# 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.

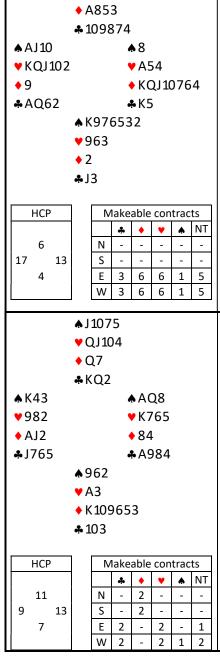
2020 will see our Junior Teams (U16, U21, U26 Women, U26) play in the World Championships in Italy. The EBU provides funding for these teams and this event will help pay for it. Other important areas, such as development and teaching, also require support and that means that the international budgets 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

> **♠**Q4 ♥87



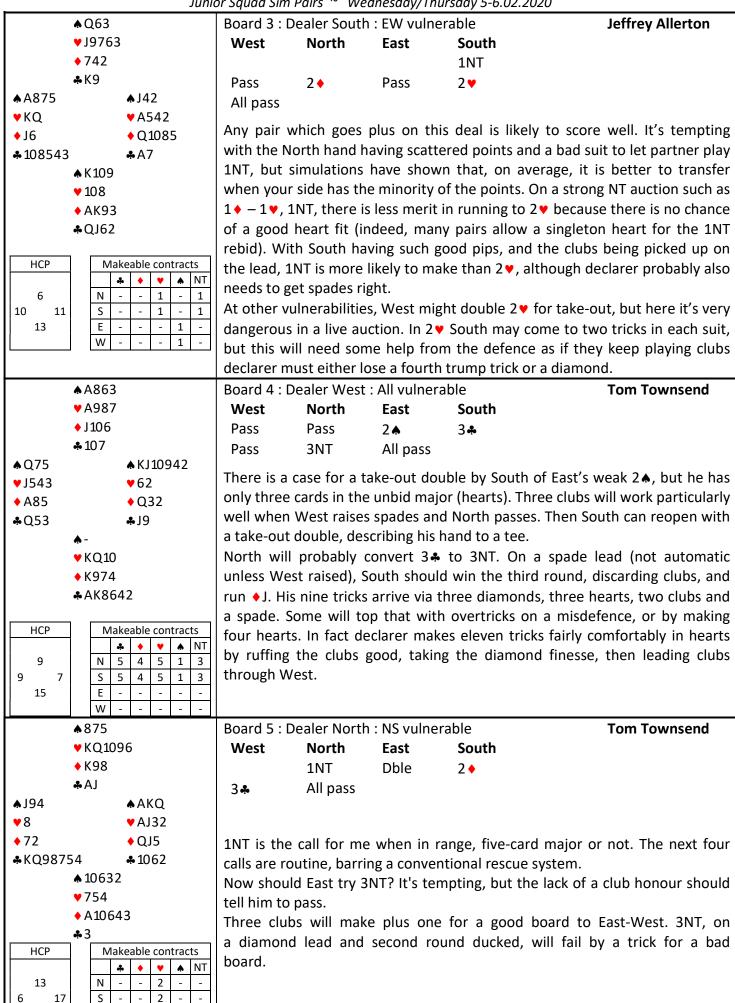
Board 1 : I	Dealer Nort	h : Love all		Jeffrey Allerton
West	North	East	South	
	Pass	1♦	2♠	
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	
3NT	Pass	4 💙	Pass	
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	
6♥	All pass			

East-West's auction gets harder the more spades South bids at his first turn. If South chooses a weak  $2 \triangleq \text{bid}$ ,  $3 \checkmark$ , 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:  $4 \triangleq \text{and } 4 \triangleq \text{(which agrees hearts)}$  would both be sensible options. Over West's conservative 3NT,  $4 \checkmark \text{shows extras}$  and West now drives the small slam via Blackwood (or RKCB). If the auction started  $1 \triangleq -3 \triangleq \text{West might bid a quiet 3NT and East could easily pass as 3NT is very wide ranging.$ 

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.

