

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

As part of my CBAI Presidency, I said I was going to encourage players improve their game. Here are my comments on the second session. The idea is to provide you with food for thought if you are having a post-mortem with your partner or friends. There are decisions to be made on every hand and you can only try and follow sound guiding principles in an attempt to get more of these decisions right than wrong. 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
Best of Luck. Fearghal O'Boyle

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 6 ♥ Q87 ♦ J965 ♣ QJ987</p> <p>♠ A94 ♠ KQ10532 ♥ A5 ♥ K1042 ♦ KQ842 ♦ A ♣ A53 ♣ K10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J87 ♥ J963 ♦ 1073 ♣ 642</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></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">17 15</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</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>6</td><td>5</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr> </table>	HCP		6	17 15	2	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	6	5	7	7	W	4	6	5	7	7	<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>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4NT (RKCB)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♠ (2+♠Q)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>7NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>A Grand Slam to begin with. Any Grand will score well but the regular partnerships will know they have 13 top tricks during the auction and they will bid 7NT rather than 7♠ to get a bigger share of the matchpoints.</p> <p>Keycard Blackwood helps a lot here but the real partnership trust comes when East takes West 5NT (King Ask) to mean they have ALL 5 key cards....so he knows there should be a good play for 13 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT (RKCB)	Pass	5♠ (2+♠Q)	Pass	5NT	Pass	7NT	All Pass
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 1076 ♥ 52 ♦ KQJ653 ♣ Q3</p> <p>♠ J9 ♠ K532 ♥ AKQJ ♥ 109876 ♦ 2 ♦ 107 ♣ AK8742 ♣ 95</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AQ84 ♥ 43 ♦ A984 ♣ J106</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;">8</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">18 3</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8	18 3	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	-	1	1	S	-	2	-	1	1	E	3	-	4	-	-	W	3	-	4	-	-	<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>1♣</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>The trick will be to get to 4♥ here. If East makes a bid there will be no stopping West but if East is silent it won't be so easy and N/S might steal the hand in a Diamond partscore or West might decide to play in Clubs rather than Hearts.</p> <p>Of course if West opens with some sort of strong bid he will get to 4♥.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦	Pass	2♦	2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 96 ♥ A1075 ♦ AK ♣ KJ874</p> <p>♠ K3 ♠ 52 ♥ 932 ♥ KJ8 ♦ Q10965 ♦ J42 ♣ Q65 ♣ A10932</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AQJ10874 ♥ Q64 ♦ 873 ♣ -</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7 9</td> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP	Makeable contracts						♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	15	N	1	1	3	5	3	7 9	S	1	1	3	5	3	9	E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>Whether you open 1♠, 3♠ or 4♠, everyone will probably end up in 4♠. 11 tricks is the limit because declarer has to lose two tricks to the two major suit kings.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♠
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J96 ♥ AKQ93 ♦ J1053 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ AKQ1054 ♠ 2 ♥ 1054 ♥ J872 ♦ - ♦ A876 ♣ 8543 ♣ KJ62</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 873 ♥ 6 ♦ KQ942 ♣ AQ109</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">HCP</th> <th colspan="5">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">9 9</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP	Makeable contracts						♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11	N	-	3	-	-	-	9 9	S	-	3	1	-	1	11	E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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 style="text-align: center;">2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>If West opens a weak two – that will probably keep N/S out of the auction.</p> <p>N/S can make 9 tricks in Diamonds but East’s opening of 1♠ or 2♠ will make it difficult for them to find their fit. If West can manage to get a trick with Dummy’s ♦A he will score at least 7 tricks for a good board.</p> <p>What does South bid after 2♠ -P-P-? If he doubles he might not find the Diamond fit until the 4-level – when it will be too high? 2NT showing the minors would work but do you play that as a strong NT hand here?</p>	West	North	East	South	2♠	All Pass		
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<p>♠ AK10 ♥ Q9732 ♦ KJ6 ♣ 106</p> <p>♠ 852 ♠ 643 ♥ 4 ♥ 105 ♦ Q975 ♦ A1082 ♣ AKQJ3 ♣ 8542</p> <p>♠ QJ97 ♥ AKJ86 ♦ 43 ♣ 97</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>13</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>4</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	13		N	-	-	4	4	1	12	4	S	-	-	4	4	1			E	2	2	-	-	-			W	2	2	-	-	-	<p>Board 5 : 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>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>4♥ seems an obvious contact losing 3 tricks if declarer guesses correctly in Diamonds and losing 4 tricks if he mis-guesses Diamonds.</p> <p>Most will simply respond 4♥ to the opening bid of 1♥ but those that respond 1♠ might here a 2♠ rebid from partner. As it turns out 4♥ and 4♠ can be made.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		1♥	Pass	4♥
