

Junior Squad

Sim Pairs

Wednesday/Thursday

5-6.02.2020

Thanks to our commentators:

Jeffrey Allerton

Jeffrey won the the 1994 European Junior Championship and the 1995 World Junior Championship for Great Britain. He played for England with Chris Jagger on the Open team in last year's Bermuda Bowl, reaching the quarter-final.

Tom Townsend

Tom partnered Jeffrey Allerton on the winning 1994 EJC and 1995 World Championship team. His most successful partnership has been with David Gold, formed when Tom captained David on the Under-26 team: they featured on the England team which came second in the 2008 Olympiad.

Stephen Kennedy

Stephen is the leading theorist in the Under-26 setup, and the player who wears the most yellow, including his shoes. He's recently published two volumes of *Crocs on Squeeze Play*, available from good booksellers.

Andrew McIntosh

Andrew, known to all as 'Tosh', played for Scotland as a junior, but now coaches the England Under-26 squad. He's won all the major English tournaments and played several times on the English (not to mention the Scottish) Camrose teams.

Sally Brock

Sally has won six World Championships in the women's game, and is the inspirational leader of the England Under-26 Women's squad. Sally's late husband Raymond was captain of the winning Great Britain teams in 1989, 1994 and 1995.

Ed Jones

Ed Jones graduated from the Under-26 team a few years ago and is enjoying increasing success in the Open game in partnership with Tom Paske, notably as a member of the winning Mossop team in the 2019 transnational European Open Teams.

Yvonne Wiseman

As a junior, Yvonne played for Scotland Under-26 (while studying in Edinburgh), for England Under-26, and for England Under-26 Women. On leaving the junior setup, she formed a partnership with Nicola Smith which played for England in the Venice Cup (the women's World Championship) last year, winning a bronze medal.

Alexander Roberts

Alex represented England many times at Under-21 and Under-26 levels, and now appears as Coach for various teams, most recently the Under-21 team in last year's European Championship.

Thank you for taking part in this Junior Squad Simultaneous Pairs. I hope you have enjoyed the event and will take pride in having supported our Junior International Teams and the Squad system which supports them.

2020 will see our Junior Teams (U16, U21, U26 Women, U26) play in the World Championships in Italy. The EBU provides funding for these teams and this event will help pay for it. Other important areas, such as development and teaching, also require support and that means that the international budgets are never as large as we would wish. We run the Junior teams as economically as possible: players, captains and coaches are unpaid and travel and accommodation are as cheap as we can make them, but money remains very tight.

I very much hope you will enjoy reading the expert commentary, which has been supplied by past and present Junior International players, captains, and coaches. You will see the names of many very well known players, teachers, and writers among them - photographs and biographies are on the EBU website.

I hope also that you will continue to support this event and encourage your club to continue to participate in the future.

