

# **British Autumn Sim Pairs**



**Tuesday  
12<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

## Welcome to the 2021 British Autumn Simultaneous Pairs.

Thank you for playing. I hope you enjoy the event and also the commentary provided by a leading expert. If you are making your first foray into Face to Face Bridge then I hope you find the experience rewarding. The commentator for this set of hands is Sally Brock. You can find the full details and results at [www.ebu.co.uk/sims/](http://www.ebu.co.uk/sims/). You can earn Blue Points in these Sim Pairs (in England) and they are awarded to the top third of the field. Provisional master points are shown but the event is not finalised until all results are in and score corrections have been made. This usually takes about three weeks.

Ian Payn,

Chairman EBU

♠ 6432 ♥ K7 ♦ KQJ3 ♣ AK4		Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all <b>West    North    East    South</b> 1♠        Pass    2♦ Pass    2NT     Pass    3NT All Pass																																													
♠ KQJ5                    ♠ 1087 ♥ 8632                    ♥ J1094 ♦ 2                            ♦ A54 ♣ Q1072                   ♣ J53		Many will balk at opening 1♠ with such a bad suit – and I can't say I like it much. However, here it makes things simple, and also is likely to put East off the best lead – not that he is likely to lead a spade in any event. As it is, East will probably lead a heart, declarer will knock out the ♦A, and now careful discarding should hold declarer to 10 tricks.																																													
♠ A9 ♥ AQ5 ♦ 109876 ♣ 986																																															
<table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td></td></tr> </table>		HCP		16		8	6	10		<table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	5	1	2	3	S	2	5	1	2	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
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<p>♠ A1098754 ♥ 10 ♦ A5 ♣ KJ6</p> <p>♠ K62                      ♠ QJ3 ♥ AK65                    ♥ J42 ♦ 82                         ♦ KJ107 ♣ 8754                     ♣ AQ2</p> <p>♠ - ♥ Q9873 ♦ Q9643 ♣ 1093</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>West will probably feel unhappy about passing out 2♠, but the trouble with double is that partner will probably not pass, thinking (rightly) that the double is for takeout. However, 2♠ is more or less down in top tricks, and declarer may go two down which will surely lead to a good score for EW. Suppose East leads a heart to West's ♥K, and West switches to a diamond, ducked to East's ♦K, and East plays another diamond. Declarer wins and needs to play an intermediate spade now. If he plays the ♠A and another he will go two down.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1NT	Pass	Pass	2♠	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
		1NT	Pass										
Pass	2♠	All Pass											

HCP	Makeable contracts				
12	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
10    14	N	-	-	1	-
4	S	-	-	1	-
	E	2	-	1	3
	W	1	-	1	2

<p>♠ AK1087 ♥ 83 ♦ J8 ♣ K942</p> <p>♠ 4                         ♠ Q9632 ♥ QJ1065                ♥ 72 ♦ 1073                    ♦ KQ6 ♣ AJ85                    ♣ 1073</p> <p>♠ J5 ♥ AK94 ♦ A9542 ♣ Q6</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </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>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>It might not be what it says in the EBU's teaching manuals, but I think if you're playing weak NT then you should open one whenever you can. That way partner knows that you won't have anything like a weak NT when you open something else! Here partner transfers into spades, then invites game and South is happy to bid 3NT. Here all roads lead to the indifferent 3NT but the hands do not fit well and it looks as if declarer will do reasonably well to get out for one down.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
			1NT																		
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠																		
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT																		
All Pass																					

