

## F.O'B – Commentary on Intermediate Pairs – First Session – Kilkenny 2014

As part of my CBAI Presidency, I said I was going to encourage players improve their game. So here goes. This is just a simple analysis on the hands you have just played. The idea is to provide you with food for thought if you are having a post-mortem with your partner or friends. Hopefully you will learn that sticking to system (any system) and avoiding silly mistakes in play and defence will get you more good results than bad and get you up near the 60% winning mark. For arguments sake, I am assuming 4-card majors and weak No-Trump....but all systems are fine.

Feel free to ask any follow up questions about anything fob@fob.ie  
Session 2 analysis will be on fob.ie Best of Luck. Fearghal O'Boyle

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ KQ98753 ♥ A97 ♦ - ♣ K63</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 4                      ♠ 62 ♥ KJ862                ♥ Q1054 ♦ K83                    ♦ QJ1074 ♣ Q875                 ♣ J2</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AJ10 ♥ 3 ♦ A9652 ♣ A1094</p> <table border="1" style="margin: 5px auto; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <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 style="width: 50px;">12</td> <td style="width: 50px;"></td> <td>N</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>7</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>6</td> <td>S</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>7</td> <td>5</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	12		N	4	1	1	7	5	9	6	S	4	1	1	7	5			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="margin: 5px auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px;">1♠</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">2♠</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">4♥ (Splinter)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">4NT</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">5♦ (3 Key Cards)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">7♠</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">All Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="margin: 10px 0;">However if you bid 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♠ - 4♠ you will not be on your own. So 4♠+3 will not be too bad – maybe 40% at worst.</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0;">There are 13 easy tricks here via 2 Heart ruffs in the South hand. If South learns that his partner has 7 Spades to the KQ and the ♥A and more than a minimum hand he will be able to count 13 tricks.</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0;">Even bidding 6♠ will be a huge result for N/S as getting to slam depends on what North rebids after 1♠-2♦. 3♠ seems an overbid while 2♠ is an underbid. Certainly the 3♠ bidders will get to slam while the 2♠ bidders most likely will not. Anyone opening 4♠ will probably land in 7♠ if partner decides to look for keycards.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♥ (Splinter)	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦ (3 Key Cards)	Pass	7♠	All Pass	
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<p>           ♠ 85            ♥ KQ1054            ♦ AKQ8            ♣ Q7            ♠ 743                              ♠ AKQJ1092            ♥ A8                                ♥ J6            ♦ 10973                          ♦ J            ♣ AJ32                            ♣ K96            ♠ 6            ♥ 9732            ♦ 6542            ♣ 10854         </p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>16</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>0</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <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>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		16	15	9	0	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	2	-	-	S	-	2	2	-	-	E	2	-	-	5	4	W	2	-	-	5	4	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : 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>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>1NT</td><td>Dbf</td><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>4♠ should be the room contract although some might be pushed to 5♠ if N/S find their excellent sacrifice in 5♥.</p> <p>If North enters the auction – especially if he doubles 1NT or 4♠ or 5♠ then declarer should probably figure out that the Club finesse is not working and just cash the Ace and King of Clubs and hit the jackpot! But quite a few declarers will not consider this and end up with just 10 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♠	Pass	1NT	Dbf	4♠	All Pass				
