

CBAI Novice & Intermediate Congress – Sligo 21st February 2015 Commentary on the hands from Saturday Night Session

As President of the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland, I am very pleased to welcome you to my home town of Sligo for the 16th CBAI Novice and Intermediate Bridge Congress. The venue for this Congress rotates with CBAI President and is held in the President's Region every year. I hope you have a wonderful time here in the beautiful 'Yeats Country' and that you might even decide to come back again sometime....maybe for our Yeats Country Congress on the weekend of May 22nd.

This Congress was set up to allow Novice and Intermediate players play at their own level in a relaxed setting against their own peers with the aim of improving their game and making the transition to Open Congresses. This fits nicely in with the theme for my own year – that of 'Bridge Improvement for all' where I hoped to help and encourage players of all grades, especially Novice and Intermediates, to take a fresh look at their game and take at least one conscious step to either read a bridge article, learn a convention, discuss a few hands with their partner or attend an improver class etc. This commentary on tonight's hands is one such attempt to help you improve your game.

I also welcome the Master players who came along this weekend to lend their support by playing in the Open Pairs – their help and guidance is much appreciated. Special welcome also to my successor – next year's President Mrs. Freda Fitzgerald and also a big welcome to 'Mrs. CBAI HQ' Valerie Mathers.

I am indebted to the local Sligo clubs, especially the Acol and Phoenix, for their never-ending support in my busy year and in particular I would like to acknowledge the enormous generosity of the Yeats Country Bridge Congress in sponsoring tonight's supper.

If I can be of any help to any of you, now or later on in the year, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am only too happy to help and encourage newer players. Thank you all for attending this event and I hope that you have enjoyed yourselves and maybe you have learned a little too? Bridge is a great game – a 'life-changing' game – Little did we know when we took it up, the effect it would have on us.

Or as our own W.B. Yeats said **"a Terrible Beauty is Born!"**.
Fearghal O'Boyle

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 42 ♥ J6 ♦ 8643 ♣ J7642</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AJ3 ♠ 1075 ♥ 108432 ♥ K95 ♦ AQ7 ♦ K ♣ KQ ♣ A109853</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ KQ986 ♥ AQ7 ♦ J10952 ♣ -</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>10</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	2		N	-	2	-	-	-	16	10	S	-	2	-	-	-			E	4	-	3	1	2			W	4	-	3	1	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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>4♥ and 3NT are reasonable contracts but it's probably easier to get to 3NT than 4♥. It takes a Spade lead to beat 3NT by West. A Spade or Club lead will beat 4♥ by West.</p> <p>I don't reckon too many will make game although many will be given the opportunity. Any plus score will score well.</p> <p>The real question is what should West bid after South opens 1♠? 1♥ is not great with such bad Hearts and Double just seems to be wasting time. I like 1NT because it shows the most important feature of your hand – the likely double Spade stopper.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♠	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ AK985 ♥ AQ86 ♦ AJ ♣ J8</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ - ♠ 10643 ♥ KJ9542 ♥ 1073 ♦ K62 ♦ 98754 ♣ Q1042 ♣ 7</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ QJ72 ♥ - ♦ Q103 ♣ AK9653</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>7</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>0</td><td>S</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>7</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></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	19		N	5	3	1	7	6	9	0	S	6	3	1	7	6			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<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>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣ (1 or 4 Keycards)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦ (QS ask)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♣ (QS+KC)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>7♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>6♠ will be a popular contract but 7♠ is biddable. Both contracts make 13 tricks thanks to the working Diamond finesse.</p> <p>Any brave pairs in 6NT will also score well if they can make it....they will need to lead a low Club to the Jack to avoid losing 2 Club tricks.</p> <p>If you haven't tried Keycard Blackwood – you won't learn any younger!</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠	Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣ (1 or 4 Keycards)	Pass	5♦ (QS ask)	Pass	6♣ (QS+KC)	Pass	7♠	All Pass	
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♠ Q643
 ♥ J8742
 ♦ 984
 ♣ 8
 ♠ K8 ♠ 75
 ♥ AK ♥ 1065
 ♦ Q106 ♦ AK752
 ♣ AQ5432 ♣ KJ7
 ♠ AJ1092
 ♥ Q93
 ♦ J3
 ♣ 1096

HCP	
3	11
18	8

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

Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	1♠
3NT	All Pass		

E/W can make an easy 12 tricks in Clubs, Diamonds or No-Trump but minor suit slams are never easy to bid so most pairs will land in 3NT.

