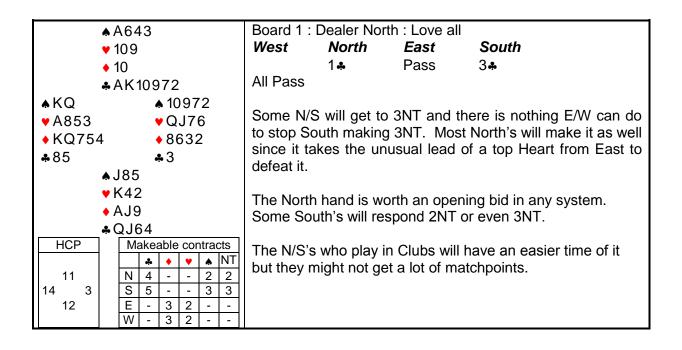
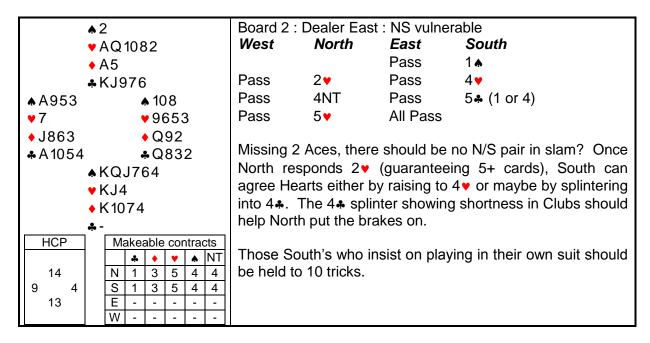
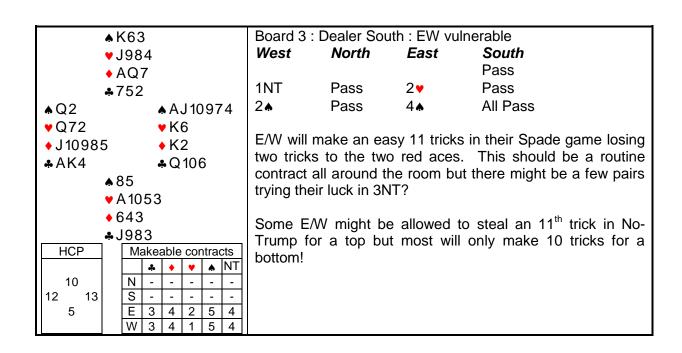
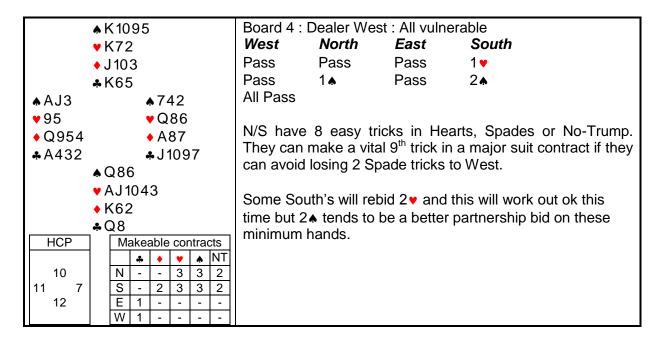
## Yeats Country Bridge Congress 2015 – Radisson Blu Hotel Sligo Analysis of the hands from the Saturday Night Session

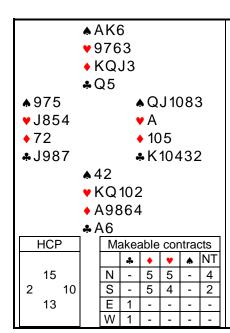
The theme throughout my year as CBAI President was 'Improve your Game' where I tried to encourage players to sit down and take a fresh look at their game and maybe discuss one or two aspects of their game with their partners. This is my last Congress and I offer this Commentary in the hope that it might turn on a few 'lightbulbs' and get some of us thinking a little more about this wonderful game. As ever I am only too delighted to talk to anyone about bridge now or in the future. A big thank you to all who helped and supported me during my big year. Fearghal.











Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

West North East South

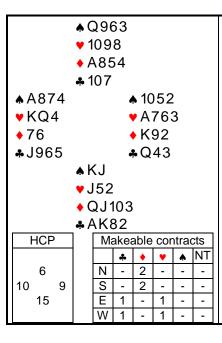
1 ↑ 1 ♠ Dbl

Pass 2 ▼ Pass 4 ▼

All Pass

Some pairs might try for Slam on this one and indeed worse Slams have been bid and made in the past. The 4-1 trump break means that Slam has no chance tonight even 11 tricks cannot be made if South is declarer and gets a Club lead.

How North values his Queen of Clubs will be central to whether or not N/S try for Slam. Those of us counting losers will treat the North hand as a minimum opening, while those that count points will treat the North hand as more than a minimum opening and if South thinks that North is more than minimum he will surely try for Slam.