HCP	Makeable contracts				
11	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
8    7	N	1	2	1	3
14	S	1	2	1	3
	E	-	-	-	-
	W	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ Q32 ♥ K1092 ♦ 82 ♣ Q852</p> <p>♠ 104                      ♠ A986 ♥ 3                         ♥ 8765 ♦ AJ10643                ♦ KQ7 ♣ AK103                   ♣ 74</p> <p>♠ KJ75 ♥ AQJ4 ♦ 95 ♣ J96</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>South's actions here are those of an aggressive matchpoint player. He passes on the first round, but when East gives simple preference to diamonds, doubles for takeout to try to push the opponents up a bit. The fact that he doubled on the second round but not the first brings the heart suit into the picture, and North duly chooses hearts. With such a bad suit and good diamond support East presses on to 3♦, a contract that, this time, can't be beaten.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Dbl	Pass	2♥	3♦	All Pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass														
2♣	Pass	2♦	Dbl														
Pass	2♥	3♦	All Pass														

HCP	Makeable contracts				
7	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
12    9	N	-	-	1	-
12	S	-	-	1	-
	E	1	4	-	1
	W	1	4	-	1

<p>♠ AK973 ♥ KJ64 ♦ 82 ♣ KQ</p> <p>♠ 842                      ♠ Q1065 ♥ AQ32                    ♥ 7 ♦ AQ10                    ♦ J9643 ♣ 765                      ♣ J82</p> <p>♠ J ♥ 10985 ♦ K75 ♣ A10943</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The bidding is fairly straightforward. South responds 1NT, but over North's 2♥ (no need to jump about just because you have 16 HCP) raises to 3♥ and North presses on to game. Only if East finds the inspired lead of the ♦J (so the defence can kick off with three rounds of the suit) can the game be beaten.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
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Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥														
Pass	4♥	All Pass															

HCP	Makeable contracts					
16	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
12      4	N	1	-	3	1	-
8	S	1	-	4	1	1
	E	-	1	-	-	-
	W	-	1	-	-	-

<p>♠ AK943 ♥ J3 ♦ 94 ♣ KQ54</p> <p>♠ 865                      ♠ Q1072 ♥ 976                      ♥ K108 ♦ Q83                      ♦ AK6 ♣ A1073                  ♣ J92</p> <p>♠ J ♥ AQ542 ♦ J10752 ♣ 86</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>This depends a little on people's defence to 1NT openings. If a natural defence is used, then South would pass and North probably bid 2♠; however, it is popular nowadays to play that an overcall of 2H/S shows 5 cards in that suit and 4 or more in a minor. If that was my agreement, I would (just) venture 2♥ because of the favourable vulnerability. And as North I would pass – albeit a conservative choice. With everything breaking 2♥ should make; 2♠, on the other hand, can be beaten with accurate defence.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1NT	2♥
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>						
		1NT	2♥						

HCP	Makeable contracts					
13	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
6      13	N	1	2	2	1	1
8	S	1	2	2	1	1
	E	-	-	-	-	-
	W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ 73 ♥ KJ107 ♦ 843 ♣ KQJ5</p> <p>♠ J86                      ♠ Q92 ♥ 983                      ♥ AQ6 ♦ AKJ62                  ♦ Q75 ♣ 64                      ♣ A1072</p> <p>♠ AK1054 ♥ 542 ♦ 109 ♣ 983</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>East will open 1NT in 4<sup>th</sup> seat, and that should silence everyone. No doubt South will lead a low spade and now declarer has 9 tricks (5 diamonds, 1 spade, 2 hearts and 1 club). Even if South leads something else, given the lie in hearts and clubs, declarer should be able to come to 9 tricks. However, I doubt many will bid it, as I can see no reason to upgrade that 4333 East hand.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
			Pass										
Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass										

HCP	Makeable contracts					
10	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
9      14	N	-	-	-	1	-
7	S	-	-	-	1	-
	E	1	3	1	-	3
	W	1	3	1	-	3

