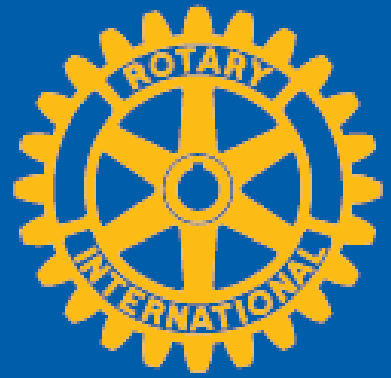


# Cowbridge Rotary



## Charity Bridge Event

7x7 Board Swiss  
Pairs Competition



11:00am Sunday 2nd March 2014  
Cowbridge Comprehensive School  
Aberthin Road, Cowbridge, CF71 7EN

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# INTRODUCTION

Julian Pottage is one of the leading bridge book authors. I asked him how many he has written and he didn't know! We guessed on a figure of 25! Julian's last book "Defend or Declare" is a great read with 72 bridge deals to test your skills. He has another book just about to go to print.

Julian lives, works and plays bridge locally and has been kind enough to work with the Cowbridge Rotary to produce the following commentary on the bridge hands that you have just played.

The deals chosen for the 2014 Cowbridge Rotary and East Wales Bridge Association charity bridge tournament come from the 2007 and 2009 world bridge teams championships.

For each of the 7 7-board matches in the event, players have fixed teammates for the duration of the match.

Teammates are as follows:

## Match 1

North-South play with Bertens-Bakkerren of the Netherlands  
East-West play with Helness-Helgemo of Norway

## Match 2

North-South play with Meckstroth-Rodwell of the USA  
East-West play with Lauria-Versace of Italy

## Match 3

North-South play with Weinstein-Garner of the USA  
East-West play with Cope-Holman of South Africa

## Match 4

North-South play with Fantoni-Nunes of Italy  
East-West play with Katz-Nickell of the USA

## Match 5

North-South play with Bosenberg-Eber of South Africa  
East-West play with Rosenberg-Zia of the USA

## Match 6

North-South play with Hamman-Zia of the USA  
East-West play with Sementa-Duboin of Italy

## Match 7

North-South play with Drijver-Brink of the Netherlands  
East-West play with Helness-Helgemo of Norway

<p>           ♠ Q 8 3            ♥ 2            ♦ J 5 4 3            ♣ 10 7 4 3 2            ♠ J 6 5 2      ♠ K 7 4            ♥ A 10 8 3      ♥ K Q J 9            ♦ K 9 7      ♦ 10 8 6            ♣ 6 5      ♣ A Q J            ♠ A 10 9            ♥ 7 6 5 4            ♦ A Q 2            ♣ K 9 8         </p> <p>Table Result 4♥ East 8 tricks Bertens-Bakkeren EW -100 Helness-Helgemo NS + 100</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Playing Acol, it should be easy to stop at a safe level. With a 9-loser hand, West is worth no more than a single raise. East has no reason to advance over that.</p> <p>The Dutch reached the poor game because East opened a 14-17 1NT and West used Stayman before inviting game, an invitation East accepted.</p> <p>Unless South finds the extraordinary lead of a diamond, an easy path to 8 tricks is to play clubs early, subsequently throwing a diamond on the third club and ruffing a diamond in dummy. Normally South will lead a trump.</p> <p>Bertens came to 8 tricks without a diamond ruff because he was given a spade trick.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥	End						
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
	Pass	1♥	Pass														
2♥	End																
<p>           ♠ 10 6 4            ♥ K 8 2            ♦ K Q 7 6 2            ♣ Q 4            ♠ A Q 8 5 3      ♠ K 9            ♥ A 7 6 5      ♥ 10 9            ♦ 9 5 3      ♦ 10            ♣ K      ♣ A J 9 8 6 5 3 2            ♠ J 7 2            ♥ Q J 4 3            ♦ A J 8 4            ♣ 10 7         </p> <p>Table Result 5♣ East 13 tricks Bertens-Bakkeren EW +440 Helness-Helgemo NS -440</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>4♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♣</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The East hand is far too good for a 3♣ opening at favourable vulnerability. With three sure tricks and the chance that the ♠Q will cover a loser, it seems reasonable for West to raise to 5♣.</p> <p>If your methods do not allow you to open 4♣, because you are playing a 4♣ opening as a strong 4♥ opening, you must choose between opening 1♣ and 5♣. Faced with such a choice, Bertens opened 5♣.</p> <p>How do you make 13 tricks after South's normal heart lead? You take the ace, unblock the ♣K, cross to the ♠K and continue trumps, dropping the ♣Q. When the spade suit splits kindly too, you can discard a heart on a long spade.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			4♣	Pass	5♣	End						
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
		4♣	Pass														
5♣	End																
<p>           ♠ J 10 7 4            ♥ A J            ♦ 10 9 8 6 5 2            ♣ 2            ♠ A 6      ♠ K Q 9 3            ♥ K 10 9 8 4      ♥ 5 3 2            ♦ A      ♦ Q J 7 4            ♣ Q 10 6 5 4      ♣ 8 3            ♠ 8 5 2            ♥ Q 7 6            ♦ K 3            ♣ A K J 9 7         </p> <p>Table Result 3♥ West 9 tricks Bertens-Bakkeren EW +140 Helness-Helgemo NS -140</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>2NT (i)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣ (ii)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>End (iii)</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) 2NT is the Lebensohl convention, usually based on a hand that wishes to compete (rather than force) in a lower-ranking suit.  (ii) Opener has to bid 3♣ in case partner's suit is clubs.  (iii) With good diamonds and poor heart support, East decides to defend.</p> <p>3♦ should fail by a couple of tricks, with three spades and three diamonds to lose.</p> <p>The bad club break should defeat 3♥. Declarer just has too much work to do. 3♥ made at the table because Helness won the initial club lead and switched to the ♦K. The extra diamond trick made the difference between defeat and failure.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1NT	2♥	2NT (i)	Pass	3♣ (ii)	Pass	3♦	End (iii)	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
			1NT														
2♥	2NT (i)	Pass	3♣ (ii)														
Pass	3♦	End (iii)															

<p>♠ J ♥ 9 7 6 5 ♦ K 9 7 4 ♣ K J 9 5</p> <p>♠ K 8 3                      ♠ A Q 9 6 5 2 ♥ A K Q 4 3 2              ♥ 10 8 ♦ 10 6                        ♦ A Q ♣ Q 10                        ♣ A 8 3</p> <p>♠ 10 7 4 ♥ J ♦ J 8 5 3 2 ♣ 7 6 4 2</p> <p>Table Result 6♠ East 12 tricks Bertens-Bakkeren EW +1430 Helness-Helgemo NS -1430</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣ (i)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥(ii)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦(iii)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6♠ (iv)</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) Cue bid, showing a club control. (ii) Cue bid, showing a heart control. (iii) Cue bid, showing a diamond control. East has the wrong sort of hand, aces and spaces, for using a 4NT enquiry. (iv) West accepts East's second slam try.</p> <p>Small slams are easy to make. If you are in it, 7♠ is makeable by squeezing North (who has both minor-suit kings and the heart length). A spade lead would beat 7♥ because you cannot get back to the West hand to finish drawing trumps.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣ (i)	Pass	4♥(ii)	Pass	5♦(iii)	Pass	6♠ (iv)	End		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
1♥	Pass	2♠	Pass																		
3♠	Pass	4♣ (i)	Pass																		
4♥(ii)	Pass	5♦(iii)	Pass																		
6♠ (iv)	End																				
<p>♠ 3 ♥ K 6 ♦ Q 10 9 8 7 5 3 ♣ 10 8 5</p> <p>♠ Q J 10 5                      ♠ A 8 7 4 ♥ 10 8 4 2                      ♥ A Q 7 3 ♦ J                                ♦ A 6 2 ♣ Q J 4 2                        ♣ K 6</p> <p>♠ K 9 6 2 ♥ J 9 5 ♦ K 4 ♣ A 9 7 3</p> <p>Table Result 3♥ East 10 tricks Bertens-Bakkeren EW +170 Helness-Helgemo NS -170</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass (i)</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT (ii)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) Vulnerable against not, 3♦ would be an aggressive choice. (ii) With no tens or nines, and being non-vulnerable, it would be possible for East to pass. Most will just count 17 points and bid 2NT.</p> <p>As the hands fit so well, you want to be in game. You just have a spade, a heart and a club to lose. One of East's low diamonds can go on a club; a ruff deals with the other.</p> <p>If you get to play in spades, which you might do if North opens a weak 2♦, the play is more challenging. What makes 10 tricks still possible is the fact that North cannot get in to make the West hand ruff diamonds more than once.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass (i)	1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT (ii)	Pass	4♥	End						
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
	Pass (i)	1♥	Pass																		
2♥	Pass	2NT (ii)	Pass																		
4♥	End																				
<p>♠ 10 9 4 ♥ A K Q 9 6 ♦ 9 7 6 ♣ Q 6</p> <p>♠ 7 6                              ♠ A Q 5 3 ♥ 10                                ♥ J 7 5 4 ♦ A J 10 3                        ♦ K Q 8 4 2 ♣ A 9 5 4 3 2                    ♣</p> <p>♠ K J 8 2 ♥ 8 3 2 ♦ 5 ♣ K J 10 8 7</p> <p>Table Result 5♦ East 9 tricks Bertens-Bakkeren EW -200 Helness-Helgemo NS +200</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Many club players will bid as shown and wonder why the experts got so high (at the table this was a flat board for two down in the diamond game). The premium for a vulnerable game (500) means that experts often stretch to bid game, aiming to get there even if the chance of success is lower than 50%.</p> <p>The best lead is a trump, which Helness as South duly found (presumably after East had bid spades). North can then play a second trump when in with a heart. This holds declarer to five trumps, two ruffs and two aces.</p> <p>The worst lead is a spade, which would actually allow East the chance to make 11 tricks. Not only does it allow the ♠Q to make but also it concedes a tempo, allowing three ruffs of major-suit cards in the West hand.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♦	Pass	3♦	End										
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
		1♦	Pass																		
3♦	End																				

