

The analysis is based on **4-card Majors, Weak No-Trump (Strong NT mentioned), Transfers and Weak Two Openings in 3 suits.**

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K98653 ♥ Q96 ♦ A6 ♣ AK</p> <p>♠ AQJ102 ♠ 4 ♥ J532 ♥ 1084 ♦ K107 ♦ Q9543 ♣ 10 ♣ 9872</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 7 ♥ AK7 ♦ J82 ♣ QJ6543</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;">16</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11 2</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</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>4</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</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		16	11 2	11	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	1	2	2	4	S	4	1	2	2	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>N/S can make an easy 10 tricks in 3NT. The trick here is to end up in 3NT rather than in 4♠. Some North's might insist on playing in Spades despite having already shown their 6-card suit. It's not completely unreasonable to insist on a 4♠ contact especially because of the weakness of your Spade suit but it is not a success tonight with the 5-1 split against you. The defence to 4♠ will be a bit of 'cat and mouse' between West and North and if North can get out for 1 down instead of 2 down he will salvage something from the board.</p> <p>Some West's might not be able to resist the temptation to double 4♠ giving some N/S the chance to run to a making 4NT.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AJ54 ♥ Q109862 ♦ - ♣ 764</p> <p>♠ Q7632 ♠ K ♥ AKJ ♥ 43 ♦ 74 ♦ AKQJ82 ♣ Q108 ♣ J953</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 1098 ♥ 75 ♦ 109653 ♣ AK2</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;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12 14</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</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>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		7	12 14	7	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	2	-	-	S	-	-	2	-	-	E	2	3	-	-	2	W	3	3	-	1	3	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">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>2♥ (4th)</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There are other shorter routes to 3NT but if North shows Hearts in the auction then you want to make sure that West plays the hand because a Heart lead from South will defeat the contract. Hopefully there won't be any E/W pairs thinking about 5♣ or 5♦ in these matchpoint games.</p> <p>Any E/W pair managing to make 10 tricks in 3NT will earn themselves a huge board. Declarer can be held to 9 tricks even if North makes his normal ♥10 opening lead – provided North watches his P's and Q's - his side should be able to win 2 Clubs, a Spade and a Diamond or else 2 Clubs and 2 Spades.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥ (4 th)	Dbl	3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
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Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

West North East South

Pass Pass 2♣ Pass

2♦ Pass 4NT Pass

6NT All Pass

How many of us have a way to show 27 HCP?

First off – Hat’s Off to those North players who open 1♣ or better again 1♠ in third seat at favourable vulnerability.

There will be a variety of contracts here – from Game to small slam to Grand Slam. Whatever the contract, making 12 tricks will score well. There are many routes to 12 tricks which implies there are a few routes to 11 tricks also.

One route to 12 tricks is to finesse twice in Diamonds by running the 6 on the first round of the suit and later finessing the ♦Q. Those who don’t make 12 tricks will probably have blocked the Spade suit.

♠ 10973
♥ 9
♦ K42
♣ K10652

♠ K54 ♠ AQ
♥ J10753 ♥ AKQ64
♦ 876 ♦ AQ93
♣ J3 ♣ AQ

♠ J862
♥ 82
♦ J105
♣ 9874

HCP	
6	
5	27
2	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	2	6	6	2	6
W	2	6	6	2	6

Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

West North East South

Pass Pass Pass 1♥

Pass 1♠ Pass 2♥

All Pass

Some North’s will open the North hand with some sort of ‘Tartan’ two suiter and they should have no trouble stopping in the top spot of 2♠. The rest of us will be hard pushed to avoid the doomed 2♥ contract.

To make 9 tricks in Spades, declarer needs to divine that West has the doubleton ♦10 and finesse twice in Diamonds by running the Queen and Jack – maybe there is a clue to the layout when East doesn’t cover the Queen – which he probably would do if he held the K10 doubleton?

The clever South’s among us will either open 1NT or rebid 1NT and this will force North into landing us safely in 2♠ - hopefully this course of action won’t excite North into making a game try.