<p>♠ AQJ6 ♥ 102 ♦ 82 ♣ AQJ63</p> <p>♠ K10983      ♠ 72 ♥ A4            ♥ KQ876 ♦ Q953        ♦ KJ7 ♣ 54            ♣ K72</p> <p>♠ 54 ♥ J953 ♦ A1064 ♣ 1098</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;"></th> <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>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Best defence should beat 1NT by 2 tricks. Acolites would know that North had shown a real club suit (unlike the 5-card majorities) and so would have no reason not to lead one. Declarer might win the first or the second, and play the ♦K. South must win and see that he should use his only entry to help partner – and surely partner must have good spades. A spade to North's ♠J, followed by a low club back to South's ♣9 and another spade would lead to a 2-trick defeat.</p>		West	North	East	South		Pass	1♣	1♥	Pass		1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass																																	
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		E	-	1	1	1	-																																										
5		W	-	1	1	1	-																																										

<p>♠ 1098763 ♥ K72 ♦ A109 ♣ 3</p> <p>♠ 54            ♠ Q ♥ AJ10        ♥ Q96 ♦ 763         ♦ KQJ854 ♣ AJ1074     ♣ 952</p> <p>♠ AKJ2 ♥ 8543 ♦ 2 ♣ KQ86</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;"></th> <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>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>Purists would pass that North hand but for me it is OK non-vulnerable. East is not strong enough to overcall and South should go straight to 4♠. It may or may not make but at favourable vulnerability hopefully it will be a good save if it doesn't make. This time there are just 2 hearts and a club to lose.</p>		West	North	East	South			2♠	Pass	4♠																																						
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<p>♠ 109763 ♥ AQJ4 ♦ 10 ♣ Q82</p> <p>♠ J2            ♠ Q85 ♥ K10762     ♥ 83 ♦ A52         ♦ KQ98 ♣ 1096        ♣ AJ74</p> <p>♠ AK4 ♥ 95 ♦ J7643 ♣ K53</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;"></th> <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>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2♥ does not play very well for EW, and good defence should beat it by 2 tricks. +200 for NS should be a good score. Maybe some Souths will 'bravely' enter the bidding and subside in 2♠, which can make 9 tricks with good play. Still, not as good a score as beating 2♥ by 2 tricks. When both sides are vulnerable it pays to be cautious in competitive auctions.</p>		West	North	East	South				1NT	Pass		2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass																																	
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		E	-	-	-	-	-																																										
11		W	-	-	-	-	-																																										

<p>♠ 65 ♥ J843 ♦ J82 ♣ J984</p> <p>♠ 943                      ♠ AJ10 ♥ A1097                  ♥ KQ62 ♦ KQ105                  ♦ 964 ♣ 107                      ♣ K53</p> <p>♠ KQ872 ♥ 5 ♦ A73 ♣ AQ62</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>It is difficult for NS to see that they should be bidding on to 3♣. North is so weak, and South does not really have more than he has already said. Still, 2♥ is likely to make – an opening lead of either black suit makes it easy for declarer who might make an overtrick now. The cards lie well for NS and 3♣ should make too. Unlike the previous deal, neither side is vulnerable here and that is the best vulnerability for aggressive competitive bidding.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1♠	Pass	Pass	1NT	2♣	Dbl	Pass	2♥	All Pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
			1♠														
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♣														
Dbl	Pass	2♥	All Pass														

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
3	N 3	-	-	-	-
9      13	S 3	-	-	-	-
15	E -	2	2	-	2
	W -	1	2	-	1

<p>♠ Q43 ♥ 2 ♦ K10753 ♣ J742</p> <p>♠ AK7                      ♠ J862 ♥ Q73                      ♥ AJ954 ♦ AQ4                      ♦ 96 ♣ KQ83                    ♣ A6</p> <p>♠ 1095 ♥ K1086 ♦ J82 ♣ 1095</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Some people play fancy methods and might be able to get a heart contract played by West (the trouble with a transfer and then a bid of 3♠ means that hearts will be played by West, but spades by East). Declarer has to play very well to make 11 tricks. He can discard a diamond on a club so lose no tricks in that suit. Then he ruffs diamonds in hand, crossing to the West hand in spades. In the end position he has 3 trumps left in hand while South has 4. South must ruff and is endplayed in trumps.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass														
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass														
4♥	All Pass																