Paul Barden
Editor

<p>♠ Q4 ♥ 87 ♦ A853 ♣ 109874</p> <p>♠ AJ10 ♠ 8 ♥ KQJ102 ♥ A54 ♦ 9 ♦ KQJ10764 ♣ AQ62 ♣ K5</p> <p>♠ K976532 ♥ 963 ♦ 2 ♣ J3</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1240 193 1429"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 1240 475 1429"> <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>-</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>3</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>5</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		6		17	13	4		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	3	6	6	1	5	W	3	6	6	1	5	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Jeffrey Allerton</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="496 801 1053 1041"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td><td>2♠</td></tr> <tr><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>3NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</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> </tbody> </table> <p>East-West's auction gets harder the more spades South bids at his first turn. If South chooses a weak 2♠ bid, 3♥, natural and game forcing, is safe enough as responder can always bid NT later. Opener now has a slam try but it might be silly to play in hearts with diamonds better: 4♦ and 4♠ (which agrees hearts) would both be sensible options. Over West's conservative 3NT, 4♥ shows extras and West now drives the small slam via Blackwood (or RKCB). If the auction started 1♦ – 3♠ West might bid a quiet 3NT and East could easily pass as 3NT is very wide ranging. 6♦ is easy to play; in 6♥ on a spade lead declarer must knock out the ♦A before drawing trumps in order to keep control of spades.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♦	2♠	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥	All pass		
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<p>♠ J1075 ♥ QJ104 ♦ Q7 ♣ KQ2</p> <p>♠ K43 ♠ AQ8 ♥ 982 ♥ K765 ♦ AJ2 ♦ 84 ♣ J765 ♣ A984</p> <p>♠ 962 ♥ A3 ♦ K109653 ♣ 103</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1944 193 2123"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 1944 475 2123"> <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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		11		9	13	7		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	-	-	-	S	-	2	-	-	-	E	2	-	2	-	1	W	2	-	2	1	2	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Jeffrey Allerton</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="496 1509 1053 1579"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>All pass</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A weak NT from East is likely to buy the contract, while a 1♣ opening lets North-South find their diamond fit. On the ♦10 lead against 1NT, declarer should work out that it is best to rise with the ace, which blocks the suit on this layout. Ducking once or twice will also exhaust North of diamonds, but gives up on singleton honour or KQ doubleton. The club suit is also interesting: starting with the Ace allows three tricks if North has singleton K or Q, but starting by running the nine is better – on the second round declarer can lead the jack from dummy, pinning South's doubleton ten. This way of playing the suit is called an 'intrafinesse'. Even after playing clubs for three tricks, declarer is likely to lose seven (unless South led a fourth highest six of diamonds!) as he cannot see the heart layout. The double-dummy successful line is to play on hearts at trick two, which knocks out South's entry while the diamonds are still blocked. Declarer however has no reason to play the hand this way, as North could have the ♥A and South ♣K10 in which case clubs first is better.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	All pass																
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<p>♠ Q63 ♥ J9763 ♦ 742 ♣ K9</p> <p>♠ A875 ♠ J42 ♥ KQ ♥ A542 ♦ J6 ♦ Q1085 ♣ 108543 ♣ A7</p> <p>♠ K109 ♥ 108 ♦ AK93 ♣ QJ62</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Jeffrey Allerton</p> <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></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Any pair which goes plus on this deal is likely to score well. It's tempting with the North hand having scattered points and a bad suit to let partner play 1NT, but simulations have shown that, on average, it is better to transfer when your side has the minority of the points. On a strong NT auction such as 1♦ – 1♥, 1NT, there is less merit in running to 2♥ because there is no chance of a good heart fit (indeed, many pairs allow a singleton heart for the 1NT rebid). With South having such good pips, and the clubs being picked up on the lead, 1NT is more likely to make than 2♥, although declarer probably also needs to get spades right.</p> <p>At other vulnerabilities, West might double 2♥ for take-out, but here it's very dangerous in a live auction. In 2♥ South may come to two tricks in each suit, but this will need some help from the defence as if they keep playing clubs declarer must either lose a fourth trump trick or a diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South				1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	All pass																													
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<p>♠ A863 ♥ A987 ♦ J106 ♣ 107</p> <p>♠ Q75 ♠ KJ10942 ♥ J543 ♥ 62 ♦ A85 ♦ Q32 ♣ Q53 ♣ J9</p> <p>♠ - ♥ KQ10 ♦ K974 ♣ AK8642</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Tom Townsend</p> <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></td> <td></td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There is a case for a take-out double by South of East's weak 2♠, but he has only three cards in the unbid major (hearts). Three clubs will work particularly well when West raises spades and North passes. Then South can reopen with a take-out double, describing his hand to a tee.</p> <p>North will probably convert 3♣ to 3NT. On a spade lead (not automatic unless West raised), South should win the third round, discarding clubs, and run ♦J. His nine tricks arrive via three diamonds, three hearts, two clubs and a spade. Some will top that with overtricks on a misdefence, or by making four hearts. In fact declarer makes eleven tricks fairly comfortably in hearts by ruffing the clubs good, taking the diamond finesse, then leading clubs through West.</p>	West	North	East	South			2♠	3♣	Pass	Pass			Pass	3NT	All pass																											
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<p>♠ 875 ♥ KQ1096 ♦ K98 ♣ AJ</p> <p>♠ J94 ♠ AKQ ♥ 8 ♥ AJ32 ♦ 72 ♦ QJ5 ♣ KQ98754 ♣ 1062</p> <p>♠ 10632 ♥ 754 ♦ A10643 ♣ 3</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Tom Townsend</p> <p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS 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></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>1NT is the call for me when in range, five-card major or not. The next four calls are routine, barring a conventional rescue system.</p> <p>Now should East try 3NT? It's tempting, but the lack of a club honour should tell him to pass.</p> <p>Three clubs will make plus one for a good board to East-West. 3NT, on a diamond lead and second round ducked, will fail by a trick for a bad board.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Dble	2♦	3♣	All pass																																
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<p>♠ A1076 ♥ KJ2 ♦ 1054 ♣ 1032</p> <p>♠ K943 ♠ 5 ♥ 3 ♥ 1076 ♦ AJ92 ♦ KQ763 ♣ Q976 ♣ AK85</p> <p>♠ QJ82 ♥ AQ9854 ♦ 8 ♣ J4</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Tom Townsend</p> <p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♦</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In my world, the double of one heart shows exactly four spades. I like one spade to promise five-plus. South's three hearts is strictly non-constructive, jacking the auction up a level to make it harder for opponents. West is close to bidding five diamonds, and probably would at IMPs. The cards lie well for both sides. East can make five diamonds by ruffing two hearts in dummy. Meanwhile, South can make four hearts by finessing against ♠K and later ♠9. Call it the power of the double fit.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	1♥	Dble	2♥	Pass	3♥	Dble	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦	All pass		
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		E	4	5	- - -
		W	4	5	- - -

