

♦♠NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION♥♣



Fourth Interclub – Heat A

4th - 6th March 2018

Commentary by Ian Hamilton

1

♠ 63
♥ J954
♦ KQJ943
♣ K

♠ J4
♥ Q7
♦ A10752
♣ Q1096

♠ Q52
♥ 1086
♦ 86
♣ AJ854

♠ AK10987
♥ AK32
♦
♣ 732

Dealer: North
Neither Vulnerable

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

The result here could depend on bidding methods. Best is to play that a change of suit over a 2 level response is forcing to at least the level of opener's first bid suit.

Thus south can rebid 2♥ over north's 2♦ reply to his 1♠ opener, without fear of being passed. In practice it gets raised. The alternative is a 3♣ rebid - those rebidding 2♠ almost certainly languish there, and miss game.

Spades is actually the easier strain to declare, west maybe helping with the diamond ace lead. Whatever the lead the defence can only prevent a club ruff in dummy at the cost of a trump trick, so ten tricks result.

Declaring hearts, spades can be established with a ruff, and a club ruffed in dummy. This promotes east's trump 10, but declarer again has ten tricks.

2

♠ 1087
♥ K1086
♦ KQ95
♣ 75

♠ AQ2
♥ A932
♦ A86
♣ 986

♠ J6543
♥ J5
♦ J732
♣ 102

♠ K9
♥ Q74
♦ 104
♣ AKQJ43

Dealer: East
N-S Vulnerable

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

West could double south's 1♣, and north try 1NT, quite possibly raised to game by south. This will not be a success on a spade lead, minus 300 on the card.

Should south open a strong NT, west will pass and north invite game after a failing Stayman enquiry. South's NT spot will make nine or even ten tricks should west lead a heart. He needs to improbably start with high spades.

South could insist on clubs rather than NT, west likely leading a trump. Nine or ten tricks can result, though declarer could be held to eight should he play hearts early and let east in with the doubleton heart knave, he now finding the spade switch.

E/W have eight tricks in spades, maybe a good save at the 3 level against the part-scores, though likely a rarity.

3

♠ AK9
♥ 107543
♦ 8
♣ 9632

♠ 65432
♥ 9
♦ A52
♣ J854

♠ J87
♥ 6
♦ KJ1073
♣ AK107

♠ Q10
♥ AKQJ82
♦ Q964
♣ Q

Dealer: South
E-W Vulnerable

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

North is best to simply pre-emptively raise south's 1♥ opener to game, which south should reluctantly pass. Although north has maybe a little more than he might slam is highly improbable with south's lack of aces, even game not assured.

In the event west needs to find a minor suit lead, and the defence cash out accurately, or south can dispose of a club on spades, only losing a diamond, cross-ruffing the rest, and scoring 480.

Will many manage to take two tricks as E/W, and get a half-decent board?

4

♠ A108
♥ 32
♦ J8653
♣ A97

♠ 7652
♥ J4
♦ A972
♣ K103

♠ 43
♥ K975
♦ 104
♣ QJ842

♠ KQJ9
♥ AQ1086
♦ KQ
♣ 65

Dealer: West
Both Vulnerable

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

Yet another nice hand for south, he opening 1♥ and reversing into 2♣ over north's 1NT or thin 2♦ response. The end result could be 3NT or 4 of either major.

3NT can come home, though care is needed with entries, declarer holding up clubs till the third round and playing on diamonds early. He has two spade entries to cash diamonds and play hearts, though has to guess which finesse to take.

Unusually, the 4:3 spade fit plays better than the 5:2 heart one, in hearts two trumps lost in addition to a club and diamond, unless the defence miss the club opening lead.

4♠ makes when declarer either gets a cross-ruff going or, where trumps are led, sets up hearts with a ruff.

5

♠ K102
♥ AQ1062
♦ J105
♣ 97

♠ 64
♥ 3
♦ AK97432
♣ Q83

♠ AQ8753
♥ K87
♦ 86
♣ K10

♠ J9
♥ J954
♦ Q
♣ AJ6542

Dealer: North
N-S Vulnerable

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

Most easts will open 3♦, despite north having already passed, and a danger that it will be partner pre-empted. Passed out this only loses two spades and a heart.

Where south overcalls 3♠ north raises to game, and west leads the diamond queen. East has to overtake and cash a second diamond before switching to a club. If he goes for a trump promotion declarer can ruff high and survive when trumps prove to be 2:2. Indeed, hearts can be picked up and an overtrick recorded, as it can where east fails to overtake the diamond queen.

