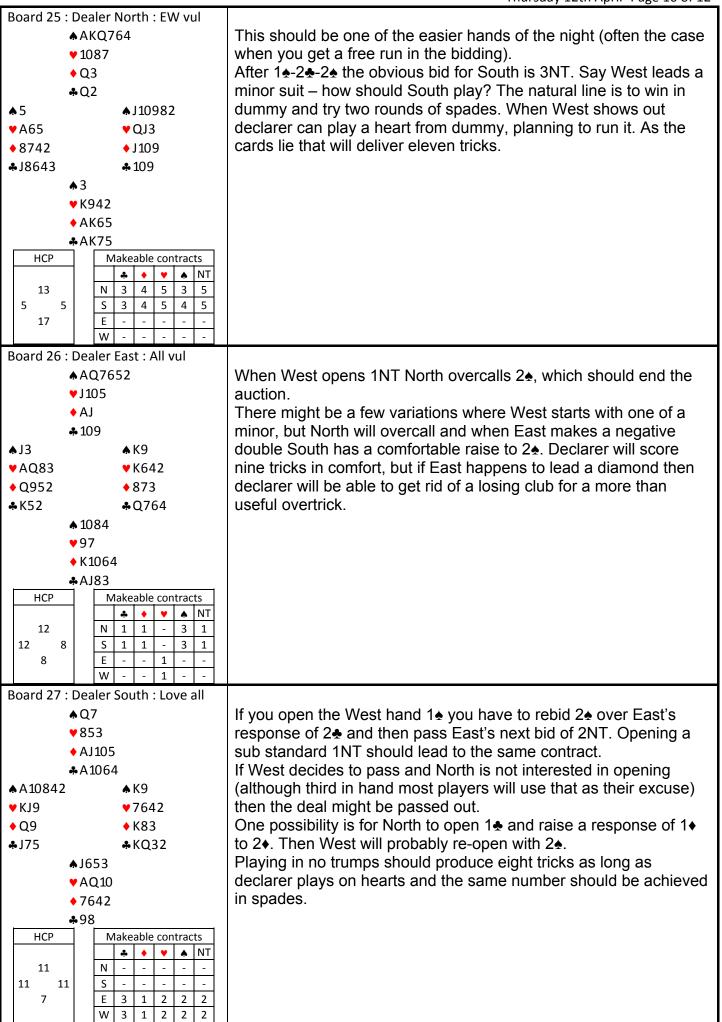
Board 3: Dealer South: EW vul **♠**5 **♥**K10872 **9**5 ♣AJ652 AQ42 **♦**J108 **y** 5 ♥AJ963 ♦ AK8764 ♦J102 **\$**94 **♣**Q8 **★**K9763 **♥**Q4 **♦**Q3 **♣**K1073 HCP Makeable contracts ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT N 2 8 S 2 - - - -13

If South opens 1♠ West has an easy overcall. You can choose between a simple 2♦ and an old fashioned 3♦. In either case North can double or bid hearts (not without risk if the overcall is at the three level). Double finds a club fit when it exists, but risks missing a 5-3 heart fit.

Opening the modest South hand will not be a universal choice but when West opens 1♦ North will have the option of overcalling 1♥ or making a two-suited overcall. After 1♦-2NT for example East does not have an easy bid – perhaps 3♦ is simplest.

Whatever the bidding I expect E/W to end up in diamonds most of the time. On the face of it there are eleven tricks, but if the defenders start with two rounds of clubs and then South switches to the queen of hearts and does not cover the jack of spades then ten tricks are the limit. That is difficult enough to be as rare as a hen's tooth, so my guess is that eleven tricks will be recorded most of the time, giving a handy premium to the few pairs who bid game. That just leaves room to mention that 3NT rolls home absent a club lead – but no one attempted that – did they?