<p> ♠ Q 10 7 6 3  ♥ J 8 3  ♦ A J 3  ♣ 8 2  ♠ A 8                      ♠ K J 4 2  ♥ K 10 4 2                ♥ A 9 6  ♦ K 7 4 2                 ♦ 10 6 5  ♣ J 9 6                     ♣ A 7 5    ♠ 9 5  ♥ Q 7 5  ♦ Q 9 8  ♣ K Q 10 4 3    Table Result Passed Out  Bertens-Bakkeren EW 0  Helness-Helgemo NS 0 </p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT (i)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣ (ii)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) 12-14; the East hand obeys the rule of 15 for fourth seat openings (add HCP to spades and open if the total is 15 more). Bertens decided otherwise.  (ii) Stayman enquiry; this asks for 4-card majors.</p> <p>After the normal lead of the ♣K, 8 tricks are likely in 2NT. Declarer can win at once to ensure a second club trick, set up a long heart and eventually finesse in spades.</p> <p>If South chooses to lead a fourth best ♣4, 9 tricks are possible. Declarer can still set up a third heart trick and this time arrange to endplay North with the fourth round of spades to make an extra trick in the shape of the ♦K.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT (i)	Pass	2♣ (ii)	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	End		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
			Pass																		
Pass	Pass	1NT (i)	Pass																		
2♣ (ii)	Pass	2♠	Pass																		
2NT	End																				
<p> ♠ K 4  ♥ Q 7 6  ♦ K 10 8 3  ♣ K 10 8 5  ♠ 8 3                      ♠ J 10 9 5  ♥ J 9 8 3                 ♥ 4 2  ♦ Q 7 5                 ♦ A 9 6 4 2  ♣ J 9 7 4                ♣ A 2    ♠ A Q 7 6 2  ♥ A K 10 5  ♦ J  ♣ Q 6 3    Table Result 3NT North 12 tricks  Meckstroth-Rodwell EW -490  Lauria-Versace NS +490 </p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥ (i)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣ (ii)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) After the two-level response, a new suit is forcing for one round.  (ii) This gives a good picture of the 5-4-1-3 shape and offers North a choice of games.</p> <p>This should be a routine game all around the room. Making ten tricks should be relatively easy: three spades, three hearts, a diamond and three clubs perhaps.</p> <p>How did Lauria make 12 tricks? Meckstroth led a low diamond to the queen and king. Then when Lauria played a club, Meckstroth hopped up with the ace and led a low diamond in the hope his partner held the ♦10. The second diamond trick gave Lauria an eleventh trick. The twelfth came when Rodwell later threw a heart.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥ (i)	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣ (ii)	Pass	3NT	End	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠																		
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥ (i)																		
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣ (ii)																		
Pass	3NT	End																			
<p> ♠ A 10 7 5  ♥ J 7 6 2  ♦ A 10 9  ♣ 9 3  ♠ K 9                      ♠ 4 3  ♥ 4                         ♥ 9 5 3  ♦ K Q 8 5 3             ♦ J 6 4  ♣ A K J 8 4             ♣ Q 10 7 5 2    ♠ Q J 8 6 2  ♥ A K Q 10 8  ♦ 7 2  ♣ 6    Table Result 5♣ * West 9 tricks  Meckstroth-Rodwell EW -500  Lauria-Versace NS +500 </p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT (i)</td> <td>3♦ (ii)</td> <td>4♣ (iii)</td> <td>4♥ (iv)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♣</td> <td>Dble (v)</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) The unusual NT; this shows both minors.  (ii) The cue bid should show a sound spade raise. 3♠ would be just competitive.  (iii) At any other vulnerability, the five-card support would suggest bidding 5♣.  (iv) Showing the second suit may help partner judge the subsequent bidding.  (v) The vulnerability suggests defending despite the two-suit fit.</p> <p>Defeating 5♣ doubled by two is easy. Cash a top heart and switch to the ♠Q.</p> <p>If you are in 5♠, you will make it by taking the trump finesse. If you stop in 4♠, you might decide to reject the trump finesse because you can afford to lose a trick to the ♠K but not a heart ruff as well.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	Pass	1♠	2NT (i)	3♦ (ii)	4♣ (iii)	4♥ (iv)	5♣	Dble (v)	End					
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
	Pass	Pass	1♠																		
2NT (i)	3♦ (ii)	4♣ (iii)	4♥ (iv)																		
5♣	Dble (v)	End																			



<p>           ♠ 7 3            ♥ A K 5            ♦ 9 7 5 3            ♣ K 10 8 3            ♠ A Q                    ♠ J 10 5            ♥ Q J 8 4 3 2        ♥ 7            ♦ 10 8 2                ♦ A K Q J 4            ♣ 6 2                    ♣ A J 9 5                                      ♠ K 9 8 6 4 2                                      ♥ 10 9 6                                      ♦ 6                                      ♣ Q 7 4         </p> <p>Table Result 3NT East 9 tricks Meckstroth-Rodwell EW +600 Lauria-Versace NS -600</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>West</i></th> <th><i>North</i></th> <th><i>East</i></th> <th><i>South</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass (i)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT (ii)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) You need a better suit or better hand for a vulnerable weak jump overcall. (ii) Vulnerable, you need to go looking for thin games at teams (IMP) scoring. Non-vulnerable, East might well give up in view of the misfit.</p> <p>With the ♣10 inside, you should be able to make nine tricks in 3NT by way of two spades, five diamonds and two clubs. You have plenty of entries to the West hand for finessing clubs twice.</p> <p>You can also make game playing in diamonds, though that is scarier. You are likely to need to finesse the ♣9 and take a couple of ruffs in the West hand.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			1♦	Pass (i)	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT (ii)	Pass	3NT	End		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																		
		1♦	Pass (i)																		
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass																		
2♥	Pass	2NT (ii)	Pass																		
3NT	End																				
<p>           ♠ 5            ♥ K J 9 5 4 3            ♦ K 8 6            ♣ 9 6 4            ♠ A K 2                    ♠ J 10 9 7 6            ♥ 7                         ♥ 8 2            ♦ Q J 10 5 3             ♦ 9 2            ♣ J 10 7 3                ♣ K Q 5 2                                      ♠ Q 8 4 3                                      ♥ A Q 10 6                                      ♦ A 7 4                                      ♣ A 8         </p> <p>Table Result 4♥ South 11 tricks Meckstroth-Rodwell EW -450 Lauria-Versace NS +450</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>West</i></th> <th><i>North</i></th> <th><i>East</i></th> <th><i>South</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦ (i)</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) West has a close three-way decision between pass, double and 2♦.</p> <p>If against 4♥ West leads a top spade (as did Rodwell and his Italian counterpart), declarer can easily set up a spade trick by ruffing two spades in dummy to make an overtrick. The same play is possible, albeit harder to spot, if West leads a diamond.</p> <p>If West doubles 1♥, East surely competes to 4♠, which South doubles. There are five easy tricks to score against 4♠ doubled. For a sixth defensive trick and a penalty exceeding the value of making 4♥, the defenders must exercise a modicum of care. They can play two hearts early but must wait until West is out of trumps before persisting with heart forces.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				1♥	2♦ (i)	4♥	End									
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																		
			1♥																		
2♦ (i)	4♥	End																			
<p>           ♠ 8 7 5            ♥ 8 5 4 3            ♦ J 8 6 2            ♣ 9 3            ♠ 10 2                    ♠ 9 6 4            ♥ A J 9 7 2             ♥ 10 6            ♦ 9 7                     ♦ A K Q 10 3            ♣ K 7 4 2                ♣ J 8 6                                      ♠ A K Q J 3                                      ♥ K Q                                      ♦ 5 4                                      ♣ A Q 10 5         </p> <p>Table Result 2♦ South 4 tricks Meckstroth-Rodwell EW +400 Lauria-Versace NS -400</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>West</i></th> <th><i>North</i></th> <th><i>East</i></th> <th><i>South</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦ (i)</td> <td>Double</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>3♠(ii)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) With such a good suit, you certainly want to open in third seat non-vulnerable. (ii) While doubling again is a possibility, that would not show the five good spades.</p> <p>The table result is not a misprint. The Italians had a misunderstanding. Lauria passed a bid that Versace intended as a cue bid.</p> <p>It is nip and tuck whether a contract of 3♠ makes. If the defenders start with three rounds of diamonds, declarer can succeed by ruffing high and leading the ♣Q. A club ruff in dummy then fells the ♣J, setting up the ♣10. The defenders have a way to counter this. If they play hearts (so that East can discard a club on the third heart) or if they leave their communications open, East can score a club ruff.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	Pass	Pass	1♦ (i)	Double	1♥	Pass	2♦	3♠(ii)	End							
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																		
Pass	Pass	1♦ (i)	Double																		
1♥	Pass	2♦	3♠(ii)																		
End																					

