

♠ J95
♥ A86542
♦ Q8
♣ 75

♠ 4
♥ KJ109
♦ K732
♣ Q962

♠ AK73
♥ Q
♦ A9654
♣ KJ8

♠ Q10862
♥ 73
♦ J10
♣ A1043

HCP	
7	
9	17
7	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	4	5	2	2	4
W	4	5	2	2	4

Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all
Left to themselves, E/W appear to have a reasonably straightforward auction to 3NT: 1♦ – 1♥ – 1♠ – 3♦ – 3NT. With diamonds dividing evenly, it takes a spade lead to hold declarer to ten tricks, otherwise there are eleven.
Non-vulnerable, South may scrape up a 1♠ overcall. Now West must start with a negative double and East may raise to 2♠. That at least ensures that South will get off to the best lead against 3NT, however, it should not keep E/W from getting to that contract. East will probably bid 2NT over the spade raise and West can bid 3♦ to offer a choice of games if that bid is clearly forcing in his methods, as it should be, or can just raise to 3NT, trusting that partner would not have bid 2NT unless he had the spades well held. Still, by making sure that they find the spade lead, N/S should also ensure an above-average score – unless too many E/W pairs bid to 5♦ instead of 3NT.

♠ 985
♥ A9
♦ QJ1095
♣ 652

♠ J73
♥ J832
♦ A73
♣ J94

♠ A1064
♥ Q10
♦ 862
♣ A1083

♠ KQ2
♥ K7654
♦ K4
♣ KQ7

HCP	
7	
7	10
16	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	3	2	1	3
S	1	3	2	1	3
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable
If playing a strong no trump, that is what South will open, and he will be left to play there. If playing a weak no trump he will open 1♥ and pass North's 1NT response – the heart suit is too weak to even contemplate an upgrade to justify a raise to 2NT. The friendly lie of the cards, with both black aces onside, means that declarer cannot be prevented from making nine tricks, if he reads the hand correctly.
Nine tricks are reasonably straightforward after a black-suit lead, as this effectively gives declarer an extra entry to lead up towards the black honours. On a heart lead it is rather more double dummy and careful defence will often mean only eight tricks.
I would have thought that, after 1♥ – 1NT, a low spade was the normal lead from the East hand, as the 1NT response could include clubs but shouldn't include spades. That leads to nine tricks.
Where South opens 1NT and plays there, West has no attractive lead. That being the case, he may as well fall back on what he learned when first started to play the game – fourth of your longest and strongest – and that may mean only eight tricks.

♠ KQJ9
♥ AJ6
♦ Q5
♣ K965

♠ 8
♥ 54
♦ 108762
♣ Q10743

♠ A1043
♥ KQ1093
♦ K94
♣ 8

♠ 7652
♥ 872
♦ AJ3
♣ AJ2

HCP	
16	
2	12
10	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	-	1	3	2
S	1	-	1	2	2
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable
If playing a strong no trump, North will open one, and East will bid whatever his system requires of him to show the majors, or perhaps one major plus a second suit. If he shows spades, in one way or another, that should ensure that N/S do not find their four-four fit but play in 3NT if they cannot find a way to play for a penalty. Playing for a penalty is a very good idea as, despite the combined 26-count, any N/S game can be defeated, quite apart from the fact that E/W are vulnerable.
A 1♠ opening from North rates to see him declare 4♠ after a 2♥ overcall and 3♥ constructive-raise cuebid. 4♠ is down one.
If North has to open 1♣, East will overcall 1♥ (or possibly double). South shows four spades via a negative double, and North jumps to 2♠ to show a fit plus extra values. Again, 4♠ will often be reached.

British Autumn Sim Pairs



Thursday

9th October 2014

Welcome to the British Autumn Simultaneous Pairs. Thank you for playing. I hope you enjoy the event and also the commentary provided by a leading expert. The commentator for this set of hands is Brian Senior from Nottingham.

We now have a revised prize structure with cash prizes both for leading players and also for clubs who run heats. There will be a draw for major prizes at the AGM in November. You can find all the full details and results at www.ebu.co.uk/sims/

You can earn Blue points in these Sim Pairs and they are awarded to the top third of the field. Provisional master points are shown but the event is not finalised until all results are in and score corrections have been made. This usually takes about three weeks. It really helps us if you can keep your scorecard for that period. Clubs should keep the travellers if still used. All players need to check that the correct score and **DECLARER** have been entered when using Bridgemates.