Board 2:	Dealer East	: NS vulner	able	Jeffrey Allerton
West	North	East	South	
		1NT	All pass	

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.



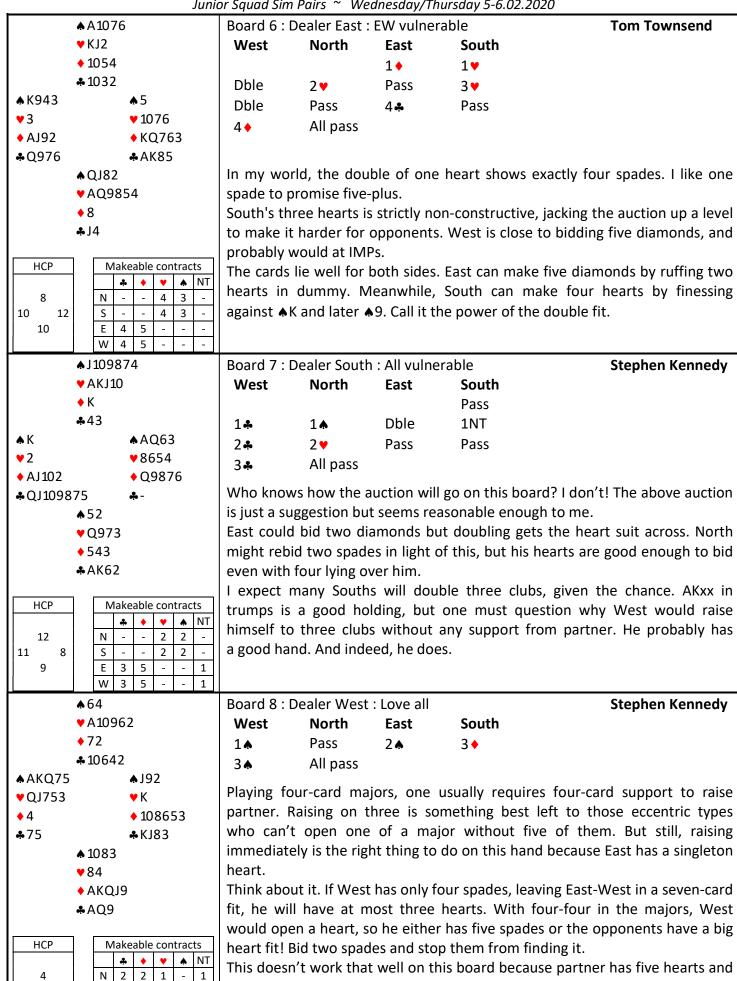
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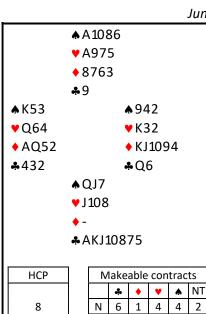
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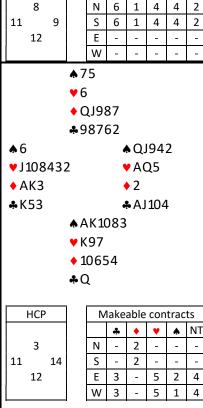
no one can make much of anything, but at least you can nod learnedly while



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Dealer Nort	h : EW vuln	nerable	Stephen Kennedy
North	East	South	
Pass	Pass	1.	
1♥	Pass	2*	
	Dealer Nort <b>North</b> Pass	Dealer North : EW vulr  North East  Pass Pass	Pass Pass 1.

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.

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.



Board 10	: Dealer Eas	t : All vulne	erable	Andrew McIntosh
West	North	East	South	
		1♠	Pass	
2♥	Pass	4 💙	All pass	

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.

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.