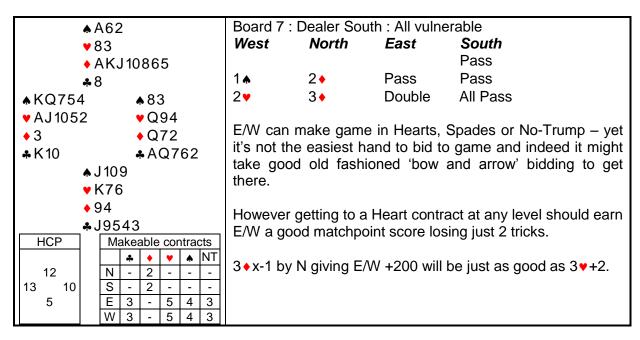


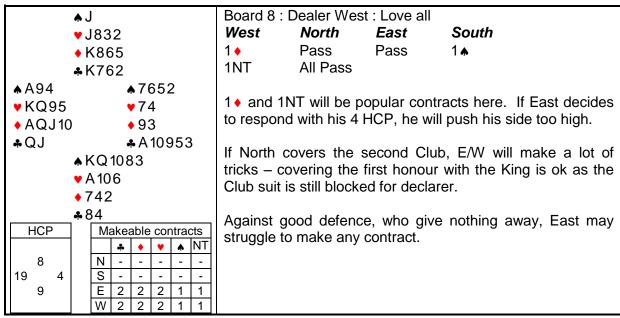
Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
		Pass	1.		
Pass All Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT		

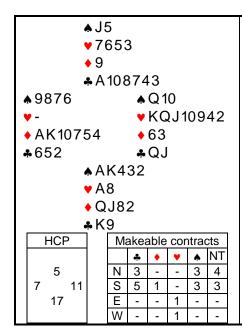
2 ♦ is a lovely contract for N/S and if North responds 1 ♦ to his partner's 1 ♣ opening they might land in 2 ♦.

But most North's will wisely respond 1 • - following that adage that when your hand is worth just one bid - show your major suit rather than your minor suit.

As in all 1NT contracts, the outcome will be in doubt right up to the last trick. 1NT made will be a great score for N/S and even 1NT-1 might not be too bad.







Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

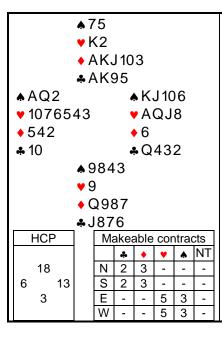
West North East South
Pass 3 ♥ 3 ♠

All Pass

Most East's will open 3♥ and now South has to decide whether to 'Double', bid 3♠ or bid 3NT.

The 3NT bidders will hit the jackpot if they play East to have the doubleton QJ of Clubs. The 'doublers' will probably push their side too high – unless some brave North decides to leave the double in and collect +500 for his side.

3♠ is probably the sensible 'middle of the road' bid. This hand could be a potential minefield for anyone looking for a bit of excitement.

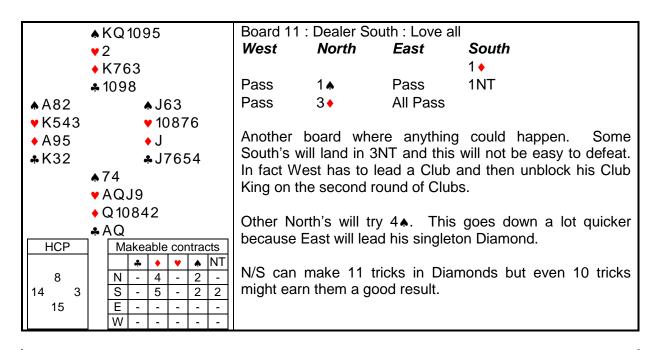


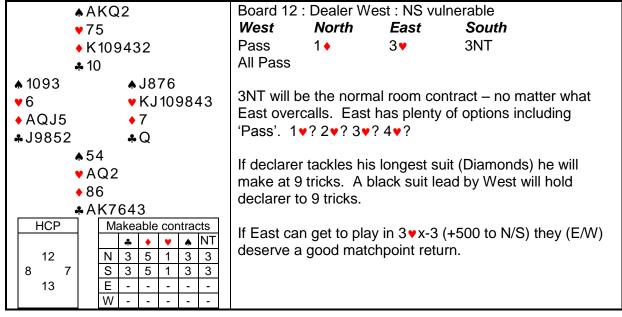
Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
		1♣	Pass		
1♥	Dbl	3♥	Pass		
4♥	Dbl	All Pass			

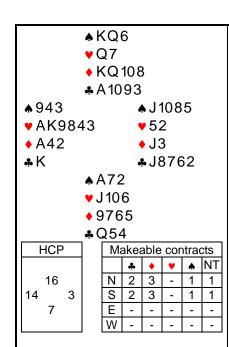
There will be a wide variety of results on this board. E/W have an easy 11 tricks in a Heart contract but not all E/W's pairs will bid this 19 point game.

On top of that, North will most likely double any E/W pair who think they can make game against him.

N/S can make 9 tricks in a Diamond contract but not many N/S will find their fit. Some North's might try 3NT - this should go 6 down. Other North's might get out for 1 down if East leads a Heart or a Club!





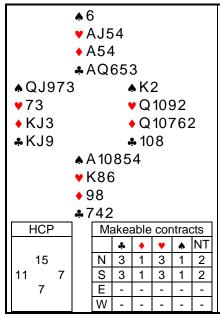


Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
	1♣	Pass	1 ♦		
1♥	3♦	All Pass			

Another hand where they will be a myriad of contracts. Some South's might reasonably respond 1NT while others might prefer to have 8 HCP for a 1NT response to a 1.4 opening.

It won't really matter what South responds because it won't stop West from bidding his Heart suit. If any N/S decide to double 2♥ they will collect a nice +500 for themselves. But even 2♥-2 (+200) will be a good board for N/S.

The 'Strong' No-Trump players have a chance of keeping West quiet and thereby avoid the Heart lead to make 8 or even 9 tricks in their No-Trump contract.



Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all				
West	North	East	South	
		Pass	Pass	
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠	
Pass	1NT	All Pass		

Any Wests who open in third seat, might find themselves playing in 1♠ doubled – and if they hold it to one off it won't be too bad.

Those Wests who do not open will be much happier with the auction especially if South bids and repeats his Spades. It will be very easy for N/S to get too high here.