Jeremy Dhondy, Chairman EBU

<p>♠ J43 ♥ Q843 ♦ AJ32 ♣ A10</p> <p>♠ AQ986 ♠ K2 ♥ 9 ♥ AKJ52 ♦ KQ864 ♦ 10975 ♣ 87 ♣ Q9</p> <p>♠ 1075 ♥ 1076 ♦ - ♣ KJ65432</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <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>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		12		11	13	4		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	-	-	-	S	1	-	-	-	-	E	-	3	2	3	-	W	-	3	1	2	-	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <p>N/S have eight winners in a club contract but the defence can take six before they gain the lead. Meanwhile, E/W can make a part-score in any other suit.</p> <p>Where North opens 1NT, East is likely to overcall 2♥, or whatever his system dictates to show hearts and another. South could hardly bid a forcing 3♣ now, but that is what the Lebensohl convention is for, to permit purely competitive bids in new suits that must be shown at the three level. He bids 2NT, puppet to 3♣.</p> <p>What should West do on what, from his perspective, could be a complete misfit? 3♦ would work out just fine on this layout but, even if he has shown a two-suiter, can West be absolutely certain that the second suit isn't clubs? Anyway, there is no need to guess. West can double to show values and ask partner to bid – unless he has clubs. As in so many other situations, this is far more flexible than to play double as penalty here. This gets 3♦ from East and that probably ends the auction.</p> <p>It is true that where East showed only a single-suiter with an initial 2♥ overcall, West runs the risk that he will have alternative to repeating the hearts, but the West hand has too much potential to go quietly.</p>
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<p>♠ J6532 ♥ K103 ♦ 43 ♣ QJ2</p> <p>♠ A874 ♠ 109 ♥ - ♥ Q9872 ♦ QJ765 ♦ A108 ♣ 10987 ♣ 654</p> <p>♠ KQ ♥ AJ654 ♦ K92 ♣ AK3</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <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>4</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>4</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>	HCP		7		7	6	20		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	4	3	2	S	2	-	4	4	2	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <p>While the spade holding and lack of tens might point towards a possible downgrade, most Souths will see a flat 20-count and open 2NT. North's obvious response is 3♥, transfer, and when he follows through with 3NT to offer a choice of games South will presumably pass. A diamond lead defeats 3NT, while it can be made on a black-suit lead.</p> <p>Those playing a smart version of Puppet Stayman can check for either five-three major-suit fit. The key is to switch the meanings of the 3♥ and 3NT responses to 3♣. Now 3NT shows five hearts and 3♥ denies either a four- or five-card major. The benefit of this is that, when opener bids 3♥ to deny a major, responder can now follow through with 3♣, showing five. The method could have been designed for this deal!</p> <p>On the actual hand, South will show five hearts and North can raise to the heart game, hopeful that his weak doubleton diamond will mean that there are extra trick in a heart contract. Sure enough, 4♥ is a much superior spot and can be made, at least double dummy, even on the actual five-nil trump split – if declarer doesn't touch trumps East can be endplayed to lead around to dummy's king-ten in the endgame.</p>
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<p>♠ AKJ103 ♥ J9762 ♦ 2 ♣ K9</p> <p>♠ Q5 ♠ 9872 ♥ Q104 ♥ A53 ♦ 1083 ♦ AQJ ♣ AQ752 ♣ J108</p> <p>♠ 64 ♥ K8 ♦ K97654 ♣ 643</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <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>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		12		10	12	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	3	3	1	S	-	1	3	3	1	E	1	-	-	-	-	W	1	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <p>Unless his methods include a weak 2♦ opening, South will pass – just as well, because a 2♦ opening works out very badly on this deal as North cannot afford to bid with his misfitting two-suiter and the partnership languishes in 2♦, which can be defeated, when they can make nine tricks with either major as trumps.</p> <p>After a pass from partner, North opens 1♠ and rebids 2♥ over the 1NT response. South's preference to 2♠ ends the auction.</p> <p>With every suit lying kindly for declarer, there is nothing that the defenders can do, the two minor-suit kings being well-placed to provide extra tricks if required.</p> <p>Meanwhile, hearts ruff out and the ♠Q is doubleton onside so doesn't even need to be guessed.</p> <p>If he doesn't get forced, declarer has time to make ten tricks, just losing one in each side-suit. If the defence does get a force going, he will not be able to cash the long hearts, but still has five trump tricks, three side-suit kings and a heart ruff for +140.</p>
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<p>♠ KQJ7 ♥ Q10 ♦ 10943 ♣ 1084</p> <p>♠ A9842 ♠ 10653 ♥ 9874 ♥ A62 ♦ - ♦ AQ6 ♣ Q932 ♣ KJ6</p> <p>♠ - ♥ KJ53 ♦ KJ8752 ♣ A75</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <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>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8		6	14	12		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	-	-	-	S	-	3	-	-	-	E	1	-	1	1	1	W	1	-	1	1	-	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <p>When East opens 1NT in third seat, South will come in, either with a natural 2♦, which works well here as North can raise to 3♦ if that looks to be the right thing to do, or with 2♣, hearts and another. This too works just fine as North can make a pass or correct response and again get to diamonds.</p> <p>But West is likely to compete in spades and, despite the nine-card fit. That can be held to seven tricks. Where South has overcalled a natural 2♦, North can compete to 3♦ and, when East in turn competes with 3♠, can double for penalty and collect +300. Where South's initial action was 2♣, hearts and another, North can double 2♠, pass or correct, and again double 3♠ at his next turn, this time for penalty.</p> <p>With 3♦ making nine tricks for +110, it will be necessary to push the opposition to the three level before playing for penalties, as one down doubled in 2♠ doubled scores only +100 for N/S.</p> <p>Of course, where East opens 1♣, South will overcall 1♦ and the diamond fit will be found immediately, again leading to a competitive auction.</p>
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<p>♠ A107 ♥ 8543 ♦ KQJ96 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ QJ653 ♠ K4 ♥ A ♥ QJ10972 ♦ 7 ♦ 3 ♣ J75432 ♣ AK109</p> <p>♠ 982 ♥ K6 ♦ A108542 ♣ Q8</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <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>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10		8	13	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	-	-	-	S	-	2	-	-	-	E	5	-	3	4	-	W	5	-	3	4	-	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <p>East opens 1♥ and South is just short of holding a vulnerable two-level overcall, particularly facing a passed hand. West will respond 1♠ and, if North passes, East will rebid 2♣. Six-card trump support is not to be sneezed at, and West is worth far more than a simple raise to 3♣, for all that he holds only 8 HCP. If played as invitational, 4♣ fits the bell, but some would treat this as forcing, in which case you may as well raise to 5♣ straight away. As long as West does more than just raise to 3♣, the cold club game should be reached.</p> <p>It gets a lot harder if N/S get involved in the auction. Say that North overcalls 2♦ for the lead. East will now rebid 2♥ as 2♣ is no longer an option. West does not have the strength to be the one to introduce clubs on what looks like a potential misfit, and the suit may never be bid. It gets still less likely that the club fit will be found where South raises diamonds, or where he was the one to overcall at his first turn and North raises vigorously.</p>
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W	5	-	3	4	-																																								

Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all
 North opens 1♠ and East is not strong enough for a 2♥ overcall, though I suppose a few will make that bid anyway. The exceptional trump length will point most Souths to a raise to 4♠.
 Though the immediate game raise is a weakish distributional action, North has so much potential that he is likely to go on in search of slam. After all, the ♦Q plus either ♣A or ♥K gives decent play for twelve tricks and, even facing two low diamonds as here, the slam only needs one card, the ♦A, to be well placed.
 Some Norths may even just blast 6♠, hoping to make on occasion when they should not do so because they have given East a blind lead. Others will cuebid 5♣, which may not enthuse South as he can see that his high cards must be facing shortage so not pulling their weight.
 If South cannot cuebid either red suit over 5♣, North will have to give up on slam. I hope that nobody would use Blackwood over 4♠ with the North hand.

♠ AKQ632
 ♥ A5
 ♦ K10943
 ♣ -

♠ - ♠ 10
 ♥ 9762 ♥ KQJ108
 ♦ AJ7 ♦ Q82
 ♣ QJ9754 ♣ 10862

♠ J98754
 ♥ 43
 ♦ 65
 ♣ AK3

HCP	
16	8
8	8

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

Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable
 At many tables the auction will be simplicity itself, East opening 1NT and playing there – there is less reason for South to come in on a very marginal hand when he has such an easy lead against no trump. Having led a heart honour, South will be disappointed with the sight of dummy, which looks to be providing a second heart stopper. Declarer will win and play on spades, leading low to the ten and jack. North cannot afford to lead from either minor-suit holding so will exit passively with a spade.
 If South now clears the hearts, he will not only set up declarer’s second winner in the suit, but also a squeeze against his partner. Declarer will win the fourth heart and can cross to the ace of clubs to cash the fourth spade. This squeezes North in the minors for a ninth trick if declarer reads the ending correctly.
 On winning the ♠A, South needs to switch to a diamond. If declarer plays on hearts further diamond leads ensure a fifth trick for the defence.

♠ J82
 ♥ 6
 ♦ QJ72
 ♣ Q10984

♠ Q105 ♠ K764
 ♥ 9753 ♥ A104
 ♦ A95 ♦ K106
 ♣ KJ2 ♣ A63

♠ A93
 ♥ KQJ82
 ♦ 843
 ♣ 75

HCP	
6	14
10	10

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	1	1	1	2	2
W	1	1	1	2	2

Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable
 When East opens 1♥, West will drive to game – 4♥ isn’t guaranteed to make from his perspective, but the fifth trump and two potential ruffing values is enough to justify the upgrade.
 Assuming the lead of a diamond honour from South, 4♥ is all about the first heart play. If South liked his six-four distribution sufficiently to overcall, despite holding only 7 HCP, it will be clear to start with the ♥K as North is very unlikely to be void in the suit. With no opposition bidding it looks to be a guess.
 A successful heart guess leads to ten tricks. An unsuccessful one may lead to down two. Why, because declarer will know that half the field is going to guess right, and he has a legitimate chance to recover and get an average board. That involves taking the club finesse as, if it succeeds, he can get rid of dummy’s diamond loser. Alas, the club is offside and now the defence can cash two spades and a diamond with the trump still to come.

♠ AK95
 ♥ Q84
 ♦ 852
 ♣ 973

♠ Q732 ♠ J6
 ♥ KJ1097 ♥ A6532
 ♦ A10 ♦ J3
 ♣ 106 ♣ AKJ4

♠ 1084
 ♥ -
 ♦ KQ9764
 ♣ Q852

HCP	
9	14
10	7

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	2	-	-	-
S	-	2	-	-	-
E	2	-	4	-	2
W	2	-	4	-	2

Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable
 The empty South hand is not worth an upgrade (can you imagine opening that spade suit then having to rebid it after a 2♦ response from partner?). so it will be left to North to either open 1NT or open 1♥ and rebid 1NT over the 1♠ response.
 Facing a 1NT opening bid, South may transfer to spades then jump to 3NT to offer a choice of games, but I prefer Stayman, treating the spades as a four-card suit. Facing a 1NT rebid, I would just raise to game, not using Checkback to look for an eight-card spade fit. South has three top cards and there may be nine tricks available but three trump losers in a spade contract.
 Well, today it makes no difference as there is no eight-card fit. Declarer in 3NT may benefit from not having had to reveal more about his hand in response to an asking bid, but making 3NT will still be impossible if the defence gets it right after the normal diamond lead. But if he wins in dummy and plays a spade it is just possible that he can get home if West plays low. Now, playing the queen from hand restricts East to one spade entry and declarer will be in with a shout.
 Anyone who makes 3NT should score very well, with the popular result being down one – well, popular with E/W at least.

