# ECatsBridge Simultaneous Pairs for Children in Need 

Tuesday $7^{\text {th }}$ November 2023
Together we can
... and by competing in this Simultaneous Pairs you have once again certainly shown that together we can indeed do something to help make a difference to children who really need our help. Over the past years we (well you) have helped raise an amazing $£ 1,277,280.68$... hopefully we will be a good bit more to that this year!
Thank you so so much for coming along and joining in, playing and donating - please don't forget the donating bit though, will you - just go to :

## https://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims/donations.asp

and you will see how you can do it - if you haven't already done so of course!
Our thanks, as always, go to our commentators: Mark Horton for his words of wisdom on Monday and Friday, Brian Senior did the analysis for the Thursday session and Julian Pottage completes the crew, writing up the Tuesday and Wednesday events. It's always interesting to see if they got it right but you will have discovered that by now of course!
With very best wishes
Anna \& $\mathcal{L}$ Mark - the ECatsBridge Team

| Board I | $\pm 9$ | 9 | Dealer N <br> Vul: None |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\checkmark$ J | J4 |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ | 108754 |  |
|  | \% | QJ1082 |  |
| \& J10763 |  |  | ¢ K854 |
| - K10976 |  |  | - Q832 |
| - K2 |  |  | - J3 |
| 29 |  |  | ¢ 763 |
| - AQ2 |  |  |  |
| - A5 |  |  |  |
| - AQ96 |  |  |  |
| \% AK54 |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
|  | Pass | Pass | 2\% |
| 29 | Pass | $3{ }^{4}$ | Pass |
| Pass | 4NT | Pass | 59 |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

With 23 HCP South opens 28 intending to rebid 2 NT . If the East-West methods include a conventional way to show both majors, West might use it; if not, a 29 overcall seems reasonable - West would prefer a heart lead to a spade lead. Aware that North-South almost certainly have game on, East raises the hearts. South's pass over 3 保 suggests a balanced hand. North's 4NT is an unusual application of the unusual no-trump but I do not see what else it could be.

A heart lead is likely to hold a club (or diamond) contract to II tricks. Declarer
would need to finesse the $\Phi \mathrm{Q}$ (and so risk going down) to make 12 tricks.
In 3NT on a heart lead declarer should run five rounds of clubs before deciding which pointed suit finesse to take.

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \% | - | $\varphi$ | $\underline{\$}$ | NT |
|  | $=$ | $=$ | $=$ | $=$ | $=$ |
| N | 6 | 6 | - | - | 3 |
| S | 6 | 6 | - | - | 3 |
| E | - | - | I | 2 | - |
| W | - | - | I | 2 | - |

Board 2

| Board 2 | 9 | QJ | Dealer E |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\checkmark$ | 854 | Vul: N-S |
|  | $\checkmark$ | KJ985 |  |
|  | 20 | 1082 |  |
| ¢ A84 |  |  | ¢ 7653 |
| - AQJ6 |  |  | - K1072 |
| - A7 |  |  | - 643 |
| 2 KQ95 |  |  | \% A3 |
|  | $\pm$ | K1092 |  |
|  | $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{ }$ | 93 |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ | Q102 |  |
|  | \% | J764 |  |


| West | North | East <br> Pass | South <br> Pass |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2NT | Pass | 30 | Pass |
| $3 \stackrel{3 N}{4}$ | Pass | 3NT | Pass |
| 44 | All Pass |  |  |

This time West is the player with the strong balanced hand. East, holding two four-card majors, looks for a fit rather than simply raising to 3 NT. In the version of 5 -card Stayman with which I am most familiar, East would rebid 3 P to deny four hearts, rebid 3s to show four hearts but not four spades or (as here) rebid 3NT to show four cards in each major.

East-West have nine top tricks, which is all they are sure to make if they are in 3 NT . They might make one more because South has a couple of discards to find on the hearts. Perhaps North will find some way to signal for spades, which will encourage South to discard two spades, or one card in each pointed suit, rather than any clubs.

In a heart contract declarer easily makes a tenth trick, taking a ruff at some point to add to the nine top winners.