<p>♠ J109874 ♥ AKJ10 ♦ K ♣ 43</p> <p>♠ K ♠ AQ63 ♥ 2 ♥ 8654 ♦ AJ102 ♦ Q9876 ♣ QJ109875 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ 52 ♥ Q973 ♦ 543 ♣ AK62</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Stephen Kennedy</p> <p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Who knows how the auction will go on this board? I don't! The above auction is just a suggestion but seems reasonable enough to me. East could bid two diamonds but doubling gets the heart suit across. North might rebid two spades in light of this, but his hearts are good enough to bid even with four lying over him. I expect many Souths will double three clubs, given the chance. AKxx in trumps is a good holding, but one must question why West would raise himself to three clubs without any support from partner. He probably has a good hand. And indeed, he does.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♣	1♠	Dble	1NT	2♣	2♥	Pass	Pass	3♣	All pass		
West	North	East	South																		
			Pass																		
1♣	1♠	Dble	1NT																		
2♣	2♥	Pass	Pass																		
3♣	All pass																				

HCP		Makeable contracts			
12	8	♣	♦	♥	♠ NT
11	9	N	-	-	2 2 -
		S	-	-	2 2 -
		E	3	5	- - 1
		W	3	5	- - 1

<p>♠ 64 ♥ A10962 ♦ 72 ♣ 10642</p> <p>♠ AKQ75 ♠ J92 ♥ QJ753 ♥ K ♦ 4 ♦ 108653 ♣ 75 ♣ KJ83</p> <p>♠ 1083 ♥ 84 ♦ AKQJ9 ♣ AQ9</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Stephen Kennedy</p> <p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Playing four-card majors, one usually requires four-card support to raise partner. Raising on three is something best left to those eccentric types who can't open one of a major without five of them. But still, raising immediately is the right thing to do on this hand because East has a singleton heart. Think about it. If West has only four spades, leaving East-West in a seven-card fit, he will have at most three hearts. With four-four in the majors, West would open a heart, so he either has five spades or the opponents have a big heart fit! Bid two spades and stop them from finding it. This doesn't work that well on this board because partner has five hearts and no one can make much of anything, but at least you can nod learnedly while writing minus 50 in your score card.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	2♠	3♦	3♠	All pass		
West	North	East	South										
1♠	Pass	2♠	3♦										
3♠	All pass												

HCP		Makeable contracts			
4	8	♣	♦	♥	♠ NT
12	16	N	2	2	1 - 1
		S	2	2	1 - 1
		E	-	-	- 2 -
		W	-	-	- 2 -