<p>           ♠ K 9            ♥ A K 6 4 3            ♦ J 3            ♣ A Q 6 2            ♠ 10                    ♠ J 5 4 3            ♥ 9 8 7 2                ♥ 10 5            ♦ 10 8 7 5               ♦ A K Q 9 6 4            ♣ K 10 8 4               ♣ J                                     ♠ A Q 8 7 6 2                                     ♥ Q J                                     ♦ 2                                     ♣ 9 7 5 3         </p> <p>Table Result 5♦ * East 9 tricks Meckstroth-Rodwell EW -500 Lauria-Versace NS +500</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♦ (i)</td> <td>Dble (ii)</td> <td>5♦ (iii)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) A jump raise of partner's overcall should be pre-emptive.            (ii) With diamonds raised, this is a takeout double.            (iii) Lacking any defensive strength facing diamond length, East bids one more.</p> <p>This time, Acol players have the chance to duplicate the table auction shown.</p> <p>After a trump lead, only two spade ruffs are possible, so you need to establish a club trick (as Meckstroth did) to get out for two down in 5♦ doubled.</p> <p>11 tricks are easy in 4♠. You can even get 12 if you forget that West might drop the 10 from J-10-x and run the ♠9 on the second round of trumps. 4♥ scrapes home.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♥	2♦	2♠	4♦ (i)	Dble (ii)	5♦ (iii)	Pass	Pass	Dble	End					
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
	1♥	2♦	2♠																		
4♦ (i)	Dble (ii)	5♦ (iii)	Pass																		
Pass	Dble	End																			
<p>           ♠ 8 4            ♥ 9 5 4            ♦ Q 7 4            ♣ Q J 6 4 2            ♠ A K J 7 3 2            ♠ Q 10 6            ♥ 6                        ♥ K 8 2            ♦ J 6                      ♦ A K 9 8            ♣ 10 8 7 3               ♣ A K 5                                     ♠ 9 5                                     ♥ A Q J 10 7 3                                     ♦ 10 5 3 2                                     ♣ 9         </p> <p>Table Result 6♠ West 10 tricks Meckstroth-Rodwell EW -100 Lauria-Versace NS +100</p>	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>2♥ (i)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥ (ii)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣ (iii)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>End (iv)</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) This is a weak jump overcall. They crop up much more than the strong variety.            (ii) Too strong to make a simple raise to 4♠, East cue bids to set up a force.            (iii) Having failed to bid 3♣ last time, this must be a cue bid agreeing spades.            (iv) Knowing the ♥K will not be pulling full weight, East gives up.</p> <p>Thanks to the miracle club position, you can in fact make 12 tricks. In real life, you are unlikely to pick up the clubs unless the defenders play the suit. Those of you playing a 19-20 2NT opening (and transfers) stand a better chance because most opening leads from the South hand help declarer's cause. Indeed, in the other room, Italy played in 6♠ from the East seat and made it.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♦	2♥ (i)	2♠	Pass	3♥ (ii)	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣ (iii)	Pass	4♠	End (iv)		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
		1♦	2♥ (i)																		
2♠	Pass	3♥ (ii)	Pass																		
3♠	Pass	4♣ (iii)	Pass																		
4♠	End (iv)																				
<p>           ♠ A 10 3            ♥ J 9 6 3 2            ♦ 4 2            ♣ A 10 2            ♠ 9 8                      ♠ Q J 7 6 5 4 2            ♥ A Q 10 7 4            ♥ 5            ♦ K J 9 3                ♦ Q 10 6            ♣ 7 4                      ♣ J 5                                     ♠ K                                     ♥ K 8                                     ♦ A 8 7 5                                     ♣ K Q 9 8 6 3         </p> <p>Table Result 3NT North 10 tricks Weinstein-Garner EW -630 Cope-Holman NS +630</p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>1NT (i)</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT (ii)</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) Trying to collect a penalty at the one level, especially against non-vulnerable opponents, is losing tactics.            (ii) North could have been weaker than this to bid 1NT. In any case, it looks like there will be six club tricks to run.</p> <p>Making 9 tricks is easy. Moreover, unless the lead is a diamond, you can cater for a 4-0 club split on either side by starting the clubs with the king or queen.</p> <p>Holding a singleton heart, East might reasonably decide to lead a spade. If in fact East leads a heart, it will take a diamond switch to stop the overtrick. Weinstein switched to a spade, which allowed the South African declarer to make 10 tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1♣	1♥	1NT (i)	2♠	3♣	Pass	3NT (ii)	End					
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
			1♣																		
1♥	1NT (i)	2♠	3♣																		
Pass	3NT (ii)	End																			

<p>           ♠ A Q 5            ♥ K 9 7 6 4            ♦ 6 5 2            ♣ K 6            ♠ K 9                      ♠ J 8 4 3            ♥ A Q J 10                ♥ 5            ♦ A J 9 8 7 4             ♦ 3            ♣ 4                            ♣ A J 9 8 7 3 2                                             ♠ 10 7 6 2                                             ♥ 8 3 2                                             ♦ K Q 10                                             ♣ Q 10 5         </p> <p>Table Result 3NT West 6 tricks Weinstein-Garner EW -300 Cope-Holman NS +300</p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Dble (i)</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT (ii)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣ (iii)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦ (iv)</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) The double implies four spades. Bidding 2♣ would show a better hand.            (ii) West certainly has a heart stopper.            (iii) This must show longer clubs (the initial double denied five spades).            (iv) West's hand is better for diamonds and less suited for clubs than it might be.</p> <p>The auction shown is the one from the other table of the USA v South Africa match.</p> <p>It takes an opening trump lead to defeat 3♦. On any other lead, declarer can take a ruffing finesse against North's ♥K, just losing two spades and two trumps.</p> <p>3♣ makes via the ruffing finesse unless the defenders attack West's ♦A entry early.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1♦	1♥	Dble (i)	2♥	2NT (ii)	Pass	3♣ (iii)	Pass	3♦ (iv)	End						
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
1♦	1♥	Dble (i)	2♥																		
2NT (ii)	Pass	3♣ (iii)	Pass																		
3♦ (iv)	End																				
<p>           ♠ K 6 3            ♥ A 10 9            ♦ Q 8 7            ♣ 10 7 6 2            ♠ J 9                        ♠ 10 8 4 2            ♥ K J 8 7 6 2             ♥ Q 5            ♦ A 2                        ♦ K J            ♣ A 9 5                      ♣ K Q J 4 3                                             ♠ A Q 7 5                                             ♥ 4 3                                             ♦ 10 9 6 5 4 3                                             ♣ 8         </p> <p>Table Result 4♥ East 9 tricks Weinstein-Garner EW -50 Cope-Holman NS +50</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣ (i)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦ (ii)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥ (iii)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>End</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) With 6 points in the short suits, some will open a weak 1NT.            (ii) Unsure which game is best, West creates a force by bidding the fourth suit.            (iii) Since East denied three hearts with 2NT, this shows six hearts.</p> <p>In 4♥, all depends upon the lead, which in turn depends upon who declares. If a transfer puts the hand with the singleton club on lead, as happened at the table, South can score a club ruff. The club lead is harder to find from the North cards. Even if you do find it, you might duck the first round of trumps in case partner holds ♥J-x and a doubleton club. Although 3NT might fail if someone had five spades and the ♥A entry, it is safer overall, invulnerable to 4-1 splits in the rounded suits.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	1♣ (i)	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦ (ii)	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥ (iii)	Pass	4♥	End
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
	Pass	1♣ (i)	Pass																		
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass																		
2♦ (ii)	Pass	2NT	Pass																		
3♥ (iii)	Pass	4♥	End																		
<p>           ♠ Q 8 2            ♥ Q 10 7            ♦ 10 9 7 6            ♣ A 10 5            ♠ K J 6                      ♠ A 10 9 3            ♥ A 6 4                      ♥ 8 3            ♦ A K 3                      ♦ J 8 5 4            ♣ Q 8 6 3                    ♣ K 4 2                                             ♠ 7 5 4                                             ♥ K J 9 5 2                                             ♦ Q 2                                             ♣ J 9 7         </p> <p>Table Result 4♠ West 9 tricks Weinstein-Garner EW -50 Cope-Holman NS +50</p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT (i)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT (ii)</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) 15-17; this is a much better range than the old-fashioned 15-16.            (ii) With 17 West feels obliged to accept despite the poor shape and spot cards.</p> <p>If North leads a second highest ♦9, declarer has an easy ride because finessing the ♦8 on the third round brings in the suit. Life is tougher on a low diamond lead or on a heart lead. If you misguess the spades, you appear to be a trick short. However, having held up the hearts until the third round, you should be able to endplay North with the fourth diamond; this enables you to make both the ♣Q and ♣K.</p> <p>The Americans played in 4♠ after both North and South doubled artificial heart bids.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT (i)	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT (ii)	End		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
		Pass	Pass																		
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass																		
1NT (i)	Pass	2NT	Pass																		
3NT (ii)	End																				