♠ Q4
 ♥ KQ942
 ♦ KQJ
 ♣ Q98

♠ AJ3 ♠ K106
 ♥ J865 ♥ 107
 ♦ 53 ♦ 1098642
 ♣ J1032 ♣ A7

♠ 98752
 ♥ A3
 ♦ A7
 ♣ K654

HCP	
15	7
7	11

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	-	3	2	2
S	2	-	3	2	2
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable
 When West opens 1♥, I really don’t think that the North hand is worth an unusual 2NT overcall – not with those poor suits and when vulnerable. When 1♥ comes around, South thinks he ‘knows’ that a take-out double will get a diamond response. While not ideal, his best bid is 1NT. This could end the auction if North has no methods for this hand and West goes quietly. Nine tricks can be made in that contract.
 If North can show both minors without setting up a game-force, he is likely to do so and now 3♣ makes ten tricks for +130.
 And what about the tables at which West rebids 2♥ over 1NT? True, he has only 13 HCP and knows his side is outgunned, but he does have some interesting distribution to compensate. Again, North’s methods may decide his action. It would be lovely to be able to show both minors over 2♥, but few play such methods. To guess which minor to compete in could work out very badly if he guesses diamonds. It isn’t usual to be so two-suited for a take-out double but once again that looks to be the least bad solution. If South leaves in the double that should be OK, while a spade response can be converted to clubs to ask partner to pick a minor – a task which he will not find too difficult.

♠ KQJ2
 ♥ K1075
 ♦ 10
 ♣ AQ95

♠ 853 ♠ A974
 ♥ QJ ♥ A98643
 ♦ 9865 ♦ KQ7
 ♣ J1086 ♣ -

♠ 106
 ♥ 2
 ♦ AJ432
 ♣ K7432

HCP	
15	13
4	8

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

Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable
 With three potential trump suits and well above mere opening values, the North hand has a lot of potential. Alas, South can provide only one useful honour.
 North opens 1♠ and East has a classical double. A gambler may pass with the West cards, hoping for the magic +200 on a partscore deal. It is all very well to have good trumps, you also need outside winners to beat such a low-level contract, and this gamble will not pay off, the play revolving around declarer’s attempt to make an overtrick.
 More likely, West will respond 1NT to the double and North will surely bid again. Some will guess to bid either 2♣ or, more likely, 2♥. South may pass 2♣ but will certainly give preference to 2♠ over 2♥ – eight tricks can be made in either black suit. Or North may double, inviting partner to bid. When that gets 2♦ from South, North will hurriedly correct to 2♥, and South in turn correct to 2♠. Again, West may be tempted to double. With or without a double, 2♠ is an interesting contract for both declarer and defenders.

♠ KJ932
 ♥ AK65
 ♦ -
 ♣ AQ108

♠ AQ1086 ♠ 5
 ♥ 1032 ♥ J987
 ♦ 1074 ♦ AKJ8
 ♣ 72 ♣ KJ63

♠ 74
 ♥ Q4
 ♦ Q96532
 ♣ 954

HCP	
17	13
6	4

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	-	1	2	1
S	2	-	1	2	1
E	-	1	-	-	-
W	-	1	-	-	-

Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

East opens 2♠ and South has an easy 3♥ overcall. Giving full weight to the fact that partner has opened vulnerable against not, West may compete with 3♠, though that is by no means an automatic action. If he does so, he will regret it, as North will now be certain that he is facing spade shortage and will surely bid 4♥, which needs one of the missing minor-suit top cards to be onside and duly makes ten tricks on the actual layout, while if both missing honours are offside 3♠ may be making.

If West does not bid 3♠, North has a closer decision. He has four-card heart support but no aces and what he thinks is a wasted king of spades. Depending on partner's overcalling style – some players are over-aggressive in making these overcalls in my view, 4♥ may be a very good contract or may have no play. While I suspect that the majority will raise anyway, it is by no means guaranteed to be the winning choice.

♠ K732
♥ 10942
♦ K2
♣ QJ5

♠ A9 ♠ QJ10864
♥ Q3 ♥ 7
♦ A73 ♦ QJ98
♣ K97643 ♣ 102

♠ 5
♥ AKJ865
♦ 10654
♣ A8

HCP	
9	6
13	12

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	4	-	3
S	-	-	5	-	3
E	1	-	-	2	-
W	1	-	-	2	-

Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

E/W are cold for 6♦ or 6NT, both depending on the heart finesse, given that the bidding may tell declarer which way to play diamonds even should the suit split three-zero. However, it will be very difficult to get to no trump at any level after South's 3♣ pre-empt, and that bid makes slam a less than 50-50 proposition, while remove the heart ♥10 West's hand and slam would have very little hope of success. Over 3♣, West has a normal 3♦ overcall – yes, the suit is poor and on a bad day a substantial penalty could be conceded, but one cannot go through life worrying about things like that. What is East to do? There seems no way he can get his side to 3NT, which is where you want to be at matchpoints (duck the first club and the heart finesse can be taken safely in search of overtricks). The simple option is to jump to 5♦, which ends the auction. If East feels that he is too good for this, his methods may permit him to cuebid 4♣, not promising a control but merely a hand too good to do anything else. West has nothing special for his 3♦ overcall so is unlikely to do other than convert to 4♦ to see what partner has in mind, and East may just raise that to game.