	٨K	(10983
	<b>♥</b> K	(10
	<b>*</b> A	A432
	♣ K	(J
<b>♦</b> J42		AQ75
<b>♥</b> Q9862		<b>¥</b> 4
<b>♦ 1</b> 0		♦ KQJ865
<b>♣</b> AQ108		<b>.</b> 62
	<b>•</b> 6	, )
	<b>*</b> A	J753
	<b>♦</b> 9	7
	<b>4</b> 9	7543
НСР		Makeable contract
I	1	1 1 . 1 . 1 . 1 . 1

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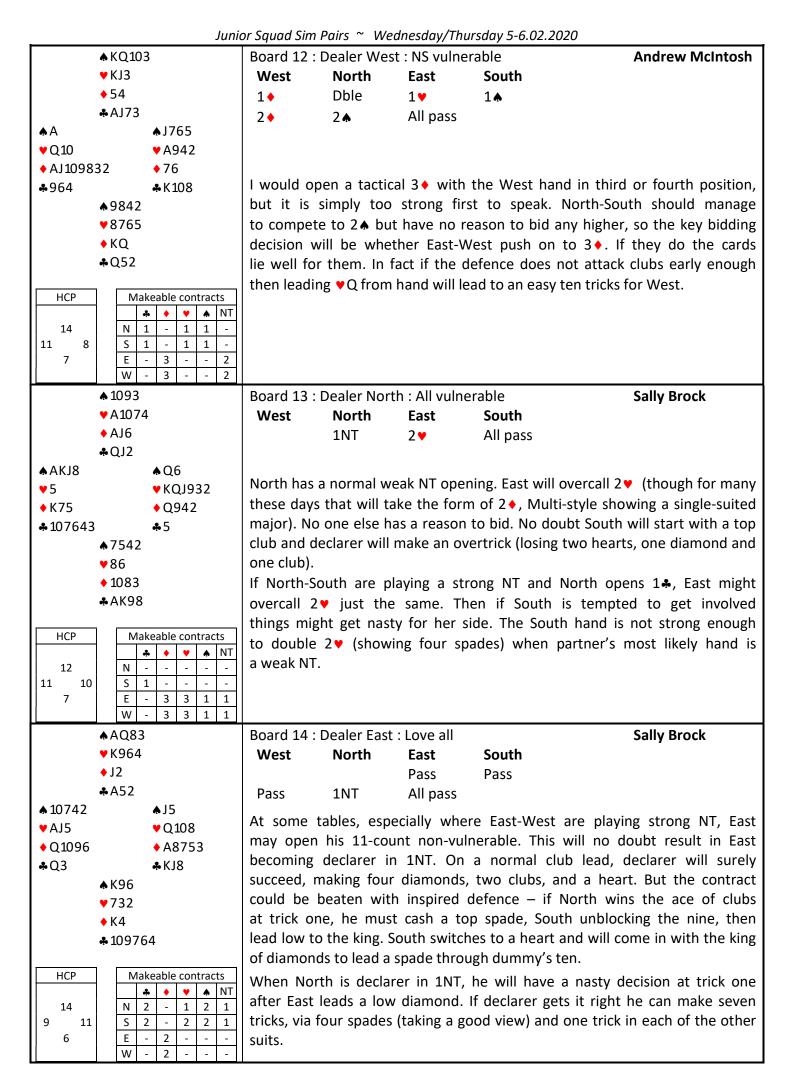
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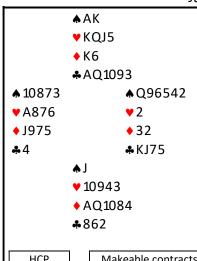
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Board 11 : D	ealer South	: Love all		Andrew McIntosh
West	North	East	South	
			Pass	
Pass	1 🛦	2♦	Dble	
Pass	2♠	All pass		

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.