<p>♠ A1086 ♥ A975 ♦ 8763 ♣ 9</p> <p>♠ K53 ♠ 942 ♥ Q64 ♥ K32 ♦ AQ52 ♦ KJ1094 ♣ 432 ♣ Q6</p> <p>♠ QJ7 ♥ J108 ♦ - ♣ AKJ10875</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable Stephen Kennedy</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></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>This hand looks pretty difficult to bid. The lucky lies in spades, hearts and clubs may allow you to make slam, but I imagine that most of you will play in part score.</p> <p>The South hand is very good and it is tempting to rebid three clubs, but to do so with only twelve points would oversell the hand's strength. The seventh club and the void diamond are powerful features, but they won't be very helpful when partner tries 3NT. Those who do play in 3NT will be brought down by Easts cunning enough to lead their longest suit.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣	All pass																																			
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<p>♠ 75 ♥ 6 ♦ QJ987 ♣ 98762</p> <p>♠ 6 ♠ QJ942 ♥ J108432 ♥ AQ5 ♦ AK3 ♦ 2 ♣ K53 ♣ AJ104</p> <p>♠ AK1083 ♥ K97 ♦ 10654 ♣ Q</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable Andrew McIntosh</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></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Everyone's fate is likely to be decided by East's choice of rebid here. It's close; a simple rebid of 4♥ or a splinter of 4♦? On the positive side 4♦ tells partner why you are worth 4♥ – your ruffing values in diamonds, but you might have a much better hand for the splinter. On the negative side your first suit (spades) is poor (partner may look at ♠Ax and think it's a great holding when in practice it is merely OK), and you would like a fourth trump. Decisions, decisions. I think you should plump for 4♥ on the grounds that when you splinter in the suit directly below game, which leaves partner with no wriggle room, you should really 'have it'. It should be textbook and it isn't.</p> <p>If East does splinter there is every danger West will simply invoke RKC (Axxxx KQxx x AQx is an easy slam) and the 5♠ response will force 6♥. We have all been in worse but the intrepid bidders will have to console themselves with my commiserations rather than any matchpoints.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All pass																																				
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<p>♠ K10983 ♥ K10 ♦ A432 ♣ KJ</p> <p>♠ J42 ♠ AQ75 ♥ Q9862 ♥ 4 ♦ 10 ♦ KQJ865 ♣ AQ108 ♣ 62</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ AJ753 ♦ 97 ♣ 97543</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all Andrew McIntosh</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></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Barring any Lucas-two anomalies, North will open 1♠ and East overcall 2♦. If South passes that will be the end of the auction and it is just a question of whether East makes eight or nine tricks in her civilised contract. If South elects to double – I'm pretty sure I would at the table but is it right with a singleton spade – then North will be faced with a ghastly rebid problem. Unsurprisingly a penalty pass will work out horribly with those diamond pips and I expect most Norths will choose 2♠. Given that East-West can make their contract it is the number of fifties conceded that will determine the matchpoints. Careful defence – East mustn't cash ♠A and mustn't force declarer too soon – takes the three available undertricks for a good score.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♠	2♦	Dble	Pass	2♠	All pass																																	
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<p>♠ KQ103 ♥ KJ3 ♦ 54 ♣ AJ73</p> <p>♠ A ♠ J765 ♥ Q10 ♥ A942 ♦ AJ109832 ♦ 76 ♣ 964 ♣ K108</p> <p>♠ 9842 ♥ 8765 ♦ KQ ♣ Q52</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable Andrew McIntosh</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>1♦</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>I would open a tactical 3♦ with the West hand in third or fourth position, but it is simply too strong first to speak. North-South should manage to compete to 2♠ but have no reason to bid any higher, so the key bidding decision will be whether East-West push on to 3♦. If they do the cards lie well for them. In fact if the defence does not attack clubs early enough then leading ♥Q from hand will lead to an easy ten tricks for West.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	Dble	1♥	1♠	2♦	2♠	All pass																																					
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<p>♠ 1093 ♥ A1074 ♦ AJ6 ♣ QJ2</p> <p>♠ AKJ8 ♠ Q6 ♥ 5 ♥ KQJ932 ♦ K75 ♦ Q942 ♣ 107643 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ 7542 ♥ 86 ♦ 1083 ♣ AK98</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable Sally Brock</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></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>North has a normal weak NT opening. East will overcall 2♥ (though for many these days that will take the form of 2♦, Multi-style showing a single-suited major). No one else has a reason to bid. No doubt South will start with a top club and declarer will make an overtrick (losing two hearts, one diamond and one club).</p> <p>If North-South are playing a strong NT and North opens 1♣, East might overcall 2♥ just the same. Then if South is tempted to get involved things might get nasty for her side. The South hand is not strong enough to double 2♥ (showing four spades) when partner's most likely hand is a weak NT.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	2♥	All pass																																								
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<p>♠ AQ83 ♥ K964 ♦ J2 ♣ A52</p> <p>♠ 10742 ♠ J5 ♥ AJ5 ♥ Q108 ♦ Q1096 ♦ A8753 ♣ Q3 ♣ KJ8</p> <p>♠ K96 ♥ 732 ♦ K4 ♣ 109764</p>	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all Sally Brock</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></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>At some tables, especially where East-West are playing strong NT, East may open his 11-count non-vulnerable. This will no doubt result in East becoming declarer in 1NT. On a normal club lead, declarer will surely succeed, making four diamonds, two clubs, and a heart. But the contract could be beaten with inspired defence – if North wins the ace of clubs at trick one, he must cash a top spade, South unblocking the nine, then lead low to the king. South switches to a heart and will come in with the king of diamonds to lead a spade through dummy's ten.</p> <p>When North is declarer in 1NT, he will have a nasty decision at trick one after East leads a low diamond. If declarer gets it right he can make seven tricks, via four spades (taking a good view) and one trick in each of the other suits.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT	All pass																																					
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	6	E	-	2	-	-	-																																										
		W	-	2	-	-	-																																										

<p>♠ AK ♥ KQJ5 ♦ K6 ♣ AQ1093</p> <p>♠ 10873 ♠ Q96542 ♥ A876 ♥ 2 ♦ J975 ♦ 32 ♣ 4 ♣ KJ75</p> <p>♠ J ♥ 10943 ♦ AQ1084 ♣ 862</p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable Sally Brock</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>2♣</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>All pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>I think the North hand is too good for a one-level opening, or even for a slightly off-centre 2NT. Over the 2♣ opening, East should take advantage of the favourable vulnerability and overcall. I like 3♠ with the 6-4 shape but appreciate it might not be to everyone's taste. South passes – traditional bidding theory has it that passing the overcall is stronger than doubling – or could bid 4♦ I suppose, to show where his values lie. West with his 4-card support should bid to 4♠ (even if his partner overcalled only 2♠), and it is now virtually impossible for North-South to bid to the making 5♥. They will have to accept a paltry 300 from 4♠ doubled.</p> <p>In 5♥ on a spade lead, West does best to duck the first round of trumps. Now if declarer continues trumps West can play ace and another. The winning line is to abandon trumps and risk three rounds of diamonds, leading to a cross-ruff.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	2♣	3♠	Pass	4♠	Dble	All pass	Pass
West	North	East	South										
Pass	2♣	3♠	Pass										
4♠	Dble	All pass	Pass										

HCP	
22	
5	6
7	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	3	5	-	3
S	3	3	5	-	3
E	-	-	-	2	-
W	-	-	-	2	-

