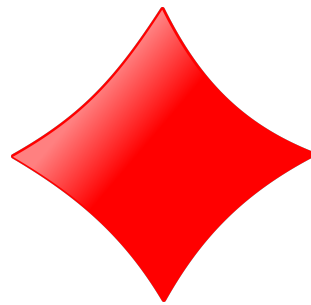
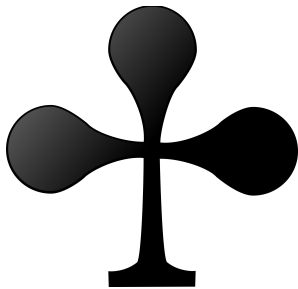
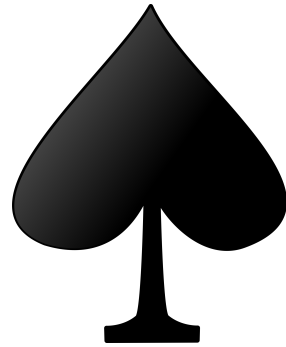


# **Club Stratified Sim Pairs**



***Wednesday***

***13<sup>th</sup> March 2019***

Welcome to the eighth 'Club Stratified Sim Pairs'. Our commentator today is Sally Brock, experienced bridge teacher and writer.

You may wonder how stratification works and which strat you are in.

There are four categories of strats.

1. Strat 'A' is open to everyone but if either member of the pair is a Tournament Master or above you will be in this strat and can only get master points from the overall ranking.
2. If both of you are below the rank of Tournament Master you will be 'B' strat;
3. both below Master means you will be in 'C' strat and
4. both below District Master will make you 'D' strat.

Blue points and local points will be awarded to the top third of the overall ranking list. In addition the top third of each strat will get blue points and local points. If you are entitled to overall points and points for your strat, you will only get the higher of the awards – you won't get two lots of points. Master points cannot be allocated until after the event is finalised, usually about three weeks. Please keep your scorecard for that period. If we find any unusual scores we may need to contact the club scorer and also the players. Full results may be found at [www.ebu.co.uk/sims/](http://www.ebu.co.uk/sims/)

Jeremy Dhondy, Chairman EBU

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ - ♥ KJ53 ♦ AK86 ♣ KJ832</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AQ953      ♠ KJ84 ♥ 987          ♥ 104 ♦ Q53          ♦ 107 ♣ 95            ♣ AQ1064</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 10762 ♥ AQ62 ♦ J942 ♣ 7</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50px;"></td> <td style="width: 50px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px;">♣</td> <td style="width: 20px;">♦</td> <td style="width: 20px;">♥</td> <td style="width: 20px;">♠</td> <td style="width: 20px;">NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	15		N	1	3	4	-	-	8	10	S	1	3	4	-	-			E	-	-	-	2	-		7	W	-	-	-	2	-	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>North has an excellent hand in support of hearts and shows his spade shortage by jumping to 3♠. However, with a minimum South has no wish to press on to the five-level, so doubles to stop North from bidding on. With four top tricks in the red suits, the defenders should be able to set up a fifth defensive trick by switching to clubs fairly early. If declarer draws trumps, he will have only eight tricks (five spades and three clubs), while if he doesn't, he will lose a club ruff.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♣	Pass	1♥	1♠	3♠	4♠	Dble	All Pass			
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ KQ3 ♥ 10 ♦ AQ104 ♣ J10653</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 10954      ♠ A2 ♥ KQ7432    ♥ J985 ♦ 3            ♦ K987 ♣ A2          ♣ Q87</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ J876 ♥ A6 ♦ J652 ♣ K94</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">HCP</th> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50px;"></td> <td style="width: 50px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px;">♣</td> <td style="width: 20px;">♦</td> <td style="width: 20px;">♥</td> <td style="width: 20px;">♠</td> <td style="width: 20px;">NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	12		N	3	3	-	2	-	9	10	S	3	3	-	2	-			E	-	-	3	-	1		9	W	-	-	3	-	1	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>If West opens a weak 2♥ in third seat (with good trumps, a poor 4-card spade suit on the side should not put him off), North is not quite worth a bid – with 12 high card points and only three spades, the hand is not quite worth a double. East raises to 3♥ and buys the hand. The defenders need to be on their toes to stop the overtrick. A club lead works well, but after a spade lead there is scope for misdefence if North does not play a club before the ♦A is knocked out.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	All Pass				
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<p>                     ♠Q85                      ♥Q742                      ♦A9                      ♣J543                      ♠4                      ♥KJ3                      ♦1087542                      ♣K82                      ♠AJ109632                      ♥86                      ♦QJ                      ♣Q6                      ♠K7                      ♥A1095                      ♦K63                      ♣A1097                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>10</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	9		N	3	-	3	-	3	7	10	S	3	-	3	-	3			E	-	1	-	1	-	14		W	-	1	-	1	-	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Strong no-trumpers may do better here. If South opens 1♣ then North will respond 1♥. This makes it easy for NS to find their heart fit. After the auction given North might make a take-out double of 2♠, but it is not ideal with only a doubleton diamond. More likely NS will defend 2♠. However, at least this contract will go down. There are four clear outside winners, and then NS must make two trump tricks. However, this will not score as well as 3♥ making for NS.</p>	West	North	East	South				1NT	Pass	Pass	2♠	All Pass				