If South makes a 1♠ overcall he will be rewarded with a Spade lead from his partner. Taking the Ace of Spades will be worth a bundle of matchpoints to N/S as most declarers will rattle off 13 tricks if they get a chance.

Hopefully there will be nobody in 5♣ or 5♦? These contracts rarely score well in a pairs events. If you were about to land in 5♣ or 5♦ maybe you decided to bid one more and go to slam – if you did – well done!

♠ AJ1072
 ♥ 1032
 ♦ A
 ♣ 6532
 ♠ 95 ♠ K86
 ♥ AQ95 ♥ 764
 ♦ 107642 ♦ KQJ93
 ♣ K7 ♣ 98
 ♠ Q43
 ♥ KJ8
 ♦ 85
 ♣ AQJ104

HCP	
9	9
9	13

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

Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥ (Trans)	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

2♠ should be a popular contract making 9 tricks – losing one Spade, 2 Hearts and one Club.

4♠ is a bit too high on 22 HCP but it is not an unreasonable contract.

E/W can make 3♦ and if they can play in 4♦ undoubled minus one that would be a good for them. However I imagine most N/S will know to double 4♦.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠AQJ ♥10 ♦63 ♣AQ109874</p> <p>♠72 ♠985 ♥A75 ♥983 ♦AKQ1074 ♦J982 ♣K3 ♣J65</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠K10643 ♥KQJ642 ♦5 ♣2</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">16</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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 style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td><td style="text-align: center;">-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		13		16	2	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	-	5	5	-	S	4	-	5	5	-	E	-	1	-	-	-	W	-	1	-	-	-	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : 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>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>With the Hearts breaking 3-3, North-South can make 11 tricks in either major. So bidding game in either one will be a good result for them. Not everyone will get to game on this one.</p> <p>The trick will be for North to eventually stop bidding his Clubs and support one of his partner's major suits. Game in a major is always easier to make than game in a minor. And sometimes bidding 4 of a major on a 4-3 fit will work out ok especially if the hand with 3-card support has a singleton or doubleton side suit.</p> <p>West might think he is going to be declarer on this board when he picks up his hand. If he gets away in 5♦-4 undoubled he will be happy...or even 5♦x-3 on a misdefence...but remember not everyone will get to game with the N/S cards?</p>	West	North	East	South		1♣	Pass	1♥	2♦	3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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<p>♠ K6 ♥ AK54 ♦ AQ5 ♣ J932</p> <p>♠ A974 ♠ 103 ♥ J986 ♥ 103 ♦ 96 ♦ KJ8742 ♣ Q85 ♣ A104</p> <p>♠ QJ852 ♥ Q72 ♦ 103 ♣ K76</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	17		N	2	-	2	2	2	7	8	S	2	-	2	2	1		8	E	-	1	-	-	-			W	-	1	-	-	-	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>With 25 HCP, 3NT is a reasonable contract by N/S and most table will bid it. So the pressure will be on E/W to defeat it.</p> <p>It will be 'cat and mouse' for a while and the play of the Spade suit will be very important for both sides. When declarer leads a small Spade towards his King, West must play small and East must unblock the 10 under declarer's King. If East fails to unblock, declarer can succeed by letting East's 10 win the second Spade trick.</p> <p>As in all pairs games, 'the play's the thing' and making 9 tricks whether you are in 1NT or 3NT will do well.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT	3NT	All Pass		
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<p>♠ KJ6 ♥ AQ85 ♦ KQ2 ♣ 1097</p> <p>♠ A82 ♠ 104 ♥ 10943 ♥ J62 ♦ 1074 ♦ A863 ♣ AJ6 ♣ 8542</p> <p>♠ Q9753 ♥ K7 ♦ J95 ♣ KQ3</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>5</td> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>11</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> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	15		N	2	2	2	4	3	9	5	S	2	2	2	4	3		11	E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>4♠ is a good contract – an 8-card fit and 26 HCP. There are 10 easy tricks available – losing to the 3 Aces.</p> <p>Some pairs will miss their Spade fit and land in 3NT – others will know about the Spade fit but decide to play in 3NT anyway – which is also a reasonable shot.</p> <p>If East leads anything other than a Spade, declarer will only make 9 tricks and lose out to the pairs playing in 4♠.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ AJ ♥ QJ8 ♦ K10642 ♣ 932</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 976 ♠ 1083 ♥ 542 ♥ K963 ♦ 85 ♦ Q973 ♣ KQ1074 ♣ 86</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ KQ542 ♥ A107 ♦ AJ ♣ AJ5</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>S</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</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></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11		N	4	6	5	5	6	5	5	S	4	6	5	5	6			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : 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></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Hats off to any pair bidding and making a slam on this one. I guess that if pairs do get to slam – it will be the wrong slam i.e. 6♠.