♠ Q6432
♥ 85
♦ QJ743
♣ K

♠ K98 ♠ AJ7
♥ Q1093 ♥ 62
♦ 102 ♦ K65
♣ AJ102 ♣ 98764

♠ 105
♥ AKJ74
♦ A98
♣ Q53

HCP	
8	
10	8
14	

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

Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**

1NT Pass 3NT All Pass

This looks like the candidate for the 'Flattest Board' of the night but as we all know a flat board is a rare thing indeed. There will be some unfortunate defenders who will not take their three winners and other lucky defenders who will win more than their entitled three.

All roads lead to 3NT – although some Easts will have the awkward problem of responding to their partner's 1♣ opening – if playing 5-card majors and strong no-trump.

If West plays the hand, a Spade lead gives 10 easy tricks – with a chance of 11 tricks if North does not find the Diamond switch when he gets in with ♥A.

3NT by East is a different story. Firstly East won't be handed 4 Spade tricks and secondly after a Diamond lead and a Diamond return (ducked by South), declarer will be under severe pressure to run for home and will probably only end up with just 9 tricks. So a flat board? Not a chance!

♠ J952
♥ A94
♦ K65
♣ 753

♠ A876 ♠ KQ10
♥ QJ65 ♥ K8
♦ 107 ♦ QJ8
♣ KQ4 ♣ AJ1062

♠ 43
♥ 10732
♦ A9432
♣ 98

HCP		
8		
12	16	
4		

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

Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all

West **North** **East** **South**

1♥ 2♥ Pass 3♥

DbI 4♠ All Pass

This should be an interesting board.

If you told West that he wouldn't be able to make 1♥ he wouldn't believe you – but it's true – against good defence. North will overcall 1♠ or if he has gadget to show Spades and Clubs – such as 'Michael' or 'Ghestem' – he will wheel it out now.

South should make some sort of game try (or simply raising to 4♠ if he knows that his partner always makes sound overcalls) – maybe South will try bidding the opponent's suit here – when partner makes an overcall this cue bid is called the 'unassuming cue bid' and shows good support.

Now it becomes a judgement call for North – is he minimum or above minimum for his overcall? Those who take a rosy view will be rewarded for their optimism – there are no problems making 10 tricks.

♠ QJ982
♥ 5
♦ K9
♣ K9652

♠ 763 ♠ 104
♥ AKQ103 ♥ 986
♦ AJ5 ♦ 87432
♣ Q3 ♣ J87

♠ AK5
♥ J742
♦ Q106
♣ A104

HCP		
9		
16	1	
14		

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

♠ 1076
♥ QJ43
♦ AQ
♣ AJ109

♠ KQ4 ♠ A952
♥ 95 ♥ A1082
♦ 987542 ♦ K10
♣ 85 ♣ KQ2

♠ J83
♥ K76
♦ J63
♣ 7643

HCP	
14	
5	16
5	

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

Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Dbl	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

The weak No-Trumpers will do well to dodge the bullet here. There could be some 'skin and hair' flying if North and South are not on the same page. Are we playing 'Helvic'? Does South's 'pass' mean 'pass' or is it forcing a 'redouble' from North?

If West has the courage to pass 1NT doubled it will go 2 off on best defence. One down will be a great result for N/S. There are 9 easy stress-free tricks for West in his 2♦ contract.

If North is playing strong no-trump and opens 1♣, East will most likely overcall 1NT (although some will double to try and get both major suits into the picture). West might pass 1NT for a good board – and maybe he has no option especially if 2♦ might be a transfer now?

♠ A3
♥ K864
♦ K643
♣ AK4

♠ 864 ♠ K10972
♥ 10975 ♥ AJ3
♦ Q105 ♦ AJ9
♣ J63 ♣ 105

♠ QJ5
♥ Q2
♦ 872
♣ Q9872

HCP	
17	
3	13
7	

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

Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	2♣
All Pass			

Some Norths will probably find themselves in a very reasonable contract of 3NT and now the spotlight falls on East to defeat it – the contract will go down of its own accord as long as East does not panic.

East leads a Spade and dummy wins. Declarer might lead a Club to hand now and lead a Heart towards the Queen in dummy. If East rises with the ♥A now – declarer has 9 tricks – 2 Spades, 2 Hearts and 5 Club tricks. But if East simply plays 'second hand low' on declarer's Heart lead he will eventually come to 5 tricks for his side.