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Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vul	
♣85 ♥K52 •Q105 ♣AJ763 ♣J743 ♣2 •Q1094 ◆AJ83 •T6 ◆KJ942 ♣AKQ1096 ◆76 •A83 ♣82 HCP AMAKQ1096 •A83 ♣82 Makeable contracts ♣ ♠ NT N 1 2 1 <td>After East opens 1♦ South overcalls 1♠ and rebids 2♠ over North's 1NT. West is very thin for a double of 1♠, but a few might risk it and if that leads to E/W playing in 3♥ they might do well – after two rounds of spades if declarer ruffs and plays the jack of hearts to the queen and king, wins the heart return with the ten and plays a diamond to the jack nine tricks should be made. If declarer ruffs at trick two and plays a club to the queen and ace and whatever North does next will be to declarer's benefit – unless North returns the jack of clubs, locking declarer in the wrong hand. 2♠ should go down on a diamond lead (or for that matter a heart).</td>	After East opens 1♦ South overcalls 1♠ and rebids 2♠ over North's 1NT. West is very thin for a double of 1♠, but a few might risk it and if that leads to E/W playing in 3♥ they might do well – after two rounds of spades if declarer ruffs and plays the jack of hearts to the queen and king, wins the heart return with the ten and plays a diamond to the jack nine tricks should be made. If declarer ruffs at trick two and plays a club to the queen and ace and whatever North does next will be to declarer's benefit – unless North returns the jack of clubs, locking declarer in the wrong hand. 2♠ should go down on a diamond lead (or for that matter a heart).
Board 29 : Dealer North : All vul	This is one of the easier deals to predict – at least as far as the bidding is concerned. N/S will find a route to 3NT – the simplest way is 2NT-3♣*-3♦*-3NT. What should West lead? A diamond looks very dangerous, so the choice lies between the majors. I think the general view is gradually moving towards passive leads against no trump contracts, so perhaps one should try a spade, but this time nothing does any damage. On a spade lead declarer plays low from dummy and takes East's jack with the ace. A low diamond sees West go in with the king and the defenders clear the spades. The defenders have two tricks but now declarer cashes four club tricks, which is more than West can stand.
Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all	If N/S had a free run they might well bid 1♣-2♣-2NT-3NT, a contract that would make most of the time, not least because East would usually lead a diamond. However, when West starts with a weak 2♥ or a Multi the situation changes dramatically. Now 3NT played by North is hopeless on a heart lead and although it can be made if South is the declarer it is not exactly obvious how that might come about.



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Board 4 : Dealer West : All vul	If West passes (opening will see East drive to game) East will open 1NT. With a flat 11 points West is worth no more than an invitation but it is one that East will turn down. Playing in no trumps declarer will have an easy time thanks to the way the diamond suit is distributed, combined with the fact that it impossible to go wrong in hearts. Barring an accident declarer should record nine tricks, so aggressive bidders will reap a rich harvest of matchpoints.
W 2 3 2 3 3	When South opens 1♣ North responds 1♥ and will then to decide what to do when South rebids 1NT. Facing a weak no trump it is usually right to go back to the major, but it is not so clear when partner has a strong hand. On this occasion with hearts 3-3 it is (not unluckily) better to play in the major, as in no trumps a diamond lead from West should see the defenders record five tricks.
Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vul	Despite the modest nature of the West hand (and the vulnerability) a response of 1♠ to East's opening bid of 1♥ is a possibility. When East rebids 2♠ West gives preference to 2♥ and that should end the bidding. In theory 2♥ should go two down, but it is quite easy to go wrong. Say South leads the king of diamonds. Declarer wins and plays a spade to the king and ace. If North switches to a club and South wins with the king, a club return will play into declarer's hands and he will emerge with seven tricks. Where West passes over 1♥ North comes in with 1♠ and East bids

E/W cards will get a poor result.

♦ KQ43

НСР

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♣K10764

Makeable contracts

N 1 2 1 4 3

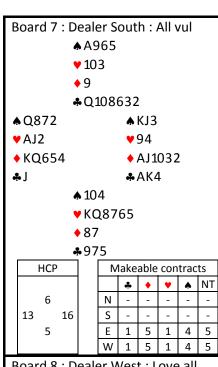
S 1 2 1 4 3

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT

2♣. If South bids 2♠ that should see his side buy the part score.

The cards are lying well, and ten tricks should be easy enough.

It is unlikely that game will be reached, so those losing 200 on the



If South opens the bidding 2♥ West can only pass. If South starts with a Multi you might risk a double (assuming that was around 13-15 balanced) given that you have a stopper in both majors. In either case E/W should be able to find a route to 3NT. For instance, 2♥-pass-pass-dbl -pass-3NT or 2♦*-dbl-2♥*-3♥*-3NT. If South passes then E/W might get excited about their diamond fit. On a heart lead it is clear that eleven tricks are the limit in diamonds, but even without one declarer has to take a very good view, drawing trumps, eliminating the clubs (discarding a heart) and then playing a spade towards the ♠KJ3. North has to duck and then a diamond entry allows declarer to play another spade. North has to duck for a second time and when South's ten falls declarer can get home by applying the theory of restricted choice, assuming that spades are 4-2 and exiting with the ace of hearts and a heart. Luckily that endplays South, who has to offer up a ruff and discard.

