

<p>♠98754 ♥985 ♦K62 ♣85</p> <p>♠62            ♠K3 ♥QJ6           ♥AK742 ♦Q7543        ♦10 ♣AQ4           ♣J7632</p> <p>♠AQJ10 ♥103 ♦AJ98 ♣K109</p>		<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>West is not quite worth a double over 1♠, but will certainly re-open the auction if North raises to 2♠. It's quite hard for East too know how high to bid after this protective double. You don't want to punish partner for the protection, but on the other hand you have great distribution and a good suit, so it is tempting to go to game.</p> <p>South will do well not to concede this game at trick one, since only a trump is safe. After this lead, declarer will have to allow North in with a diamond at some stage, and the inevitable spade switch through your king will give you four unavoidable losers.</p>		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	2♠	Pass	1♠	Dbl	Pass	4♥	All Pass																														
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<p>♠1098 ♥A872 ♦A10643 ♣6</p> <p>♠KJ63            ♠A72 ♥QJ1096        ♥543 ♦-                 ♦QJ952 ♣8732            ♣AK</p> <p>♠Q54 ♥K ♦K87 ♣QJ10954</p>		<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The auction is predictable enough over a weak NT from East, and 3♣ is a truly horrible contract for South, probably going three down, which will just lose out to the 140s in heart part-scores.</p> <p>Any South who can restrain themselves from protecting will score ok, and any E/Ws who are brave enough to double 3♣ will be rewarded.</p>		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	3♣	All Pass																									
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# Thursday

## 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014

# British



# Sim Pairs

Our commentator today is Heather Dhondy, experienced bridge teacher and author.

The biographies for the authors of all the commentaries can be found on the EBU website via [www.ebu.co.uk/biographies](http://www.ebu.co.uk/biographies)

All results, hand records and commentaries can be seen on the EBU website at [www.ebu.co.uk/sim-pairs](http://www.ebu.co.uk/sim-pairs). Choose the relevant day for the event in which you took part and you will see the overall ranking list. You can see your individual scores for this event by clicking on your partnership. From the resulting page you can then click on a specific board number to see all results, the hands and the commentary for that board. Alternatively all boards can be accessed by using the link to the boards in the menu on the right of each event page.

Master points cannot be allocated until after the event is finalised, usually about three weeks. Please keep your scorecard for that period. Clubs should keep travellers if you still use them. If we find any unusual scores we may need to a contact the club scorer and also the players.

♠ KQ3  
♥ 108  
♦ AQ865  
♣ 974

♠ 54  
♥ 9642  
♦ 1073  
♣ J1083

♠ 109862  
♥ 75  
♦ 942  
♣ K65

♠ AJ7  
♥ AKQJ3  
♦ KJ  
♣ AQ2

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

Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	6NT
Pass	7NT	All Pass	

Some fireworks to start off the event! This hand will test the methods of N/S, especially their agreements about what is and isn't forcing following a positive to 2♣. My advice is that pretty much all sequences should be forcing as far as 4NT, and those (if any) that aren't, are agreed by exception. Here, North's 3NT is forcing and describes a balanced hand of 8+. If North were to raise to 4NT, that would show a minimum and would be non-forcing, thus the jump to 6NT shows extra values, and should encourage North to proceed to 7NT.

♠ AJ92  
♥ AJ  
♦ AK4  
♣ KJ65

♠ 1073  
♥ 1063  
♦ Q7  
♣ AQ742

♠ Q865  
♥ K74  
♦ 10632  
♣ 109

♠ K4  
♥ Q9852  
♦ J985  
♣ 83

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
21		N	3	5	5	4	5
8	5	S	3	5	5	4	5
6		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

A simple sequence this time, and 3NT will be the normal spot. The cards lie very favourably for N/S, and with just a club and a heart to lose, 660 should be a popular outcome, although N/S will get an above average score for it, since there are always the odd few who have an accident.