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
6	N -	-	-	-	-
20      10	S -	-	-	-	-
4	E 3	2	5	4	3
	W 4	2	5	5	4

<p>♠ Q ♥ KJ10986 ♦ J108 ♣ J54</p> <p>♠ 1097                      ♠ 6532 ♥ Q53                      ♥ A74 ♦ AKQ763                  ♦ 9542 ♣ A                          ♣ 63</p> <p>♠ AKJ84 ♥ 2 ♦ - ♣ KQ109872</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South probably views his hand with pleasure until North spoils it all by opening 2♥! Still, a forcing 3♣ is a good start. West joins in with 3♦ and now South can bid his spades. After North's club preference South presses on to game. There is nothing the defenders can do to take more than a heart and a club.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		2♥	Pass	3♣	3♦	Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
	2♥	Pass	3♣																		
3♦	Pass	Pass	3♠																		
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣																		
All Pass																					

HCP	Makeable contracts				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
8	N 5	-	1	2	-
15      4	S 5	-	1	2	-
13	E -	2	-	-	2
	W -	2	-	-	2

<p>♠ 8 ♥ AQJ73 ♦ 86 ♣ J10964</p> <p>♠ AJ107      ♠ 96542 ♥ K108      ♥ 952 ♦ KQ54      ♦ A32 ♣ Q7      ♣ K8</p> <p>♠ KQ3 ♥ 64 ♦ J1097 ♣ A532</p>	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Playing 4-card majors there is no need for East to bid too much with his balanced hand, even though he does have 5-card support. But North should not pass out 2♠. He might double on the second round, or bid 2NT to suggest a 2-suiter. Either way NS should find their club fit and East can now bid on in spades. On a club lead this should be a comfortable one down (♣A, 3 hearts and a spade). 3♣ makes, however, so losing 50 is a better score than that.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl	3♠	All Pass																												
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<p>♠ KQ973 ♥ 52 ♦ A104 ♣ 964</p> <p>♠ A652      ♠ J104 ♥ 94      ♥ 108 ♦ 853      ♦ KQJ97 ♣ A1052      ♣ 873</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ AKQJ763 ♦ 62 ♣ KQJ</p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>South is a bit good for his actions here, but does not really have an alternative – unless playing Benjaminised Acol when he could open 2♣ and rebid hearts. On a diamond lead the defenders can take 3 tricks, but if they prefer to lead a trump declarer can set up a spade for a diamond discard.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass																															
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<p>♠ 10 ♥ 10953 ♦ 9765432 ♣ 8</p> <p>♠ K9752      ♠ J843 ♥ 6      ♥ AQ74 ♦ A8      ♦ K10 ♣ KQ743      ♣ 1062</p> <p>♠ AQ6 ♥ KJ82 ♦ QJ ♣ AJ95</p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Maybe some enterprising Norths will overcall 3♦ over 1♠. That might lead to South bidding 5♦ over EW's 4♠ – perhaps hoping to make it. However, although South will not be thinking about his hand in terms of a sacrifice, that is what it will be – and a good sacrifice at that. EW will need to find their heart ruff in order to get 300. And if they bid on to 5♠, that will go down if North leads his singleton club.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass																																		
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<p>♠ KJ1085 ♥ AK105 ♦ 1095 ♣ K</p> <p>♠ 932                      ♠ 74 ♥ J432                      ♥ 9876 ♦ 64                              ♦ A832 ♣ Q732                      ♣ J84</p> <p>♠ AQ6 ♥ Q ♦ KQJ7 ♣ A10965</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Two slam hands in a row for NS! Here after North's 2♥ rebid, South must bid 4<sup>th</sup>-suit-forcing in order to make a forcing bid in spades. After that, South just asks for key cards before bidding the small slam. Again 6NT is also cold but it is not so easy for NS to bid that here, South's singleton heart honour and North's singleton club honour both pulling their weight. North either 6♠ or 6NT all declarer will lose is the ♦A.</p>		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣		Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦		Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT		Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠		All Pass			