Playing a weak no-trump and 4-card majors West opens IV. Despite having only 4 HCP , the singleton spade will encourage East to find
a raise. South has good spade support and good shape - but also good defence against hearts. Maybe the raise to 4s is a bit too much, though if North is void in hearts then there will be very few losers. If West opened a strong INT, North-South would still find their spade fit but probably not bid game.
The defenders have four top tricks to take against a spade contract.

Looking only at the East-West cards you would expect to make nine tricks in a heart contract. You ruff a spade in the East hand, expecting to lose a spade, a diamond and two clubs. The 5I trump split means you do not have time to score a long diamond and lose another trick.

In a no-trump contract East-West just make their seven top winners.


With the $\Phi$ A in the East hand, $3 \diamond$ should make. Declarer just needs to use the $\vee \mathrm{A}$ as an entry for making the first spade lead from North. This way the only losers are one in each suit.

Although the computer says that a club contract 10 tricks, declarer is unlikely to do as well as that at the table. After a diamond lead to the ace, South can safely continue diamonds.

[^0]Declarer is likely to take a losing club finesse next. South can exit safely with a low spade, though the $\geqslant 5$ might be the best card with which to get off lead. If North wins with the ace and continues hearts, declarer finessing, even 3e could go down.
Making INT as East-West also requires an inspired drop of the singleton 2 K . Otherwise the defenders make five diamonds, a club and a spade.

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\stackrel{1}{*}$ | * | $\stackrel{\square}{ }$ | 1 | NT |
|  | - | = | = | $=$ | $=$ |
| N | - | 3 | - | - | - |
| S | - | 3 | - | - | - |
| E | 4 | - | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| W | 4 | - | 2 | 3 | I |


| Board 5 | $\stackrel{\leftrightarrow}{4}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { KQ108 } \\ & \text { Q1065 } \\ & 84 \\ & \text { Q66 } \end{aligned}$ | Dealer N <br> Vul: N-S |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - AJ64 |  |  | - 52 |
| - AJ82 |  |  | - K97 |
| - KIO |  |  | - Q976 |
| - A94 |  |  | - K1075 |
|  | $\pm$ | 973 |  |
|  | $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{ }$ | 43 |  |
|  |  | AJ532 |  |
|  |  | 832 |  |
| West | North | Cast | South |
|  | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| 19 | Pass | $2{ }^{29}$ | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

Playing a weak no-trump and 4-card majors, West opens 19. With a low doubleton spade and three hearts, East should raise to $2 \varphi$ rather than respond INT. With I7 HCP West has just enough for a game try. Aware that East might have raised with 3 -card support, West rebids 2NT - there is no need to bid 2 because East would not have raised 18 to 2 w with four spades and three hearts. With eight points and only three hearts, East has an easy decision to raise 2 NT to 3 NT . If East-West play a strong no-trump, West opens INT and again 3NT is the likely contract.
North leads a high spade against 3NT and declarer holds up. North might as well continue spades, though possibly a diamond
switch makes the play harder. After the spade continuation, declarer is in with a chance of losing two spades and a trick in each minor but nothing else. Taking a losing finesse in one of the red suits might, however, result in defeat.
So long as North does not lead (or switch to) a club, 4 Y must fail - and that contract would not be easy to make even if the defenders slipped because there are two possible trump losers.

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\stackrel{1}{6}$ | - | $\checkmark$ | 4 | NT |
|  | = | = | $=$ | $=$ | = |
| N | - | - | - | - | - |
| S | - | - | - | - | - |
| E | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| W | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 |


| Board 6 |  | $\begin{aligned} & 8 \\ & \text { A987 } \\ & 8 \\ & \text { AKQJ954 } \end{aligned}$ | Dealer E <br> Vul: E-W |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - 542 |  |  | - AJ976 |
| - K532 |  |  | - Q4 |
| - J742 |  |  | - KQ1065 |
| - 102 |  |  | - 3 |
|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { KQ103 } \\ & \text { ן106 } \end{aligned}$ |  |
|  | - | A93 |  |
|  |  | 876 |  |
| West | North | East | South |
|  |  | $1{ }^{1}$ | Pass |
| Pass | 31 | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