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<p>♠ 109 ♥ AJ87 ♦ K10 ♣ AKQ73</p> <p>♠ K54                      ♠ J62 ♥ KQ965                  ♥ 432 ♦ J98                        ♦ A643 ♣ 98                         ♣ 1065</p> <p>♠ AQ873 ♥ 10 ♦ Q752 ♣ J42</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;">17</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</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>5</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>4</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		17	5	9	9	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	4	3	5	4	S	5	4	3	5	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North's 2♥ is a Reverse bid showing 17-18, 5 Clubs and 4 Hearts. He might still have 3 Spades so South's 3♦ is Fourth Suit Forcing asking for more information.</p> <p>Declarer should run the ♠10 from dummy (unless East covers it). But whether you finesse the Queen first or run the 10 on the first round of Spades it seems you get 4 Spade tricks anyway.</p> <p>Those declarers who will berate their partners for putting them into 4♠ will be pleasantly surprised to end up with 11 tricks and a very good score. Some declarers in 3NT might also end up with 11 tricks for an even better score as it probably needs the ♥K lead or switch to hold declarer to 10 tricks in No-Trump.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass					
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<p>♠ 102 ♥ A95 ♦ KQ10854 ♣ K2</p> <p>♠ KQ75                      ♠ J96 ♥ Q874                      ♥ KJ62 ♦ A3                         ♦ 2 ♣ Q106                      ♣ A9875</p> <p>♠ A843 ♥ 103 ♦ J976 ♣ J43</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;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</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>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		12	9	13	6	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	-	-	1	S	-	2	-	-	1	E	3	-	3	3	-	W	3	-	3	3	-	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Another competitive deal where N/S will try to buy the hand in a Diamond partscore and E/W should push N/S to at least 3♦. Careful defence will beat 3♦ - E/W need to be patient and wait for their 2 Club tricks. If E/W open the Club suit first they will only get 1 Club trick.</p> <p>E/W can actually make a lot of tricks in Hearts – if they can hold their Club losers to one and they will make 10 tricks if N/S don't get their Spade ruff. On a Spade lead, South needs to duck and then when North is in with the trump Ace he can get his Spade ruff.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	2♥	3♦	All Pass			
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<p> ♠ A76  ♥ 92  ♦ Q75  ♣ J9763  ♠ Q10543      ♠ KJ8  ♥ Q3            ♥ J10865  ♦ AK94         ♦ 103  ♣ Q2            ♣ 1054  ♠ 92  ♥ AK74  ♦ J862  ♣ AK8 </p> <table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1"> <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>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		7	5	13		15		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	3	1	-	2	S	3	3	1	-	2	E	-	-	-	1	-	W	-	-	-	1	-	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td></tr> <tr><td>1♠</td><td>1NT</td><td>2♠</td><td>All Pass</td></tr> </table> <p>This is another competitive board that could go either way. West does best to overcall 1♠ on the first round rather than Double. East might raise to 2♠ and now it won't be easy for N/S to get back into the auction.</p> <p>1NT by N/S has an easy 8 tricks because you are forced to cash the AK of Clubs. It won't be obvious to N/S that they should Double 2♠ and try for the magic +200 in 2♠-1. And even if they do double 2♠ they might not find the ♠A lead to beat it. But maybe there are other ways to go down?</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♦	1♠	1NT	2♠	All Pass								
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<p> ♠ K985  ♥ Q6  ♦ 7643  ♣ A62  ♠ QJ642      ♠ 3  ♥ 9854         ♥ AJ102  ♦ J              ♦ AQ985  ♣ Q87         ♣ KJ9  ♠ A107  ♥ K73  ♦ K102  ♣ 10543 </p> <table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1"> <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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		9	15	6		10		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	2	3	1	1	W	1	2	3	1	1	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>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>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>All Pass</td></tr> </table> <p>The trick is to avoid game on this hand. East has a tough rebid problem. He is not quite good enough for a 'reverse' bid of 2♥. Although this 2♥ bid is non-forcing it will still be hard for West to pass it and E/W will probably get too high. Of course we've all been in worse game contracts.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	All Pass