<p>♠ 1087 ♥ Q7 ♦ A752 ♣ K653</p> <p>♠ K32 ♠ AJ654 ♥ K83 ♥ J96 ♦ K109 ♦ Q843 ♣ 10872 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ Q9 ♥ A10542 ♦ J6 ♣ QJ94</p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable Ed Jones</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>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>2♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>West doesn't have an easy response. 4333 hands tend to play better in NT opposite 5332, and this is match-pointed scoring. I'd probably respond 2♣, and pass a 2NT rebid (if that shows 15-16).</p> <p>Here opener will simply rebid 2♦, and you can correct to 2♠. South will probably lead ♣Q despite the 2♣ bid. The most declarer can realistically lose is two hearts, one spade, and two diamonds but a good guess in diamonds, and a very good guess in spades could see declarer make ten tricks.</p> <p>Most declarers will start with a spade to the King, and one back to the Jack, and will have to do the right thing if South switches to a low heart. You're then a bit stuck for entries to dummy to pick up ♦J with North, so you might well play one to the ten on the first round, making nine tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	All pass		
West	North	East	South														
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass														
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass														
2♠	All pass																

HCP	
9	
9	12
10	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	-	-	-	-
S	1	-	-	-	-
E	-	3	-	4	2
W	-	3	-	4	2

<p>♠ A ♥ J732 ♦ AJ10863 ♣ 92</p> <p>♠ Q5 ♠ K1042 ♥ KQ85 ♥ 64 ♦ K42 ♦ 9 ♣ 8643 ♣ AKQJ107</p> <p>♠ J98763 ♥ A109 ♦ Q75 ♣ 5</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all Ed Jones</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></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Quite a spirited auction, and I doubt yours matches mine. I would double as South planning to bid 2♠ next to show a non-forcing hand with long spades. West has some values and four clubs, so can make a UCB. North has already opened on the light side, but after South's double they can compete to 2♥ without showing extras. East has quite a nice hand so 2♠ seems normal. South knows that North has 5+ diamonds, so can likewise compete to 3♦. West has nothing more to say, and it seems a bit limp for East to sell out to 3♦, hence the 4♣ call. North could try 4♦ maybe, but partner is likely to have some values in spades, while heart finesses are likely to be wrong. South's normal lead is a diamond, but North knows that declarer has only one. So she can cash the ace of spades, and play a heart to partner's ace. Hopefully South is awake enough to give North a spade ruff!</p>	West	North	East	South		1♦	2♣	Dble	2♦	2♥	2♠	3♦	Pass	Pass	4♣	All pass
West	North	East	South														
	1♦	2♣	Dble														
2♦	2♥	2♠	3♦														
Pass	Pass	4♣	All pass														