Is North worth another bid over 2♣? A 2NT rebid here usually shows 19+. It takes unlikely ♦Q or ♦10 lead from West to hold South to 8 tricks in his 2♣ contract.

♠ AQ106
 ♥ 854
 ♦ J983
 ♣ AQ
 ♠ 542 ♠ K9
 ♥ 109 ♥ AQ763
 ♦ A6 ♦ 7542
 ♣ KJ10752 ♣ 96
 ♠ J873
 ♥ KJ2
 ♦ KQ10
 ♣ 843

HCP	
13	
8	9
10	

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

Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1♦	1♥	Dbl
2♣	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

Anything could happen on this board. If North opens a weak no-trump the Spade fit might be lost but then again they might be brave enough to double East in 2♥ and collect 300 for themselves. There is a wise old adage that says we should avoid opening a bad weak no-trump in third seat – hence North’s decision to open 1♦ above.

If East is declarer in a Club contract, N/S need to play Ace and another Club pretty early on if they are to stop West from getting a precious Spade ruff in dummy.

Good luck to any N/S pair that lands in 3NT – you deserve the odd good score that you get.

♠ AQ10974
 ♥ AK8
 ♦ 732
 ♣ 5
 ♠ 852 ♠ J6
 ♥ 1053 ♥ QJ7
 ♦ QJ1085 ♦ AK64
 ♣ 74 ♣ J932
 ♠ K3
 ♥ 9642
 ♦ 9
 ♣ AKQ1086

HCP	
13	
3	12
12	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	6	-	5	6	2
S	6	-	5	6	2
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Dbl	Rdbl
2♦	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Should East Double? If he does should South Redouble or bid his Club suit?

Another hand where regular partnerships will know what to do if East decides to make a take-out-double of the 1♠ opening bid. Does 2♣ still show a good hand? What does 3♣ mean? If East doesn’t double then maybe 1♠-2♣-3♠ might get you to a black suit slam?

In any event 4♠ will be a popular contract and if East doesn’t take his Diamond trick at trick 1 he won’t get it at all.

With X-ray vision you can make 6♣- either finesse the ♣10 or cash two top Clubs and then run your Spades.

<p> ♠ AJ84 ♥ K1085 ♦ KJ10 ♣ A2 ♠ Q107 ♠ K32 ♥ 32 ♥ J64 ♦ A964 ♦ Q872 ♣ 7654 ♣ Q103 ♠ 965 ♥ AQ97 ♦ 53 ♣ KJ98 </p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>10</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <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>2</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		16	8	6	10	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	2	5	5	4	S	4	2	5	5	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></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>It's hard to imagine any N/S pair not being in 4♥ here – the strong no-trumpers will simply use Stayman, find their fit and bid 4♥. The weak no-trumpers will either open 1♥ if playing 4-card majors or 1 of a minor if playing 5-card majors. In 4♥ declarer will make 9 tricks if he guesses wrong in both Spades and Diamonds and 11 tricks if he guesses correctly in both pointed suits.</p> <p>The advantage of playing 4♥ from the South hand is that West might lead a Club and help you win 4 Club tricks. The disadvantage of playing 4♥ from the South hand is that Sylvia might lead a small Diamond and then only Zia would know to play the ♦K from dummy on the first trick.</p> <p>3NT will only yield 10 tricks on a natural Diamond lead.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
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<p> ♠ 10874 ♥ J5 ♦ K982 ♣ 963 ♠ K63 ♠ Q95 ♥ 874 ♥ AKQ10632 ♦ Q1065 ♦ - ♣ Q104 ♣ J72 ♠ AJ2 ♥ 9 ♦ AJ743 ♣ AK85 </p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>17</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <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>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		4	12	7	17	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	3	-	2	-	S	1	3	-	2	-	E	-	-	3	-	2	W	-	-	3	-	2	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Another hand where there will be at least 7 different auctions. To begin with what does East open? 1♥? 3♥? 4♥? 4♣? or even 3NT?</p> <p>In any event, E/W will end up in 4♥ or 5♥. South will find it very easy to double 5♥ but with 4 potential quick tricks maybe he might have the courage to double a 4♥ contract too.</p> <p>However if South starts to cash his 4 quick tricks he will find that he has only 3 tricks and 4♥x will make. To beat 4♥x South needs to be patient and remember what his Bridge teacher taught him many years ago – ‘Second Hand Plays Low’ – South will come to 2 Spade tricks if he bides his time and follows with a low Spade when declarer leads a Spade towards dummy’s King.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Dbl	1NT	Pass	4♥	Dbl	All Pass			
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Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable

West North East South

3♥ All Pass 3♣

Some North's will try a reasonable penalty 'double' of West's 3♥ overcall. Some Wests might just bid an immediate 4♥ and they will definitely be doubled by North.

Some clever South's will try a cheeky 3NT opening and this might push West into bidding 4♥.

Both sides can make 9 tricks in their longest trump suit. West makes 9 tricks in a Heart contract by leading towards the King and Ten of Spades in dummy twice, while South won't be able to stop himself making 9 tricks in a Club contract – as long as he doesn't discard a Diamond from dummy.

If E.W do find themselves defending 3NT, they should be able to negotiate 5 tricks to defeat the contract.

♠ AQ7
 ♥ Q8642
 ♦ Q52
 ♣ Q4
 ♠ J86 ♠ K1032
 ♥ AJ10953 ♥ K7
 ♦ AK9 ♦ J874
 ♣ 7 ♣ 862
 ♠ 954
 ♥ -
 ♦ 1063
 ♣ AKJ10953

HCP	
12	
13	7
8	

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

Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable

West North East South

Pass Pass 1♣ 2♠

3♣ Pass Pass 3♠ All Pass

If North finds a 2♥ opening bid he will land on his feet this time and might even make 4♥ if East makes a normal non-Diamond opening lead. A 4♠ contract has no chance. This is a great example of the advice – when you have a choice of trump suits it is better to choose the trump suit belonging to the weak hand.

If North decides to pass as dealer then it will be a little more difficult for N/S to land in a Heart contract and indeed E/W may end up competing in Clubs.

If East opens a weak no-trump, South might double, bid 2♠, 3♠ or even 4♠. If South bids Spades it is unlikely N/S will most likely end up playing in their 6-3 Heart fit.

If East opens 1♣ then E/W will most likely bid to 3♣ and may even find the great 4♣ contract.

♠ K2
 ♥ 1096542
 ♦ 43
 ♣ J108
 ♠ 953 ♠ A8
 ♥ 8 ♥ QJ3
 ♦ KJ106 ♦ 982
 ♣ A9752 ♣ KQ643
 ♠ QJ10764
 ♥ AK7
 ♦ AQ75
 ♣ -

HCP	
4	
8	12
16	

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

Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all

West North East South
 1♣ Pass 3NT

All Pass

The strong no-trump auction will probably be just as short 1NT-3NT. Of course 6♣ is a beautiful contract with the 12th trick coming from a Diamond ruff in the North hand but minor suit slams are notoriously difficult to bid these days.

There are also 12 not so easy tricks available in No-Trump because East will be squeezed on the run of the Clubs.

For sure if the South hand had a bit more shape by way of a 6th Club or an outside singleton we would expect him to make a move towards Slam

On the other hand 6♣ is one of the most beautifully cold slams you will ever see - it seems we should be bidding it. Maybe those N/S pairs who have an inverted 2♣ response available to them (10+) might get there?

♠ AQ94
 ♥ A65
 ♦ K8
 ♣ QJ103
 ♠ J52 ♠ 10876
 ♥ Q ♥ J109742
 ♦ QJ10732 ♦ 64
 ♣ A85 ♣ 6
 ♠ K3
 ♥ K83
 ♦ A95
 ♣ K9742

HCP	
16	
10	1
13	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	6	1	2	5	6
S	6	1	2	5	6
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

West North East South
 Pass Dbl 1♥ Pass
 2♥ 2♠

All Pass

A good competitive hand. N/S would like to bid to 3♠ while E/W would like to be allowed to play in 3♥.