♠ A7543  
♥ A986  
♦ -  
♣ AJ84

♠ K108  
♥ QJ54  
♦ QJ94  
♣ K3

♠ Q6  
♥ 73  
♦ K10762  
♣ Q1076

♠ J92  
♥ K102  
♦ A853  
♣ 952

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
13		N	1	-	1	3	-
12	7	S	1	-	2	3	-
8		E	-	2	-	-	-
		W	-	2	-	-	-

Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1NT	2♣	2♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	2♥
3♦	All Pass		

A part score battle where the outcome is hard to predict. Whether N/S manage to find their spade fit might depend on their defence to 1NT. Against 3♦ the defence have five top tricks to cash, and declarer can manage the rest.

The play to 3♠ is more complicated, and in practice North is likely to go one down, although the grid opposite will tell you that it is makeable. To make it you need to establish the fourth round of clubs, in order to discard your third heart.

Anyone getting a positive score on this deal will do okay.

♠ 6  
♥ KJ10965  
♦ AQJ  
♣ A73

♠ QJ874  
♥ 32  
♦ 1062  
♣ 862

♠ K102  
♥ A87  
♦ K5  
♣ KQJ109

♠ A953  
♥ Q4  
♦ 98743  
♣ 54

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
15		N	-	2	3	-	2
3	16	S	-	2	3	-	2
6		E	1	-	-	2	-
		W	1	-	-	2	-

Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	1NT	Pass
2♥	Dbl	2♠	3♥
All Pass			

This is an interesting part-score battle with lots of close decisions, so a wide variety of results is expected. The only predictable bid is the 1♥ opening. Now should East overcall 1NT or 2♣? The shape and point count suggest 1NT, but the stopper is not ideal, and the club suit is good, although only five cards. The auction above is possible if 1NT is chosen. If East overcalls 2♣, the ♠ fit may get lost.

For those who end up defending a heart part-score East will need to play two rounds of trumps early on, to stop the club ruff in dummy for the tenth trick.

♠ AK96  
♥ Q74  
♦ 65  
♣ AK102

♠ QJ8753  
♥ 3  
♦ J732  
♣ Q7

♠ 10  
♥ AKJ10  
♦ AKQ  
♣ 98643

♠ 42  
♥ 98652  
♦ 10984  
♣ J5

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

Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Dbl	Pass
Pass	1NT	Dbl	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

This is a dangerous board for N/S. They may escape if they open 1♣, but the normal Acol opening of 1♠, or a strong 1NT opening will get them into trouble. E/W have no game on their way and do best to penalise their opponents.

The only saving grace for N/S is the favourable club position. If they end up in 2♥ on an auction similar to that above, West does best to lead a trump, which will restrict declarer to the three club tricks, one long trump, and two spades, for two down.

♠ 432  
♥ 9  
♦ AK854  
♣ K654

♠ 976  
♥ 108  
♦ J1063  
♣ QJ108

♠ KQJ105  
♥ A753  
♦ Q2  
♣ A2

♠ A8  
♥ KQJ642  
♦ 97  
♣ 973

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
10		N	1	1	2	-	-
4	16	S	1	-	2	-	-
10		E	-	-	-	3	2
		W	-	-	-	3	2

Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all

West	North	East	South
All Pass		1♠	3♥

E/W need to compete to 3♠ to win the board, but it's not easy to see how they will get there. It is a slightly fortunate make in any case. If South begins with a top heart, East must return one. Two rounds of trumps is now the most likely defence, on which East must unblock on the first round in order to gain an entry to dummy on the second. Now the club finesse and a second, leave declarer in hand to ruff a heart, and take the ruffing club finesse. Finally declarer can draw the last trump and exit with a diamond to poor old North who is forced to give an entry to dummy to dispose of the heart loser.

♠ QJ7  
♥ AK  
♦ AQ74  
♣ A874

♠ 1083      ♠ K42  
♥ Q1094      ♥ 8653  
♦ KJ95      ♦ 102  
♣ 32      ♣ J1095

♠ A965  
♥ J72  
♦ 863  
♣ KQ6

Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

3NT by North will be a very popular contract, and ten tricks seems to be a likely outcome. On the J♣ lead, declarer can establish three spade tricks for the loss of one, and the diamond finesse is also working.

The top contract (albeit an unlikely one) is 4♠, where you can take a heart ruff to give you an eleventh.