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<p>                     ♠1095                      ♥A874                      ♦AJ10                      ♣742                      ♠J8632                      ♥63                      ♦Q6                      ♣KQ109                      ♠KQ4                      ♥J95                      ♦85432                      ♣J3                      ♠A7                      ♥KQ102                      ♦K97                      ♣A865                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>7</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	9		N	2	3	4	-	3	8	7	S	2	3	4	-	3			E	-	-	-	1	-	16		W	-	-	-	1	-	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This looks like a fairly straightforward 4♥ for NS – either the auction given, or a strong NT opening followed by finding the heart fit via Stayman. Of course, many people would jump straight to 3NT with the 4-3-3-3 distribution and play in a different game. Both games depend on making three diamond tricks, but 4♥ scores more when you get it right.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass			
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<p>                     ♠K4                      ♥AK42                      ♦A10842                      ♣AQ                      ♠J975                      ♥J6                      ♦QJ7                      ♣6532                      ♠Q1082                      ♥10975                      ♦3                      ♣KJ104                      ♠A63                      ♥Q83                      ♦K965                      ♣987                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>20</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	20		N	2	5	4	1	5	5	6	S	2	5	4	1	3			E	-	-	-	-	-	9		W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>6♦ is a pretty good contract for NS, needing either diamonds to be picked up or the club finesse. Even so, it is difficult to bid. The South hand here is similar to the North hand above (Board 4) but I would only make a simple raise this time – only one ace and no lovely AJ10 combination that is usually worth much more than five high card points). After that it is difficult for North to envisage slam, particularly at match-points when making a slam try might mean the partnership cannot stop in 4NT.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♦	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
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<p>                     ♠QJ6                      ♥532                      ♦96                      ♣AK1065                      ♠AK85                      ♠9432                      ♥KJ                              ♥Q7                      ♦A103                         ♦QJ8742                      ♣J732                           ♣Q                      ♠107                      ♥A109864                      ♦K5                      ♣984                 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="134 541 248 709"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="285 541 508 709"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		10		16	7	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	2	-	-	S	2	-	2	-	-	E	-	4	-	4	-	W	-	4	-	4	-	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="532 128 987 275"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A thin game for EW. The first decision is whether West should double 2♥ or overcall 2NT. I prefer the double, but many experts would disagree and prefer to describe the general nature of the hand with a 2NT overcall. I doubt it makes much difference here. If West overcalls 2NT and North bids 3♥, then East would double for take-out and the 4-4 spade fit found. With everything behaving nicely, there should be little problem in the play.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	2♥	Dble	3♥	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass						
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<p>                     ♠A94                      ♥42                      ♦105                      ♣AKJ1062                      ♠QJ10                         ♠K652                      ♥K765                         ♥10983                      ♦AK872                        ♦J643                      ♣5                                 ♣3                      ♠873                      ♥AQJ                      ♦Q9                      ♣Q9874                 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="134 1808 248 1976"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>12</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="285 1808 508 1976"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		12		13	4	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	-	-	-	2	S	2	-	-	-	2	E	-	3	3	2	-	W	-	3	3	2	-	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="532 1409 987 1577"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>4♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Lots of difficult decisions here. The first two bids look easy – but then, should East raise diamonds with only four high card points? Maybe. South has a clear unassuming cue-bid, but then what should North bid? He has a nice hand with a probable six club tricks and the ♠A. 2♠ is a temporising bid, and South has done enough so signs off in 3♣. Now is the time for East to come alive again if he has not bid already. Should South pass or bid again with his 5-card support. I would bid again, even with the soft values, and he will be OK if no-one doubles – but why would they?</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass	3♦	4♣	All Pass			