Board 8: Dealer West: Love all **♠** K5 **v**8653 **♦**J2 **♣**AK872 **♠**AJ8 **♠**Q1072 **♥**K42 **♥**A7 **♦**9753 ♦AQ1064 **4** 1043 **.**96 **♠**9643 ♥QJ109 **♦** K8 ♣QJ5 HCP Makeable contracts 11

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3 - 2 -

E - 3 - 2 -

The modern style is to open the North hand 1♣ and when East overcalls 1♦ South has a classic negative double. West raises to 2♦ and North bids 2♥. Now it is just a question of who ends up buying the contract.

In diamonds there are four obvious losers, a spade, a trump and two clubs. In hearts declarer should lose a spade, two trumps and a diamond. With both contracts making on the nose this looks like one of those deals where there will be results on both sides of the traveller.

Board 9: Dealer North: EW vul **↑**73 ♥AK1094 ♦ K32 **\$986 ^**2 ♠ AKQ **♥**Q2 **♥**J876 ♦ AJ7 ♦Q1085 ♣AKJ7542 ♣Q10 **♦**J1098654 **♥**53 **964 .**3 НСР Makeable contracts **♣ ♦ ♥ ∧** NT

W -

East has a solid 1NT opening and assuming South (as on Board 2) goes quietly then West has a hand that might produce a slam facing the right cards. The trouble is that partner tends never to have the hand you are hoping for, so there is a lot to be said for a direct jump to 3NT. If you do want to investigate the normal move is to jump to 3♣. In the Acol Index Eric Crowhurst suggests that a new suit now should be natural, while a jump is a cue bid in support of partner. Some partnerships have decided that it is better to cue bid at a low level as partner will not have a two suited hand (they use transfers with those) so they would bid 3♠, placing full value on the ♣Q10. Armed with the information that East has no heart control West can give up on slam. At matchpoints five of a minor is not a popular spot, and avoiding 3NT here will lead to a very poor score.

Suppose South leads a spade against 3NT? If declarer wins and takes a diamond finesse N/S should get three tricks. Those who elect to cash out for eleven tricks will score very well – this time. (At double dummy there are twelve tricks if declarer cashes the spade and club winners, as North is strip squeezed.)

	Thursday 12th April -Page 9 of 12
Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vul	
 ★ 10 ♥ Q64 ♦ 986532 ♣ J109 ♠ 7652 ♠ J8 ♥ K ♥ J10982 ♦ K10 ♠ A74 ♣ K6542 ♣ AQ7 ♠ AKQ943 ♥ A753 ♦ Q ♣ 83 HCP Makeable contracts ♠ Ø ♠ NT N 2 - 2 - 5 S 2 - 2 - 5 E 3 	If East opens 1♥ then South overcalls 1♠ and West bids 2♠. If East rebids 2♥ then South is sure to try 2♠. Then it is a question of whether East will be deterred from trying 3♠ by the vulnerability. Another possibility is for East to open 1NT. Then if South overcalls West can get clubs into the picture. The sequence 1NT-2♠-2NT* (transfer to clubs with at least invitational values)-3♠ works well on this deal. As you can see, there are eight easy tricks in spades, but nine can be made in clubs – the simple line being for declarer to play to ruff a spade in hand.
Board 23 : Dealer South : All vul	When South opens 1♠ there is no reason why North should not bid a game forcing 3♣. Then over South's 3♠ North can bid a simple 3♠ and a slam is sure to be reached. If North decides the spades are not good enough to be treated as 'primary support' then the bidding might start 1♠-2♣-2♠-2♥*-3♠. The trouble with this is that many pairs still play that 'fourth-suit' at the two level is not game forcing, so North will have to do more than simply bid 3♠. Still, I expect every pair to reach a slam, and some may try for all the tricks. Those who stop in six will generally score an overtrick, but suppose North is in 6NT and East leads a top diamond. Now declarer may refuse the heart finesse, which would be the right play if East had started with the ♥K and ♦KQ.
Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all	When North opens 2♥ East will probably stretch a point and overcall 2NT. Now West bids 3♥, a transfer, and over East's 3♠ goes on with 3NT, converted to 4♠. Over a Multi East starts with a double which means West will end up in spades. On a heart lead declarer wins and plays ace of spades and a spade. South wins, draws a third round and exits with a club. Going wrong in diamonds will not matter as long as declarer subsequently plays to ruff out North's queen.