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
20		N	4	4	3	5	4
6	4	S	4	4	3	5	4
10		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

♠ K10  
♥ J9753  
♦ AKQ62  
♣ 4

♠ Q2      ♠ AJ87  
♥ AK1042      ♥ Q86  
♦ 984      ♦ 75  
♣ 1083      ♣ QJ97

♠ 96543  
♥ -  
♦ J103  
♣ AK652

Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	All pass	

N/S will want to be keeping low on this hand, and there is no reason to get carried away. The auction given above should be repeated at many tables and gets you to the top spot.

When the opponents have had an auction such as this, where they have ended in their second suit, a trump lead is recommended. It works out well on this deal since it will cut down the hearts ruffs in dummy.

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

♠ 96  
♥ 106543  
♦ J532  
♣ A8

♠ AQJ1043      ♠ K87  
♥ -      ♥ K8  
♦ KQ1086      ♦ A97  
♣ Q2      ♣ 109653

♠ 52  
♥ AQJ972  
♦ 4  
♣ KJ74

Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all

West	North	East	South
			1♥
1♠	3♥	3♠	4♥
4♠	All Pass		

Game is available to both sides here, so there will be a wide variety of results. In the main, E/W will win the contract, holding the spades, and given the trump break, one diamond ruff in dummy will result in eleven easy tricks.

N/S may save in hearts, where there are three top losers, but will they take a good view in trumps? The odds about playing for the drop or finessing are very close, so it may depend on what has been revealed in the auction.

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

♠ 6  
♥ AKQ73  
♦ KJ6  
♣ 9732

♠ AJ54      ♠ Q1087  
♥ 6      ♥ 1082  
♦ Q2      ♦ 98754  
♣ AKJ854      ♣ Q

♠ K932  
♥ J954  
♦ A103  
♣ 106

Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♥	Pass	3♥
Dbf	Pass	3♠	All Pass

4♥ can be made by N/S on this deal, but is unlikely to be bid. To make ten tricks you will need to find the Q♦ and take two club ruffs in dummy. In spades, there are only three obvious losers, however there is too much work to do, given the bad trump break, even to make nine tricks.

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

♠ KJ94  
♥ A852  
♦ QJ7  
♣ AJ

♠ 105      ♠ Q872  
♥ KJ76      ♥ 94  
♦ A64      ♦ K83  
♣ Q1076      ♣ K854

♠ A63  
♥ Q103  
♦ 10952  
♣ 932

Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

The cards are not lying favourably for declarer in 1NT, and the natural lead of a club gets the defence off to a good start.

Declarer will get to work on the diamonds, but this still only gets their side to six tricks, however the defence have only five tricks, and whether declarer takes a losing option in hearts or spades next, the defence will be forced to concede a trick in return.

1NT just making will be a popular score.

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
16		N	-	2	2	1
10	8	S	-	2	1	1
6		E	1	-	-	-
		W	2	-	-	-

♠ A10865  
♥ AJ7  
♦ 8763  
♣ 8

♠ K3      ♠ Q9  
♥ 95      ♥ K106432  
♦ AK102      ♦ 54  
♣ AQJ72      ♣ K106

♠ J742  
♥ Q8  
♦ QJ9  
♣ 9543

Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

What is the West hand worth in response to a weak 2♥ opening bid? An invite to game looks about right, and when East shows a club feature, that hand improves considerably.

With just a spade to lose outside the trump suit, the key to success is to bring in the trumps for two losers. Most lines work on the actual layout, but the right matchpoint play is to lead the five towards hand, inserting the ten if North follows low.

It's worth mentioning that 4♠ by N/S is only three down which, at this vulnerability, is a profitable option. However it is not so easy to find a way into the auction.