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<p>                     ♠AQ104                      ♥AQJ65                      ♦QJ10                      ♣A                      ♠3                      ♥K742                      ♦K953                      ♣Q1087                      ♠K987652                      ♥108                      ♦4                      ♣J93                      ♠J                      ♥93                      ♦A8762                      ♣K6542                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>20</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>4</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	20		N	2	4	3	2	3	8	4	S	3	5	4	2	3			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>Maybe East should pass at the prevailing unfavourable vulnerability, but he does have a seventh spade ... This time he is unlucky as South makes a negative double and North goes for the throat. What is the best defence? Maybe a heart followed by the ♣A and ♦Q. South wins, cashes the ♣K and plays a second heart. North wins and plays a third heart. East ruffs and South overruffs. Now a club ruff for North and still three trump tricks to come. I make that 10 tricks for the defence, five down and 1400.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	2♠	Dble												
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<p>                     ♠AK9                      ♥Q72                      ♦J32                      ♣J1087                      ♠1052                      ♥106                      ♦AQ964                      ♣K62                      ♠QJ73                      ♥AJ8543                      ♦K                      ♣A4                      ♠864                      ♥K9                      ♦10875                      ♣Q953                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>15</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11		N	-	-	-	-	9	15	S	-	-	-	-			E	1	3	4	4	3			W	1	3	4	4	3	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Playing Acol West is just worth a 2-level response (strong no-trumpers would have to respond 1NT and would probably play in 2♥), and after that it seems right for East to reverse with his 6-4 distribution and 15 high card points. From then on it is easy to reach the best game. With two top spade losers, this contract depends on how declarer plays hearts. On the expected club lead, declarer will probably win in hand and not want to use his only entry to play trumps. Hence a low heart from hand looks attractive. This will work well on the actual layout. If South goes in with the ♥K, declarer will surely finesse North for the ♥Q next time, while if South plays the ♥9 it will be from either ♥K9 or ♥9 singleton when he can never make the contract.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass				
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<p>                     ♠6                      ♥AKQ10863                      ♦AJ942                      ♣-                      ♠1042                      ♥7                      ♦Q10865                      ♣10532                      ♠QJ873                      ♥J94                      ♦-                      ♣AKQ76                      ♠AK95                      ♥52                      ♦K73                      ♣J984                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>14</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>13</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	14		N	-	4	6	-	4	2	13	S	-	4	6	-	4			E	3	-	-	1	-			W	3	-	-	1	-	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Heaven knows how North should bid his hand. In truth, I might well open 4♥, just because I can't see how it can possibly be bid scientifically. East will surely overcall 4♠ and South may double. North pulls to 5♦ but its hard to see South doing anything other than bidding 5♥. Maybe the sequence above is a bit farfetched. I doubt many pairs will bid slam, most probably settling for 5♥ with an overtrick.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	2♥	Dble	2♠	4♦	Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass	