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<p>♠ Q65 ♥ 6 ♦ QJ109432 ♣ Q4</p> <p>♠ AKJ432 ♠ 9 ♥ - ♥ KJ109873 ♦ 87 ♦ 6 ♣ K9872 ♣ AJ53</p> <p>♠ 1087 ♥ AQ542 ♦ AK5 ♣ 106</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>7</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>9</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	7		N	-	1	-	-	-	11	9	S	-	1	-	-	-			E	6	-	4	4	-			W	6	-	4	4	-	<p>Board 6 : 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>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>6♣ makes here but as with all minor suit slams it will be difficult to bid.</p> <p>4♠ will be the normal contact with some pairs just blasting it in response to their partner's opening. No doubt some East's will make 11 tricks because they will manage to ruff their second diamond in Dummy.</p> <p>On the ♦Q lead, South needs to overtake and return a trump in order to set up 2 Diamond tricks and the ♠Q for the defence.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ J65 ♥ Q1085 ♦ K985 ♣ J10</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 10 ♠ Q9832 ♥ A62 ♥ 974 ♦ QJ7 ♦ 43 ♣ 965432 ♣ AQ7</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AK74 ♥ KJ3 ♦ A1062 ♣ K8</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: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♣</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♦</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♠</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</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> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</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> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts									♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	7		N	-	4	3	2	1	7	8	S	-	4	3	2	1			E	1	-	-	-	-		18	W	1	-	-	-	-	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: left;">2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: left;">1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: left;">3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td style="text-align: left;">3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin: 0;">It will be hard to stay out of 3NT here – 2 balanced hands and 25 points.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">3NT should go 2 down on a Club lead but East needs to get that ♣Q out of the way on the second round of the suit. So 3NT might well make in practice.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">If East decides to overcall 1♠ at some point, West will probably lead a Spade which will help declarer's cause.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♦	Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass	1♥	Pass	3NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																																			
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q9 ♥ 7643 ♦ AQJ97 ♣ QJ</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ K104 ♠ AJ87 ♥ AK1052 ♥ 8 ♦ 103 ♦ K852 ♣ 832 ♣ A1097</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 6532 ♥ QJ9 ♦ 64 ♣ K654</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;">12</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td></tr> </table>	HCP		12	12	10	6	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW 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>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The cards lie well for E/W and especially so if West remembers that North opened the bidding.</p> <p>Ideally East should not enter the bidding on the first round as he has too many Diamonds to make a take-out double. If he passes on the first round he might be even less inclined to enter the auction on the second round if South has bid Spades.</p> <p>In any event West will have to save the day and bid 2♥ at some point. Of course letting N/S play in 2Dx -2 or -3 would be nice work for E/W.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass	2♥	All Pass		
HCP																							
12	12																						
10	6																						
West	North	East	South																				
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q54 ♥ 7432 ♦ K94 ♣ J95</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ J9 ♠ 1062 ♥ AJ1086 ♥ KQ5 ♦ J1053 ♦ AQ2 ♣ K4 ♣ 10732</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AK873 ♥ 9 ♦ 876 ♣ AQ86</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;">11</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td></tr> </table>	HCP		6	11	10	13	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : 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>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>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>A very favourable lie of the cards means that E/W can make 10 tricks in Hearts but they are unlikely to enter the auction vulnerable. If North passes the 1♠ opening, East might bid a 'protective' 1NT showing 11-14 and now West will show his Hearts.</p> <p>If North responds 1NT or 2S, South might let things drop in 2♠ but if he fancies his hand he can bid 3♣ as a 'Trial' bid asking his partner to look at his Club holding when deciding whether or not to bid 4♠. North doesn't like his Clubs or any other part of his hand for that matter and he will sign off in 3♠....which has 5 obvious losers.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠	All Pass	
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ - ♥ Q10876 ♦ KQ10954 ♣ 108</p> <p>♠ AQ876 ♠ J105 ♥ K43 ♥ J92 ♦ - ♦ J762 ♣ J6542 ♣ AK9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K9432 ♥ A5 ♦ A83 ♣ Q73</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="5" 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;">7</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</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;">3</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;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</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	7		N	-	4	1	-	-	10	10	S	-	4	2	-	-			E	3	-	-	2	1			W	3	-	-	2	-	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : 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>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>This hand should torture a few North's! What do you respond when partner opens 1♠? 2♦? 2♥? 1NT? Pass....there are arguments for and against all 4 options. Perhaps 1NT is the most systemic hoping to get to show at least one of your suits later.</p> <p>There might not be a later....but even if partner doesn't come to your rescue maybe your opponents will re-open the auction and you will get another chance to bid. If you do get a second chance to bid then maybe you should bid 2♥...making 9 or 10 tricks if the defenders don't find their Diamond ruffs!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	All Pass	1♠