HCP	
10	
10	13
7	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	4	2	1	1
S	-	4	2	1	1
E	3	-	-	-	-
W	3	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ J975432 ♥ KQ3 ♦ J10 ♣ 8</p> <p>♠ 106 ♠ KQ8 ♥ 10864 ♥ AJ97 ♦ A83 ♦ 9642 ♣ AJ32 ♣ K4</p> <p>♠ A ♥ 52 ♦ KQ75 ♣ Q109765</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="71 577 193 763"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 577 475 763"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		7		9	13	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	-	1	-	S	1	-	-	1	-	E	-	2	2	-	3	W	-	2	2	-	3	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable Ed Jones</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>Dble</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>All pass</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>I don't think North should pass 1NT out. Partner is marked with a few values, and I do have seven spades. Plus we know partner will likely lead a club if we pass. West could pass 2♠ out but, with a doubleton spade it seems reasonable to compete with a take-out double. East doesn't have a lovely choice at this point, and while 2♠ can be beaten with inspired defence – ♣K and a low spade switch to take out dummy's entry for example, it seems more normal to bid 3♥.</p> <p>3♥ can be beaten but South would likely lead ♠A (partner's suit after all), which means the contract can now be made, so long as declarer takes the heart finesse. The winning lead is a diamond, setting up two tricks in the suit. South will get in with ♠A to cash the third round of diamonds, allowing North to pitch a club, then give his partner a club ruff.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	3♥	All pass
HCP																																																													
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Dble	Pass	3♥	All pass																																																										
<p>♠ K2 ♥ A752 ♦ 85432 ♣ Q2</p> <p>♠ 96 ♠ AQJ108543 ♥ J43 ♥ Q8 ♦ AK97 ♦ 10 ♣ AJ107 ♣ 53</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ K1096 ♦ QJ6 ♣ K9864</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="71 1267 193 1453"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 1267 475 1453"> <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>-</td><td>1</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>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		9		13	9	9		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	1	-	-	S	-	-	1	-	-	E	1	1	-	5	5	W	1	1	-	5	5	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable Yvonne Wiseman</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All auctions should lead to 4♠, regardless of methods. Some will transfer into spades, meaning West will declare: the greedier Easts will bid the game themselves.</p> <p>A heart or club lead holds the contract to eleven tricks but a diamond or spade allows declarer a twelfth trick thanks to the very favourable positions in those suits. Say a diamond is led, West wins ♦A then finesses in trumps. If ♠9 is covered then declarer can cross back to dummy with the ♠6, ruff a diamond, get back to dummy with the AC and throw two losers on ♦K and ♦9 thanks to the fall of South's honours, losing only one club trick. Or if ♠9 is allowed to hold then declarer ruffs a diamond whilst still in dummy then draws the last trump before crossing back to the ♣A and cashing the diamonds as before.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1NT	Pass	4♠	All pass				
HCP																																																													
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<p>♠ K652 ♥ AKQ102 ♦ Q52 ♣ 3</p> <p>♠ 3 ♠ A1087 ♥ 93 ♥ J75 ♦ KJ106 ♦ A98 ♣ J108762 ♣ A54</p> <p>♠ QJ94 ♥ 864 ♦ 743 ♣ KQ9</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="71 1946 193 2132"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>14</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 1946 475 2132"> <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>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		14		5	13	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	2	2	S	-	-	-	2	1	E	3	2	-	-	-	W	3	2	-	-	-	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable Yvonne Wiseman</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>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>3♣</td><td>3♠</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All vulnerable is not the time to make a dodgy pre-empt with the West cards, but East might be tempted to double North's 1♥ opening with three aces and four spades. It is less attractive opposite a passed partner, but works well here as West will jump to 3♣ and put the pressure on North-South. In any case West is likely to compete if 2♠ is passed round to him, so North-South will probably be pushed to the three level.</p> <p>In theory 3♠ is a level too high, but unless West finds an inspired diamond lead, East will have to underlead her ace of diamonds quite early in the play to cash her side's diamond tricks and beat the contract.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣	3♠	All pass	
HCP																																																													
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<p>♠ A106532 ♥ J4 ♦ K9652 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ KQ97 ♠ J ♥ Q75 ♥ 8632 ♦ 4 ♦ AQ3 ♣ AQ984 ♣ J10753</p> <p>♠ 84 ♥ AK109 ♦ J1087 ♣ K62</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><td style="text-align: center;">8</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		8	8	13	8	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	-	2	-	S	-	3	-	2	-	E	4	-	1	-	3	W	4	-	1	-	3	<p style="text-align: right;">Yvonne Wiseman</p> <p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS 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></td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>An impossible hand to guess the auction for! Who knows what North will open – 2♠? Pass? 3♠? Those choosing to open with a weak 2♠ will get to play there and should make it, losing just two diamonds and three spades. If North passes then the dilemma of whether to open or not passes to South. You need to be brave to upgrade an eleven count and open a weak NT at unfavourable vulnerability opposite a passed partner. If South sensibly passes, West opens 1♣ allowing East-West to compete up to a making 4♣, losing just one spade and two hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South		2♠	All pass	
HCP																																																					