North's jump cue bid asks South to bid 3NT with a spade stopper. South has the spades well held and is happy to oblige.
Many matchpoints hinge on West's choice of lead. On a spade lead - after all East did bid the suit - results in two overtricks and a disastrous -460. A heart lead does set up dummy's side suit but also sets up a heart trick for East, who can then switch to a diamond. The upshot is one overtrick. A diamond lead works best: declarer can cash running nine running tricks to make 3NT exactly.
5\% makes even on a diamond lead. Since South has a third-round club entry, declarer can get
home either by playing up to the spades (which seems normal) or by taking two heart finesses.

The vulnerability makes it most unlikely that East-West will buy the contract. They would have two losers in spades and one in each other suit if they do declare a diamond contract.

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 9 | $\checkmark$ | $\uparrow$ | 4 | NT |
|  | = | = | = | = | == |
| N | 5 | - | 2 | - | 3 |
| S | 5 | - | 2 | - | 3 |
| E | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| W | - | 2 | - | - | - |



If ever there was a hand on which you wish you had a 'two and half spades' card in the bidding box, North has it here. Fortunately, because South is a passed hand, which means North could (with a different hand) pass is, the raise to 2 is slightly more constructive than it might be.

Once North-South find a fit, West does not want to let them play quietly at the two level. Indeed, with the PA in the North hand and no bad breaks, East-West can make nine tricks with either minor as trumps.

Vulnerable at teams you would want to be in 4s on the North-South cards. It needs very little more than the $\Phi \mathrm{K}$ in the West hand. You do not need a 3-2 trump split because if the defenders start with three rounds of diamonds
you can discard a club. Even at matchpoints 44 is a fair spot. Alas, your luck is out if you bid to game, which you would if North raised is to $3 \Phi$ because South would surely go on to 4s.

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | ¢ | $\checkmark$ | $\varphi$ | 4 | NT |
|  | = | = | = | $=$ | == |
| N | - | - | 3 | 3 | I |
| S | - | - | 3 | 3 | I |
| E | 3 | 3 | - | - | - |
| W | 3 | 3 | - | - | - |



With a 9-card spade fit and values in reserve, East-West should easily reach the spade game. Possibly their challenge is stopping at a safe level. If their hands fitted better, without West's PK in effect totally wasted, they could be in the slam zone.
South happens to be on lead with the eK-Q and will surely lead a high club against a spade contract. The defenders thus make a club as well as the $\downarrow$ A. On any other lead, declarer could set up the diamonds and lose just to the - A.

With their shape, East-West are most unlikely to play in no-trumps. If they do, they can make I I tricks unless West declares and North leads a club.

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\stackrel{1}{2}$ | - | $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{*}$ | $\underline{1}$ | NT |
|  | $=$ | = | $=$ | = | = |
| N | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| S | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| E | 2 | 5 | - | 5 | 5 |
| W | 2 | 5 | - | 5 | 4 |



## All Pass

If North-South play a weak no-trump, the auction is likely to be a simple INT-3NT. If a strong no-trump is in use, North opens i\& and system will determine South's best response. If an inverted raise (2) is available, that will be an option. If you play 2 NT as natural and forcing, that would be good too. If not, a I* response is unlikely to do much harm.

Since either defender will probably lead a heart, it is unlikely to matter which of North and South declares. As the cards lie it works better to play on spades - but it seems normal to play on clubs first. If clubs are 3-2 with the queen onside or if you catch a singleton queen on the right side, you will have nine tricks for certain and time to guarantee a tenth by playing on diamonds.

The upshot of playing on clubs is that the defenders normally score one trick in each suit. If declarer did play on spades, this would take out East's entry and give West a difficult discard on the fourth round of spades. Making an overtrick would then be possible.