</p> <p>There are 12 tricks if you can guess to lead a Diamond to the Jack rather than to the 10. If you got to 6NT and made it - I hope you were wearing your brown trousers?</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ KQ2 ♥ AKQ9 ♦ AJ107 ♣ J4</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 73 ♠ AJ108 ♥ J1052 ♥ 43 ♦ Q654 ♦ K3 ♣ 872 ♣ AQ1065</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 9654 ♥ 876 ♦ 982 ♣ K93</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>14</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	20		N	-	2	1	1	-	3	14	S	-	2	1	1	-			E	1	-	-	-	-			W	1	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : 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></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This is a horrible hand for whoever decides to declare.</p> <p>What should North bid over 1♣? Some will double and then they might double again when East bids again. Some might bid 2NT – which should be a big strong hand in 4th seat.</p> <p>If East starts with a low club, North might actually make 2NT.</p> <p>In any event, defending will be more enjoyable than playing on this board.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	Pass	Pass	2NT	All Pass	
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 9875 ♥ K65 ♦ Q952 ♣ 95</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 43 ♠ KJ106 ♥ AQJ107 ♥ 4 ♦ 103 ♦ AK86 ♣ J643 ♣ AKQ10</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AQ2 ♥ 9832 ♦ J74 ♣ 872</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>20</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	5		N	-	-	-	-	8	20	S	-	-	-	-	7		E	5	3	4	4			W	5	3	4	4	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</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></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>All roads lead to 3NT+1. With 4-1-4-4 shape, 1♦ is a normal opening. Some East's might just rebid 3NT over West's 1♥ response and that is fine. But a better agreement is to play a 2NT here as forcing showing 18-20.</p> <p>This helps you find 5-3 Heart fits and also to explore 6♣ and 6♦ on other hands where it might be important.</p> <p>The 5♣ bidders will get a very poor return on their investment.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 73 ♥ - ♦ 9843 ♣ KQJ8763</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 9852 ♠ AKQJ ♥ Q7653 ♥ J104 ♦ 76 ♦ QJ102 ♣ 104 ♣ A5</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 1064 ♥ AK982 ♦ AK5 ♣ 92</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>18</td> <td>S</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	6		N	4	1	-	-	2	18	S	4	1	-	-	14		E	-	-	1	1			W	-	-	1	1	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : 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>3♣</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>This will be a nightmare hand for E/W if they get too high. It will be very difficult for E/W to stay out of trouble.</p> <p>So if N/S bid too much they will keep E/W out of trouble. N/S make 10 tricks in Clubs, losing 2 Spades and a Diamond. But +130 for N/S won't look too pretty among the +300's and +500's from E/W going down doubled.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	3♣	Dbl	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass			
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 10532 ♥ A5 ♦ A1096 ♣ K93</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AQ ♠ KJ76 ♥ 6 ♥ KQ98742 ♦ J8432 ♦ 5 ♣ AQJ62 ♣ 5</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 984 ♥ J103 ♦ KQ7 ♣ 10874</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		11		14	9	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	-	1	5	2	1	W	1	1	5	2	1	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>There is no right thing to do here. Most might open 3♥ with the East hand while the rest of us will either pass or maybe open 1♥. The textbooks tell us that it is a good idea to pre-empt holding a side 4-card major.</p> <p>Whether you do or you don't open 3♥, you will be faced with a similar decision on the second round when West opens 1♦. You may as well bid 4♥ because you can't really tell what's right. Partner has opening points and you have a good 7-card suit and a side suit so it feels like we are going to finish in 4♥ so we may as well bid it directly.</p> <p>Bidding 4♥ will be a good result as there will be many Wests who (not unreasonably) pass 3♥.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ A43 ♥ Q1086 ♦ K76 ♣ Q85</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 875 ♠ KJ109 ♥ K9 ♥ 54 ♦ 102 ♦ AQJ85 ♣ A107642 ♣ KJ</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q62 ♥ AJ732 ♦ 943 ♣ 93</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">15</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		11		7	15	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	4	1	4	2	W	4	4	1	4	2	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : 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></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This hand shows the enormous merits in overcalling. Left to their own devices, E/W would play in 3♣ or 3♦ making 10 tricks. But when South overcalls 1♥ it creates confusion and takes E/W out of their comfort zone.</p> <p>On the other hand, E/W might not need any help from their opponents to get confused. If West overbids by responding 2♣ to East's 1♦ opening bid then it will be hard for E/W to stay out of 3NT. A Heart lead will beat 3NT.</p> <p>4♠ is a lovely unbeatable contract for E/W and hats off to anyone who bids it.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	1♥	1NT	2♦	Dbl	2♥	3♣	3♥	All Pass	
