## British Autumn Sim Pairs



Tuesday

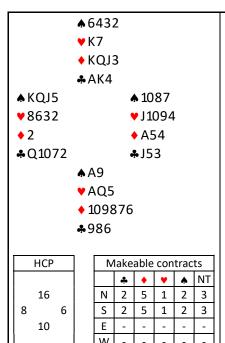
12<sup>th</sup> October 2021

## 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 <a href="https://www.ebu.co.uk/sims/">www.ebu.co.uk/sims/</a>. 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



Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all

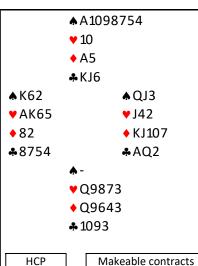
West North East South

1♠ Pass 2♦

Pass 2NT Pass 3NT

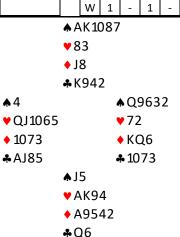
All Pass

Many will baulk 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.



Board 2: Dealer East: NS vulnerable West North East South 1NT **Pass** 2 All Pass Pass

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.



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Board 3	3 : Dealer	South:	EW vulnera	ble
West	North	East	South	

1NT 2♠ Pass 2 **Pass** 3NT Pass 2NT **Pass** All Pass

•

♠ NT

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**♣**Q6 НСР

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14

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IV	lake	able	con	trac	ts
	*	•	>	<b>^</b>	NT
N	1	2	1	3	2
S	1	2	1	3	2
Е	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

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.

**♠**Q32 ♥K1092 **82 ♣**Q852 **↑** 104 **▲**A986 **¥**3 **9**8765 ♦ AJ10643 ♦KQ7 ♣AK103 **.**74 **♠** KJ75 ♥AQJ4 **♦**95

**♣**J96

North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass
Pass	2♦	Dbl
2♥	3♦	All Pass
	Pass Pass	Pass 1♥ Pass 2◆

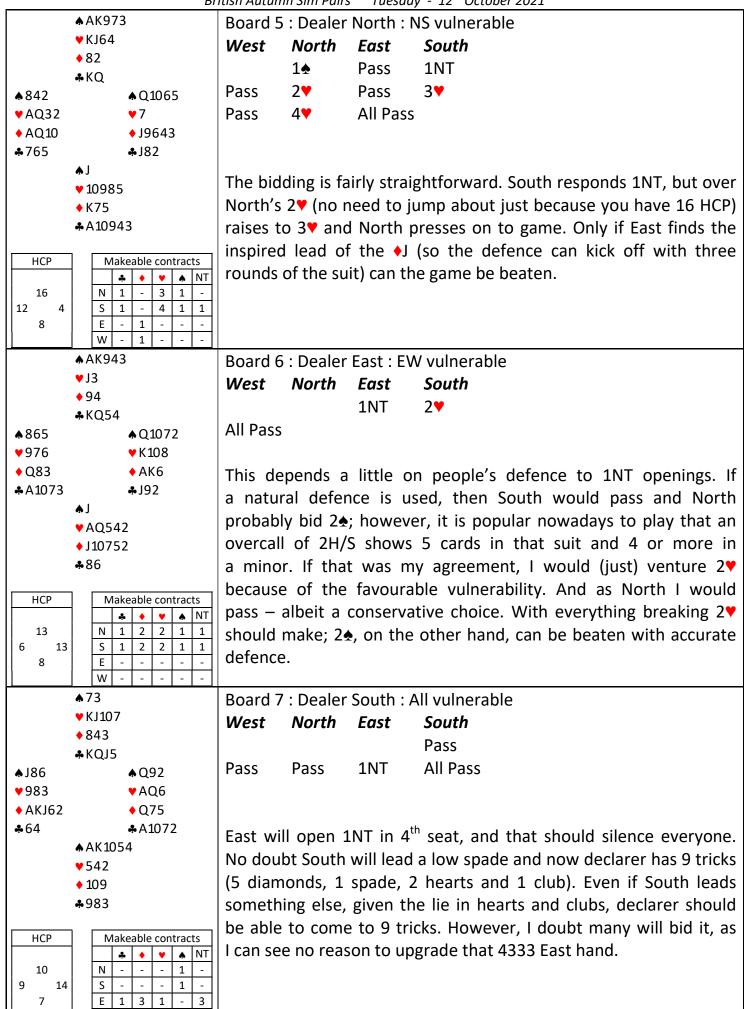
Board 4: Dealer West: All vulnerable

**HCP** 12 12

Makeable contracts							
	*	♣ <b>♦ ♥ ♠</b> NT					
N	-	-	1	-	-		
S	-	-	1	-	-		
Е	1	4	-	1	3		
W	1	4	•	1	3		

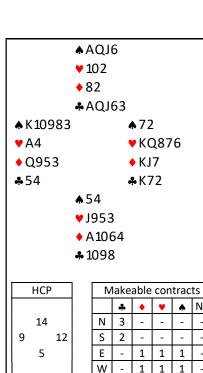
South's actions here are those of an aggressive matchpoint player. He passes on the first round, but when East gives simple preference to diamonds, doubles for takeout to try to push the opponents up a bit. The fact that he doubled on the second round but not the first brings the heart suit into the 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.