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<p>♠ K64 ♥ K7543 ♦ 1072 ♣ 74</p> <p>♠ 98                              ♠ 107532 ♥ A1098                      ♥ 2 ♦ AKJ95                      ♦ Q6 ♣ J9                              ♣ AKQ106</p> <p>♠ AQJ ♥ QJ6 ♦ 843 ♣ 8532</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>East would be feeling ill about having to bid and rebid spades with that hand – maybe it would be better to open 1♣. The problem with that is that a 5-3 spade fit might be lost. As it is, 3NT plays well enough. Only if the defenders find an unlikely spade lead will declarer be held to 10 tricks.</p>		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	1♠	Pass		2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass		3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass
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<p>♠ 97 ♥ AQ10976 ♦ 8 ♣ 8742</p> <p>♠ 10862                      ♠ A54 ♥ 42                              ♥ KJ85 ♦ A105432                      ♦ QJ ♣ 5                              ♣ AKQ3</p> <p>♠ KQJ3 ♥ 3 ♦ K976 ♣ J1096</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There are all sorts of ways to bid after a 2NT opening these days, but the above auction assumes simple Stayman. South's choice of opening lead is interesting, given that he assumes there will be a 4-card spade suit in the dummy. Perhaps the ♣J is a safer choice than a top spade. As it happens, more or less whatever declarer does seems to lead to 8 tricks.</p>		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				2NT	Pass		3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass		3NT	All Pass		
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<p>♠ 10985 ♥ KQ10 ♦ J8 ♣ AQ74</p> <p>♠ J                      ♠ K642 ♥ A654                  ♥ 9873 ♦ AQ9752              ♦ 63 ♣ J6                      ♣ 982</p> <p>♠ AQ73 ♥ J2 ♦ K104 ♣ K1053</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>13</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>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		12		12	3	13		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	4	-	-	3	3	S	4	1	1	4	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </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>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Unless the defenders are generous and give up on one of their red-suit tricks, declarer will need to bring the spade suit in for no losers if he is to make his contract. While he can do so on the actual layout, a better percentage is to play East for both the ♠K and ♠J. The most likely way to make 4♠ is for West to lead a trump – some might choose this but I think a club is a better shot.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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<p>♠ Q3 ♥ KQ106 ♦ K63 ♣ J985</p> <p>♠ AJ1042              ♠ K986 ♥ 94                      ♥ J52 ♦ 982                    ♦ AJ ♣ AK2                   ♣ Q764</p> <p>♠ 75 ♥ A873 ♦ Q10754 ♣ 103</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>11</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>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		11		12	11	6		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	2	-	-	S	-	2	2	-	-	E	2	-	-	4	3	W	2	-	-	4	3	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Technically these days the recommended opening for West is 1NT (if playing 12–14), but it is not very attractive with both red suits unguarded. I would prefer to go for 1♠ and hope nothing bad happens. Here East will raise to 3♠ and West has no reason to bid on. However, here the hands fit well and 10 tricks are likely to be made (assuming declarer does not manufacture a trump loser). Imagine EW had identical length in the red suits, though, and now 4♠ has little play.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass
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<p>♠ J53 ♥ K72 ♦ 8652 ♣ Q64</p> <p>♠ 1082                      ♠ KQ9 ♥ 3                            ♥ AQJ95 ♦ KJ93                      ♦ AQ107 ♣ K10985                  ♣ J</p> <p>♠ A764 ♥ 10864 ♦ 4 ♣ A732</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>19</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>-</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>5</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	HCP		6		7	19	8		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	3	5	3	3	4	W	3	5	3	3	4	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>After the 1NT response East has to choose between rebidding 3♦ and going straight to 3NT. I don't like to give away too much information to my opponents at matchpoints and prefer the latter. But 3♦ works OK too. The cards lie well for EW. I guess a diamond would be most Ns choice of lead, not that it matters. Declarer should be able to make 10 tricks by way of 1 spade, 2 heart, 4 diamonds and 3 clubs. There is just nowhere for the defence to go for tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