<p>           ♠ 9 8            ♥ A 10 7 3            ♦ J 8 2            ♣ 9 5 4 3            ♠ A 10                      ♠ K Q 7 6 5 3            ♥ J 9                            ♥ K Q 8 4            ♦ A Q 7                      ♦ 9            ♣ A K Q J 8 6              ♣ 10 7                                             ♠ J 4 2                                             ♥ 6 5 2                                             ♦ K 10 6 5 4 3                                             ♣ 2         </p> <p>Table Result 7♥ East 11 tricks Weinstein-Garner EW -200 Cope-Holman NS +200</p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>West</i></th> <th><i>North</i></th> <th><i>East</i></th> <th><i>South</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <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>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♣</td> <td>End</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Please do not just your glasses. Yes, the Americans bid a grand slam in the wrong suit and missing an ace. What is more, the board was flat: in the other room, South Africa played in 7NT doubled going one down! They had to contend with some sort of pre-empt from South, something you are unlikely to see much in today's event.</p> <p>The auction shown is the more successful one from the American women's team, one you might have the chance to replicate. 2♣ was strong and artificial, as in Acol. 4♦ was a cue bid. 4NT asked for key cards (clubs agreed) and the reply showed four.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣	End
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																										
			Pass																										
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass																										
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass																										
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4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass																										
5♣	Pass	6♣	End																										
<p>           ♠ K Q 4            ♥ K Q 2            ♦ Q J 9            ♣ K 10 8 7            ♠ 8 3 2                      ♠ A J 7 5            ♥ 7 4 3                      ♥ J 8 5            ♦ 8 7 3                      ♦ A K 6 5 2            ♣ J 9 5 3                      ♣ A                                             ♠ 10 9 6                                             ♥ A 10 9 6                                             ♦ 10 4                                             ♣ Q 6 4 2         </p> <p>Table Result 2♦ East 7 tricks Weinstein-Garner EW -100 Cope-Holman NS +100</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>West</i></th> <th><i>North</i></th> <th><i>East</i></th> <th><i>South</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT (i)</td> <td>Dble (ii)</td> <td>2♣ (iii)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>End</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) 15-17; this is the modern range. (ii) Doubling again shows extras and is still primarily for takeout. (iii) After the double, this must be natural whatever it would mean with no double.</p> <p>A lack of entries to the West hand means you cannot lead twice up to the spades, as Garner discovered at the table.</p> <p>1NT (doubled) would make with just four diamonds and two aces to lose. A suit contract for North-South yields a greater number of tricks, with nine tricks available when you have a rounded suit as trumps.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	Pass	1♣	Dble	1♥	Pass	1NT (i)	Dble (ii)	2♣ (iii)	Pass	Pass	2♦	End												
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																										
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Pass	Pass	2♦	End																										
<p>           ♠ 7 6 5 4            ♥ K 9 5            ♦ 7 6 4 3            ♣ 8 4            ♠ J 8 3 2                      ♠ A K Q 10            ♥ 10 7 3                      ♥ A J 2            ♦ A K Q 10 2              ♦            ♣ 3                              ♣ A Q 7 6 5 2                                             ♠ 9                                             ♥ Q 8 6 4                                             ♦ J 9 8 5                                             ♣ K J 10 9         </p> <p>Table Result 6♠ * West 12 tricks Weinstein-Garner EW +1210 Cope-Holman NS -1210</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>West</i></th> <th><i>North</i></th> <th><i>East</i></th> <th><i>South</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥(i)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣(ii)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♦(iii)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5NT(iv)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6♠</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) Cue bid, showing a heart control and interest in a spade slam. (ii) Four key cards (the ♠K and three aces) (iii) Do you have the ♠Q? (iv) Yes, I have it but no kings.</p> <p>The American men reached 6♠ by West, which is why South doubled for a club lead. Acol players may be able to reproduce the American women's auction shown. Four trumps, three diamonds, a heart, a club and three club ruffs total twelve tricks.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥(i)	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣(ii)	Pass	5♦(iii)	Pass	5NT(iv)	Pass	6♠	End		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																										
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5♦(iii)	Pass	5NT(iv)	Pass																										
6♠	End																												

<p>           ♠ 8 3            ♥ A Q 6 5 3            ♦ J 8 6 3            ♣ Q 5            ♠ A 4                      ♠ K 7 2            ♥ 9 4                      ♥ 8 7 2            ♦ A Q 10 7 4              ♦ K 9 5            ♣ K J 8 4                   ♣ 10 9 3 2                                     ♠ Q J 10 9 6 5                                     ♥ K J 10                                     ♦ 2                                     ♣ A 7 6         </p> <p>Table Result 2♠ South 8 tricks Fantoni-Nunes EW -110 Katz-Nickell NS +110</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Double</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>End</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Vulnerable against not, many experts would not overcall on the West cards, hence the lowly 2♠ contract at the table. I must admit I do not think I could resist bidding.</p> <p>West can make 3♦ by finessing the ♦9. Unless North has rashly doubled 3♦, you are unlikely to find that play.</p> <p>Making 8 tricks in spades is easy. To make 9 means you need to avoid losing a heart ruff. If West leads a heart, you have two ways of doing it. If you play a trump, you can play another after winning the next heart. If you play a diamond, that severs the defensive communications. If North plays in 3♥, early diamond leads beat it.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	1♠	2♦	Double	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♦	End				
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
		Pass	1♠																		
2♦	Double	Pass	2♠																		
Pass	Pass	3♦	End																		
<p>           ♠ A Q 5 2            ♥ K Q 5            ♦ K 8 4            ♣ K 10 2            ♠ K 8 3                      ♠ 6 4            ♥ 10 9 8 7 6 4 2          ♥ J            ♦ 9                              ♦ A 10 6 5 2            ♣ A 7                           ♣ 9 8 6 5 4                                     ♠ J 10 9 7                                     ♥ A 3                                     ♦ Q J 7 3                                     ♣ Q J 3         </p> <p>Table Result 3NT North 11 tricks Fantoni-Nunes EW -660 Katz-Nickell NS +660</p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥(i)</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT (ii)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) You really want a better suit to open 3♥ vulnerable. (ii) With help in hearts, South simply raises to game. Remember, the odds change at IMPs compared with matchpoints. Unless you can make two tricks more in a major suit, you might as well play in 3NT. You do not consider a 1 IMP swing.</p> <p>With the spade finesse working, you just have two aces to lose in 3NT. If East leads a club, you make an avoidance play, leading a diamond towards the queen-jack. With a diamond trick in the bag, it is safe to finesse in spades because three spades, three hearts, a diamond and two clubs would give you nine in all. While 4♠ does make as the cards lie, it would go down if you lost a trump finesse as well as a diamond ruff.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	2♥(i)	2NT	Pass	3NT (ii)	End							
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
			Pass																		
2♥(i)	2NT	Pass	3NT (ii)																		
End																					
<p>           ♠ A Q 10 9 5 3            ♥ A 4 3            ♦ 6            ♣ A J 6            ♠ K J 6 4                      ♠ 7 2            ♥ Q 9 7                      ♥ K J 2            ♦ 10 8 3                      ♦ A Q J 9 7 5 2            ♣ Q 10 4                      ♣ 3                                     ♠ 8                                     ♥ 10 8 6 5                                     ♦ K 4                                     ♣ K 9 8 7 5 2         </p> <p>Table Result 6♣ South 11 tricks Fantoni-Nunes EW +50 Katz-Nickell NS -50</p>	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass (i)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦ (ii)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) You need more than 6 HCP and a misfit to double to show the four hearts. (ii) Rather than jumping to 5♣, South gives North the chance to bid hearts.</p> <p>After a diamond lead and a heart switch, how many tricks you make depends upon how good a guesser you are. If you want to make 12 tricks, you need to come to hand with the ♣K, take the spade finesse, ruff a spade and finesse the ♣J. Nickell got the clubs right but the spades wrong and went one down in the slam. If you sensibly stop in game (indeed merely reaching game is not routine), you have more latitude.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	1♠	2♦	Pass (i)	3♦	Dble	Pass	4♦ (ii)	Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣	End			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
Pass	1♠	2♦	Pass (i)																		
3♦	Dble	Pass	4♦ (ii)																		
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣																		
End																					