♠ QJ9742
♥ 9874
♦ 9
♣ Q6

♠ K6 ♠ A853
♥ A102 ♥ QJ3
♦ K86542 ♦ AJ103
♣ A2 ♣ 98

♠ 10
♥ K65
♦ Q7
♣ KJ107543

HCP	
5	12
14	9

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	1	6	5	2	6
W	1	6	5	2	6

Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all

West opens 1♠ and North overcalls 2♦. After a pass from East, South will cuebid 2♠, initially merely a constructive raise to three or more diamonds. Though he has a spade stopper, North also has a completely minimum hand for the overcall so just repeats his diamonds, trusting partner to bid again if game is likely to be good. Sure enough, with 13 HCP as well as the diamond fit, South cuebids a second time, and this time North must bid 3NT to show the spade stopper. That will end the auction and it will be up to East to find the killing lead.

The successful lead is a club through the queen, as it permits the defence to cash four clubs for down one when West wins the first spade. However, why should East not simply lead his partner's suit? That gives declarer time to win two spade tricks and therefore come to an overtrick for a handy +430.

♠ K108
♥ 82
♦ KQJ532
♣ Q4

♠ AQ972 ♠ 64
♥ QJ109 ♥ K53
♦ - ♦ 1087
♣ K1082 ♣ J9653

♠ J53
♥ A764
♦ A964
♣ A7

HCP	
11	4
12	13

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

Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

It seems that West will always get an opportunity to open the bidding on this deal. While some may be tempted to open 2NT, this is far from ideal with five-four shape, while the club holding should be devalued. If partner cannot respond to 1♥ it is very unlikely that a good game will be missed.

And most Easts will indeed pass out 1♥. West's hearts are good enough that he can come to nine tricks – South will never get in to lead the fourth round of spades, which would create an extra major-suit trick for the defence.

With two silent opponents, East can be pretty sure that his partner has substantial extra values. With his dislike for hearts and support for every other suit, he may well try 1♠, again hoping to improve matters. This time, West will rebid 3♦ – 2/3NT are much inferior actions and make it harder to get to a five-three heart fit should one exist. East will pass the forcing bid, just as discussed on the previous deal. From his perspective, things have got much better but game would require West to hold a real mountain of a hand.

East can consider himself to be a little unfortunate that the +130 available in 3♦ loses out to +140 in 1♥.

♠ 987
♥ K643
♦ J63
♣ A53

♠ Q6 ♠ 10542
♥ AQ1097 ♥ J
♦ AQ95 ♦ K842
♣ KQ ♣ 10762

♠ AKJ3
♥ 852
♦ 107
♣ J984

HCP	
8	4
19	9

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	-	4	3	-	-
W	-	4	3	-	-

Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

South has the type of 12-count that I would be very tempted to pass – 4-3-3-3, no good honour combinations, no intermediates, only four honour cards. However, I suppose that almost everyone will open, often with a weak no trump. West will overcall 2♠ or, if 3♠ would be a stronger action, rather than the popular pre-emptive style favoured by many experts, may choose that bid. Over 2♠, North can compete via Lebensohl, and West takes the push to 3♠, probably ending the auction. Double dummy, ten tricks can be made in a spade contract. However, that involves dropping the bare king of trumps offside and using the heart ace and spade queen as entries to establish a diamond winner. A simple soul who wins the heart lead and runs the queen of spades should be held to eight tricks. Not only does he have a spade loser, but he does not have the required entries to avoid a third diamond loser.

♠ K
♥ Q87632
♦ K964
♣ 75

♠ AJ109432 ♠ Q5
♥ J ♥ A109
♦ Q103 ♦ 872
♣ KQ ♣ J10983

♠ 876
♥ K54
♦ AJ5
♣ A642

HCP	
8	7
13	12

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	2	-	-
S	-	-	2	-	-
E	2	-	-	4	3
W	2	-	-	4	2

Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

Unless N/S are playing the weak two-suited openings, Lucas or the like, West will get to open, perhaps with a weak no trump. North can double that and now East has the option of making a quite unusual bid of 3♥. Logically, this should be pre-emptive, as there are other ways to show a strong hand on the very rare occasions that one holds such after a penalty double of partner's no trump.

The likelihood is that South will not be kept silent, bidding 3♠ over 3♥, and North will shrug his shoulders and convert to 3NT. West will duck the ♥Q lead in the hope that, after taking the king, declarer will have to concede the lead and the suit can then be run. Declarer will indeed win the heart immediately – there is no point in ducking when the only finesse you plan to take is into the hand with the long hearts. But with the club king onside there are eleven tricks to be had for a useful +660.