	НСР		
5	22 7	6	

N	lake	able	con	trac	ts
	•	•	>	٨	NT
N	3	3	5	-	3
S	3	3	5	-	3
Е	-	-	-	2	-
W	-	-	-	2	-

n squad siin	, , an 5	carresaay, irra	1300y 3 0.02.2020		
Board 15	: Dealer Sou	ıth : NS vulne	erable	Sally Brock	
West	North	East	South		
			Pass		
Pass	2♣	3♠	Pass		
4♠	Dble	All pass			

I think the North hand is too good for a one-level opening, or even for a slightly off-centre 2NT. Over the  $2\clubsuit$  opening, East should take advantage of the favourable vulnerability and overcall. I like  $3\spadesuit$  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  $4\spadesuit$  I suppose, to show where his values lie. West with his 4-card support should bid to  $4\spadesuit$  (even if his partner overcalled only  $2\spadesuit$ ), and it is now virtually impossible for North-South to bid to the making  $5\blacktriangledown$ . They will have to accept a paltry 300 from  $4\spadesuit$  doubled.

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.

	<b>♦</b> 1087
	<b>♥</b> Q7
	♦A752
	<b>♣</b> K653
<b>♦</b> K32	<b>♦</b> AJ654
<b>♥</b> K83	<b>♥</b> J96
♦ K 109	♦Q843
<b>4</b> 10872	<b>♣</b> A
	<b>♠</b> Q9
	♥A10542
	<b>♦</b> J6
	<b>♣</b> QJ94

	HCP		
9	9	12	

Makeable contracts							
	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT						
N	1	-	-	-	-		
S	1	-	-	-	-		
Ε	-	თ	ı	4	2		
W	-	3	-	4	2		

Board 16	Ed Jones			
West	North	East	South	
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	
2♠	All pass			

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 24, and pass a 2NT rebid (if that shows 15-16).

Here opener will simply rebid  $2 \blacklozenge$ , and you can correct to  $2 \spadesuit$ . South will probably lead  $\clubsuit Q$  despite the  $2 \clubsuit$  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.

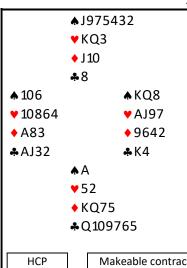
Most declarers will start with a spade to the King, and one back to the Jack, and will have to do the right thing if South switches to a low heart. You're then a bit stuck for entries to dummy to pick up ◆J with North, so you might well play one to the ten on the first round, making nine tricks.

	ΑA
	<b>♥</b> J732
	◆ AJ10863
	<b>♣</b> 92
<b>♠</b> Q5	<b>∧</b> K1042
<b>♥</b> KQ85	<b>♥</b> 64
♦ K42	<b>♦</b> 9
<b>\$</b> 8643	♣AKQJ107
	<b>♦</b> J98763
	<b>♥</b> A109
	♦ Q75
	<b>♣</b> 5
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		_						
Н	CP		Makeable contracts					ts
				*	•	٧	٨	NT
1	0		Ν	1	4	2	1	1
)	13		S	-	4	2	1	1
7	7		Е	3	-	-	-	-
			W	3	-	•	•	1
		-						

Board 17	: Dealer Nor	th : Love a	II	Ed Jones
West	North	East	South	
	1♦	2♣	Dble	
2♦	2♥	2♠	3♦	
Pass	Pass	4♣	All pass	

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 v. West has nothing more to say, and it seems a bit limp for East to sell out to 3 v, 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!



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Makeable contracts							
	♣ ♦ <b>♥</b> ♠ NT						
N	1	-	•	1	-		
S	1	-	-	1	1		
Ε	-	2	2	-	3		
W	-	2	2	-	3		

Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

West North East South

1NT Pass

Pass 2♠ Pass Pass

Dble Pass 3♥ All pass

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♥.

**Ed Jones** 

3 v 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.