British Autumn Sim Pairs ~ Tuesday - 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021



W

1 3 1



Board 8: Dealer West: Love all West North East South 1♣ 1♥ **Pass** Pass **1** Pass 1NT All Pass

Best defence should beat 1NT by 2 tricks. Acolites would know that North had shown a real club suit (unlike the 5-card majorites) 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 \$1, followed by a low club back to South's ♣9 and another spade would lead to a 2-trick defeat.

**▲** 1098763 ▼ K72 ♦ A109 **.**3 **♠**54 **♠**Q **♥** AJ 10 ♥Q96 **♦** 763 ♦ KQJ854 ♣AJ1074 **♣**952 AKJ2 **v**8543 **•** 2 **♣**KQ86

Makeable contracts

Makeable contracts

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3 | 1

\* | • |

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2 4

♠ NT 4 2

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НСР

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HCP

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12 11

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Board 9: Dealer North: EW vulnerable North South West East 2♠ **Pass** 4♠

All Pass

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 44. 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.

W 1 3 ♠ 109763 ♥AQJ4 **10 ♣**Q82 **♠**J2 **♠**Q85 **♥**K10762 **983** ♦ A52 ♦ KQ98 **4**1096 ♣AJ74 **♠**AK4 **y**95 ♦J7643 **♣**K53

Ν

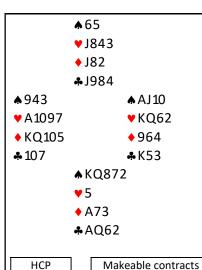
S

W

Board 10: Dealer East: All vulnerable West North East South 1NT **Pass** 2 2 All Pass

Pass

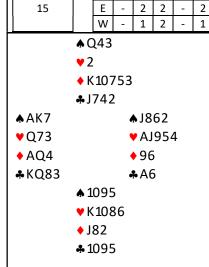
2♥ does not play very well for EW, and good defence should beat it by 2 tricks. +200 for NS should be a good score. Maybe some Souths will 'bravely' enter the bidding and subside in 2♠, which can make 9 tricks with good play. Still, not as good a score as beating 2♥ by 2 tricks. When both sides are vulnerable it pays to be cautious in competitive auctions.



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Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all					
West	North	East	South		
			1♠		
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♣		
Dbl	Pass	2♥	All Pass		

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.



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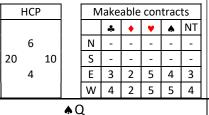
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Board 12	2 : Dealei	West: N	NS vulnerable
West	North	East	South
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass

**3**♦ Pass **3 Pass 4** All Pass

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.



♥KJ10986

Board 13: Dealer North: All vulnerable

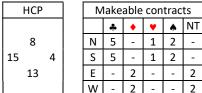
West	North	East	South
	2♥	Pass	3♣
3♦	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
A II			