The Diamond suit seems to be the suit to avoid in the early part of the hand. It seems that whichever side plays Diamonds first will gift a trick to the opponents.

As in all competitive auctions any plus score will score extremely well.

♠ AK73
 ♥ 107
 ♦ K965
 ♣ K103
 ♠ 5 ♠ QJ9
 ♥ 842 ♥ AQJ965
 ♦ Q1042 ♦ A7
 ♣ 87542 ♣ QJ
 ♠ 108642
 ♥ K3
 ♦ J83
 ♣ A96

HCP	
13	
2	17
8	

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

<p> ♠ 976 ♥ 84 ♦ A1085 ♣ J742 ♠ AJ4 ♠ Q1032 ♥ AKQ10 ♥ 9762 ♦ K4 ♦ QJ96 ♣ AK108 ♣ 6 ♠ K85 ♥ J53 ♦ 732 ♣ Q953 </p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="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>-</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>5</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	HCP		5	5	24	5	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	5	6	6	4	W	4	5	6	6	5	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>6♥ is a reasonable 50%+ slam to get to – just needing something nice to happen in Diamonds or the Spade finesse for 12 tricks. Nonetheless most will settle for the Heart game after a simple Stayman or Puppet Stayman auction.</p> <p>If West upgrades his hand to 25+ then East might take a second look at his 5 points and singleton Club but even then maybe they don't play 4♣ as Stayman after 2♣-2♦-3NT?</p> <p>Those declarers in 3NT will be held to 11 tricks if South refuses to cover the first Spade lead from dummy.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
HCP																																																																	
5	5																																																																
24	5																																																																
6																																																																	
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	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																												
N	-	-	-	-	-																																																												
S	-	-	-	-	-																																																												
E	4	5	6	6	4																																																												
W	4	5	6	6	5																																																												
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																																																														
			Pass																																																														
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass																																																														
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass																																																														
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass																																																														

<p> ♠ K74 ♥ A1096 ♦ 1098 ♣ Q73 ♠ A109 ♠ Q83 ♥ K872 ♥ 5 ♦ AQJ ♦ K6532 ♣ KJ2 ♣ 10964 ♠ J652 ♥ QJ43 ♦ 74 ♣ A85 </p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="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>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		9	5	18	5	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	2	1	-	S	-	-	2	1	-	E	2	3	-	-	1	W	2	3	-	-	2	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Maybe some strong no-trumpers will downgrade the West hand and open 1NT and play there for a great score. Not a good board for anyone opening 1♥ with the West hand – especially if it is passed out.</p> <p>Any East players who muster up a brave 1NT response can expect good news and bad news. There will be good news if partner passes but more likely bad news if partner forces to game or bids game.</p> <p>Of course good players score well because they know that when they bid close games, the defenders will be under pressure. On this hand, for instance, the defenders need to lead Hearts pretty early on in the game to defeat 3NT.</p> <p>Any plus score will be greatly received by either side.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	1♥	All Pass		
HCP																																																					
9	5																																																				
18	5																																																				
8																																																					
Makeable contracts																																																					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																
N	-	-	2	1	-																																																
S	-	-	2	1	-																																																
E	2	3	-	-	1																																																
W	2	3	-	-	2																																																
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																																																		
1♥	All Pass																																																				

Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**
 3♦ All Pass

There will be a myriad of contracts here from 3NT by South, 3NT by West to 4♥ by East. Of course these contracts shouldn't make but still the auction could be a lively affair if East decides to get involved.

For starters, East needs to find a 3♥ in order to be in with a good chance of a good board. Most East's will bid 3♥ if only because they will not be able to resist the temptation but 3♥ is by no means an automatic bid – especially when vulnerable.

West has a nice hand and indeed has enough to raise 3♥ to 4♥ - a contract that has no chance but is still better than letting North make 3♦.

Whether N/S are in 3NT or 3♦, East had better take whatever tricks are coming when he gets in with ♦Q.