	<b>♠</b> K2	
	<b>♥</b> A752	
	<b>♦</b> 85432	
	<b>♣</b> Q2	
<b>♠</b> 96		<b>♠</b> AQJ108543
<b>♥</b> J43		<b>♥</b> Q8
♦ AK97		<b>◆ 10</b>
♣AJ107		<b>♣</b> 53
	<b>♠</b> 7	
	<b>♥</b> K1096	
	♦QJ6	
	<b>♣</b> K9864	

	НСР			Makeable contracts					ts
					•	•	>	•	NT
	9			Ν	-	-	1	-	-
13		9		S	-	-	1	-	-
	9			Е	1	1	ı	5	5
				W	1	1	ı	5	5
. VCE2									

Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable Yvonne Wiser	man
West North East South	
Pass	
1NT Pass 4♠ All pass	

All auctions should lead to 4 \( \begin{align\*} \), regardless of methods. Some will transfer into spades, meaning West will declare: the greedier Easts will bid the game themselves.

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.

_				_			•	١
		٨K	(65)	2				
		<b>*</b> A	ΚQ	102	2			
		<b>♦</b> C	(52					
		<b>.</b> 3						
	<b>A</b> 3			4	NA1	108	7	
	<b>y</b> 93			•	<b>9</b> J7	5		
	♦ KJ106			•	AS	8		
	<b>♣</b> J108762	2		4	ŀΑS	54		
		<b>♠</b> C	)J94	4				
		<b>v</b> 8	64					
		<b>♦</b> 7	43					
		♣ K	Q9					
		_						
	HCP		M	lake	able	con	trac	ts

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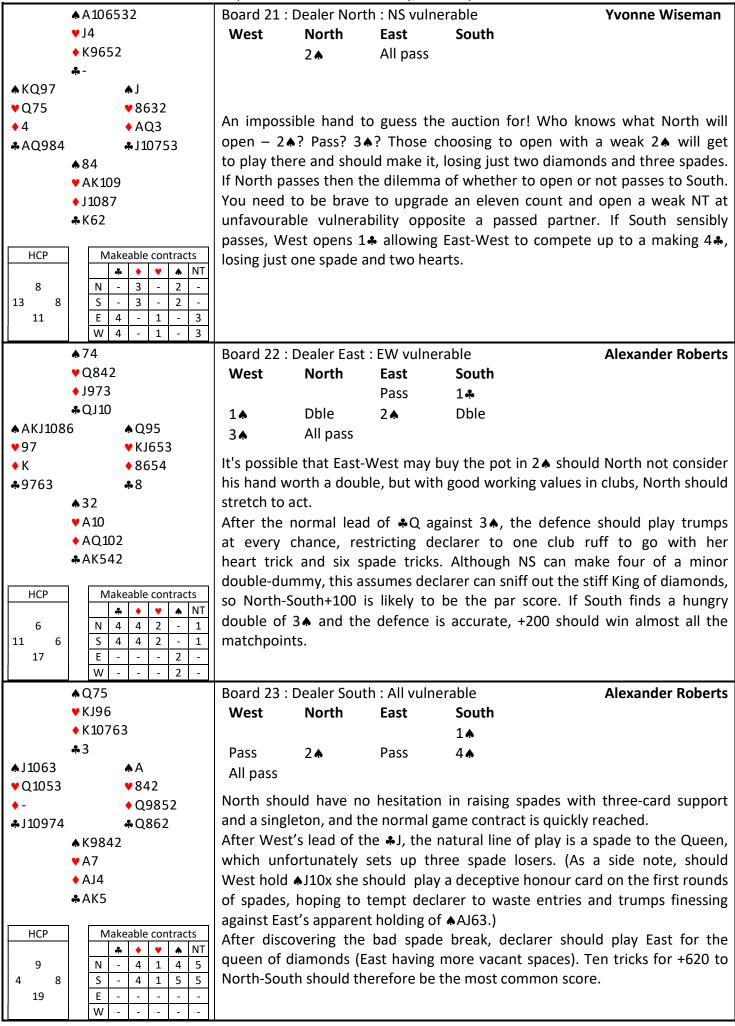
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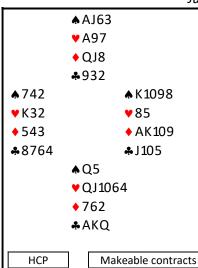
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Board 20	: Dealer We	Yvonne Wiseman		
West	North	East	South	
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	
3♣	3♠	All pass		

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.