<p>           ♠ 10 8            ♥ K J 3 2            ♦ A K Q J 9 6 3            ♣            ♠ Q J 7 5      ♠ A 4 3            ♥ 10            ♥ 8 5 4            ♦ 10 8 2      ♦ 7            ♣ A 10 6 4 3    ♣ K Q J 8 7 5                      ♠ K 9 6 2                      ♥ A Q 9 7 6                      ♦ 5 4                      ♣ 9 2         </p> <p>Table Result 5♦ North 12 tricks Fantoni-Nunes EW -420 Katz-Nickell NS +420</p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Double (i)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♣(ii)</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) Most will want more than 9 HCP to bid 2♥. (iii) Jumping all the way to game is slightly aggressive at adverse vulnerability. Then again, if partner has some heart length, the hands should fit well.</p> <p>Nunes was the only West to jump all the way to 5♣. Forced to guess, Katz repeated his seven-card suit.</p> <p>Playing in diamonds you must lose a trick whatever the lead. If you play in hearts, a club ruff in the North hand gives you all the tricks unless the defenders take their spade trick at trick one. East could make 10 tricks playing in clubs, with just one trick in each side suit to lose.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♦	2♣	Double (i)	5♣(ii)	5♦	End									
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
	1♦	2♣	Double (i)																		
5♣(ii)	5♦	End																			
<p>           ♠ A 10 6 2            ♥ Q 10            ♦ A Q 6 3 2            ♣ 7 5            ♠ Q J 9 7 4            ♥ 7 5 4 3      ♥ A J 6            ♦ 10 8            ♦ 9 5 4            ♣ K J 9 8 6 3 2    ♣ A Q                      ♠ K 8 5 3                      ♥ K 9 8 2                      ♦ K J 7                      ♣ 10 4         </p> <p>Table Result 3♣ East 8 tricks Fantoni-Nunes EW -100 Katz-Nickell NS +100</p>	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT (i)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT (ii)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>End (iii)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) Opening 1NT with a 5332 shape is the expert choice. Everyone opened 1NT rather than 1♠ at the table. (ii) West needs to have a way to retreat to a minor. I have assumed that 2NT asks East to bid 3♣. (iii) The doubleton heart and vulnerability dissuade North from doubling.</p> <p>The defenders may need to be on their toes to defeat 3♣. A spade lead lets it make, paving the way to a ruffing finesse. With better heart spots, South is more likely to lead a heart. In this case, the defenders need to play a trump each time declarer gives up a heart, thereby preventing a fourth-round heart ruff. An initial trump lead, as Nickell found at the table, works fine too. 2♠ and 2♦ are on for North-South.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1NT (i)	Pass	2NT (ii)	Pass	3♣	End (iii)								
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
		1NT (i)	Pass																		
2NT (ii)	Pass	3♣	End (iii)																		
<p>           ♠ A Q 5            ♥ J 8 7 6 4            ♦ A Q 8 2            ♣ 9            ♠ 8 3            ♥ 9 5 2      ♥ A Q 3            ♦ 6            ♦ 10 7 3            ♣ A J 6 5      ♣ K Q 8 7 4                      ♠ 10 9 2                      ♥ K 10                      ♦ K J 9 5 4                      ♣ 10 3 2         </p> <p>Table Result 3♦ North 11 tricks Fantoni-Nunes EW -150 Katz-Nickell NS +150</p>	<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass (i)</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦(ii)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) A 5332 shape is too flat for a two-level overcall. Nobody overcalled in 2009. (ii) With 5-card support, South must raise. It is unlikely that you can buy the contract at the two level. Indeed, West surely would make a reopening double of 2♦.</p> <p>The lie of the cards is extremely favourable for declarer in a diamond contract. You can escape with the loss of two aces to make 11 tricks. You make two spades (with the aid of the finesse), three hearts (ruffing the suit good), five trump tricks (the heart ruff counts as one of these) and a club ruff. 8 tricks are the limit for East-West in clubs or for North-South in hearts.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass (i)	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦(ii)	End			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
			Pass																		
Pass	1♥	Pass (i)	1NT																		
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦(ii)																		
End																					

<p> ♠ K 7 5 4  ♥ 9  ♦ Q J 6 5 3  ♣ A 9 3  ♠ 6  ♥ K Q J 8 5 2  ♦ 10 9  ♣ K 8 7 2  ♠ 10 8 3 2  ♥ 10 7  ♦ A K 8 4  ♣ J 10 6  ♠ A Q J 9  ♥ A 6 4 3  ♦ 7 2  ♣ Q 5 4 </p> <p>Table Result 2♥ West 9 tricks Fantoni-Nunes EW +140 Katz-Nickell NS -140</p>	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>West</i></th> <th><i>North</i></th> <th><i>East</i></th> <th><i>South</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>At favourable vulnerability, the West hand really is too good for a weak two opening. Whether you prefer 1♥ or 3♥ is partly a matter of style. The chunky main suit and lack of defence to an opposing spade contract suggest pre-empting.</p> <p>The usual defensive rule for touching honours is to cover the last of them. If South ducks the first club honour off dummy and covers the second, North will make both the ♣A and the ♣9. If South mistakenly covers first time, declarer can run the ♣8 on the second round to neutralise the ♣9. In fact, there is more to the play than the club suit. If North finds an inspired spade lead, declarer is danger of losing control.</p> <p>North-South will do well if they can get into the auction but stop out of game. They can make 9 tricks with spades as trumps.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	3♥	End																		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																						
3♥	End																								
<p> ♠ 10 7 5  ♥ 8 5 3 2  ♦ 9 3  ♣ 9 6 3 2  ♠ A J 9 6  ♥ A Q J 10 4  ♦ A 4  ♣ J 7  ♠ K Q 8 4 3 2  ♥ 7 6  ♦ Q 8  ♣ K 10 5  ♠ K 9  ♦ K J 10 7 6 5 2  ♣ A Q 8 4 </p> <p>Table Result 6♦ East 13 tricks Bosenberg-Eber EW +1390 Rosenberg -Zia NS -1390</p>	<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>West</i></th> <th><i>North</i></th> <th><i>East</i></th> <th><i>South</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣ (i)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦ (ii)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠(iii)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♣ (iii)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6♦</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) With a 4-loser hand, East does not wish to rebid a simple 3♦.  (ii) East is too shapely to want to let 3NT play.  (iii) These are control-showing cue bids, looking for a diamond slam.</p> <p>Acol players may be able to reproduce the actual South African auction shown. The play for 13 tricks depends upon how you guess the trumps. You might decide to play the hand for known spade length for a singleton diamond and finesse on the second round. If you play in hearts, ideally from the East seat, you avoid the diamond guess.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		Pass	1♦	1♠	2♥	Pass	3♣ (i)	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦ (ii)	Pass	4♠(iii)	Pass	5♣ (iii)	Pass	6♦	End		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																						
	Pass	1♦	1♠																						
2♥	Pass	3♣ (i)	Pass																						
3NT	Pass	4♦ (ii)	Pass																						
4♠(iii)	Pass	5♣ (iii)	Pass																						
6♦	End																								
<p> ♠ A 10 4  ♥ A 9 7 6 4  ♦ Q J 10 5  ♣ 6  ♠ K J 8 5 3  ♥ Q J 10 5 3  ♦ 9  ♣ 5 2  ♠ Q 7  ♥ 2  ♦ A K 8 7 6 2  ♣ A J 7 3  ♠ 9 6 2  ♥ K 8  ♦ 4 3  ♣ K Q 10 9 8 4 </p> <p>Table Result 3♦ East 6 tricks Bosenberg-Eber EW -150 Rosenberg -Zia NS +150</p>	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>West</i></th> <th><i>North</i></th> <th><i>East</i></th> <th><i>South</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>2♣ (i)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dble (ii)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥(iii)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT (iv)</td> <td>End</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) The South hand will look like a weak jump overcall to many. The 6322 shape may have swayed 3 of the 4 original South players to prefer a simple overcall.  (ii) Too weak to bid 2♠, West makes a negative double.  (iii) West bids the lower major, leaving room for East to convert to 2♠.  (iv) East has a horrible choice of actions. Take your pick!</p> <p>As the cards lie, the only feasible making contract is 2♠. Even 2♦ (East) and 2♣ (South) should fail. Assuming East declares in diamonds or no-trumps, North can kill the dummy by holding up the ♠A for one round. Anyone who manages to make something on this deal will be doing well.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			1♦	2♣ (i)	Dble (ii)	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥(iii)	Pass	2NT (iv)	End								
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																						
		1♦	2♣ (i)																						
Dble (ii)	Pass	2♦	Pass																						
2♥(iii)	Pass	2NT (iv)	End																						