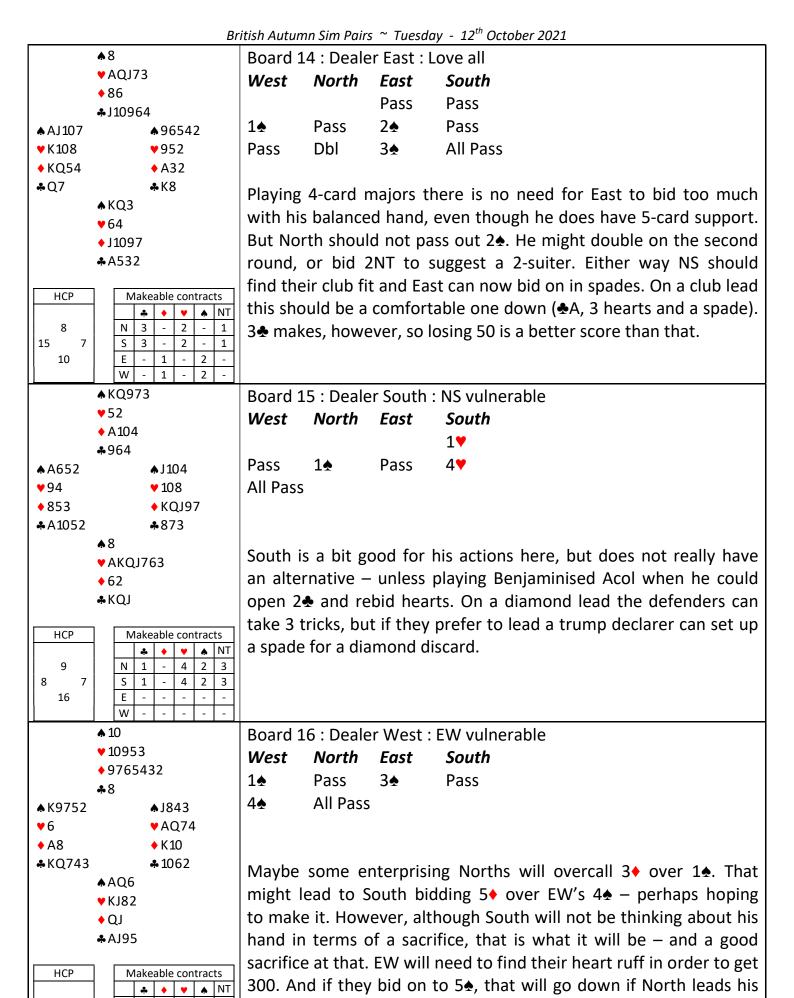
All Pass

2

♦J108 **♣**J54 ♠ 1097 **♠**6532 ♥Q53 **♥**A74 ♦ AKQ763 **♦**9542 ♣A **♣**63 AKJ84 **v** 2 **♣**KQ109872

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.





singleton club.

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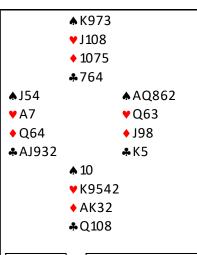
- 3 1 3 - -

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12



НСР	
4 12 12	12

11 8

12 9

Makeable contracts							
	*	<b>♣ ♦ ♥ ♠</b> NT					
N	-	-	-	-	-		
S	-	-	-	-	-		
Ε	5	2	1	4	4		
W	4	2	1	4	4		

Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all

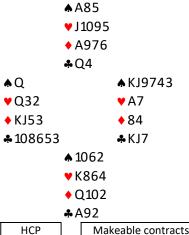
\*West North East South\*

Pass 1♠ Dbl

Rdbl Pass Pass 2♥

3♠ All Pass

Deep Finesse might be able to make 4♠, but I'm not sure most of the field will. With the West hand, I think it is enough to redouble and then bid 3♠, surely showing about 12 HCP in a balanced hand with 3 spades. After 3 rounds of diamonds, declarer will win in the dummy and ... leading the ♠J would work well, but a more normal spade to the ♠Q will make things harder. I think +140 should score well. On the other hand, those who open 1NT with the East hand (as is recommended with 5332 distribution) will find themselves in 3NT. After a heart lead to declarer's ♥Q, it looks more convenient to play on clubs first. Then, even if NS discard perfectly, a simple spade finesse will lead to 9 tricks, while running the ♠J might lead to 10.



Board 18: Dealer East: NS vulnerable

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

At different vulnerabilities North might double 2♠ in the pass-out seat, but here it is too dangerous, especially as EW have not shown a fit. Any NSs bidding to 3♥ are likely to lose 200 even if not doubled. 2♠ on the other hand is not so easy to defend. A trump works best, but even then declarer might make an overtrick.

**♦**J10 **♥**Q87 ♦ AQ43 ♣AKJ10 **♦**854 **♠**97 **y**96 ♥A10432 **98 ♦ 10765 ♣**987652 **♣**Q4 AKQ632 ♥KJ5 ♦ KJ2 **.**3

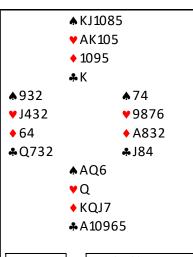
	НСР	
0	17 17	6

N	Makeable contracts					
	*	•	>	٨	NT	
N	4	6	4	6	6	
S	4	6	5	6	6	
Ε	-	-	-	-	-	
W	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	

Board 19: Dealer South: EW vulnerable

West	North	East	Soutl	
			1♠	
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♠	
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠	
Pass	6NT	All Pass		

Once South shows enough for a jump rebid it seems reasonable for North to ask for key cards, the  $5 \triangleq$  response showing 2 key cards plus the  $\triangleq Q$ . North has so many points that it seems reasonable to go for the no-trump slam rather than spades, to get more matchpoints. If the defence don't cash their  $\forall A$  against either contract, declarer can make 13 tricks by squeezing East in hearts and clubs (even if he had more than 3 clubs he would have to bare down to the doubleton  $\triangleq Q$ ).