Should south and west pass north could enter the fray with 3♥ and get raised. Here the defence is easier with dummy's clubs on view, and even a third diamond succeeds, west either getting an over-ruff, a trump promotion or a spade ruff.

6

♠ Q65
♥ 9843
♦ K76
♣ 742

♠ 9743
♥ A752
♦ 932
♣ Q5

♠ A82
♥ KQJ6
♦ 5
♣ KJ1083

♠ KJ10
♥ 10
♦ AQJ1084
♣ A96

Dealer: East
E-W Vulnerable

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

This could be a competitive affair, south opening clubs and west overcalling with his diamonds. They could get pushed to 3♦ where north makes a thin double or 1NT bid, or north and east pass and south re-opens with a double, locating the N/S heart fit.

Declaring hearts N/S are a bit lucky that east's club queen is doubleton, and that the heart 10 falls, meaning that despite north's paucity of entries, they can scramble eight or even nine tricks, depending on whether or not east gets a ruff in clubs.

So those N/Ss playing hearts at the 2 or 3 level should fare better than those letting E/W declare their diamond fit, where they make nine tricks, losing just two spades, a trump and a club, the remaining club ruffed in dummy.

7

♠ Q985
♥ K6
♦ QJ3
♣ AQ83

♠ 103
♥ J8543
♦ AK109
♣ 42

♠ AJ
♥ AQ102
♦ 864
♣ KJ106

♠ K7642
♥ 97
♦ 752
♣ 975

Dealer: South
Both Vulnerable

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

North's weak NT could be doubled by east and might easily escape for one light on a club lead. However, south will usually remove to spades. Despite the 9 card fit the cards lie poorly, and 2♠ could go two light, though west needs to find an early club switch.

E/W can do better not trying to penalise 2♠, instead declaring hearts, where there are an easy ten tricks, with the heart finesse working and both clubs onside. However, getting to game could be tricky, west not quite having enough to insist on game opposite a minimum double, and having to introduce his poor heart suit at an awkward level.

Where north opens 1♣ east overcalls 1NT. Now east can break west's heart transfer, and should more easily reach the top spot of 4♥.

8

♠ J4
♥ AK976
♦ KQ86
♣ 98

♠ 986
♥ 852
♦ 7542
♣ Q53

♠ K752
♥ 4
♦ AJ93
♣ AJ104

♠ AQ103
♥ QJ103
♦ 10
♣ K762

Dealer: West
Neither Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	4	2	2	3
S	3	5	3	2	4
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

This looks most likely to finish in 3NT by south after north has overcalled west's 1♣ with 1♥.

The club pips and lie allow three tricks in the suit via two finesses. West is later squeezed on the run of minor suit winners, eventually being forced to cede either an extra heart or spade trick, after being thrown in in hearts.

So declarer should make ten tricks, though some may be happy to settle for the straightforward nine, and a decent score.

Some will find the diamond fit instead and declare part-score or even game in the suit. Declaring diamonds, south can make eleven tricks by getting a spade away on a club, then cross-ruffing. North is held to ten tricks on a spade lead. Neither will beat the no trumps.

9

♠ 862
♥ QJ3
♦ A97
♣ A1032

♠ 1093
♥ 85
♦ J43
♣ J8765

♠ A4
♥ AK1097642
♦ Q2
♣ K

♠ KQJ75
♥
♦ K10865
♣ Q94

Dealer: North
E-W Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	5	-	5	-
S	3	5	-	5	-
E	-	-	2	-	-
W	-	-	2	-	-

The east hand represents an awkward opener in some methods, but an ideal Strong Two in Acol - 8-9 playing tricks, without huge defence. Over either this, or the alternative 1♥ or 4♥ opener south may venture spades, or use Michaels if he has room.

South will buy a great dummy if he manages to declare spades, ten tricks there when he loses only a trump, diamond and club. Indeed, declarer can fell the club king then endplay west with the diamond knave to give up a third club trick and eleven in all.

Where east manages to declare 4♥ he loses five tricks which, if the red card is applied, cedes 500, scoring worse than at most losing 450 defending spades.

10

♠ 108
♥ Q7
♦ A87532
♣ KQ6

♠ KQJ543
♥ A9
♦ K6
♣ 1075

♠ 762
♥ 1086532
♦ Q4
♣ 93

♠ A9
♥ KJ4
♦ J109
♣ AJ842

Dealer: East
Both Vulnerable

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

Over south's weak NT west presumably tries 2♠ or shows his spade single suiter. He easily makes eight tricks declaring this denomination.