♠ K74
 ♥ 5
 ♦ AJ109763
 ♣ 42
 ♠ A963 ♠ J105
 ♥ K107 ♥ AQ9632
 ♦ K5 ♦ Q4
 ♣ 10986 ♣ 53
 ♠ Q82
 ♥ J84
 ♦ 82
 ♣ AKQJ7

HCP	
8	
10	9
13	

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

Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**
 1♠ Pass
 2♣ 3♦ 4♦ Pass
 4♠ All Pass

If E/W are thinking about slam then they will be more likely to bid the beatable 6♠ rather than the makeable 6♣.

Should East open 1♠ or 1♣? There are pros and cons to both openings. A nice compromise solution is to open 1♠ with 11-14 and to open 1♣ with 15+ HCP.

If East gets a chance to bid 4♦ showing his Diamond singleton or void then that should immediately dampen West's enthusiasm for slam – having 5 points in a suit that partner is void in, is not good news. 5♦ is a nice sacrifice for N/S if they are so inclined.

In practice either slam will go down because in order to make 12 tricks declarer needs to find a 'Sylvia' play in the Spade suit by running the Jack at some point.

♠ 102
 ♥ AJ106
 ♦ A987632
 ♣ -
 ♠ K94 ♠ AJ753
 ♥ Q974 ♥ K52
 ♦ KQ10 ♦ -
 ♣ AQ5 ♣ KJ1092
 ♠ Q86
 ♥ 83
 ♦ J54
 ♣ 87643

HCP	
9	
16	12
3	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	2	-	-	-
S	-	2	-	-	-
E	6	-	4	5	5
W	6	-	4	6	5

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ KJ4 ♥ Q105 ♦ AQJ75 ♣ A10</p> <p>♠ A105 ♠ Q87 ♥ J64 ♥ AK972 ♦ 6 ♦ 103 ♣ KQJ632 ♣ 854</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 9632 ♥ 83 ♦ K9842 ♣ 97</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">17</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <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>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		17		11	9	3		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	-	1	-	S	-	2	-	1	-	E	4	-	4	-	-	W	4	-	4	-	-	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Another lively board despite the points being divided 20-20 between the two sides.</p> <p>4♣ and 4♥ both make if North shows his hand to declarer enabling declarer to take the double Heart finesse.</p> <p>West is surely worth an opening bid with his good 6 card Club suit and then North has a choice of actions – Double, 1♦ and 1NT.</p> <p>2♥ making 9 tricks will be a great result for E/W</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				Pass	1♣	1NT	Dbl	Pass	2♣	All Pass		
HCP																																																													
17																																																													
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	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	-	2	-	1	-																																																								
S	-	2	-	1	-																																																								
E	4	-	4	-	-																																																								
W	4	-	4	-	-																																																								
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																																																										
			Pass																																																										
1♣	1NT	Dbl	Pass																																																										
2♣	All Pass																																																												

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J953 ♥ Q108 ♦ Q10932 ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ 42 ♠ Q ♥ 97 ♥ J5432 ♦ J875 ♦ K ♣ K10754 ♣ AJ9632</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AK10876 ♥ AK6 ♦ A64 ♣ 8</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">11</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">18</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <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>6</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		7		4	11	18		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	6	3	6	1	S	-	6	3	6	1	E	3	-	-	-	-	W	3	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>East has a variety of choices for his opening bid e.g. 1♥, 1♣, 2♥ or 3♣? The sooner East gets his Club suit into the picture the better – West won't get excited unless he hears his partner bid Clubs.</p> <p>After the opening bid, the spotlight turns to South. Is he playing Strong Jump overcalls 1♠, 2♠, 4♠. Most likely he will start with a double and then either blast 4♠ or take the more consultative approach of 3♠ on the next round.</p> <p>Should N/S bid to 6♠? Of course not.</p> <p>Should South make 12 tricks? Yes. If he starts Diamonds by playing the Ace first.</p> <p>Can South make 13 tricks? Yes if the defenders don't lead a Club.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	Pass	Pass	1♥	Dbl	Pass	1♠	2♣	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
HCP																																																													
7																																																													
4	11																																																												
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N	-	6	3	6	1																																																								
S	-	6	3	6	1																																																								
E	3	-	-	-	-																																																								
W	3	-	-	-	-																																																								
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																																																										
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dbl																																																										
Pass	1♠	2♣	3♠																																																										
Pass	4♠	All Pass																																																											

Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**

Pass Pass Pass Pass

1♣ Dbl Rdbl 1♠

Pass 2♠ 3♣ 3♠

Pass Pass Dbl All Pass

All four players have a decision to make on this one – each in turn has to decide whether to open or not and each in turn has legitimate reasons for opening. One thing is for sure if you do decide to open, you better be able to play them well.