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♦J2

♥QJ84

♣K106532

НСР

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♠54

♥752

♦ KQ64

♣Q643

HCP

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18

^7

♥KQ43

♦ KQ973

НСР

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11

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♣J103

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12

♣J94

♠ A 1075

♦ AQ983

♥AK6

.7

♠KJ2

♦972

♣K75

▲A1098

♥A4

♦ AJ10

♣AJ82

♣J10

y96

♦J1064

♣KQ864

★K6532

v 1082

♦52

♣A95

♥AJ75

Makeable contracts

E 1 4 5 3 2

W 1 4 5 3 2

♣ **♦ ♥** ♠ NT

♦ A8

.72

W -

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\$109

♥KQJ9

♠QJ6

v 109

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y -

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† 2

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HCP

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♦ K102

♦ AJ3

♣A3

♥Q10852

HCP

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♠86

♥K82

♣J109

♦ QJ842

НСР

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22

♦ K97

♠64

♥A96

.765

♦J84

743

♦ K76

♠A9

♦ 5

♠ Q105

♦ K1065

♣A532

♠A72

♥J73

♦A73

♣Q764

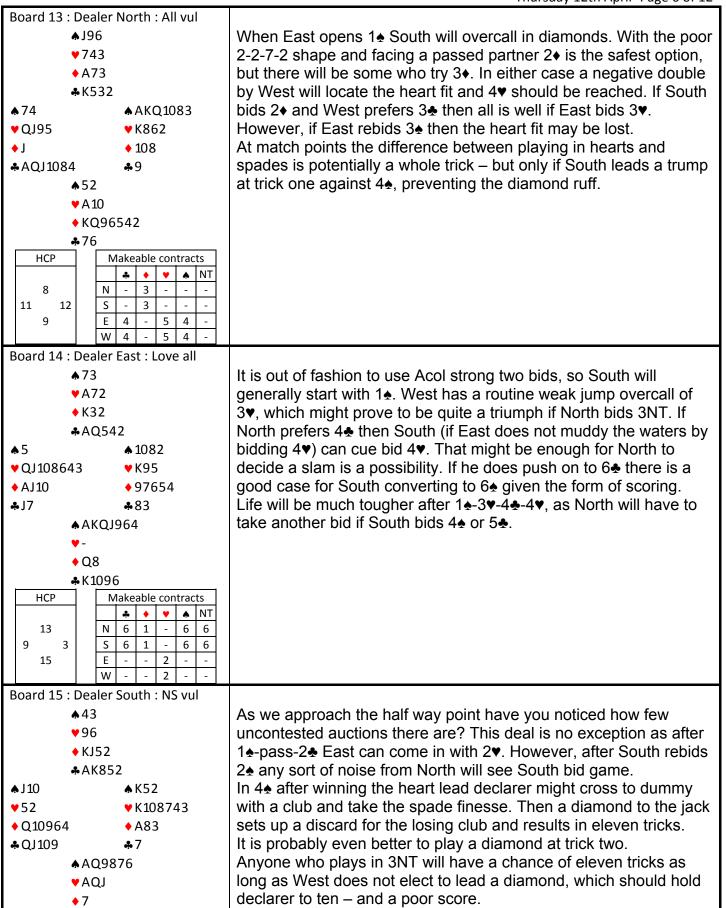
2 1

3 2 1

v 104

♣9742

Thursday 12th April -Page 5 of 12 Board 10: Dealer East: All vul **♣**J10752 When East opens 2NT the old fashioned way to treat the West hand is to jump to 4♥, promising a six card or longer suit and fair values. Another possibility is to jump to 4♣, showing hearts (4♦ would promise spades). If you transfer to hearts by bidding 3♦ then **♣**J9432 your partnership needs to know the meaning of the sequence 2NT-**AKQ9** 3♦*-3♥-4♥ – is that a mild slam try or a sign off? ♥Q107 If responder does start with 3♦ then East might consider breaking ♦ A865 the transfer by bidding 4♣ (a fourth trump would be better, but the **♣**AK controls are so good it is a possibility). When West is able to cue bid 4♦ the laydown slam is sure to be reached. ♦ QJ1043 Makeable contracts ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT E 1 1 6 3 2 W 1 1 6 3 2 Board 11: Dealer South: Love all If the bidding starts 1♥-pass-pass East will probably want to bid. 2♥, showing spades and a minor is fine, as long as you have the agreement that this can be a weak hand as well as a strong one. Otherwise East is left with a number of poor choices, pass, 1♠, 2♦ or double. Anything that suggests high card values will see West **♠**Q7653 getting very enthusiastic. **y** -With so many variations possible in the bidding it is tough to predict ◆Q109842 the final outcome, but spades will be trumps at a lot of tables. **&**J8 Imagine a heart is led. Declarer ruffs and now needs to guess to play a spade to the king and duck a spade to South's ace. The club ♥AKJ96 switch is taken by the ace and the king of diamonds forced out. That leads to ten tricks. **♣**KQ1065 On a club lead, dislodging the ace, declarer should never take Makeable contracts ♣ ♦ **∀** ♠ NT more than nine tricks. - 1 - 1 S 3 - 2 - 1 E - 4 - 3 -W - 4 - 3 -Board 12: Dealer West: NS vul This does not look very exciting, at least as far as the bidding is concerned. At just about every table one can expect the sequence to be 14-1NT-2♥-all pass. If South leads a trump declarer should go up with dummy's king and play a spade to the jack. He can then establish the spades **♠** KJ943 with one ruff and a winning guess in clubs will deliver a tenth trick. ♥AQ965 There is a way to hold declarer to nine tricks, but it would take an **•** 9 imaginative lead in the style of Sweden's Peter Fredin. A low **♣**K8 diamond to North, followed by another diamond, and a third round when South gets in with the ace of spades is just enough to thwart declarer. Makeable contracts ♣ **♦ ♥ ♠** NT