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<p>♠ AKQ954 ♥ 109 ♦ 62 ♣ J108</p> <p>♠ 10762      ♠ 8 ♥ 64            ♥ KJ753 ♦ K5            ♦ 109743 ♣ A9752       ♣ K3</p> <p>♠ J3 ♥ AQ82 ♦ AQJ8 ♣ Q64</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;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">16</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>2</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</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		10	7	7	7	16		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	1	1	3	4	S	2	1	1	3	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <p><b>West      North      East      South</b></p> <p>Pass                      Pass      1♥</p> <p>Pass      1♠                  Pass      1NT</p> <p>Pass      3NT                  All Pass</p> <p>I like the idea of raising the 1NT rebid to 3NT with that North hand. Of course, it might be better to play in spades but it feels right for the South hand to be declarer with the lead coming up to it. With such a good spade suit declarer should be able to win the lead and run off all the spades, causing all sorts of problems for the defenders. Here I guess West will lead a club and best is for the defenders to play 3 rounds of the suit. Declarer wins and runs his spades. It will be hard for the defenders not to 'tell' him which red suit to play on in the end. Note that if East starts with the ♣K and another club, 4♠ will go down (though strong no-trumpers playing transfers will have South as declarer).</p>
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<p>♠ - ♥ KJ732 ♦ Q974 ♣ A863</p> <p>♠ Q875            ♠ AKJ42 ♥ 8                ♥ 1065 ♦ J108653       ♦ AK2 ♣ 74               ♣ KJ</p> <p>♠ 10963 ♥ AQ94 ♦ - ♣ Q10952</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;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">19</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</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>6</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		10	19	3	8	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	6	-	5	-	-	S	6	-	5	-	-	E	-	3	-	3	1	W	-	3	-	2	1	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <p><b>West      North      East      South</b></p> <p>Pass                      Pass</p> <p>Pass      1♥                  Dbl      4♦</p> <p>Pass      Pass                  4♠      Dbl</p> <p>All Pass</p> <p>As a passed hand, South could hardly be stronger and is well worth a shortage-showing 4♦. After partner signs off and East bids 4♠, it looks attractive to double. An interesting high-level competitive deal. Although the denomination that can take the most tricks is clubs, it seems unlikely that anyone would end up there. Double-dummy 4♠ can be beaten because South can get 2 diamond ruffs, but it is unclear that this will be so easy in practice. Full marks to the NSs who get to 5♥ as there is no defence to beat that contract.</p>
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<p>♠ A97 ♥ AK965 ♦ Q ♣ K732</p> <p>♠ K63            ♠ 1054 ♥ 107            ♥ Q832 ♦ J95            ♦ K643 ♣ AQJ96       ♣ 84</p> <p>♠ QJ82 ♥ J4 ♦ A10872 ♣ 105</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;">16</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</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>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</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	5	11	8	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	3	3	3	2	S	2	3	3	3	2	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <p><b>West      North      East      South</b></p> <p>Pass      1♥                  Pass      1♠</p> <p>2♣        Dbl                  Pass      2♦</p> <p>Pass      2♠                  All Pass</p> <p>I don't usually like overcalling at the 2-level on a 5-card suit but here I have already passed and want to suggest the lead against a heart or NT contract. This gives North a problem. He might bid a simple 2♠, but double here shows a strong NT type and might be better for the moment. After double South bids his second suit and North goes back to 2♠, showing better than an immediate raise. Still, South is not interested. 2♠ should make with an overtrick.</p>
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