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K87 ♥ AJ9 ♦ QJ ♣ K9876</p> <p>♠ 4 ♠ AQ93 ♥ 107 ♥ 62 ♦ AK97542 ♦ 1086 ♣ Q53 ♣ AJ104</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J10652 ♥ KQ8543 ♦ 3 ♣ 2</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>11</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>6</td> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	14		N	-	-	2	1	-	9	11	S	-	-	2	1	-		6	E	3	5	-	-	1			W	3	5	-	-	1	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This could be a lively board at some tables. South might open a weak two or he might pass hoping to show his weak two-suiter later on.</p> <p>It will be very difficult for E/W to win this auction because N/S will keep bidding Hearts. 4♥-2 will still be a good board for E/W and it will be even better if they can double it.</p> <p>5♦ makes for E/W but with all the N/S interference it won't be easy to get there. But E/W should be happy to take any +500's that come their way instead.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 842 ♥ AK109 ♦ J72 ♣ Q73</p> <p>♠ AQJ96 ♠ 10 ♥ Q ♥ J87654 ♦ K6 ♦ 1094 ♣ AK1052 ♣ 984</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K753 ♥ 32 ♦ AQ853 ♣ J6</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td>1</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>10</td> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	10		N	-	1	-	-	19	1	S	-	1	-	-		10	E	3	-	2	2			W	3	-	2	2	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>E/W might have trouble staying out of trouble on this one. Their problems will start with West's choice of opening bid.</p> <p>Some might open a Strong 2♠, others an Acol 2♣, others a simple 1♠ while the rest of us will settle for the textbook 1♣ opening. Ideally E/W want to play in 2♠ or 3♣.</p> <p>N/S might be tempted into the auction at some point but they need to be careful not to bid higher than 2♦ or it might get messy for them.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	1♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣	All Pass
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<p>♠ KQJ10652 ♥ A10 ♦ - ♣ A764</p> <p>♠ 973 ♠ A8 ♥ 8432 ♥ Q5 ♦ AQ54 ♦ KJ762 ♣ 103 ♣ KQ95</p> <p>♠ 4 ♥ KJ976 ♦ 10983 ♣ J82</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">15</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		14		6	15	5		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	-	2	4	-	S	2	-	2	4	-	E	-	2	-	-	-	W	-	2	-	-	-	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</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></td> <td>4♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Another hand where there could be fireworks. North may as well open 4♠ if only because it feels like a 4♠ hand.</p> <p>Of course a 1♠ bid is probably better (but not as much fun) and even an Acol 2♣ isn't too wrong. But whatever North opens, he is probably going to bid 4♠ the next time.</p> <p>4♠ is an easy make –losing one Spade and 2 Clubs – and if he doesn't get a Club lead he might even make 12 tricks!</p> <p>5♦x-3 will not be a good E/W score but it will be better than 4♠x made or +2. And not every N/S will find the defence to beat 5♦ by 3 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		4♠	Dbl	Pass	5♦	Dbl	All Pass	
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<p>♠ 874 ♥ QJ76 ♦ AK63 ♣ A2</p> <p>♠ AJ ♠ KQ ♥ K954 ♥ A102 ♦ J7542 ♦ Q109 ♣ 93 ♣ KJ864</p> <p>♠ 1096532 ♥ 83 ♦ 8 ♣ Q1075</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">15</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		14		9	15	2		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	2	-	S	-	-	-	1	-	E	1	3	1	-	-	W	2	3	1	-	-	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : 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></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>3NT is not an unreasonable contract but it has no hope on a Spade lead. The duplication in Spades in both hands is what causes the disaster – next week 3NT will be a 'piece of cake' so don't beat yourselves up for bidding it.</p> <p>Some N/S might get into the auction but that won't be a success either.</p> <p>As is often the case – any plus score will do very well.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J9642 ♥ Q3 ♦ A6 ♣ KJ107</p> <p>♠ AQ8753 ♠ K10 ♥ 7 ♥ KJ10954 ♦ 1097 ♦ J82 ♣ A32 ♣ 95</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ - ♥ A862 ♦ KQ543 ♣ Q864</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>8</td> <td>S</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</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> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11		N	5	4	1	1	-	10	8	S	5	4	1	-	-			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>N/S can make 5♣ but are unlikely to get that high. E/W have the majors so they will likely win the auction. If West is in 2♠x he won't enjoy the experience too much.</p> <p>West might try to rescue to Hearts but as is often the case that only makes matters worse.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass			