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<p>♠ 74 ♥ Q842 ♦ J973 ♣ QJ10</p> <p>♠ AKJ1086 ♠ Q95 ♥ 97 ♥ KJ653 ♦ K ♦ 8654 ♣ 9763 ♣ 8</p> <p>♠ 32 ♥ A10 ♦ AQ102 ♣ AK542</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;">6</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">17</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</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		6	6	11	6	17		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	4	2	-	1	S	4	4	2	-	1	E	-	-	-	2	-	W	-	-	-	2	-	<p style="text-align: right;">Alexander Roberts</p> <p>Board 22 : Dealer East : 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></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Dble</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>It's possible that East-West may buy the pot in 2♠ should North not consider his hand worth a double, but with good working values in clubs, North should stretch to act.</p> <p>After the normal lead of ♣Q against 3♠, the defence should play trumps at every chance, restricting declarer to one club ruff to go with her heart trick and six spade tricks. Although NS can make four of a minor double-dummy, this assumes declarer can sniff out the stiff King of diamonds, so North-South+100 is likely to be the par score. If South finds a hungry double of 3♠ and the defence is accurate, +200 should win almost all the matchpoints.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♣	1♠	Dble	2♠	Dble	3♠	All pass		
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<p>♠ Q75 ♥ KJ96 ♦ K10763 ♣ 3</p> <p>♠ J1063 ♠ A ♥ Q1053 ♥ 842 ♦ - ♦ Q9852 ♣ J10974 ♣ Q862</p> <p>♠ K9842 ♥ A7 ♦ AJ4 ♣ AK5</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;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">19</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>5</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		9	8	4	8	19		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	4	1	4	5	S	-	4	1	5	5	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p style="text-align: right;">Alexander Roberts</p> <p>Board 23 : Dealer South : 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></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North should have no hesitation in raising spades with three-card support and a singleton, and the normal game contract is quickly reached.</p> <p>After West's lead of the ♣J, the natural line of play is a spade to the Queen, which unfortunately sets up three spade losers. (As a side note, should West hold ♠J10x she should play a deceptive honour card on the first rounds of spades, hoping to tempt declarer to waste entries and trumps finessing against East's apparent holding of ♠AJ63.)</p> <p>After discovering the bad spade break, declarer should play East for the queen of diamonds (East having more vacant spaces). Ten tricks for +620 to North-South should therefore be the most common score.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All pass			
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<p>♠AJ63 ♥A97 ♦QJ8 ♣932</p> <p>♠742 ♠K1098 ♥K32 ♥85 ♦543 ♦AK109 ♣8764 ♣J105</p> <p>♠Q5 ♥QJ1064 ♦762 ♣AKQ</p>	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all Alexander Roberts</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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Rdbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> </table> <p>All pass</p> <p>Although East has a balanced hand and only eleven points, at love all and with working high cards and good intermediates he must compete with a double. But on this hand it might lead to a particularly disastrous outcome with East scrambling for four or five tricks in 2♠X (or might they defend 2♥XX for -1040?).</p> <p>If East stays silent or North-South don't have the agreements to take East-West for a penalty, North will end up declaring in 3NT or 4♥ depending on her judgement (with a balanced hand and three-card support it often pays to eschew the major-suit game). After East's likely top diamond lead, declarer should come to ten tricks fairly comfortably.</p> <p>With the auction so up in the air, expect a variety of scores to come up.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Dble	Rdbl	Pass	Pass	2♠	Dble																										
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<p>♠K106 ♥- ♦1093 ♣AQ109642</p> <p>♠Q ♠J98742 ♥AKJ1074 ♥632 ♦KJ7 ♦865 ♣KJ8 ♣7</p> <p>♠A53 ♥Q985 ♦AQ42 ♣53</p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable Jeffrey Allerton</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></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North's 1♣ opening is clear in Acol or similar systems, with far too much playing strength for a pre-empt first NV. If South responds 1♦ (up to the line) West can bid 1♥, but many will respond 1♥. West should now be able to bid 2♥ natural, although he will worry his hand is too good for this. North wants to bid again but passes because she's very light on high cards, then South can double 2♥ for 'penalties' but North is unlikely to stand it with a void and a seven-card suit. I can't see South bidding 3NT over 3♣ knowing he is opposite a weak hand with very short hearts, as it's unlikely that there are nine tricks to run. West is likely to be put off bidding more by his clubs under the bidder. If South does get to 3NT he might (should?) get clubs wrong anyway, as the percentage line is low to the queen not low to the ten when West follows low: he can't pick up the suit if they are 4-0 outside, and this picks up Kx and Kxx outside (three layouts) while losing to KJx outside (two layouts).</p>	West	North	East	South		1♣	Pass	1♥	2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	3♣	All pass																											
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<p>♠96 ♥1043 ♦QJ752 ♣632</p> <p>♠J10842 ♠AK73 ♥A5 ♥QJ87 ♦K9 ♦4 ♣KJ94 ♣Q1075</p> <p>♠Q5 ♥K962 ♦A10863 ♣A8</p>	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable Tom Townsend</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></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North's raise to 3♦ is pre-emptive; whether it's a winning bid on this dross is highly questionable.</p> <p>The eventual 4♠ contract will be played almost everywhere. Declarer will make eleven tricks so long as he doesn't finesse in spades, which he has no reason to do, especially after North's pre-empt.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	1♦	1♠	3♦	3♠	Pass	4♠	All pass																												
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<p>♠ Q8 ♥ AK1064 ♦ 109652 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ J964 ♠ A75 ♥ J72 ♥ 5 ♦ 873 ♦ AKQJ4 ♣ 642 ♣ KJ103</p> <p>♠ K1032 ♥ Q983 ♦ - ♣ AQ987</p>	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all Stephen Kennedy</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>1♥</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The South hand may only have eleven points, but those who follow the rule of twenty will find this an easy opening. The East hand is too strong simply to overcall two diamonds, so he starts with a double, even without four spades. And the obvious bid with the South hand is two and a half hearts. Again, South may only have eleven points, but four-card support and a void is worth a lot, and it's tempting to just bid 3♥. However, the value of a void depends on what's wasted opposite, and we can usually take another bid later. If East had overcalled 2♦, 3♥ would be the least South should bid. But none of that matters since North has a raise to game, anyway. A singleton and an extra trump is worth more than three points, which gives North an easy 4♥ bid. The moral of the story is that more trumps and more shape means more bidding.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	Dble	2♥	Pass	4♥	All pass	
West	North	East	South										
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Pass	4♥	All pass											