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 8 | - | $\varphi$ | $\underline{4}$ | NT |
|  | $=$ | $=$ | $=$ | $=$ | = |
| N | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| S | 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| E | - | - | - | - | - |
| W | - | - | - | - | - |



| West | North | East | South |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Pass | 20 |
| Pass | 2* | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 3 | Pass | $3{ }^{9}$ |
| Pass | 4 | All P |  |

South does whatever shows a balanced 23 points and North transfers into hearts. I do not think K-J-5-3 is a good enough holding for East to double the transfer for the lead, though I guess someone will. If you play both $3 \star$ and $4 *$ as transfers (and so raising the completed transfer as mild slam try), North bids $4 \diamond$ over 2NT.

The normal play in trumps is low toward the queen, which would pick up the suit for no loser if East held the king either doubleton or singleton. As the cards lie, the technically inferior play of finessing East for the king and ten succeeds. You are unlikely to find this play unless you are shooting for tops or West leads a trump - this sort of layout illustrates why it is often costly to lead a singleton trump.

A no-trump contract does not play at well. On a normal diamond lead the defenders must score four diamond tricks and a spade. Because the Q is an entry to dummy and the PQ is onside, it will not matter whether South discards what would be the thirteenth club on the diamonds.

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | * | * | $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{ }$ | . | NT |
|  | = | $=$ | $=$ | $=$ | = |
| N | 6 | , | 6 | 2 | 2 |
| S | 6 | , | 6 | 2 | 2 |
| E | - | - | - | - | - |
| W | - | - | - | - | - |


| Board II | $\stackrel{1}{1}$ | 108 | Dealer S |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{*}$ | K2 | Vul: None |
|  | - | K92 |  |
|  | 2 | AK10764 |  |
| - AJ973 |  |  | - Q6 |
| - QJ |  |  | - 108653 |
| - J85 |  |  | - AQ107 |
| - Q83 |  |  | - J9 |
|  | $\stackrel{1}{1}$ | K542 |  |
|  | $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{ }$ | A974 |  |
|  | - | 643 |  |
|  | * | 52 |  |


| West | North | East | South <br> Pass |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Pass | 14 | Pass 19 |  |
| 14 | 20 | All Pass |  |

With the queen-jack doubleton not worth a full 3 points, West is not very close to having an opening bid. A one-level overcall is, however, fine.

Since the $\Downarrow A$ lies over the $₫ K$ and the the $\$ A$ lies over the $\mathbf{~ K}, 2$ should fail by a trick.

What might allow 2 to make is if West tries to give East a spade ruff. This is because declarer will be able to discard a losing diamond on the $\mathbf{K}$ (or at trick three if West leads away from the $\$$ ) and later pick up the trumps for no further loss. You cash one high trump honour, felling the jack, then cross to the $\Psi$ A. After that you cash the $\$ \mathrm{~K}$ if you have not already discarded a diamond and finesse the 210 . Having won trick two with the 0 , West does better to switch to a diamond, ideally the $\downarrow$, or to safe heart.

24 by West fails by a trick if South scores the aK overruffing the third round of clubs and North scores the 10 via a trump promotion on the third round of hearts.

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\stackrel{1}{6}$ | - | $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{*}$ | 4 | NT |
|  | = | = | = | = | = |
| N | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| S | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| E | - | 2 | 1 | I | 2 |
| W | - | 2 | 1 | I | 2 |



If East-West play weak two openings, 24 from West probably begins and ends the auction. Lacking a fourth heart, South is a bit light to double, especially when vulnerable. If South did double, North might bravely pass or perhaps use Lebensohl (2NT) to get out to 3e (which would be one down with the $\$ \mathrm{~K}$ onside but trumps 4-I).

With the A offside and East's club values wasted facing West's singleton, a spade contract does not go too well. Declarer makes just four tricks and one in hearts to go three down in 2 .

2NT is the best spot if North-South declare. Getting there is tricky. South does not have even half a spade stopper. A heart lead would work best, enabling the defenders to make five tricks (typically two tricks in spades and three in hearts). On a spade lead, declarer would have time to knockout the $\mathrm{A}-\mathrm{K}$ and finesse in diamonds to make nine tricks.