<p> ♠ K 9 7 5  ♥ K 7 5 3 2  ♦ Q 10  ♣ 10 7  ♠ A 4                    ♠ Q 8  ♥ A Q J 9                ♥ 10 4  ♦ J 7                        ♦ 8 6 5 4 2  ♣ A 9 8 6 4               ♣ K J 3 2  ♠ J 10 6 3 2  ♥ 8 6  ♦ A K 9 3  ♣ Q 5 </p> <p>Table Result 2♠ South 8 tricks Bosenberg-Eber EW -110 Rosenberg -Zia NS +110</p>	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass (i)</td> <td>2♣ (ii)</td> <td>2♠ (iii)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) 8 HCP and a poor suit does not look like a vulnerable overcall to me.  (ii) Those of you playing inverted raises can jump to 3♣, shutting North-South out.  (iii) Once the opponents have found a fit, the risk in overcalling reduces. If South passes, North should reopen anyway.</p> <p>To defeat 3♠ the defenders may need to find a trump promotion. If they start with the two top clubs, they need to switch to a heart. West can then grab the first trump and continue hearts, allowing East's ♠Q to score.</p> <p>1NT by West is an easy make, especially on a heart lead. 3♣ makes too.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♣	Pass (i)	2♣ (ii)	2♠ (iii)	3♣	3♠	End					
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
			Pass																		
1♣	Pass (i)	2♣ (ii)	2♠ (iii)																		
3♣	3♠	End																			
<p> ♠ K 6 5 3  ♥ 6 5 4  ♦ J 3  ♣ Q 8 7 5  ♠ A J 4                    ♠ Q 2  ♥ 9 3 2                    ♥ A J 10 8  ♦ A 7 5 4                ♦ 9 8 6 2  ♣ 10 6 4                ♣ J 9 3  ♠ 10 9 8 7  ♥ K Q 7  ♦ K Q 10  ♣ A K 2 </p> <p>Table Result 2NT South 8 tricks Bosenberg-Eber EW -120 Rosenberg -Zia NS +120</p>	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣ (i)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) Even playing 4-card majors, 1♠ does not feel right.</p> <p>With the ♥A onside, trumps friendly and no scope for anyone to ruff, the defenders have just two trumps and the two red aces to take against 3♠.</p> <p>Those of you playing a strong NT will probably open 1NT on the South cards and play there. This happened at three quarter of the original tables. The benign lie of the cards means that you are likely to make 8 or 9 tricks. Double-dummy, the only lead to stop 150 is the ♠4. I suspect that nobody will find that. A fourth highest diamond or one of the hearts will be the popular choice.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣ (i)	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠	End							
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣ (i)																		
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠																		
End																					
<p> ♠ K Q 8 6  ♥ 6  ♦ J 7 6 5  ♣ Q 8 7 5  ♠ 10 7 5 2                ♠ J 4  ♥ Q 8 3                    ♥ K J 9 7 4  ♦ 10 8                     ♦ K Q 3 2  ♣ A K 9 6                ♣ 10 7  ♠ A 9 3  ♥ A 10 5 2  ♦ A 9 4  ♣ 5 3 2 </p> <p>Table Result 1NT South 7 tricks Bosenberg-Eber EW -90 Rosenberg -Zia NS +90</p>	<p>Board 33 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥ (i)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble (ii)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠ (iii)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) Love all is the bidder's vulnerability: anyone who goes down normally does so at just 50 a time. You bid 2♥ whether this shows a single suiter or hearts and a minor.  (ii) If you play that low-level doubles are usually for takeout, you can compete here.  (iii) You really need more than A-10-x-x of trumps to leave in the double.</p> <p>2♠ should scrape home. If the defenders start with three rounds of clubs, declarer can arrange to draw one round of trumps, discard a diamond on a club and later ruff a diamond. This gives four trump tricks, two aces, a club and a ruff. 1NT if South gets to play there should scrape home too. 3♥ by East-West should go down one.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass	2♥ (i)	Pass	Pass	Dble (ii)	Pass	2♠ (iii)	End			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
	Pass	Pass	1NT																		
Pass	Pass	2♥ (i)	Pass																		
Pass	Dble (ii)	Pass	2♠ (iii)																		
End																					



<p>           ♠ 9 6 5 2            ♥ K J 9            ♦ K 8            ♣ K 8 5 3            ♠ 8 4                    ♠ K Q 10            ♥ 10 4 3                ♥ Q 6 2            ♦ 7 6 5                 ♦ Q J 9 4            ♣ A Q J 9 4            ♣ 10 7 2                                     ♠ A J 7 3                                     ♥ A 8 7 5                                     ♦ A 10 3 2                                     ♣ 6         </p> <p>Table Result 2♠ North 11 tricks Bosenberg-Eber EW -200 Rosenberg -Zia NS +200</p>	<p>Board 34 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥ (i)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">End</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) 4441 hands short in clubs are awkward in many systems. The usual Acol style is to open 1♥, preparing to rebid 2♦ if need be.</p> <p>The cards lie rather well for North-South. The ♣A is onside and the trump suit could hardly be kinder. Even without a helpful lead (like the ♦Q) or taking the backward finesse in hearts (leading the ♥J and finessing the ♥9 on the way back), you should manage 10 tricks in a spade contract.</p> <p>3NT and 4♥ are on too for those of you who guess well. Unless someone overbids, I do not really see how you can get to any game.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	1♥ (i)	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	End			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
		Pass	1♥ (i)														
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠														
End																	
<p>           ♠ K            ♥ J 8 6 4            ♦ Q J            ♣ 10 9 8 7 5 3            ♠ A 8 5 4                ♠ J 10 3 2            ♥ 5                        ♥ 9 3 2            ♦ A 9 7 6 5 2         ♦ K 8 4            ♣ 6 2                     ♣ A K Q                                     ♠ Q 9 7 6                                     ♥ A K Q 10 7                                     ♦ 10 3                                     ♣ J 4         </p> <p>Table Result 3♠ East 9 tricks Bosenberg-Eber EW +140 Rosenberg -Zia NS -140</p>	<p>Board 35 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass (i)</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Double</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>End (ii)</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) Immediate action, especially vulnerable against not, should show a better hand than this. You can bid again later if the opponents subside in 2♥.</p> <p>(ii) The usual rule is that when partner's reopening action pushes the opponents up a level then you do not bid on yourself. In any case, it is most unlikely that a 9-card spade fit is present and, remember, you are vulnerable.</p> <p>The defenders have 5 top tricks to take against a heart contract.</p> <p>A spade contract would play quite well. Indeed, the defenders need to play two rounds of hearts to start with or 10 tricks result.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1♥	Pass (i)	2♥	Pass	Pass	Double	3♥	End (ii)	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
			1♥														
Pass (i)	2♥	Pass	Pass														
Double	3♥	End (ii)															
<p>           ♠ K 9 4 2            ♥ K 10 8 4 2            ♦ 10 5            ♣ Q 2            ♠ Q 6                    ♠ A J            ♥ A Q J                 ♥ 9 5 3            ♦ Q J 9 6               ♦ K 8 7 6            ♣ K 5 4 3               ♣ A 8 7 6                                     ♠ 10 8 7 5 3                                     ♥ 7 6                                     ♦ A 4 2                                     ♣ J 10 9         </p> <p>Table Result 3NT West 10 tricks Hamman-Zia EW +630 Sementa-Duboin NS -630</p>	<p>Board 36 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The best spot looks like 3NT from the East seat, protecting the spade position in case South holds the king. Most will reach it from the West seat. Indeed, anyone playing a strong NT will bid 1NT-3NT, as happened ubiquitously in the original event.</p> <p>After a heart lead, you can knock out the ♦A, win the third round of hearts and later play on clubs, leading low from the West hand. When North produces the ♣2, you can duck in dummy knowing that South will have to overtake. Likewise, you can take the spade finesse late on knowing that South has run out of hearts.</p> <p>If you get a spade lead, as may well happen if East declares, your luck is out. After you knock out the ♦A and later lose a heart finesse, the spades run against you.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1♦	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	End						
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
1♦	Pass	3♦	Pass														
3NT	End																