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A97 ♥ A86 ♦ 1083 ♣ 10963</p> <p>♠ Q108 ♠ K43 ♥ Q1093 ♥ K5 ♦ KQ4 ♦ J976 ♣ J52 ♣ AKQ8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J652 ♥ J742 ♦ A52 ♣ 74</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="5" 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;">8</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</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;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	8		N	-	-	-	-	-	10	16	S	-	-	-	-	-			E	4	4	3	3	4			W	4	4	3	3	4	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : 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>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>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>2 balanced hands and 26 points should lead to a routine 3NT by E/W.</p> <p>Declarer will make 9 or 10 tricks depending on how lucky he is at guessing the location of the major suit Jacks.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
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<p>♠ Q5 ♥ AK852 ♦ AQ5 ♣ Q102</p> <p>♠ A1072 ♠ J843 ♥ 93 ♥ Q106 ♦ 9862 ♦ K43 ♣ KJ7 ♣ A84</p> <p>♠ K96 ♥ J74 ♦ J107 ♣ 9653</p>		<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th><i>West</i></th> <th><i>North</i></th> <th><i>East</i></th> <th><i>South</i></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Well done to any West player who 'protects' on this hand and manages to bid 1NT or Double.</p> <p>But then the play is another matter.</p> <p>But then the defence to 1♥ is another matter too. Declarer won't be in dummy too often so the defenders will need to be careful not to open the Club suit for him.</p>		<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		1♥	All Pass																																					
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<p>♠ Q94 ♥ AQ1075 ♦ 654 ♣ 108</p> <p>♠ K3 ♠ AJ102 ♥ 8 ♥ KJ32 ♦ AK98 ♦ Q1032 ♣ KJ6543 ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ 8765 ♥ 964 ♦ J7 ♣ A972</p>		<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th><i>West</i></th> <th><i>North</i></th> <th><i>East</i></th> <th><i>South</i></th> </tr> <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>2♠</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>27 points and no major suit fit so we should all end up in 3NT. Declarer will do well to just lose two tricks and more than likely he will lose 3 tricks as it seems safer to simply give up 2 Club tricks in an effort to make this contact. 3NT+1 will be common.</p>		<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass																								
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ J ♥ K9742 ♦ 984 ♣ K1072</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ K986 ♠ AQ107532 ♥ AJ53 ♥ 10 ♦ 1063 ♦ AK2 ♣ AQ ♣ 53</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 4 ♥ Q86 ♦ QJ75 ♣ J9864</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>7</td><td></td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>13</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td></td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	7		-	-	1	-	-	14	13	-	-	1	-	-	6		-	1	-	5	5			-	1	-	5	5	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT (RKCB)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♦(3)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">If East hears that his partner has a maximum and 4 card Spade support he will surely make a try for slam?</p> <p>3♣ here means 'I have 4 Spades, a maximum NT opening and a doubleton Club'.</p> <p>It's a 50-50 slam – we have all been in worse ones. It goes off today but it will make next week.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass	4NT (RKCB)	Pass	5♦(3)	Pass	5NT	Pass	6♠	All Pass		
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ QJ3 ♥ Q75 ♦ K832 ♣ A83</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ K754 ♠ 10986 ♥ A1094 ♥ 32 ♦ J7 ♦ 1095 ♣ J74 ♣ K965</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ A2 ♥ KJ86 ♦ AQ64 ♣ Q102</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>12</td><td></td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td></td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	12		2	4	3	1	3	9	3	2	4	3	1	3	16		-	-	-	-	-			-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW 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>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Another 3 No-Trump where you can go down if you don't count your tricks.</p> <p>2 Spades, 2 Hearts, 4 Diamonds and 1 Club.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																	
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 8543 ♥ 73 ♦ K10862 ♣ 74</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 109 ♠ QJ2 ♥ AKQ1096 ♥ J2 ♦ 94 ♦ QJ7 ♣ 963 ♣ KJ1052</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AK76 ♥ 854 ♦ A53 ♣ AQ8</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: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♦</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">NT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</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;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</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;">3</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;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</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> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts														3	11	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		9	17	N	-	3	-	3	-			S	-	3	-	3	-			E	1	-	-	-	1			W	1	-	-	-	1	<p>Board 17 : 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>2 ♥</td> <td>2 ♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>N/S can make 9 tricks in Spades – losing a Spade, two Hearts and a Diamond.</p> <p>West better not bid too much or too often or he might get doubled.</p> <p>South would love a Club lead from his partner against West’s Heart contract.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♥	2 ♠	All Pass	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																																			