Of course, North might more sensibly decide to just overcall 1♦ on the first round. East will respond 1♠ and West will more than likely reach 3♣. Other East's will land in 2NT or maybe 3NT. To beat 3NT, South just has to avoid leading a Club. To beat 2NT, South needs to lead a Diamond or a Tommy Garvey style ♠K.

♠ J962
♥ J865
♦ KQJ106
♣ -

♠ Q ♠ A843
♥ Q1097 ♥ A3
♦ A82 ♦ 953
♣ A10742 ♣ K983

♠ K1075
♥ K42
♦ 74
♣ QJ65

HCP	
8	
12	11
9	

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

Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**

Pass Pass 1♦ Pass

1♥ Pass 1NT Pass

3NT All Pass

26 HCP and no 8-card major fit so we will all land in 3NT. The strong no-trump openers will bid 1NT-2♣-2♦-3NT.

Declarer will make between 7 and 10 tricks – more likely 10 than 7. The winning defence is for South to find a Spade lead – easier to do against those declarers who were playing 'weak no-trump' and had to open 1♦.

Against those declarers who opened a 'strong' no-trump, South will mostly lead his fourth highest Diamond – hopefully North will understand.

♠ 109853
♥ Q10864
♦ -
♣ KJ3

♠ 2 ♠ KJ4
♥ A953 ♥ K7
♦ Q87 ♦ AK1064
♣ A10754 ♣ Q92

♠ AQ76
♥ J2
♦ J9532
♣ 86

HCP	
6	
10	16
8	

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

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q10 ♥ 953 ♦ J9852 ♣ 963</p> <p>♠ 9864 ♠ KJ7 ♥ AKJ1086 ♥ Q ♦ 4 ♦ K1073 ♣ A4 ♣ KQJ87</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A532 ♥ 742 ♦ AQ6 ♣ 1052</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;">3</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12 15</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</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>-</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>5</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		3	12 15	10	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	5	2	5	5	5	W	5	2	5	5	4	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>The West hand despite its mere 12 HCP is really worth a lot more than that – so a 2♥ rebid does not do it justice and those who decide to rebid 2♠ or 3♥ can be forgiven.</p> <p>The downside of rebidding more than 2♥ is that East will surely start thinking about slam – but as long as East remembers to check for Aces, slam should be avoided.</p> <p>The other side of the coin is that if South doesn't take a trick with his ♦A at trick 1 or trick 2 – he won't get another chance.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass
HCP																																																														
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 1085 ♥ 975 ♦ 10763 ♣ 865</p> <p>♠ J96 ♠ Q432 ♥ Q43 ♥ AK106 ♦ 9854 ♦ Q ♣ Q104 ♣ AK92</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ AK7 ♥ J82 ♦ AKJ2 ♣ J73</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;">0</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5 18</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">17</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>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		0	5 18	17	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	4	1	3	4	1	W	4	1	3	4	1	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Rdbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>South and East have two powerful hands – each thinking that they have the strongest hand at the table. Nonetheless South is the more likely to win the auction. South being vulnerable needs to exercise more caution – if he gets too high and concedes 200 or more it will be a very bad result.</p> <p>Those East players playing a Multi 2♦ will surely goad South into making a costly bidding error.</p> <p>If E/W end up declaring then the fact that South showed a good hand in the auction should help declarer in the play of the hand.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♣	Dbl	Pass	1♦	Dbl	Rdbl	Pass	Pass	1♥	2♦	All Pass			
HCP																																																														
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E	4	1	3	4	1																																																									
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Pass	1♦	Dbl	Rdbl																																																											
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♦																																																											
All Pass																																																														

Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable

West **North** **East** **South**
 1NT All Pass

If playing a weak No-Trump, North will open 1NT and play there. North will be lucky if he escapes undoubled. With a bit of work, North will end up with 6 tricks.