However, north will not let west play in spades too often, likely electing for a diamond part-score, though could over-reach to 3NT should the presence of a south spade stop be established.

Where south opens 1♣ and west overcalls spades the same decisions result, north bidding 2♦ then having a decision when south rebids 2NT.

I can see a fair few light in the no trump game on this one, north expecting a better south spade stop and south hoping for as little as Jxx opposite, which would provide a second stop. Unlucky.

11

♠ AJ963
♥ 10
♦ AQ3
♣ AQJ7

♠ 10
♥ A952
♦ KJ1092
♣ K82

♠ K7542
♥ K8
♦ 74
♣ 9543

♠ Q8
♥ QJ7643
♦ 865
♣ 106

Dealer: South
Neither Vulnerable

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

Where south opens a sub-standard Multi or Weak Two N/S will surely end up in the suit game. 4♥ has little chance, losing at least three trumps and a spade.

Where west gets to opens a thin 1♦ north probably doubles, then bids no trumps when south shows his hearts. It is hard to see game being declared, south either passing or rebidding hearts.

At some tables north will open 1♠, passed to west, who doubles, and north redoubles. A penalty can ensue, as E/W have no making spot, though in practice south will hardly defend.

An unlikely 3NT cannot be beaten, south's spades solidifying the suit when the 10 falls, as well as providing an entry to pick up clubs.

12

♠ K43
♥ 10985
♦ J87
♣ 1097

♠ 2
♥ 432
♦ Q96543
♣ KQ6

♠ AQ65
♥ KQ
♦ K2
♣ J5432

♠ J10987
♥ AJ76
♦ A10
♣ A8

Dealer: West
N-S Vulnerable

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

East's 1♣ should see south overcalling 1♠, preferable to doubling, as hearts would be chosen where north has equal major length, and so the wrong suit declared. Today, even if north fails to raise spades over west's club support or diamond bid south will double on the next round, getting the heart suit into the picture.

So this competitive spot could see E/W declaring a minor, or N/S one of their major suit fits. With E/W scoring 110 in their minor N/S may be okay if they get declaring at the 2 level undoubled, as they can scramble seven tricks in either hearts or spades.

However, doubtless some N/Ss will lose 200, the kiss of death at Pairs on a part-score hand.

13

♠ 109754
♥ 7
♦ J94
♣ QJ96

♠ K632
♥ J10854
♦ AK10
♣ 5

♠ AQ
♥ A92
♦ 876
♣ A10742

♠ J8
♥ KQ63
♦ Q532
♣ K83

Dealer: North
Both Vulnerable

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

Game should be reached when east has a maximum opener, and west a game try, most finishing in 4♥. Some might try 3NT, though a diamond lead finishes this off, attacking west's entries before spades can be unblocked and two hearts conceded.

4♥ is interesting. Declarer can succeed on cross-ruff lines, even on a ducked trump lead, cashing his winners, and ruffing two clubs in west and a low spade spade then the king with the ace and 9, ceding just two trumps and a diamond. South can over-ruff the trump 9 but it is too late.

However, this line may prove far from clear to some, and I suspect there will be failures.

14

♠ KJ5
♥ 1097432
♦ A2
♣ 109

♠ 1072
♥ K
♦ KQ9875
♣ 752

♠ 94
♥ AJ65
♦ 103
♣ AKQJ8

♠ AQ863
♥ Q8
♦ J64
♣ 643

Dealer: East
Neither Vulnerable

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

N/S find their spade fit when south overcalls east's 1♣ with the suit. E/W may have a harder time of it, west being a bit thin to introduce diamonds at the 2 level, though some will. In any case east will likely double a 2♠ raise, allowing west to bid his diamonds, or give club preference, either of which east should pass.

With E/W able to make ten tricks in either minor N/S are best to advance to 3♠, where they can quietly concede 50-100. It needs early trump leads to stop eight tricks, but most defences should be up to it, seeing dummy.

Love all is the vulnerability to compete, but will N/S go high enough to buy it? And those doubled at the 3 level will regret it, assuming the defence doesn't slip.

15

♠ 65432
♥ 1096
♦ 4
♣ AJ83

♠ QJ109
♥ KJ
♦ A1072
♣ K97

♠ K87
♥ AQ3
♦ QJ83
♣ 542

♠ A
♥ 87542
♦ K965
♣ Q106

Dealer: South
N-S Vulnerable

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

E/W are likely to get to 3NT by west after either his weak NT or 1♦ opener. Whoever declares there are ten possible tricks via three spades, three hearts and four diamonds, south's 9 getting picked up.