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
9		N	-	-	-	1
17	8	S	-	-	-	1
6		E	5	3	4	-
		W	5	3	4	-

♠ 10742  
♥ AK32  
♦ -  
♣ AKQ84

♠ A985      ♠ K6  
♥ J7          ♥ Q9865  
♦ 109         ♦ AKQ875  
♣ J6532      ♣ -

♠ QJ3  
♥ 104  
♦ J6432  
♣ 1097

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	16	N	3	-	-	2
6	14	S	3	-	-	2
	4	E	-	4	2	-
		W	-	4	2	-

Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Pass	1♣	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

It's very hard to predict what will happen on this board. I have sympathy with the auction above, even though it is a horrible contract, and may be doubled by North. West has no fit for partner's red suits, and chooses the least bad one, however East has a terrific hand if partner has three-card support, which they will do more often than not, and is understandably reluctant to pass. The obvious club forces mean that the delicate trump fit is now inadequate, and two down will not be uncommon, sometimes doubled. N/S don't have much on themselves, and will do best to defend.

♠ 105  
♥ K108753  
♦ J9  
♣ J102

♠ J7          ♠ AK9632  
♥ 942         ♥ J6  
♦ K10863     ♦ A4  
♣ K64         ♣ A97

♠ Q84  
♥ AQ  
♦ Q752  
♣ Q853

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	5	N	-	-	1	1
7	16	S	-	-	1	1
	12	E	1	2	-	3
		W	1	2	-	3

Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Pass	2♥	2♠	3♥
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass

What call should you make with the East cards over a weak 2♥ by North? You will want to mention your spades, however you are quite good for a simple 2♠ overcall, but on the other hand you would prefer a better suit to jump to 3♠. I would begin with the underbid of 2♠, but when the auction is passed back to me in 3♥, I need to make a further bid, especially at this vulnerability.

The defence need to get going with clubs to hold this contract to nine tricks after cashing two rounds of hearts. If they begin with three rounds of hearts, declarer has an opportunity to play for an overtrick by ruffing with the nine, and later establishing diamonds, using the ♠J as an extra entry. South does best to discard rather than overruff, but if declarer reads the situation he will still make the tenth trick.

♠ AJ3  
♥ 7632  
♦ J4  
♣ J1072

♠ KQ92      ♠ 8  
♥ K84         ♥ AJ1095  
♦ Q92         ♦ A1063  
♣ 965         ♣ AKQ

♠ 107654  
♥ Q  
♦ K875  
♣ 843

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	7	N	-	-	-	-
10	18	S	-	-	-	-
	5	E	3	4	5	2
		W	3	4	5	2

Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

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

4♥ will be a popular contract, with the odd pair having a go at 3NT. In 4♥, the key to the overtrick is how the diamond suit is tackled. One diamond can be discarded on the spade from the East hand, and then leading diamonds twice from West will pick up North's jack.

In 3NT you can play ♦A then low to the queen (or the nine), but that is 50-50, whereas two finesses is 75%ish – either the jack or king right will give you extra trick.

♠ 2  
♥ AQJ1074  
♦ 863  
♣ Q32

♠ A4          ♠ J1096  
♥ 9            ♥ K652  
♦ AKJ972     ♦ 104  
♣ AJ104       ♣ 865

♠ KQ8753  
♥ 83  
♦ Q5  
♣ K97

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

Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
3♦	All Pass	Pass	2♠

What would your choice of opening bid be with the South hand? The choice is between 1♠ and 2♠. If you open 2♠, the auction will probably follow the route above, however if you open 1♠, your partner will probably compete as far as 3♥, which the opponents will do best to double or gamble on 3NT.

The favourable lie of the cards means that 3NT cannot be beaten by E/W, however it is not likely to be bid often given the lack of values.

In 3♦, declarer can get to ten tricks by drawing trumps and playing a heart towards dummy. North must rise, but the defence are not able to get off lead safely, and must eventually play on clubs, or concede a major suit trick to the entryless dummy.

♠ Q832  
♥ 985  
♦ -  
♣ KQ9852

♠ K107      ♠ -  
♥ KQ106     ♥ 7432  
♦ 65432      ♦ AKQJ87  
♣ J            ♣ A74

♠ AJ9654  
♥ AJ  
♦ 109  
♣ 1063

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	7	N	3	-	-	3
9	14	S	3	-	-	3
	10	E	-	6	4	-
		W	-	6	5	-

Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Pass	4♠	5♦	All Pass

The South hand is another borderline one/two-level opening, but in either case, North is likely to raise straight to 4♠.