Some Wests might double 1NT but this practice is not recommended.

If North opens 1♣, it will be easier for West to get into the auction with a take-out-double over South's response. Now E/W might end up in 1NT and with a bit of hard work they will make 7 tricks.

This will be a tiring board for both sides.

♠ Q92
 ♥ A5
 ♦ Q72
 ♣ A7643
 ♠ AK107 ♠ 854
 ♥ Q742 ♥ K98
 ♦ K10 ♦ J963
 ♣ J98 ♣ KQ5
 ♠ J63
 ♥ J1063
 ♦ A854
 ♣ 102

HCP	
12	
13	9
6	

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

Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all

West **North** **East** **South**
 1NT Pass 1♠ Pass
 2♠ 3♠ All Pass

What should East rebid after 1♠-1NT-?
 2♠ seems a bit of an underbid with 15 HCP and yet the Spade suit quality is not ideal for 3♠. Still the fact that hand has all its 15 HCP in Aces and Kings should persuade East to upgrade the hand and rebid 3♠.

West has a decision to make too....should he Pass, bid 3NT, or bid 4♠? Passing will be a common decision.

However, the 3NT and 4♠ bidders will probably win the day – 3NT by West is unbeatable and it takes an unlikely Heart lead to beat 4♠ by East.

♠ KJ73
 ♥ K102
 ♦ AQ6
 ♣ J53
 ♠ Q2 ♠ A109865
 ♥ Q543 ♥ A8
 ♦ 98532 ♦ K10
 ♣ K8 ♣ A109
 ♠ 4
 ♥ J976
 ♦ J74
 ♣ Q7642

HCP	
14	
7	15
4	

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

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ KQ6 ♥ A63 ♦ J963 ♣ 1092</p> <p>♠ J94 ♠ A108752 ♥ KQJ10754 ♥ 9 ♦ A ♦ Q4 ♣ A8 ♣ K764</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 3 ♥ 82 ♦ K108752 ♣ QJ53</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>1</td></tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">In old fashioned Acol, West's 4♥ rebid showed some sort of Spade support – hence the 4♠ rebid by West.</p>	HCP		10		15	9	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	-	-	-	S	-	2	-	-	-	E	1	-	4	5	1	W	1	-	4	5	1	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">West has a perfect hand for a good old fashioned Acol Strong 2♥ opening but the bid is so rare that modern tournament bridge uses a 2♥ opening for other more frequent hands such as 'Weak Two's' and 'Tartan'.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Those of you playing 'Benjamin' twos will be able to describe 8 playing trick hand by opening 2♣ and rebidding 2♥ over partner's 2♦ response. Those of us who have no gadgets will have to choose between opening 1♥, 4♥ or an Acol 2♣ showing 23+.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">The problem with opening 2♣ tonight is that it might be hard to hold East back from bidding slam. If East-West are playing Key Card Blackwood then they will know not to bid the slam missing two key cards. But if E/W are playing ordinary Blackwood then they might get too high.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass
HCP																																																													
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<p style="text-align: center;">♠ AK8763 ♥ Q7 ♦ K53 ♣ 84</p> <p>♠ 9 ♠ Q1042 ♥ 1098642 ♥ J3 ♦ Q108 ♦ 92 ♣ AK2 ♣ QJ1096</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J5 ♥ AK5 ♦ AJ764 ♣ 753</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%;"> <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>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		12		9	6	13		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	4	-	4	1	S	-	4	-	4	1	E	-	-	1	-	-	W	-	-	1	-	-	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Some West's might be tempted to open a weak 2♥. Such tactics might be fun but in the long run opening weak 2's with so much strength outside your long suit will make it difficult for partner to judge what to do.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">4♠ by North seems a routine place to land. It seems both opponents have a natural Club lead. North will ruff the third round of Clubs. To avoid losing 2 Spade tricks, declarer needs to lead a low Spade towards the Jack in dummy. Declarer makes 5 Spades, 3 Heart and 2 Diamond tricks.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">In 3NT, even if you avoid the Club lead, you only make 7 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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