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<p>                     ♠KQ108                      ♥8                      ♦AKQ763                      ♣K4                      ♠AJ73                      ♠962                      ♥Q932                      ♥AKJ10754                      ♦J8                              ♦5                      ♣1097                        ♣J5                      ♠54                      ♥6                      ♦10942                      ♣AQ8632                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>17</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>S</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>6</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	17		N	5	5	-	1	-	8	9	S	5	5	-	1	-		6	E	-	-	2	-	-			W	-	-	2	-	-	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>5♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♥</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>NS are cold for 5♦ but slam is hopeless. At the favourable vulnerability, East's 4♥ is a little aggressive but is the bid to persuade West to sacrifice.</p> <p>Sometimes NS may press on to slam, but discipline should tell them that it is safer to take the money. However, it is only 500 so will lose out to any pairs allowed to play quietly in game.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♦	4♥	5♦	5♥	Dble	All Pass									
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<p>                     ♠Q864                      ♥K1097                      ♦976                      ♣A6                      ♠J107                      ♠A52                      ♥QJ832                    ♥6                      ♦43                         ♦AK10852                      ♣K109                      ♣842                      ♠K93                      ♥A54                      ♦QJ                      ♣QJ753                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>11</td> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>13</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	9		N	1	-	1	1	-	7	11	S	1	-	1	1	-		13	E	-	1	-	-	1			W	-	2	-	-	1	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Should South enter the auction after the 1♦ opening with both sides vulnerable? It's pretty horrible but it's safer to bid on the first round than later on. The double is just about acceptable in my eyes. West bids 1♥ and North takes the low road with 1♠. When East's 2♦ comes round to him he tries 2♥ in case South has four cards in that suit. And South gives preference to 2♠. The defenders have to be careful to beat this. If East starts with three rounds of diamonds, declarer can succeed as West is endplayed after getting his ruff. East needs to lead his singleton heart, or switch to it after one or two rounds of diamonds.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♦	Dble	1♥	1♠	2♦	Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	All Pass			
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<p>                     ♠7                      ♥A105                      ♦1086                      ♣A96543                      ♠Q8542                    ♠6                      ♥J972                      ♥Q3                      ♦AJ                         ♦KQ9743                      ♣KQ                        ♣J1082                      ♠AKJ1093                      ♥K864                      ♦52                      ♣7                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>8</td> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>11</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	8		N	1	-	3	2	-	13	8	S	1	-	3	2	-		11	E	-	2	-	-	1			W	-	2	-	-	1	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♦</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>I rather like pre-empting, and it is particularly attractive to pre-empt in a minor when you have length in the other minor. So, I like the 3♦ opening here, even if it may not be to everyone's taste. Here South has a clear 3♠ overcall which will probably silence everyone ... and most roads will lead to one down.</p>	West	North	East	South			3♦	3♠	All Pass											
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<p>                     ♠ K10642                      ♥ 103                      ♦ KJ2                      ♣ K74                      ♠ Q73                      ♠ 985                      ♥ K                              ♥ A87652                      ♦ Q106543                      ♦ 8                      ♣ 1085                              ♣ Q32                      ♠ AJ                      ♥ QJ94                      ♦ A97                      ♣ AJ96                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>6</td> <td>S</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	10		N	5	4	4	5	6	7	6	S	5	4	4	5	6			E	-	-	-	-	-	17		W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 15 : 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></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Strong no-trumpers will open one, and North will show his spades before raising to 3NT. With the magical lie of the cards, 6NT can be made! West will probably lead a diamond. The percentage play in spades is to play small to the jack because that works when East has Qx as well as Qxx (running the ♠J will still lose a trick when West has Qx). So I guess declarer will play dummy's ♦J and play a spade to the jack and queen. Now only 11 tricks will be made.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