East-West stand a chance of making eight tricks if they manage to declare a heart contract. If South leads the or gets in at trick two with that card having led the 0 , it will be necessary to put North in with the PA for a diamond switch to stop the eighth trick.

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | * | - | $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{ }$ | - | NT |
|  | = | = | $=$ | $=$ | = |
| N | 2 | 2 | - | 2 | 2 |
| S | 2 | 2 | - | 2 | 2 |
| E | - | - | , | - | - |
| W | - | - | I | - | - |


| Board 13 | $\bullet$ $K 83$ <br>  J 543 <br> $\bullet$ Q <br> $\mathbf{~}$  | Dealer N <br> Vul: Both |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - 952 |  | - J106 |
| - A987 |  | - Q1062 |
| - K95 |  | - 1102 |
| * AQIO |  | - 762 |
|  | - AQ74 |  |
|  | - K |  |
|  | - A87643 |  |
|  | - J8 |  |


| West | North <br>  <br> Pass | East | Pass |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :--- | South

Vulnerable and facing a passed partner, a takeout double of it by West would be unwise. At matchpoints it is tempting for South to pass INT. The contraindication to doing so is the weak diamond suit, which will take time to set up in a no-trump contract.
The layout is friendly for declarer in a diamond contract. With both pointed suits breaking 3-3 and the anside, nine tricks are available.
Even if East leads the unbid club suit, INT by North should fail. Declarer makes just one trick in each minor and four in spades while the defenders can make four tricks in hearts, two in clubs and at least one in diamonds.

How East-West fare in a heart contract depends in part on how many diamond ruffs North scores. If North scores two ruffs, even IY would fail. If North scores zero or one ruff, IY could make.

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \& | - | $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{*}$ | 1 | NT |
|  | = | = | = | = | $=$ |
| N | 2 | 3 | - | 2 | - |
| S | 2 | 3 | - | 2 | - |
| E | - | - | - | - | , |
| W | - | - | - | - | I |


| Board 14 | $\stackrel{+}{4}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { QJ3 } \\ & \text { AJ } 107 \\ & 742 \\ & 864 \end{aligned}$ | Dealer E Vul: None |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - AKI07 |  |  | - 86542 |
| - K54 |  |  | - 9862 |
| - Q85 |  |  | - K |
| - KJIO |  |  | - Q32 |
|  | $\underline{1}$ | 9 |  |
|  | $\stackrel{\square}{ }$ | Q3 |  |
|  | - | Al10963 |  |
|  | 2 | A975 |  |


| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | Pass | I |
| INT | Pass | $2 \uparrow$ | 2 |
| $2 \uparrow$ | $3 \uparrow$ | $3 \uparrow$ | All Pass |

After South opens 14 , West has a pretty much textbook INT overcall. Although the diamond stopper is not the best, the 4333 shape strongly suggests the INT overcall rather than a double. North, who is not quite strong enough to double, passes. With a weak hand and both majors, East uses Stayman. When the 5 - 4 spade fit comes to light, East reasonably competes to 34 over 34.

As it happens the cards do not lie well for a spade contract. With trumps $3-1$ and the PA unexpectedly offside, there are six losers. Still, losing 100 is cheaper than conceding 110 or more in diamonds.
With the PK onside, and nothing horrible happening in the trump suit, 3 makes easily. West does best to cash one top spade and switch, ideally to a club, though any card lower than a six will do. If West were to switch to a heart, it would be necessary to lead a second heart when in with the $\$ \mathrm{Q}$ to cut declarer off from a possible fourth heart winner.

| Board 15 | $\stackrel{\&}{4}$ | A75 <br> KQ4 <br> AQ762 <br> J2 | Dealer S <br> Vul: N-S |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - 84 |  |  | - KJ9632 |
| - J983 |  |  | - A75 |
| - KJ |  |  | - 98 |
| - KQ843 |  |  | - A7 |
|  | $\uparrow$ | Q10 |  |
|  | $\downarrow$ | 1062 |  |
|  | - | 10543 |  |
|  | 2 | 10965 |  |
| West | North | East | South |
|  |  |  | Pass |
| Pass | 1* | 14 | Pass |
| 2\% | Dble | 2 | All Pass |