However, south gets in early with the spade ace and can find a high club switch to defeat the contract. A low club from south allows west to cover and the suit is stopped.

Many will try the queen, in theory promising the knave. Now when north wins the ace over the king he may not continue the suit, thinking the queen doubleton or the 10 with declarer.

Much better is the 10. Now north will be comfortable leading from his knave, thinking south has at least the 9, and the suit can be picked up. Will many let this through?

16

♠ QJ107
♥ K5
♦ AKQ9
♣ J86

♠ K52
♥ QJ106
♦ J3
♣ AK74

♠ A63
♥ A92
♦ 10862
♣ Q103

♠ 984
♥ 8743
♦ 754
♣ 952

Dealer: West
E-W Vulnerable

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

We could well see north doubling west's weak NT, and east redoubling, if this is business. The best N/S can do now is lose 300 in 2♠. Those escaping elsewhere could lose as much as 800.

When west opens 1♣, north has a 1NT overcall, but no club stop. Double is better. East will have red or blue cards on the table in either scenario, and south, with his Yarborough, will be unhappy. However, now N/S are only at the one level, and cannot be seriously punished, at least in spades.

Although there are an easy ten tricks E/W in no trumps few will get that high, especially if 1NT has been doubled. So it looks good for the weak NT, getting a penalty at the 2 level, since even if east passes north's intervention south won't, and east can double anything.

17

♠ K3
 ♥ Q73
 ♦ Q6
 ♣ KJ9742
 ♠ AJ1054
 ♥ AK
 ♦ AK52
 ♣ A3
 ♠ Q7
 ♥ J98652
 ♦ 983
 ♣ 86
 ♠ 9862
 ♥ 104
 ♦ J1074
 ♣ Q105

 Dealer: North
 Neither Vulnerable

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

Rarely do the opponents open when you have 23HCP, but here north's 1♣ runs to west, who doubles, east choking out a 1♥ response, or passing should north rebid clubs. With west bidding 3NT over anything east would be wise to retreat to 4♥, a comfortable make, losing just a club, trump and spade. 3NT is beaten should north lead his broken suit, makes otherwise.

Some wests will bid their spades and east maybe reluctantly raise, though I can see some left in part-score.

Declaring spades ten tricks are possible double dummy, west winning the opening lead and playing three rounds of diamonds. The trump ace wins south's trump switch, and a diamond is ruffed. A low trump later sees the king played on air and declarer is able to pull trumps.

18

♠ 109
 ♥ 63
 ♦ KJ1085
 ♣ K1098
 ♠ Q873
 ♥ 7
 ♦ Q92
 ♣ AJ764
 ♠ A54
 ♥ AQJ9
 ♦ A743
 ♣ Q3
 ♠ KJ62
 ♥ K108542
 ♦ 6
 ♣ 52

 Dealer: East
 N-S Vulnerable

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

When E/W get to 3NT the cards do not lie well. However, south will usually be on lead, and could help by leading a heart. Perhaps he shouldn't as Acol will have opened the suit, or bid it in response to Stayman.

Declarer has a chance on the heart lead, and succeeds by establishing clubs should north wins the club king when the queen is passed. He must duck. There is still a way home via a minor suit endplay on north, but the ending is complex and unlikely to be achieved in practice.

However, there is scope for N/S to let 3NT home in other ways, so I expect some successes, as well as rather more failures.

19

♠ AJ652
 ♥ 6
 ♦ QJ75
 ♣ 972
 ♠ Q3
 ♥ QJ984
 ♦ 1043
 ♣ J84
 ♠ 8
 ♥ AK52
 ♦ K982
 ♣ AQ103
 ♠ K10974
 ♥ 1073
 ♦ A6
 ♣ K65

 Dealer: South
 E-W Vulnerable

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

A peaceful auction will suddenly come to life after east's 1♦ and south's 1♠ overcall. West doubles, being too weak to bid hearts immediately. North's jump to 4♠ likely ends it, though east might contemplate 5♥.

South will have no expectation of a make opposite a passed partner, but with both minor suit kings outside 4♠ is unbeatable. Some could be doubled, recording 590.

Should east advance to 5♥ the good lie for N/S translates into a poor one for E/W, a spade, two diamonds and a club being lost, plus conceivably a diamond ruff for good measure. This venture will cost 500-800 if doubled, which admittedly it may not be, in which case it could be a good save.