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<p>                     ♠ Q763                      ♥ 1097                      ♦ 853                      ♣ J73                      ♠ A8                              ♠ J109                      ♥ AKQ64                              ♥ 85                      ♦ K104                              ♦ Q97                      ♣ A98                              ♣ KQ654                      ♠ K542                      ♥ J32                      ♦ AJ62                      ♣ 102                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td> <td>8</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>6</td> <td>3</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>6</td> <td>3</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	3		N	-	-	-	-	20	8	S	-	-	-	-			E	6	3	6	2	5	9		W	6	3	6	2	5	<p>Board 16 : 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>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>It is usually right to open 2NT with 5-3-3-2 distribution, even if the five-card suit is a major. I am sure nearly everyone will play in no-trumps, even if more tricks can be made in hearts or clubs. North is likely to lead a spade, setting up a second defensive trick. Maybe playing a spade straight back is the most likely way to make 12 tricks. It is perhaps not so obvious for North to win and play a diamond – and even if he does, will South play his ♦A? On the other hand, if hearts are not 3-3 (or clubs 3-2), that may be the way to make fewer tricks than the rest of the field.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass										
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<p>                     ♠ 10642                      ♥ AK                      ♦ KJ8432                      ♣ 2                      ♠ AQJ97                              ♠ 5                      ♥ 92                                      ♥ Q10863                      ♦ Q7                                      ♦ 95                      ♣ A1074                              ♣ QJ983                      ♠ K83                      ♥ J754                      ♦ A106                      ♣ K65                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>5</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11		N	-	3	-	1	-	13	5	S	-	3	-	1	3			E	3	-	2	-	-	11		W	3	-	2	-	-	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</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></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Normally I would retreat to 3♦ with a 6-card suit, but that spade holding looks ominous with the lead coming through dummy's stopper. This time I prefer leaving partner to play it and 2NT looks high enough. The best West can do is lead a red suit, but after eight rounds of those he is going to get stuck in the end position. Declarer can exit in spades and force West to give him the ♣K (or if declarer bares the ♣A, then he can be thrown in with that).</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass	Pass	2NT	All Pass			
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<p>                     ♠ 1064                      ♥ Q83                      ♦ Q76                      ♣ 9875                      ♠ Q95                      ♥ A765                      ♦ AJ52                      ♣ 106                      ♠ A7                      ♥ K104                      ♦ 10983                      ♣ AQ42                      ♠ KJ832                      ♥ J92                      ♦ K4                      ♣ KJ3                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>4</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>13</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>12</td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	4		N	-	-	-	-	11	13	S	-	-	-	-		12	E	2	4	3	1			W	2	4	3	1	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>I tend to be conservative at pairs scoring, so would not accept West's invitation as East – though I think it should be possible to make 3NT on most normal defences. No doubt South will lead the ♠3. After this I would play low from dummy, and North's ♠10 will force East's ♠A. Now run the ♦10 to North's ♦Q, and North returns a spade. Should South duck or win. If he ducks declarer is going to cash diamonds and hearts and throw South in with a spade to lead away from the ♣K; if South wins the ♠K and clears the suit, he is also in trouble when declarer plays diamonds and declarer will probably be able to duck a heart to North. The only sure-fire defence is to lead the ♠8 at trick one. I will leave it to you to work out why that makes a difference!</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	All Pass		