Playing a weak no-trump, North is too strong for INT and opens 1 . Likewise East is too strong for a weak jump overcall, or at least would be ordinarily. As West is a passed hand, East could be a bit over strength. Most people will overcall 14. While West has a diamond stopper of sorts, $2 \boldsymbol{k}$ seems more descriptive. With extra values and tolerance for hearts, North doubles 2 for takeout. At another vulnerability, South might compete to $3 \downarrow$.
2. looks like it should make exactly with two tricks in each pointed suit and one in hearts to lose. Indeed you can make it but the entry situation is complicated if the defenders cash two diamonds and switch to a club. You can take the and try to cash two more clubs, overruffing when North ruffs. You can then lead a heart to the nine. Then, after winning, North needs to switch to a trump to stop the overtrick.

Beating 3 is not easy. After the A and a club to the Q , a spade switch would let 3 make. Declarer could use the Q as an entry to finesse the $Q$, draw the remaining trumps and discard one of dumm's diamonds on the A . West does better to continue clubs at trick three.

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| \% | - | - ${ }^{\text {- }}$ | , NT |
| = | $=$ | $=$ = | = == |
| N |  | 2 - | - 2 |
| S | 2 | 2 | - 2 |
| E I | - | 2 | 2 |
| W I | - | 2 | 2 |
| Board 16 | - 76 |  | Dealer W |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | - | Q85 | Vul: E-W |
|  | $\begin{array}{ll}\text { - } & \text { A2 } \\ -\quad 1095432\end{array}$ |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| - 1053 |  |  | - QJ84 |
| - A9643 |  |  | - J2 |
| - 74 |  |  | - J108 |
| - K87 |  |  | - AQJ6 |
| - AK92 |  |  |  |
|  | - K107 |  |  |
|  | - KQ9653 |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Pass | Pass | 1380 | I* |
| IV | Pass | $1{ }^{1}$ | 2 |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

in third seat vulnerable East might well be reluctant to open a weak INT. South would double if East did open INT. West would invoke a retreat to $2 \varphi$ (in my usual methods West would redouble to indicate a $5+$ card somewhere and then disclose the suit on the next round). South would surely end up in 3 * if the auction started that way.
in the olden days South would double le. These days, with a six-card minor and a decent hand, the done thing is to show the suit first and double later if appropriate. Perhaps South should carry this through and double is, though with three suits bid by East-West there is not much choice for North about what to take the double out o!

The North hand is surprisingly useful in a diamond contract. Declarer can ruff one spade in dummy and pick up the hearts for one loser to make eleven tricks.

The shapely North-South hands and the lack of fit for East-West mean that East-West cannot make anything.


Facing a passed hand West could pre-empt as game is unlikely - but with the spade suit one has less reason to try to disrupt the opponents.

Holding the queen-jack-nine sequence North might reasonably lead a heart even though South has bid clubs. Here a heart lead (or a diamond lead and a heart switch) enables the defenders to make a trick in hearts as well as two in diamonds and one in clubs. This restricts a spade contract to nine tricks.
Since the spade suit is running and they have all other suits stopped, East-West can make 3NT - but it seems impossible for them to get there.

Although entries to dummy are problematic, South can escape for one down in 4\%, losing just one trick in each suit. If you ruff the second club, cash the A and get to win the next trick with the you need to knock out the or duck a diamond - if you were to play the YK , East could hold up the YA and shut you out of dummy.

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | * | - | $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{ }$ | $\underline{1}$ | NT |
|  | = | = | = | $=$ | $=$ |
| N | 3 | I | I | - | - |
| S | 3 | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| E | - | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| W | - | - | - | 3 | 3 |


| Board 18 |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { A932 } \\ & \text { A2 } \\ & 753 \\ & \text { K972 } \end{aligned}$ | Dealer E <br> Vul: N-S |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - 18 |  |  | - K654 |
| - KJ9 |  |  | - 1087654 |
| - KQ62 <br> - AJ64 |  |  | - J <br> 2 QIO |
|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Q107 } \\ & \text { Q3 } \\ & \text { A10984 } \\ & 853 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| West | North | East Pass | $\begin{aligned} & \text { South } \\ & \text { Pass } \end{aligned}$ |
| 1* | Pass | 19 | Pass |
| INT | Pass | 24 | All Pass |

Playing a weak no-trump, West is too strong to open INT and opens I* (or I\&). Whether East should try for game facing $15-17$ is debatable. West is minimum and would incline an invitation in any case.