Where West opens 1♣/♦, North will overcall 1NT, and perhaps South will not drive to game – for example, if East competes with 2♥, South might only bid 2♠, or perhaps use Lebensohl to invite in spades, and North might very well leave him in 3♠.

♠ 106
♥ K97
♦ AKQ7
♣ A1065

♠ KQ8 ♠ J43
♥ A54 ♥ QJ108632
♦ J632 ♦ -
♣ K83 ♣ 942

♠ A9752
♥ -
♦ 109854
♣ QJ7

HCP	
16	4
13	7

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

Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

East has an interesting decision to make as dealer. He could open 2♥, slightly downgrading because a bare ace is not a great holding, or he could judge to open 1♥, upgrading because of the six-four shape. Finally, he may think that this hand fits into the crack between a 1♥ and 2♥ opening and prefer to pass.

I would probably open 2♥ and pay off to the occasional missed game. I would expect West to raise me to game and let the opposition do the worrying. That will be down two for -100. But North may double, take-out, as he has 15 HCP, and now South will presumably bid 4♠ and I will go plus as there are only eight tricks to be made in a spade contract – a successful pre-empt.

A 1♥ opening gets a simple raise and, though North again doubles, N/S are under no great pressure. East can reraise to 3♥ and South may bid 3♠, but North will have no reason to go on so that will be only one down.

And if East passes as dealer? North will open 1NT or 1♦. Either will attract a 2♥ overcall. South will make a negative double and West raise to 3♥. That may end the auction – down one – or N/S may compete further and go down in 4♦ (assuming that West can resist splitting his honours on the first round of diamonds).

♠ KQ8
♥ A6
♦ J8653
♣ AJ3

♠ 10964 ♠ J2
♥ Q1052 ♥ K98743
♦ KQ2 ♦ A
♣ 42 ♣ Q1098

♠ A753
♥ J
♦ 10974
♣ K765

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

Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

This deal belongs to E/W in 3♠. However, they should not be permitted to play there, as South has a 4♣ opening and, if N/S do not have a natural 4♣ opening in their armoury, I would prefer to open 5♣ rather than 3♣, particularly at this vulnerability.

Whatever the level of South's pre-empt, West does not have sufficient to double with this distribution – what could he do after a heart response? Nor does North have any reason to do anything when holding decent defence to any contract his opponents might bid. So it comes down to East. He has the perfect shape to double, but only 8 HCP.

Add as little as another queen to the East hand and most players would double, trading on that perfect distribution and with a strong possibility that partner can leave it in if he doesn't have a major to bid. But when East is so weak there is a serious danger of turning a modest plus score into a minus by inviting partner to bid. On the actual layout partner has 13 HCP and there is a nine-card spade fit, yet 4♠ is defeated by careful defence. Mind you, the defence to defeat 4♠ is unlikely to be found as West will lead a spade rather than set up his ruff by leading ace and another heart.

♠ A93
♥ KQ63
♦ KJ93
♣ 105

♠ QJ107 ♠ K8542
♥ A8 ♥ J1097
♦ Q864 ♦ A752
♣ A64 ♣ -

♠ 6
♥ 542
♦ 10
♣ KQJ98732

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

Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

Non-vulnerable, I might be tempted to upgrade the West hand to a weak no trump because of the two tens which back up other honours. The club holding in particular is worth closer to 6 HCP than five. However, let's assume a pass from the vulnerable West and now South gets to open in fourth seat. West has the wrong shortage to come in over 1♥ so North has to decide whether or not to respond. I would bid 1♠, for all my 4 HCP. I may regret this if partner rebids 3♥, but if his rebid is anything other than in hearts I will probably have improved the contract.

As I play that a 3♦ rebid would be game-forcing, I would rebid only 2♦ on the South cards, and North would pass, having achieved his goal. And if South did stretch to rebid the ostensibly game-forcing 3♦? I would still pass as North as partner is entitled to play me for more than this and what little I do have is in the two suits he has not bid, so at least one of the queens may be of no value at all.

Nine tricks can be made in a diamond contract, losing one trick in each suit.

♠ Q974
♥ 7
♦ 982
♣ Q8653

♠ J62 ♠ A1053
♥ A1086 ♥ 532
♦ J6 ♦ K107
♣ AJ107 ♣ 942

♠ K8
♥ KQJ94
♦ AQ543
♣ K

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
4		N	1	3	2	1	-
11	7	S	1	3	1	1	-
		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

The lie of the cards is very kind to E/W, such that 6♦ and even 7♣ can be made – not that you would want to declare either of those contracts.

Accl players will start 1♠ – 2♥ – 3♣, showing extra values and being game-forcing. With better hearts West might rebid a six-card suit, but here his best action is 3♦, fourth-suit forcing. Don't fall into the trap of thinking that you don't need FSF if the auction is already forcing to game, as you still require a non-committal bid for hands with no feature worth stressing. Though East has spare values for his bidding to date, the heart void is a big negative and a quiet 3NT looks indicated, ending the auction.

With both minors coming in for four tricks and the heart ace onside there is nothing the defenders can do but, equally, the spade position means that there is no way for declarer to come to an eleventh trick unless South messes up.