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 532 ♥ KJ3 ♦ J987 ♣ 972</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q107 ♠ AK964 ♥ A974 ♥ Q852 ♦ A4 ♦ 6 ♣ A653 ♣ QJ4</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ J8 ♥ 106 ♦ KQ10532 ♣ K108</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: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♦</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">NT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</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></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</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></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts														5	12	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		14	9	N	-	1	-	-	-			S	-	1	-	-	-			E	5	-	6	5	3			W	5	-	6	5	3	<p>Board 18 : 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>1 ♠</td> <td>2 ♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3 ♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5 ♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 ♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>West’s Double of South’s 2 ♦ overcall is a ‘negative’ double showing the two unbid suits – especially any unbid major suit – Hearts in this case.</p> <p>East has a nice hand despite the minimum point count – 4 card Heart support, a good 5-card side suit and a singleton so a jump to 3 ♥ is not an overbid. E/W are unlikely to get to slam unless East jumps to 3 ♥.</p> <p>On the other hand you don’t want to end up in the wrong slam. The 4-4 Heart fit will score very well even if it only 4 ♥+2.</p>	West	North	East	South			1 ♠	2 ♦	Dbl	Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	5 ♣	Pass	6 ♥	All Pass		
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 10 ♥ J542 ♦ KQ74 ♣ AKQ8</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 98532 ♠ J ♥ K1063 ♥ A97 ♦ 6 ♦ 10982 ♣ J32 ♣ 109654</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AKQ764 ♥ Q8 ♦ AJ53 ♣ 7</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4 5</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">16</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>4</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>4</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		15	4 5	16	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	4	2	4	4	S	3	4	2	4	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW 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>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>4NT All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">6♦ is a nice contract – if you can avoid the Heart lead. The N/S are so good that it must be right to investigate slam.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">It is good to have the agreement that South’s 2♦ rebid is forcing for one round.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">North might have to use Fourth-Suit Forcing to show his super Diamond fit.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">It is also good to have the agreement that 4NT in these auctions is to play.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Some pairs might simply ‘blast’ 4♠ and they too will score well if they can avoid the Heart lead.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	2♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	4♦	Pass	3♠				4NT All Pass
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ AKJ ♥ 8542 ♦ 8754 ♣ 64</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q9863 ♠ 107 ♥ 107 ♥ AQJ63 ♦ 2 ♦ A963 ♣ AK932 ♣ 108</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 542 ♥ K9 ♦ KQJ10 ♣ QJ75</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9 11</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8	9 11	12	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	1	-	-	-	S	-	1	-	-	-	E	2	-	2	2	-	W	2	-	2	2	-	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : 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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">East might try a ‘third-in-hand’ 1♥ opening bid and this will turn out well if they can put the brakes on at the two level.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">South might even consider ‘throwing the board in’ and that’s a reasonable decision too.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass			
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ A1065 ♥ AQJ986 ♦ 4 ♣ J7</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ QJ ♠ 874 ♥ 2 ♥ K7 ♦ AQ93 ♦ K10752 ♣ KQ8642 ♣ A105</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ K932 ♥ 10543 ♦ J86 ♣ 93</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="5" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♣</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♦</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♠</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">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;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</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;">3</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;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	12		N	-	-	3	3	-	14	10	S	-	-	3	3	-			E	4	4	-	-	2		4	W	4	4	-	-	2	<p>Board 21 : 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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Declarer should lose 2 Spades and the ♥A but those Norths who try a singleton Diamond lead will find that declarer makes 11 or 12 tricks against them.</p> <p>N/S will do well to find their Heart fit and they would certainly stretch to 4♥ if they weren't vulnerable.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	Pass	2♣	2♥	3♣	3♥	4♣	All Pass		