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<p>♠ A ♥ A1083 ♦ A ♣ QJ109832</p> <p>♠ QJ82                      ♠ 109765 ♥ Q976                      ♥ K ♦ 75                              ♦ KQJ1083 ♣ 754                            ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ K43 ♥ J542 ♦ 9642 ♣ AK</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>11</td></tr> </table> <table border="1"> <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>6</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		15	9	5	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	6	-	5	-	5	S	6	-	5	-	5	E	-	-	-	2	-	W	-	-	-	2	-	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♣</td><td>2♣(♠+♦)</td><td>Dbl</td></tr> <tr><td>3♠</td><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>This is a nice North hand. 6♣ is easy to make but difficult to bid. 6♥ is easier to bid and will make more often than not because it takes a Diamond lead to beat it.</p> <p>There might be some players going off in 4♥ if declarer takes his eye off the ball when he meets the 4-1 trump break.</p> <p>East has a nice hand too and he will enter the auction in some fashion either with 1♠ or 1♦ or some sort of 2-suited convention like Michaels or Ghestem as above where 2♣ shows ♠ and ♦ and 6-10 HCP. 6♠X-4 by E/W should be a good score for E/W but unfortunately it won't be!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♣	2♣(♠+♦)	Dbl	3♠	4♥	All Pass	
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<p>♠ K9763 ♥ KQ4 ♦ A987 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ A102                      ♠ J ♥ A86                        ♥ J109532 ♦ 1062                        ♦ J ♣ 10864                      ♣ AK972</p> <p>♠ Q854 ♥ 7 ♦ KQ543 ♣ QJ3</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>10</td></tr> </table> <table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		12	10	8	10	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	-	4	1	S	-	3	-	4	1	E	3	-	3	-	-	W	3	-	3	-	-	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1♠</td><td>2♠(♥ and ♣)</td><td>4♠</td></tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>Probably all N/S pairs will get to 4♠. Some will make 11 tricks, others 10 and others 9.</p> <p>The only key point in the play is how you tackle the Spade suit. If you play small to the King, you will lose 2 Spade tricks. So you either have to play small to the Queen or lead the Queen on the first round of Spades. Yes you still have a guess on the second round but you are more likely to get it right if you think about it.</p> <p>If East enters the auction showing long Hearts then you might deduce that he has short Spades. For sure if he advertises a 2-suited hand e.g. by bidding 2♠ Michaels or Ghestem (♥ and ♣) then you will know he is short in Spades and you will play the Spade suit correctly losing only one Spade trick making 10 or 11 tricks depending on whether or not E/W managed to cash their Club trick before you discarded your Club loser on the fifth Diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	2♠(♥ and ♣)	4♠				
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<p>♠ 76543 ♥ 93 ♦ 10653 ♣ 64</p> <p>♠ A9                      ♠ KQJ8 ♥ AQ6                      ♥ 87 ♦ A98                        ♦ Q742 ♣ AK853                    ♣ J72</p> <p>♠ 102 ♥ KJ10542 ♦ KJ ♣ Q109</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>9</td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></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>5</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts					0		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	21	9	N	-	-	-	-			S	-	-	-	-			E	6	5	2	4	5			W	5	5	2	4	5	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr> <tr><td>Dbl</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>An immediate 2NT overcall by West would show 16-18 so to show his 19+ hand he doubles first. East with 9HCP should do more than just bid 2♠ but even if he does just bid 2♠ he should know to raise to 3NT on the next round. There will be a few pairs languishing in 2NT+3.</p> <p>Declarer has 11 tricks after he concedes a Club trick to South. Declarer will make 12 or 13 tricks if South does not cover the ♣J when it is led from the East hand!</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	2♥	Dbl	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass						
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<p>♠ 1086 ♥ Q1075 ♦ 1043 ♣ A86</p> <p>♠ AJ                        ♠ K9543 ♥ AKJ6                      ♥ 984 ♦ KJ875                      ♦ Q2 ♣ Q2                        ♣ 753</p> <p>♠ Q72 ♥ 32 ♦ A96 ♣ KJ1094</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>5</td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts					6		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	19	5	N	-	-	-	-			S	-	-	-	-			E	-	2	2	2	1			W	-	2	2	2	1	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>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>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Well done if you intentionally managed to stay out of game here. East has the first decision to make whether to Pass his partner's 1♦ opening or whether to respond 1♠. You can argue either way. If he passes then E/W should end in a partscore whether or not South protects.</p> <p>If East responds 1♠ it should be impossible for E/W to stay out of game. West will jump to 3♥ at his second turn to show 19-20 HCP and set up a game forcing situation. If E/W make any contract or even go only one off they will score well.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