.643

Makeable contracts

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S 4 1 2 5 4

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT

НСР

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Board 16:	Deale
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. 3	
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	V KQ6
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Board 17:	
	AK8
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•	932
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♥A103	
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Board 18:	Deale
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♦ AKQJ54	
♣ J98	
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	NJ108
	∀ K83
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i	

er West : EW vul If West is able to start with a two-suited 2♠ (as described in The *Mysterious Multi*) then reaching 4♠ will be routine, but even when West passes the sequence 1NT-2♥*-2♠-3♦-4♠ gets E/W to the same spot. However, making ten tricks might prove to be a 5542 **♠** AJ10 The toughest defence when East is declarer is three rounds of **♥**J932 hearts. Now if declarer gets the spades wrong there are only nine ♦ K7 tricks. If West is declarer North will probably lead a minor suit. On a ♣AJ107 diamond lead declarer might well win with the king and then face a nasty guess in the trump suit. If you decide a shortage in diamonds indicates length in spades you will go down. 983 Makeable contracts ♣ ♦ **♥** ♠ NT - 3 1 4 3 N - 3 1 4 3 er North : Love all 372 After 1♠-pass-1NT should West bid 2♠? A sixth club would be nice but with a suit headed by three top honours I suspect 2♣ will be the popular choice. However, if East raises to 3♣ three rounds of spades will give N/S a plus score. Expecting West to have a good hand when both opponents have bid, East might try 2NT. If the **♠**QJ5 **♥**Q76 defenders don't attack the diamond suit quickly enough declarer will easily score eight tricks. ♦ A6 The final possibility is that if E/W get together in clubs South might **\$109873** try 3♦ – and that should make in comfort. 2 10754 Makeable contracts - 3 1 1 -- 3 1 1 -

V 2 - - - 1 er East : NS vul 552 553 **♠**Q94 ♥QJ107652 **•** -**♣**K72 37 76 **\$**104 НСР Makeable contracts **♣ ♦ ♥ ♠** NT 3 13

W 1 2 4

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With a void on the side, three cards in the other major and a second round control some players may consider the East hand too good for 3♥. Still, I expect the majority will be happy to preempt and West will raise to game. North should not go quietly and the choice lies between 4♠ and Double. On this deal at least the former has the advantage that East does not have a diamond to lead. Even so, 4♠ is no picnic. On a heart lead declares ruffs and cashes a top spade. Trying for a miracle by laying down a second top trump, hoping for 2-2 spades and clubs 3-3 with the king onside leads to two down, but if East drops the nine of spades declarer might be tempted. Playing on clubs is better, but after cashing the ace a low club allows West to get in and play diamonds. Not easy, but playing the gueen forces East to win and now declarer emerges with nine tricks.

If E/W push on to 5♥ the winning defence is for North to cash a spade and a club and then force the West hand with a second top spade, ensuring a trump trick for South.