<p> ♠ Q 7  ♥ 6 5 4 3  ♦ K 6 3  ♣ A 10 7 6  ♠ K 8 3                      ♠ A J 9 2  ♥ J 10                          ♥ Q 9  ♦ J 10 9 8 7                  ♦ A 4 2  ♣ K J 9                        ♣ Q 5 3 2  ♠ 10 6 5 4  ♥ A K 8 7 2  ♦ Q 5  ♣ 8 4 </p> <p>Table Result 3♥ South 9 tricks Hamman-Zia EW -140 Sementa-Duboin NS +140</p>	<p>Board 37 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>End</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The weak NT scores a goal here. South cannot sensibly come in with 2♣ to show the majors with only 9 HCP, no singleton and a ten-high spade suit.</p> <p>If South leads a low heart against 1NT, as many will, declarer should scramble home. The defenders will make just four hearts, a club and a diamond.</p> <p>If East-West play a strong NT, South will get the chance to overall 1♥, which makes a big difference. Whatever West does, North may take the bidding up to 3♥, possibly by a conventional method to show some values and 4-card heart support, a 'mixed raise'. Indeed, that is what happened at both tables in the USA Italy match.</p> <p>With trumps 2-2, making 3♥ is easy.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1NT	End																
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																						
		1NT	End																						
<p> ♠ K 10 9 8 3  ♥ 10 9 8 4 3  ♦ Q  ♣ K Q  ♠ J                              ♠ A 7 6 5 4  ♥ A Q 5                        ♥ J  ♦ K 7 5 3                      ♦ A 10 4 2  ♣ J 9 6 3 2                    ♣ A 8 4  ♠ Q 2  ♥ K 7 6 2  ♦ J 9 8 6  ♣ 10 7 5 </p> <p>Table Result 2NT West 9 tricks Hamman-Zia EW +150 Sementa-Duboin NS -150</p>	<p>Board 38 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦(i)</td> <td>End (ii)</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) The four-card diamond support and singleton suggest raising. Some will prefer to bid 2NT, influenced by the double stopper in hearts. Effectively that is what Zia did at the table.</p> <p>(ii) With only 13 HCP and the singleton jack of dubious values, East gives up.</p> <p>The miracle club position means that all partscores and even 5♣ will make. In a diamond contract, there are two trump tricks and a club to lose. The ♠3 lead would hold a NT contract to 8 tricks. Of course, nobody is going to find that. A heart lead will be almost universal, giving time to set up the clubs to make 9 tricks as Zia did.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦(i)	End (ii)										
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																						
		1♠	Pass																						
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass																						
3♦(i)	End (ii)																								
<p> ♠ A J 3  ♥ J  ♦ K J 10 7 6  ♣ K J 8 7  ♠ 10 8 4 2                      ♠ Q 9 7  ♥ 8 6 2                         ♥ Q 9 7 5 3  ♦ Q 8 5                         ♦  ♣ 6 4 2                        ♣ A Q 10 5 3  ♠ K 6 5  ♥ A K 10 4  ♦ A 9 4 3 2  ♣ 9 </p> <p>Table Result 6♦ South 11 tricks Hamman-Zia EW +100 Sementa-Duboin NS -100</p>	<p>Board 39 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>Double</td> <td>4NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The course of the auction will depend upon whether North-South play inverted raises (as is the norm in expert circles) or splinters (as assumed) or neither.</p> <p>There is a certain loser and two possible losers. If you cash the wrong top trump first and trumps break 3-0 (as they do), you will have a trump loser. Even once you have overcome that hurdle, there is a possible spade loser. One line, if West does not lead a club (though there will be a club lead on the auction given), is to draw trumps, take one high heart and attack clubs to endplay East. Duboin misguessed the trumps.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣	Double	4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦	End			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																						
			1♦																						
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠																						
Pass	4♣	Double	4NT																						
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦																						
End																									

<p>           ♠ 10            ♥ J 4            ♦ J 10 8 7 5            ♣ A J 8 6 5              ♠ 9 5 2                    ♠ A K 8            ♥ Q 9 3                    ♥ 10 8 6 5 2            ♦ A Q 9                    ♦ K 3            ♣ K 10 9 2                ♣ Q 7 3              ♠ Q J 7 6 4 3            ♥ A K 7            ♦ 6 4 2            ♣ 4         </p> <p>Table Result 4♦ X South 9 tricks Hamman-Zia EW +100 Sementa-Duboin NS -100</p>	<p>Board 40 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT (i)</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl (ii)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>End</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) The poor quality of the heart suit will persuade most to prefer 1NT. (ii) If 2NT is Lebensohl, West has to double instead.</p> <p>3♥ should fail by a trick because South can score a heart ruff and North a spade ruff.</p> <p>How would 2NT fare? If South leads a low spade, declarer can let the singleton ♠10 score. A successful guess in hearts, not finessing the nine (by no means easy because South could hold the ♣A rather than one of the top hearts), would then see the contract make. The one sure way to beat 2NT is a club lead and a spade switch!</p> <p>2♠ fails on any lead bar a heart. No Scot would find the lead to beat 1♦: the ♦9.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	1NT (i)	2♠	Dbl (ii)	Pass	3♥	End								
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
Pass	Pass	1NT (i)	2♠																		
Dbl (ii)	Pass	3♥	End																		
<p>           ♠ 2            ♥ K Q J 8            ♦ A 6 4 3 2            ♣ A 6 2              ♠ J 6                        ♠ K 10 7 5 4 3            ♥ A                         ♥ 9 6 5 4 3            ♦ Q J 9 8 7                ♦ K            ♣ K J 10 4 3                ♣ 5              ♠ A Q 9 8            ♥ 10 7 2            ♦ 10 5            ♣ Q 9 8 7         </p> <p>Table Result 2NT South 8 tricks Hamman-Zia EW +120 Sementa-Duboin NS -120</p>	<p>Board 41 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>2♠ (i)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble (ii)</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) The disparity of suit length and strength suggests showing the hand as a single suiter. While the vulnerability says to go quietly, bridge is usually a bidder's game. (ii) With a sound opening bid, short spades and four hearts, North has a clear-cut reopening double.</p> <p>The above auction actually occurred in the Venice Cup match between the USA and China. The best lead as it happens is a heart. North can then come in with a minor-suit ace, switch to a spade, get back in and play hearts. South can then discard a diamond on the fourth heart and score a trump promotion. After a diamond lead, declarer can get out for one down with careful play but may well go down two. 2NT and 2♥ are on for North-South.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♦	2♠ (i)	Pass	Pass	Dble (ii)	End									
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
	1♦	2♠ (i)	Pass																		
Pass	Dble (ii)	End																			
<p>           ♠ K 10 6 2            ♥ J            ♦ 8 6 4            ♣ A Q 8 5 2              ♠ Q 7 5                    ♠ A 9 8 4            ♥ 7 4                        ♥ K Q 9 6 5 3            ♦ A J 5 3                 ♦ 10 9            ♣ J 7 6 3                 ♣ 4              ♠ J 3            ♥ A 10 8 2            ♦ K Q 7 2            ♣ K 10 9         </p> <p>Table Result 2♥ East 7 tricks Hamman-Zia EW -100 Sementa-Duboin NS +100</p>	<p>Board 42 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥(i)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble (ii)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦(iii)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) East's hand is a bit too suitable for a spade contract and a bit too good for a weak two opening. (ii) With fair values and a singleton heart, North reopens. (iii) At matchpoints, South might well leave in the double.</p> <p>In 2♥, declarer has three trumps, a diamond, a club and a spade to lose – and may need to guess well or get some assistance to hold the losses to that.</p> <p>With the aid of some good guesswork, North-South can make 3♦, 4♣ or even 3NT.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♥(i)	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble (ii)	Pass	3♦(iii)	End			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
		1♥(i)	Pass																		
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass																		
Pass	Dble (ii)	Pass	3♦(iii)																		
End																					

<p>           ♠ A K 10 9 5 4            ♥ 6 4            ♦ A 10            ♣ J 9 5            ♠ Q 7 3 2      ♠ 8 6            ♥ 7 5            ♥ J 3 2            ♦ J 8 5 2        ♦ K 9 7 4            ♣ A 10 3         ♣ K Q 7 4              ♠ J            ♥ A K Q 10 9 8            ♦ Q 6 3            ♣ 8 6 2         </p> <p>Table Result 4♥ South 10 tricks Drijver-Brink EW -420 Helness-Helgemo NS +420</p>	<p>Board 43 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦(i)</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) North has no satisfactory rebid in Acol. Any of 3NT, 4♥ or 4♠ could be the best contract. Bidding a new suit at the three level creates a force. South, who did not rebid 2♦, is unlikely to get excited about playing in diamonds.</p> <p>With clubs 4-3, a lack of stopper in the suit is no barrier to making 3NT. It is laydown.</p> <p>The heart game is more interesting. To beat it the defenders need to start with the queen, king and ace of clubs, allowing West to switch to a diamond and kill the entry to the spades. In practice, this is unlikely to happen.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦(i)	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	End	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
			1♥																		
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥																		
Pass	3♦(i)	Pass	3♥																		
Pass	4♥	End																			
<p>           ♠ K            ♥ A K 10 4 2            ♦ 10 9 6            ♣ A 9 8 2            ♠ A Q J 9 7 3 2      ♠ 8 6 5            ♥ J 9                  ♥ 8 6 5 3            ♦ Q 4 3                ♦ A K J 8 7 2            ♣ K                    ♣              ♠ 10 4            ♥ Q 7            ♦ 5            ♣ Q J 10 7 6 5 4 3         </p> <p>Table Result 4♠ West 11 tricks Drijver-Brink EW +450 Helness-Helgemo NS -450</p>	<p>Board 44 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥(i)</td> <td>3♦(ii)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) With five good hearts, 2♥ looks better than double. Anyone who doubles should do very well because this will really excite South.</p> <p>(ii) With so few losers and great controls, East must do more than raise to 2♠.</p> <p>The spade game is easy to make. If North starts with three rounds of hearts, South should ruff high in case North has A-J doubleton or A-9-x of trumps. The effect of ruffing, unfortunately, is that declarer is likely to drop the ♠K offside for 11 tricks.</p> <p>Any South who gets into the action should do well. The club game is cold with just two aces to lose. If East-West go on to 5♠, declarer is under pressure to take the winning view in the trump suit.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1♠	2♥(i)	3♦(ii)	Pass	4♠	End										
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
1♠	2♥(i)	3♦(ii)	Pass																		
4♠	End																				
<p>           ♠ 4            ♥ Q 7 6 5 2            ♦ 8 7            ♣ A 8 7 4 2            ♠ 10 9 8 3            ♠ K J 6 2            ♥ K 9 3                ♥ A 8            ♦ Q 9 3                ♦ A K J 10            ♣ K 5 3                ♣ Q 10 9              ♠ A Q 7 5            ♥ J 10 4            ♦ 6 5 4 2            ♣ J 6         </p> <p>Table Result 4♠ West 9 tricks Drijver-Brink EW -100 Helness-Helgemo NS +100</p>	<p>Board 45 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠(i)</td> <td>End</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) Non-vulnerable, East would probably raise just to 3♠. In the original event, everyone reached game.</p> <p>A low club lead beats the spade game because South gets to score a club ruff. Few will find that. A heart lead seems more normal. Suppose declarer wins in hand and runs the ♠10. If South wins and switches to the ♣J, North ducking, declarer has to take the double-dummy line of playing four rounds of diamonds to avoid the club ruff. At the table, everyone went down.</p> <p>3NT is makeable even on a heart lead if you hold up once in hearts and guess to attack clubs, picking off the jack – unlikely I know.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	4♠(i)	End								
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
	Pass	1♦	Pass																		
1♠	Pass	4♠(i)	End																		