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North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♣
2♥	Pass	3♦
3♠	Pass	4NT
5♥	Pass	6 <b>♠</b>
	1♠ 2♥ 3♠	1♠ Pass 2♥ Pass 3♠ Pass

All Pass

Makeable contracts **HCP** • ♠ NT 6 4 6 14 6 6 3 S 4 6 4 18

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.

**∧**K64 **♥** K7543 **♦** 1072 **.**74 **♠**98 **↑** 107532 ♥A1098 **v** 2 ♦ AKJ95 ◆ Q6 **♣**J9 **♣**AKQ106 **A**AQJ ♥QJ6 **♦**843

**\$**8532

Board 21: Dealer North: NS vulnerable

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

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.

**HCP** 

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	Makeable contracts					
Ī		*	•	٧	٨	NT
	N	-	-	-	-	-
	S	1	1	-	-	-
Ī	Ε	5	5	1	3	4
ĺ	W	5	5	1	3	4

Board 22: Dealer East: EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass	5	

♥AQ10976 **8 ♣**8742 **♠** 10862 **A** A54 **4**2 **♥** KJ85 ♦ A105432 ◆ QJ **\$**5 **♣**AKQ3 **♠**KQJ3 **¥**3 ♦ K976 **♣**J1096

N

S

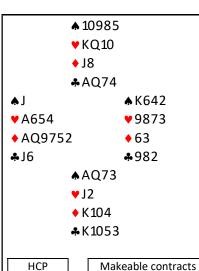
E

**♠**97

Makeable contracts \* | • | • | ♠ NT 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 2

W 1 4 1 2 2

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 4card 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.



Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

West North East South

All Pass

Pass 2♣ Pass 2♠

4♠

Pass

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.

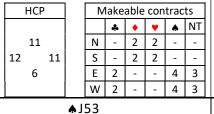
• ♠ NT Ν 3 3 12 12 4 4 S 4 | 1 | 1 | Ε 13 W **♠**Q3 ▼KQ106 ♦ K63 **♣**J985

Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all

West North East South

1♠ Pass 3♠ All Pass

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.



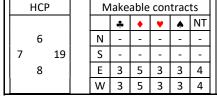
Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

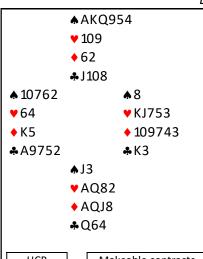
West North East South
Pass 1♥ Pass

1NT Pass 3NT All Pass

K72
8652
Q64
1082
KQ9
AQJ95
KJ93
AQ107
K10985
A764
10864
4
A732

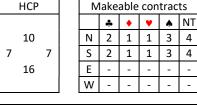
After the 1NT response East has to choose between rebidding 3♦ and going straight to 3NT. I don't like to give away too much information to my opponents at matchpoints and prefer the latter. But 3♦ works OK too. The cards lie well for EW. I guess a diamond would be most Ns choice of lead, not that it 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.

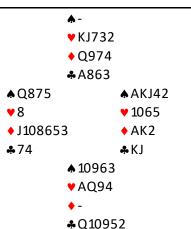




Board 2	26 : Deale	er East : A	All vulnerable
West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pas	S
1 101 11			4517 1:11

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 A and another club, A will go down (though strong no-trumpers playing transfers will have South as declarer).





HCP

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N	6	5 -	. 5	-	-	
S	16	;   -	.   5	·   -	-	
Е	-	. 3	3 -	3	1	
W	·   -	. 3	3 -	2	1	

2

Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all

West North East South

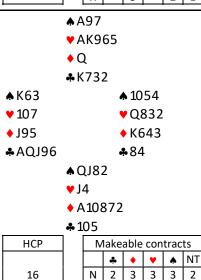
Pass

Pass 1♥ Dbl 4◆

Pass Pass 4♠ Dbl

All Pass

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.



2 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

W

Board 28: Dealer West: NS vulnerable West North East South Pass **1 Pass 1**♠ 2♣ Dbl 2 Pass 2♠ Pass All Pass

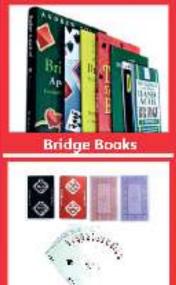
I don't usually like overcalling at the 2-level on a 5-card suit but here I have already passed and want to suggest the lead against a heart or NT contract. This gives North a problem. He might bid a simple 24, but double here shows a strong NT type and might be better for the moment. After double South bids his second suit and North goes back to 24, showing better than an immediate raise. Still, South is not interested. 24 should make with an overtrick.



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