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
9	N 2	1	5	2	2	
2 18	S 2	1	5	2	2	
11	E -	-	-	-	-	
	W -	-	-	-	-	

<p>♠ A732 ♥ J75 ♦ Q93 ♣ A72</p> <p>♠ J1094 ♠ K86 ♥ K84 ♥ A963 ♦ 8542 ♦ AJ106 ♣ 63 ♣ Q8</p> <p>♠ Q5 ♥ Q102 ♦ K7 ♣ KJ10954</p>	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable Andrew McIntosh</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>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Should West invoke 'weak Stayman' after partners' 1NT opening? I would not (my partner is always 3325) but it seems to work for others. If they do, South should probably come to life and 3♣ will make comfortably. Most Souths will be constrained to Pass over 1NT, playing one conventional defence or another. The deal will then be about North's discarding on Souths' fourth, fifth and sixth clubs. It looks correct to discard one spade and two hearts, but which ones and in which order to give the right message about his shape and honours? If declarer comes down to two spades, two hearts, and three diamonds, South will get the third undertrick only if he works out to switch to hearts after cashing his clubs. The difference between one, two and three down will decide most of the matchpoints.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1NT	All pass
West	North	East	South						
Pass	Pass	1NT	All pass						

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
11	N 3	-	-	1	3	
4 14	S 3	-	-	1	3	
11	E -	1	1	-	-	
	W -	-	-	-	-	

<p>♠ K7 ♥ K9 ♦ Q1097 ♣ KQJ95</p> <p>♠ A83 ♠ J94 ♥ Q10876 ♥ AJ2 ♦ A ♦ KJ52 ♣ 10432 ♣ 876</p> <p>♠ Q10652 ♥ 543 ♦ 8643 ♣ A</p>	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable Sally Brock</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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>I like to open a weak NT with anything that looks remotely like one (it makes it easier for partner to make assumptions when you don't open 1NT), but that policy might not work here. West could double the 2♥ transfer response which might mean East-West compete to 3♥, going one down, but more likely North-South will buy the hand in 2♠. East has a tricky choice of opening lead. A diamond would work like a dream: diamond to the ace, best now is a low trump, the defenders win the return and now can take one top spade, two hearts, a diamond ruff and a third heart, with two more diamonds still to come – three down. However, many Easts would prefer to lead a club and now it takes perfect defence to achieve two down – West flies ace on declarer's spade lead, cashes ♦A and switches to hearts, with the defence coming to the ace of spades, two diamonds, two hearts, and two diamond ruffs.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	All pass	
West	North	East	South										
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥										
Pass	2♠	All pass											

HCP	Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
14	N -	1	-	-	-	
10 10	S -	1	-	-	-	
6	E 1	-	2	1	2	
	W 1	-	2	1	2	

<p>♠ KQ1094 ♥ KJ ♦ A93 ♣ 1052</p> <p>♠ A6 ♠ J83 ♥ Q10763 ♥ A42 ♦ QJ5 ♦ K8642 ♣ K64 ♣ Q7</p> <p>♠ 752 ♥ 985 ♦ 107 ♣ AJ983</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Ed Jones</p> <p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</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></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Not the most exciting hand. South could arguably pass over 2♦ with only five points and three low spades, but you should try to declare the hand at love all. Over 2♠ West can probably compete to 3♦ opposite a 5-card suit, and with only a doubleton spade.</p> <p>A spade lead from South should beat 3♦ as declarer can't do everything. If he wins and ducks a heart, that sets the suit up but North can play another heart and will get a heart ruff as well as one trick in each suit. Or if he plays trumps, North ducks one, wins the second, and plays a third, so that she'll be able to cash two spades when in with her heart trick. Or if declarer knocks out the ace of clubs at trick two, the defence forces dummy in spades and will come to a second trump trick.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠	2♦	2♠	3♦	All pass																																		
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<p>♠ 8542 ♥ 853 ♦ AJ7 ♣ K76</p> <p>♠ 973 ♠ KQ6 ♥ 72 ♥ 106 ♦ K1086 ♦ 95432 ♣ QJ84 ♣ A103</p> <p>♠ AJ10 ♥ AKQJ94 ♦ Q ♣ 952</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Yvonne Wiseman</p> <p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS 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></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>A simple auction to 4♥ which will unfortunately go off on a club lead when the defence cashes three clubs then waits for its spade trick. Other leads let the contract through as West has no more entries to play clubs through the king and ♥8 is a third-round entry to dummy, so declarer can run ♦Q then cross in trumps to discard a club on ♦A. In fact, in West covers ♦Q eleven tricks can be made by playing spades after taking your discard, eventually getting another discard on the long spade. A similar approach works, by leading ♠J out of hand, even if West ducks ♦Q, but surely no one would do that.</p> <p>Some Norths may try 3NT rather than 4♥. South looking at seven top tricks will be happy with that, and North will make nine or ten tricks in comfort.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass																																	
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<p>♠ 763 ♥ - ♦ AKJ765 ♣ J1064</p> <p>♠ 108 ♠ AQJ4 ♥ AK2 ♥ J876543 ♦ Q842 ♦ 10 ♣ K983 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ K952 ♥ Q109 ♦ 93 ♣ Q752</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Alexander Roberts</p> <p>Board 32 : Dealer West : 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>1NT</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>At favourable, and with poor holdings in the majors, North should look to invite partner to save over 4M with the appropriate hand. After the 3♦ overcall, East has an easy 4♥ bid (although a perfect fitting hand opposite would result in a making slam, there isn't room to investigate and the five level is far from safe).</p> <p>Against 4♥, South should lead his partner's suit. After this there is little to the play with East conceding a diamond, a heart and a spade for 4♥ made on the nose and a par of NS-620.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	3♦	4♥	All pass																																								
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