If N/S have reached the four level by the time the bidding gets to East, it will be nearly impossible for them to reach the decent 6♦ contract. If East can bid 5♦ on his own, West might decide that he has enough to raise, but that is a tough call with no aces.

Given the favourable lie of the hearts twelve tricks are easy.

♠ A97  
♥ J732  
♦ Q7653  
♣ Q

♠ J53          ♠ 864  
♥ Q            ♥ K10654  
♦ AK84         ♦ J10  
♣ 106542      ♣ KJ3

♠ KQ102  
♥ A98  
♦ 92  
♣ A987

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	9	N	-	2	2	2
10	8	S	-	2	2	2
	13	E	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-

Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

1NT will be a very popular spot for N/S. Declarer will have to play well to make eight tricks, although no lead can stop it.

A club lead looks the most likely, and now declarer must return a club at trick two to develop the fourth round while there are still entries to hand. With both diamond honours onside and the Q♥ falling singleton, the defence can't successfully attack any suit.

♠ A6  
♥ J965  
♦ QJ62  
♣ A85

♠ J10974      ♠ 8532  
♥ A1082      ♥ K73  
♦ 1085      ♦ K3  
♣ 3      ♣ KQ72

♠ KQ  
♥ Q4  
♦ A974  
♣ J10964

Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

What do you open the South hand? I would be tempted to open 1NT despite the imperfect shape, given my values in the majors, and ropey ♣ suit that I would not wish to rebid. Having said that, it doesn't work out very well for me! Against 2NT, the defence are going to get started on ♠s straight away, and with both ♣ honours off-side, and a certain ♦ loser I am destined to go two down.

Anyone managing to play in a minor suit part-score will score decently, even if they go one down.

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

♠ AK75  
♥ Q9  
♦ AJ10  
♣ KQJ5

♠ J10943      ♠ Q82  
♥ A85      ♥ 1043  
♦ 832      ♦ KQ54  
♣ 92      ♣ 1063

♠ 6  
♥ KJ762  
♦ 976  
♣ A874

Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

3NT will be a very popular contract. The only question is how many tricks will be made?

This is not a good occasion for fourth highest of your longest and strongest, since leading away from the king-queen of diamonds will give declarer a twelfth trick. Any other lead should ensure that the defence get a trick in each red suit.

I expect the field to be divided between making eleven and twelve tricks.

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
20		N	5	3	5	2
5	7	S	5	3	5	2
8		E	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-

♠ J10864  
♥ A4  
♦ AK5  
♣ A76

♠ 32      ♠ KQ  
♥ Q98      ♥ 7653  
♦ Q842      ♦ 9763  
♣ K943      ♣ J52

♠ A975  
♥ KJ102  
♦ J10  
♣ Q108

Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

4♠ is a normal game here with people making anything between ten and twelve tricks. There is one obvious loser in trumps, and East will be hard-pressed not to give an eleventh on the opening lead. If he chooses a club and declarer misgusses by putting up the queen, he might risk another low club when in with the trump, and if declarer goes wrong again, he will be held to ten tricks. More likely is eleven after a red suit lead. In order to make twelve tricks legitimately, declarer will have to see through the backs of the cards, however if the defence get too active, they may present declarer with them.

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
16		N	4	3	5	6
7	6	S	4	3	5	6
11		E	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-

♠ K54  
♥ 843  
♦ 6  
♣ AK8743

♠ Q1082      ♠ A7  
♥ AQ72      ♥ KJ6  
♦ 10542      ♦ AKJ83  
♣ 9      ♣ J62

♠ J963  
♥ 1095  
♦ Q97  
♣ Q105

Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1♦	Pass
1♥	2♣	Dbl	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Dbl
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

One way or another, E/W are likely to end up in 5♦, after they discover they have no club stopper. 6♦ is not a terrible contract, just needing the trumps to come in, and any pair with the methods to find this can consider themselves a little unlucky.

For all the matchpoints, the moysian 4♥ contract will make, but is slightly uncomfortable on a club force. Fortunately the trumps are 3-3.