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q42 ♥ AK105 ♦ 102 ♣ J532</p> <p>♠ AKJ1085 ♠ 93 ♥ J962 ♥ 743 ♦ 9 ♦ AQ76 ♣ A4 ♣ KQ108</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 76 ♥ Q8 ♦ KJ8543 ♣ 976</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>11</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	10		N	-	-	-	-	13	11	S	-	-	-	-			E	2	-	1	3	1			W	2	-	1	3	1	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : 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>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>It's hard not to bid 4♠ with the E/W cards but tonight it has to go down because the trump finesse is wrong.</p> <p>There doesn't seem to be any mis-defence that can help declarer – he can only make 9 tricks no matter how N/S defend.</p> <p>There will be those who stay out of game and tonight they will hit the jackpot.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
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<p>♠ Q9543 ♥ K ♦ Q84 ♣ K987</p> <p>♠ 86 ♠ K107 ♥ A92 ♥ QJ8653 ♦ KJ65 ♦ 32 ♣ QJ54 ♣ A10</p> <p>♠ AJ2 ♥ 1074 ♦ A1097 ♣ 632</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10		11	10	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	2	-	S	-	-	-	2	-	E	1	1	4	-	3	W	1	1	4	-	3	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>If you bid 4♥, you will need to be sitting on a high stool – so that you can see the singleton King of Hearts in North’s hand.</p> <p>4♥ is not a bad contract but it is a bit of a stretch and the rule at ‘pairs’ scoring is that we don’t need to stretch for thin games....making 10 tricks in these situations will be a good result whether you are in 3♥ or 4♥.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass		
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<p>♠ 32 ♥ J54 ♦ 9872 ♣ 10963</p> <p>♠ A10876 ♠ K954 ♥ 8 ♥ KQ102 ♦ KJ3 ♦ AQ6 ♣ AQ75 ♣ K4</p> <p>♠ QJ ♥ A9763 ♦ 1054 ♣ J82</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td style="text-align: center;">17</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>	HCP		1		14	17	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	5	5	4	6	6	W	5	5	4	6	6	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4NT (Key)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♥ 2+ noQ</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>A good few pairs will bid 6♠ and a good few will make it. But spare a thought for the other good pairs who won’t bid 6♠ because they know they are missing the Queen of trumps as well as a Keycard.</p> <p>Spare another thought for the really good players who only make 11 tricks because they have heard of a thing called ‘Restricted Choice’ making them play South for a singleton trump.</p> <p>The rest of us who never heard of Keycard Blackwood or Restricted Choice will bid and make 6♠ and wonder why it such a good score?</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT (Key)	Pass	5♥ 2+ noQ	Pass	6♠	All Pass		
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 2 ♥ J109843 ♦ A9 ♣ J853</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q1074 ♠ AKJ9653 ♥ K ♥ 75 ♦ Q104 ♦ 3 ♣ KQ642 ♣ A109</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 8 ♥ AQ62 ♦ KJ87652 ♣ 7</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>4</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		6	12	12	12	10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	4	5	-	-	S	-	4	5	-	-	E	4	-	-	5	-	W	4	-	-	5	-	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All 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></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>This hand could be very competitive if N/S can summon up the courage to enter the auction.</p> <p>E/W have an easy route to 4♠ making 11 tricks if N/S take their 2 tricks fast! Otherwise E/W make 12 or 13 tricks.</p> <p>N/S can make 11 tricks in Hearts if they can drop the singleton King of Hearts. But even making 10 tricks by N/S will be a good score if they can get to play the hand.</p> <p>Some E/W might try for 6♠ and this will really test the N/S defense.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠	2♦	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ KQ ♥ A4 ♦ AK76 ♣ QJ743</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AJ10752 ♠ 984 ♥ Q10 ♥ KJ932 ♦ J5 ♦ 43 ♣ 982 ♣ K106</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 63 ♥ 8765 ♦ Q10982 ♣ A5</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">19</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>4</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</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		19	7	8	7	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	5	1	-	3	S	4	5	1	-	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : 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></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>3♠</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>E/W might try to jostle N/S but N/S should still manage to bid game in No-Trump or Diamonds. Of course both games require declarer to take the Club finesse and that will be a nervous moment for declarer.</p> <p>So there will be some who will go down in 3NT. There will be some E/W's who win the auction in Spades probably doubled and they are still going down.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	2♠	Dbl	3♠		Pass	3NT	All Pass	
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