♠ 983
♥ J1052
♦ Q86
♣ 862

♠ 7 ♠ AKJ54
♥ K98743 ♥ -
♦ A75 ♦ KJ94
♣ K103 ♣ AQ54

♠ Q1062
♥ AQ6
♦ 1032
♣ J97

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
3		N	-	-	-	-	-
10	18	S	-	-	-	-	-
		E	7	6	4	5	4
		W	7	6	4	5	4

Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

N/S have an excellent diamond slam available to them, with declarer able to set up the hearts via a couple of ruffs so that he loses only the ace of trumps.

When South opens 1♣, West may make a weak jump overcall of 2♠. True, the suit isn't anything to get excited about, but presumably he would have opened 2♠ after a pass on his right, so now there is even more reason to pre-empt as the deal surely belongs to N/S. North should not just see a 10-point hand; he has much more potential than that with his six-five shape and should have no qualms about bidding a game-forcing 3♥. With no heart support and a generally uninspiring collection, South will bid 3NT, and now North – if he can overcome the matchpoint obsession of always playing in no trump – continues with 4♦. That suits South very well indeed. Knowing that partner must be shapely and looking at three key cards, South can cuebid 4♠ as a slam try, or perhaps even drive to slam himself – North cannot have much less than his actual hand.

6♦ will score well, and it should be reached by those pairs with good hand evaluation.

♠ 7
♥ AK9832
♦ QJ975
♣ 4

♠ K108632 ♠ QJ5
♥ J4 ♥ Q1065
♦ 83 ♦ A6
♣ K102 ♣ J875

♠ A94
♥ 7
♦ K1042
♣ AQ963

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
10		N	2	6	4	-	2
7	10	S	2	6	4	-	2
		E	-	-	-	1	-
		W	-	-	-	1	-

Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all

South would be a bit too good for a weak two bid even without the bare queen, and it is dangerous to open 2♥ anyway with such good support for the other major.

After 1♥ – 2♦ – 2♥, North will have to decide whether to raise to 4♥ or bid 3NT – with similar holdings in the two unbid suits a no trump probe of 2♠ or 3♣ may discover a sixth heart with partner but there is a good case for blasting 3NT and letting East guess the lead. The more combined HCP you have, the more likely it is that, as here, there will be the same number of tricks in no trump as in the major. Double dummy, 3NT is the place to be. East should lead the queen of clubs and now there will be eleven tricks.

A club lead also holds 4♥ to eleven tricks, but a less good score than achieved in 3NT. But it is harder for West to lead a club against 4♥ than it is for East to do so against 3NT. Some will not wish to lead away from the king of clubs, and on any other lead declarer can draw trumps and give up a diamond to establish two discards for his club losers. That gives a twelfth trick to beat those in no trump.

♠ K42
♥ QJ
♦ AJ952
♣ A42

♠ 10653 ♠ J87
♥ 54 ♥ K62
♦ 873 ♦ K1064
♣ K1087 ♣ QJ6

♠ AQ9
♥ A109873
♦ Q
♣ 953

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

Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

East opens 1♥ in third seat and, if South passes, West should raise to 2♥, even if playing four-card majors. 2♥ will not always be a superior spot to 1NT, but it is definitely the long-term winner when holding honour to three hearts and a weak doubleton elsewhere.

But South will very often overcall 2♦. Now West's options are to compete with 2♥ or to pass. Again, 2♥ looks the better bet. Though mindful of his long weak diamonds, with the threat of North being able to over-ruff dummy, East may very well make a try for game over this. The obvious game try is 2♠, as partner's spade holding is of interest to East, and it also uses up the least bidding space, allowing West to make a return game try if he feels unable to make the decision himself. This time, West has an easy sign-off in 3♥.

There is the ♠K to be lost and two top diamonds. Unless the defence makes quite a bad error, there will also be a third diamond loser – one diamond can be ruffed high but there is no parking place for the other – so +140 looks to be the 'normal' result.

♠ 873
♥ 1084
♦ 54
♣ AKJ73

♠ J52 ♠ AQ94
♥ K65 ♥ AQJ92
♦ 102 ♦ J873
♣ Q10964 ♣ -

♠ K106
♥ 73
♦ AKQ96
♣ 852

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
8		N	2	2	-	-	1
6	14	S	2	2	-	-	1
		E	-	-	3	2	-
		W	-	-	3	2	-

Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable

The weak spade suit may make the North hand below the tolerance level of some for a weak 2♠ opening. Well, I have said many times that pre-emption is a matter of personal style, though of course we are all convinced that our personal style is the winning one.

I would open 2♠ and, at pairs, where there is no premium on bidding thin games, I would pass as South. That is a close decision, and anyone whose partner normally has a sound approach to pre-emption might well bid a 2NT inquiry. Now I would treat the North hand as a minimum because it has a weak main suit, the worst possible shape for a weak two opening, and no ace or good honour combination. South will surely respect the minimum and stop in 3♠.

Looking at the two hands, 3♠ is by no means secure, however, the ♦A is well placed so declarer can always prevail – while East can ensure a second trump trick by leading his singleton and collecting a ruff, the ♣A will then provide a discard for declarer's third heart. Plus 140 is the most likely outcome.