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<p>                     ♠ K105                      ♥ KQ1042                      ♦ A108                      ♣ 62                      ♠ AQ9                      ♥ 96                      ♦ K964                      ♣ AQJ3                      ♠ J762                      ♥ A83                      ♦ QJ5                      ♣ K105                      ♠ 843                      ♥ J75                      ♦ 732                      ♣ 9874                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>12</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>11</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>E</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	12		N	-	-	-	-	16	11	S	-	-	-	-		1	E	4	4	1	4			W	4	4	1	4	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This is a tricky one and both East and West have underbid. But what is West to bid after the negative double? 1NT with no semblance of a stopper? 1♠ with only three and 16 high card points (with three high card points less, playing strong NT, I would rebid 1♠ – if partner has shown four spades would we not always want to go to 2♠ if we also had four?). 3♣ seems the least bad option. Now what should East do? With a single heart stopper, 3NT looks fairly hopeless. At match-points I would recommend taking the low road and going for a plus score.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♦	1♥	Dble	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	All Pass
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<p>                     ♠ 763                      ♥ KJ432                      ♦ J1042                      ♣ 7                      ♠ J1094                      ♥ Q8                      ♦ 83                      ♣ AJ983                      ♠ KQ82                      ♥ A765                      ♦ K7                      ♣ 1062                      ♠ A5                      ♥ 109                      ♦ AQ965                      ♣ KQ54                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>12</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>15</td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	5		N	-	4	2	-	8	12	S	-	4	2	-		15	E	2	-	-	1			W	2	-	-	1	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Some close decisions here. Maybe some Souths will double 1NT, but I think it is a bit rich facing a passed partner (so game is unlikely to be on our way). A very frisky North might overcall 2♥ in the pass-out seat which might get him an excellent score. Although a heart lead looks to be the winner against 1NT, in practice surely most Souths will lead a diamond. Declarer wins and knocks out the ♠A. South cashes his diamonds and switches to a heart, and now the defence must come to seven tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass								
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<p>♠AJ4 ♥74 ♦1076542 ♣74</p> <p>♠Q1083      ♠752 ♥AJ1085      ♥K62 ♦Q83      ♦9 ♣J      ♣AKQ1032</p> <p>♠K96 ♥Q93 ♦AKJ ♣9865</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>The first tough decision is whether East should rebid 2♣ or 2♥. With a singleton and a heart honour, I like 2♥, but 2♣ could certainly work out better. As the cards lie, nine tricks are available in either contract, but of course the major scores more.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♣	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥	All Pass																																				
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<p>♠AK98 ♥8632 ♦6 ♣KQ53</p> <p>♠654      ♠Q732 ♥K104      ♥75 ♦AKQ83      ♦J542 ♣J8      ♣A72</p> <p>♠J10 ♥AQJ9 ♦1097 ♣10964</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>A cut-throat game! At favourable vulnerability North risks a 2♣ overcall to show both majors, and South prefers hearts. When this is passed to East, he risks a take-out double. South, with such good hearts, bids one more and that is where it ends. The cards lie well for NS, and unless EW get their club ruff, declarer can make 10 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble	3♥	All Pass																															
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<p>♠A97 ♥K6 ♦J7642 ♣832</p> <p>♠KQ104      ♠J3 ♥53      ♥J109842 ♦1095      ♦AK8 ♣AJ64      ♣K7</p> <p>♠8652 ♥AQ7 ♦Q3 ♣Q1095</p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>For those who play weak twos, a fourth-in-hand weak two-bid should be about 10-13 high card points and a six-card suit – something like the East hand here.</p> <p>Although the suit is not great, the good spot cards make it worth it. It is hard to see anyone dredging up a bid after this, and declarer can make nine tricks easily enough on the lie of the cards.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	Pass	2♥	All Pass																																				
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<p>                     ♠ 2                      ♥ QJ109                      ♦ 1073                      ♣ QJ1095                      ♠ K10976543    ♠ -                      ♥ 62                    ♥ 4                      ♦ K                     ♦ AQJ9865                      ♣ A2                    ♣ K8643                        ♠ AQJ8                      ♥ AK8753                      ♦ 42                      ♣ 7                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>6</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	6		N	-	-	3	-	10	10	S	-	-	3	-	14		E	3	3	-	1			W	3	3	-	1	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <p><b>West    North    East    South</b></p> <p>4♠      Pass      Pass      Dble</p> <p>All Pass</p> <p>What to open that West hand? 4♠ would be my choice at Love All – after all, it is an 8-card suit! North and East have clear passes, and then South has a difficult decision.</p> <p>To a large extent it depends on style. For me, a double of 4♥ tends to show four spades and I would expect partner to remove with pretty much any hand with four spades. But a double of 4♠ is different.</p> <p>For me that shows more like a strong NT (obviously it might be more take-out-orientated than that, but you have to decide what hand you want partner to play you for). So, in order for partner to remove the double I would expect him to hold a six-card suit or two five-card suits. That enables me to risk a double with this hand-type – if partner removes, we'll just have to play 5♥. Those who play a double of 4♠ as take-out will have to pass and collect their 150.</p>