<p>           ♠ Q 9 3 2            ♥ 10            ♦ Q 10 6            ♣ J 10 8 7 5            ♠ A K J 5      ♠ 10 8 6 4            ♥ A Q J 9 7      ♥ K 5 4 3            ♦ 9 5      ♦ K J            ♣ 6 4      ♣ K 3 2            ♠ 7            ♥ 8 6 2            ♦ A 8 7 4 3 2            ♣ A Q 9         </p> <p>Table Result 4♥ West 9 tricks Drijver-Brink EW -50 Helness-Helgemo NS +50</p>	<p>Board 46 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦ (i)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT (ii)</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥ (iii)</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) With a six-card suit, 2.5 defensive tricks and 10 HCP, opening seems normal. (ii) East probably wants to show a constructive four-card heart raise. For some this will be a jump cue bid to 3♦. For sure, 2NT cannot be natural by a passed hand.</p> <p>The auction shown is from the other room of the Netherlands-Norway match.</p> <p>Although guessing the diamonds right (playing North for the queen rather than the ace) should prove easy, both the ♣A and ♠Q are offside. Given the opening bid, having the three losers in the minors is no surprise – indeed, it could be worse. The spade situation is unlucky.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	1♦ (i)	1♥	Pass	2NT (ii)	Pass	4♥ (iii)	End		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
		Pass	1♦ (i)														
1♥	Pass	2NT (ii)	Pass														
4♥ (iii)	End																
<p>           ♠ A 9 7            ♥ 10 8 4 3            ♦ K 7 3 2            ♣ Q 6            ♠ Q 5 4 3 2      ♠ J 10 6            ♥ K J 9 7      ♥ A Q 5            ♦ 8 6      ♦ Q 4            ♣ 8 5      ♣ K J 10 9 4            ♠ K 8            ♥ 6 2            ♦ A J 10 9 5            ♣ A 7 3 2         </p> <p>Table Result 5♦ South 10 tricks Drijver-Brink EW +100 Helness-Helgemo NS -100</p>	<p>Board 47 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>End</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Assuming East knows that 5332 is the wrong shape for a two-level overcall, this auction looks routine. It duly occurred at three tables in the original event. I am afraid the featured Norwegian pair simply bid too much.</p> <p>Helgemo got the trumps right but could not avoid losing two hearts and a club. Indeed everyone who played in diamonds made 10 tricks. If, as is the case on the auction shown, the opponents pass throughout, it is very often right to play for the trumps to break 2-2. If the opposing hands were shapely, the opponents would have been more likely to bid.</p> <p>8 tricks are the limit if you play in no-trumps.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	End	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
			1♦														
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣														
Pass	2♦	End															
<p>           ♠ K J 7            ♥ K 9 6 5            ♦ K 10 8 3            ♣ 10 3            ♠ 8 5 2      ♠ A 10            ♥ J 10 7 2      ♥ A Q 8 4            ♦ Q 9 5      ♦ A J 6 4            ♣ 8 4 2      ♣ K Q 5            ♠ Q 9 6 4 3            ♥ 3            ♦ 7 2            ♣ A J 9 7 6         </p> <p>Table Result 3♥ West 9 tricks Drijver-Brink EW +140 Helness-Helgemo NS -140</p>	<p>Board 48 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>End</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Playing a 20-22 2NT opening, the auction shown should be common.</p> <p>Whether South leads a spade or a club, the result should be the same: down one. Declarer can make a spade, a club, three hearts and a diamond.</p> <p>The featured Dutch pair managed to do better when Drijver decided that he was not quite worth a strong opening. Although a club lead would defeat 3♥, Helness led a spade after Helgemo had overcalled in spades. When dummy played low, Helgemo won and returned a spade. Looking to create an entry to hand for taking the trump finesse, Brink called for the ♦J. The defenders had no counter. Brink was able to pick up the trumps and ruff a diamond in hand to make 9 tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	2NT	End								
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
Pass	Pass	2NT	End														

♠ 8 7

♥ 7 4 2

♦ J 6 5 3

♣ K Q J 8

♠ A 9 2

♠ K Q J 5

♥ A J

♥ 10 8 6

♦ 4 2

♦ K 10 9 8 7

♣ A 10 7 6 4 3

♣ 2

♠ 10 6 4 3

♥ K Q 9 5 3

♦ A Q

♣ 9 5

Table Result 2♦ East 9 tricks

Drijver-Brink EW +110

Helness-Helgemo NS -110

Board 49 : Dealer North : Love all

**West North East South**

Pass Pass 1♥ (i)

2♣ Pass (ii) 2♦ (iii) End (ii)

(i) Most people would open this hand in first seat non-vulnerable. With the good heart suit, opening in third seat is clear-cut.

(ii) With poor hearts and good clubs, North does not compete.

(iii) As a passed hand, 2♦ must be non-forcing whatever your normal style.

2♦ yields an overtrick with just three trumps and a heart to lose.

2♣ fails if North leads a diamond or a high club but makes on a heart (or spade) lead.

2♥ certainly should not make. Indeed, declarer may need to exercise some care to avoid going down two.

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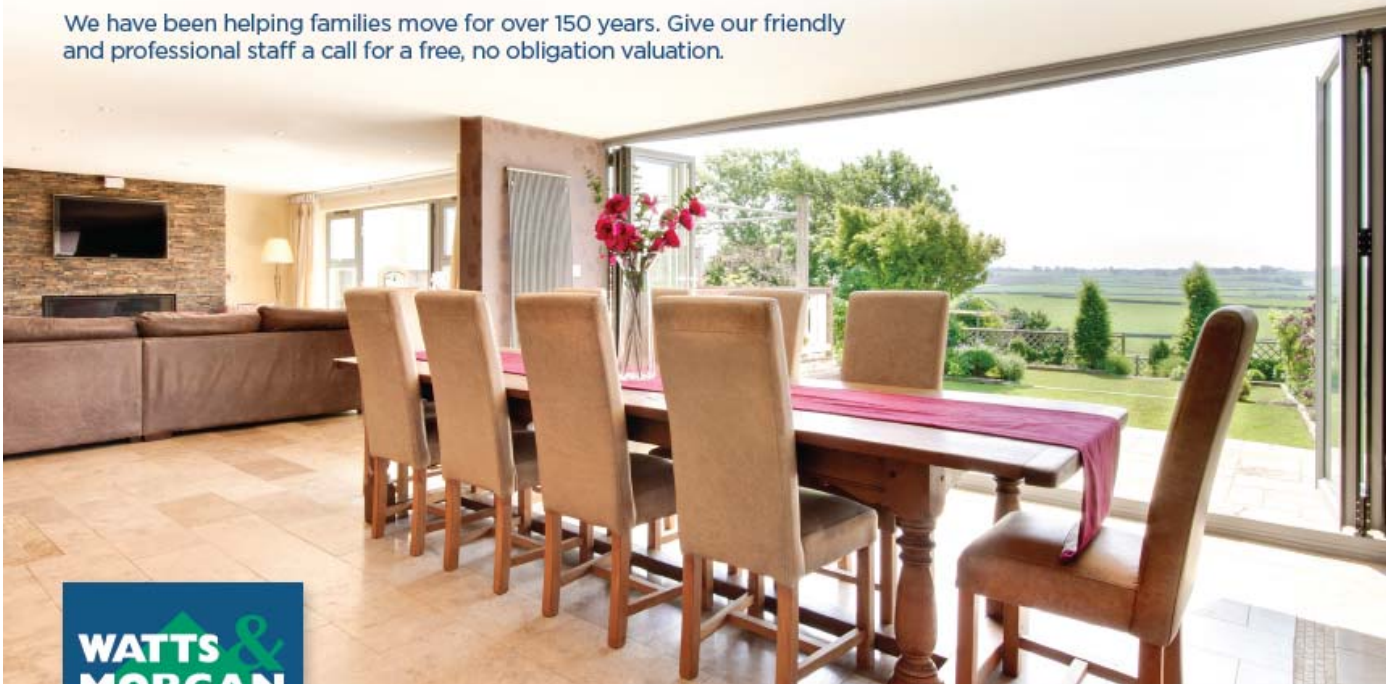
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