♠ J109765
♥ K43
♦ J7
♣ K5

♠ 83 ♠ KQ4
♥ A986 ♥ J752
♦ Q83 ♦ A10965
♣ Q1093 ♣ 2

♠ A2
♥ Q10
♦ K42
♣ AJ8764

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

Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all

East opens 1♠ and, looking at three key cards and two doubletons along with his four-card support, West is worth a drive to game. Of course, to simply raise to 4♠ would not show this type of hand, being more of a pre-emptive manoeuvre on a weaker shapely hand. Accordingly, West does whatever his system dictates to show a genuine game- or better-raise – for most that will be 2NT. West should not be worried about holding only 11 HCP – he has as much slam potential as many a balanced 13- or 14-point hand.

In similar vein, East should not see a mere 13-count including a bare king. Rather, he should see a six-card suit and, if the diamond proves to be of value, decent controls and no soft values like unsupported queens or jacks. This hand has more potential than, say, a flat 15- or 16-count. So East makes the appropriate rebid according to system, perhaps 3♠ to show extra length and willingness to at least consider slam. From here it will be down to specific agreements – would 4♣ from West promise extras with 3NT showing a minimum, or would 4♣ be a shortage and 3NT inviting partner to start cuebidding? Whatever the methods, it should be possible to look at slam then stop at the five level. After all, you only need to add the heart queen to West's hand for 6♠ to be cold.

♠ 6
♥ QJ986
♦ J6
♣ KQJ43

♠ AK42 ♠ QJ10853
♥ 43 ♥ AK7
♦ 109754 ♦ K
♣ A5 ♣ 962

♠ 97
♥ 1052
♦ AQ832
♣ 1087

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
10		N	1	-	1	-	-
11	13	S	1	-	1	-	-
		E	-	1	-	5	3
		W	-	1	-	5	3

Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable

South opens 1♣, the prepared choice with a three-suiter so that he always has a rebid whatever North's response, and North bids 1♥. It is unlikely that East will overcall on that weak spade suit but it hardly matters as South has an easy raise to 2♥ either way.

If the style is to always have four cards for the raise, North will just jump to 4♥ – a good slam is very unlikely when he has no aces. If, however, 2♥ could be based on only three-card support, North may bid 3♣ as a game try, and South will be delighted to co-operate.

Eleven or twelve tricks in 4♥ will be dependent on declarer's trump play. However, he may not be the one to decide how to play the suit. If the opening lead is a spade, it may be most convenient to play to ruff spades in the North hand, and now the hearts will be picked up without loss just as a side effect. If, on the other hand, the defence leads a diamond, it may be more convenient to play to ruff two diamonds in dummy. Now declarer may well take the heart finesse into the doubleton queen and make only one overtrick.

♠ K
♥ KJ52
♦ 10976
♣ KQJ8

♠ Q73 ♠ J9654
♥ 873 ♥ Q4
♦ AQ85 ♦ KJ32
♣ 432 ♣ 95

♠ A1082
♥ A1096
♦ 4
♣ A1076

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
13		N	6	1	6	2	3
8	7	S	6	1	6	2	3
		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable

East opens 2NT and, assuming a pass from South, West raises to game via whatever version of Stayman the partnership uses. Declarer will duck the opening heart lead and North's failure to continue the suit will be very revealing. Knowing that North is short in hearts, it is easy for declarer to establish a third diamond winner without risking allowing South on lead – South will have cleared the hearts when in with the ♠Q. Declarer simply leads a low diamond to the eight on the first round of the suit then cashes the king and has a marked finesse against North's remaining honour. Perhaps, knowing that his opponents have at least game values, South may occasionally trade on the favourable vulnerability and come in with 3♥ over 2NT. It is best to play take-out doubles here so that is what West should do. That would get to a four-four spade fit should one exist, while also allowing opener to play for a penalty if looking at good hearts. However, on the actual deal, East will look at the vulnerability and bid 3NT, ending the auction. Plus 630 is the normal result.

♠ 765
♥ K
♦ QJ53
♣ K9763

♠ J1032 ♠ AK4
♥ J5 ♥ A96
♦ K1098 ♦ A742
♣ J82 ♣ AQ10

♠ Q98
♥ Q1087432
♦ 6
♣ 54

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
9		N	-	-	-	-	-
6	21	S	-	-	-	-	-
		E	2	4	1	4	4
		W	2	4	1	4	4

Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all

There are two passes to South who should open 2♠. Yes, I know that the suit is weak, but he is non-vulnerable and knows that his opponents will usually have game values, so this is a good time to take a modest risk and try to get in their way. E/W actually have a combined 26-count but no game, assuming a spade lead against 3NT. West will probably overcall 2NT rather than double, as 2NT describes the strength and general type of hand accurately. East simply raises to game and that is that – down two.

Contrast this with what happens where South passes. West opens a strong no trump and gets raised to game, or he opens 1♦ and, after the 2♣ response, rebids 2NT and is raised to game. There is no need to show the hearts in this last scenario as a passed hand would have responded 1♥ with four, even with longer clubs. Why should North find the killing lead on either of these auctions? More likely he will lead a heart, presenting declarer with a second trick in that suit and also conceding a valuable tempo. Declarer can play on clubs to establish the extra tricks he needs for his contract.

♠ 1084
♥ KJ1054
♦ Q52
♣ K2

♠ A7 ♠ KQ
♥ Q972 ♥ A86
♦ AKJ93 ♦ 1064
♣ Q3 ♣ J10965

♠ J96532
♥ 3
♦ 87
♣ A874

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