HCP		Makeable contracts																																										
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<p>                     ♠ J982                      ♥ 963                      ♦ 97                      ♣ Q954                        ♠ 53                    ♠ A74                      ♥ AQJ1052           ♥ 74                      ♦ 8643                ♦ J5                      ♣ 7                     ♣ KJ10632                        ♠ KQ106                      ♥ K8                      ♦ AKQ102                      ♣ A8                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>9</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	3		N	-	3	-	3	7	9	S	-	3	-	3	21		E	1	-	1	-			W	1	-	1	-	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <p><b>West    North    East    South</b></p> <p>Pass      Pass      Pass      1♦</p> <p>2♥      Pass      Pass      Dble</p> <p>Pass      2♠      All Pass</p> <p>Some people like opening 2NT whenever it is at all possible; others would rather open 1 of a suit if a little off-centre. The advantage of the former is that you don't give away much information, so it is harder for the defenders; the advantage of the latter is that it is often possible to bid some thin slams not even dreamed of by the partner of the 2NT opener.</p> <p>Here, the hand could go either way. 2NT openers will probably get a heart lead and go one down (though may make if they boldly win the ♥ K and lay down the ♠ K). Will East duck or win? The 1♦ openers will probably play in 2♠ (or maybe 3♠ if South raises on the above sequence). There are nine tricks to be had in spades, but one hand does not prove anything!</p>
HCP		Makeable contracts																																										
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<p>                     ♠ 96                      ♥ QJ6                      ♦ 942                      ♣ AK875                        ♠ AKQ105            ♠ J87432                      ♥ A9872             ♥ K10                      ♦ 5                     ♦ Q10863                      ♣ 109                 ♣ -                        ♠ -                      ♥ 543                      ♦ AKJ7                      ♣ QJ6432                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>6</td> <td>S</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	10		N	5	2	-	-	13	6	S	5	2	-	-	11		E	-	-	3	6			W	-	-	2	6	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <p><b>West    North    East    South</b></p> <p>2♣      2♠      4♠      5♣</p> <p>Pass      Pass      5♠      All Pass</p> <p>Although it pains me to pass first in hand when opening some sort of pre-empt is a possibility, that spade suit is too weak, and I would pass as dealer. However, when partner makes a Michaels cue-bid showing both majors, the hand becomes enormous and I would bid as high as I need to.</p> <p>What about North's actions? Expert procedure is to play the higher cue-bid (here 2♠) as agreeing opener's suit (not necessarily more than a limit raise), and the lower cue-bid as a forcing hand with the unbid suit (so here 2♦ would be non-forcing). North seems to me to have a limit raise in clubs. NS bid their making game, but EW press on (indeed can make slam). NS will do well if they manage to refrain from doubling.</p>
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<p>♠KQ52 ♥K106 ♦KQ7 ♣Q97</p> <p>♠J8                    ♠A1076 ♥J43                   ♥Q5 ♦108642              ♦A95 ♣AJ4                   ♣K1082</p> <p>♠943 ♥A9872 ♦J3 ♣653</p>	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Maybe South is too good to pass 1♠ with a ruffing value and an ace, but my experience is that to raise spades (or bid 1NT) often ends up with partner bidding too much with a decent hand. At match-point scoring I like to try to get plus scores, and so would pass as South. And it is hard to see any reason for West to bid.</p> <p>Deep Finesse seems to think 1♠ should make EW, and therefore (not quite necessarily true) go down NS, but low-level contracts are hard to defend, and I am sure some declarers will succeed.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♠	All Pass	Pass																																								