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<p style="margin: 0;">♠ AQ108 ♥ AK74 ♦ J86 ♣ 82</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ K632 ♠ J ♥ QJ6 ♥ 852 ♦ 2 ♦ KQ109543 ♣ QJ1095 ♣ A7</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 9754 ♥ 1093 ♦ A7 ♣ K643</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="5" style="text-align: center;">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♣</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♦</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">♠</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</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;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</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;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</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;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	14		N	1	-	3	3	2	9	10	S	1	-	3	3	-			E	-	1	-	-	-		7	W	-	1	-	-	-	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW 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>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>If East opens 3♦ he might push N/S into an unmakeable 4 level contract. N/S can make 3♥ or 3♠ but it will be practically impossible for them to land there.</p> <p>Of course East is an Ace too strong for a 3♦ opening and 1♦ is a better opening. That might have the effect of shutting N/S out of their Spade fit altogether if West responds 1♠.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass	2♥	All Pass	
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<p>♠ Q9754 ♥ Q ♦ J1093 ♣ K95</p> <p>♠ 863 ♠ J102 ♥ 72 ♥ AK964 ♦ A8765 ♦ Q2 ♣ J63 ♣ A42</p> <p>♠ AK ♥ J10853 ♦ K4 ♣ Q1087</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>8</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>14</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</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	8		N	3	2	2	3	3	5	14	S	3	2	2	3	3			E	-	-	-	-	-			W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All 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>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The above seems a sensible auction. As is often the case though, sensible contracts don't score well. The more aggressive pairs will play in Spades or No-Trump and score very well – this time.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	All Pass			
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<p>♠ J7643 ♥ J73 ♦ A62 ♣ 107</p> <p>♠ 5 ♠ A109 ♥ K1096 ♥ A5 ♦ KQ84 ♦ J1053 ♣ KJ85 ♣ AQ96</p> <p>♠ KQ82 ♥ Q842 ♦ 97 ♣ 432</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>6</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</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>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	6		N	-	-	-	-	12	15	S	-	-	-	-			E	6	6	2	1	2			W	6	6	2	1	2	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</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>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Another hand where Slam in a minor is on but difficult to bid. 3NT will be the popular choice and it will make more often than not.</p> <p>The King of Spades lead will beat it but we have all been taught to lead small from KQ82 against No-Trump. The ♠8 lead might beat it too. To get 4 Spade tricks we need partner to win the 4th round of Spades so even Hanlon-McGann might find this defence difficult to choreograph.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass
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<p>♠ A102 ♥ Q9 ♦ AQ10 ♣ AQ1085</p> <p>♠ J76543 ♠ Q9 ♥ K1076 ♥ A432 ♦ 4 ♦ K652 ♣ K2 ♣ 764</p> <p>♠ K8 ♥ J85 ♦ J9873 ♣ J93</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>18</td> <td></td> <td>N 4</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>9</td> <td>S 4</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E -</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>6</td> <td>W -</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	18		N 4	4	-	-	3	7	9	S 4	4	-	-	3			E -	-	-	-	-		6	W -	-	1	1	-	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : 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>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>There are 9 easy tricks for declarer – losing 3 Heart tricks and the ♦K.</p> <p>So the only problem is to bid it. 2NT will show 17-18 or 18-20 according to your methods and if South feels he has a dead minimum he may well pass the 2NT.</p> <p>Most likely the pairs playing 2NT here as 18-20 will get to game and those playing 2NT as 17-18 will not.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
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<p>♠ 74 ♥ K8 ♦ K7653 ♣ AK52</p> <p>♠ 63 ♠ 10952 ♥ AJ9765 ♥ Q42 ♦ 982 ♦ QJ104 ♣ Q6 ♣ J8</p> <p>♠ AKQJ8 ♥ 103 ♦ A ♣ 109743</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>13</td> <td></td> <td>N 6</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>6</td> <td>S 6</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E -</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>14</td> <td>W -</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	13		N 6	4	1	6	6	7	6	S 6	4	1	6	6			E -	-	-	-	-		14	W -	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All 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>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>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 ♥A onside and the Clubs breaking 2-2, there are 12 easy tricks in Clubs, Spades or No-Trumps. Not great odds for Slam so most will give up at the 5 level if not at the 4 level.</p> <p>4♠+2 will be average while the pairs specialists in 3NT will probably cash out for a nervous 11 tricks.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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