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.





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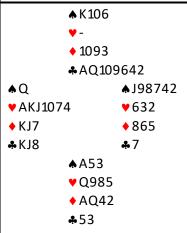
Makeable contracts								
	♣ ♦ <b>♥</b> ♠ NT							
N	3	3	4	3	4			
S	2	3	4	3	4			
Е	-	-	-	-	-			
W	-	-	-	-	-			

Board 24: Dealer West: Love all **Alexander Roberts** West North **East** South Pass 1NT **Pass** 2 🔷 Pass Dble Rdbl 2 🕶 Dble Pass Pass 2♠ All pass

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?).

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.

With the auction so up in the air, expect a variety of scores to come up.



НСР	СР			Makeable contracts					
				•	•	>	•	ΝT	
9			N	4	3	-	-	4	
	1		S	4	3	1	1	4	
12			Е	1	1	2	1	ı	
			W	ı	ı	2	1	ı	

Board 25	: Dealer Nor	Jeffrey Allerton		
West	North	East	South	
	1♣	Pass	1♥	
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble	
Pass	3♣	All pass		

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 onside, and this picks up Kx and Kxx onside (three layouts) while losing to KJx onside (two layouts).

<b>♦</b> 96							
	<b>♥</b> 1043						
	♦ QJ752						
	<b>.</b> 6	32					
<b>♦</b> J10842			4	Ak	(73		
<b>♥</b> A5			•	<b>Q</b> J	187		
<b>♦</b> K9	<b>♦</b> 4						
<b>♣</b> KJ94	<b>♣</b> Q1075						
	<b>♠</b> Q5						
<b>♥</b> K962							
◆A10863							
	<b>.</b> A	8					
НСР		N	lake	able	con	trac	ts
			*	•	٧	٨	N

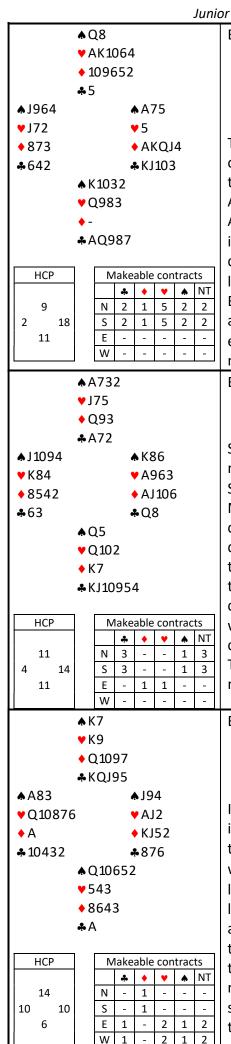
NT

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Board 26	: Dealer East	Tom Townsend		
West	North	East	South	
		1*	1♦	
1 🛦	3♦	3♠	Pass	
4 🆍	All pass			

North's raise to 3♦ is pre-emptive; whether it's a winning bid on this dross is highly questionable.

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.



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	Board 27	: Dealer Sou		Stephen Kennedy	
	West	North	East	South	
				1♣	
	Pass	1♥	Dble	2♥	
	Pass	4 💙	All pass		

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  $3 \checkmark$ . However, the value of a void depends on what's wasted opposite, and we can usually take another bid later. If East had overcalled  $2 \diamondsuit$ ,  $3 \checkmark$  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.

Board 28:	Dealer We	<b>Andrew McIntosh</b>		
West	North	East	South	
Pass	Pass	1NT	All pass	

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.

Board 29:	Dealer Nor	erable	Sally Brock	
West	North	East	South	
	1NT	Pass	2♥	
Pass	2 🏚	All pass		

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.