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<p> ♠ 872  ♥ AK10  ♦ A97  ♣ J653    ♠ A109                      ♠ Q653  ♥ Q9872                    ♥ J54  ♦ 65                            ♦ J82  ♣ KQ2                        ♣ 1087    ♠ KJ4  ♥ 63  ♦ KQ1043  ♣ A94 </p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>4</td> <td>S</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</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> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		12		N	3	3	1	2	3	11	4	S	4	4	1	2	3			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>This should be the flattest board of the set – 3NT bid and made by N/S - but there will still be one or two who miss game and one or two that make only 8 tricks.</p> <p>With 25 HCP between the two hands and a good 5 card Diamond suit there is no reason for these two balanced N/S not to be in 3NT.</p> <p>As long as declarer leads Spades from the North hand towards the South he will make his 9<sup>th</sup> trick there – even if he guesses wrong on the first round of Spades.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT				
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<p> ♠ 103  ♥ K76532  ♦ 1084  ♣ K2    ♠ KQ762                    ♠ A85  ♥ 8                            ♥ A94  ♦ J5                            ♦ 7632  ♣ A10975                   ♣ 864    ♠ J94  ♥ QJ10  ♦ AKQ9  ♣ QJ3 </p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>8</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		6		N	-	1	3	-	-	10	8	S	-	1	3	-	-			E	3	-	-	3	1			W	3	-	-	3	1	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Another hand where both sides can bid and both sides can make 9 tricks. If North opens a weak 2♥ then E/W might find it difficult to enter the auction at the 3 level.</p> <p>If North does not open a weak 2♥ then West will find it easier to bid Spades over South's opening bid and now it might be difficult for N/S to stop in 3♥. Yes 4♥-1 or 4♥x-1 should be a good result for N/S but sadly there will be E/W who won't make 9 tricks in Spades.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT		3♥	All Pass	
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<p> ♠ K843  ♥ KQ1092  ♦ 96  ♣ Q7  ♠ 106  ♥ 87  ♦ KJ43  ♣ J8432  ♠ AQJ52  ♥ A6  ♦ Q102  ♣ A106  ♠ 97  ♥ J543  ♦ A875  ♣ K95 </p> <table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>8</td></tr> </table> <table border="1"> <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>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10	17	5	8	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	2	-	-	S	-	-	1	-	-	E	3	3	-	3	1	W	3	3	-	3	1	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : 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>1♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>East can make 9 tricks in a Spade partscore by leading a Club to the 10.</p> <p>North can make 8 tricks in Hearts but he is very lucky to find his partner with 4 card support. Even if North bids 2♥, East will end up in playing in Spades anyway.</p> <p>If West responds 1NT to East's 1♠ opening, West will probably raise to 2NT which might not be too pretty if South finds a Heart lead.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♠	All Pass
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<p> ♠ J105  ♥ Q65  ♦ AK109875  ♣ -  ♠ 64  ♥ 9742  ♦ Q  ♣ KJ7532  ♠ Q832  ♥ J108  ♦ J64  ♣ 1098  ♠ AK97  ♥ AK3  ♦ 32  ♣ AQ64 </p> <table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>20</td></tr> </table> <table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>6</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		10	4	6	20	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	6	5	6	5	S	2	6	5	6	6	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>Most South's will open 2NT showing a good 20 to 22 and now North will go into his office for a long time. He will eventually discover that he probably has no way to show this hand...3♦ is probably a Transfer and Gerber won't help him if his partner shows only 2 aces as he won't know which two they are.</p> <p>5♦ would be a bad choice. 3NT is a much better choice if you are not going to Slam. The practical bid is 6♦. There must be a good play for Slam opposite most 2NT openings. 6NT is a bit dangerous but it makes this time. 6♦ is a safer contract.</p> <p>I have sympathy for anyone trying 7♦ - unlucky!</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	6♦	All Pass	2NT