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
10		N	1	-	-	-
8	17	S	1	-	-	-
5		E	-	5	4	2
		W	-	5	4	2

♠ K952  
♥ J8  
♦ AK53  
♣ 1086

♠ -      ♠ AQJ10864  
♥ AK962      ♥ Q104  
♦ 984      ♦ QJ  
♣ KQ952      ♣ A

♠ 73  
♥ 753  
♦ 10762  
♣ J743

Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

It's easy to get overboard on this hand. The lack of a diamond control might stop pairs from getting to slam, but if they reach the five-level, they need to play in hearts rather than spades, since there is a trump loser in spades to go with the two diamond losers. Two rounds of diamonds, and a trump switch is the most testing defence against hearts. West can discard a diamond on the ♠A, and one club ruff is enough to establish the suit, so eleven tricks should be made in any case.

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
11		N	-	-	-	-
12	16	S	-	-	-	-
1		E	3	1	5	4
		W	3	1	5	4

♠ J  
♥ A105  
♦ QJ652  
♣ 9753

♠ Q986      ♠ K107  
♥ J94      ♥ 763  
♦ K93      ♦ A104  
♣ J64      ♣ AQ82

♠ A5432  
♥ KQ82  
♦ 87  
♣ K10

Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♣
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

South will be tempted in to the auction over a weak notrump from East, and the moysian 2♥ contract plays quite well. A trump lead is the best defence, however the minors are favourably situated, and there is little the defence can do to stop eight tricks.

In 1NT, East is likely to get home since South will have to get going with diamonds early in the play, which looks far from obvious. Even if they succeed in defeating 1NT, they can't compete with those making 2♥.

HCP		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
8		N	1	2	2	1
7	13	S	1	2	2	1
12		E	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-

♠8754  
♥A876  
♦87  
♣K95

♠3  
♥K10954  
♦K94  
♣AQ83

♠KJ106  
♥QJ2  
♦652  
♣J64

♠AQ92  
♥3  
♦AQJ103  
♣1072

HCP      Makeable contracts  

			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
7			N	-	2	-	3	1
12	8		S	-	2	-	3	1
	13		E	-	-	1	-	-
			W	-	-	1	-	-

Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable

**West      North      East      South**

Pass      Pass      1♦

1♥      Dbl      2♥      2♠

All Pass

A part score battle here, where the spades are always likely to outbid the hearts. East will be happy to defend in any case given the spade position. In a spade contract, the defence must attack clubs early in the play, before declarer plays on diamonds, since otherwise a club loser will disappear on the third round of diamonds.

For those defending hearts, North does best to lead a diamond, which shouldn't be hard to find since it is partner's opening bid. This establishes five defensive winners for N/S, and the four-one trump break gives declarer sufficient problems that careful defence will always result in a sixth.

♠63  
♥K105  
♦KJ852  
♣K73

♠J92  
♥J42  
♦974  
♣Q854

♠KQ1087  
♥Q98  
♦Q  
♣AJ102

♠A54  
♥A763  
♦A1063  
♣96

HCP      Makeable contracts  

			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
10			N	-	3	3	-	2
4	14		S	-	3	3	-	2
	12		E	2	-	-	2	-
			W	2	-	-	2	-

Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all

**West      North      East      South**

Pass      2♦      1♠      Pass

Pass      3♦      All Pass      2♠

What call should you make with the North cards when 1♠ is passed round to you? The choices are between double and 2♦. In favour of double, you have support for the other three suits and short spades, however your diamonds are two cards longer than your other two suits so you have a marked preference for them.

Those who choose to double may come out with a good result since they will probably reach a heart part-score. With both red suits behaving well, nine tricks are possible, but should declarer take a risk? On a spade lead, you will duck, win the continuation and ruff one in dummy. Now two rounds of trumps, but to make nine, you will need to chance a third round, which will work out badly if they don't break.