20

♠ KQJ10985
 ♥ 65
 ♦ 8
 ♣ 985
 ♠ 73
 ♥ A9873
 ♦ KJ6
 ♣ AQ6
 ♠ 42
 ♥ KQ
 ♦ AQ1075
 ♣ KJ107
 ♠ A6
 ♥ J1042
 ♦ 9432
 ♣ 432

 Dealer: West
 Both Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	1	-
S	-	-	-	1	-
E	5	5	4	-	-
W	5	5	4	-	-

When west opens 1♥ or a weak NT again we will have serious intervention, many norths bidding 3♠. This makes it very awkward for E/W to get to their games in either minor or hearts, 5♦ being the most credible, though playing 5 card majors east could simply raise west to game in his opened suit.

However, where west has opened the weak NT, some easts could bid 3NT over the intervention, trusting west for a stop. Minus 300 will be embarrassing. Double is probably best, so long as for takeout, but it could easily be left in. 3♠x, losing only 500, is in theory a good sacrifice against the games possible E/W.

Those that get to any of the three games should have no difficulty recording the requisite number of tricks, 4♥ offering the best score.

21

♠ J10
♥ Q853
♦ KJ105
♣ KJ3

♠ AKQ54
♥ J106
♦ Q98
♣ 105

♠ 2
♥ 94
♦ 62
♣ AQ987642

♠ 98763
♥ AK72
♦ A743
♣

 Dealer: North
N-S Vulnerable

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

East will pre-empt in clubs, maybe as high as 5♣, whether or not north opens a thin 1♦. Where south doubles a high club pre-empt north will usually pass for penalties. Should south pass where north has not opened, it is hard to see any further action.

Over a south double of 3♣ north might try 3NT, and can make on a club lead if south sticks it. N/S are better to declare a red suit if they can, game makeable in both on any defence. 4♥ is held to ten tricks, three rounds of spades promoting a trump. An extra trick is there in diamonds, east unable to over-ruff a middle trump.

In practice, it is hard to see many in the red suit games, unless north has opened, east usually pre-empting too high. N/S need to cash their red tricks in the right order to total five in defence, and get the maximum penalty.

22

♠ KJ92
♥ K1064
♦ 64
♣ A64

♠ A874
♥ QJ82
♦ AJ8
♣ Q2

♠ Q10
♥ 953
♦ K52
♣ KJ875

♠ 653
♥ A7
♦ Q10973
♣ 1093

 Dealer: East
E-W Vulnerable

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

Where west opens a weak NT he will play there. At favourable vulnerability, holding both majors, north might double a west 5 card major minor suit opener. East could redouble, but N/S are playable in 1♠. The effect is more likely to be of getting E/W into a club contract, where they can be held to eight tricks on a heart ruff, and a lesser score, even when they make, so the intervention will have succeeded.

Declaring no trumps west makes nine tricks on a spade lead if he takes the diamond finesse after running clubs. A heart or passive lead is no better, nine tricks there when a heart is established.

Joint top score should be 150 E/W, but some will maybe only manage 120 in no trumps, playing on hearts. Those declaring clubs will be bottom of the pile.

23

♠ K76
♥ K9
♦ 6
♣ KQJ10753

♠ QJ8543
♥ 762
♦ A53
♣ 6

♠ 9
♥ A108543
♦ KQJ7
♣ 82

♠ A102
♥ QJ
♦ 109842
♣ A94

 Dealer: South
Both Vulnerable

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

North will either open 1♣ or call 3♣ over a west Multi or weak 2♠. East could bid hearts over the 1♣ opener. South will almost certainly have a crack at 3NT where west has opened, but it is more awkward after the 1♣ opener and heart overcall, absent a clear heart stop. However, it should be possible to establish that north stops the suit and the same contract result.

North will rarely go light in 3NT, east leading a heart, and declarer quickly claiming 630. A west low spade lead, where south declares, cedes the same score, but some could select a heart, giving east the chance to find the diamond switch and five defensive tricks.

Where north declares 5♣ the defence must not start with a top diamond or declarer has the entries to ruff the suit good for a spade pitch and a make.

24

♠ 9843
♥ A1097
♦ 109864
♣

♠ AK7652
♥ K95
♦ 8
♣ Q53

♠ QJ10
♥ 108764
♦ QJ
♣ A72

 Dealer: West
Neither Vulnerable

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

North opens 1♦, planning on reversing into hearts. East overcalls 1♠. South is a bit weak, and has too poor a heart suit to bid 2♥, so must double. West will raise spades, maybe as high as game.