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<p> ♠ K98  ♥ Q632  ♦ Q93  ♣ J92  ♠ 102                      ♠ J653  ♥ AKJ10                    ♥ 987  ♦ J52                        ♦ 864  ♣ K654                      ♣ Q107  ♠ AQ74  ♥ 54  ♦ AK107  ♣ A83 </p> <table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</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		8		12	3	17		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	3	1	3	3	S	2	3	1	3	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbf</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>Not a great hand for anyone playing Weak No-Trump. But the good news is that you won't get another bad score with the weak No-Trump for at least another 6 months.</p> <p>1NTx-3 by West (-800) will be the normal result and anything better than that for E/W will be a great board for them. There is nowhere to run no matter what your escape is so you may as well stand your ground and hope partner can steal a 5<sup>th</sup> trick somewhere. However sometimes if you run, your opponents forget to Double you?</p> <p>Left to their own devices N/S can make 3NT for +600 but that will probably be a poor result for N/S.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	Pass	Pass	Dbf
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<p> ♠ AJ8  ♥ A10  ♦ A1098  ♣ QJ65  ♠ 10762                      ♠ K95  ♥ 653                         ♥ KQJ9742  ♦ K765                        ♦ 32  ♣ K9                         ♣ 7  ♠ Q43  ♥ 8  ♦ QJ4  ♣ A108432 </p> <table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1"> <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>5</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		16		6	9	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	5	4	-	3	1	S	5	4	-	2	1	E	-	-	1	-	-	W	-	-	1	-	-	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>5♣    All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Not an easy hand to bid for N/S. 5♣ makes but some might prefer to take their chances in 3NT.</p> <p>If North had another Heart, 3NT would make because he would be able to hold up on the Heart lead until the third round and thereby cut East out.</p> <p>But it's an instructive lesson for again....Against a pre-empt...Axx is a huge holding compared to Ax if you are considering 3NT. Ax is just a stopper whereas Axx is a stopper and a communication cutter!</p>	West	North	East	South		1♣	3♥	5♣    All Pass
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<p>♠ 84 ♥ K74 ♦ AQ1032 ♣ QJ3</p> <p>♠ KJ1065      ♠ AQ932 ♥ 5              ♥ Q6 ♦ 86              ♦ KJ74 ♣ AK952       ♣ 76</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ AJ109832 ♦ 95 ♣ 1084</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1"> <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>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		12		11	12	5		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	2	-	-	S	-	-	2	-	-	E	4	1	-	5	-	W	4	1	-	5	-	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : 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></td><td></td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>This has to be the flat board of the session with every E/W making 5♠.</p> <p>N/S have a good sacrifice in 5♥x-3 (-500) if they are let play there.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass						
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<p>♠ 7543 ♥ J952 ♦ K52 ♣ QJ</p> <p>♠ KJ96              ♠ Q8 ♥ A                  ♥ KQ10873 ♦ Q1043             ♦ 7 ♣ AK93              ♣ 8742</p> <p>♠ A102 ♥ 64 ♦ AJ986 ♣ 1065</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1"> <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>1</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		7		17	7	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	1	4	2	1	W	4	1	4	2	2	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All 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>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td></tr> </table> <p>West has the dreaded 4441 hand where everything you bid is wrong and nothing you bid is right.</p> <p>East will eventually have to decide between playing in 3NT and 4♥. It's a close call. But 4♥ must be slightly safer especially if you haven't told partner about your 6-card Heart suit.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass
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1NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass																																																										

♠ AK8  
 ♥ A76  
 ♦ K1097  
 ♣ 1095  
 ♠ 1053                      ♠ Q72  
 ♥ KQ9542                  ♥ 3  
 ♦ 32                            ♦ A654  
 ♣ AQ                          ♣ K8763  
                                  ♠ J964  
                                  ♥ J108  
                                  ♦ QJ8  
                                  ♣ J42

HCP	
14	
11	9
6	

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

Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

North doesn't really have a 'Double' of West's 1♥ opening – he has too many Hearts and he has only a minimum 12-15 hand. No doubt some North's will start with a Double. They won't come to any trouble on this hand because West will rebid his Heart suit.

West will play in 2 or 3♥ and most likely make 9 tricks for a flat board.

How do we hold declarer to 8 tricks?

Any North player who finds the killing Diamond switch after a top Spade lead, to kill the entry to the Club suit should be playing on the Irish Open Team!

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**Thanks for reading. Hope you enjoyed.  
Fearghal**