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<p>♠J52 ♥643 ♦Q642 ♣K87</p> <p>♠K1063                    ♠AQ84 ♥J1097                   ♥AQ52 ♦A3                        ♦975 ♣1043                    ♣A5</p> <p>♠97 ♥K8 ♦KJ108 ♣QJ962</p>	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>It is a close decision for West – should he bid 2♥ or 3♥? In truth, playing four-card majors at pairs I might only raise to 2♥. On the other hand, as a passed hand many would be able to bid 2NT as a maximum raise, so 3♥ can be a little lighter. Notice that on the actual layout, 4♥ or 4♠ are cold, but if the minor suits were mirrored it would have no play at all.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass																																				
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<p>♠A432 ♥K106 ♦A10932 ♣8</p> <p>♠1096                    ♠KQ5 ♥J98                     ♥7542 ♦65                        ♦Q87 ♣AK1063               ♣754</p> <p>♠J87 ♥AQ3 ♦KJ4 ♣QJ92</p>	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>A 3NT response to a minor-suit opening shows 13-15 high card points and a balanced hand with no major, so that seems to describe the South hand pretty well, and there they are.</p> <p>I guess West will lead a club (though a major is usually called for on this auction and a spade might work better).</p> <p>How to play those diamonds? If West leads a club, it is surely from a five-card suit (or longer), so the odds favour East holding the ♦Q. I would play a diamond to the ace and a diamond to the jack. (Even if that loses, West cannot profitably continue clubs and may not know which major to switch to.) That will give me ten tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	All Pass	1♦	Pass	3NT																																								
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<p>                     ♠Q9542                      ♥J7                      ♦A2                      ♣J643                      ♠63                      ♥K1063                      ♦10863                      ♣875                      ♠K87                      ♥A982                      ♦4                      ♣KQ1092                      ♠AJ10                      ♥Q54                      ♦KQJ975                      ♣A                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>17</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	8		N	3	-	-	3	-	3	17	S	3	-	-	3	-	12		E	-	3	2	-	1			W	-	3	2	-	1	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Maybe West should raise diamonds earlier but that might get East too excited. As it is, North is probably always going to bid to 3♠, if pushed, after his partner has made a takeout double. Then, with four-card support, a ruffing value and a useful looking high card, it looks right for West to bid on to 4♦. In practice, 4♦ is likely to make as the defenders need to take a heart ruff to beat it, and South is unlikely to lead a low heart at trick one.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	Dble	Pass	2♠	3♦	Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass	4♦	All Pass		
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<p>                     ♠543                      ♥104                      ♦1098                      ♣J10763                      ♠82                      ♥KJ82                      ♦KQ7543                      ♣K                      ♠KQ6                      ♥97653                      ♦J6                      ♣A82                      ♠AJ1097                      ♥AQ                      ♦A2                      ♣Q954                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>10</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	1		N	2	-	-	1	-	12	10	S	2	-	-	1	-	17		E	-	4	4	-	1			W	-	4	4	-	1	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It is difficult for EW to find their heart fit here. It looks more attractive for East to bid 2NT with his decent spade holding rather than introduce that ropery heart suit. Then West is not really strong enough to do more than rebid diamonds. Both red suits will make ten tricks, but only one scores the game bonus.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦	All Pass						
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<p>                     ♠943                      ♥J8                      ♦9532                      ♣AJ84                      ♠KQ6                      ♥K9542                      ♦A874                      ♣2                      ♠1052                      ♥AQ1063                      ♦J10                      ♣Q107                      ♠AJ87                      ♥7                      ♦KQ6                      ♣K9653                 </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>6</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>9</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	6		N	2	1	-	-	-	12	9	S	2	1	-	1	-	13		E	-	-	4	-	2			W	-	-	4	-	2	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A thin 4♥ for EW to finish with. While West does not really have extras, when South doubles 3♥ he is likely to hold the ♠A. Then, provided East's minors mesh, which is likely, there will be some play for ten tricks. As you can see, even though EW have only just over half the points in the pack, ten tricks are always there, such is the power of a ten-card fit.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	Pass	3♥	Dble	4♥	All Pass										
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