♠A72  
♥Q9  
♦A743  
♣J854

♠Q10  
♥KJ854  
♦KJ1082  
♣9

♠KJ953  
♥73  
♦Q65  
♣AK3

♠864  
♥A1062  
♦9  
♣Q10762

HCP      Makeable contracts  

			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
11			N	2	-	-	-	-
10	13		S	2	-	-	-	-
	6		E	-	4	2	2	1
			W	-	4	2	2	1

Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable

**West      North      East      South**

Pass      Pass      1♠      Pass

2♥      Pass      2♠      All Pass

This is an awkward hand, where the optimum diamond fit is likely to be lost. Whether East chooses to open 1♠ or 1NT, E/W are going to reach two of a major.

Against 2♠, the defence will start off with their singleton diamond. A second diamond ruff follows when North is in with the ace of trumps, and leaves declarer with the heart guess to make the contract if South now switches to a low one.

2♥ is always likely to make since declarer can lose three trumps, and if South starts taking ruffs, this is with the hand that holds the long trumps.

♠KJ  
♥K10962  
♦K105  
♣632

♠742  
♥AJ753  
♦J642  
♣A

♠9865  
♥84  
♦AQ98  
♣954

♠AQ103  
♥Q  
♦73  
♣KQJ1087

HCP      Makeable contracts  

			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
10			N	3	-	-	-	1
10	6		S	3	-	-	-	1
	14		E	-	1	-	-	-
			W	-	1	-	-	-

Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable

**West      North      East      South**

Pass      Pass      Pass      1♣

1♥      Pass      Pass      Dbl

All Pass

What should South reopen with after opening 1♣, and hearing West's 1♥ overcall passed back to him? The options are 1♠ and double.

Double is not ideal since if partner responds 2♦, you will be far from certain that you are in the right spot, however you should pass, having opted for this route. On this hand, however partner will convert your double to penalties, which you are quite content with, knowing that your Q♥ will be a valuable defensive asset. If you reopen with 1♠, you are likely to get a minus score, since partner might well bid 2NT, and you already too high.

However, this may not be all that bad since 1♥x will be making some of the time. It plays quite well given that the diamonds are favourably placed, and actually requires a ♠ lead to beat it legitimately.

♠K63  
♥104  
♦AJ653  
♣KQ5

♠QJ875  
♥976  
♦92  
♣1073

♠A109  
♥AK2  
♦Q1074  
♣986

♠42  
♥QJ853  
♦K8  
♣AJ42

HCP      Makeable contracts  

			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
13			N	4	2	4	-	2
3	13		S	3	1	3	-	2
	11		E	-	-	-	1	-
			W	-	-	-	1	-

Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all

**West      North      East      South**

Pass      1NT      Pass      2♦

Pass      2♥      Pass      2NT

Pass      3NT      All Pass

N/S are likely to reach the thin 3NT, and although it can be beaten, in practice it is going to make at many tables.

The likely diamond lead gives a trick straight away, and if declarer goes after diamonds, East is going to be forced to give the ninth trick. If declarer goes after hearts, the defence are in with a chance, but it isn't easy. East must win and switch to a low spade which West must overtake. Now North is in a hopeless position. If he wins, the defence have the communication to cash the spades, and if he ducks, West can continue with spades through North's king, and the defence will score three spade tricks, plus the ♥AK.

♠87  
♥KJ65  
♦10984  
♣J76

♠AKJ6  
♥A98  
♦A5  
♣KQ85

♠Q109532  
♥Q72  
♦Q32  
♣A

♠4  
♥1043  
♦KJ76  
♣109432

HCP      Makeable contracts  

			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
5			N	-	-	-	-	-
21	10		S	-	-	-	-	-
	4		E	3	2	2	6	6
			W	2	2	2	6	5

Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

**West      North      East      South**

2NT      Pass      2♠      Pass

6♠      All Pass      3♣      Pass

Whether East decides to open at the one or two level, West has a powerhouse in support of spades, and they are likely to reach the six level.

Those in 6♠ will have little difficulty getting to twelve tricks by discarding two hearts on the ♣K and Q, and then conceding a diamond, and ruffing one in the dummy. The odd pair might go for glory and try 6NT.

Played by West, a diamond lead will defeat it, but on a passive black suit lead, declarer will have to guess which red queen to lead up to.