E/W can actually make 4♠, thanks to the club position, but it is hard to see them being allowed to play there, north sure to go to the 5 level with south effectively bidding his second suit. When north does declare 5♥ east needs to find the singleton diamond switch when on lead in trumps, or he lets it through.

Where north opens 1♥ the auction is simpler, with the same decisions required. So high level fireworks predicted, with both sides in with a chance of a big plus.

25

♠ J97
♥ AK8764
♦ K9
♣ Q9

♠ Q865
♥ 93
♦ 5
♣ AJ6432

♠ AK432
♥ Q105
♦ AJ103
♣ K

♠ 10
♥ J2
♦ Q87642
♣ 10875

 Dealer: North
E-W Vulnerable

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

A 1♠ overcall of north's 1♥ is best on the east cards, a double awkward to handle were west to bid 2♣, as he likely would. Over this 2♠ suggests a better suit.

As it happens all approaches will locate the spade fit, and the vast majority will be in game, the scoring depending on the number of tricks taken.

Where east declares south leads his heart knave to north's king and then ace. East may muddy the waters by following with the queen on the 2nd round, but north should not be fooled, since south would show "remaining count" from J102, playing the 10.

On a third heart, south's uppercut ruff promotes a trump in north. Indeed, if dummy over-ruffs even ten tricks need care, cross-ruffing rather than setting up clubs.

26

♠ QJ8
♥ 106
♦ AK10964
♣ 92

♠ K732
♥ 975
♦ 85
♣ K1065

♠ 94
♥ KQJ42
♦ Q
♣ AQ743

♠ A1065
♥ A83
♦ J732
♣ J8

 Dealer: East
Both Vulnerable

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

East opens 1♥ and west raises, or bids 1♠ in Acol. North will surely bid 2♦ over the 1♠ response, but may well be silenced by a 2♥ raise. West has fitting cards when east tries with 3♣, and should bid the heart game.

Where north has got involved N/S could advance to 5♦. With 4♥ an easy make N/S's sacrifice proves a good one, no more than 500 lost, the defence needing to find an early heart switch or they only take three tricks.

The Acol E/Ws have to take the money, whereas the 5 card major's 2♥ raise may see them clocking up 620 unmolested, when north understandably fails to act at the 3 level on the first round.

27

♠ AKJ10
♥ KQ9
♦ AK
♣ 10432

♠ 962
♥ 643
♦ Q9
♣ AKQJ9

♠ Q75
♥ J1087
♦ 8743
♣ 86

♠ 843
♥ A52
♦ J10652
♣ 75

 Dealer: South
Neither Vulnerable

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

The scientists could lose out here, south bidding a 5 card Stayman 3♣ over north's 2NT, and west doubling. A dutiful lead sees declarer lose the first five tricks in 3NT.

However, some will spot the danger and steer the ship to the Moysian 4♠, where ten tricks can be made, so long as declarer loses an early trump to keep control.

When south raises 2NT directly to game few will find the lead, a heart far more likely. Declarer wins in hand, and thanks his lucky stars when the diamond queen falls under the ace/king. He beats the 4♠ declarers, recording 430.

This just demonstrates that sometimes simple is best, giving away minimal information.

28

♠ K3
♥ 109542
♦ Q8
♣ Q1073

♠ J
♥ 73
♦ J10974
♣ AJ965

♠ Q10865
♥ A8
♦ 532
♣ 842

♠ A9742
♥ KQJ6
♦ AK6
♣ K

 Dealer: West
N-S Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	2	5	3	4
S	1	2	5	3	4
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

I think 2NT is best on the south hand when all pass to him. Should north simply raise to game there are only ten tricks.

Many will transfer to hearts, then bid 3NT, over which south converts to 4♥. When west leads his singleton spade to dummy's king east needs to be awake on a trump lead from dummy, hopping up with the ace and delivering a ruff. However, declarer has a counter if he spots the danger, playing three diamonds and ditching dummy's remaining spade. He can now overruff west.

So the best spot may or may not be held to 620, both sides having their chances. This is rather a theme on the set which it is hoped was enjoyed.

Ave HCP	N 10.11	S 9.93	E 9.93	W 10.03	Balanced	N 11	S 13	E 11	W 11
Voids/singletons	N 1/8	S 3/7	E 0/9	W 1/12	7+ suit	N 2	S 0	E 3	W 0