If East-West are playing a strong no-trump, West opens INT and East transfers into hearts, again possibly inviting game.
If South is on lead against a heart contract and starts with a club, the defenders make a trick in each suit. Without a lead through the A, declarer could knock out the $\begin{aligned} & \text { A and avoid a }\end{aligned}$ club loser. In the heart suit it is normal to finesse South for the queen.

If West is in INT, a spade or a diamond lead should stop any overtricks.

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\stackrel{1}{2}$ | - | $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{*}$ | 4 | NT |
|  | $=$ | = | $=$ | $=$ | == |
| N | - | - | - | - | - |
| S | - | - | - | - | - |
| E | I | - | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| W | 1 | - | 4 | I | 1 |


| Board 19 |  | A6 | Dealer S |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\stackrel{\square}{ }$ | 1042 | Vul: E-W |
|  |  | Q92 |  |
|  |  | J 975 |  |
| - 17 |  |  | - K109852 |
| - 985 |  |  | - A763 |
| - K8 |  |  | - 63 |
| * AKQI042 |  |  | -6 |
| - Q43 |  |  |  |
| - KQ |  |  |  |
| - AJ10754 |  |  |  |
| - 83 |  |  |  |
| West | North | East | South |
|  |  |  | 1* |
| 2* | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

North has a tricky decision after West's overcall. Doubling for takeout is not all that attractive with a doubleton spade. If North did double, it is less clear that North-South would manage to compete to 34 .
With the $\checkmark$ K offside, $3 \star$ should fail by a trick. One way for the defenders to get their tricks is for West to cash two clubs and switch to a spade.
East-West might score better if they push on to 3 and guess well. If South leads the 9 K , declarer does best to win at once, which has the effect of blocking the hearts. Then the way forward is to cross to dummy with a club, optionally discard a loser on a club and then play a spade to the king. As South opened the bidding, it is far from obvious to put up the K . If, as seems more likely, declarer finesses the - 0 , the defenders have various ways to take five tricks. The simplest of these is for South to cash the $\mathrm{Y} K$ next.

Makeable Contracts

|  | 8 | $\checkmark$ | $\varphi$ | $\pm$ | NT |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | = | $=$ | $=$ | $=$ | == |
| N | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| S | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| E | 2 | - | I | 3 | - |
| W | 2 | - | I | 3 | - |


| Board 20 |  | Al086 <br> 97 <br> QJ5 <br> 10654 | Dealer W Vul: Both |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 J |  |  | - KQ973 |
| - Q4 |  |  | - AKJ53 |
| - K10876 | 764 |  | - A |
| - K873 |  |  | * Q |
|  | - 5 | 542 |  |
|  | - 108 | 10862 |  |
|  | - 9 | 932 |  |
|  | - A | A92 |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Pass | Pass | $1{ }^{1}$ | Pass |
| 2 | Pass | 29 | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 320 | Pass |
| 3 | Pass | 39 | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass |  |  |

Even though West is a passed hand, East's 24 rebid should still be forcing. After West rebids $2 N T$, East might continue with 34 if that is definitely forcing. I have suggested that East bids 30 (fourth suit forcing) to avoid any danger of being left in $3 \varphi$.
As East-West have no eight-card fit anywhere, they are likely to finish in 3NT. The defenders have various ways to secure three defensive tricks. Even if they do not make the theoretically optimal way to secure them, declarer may fail to take advantage. If for example North leads a club and South returns the suit, declarer would need to cash five rounds of hearts, leaving the diamonds blocked, to squeeze North for eleven tricks.

Making eleven tricks is easier with hearts as trumps. The defenders just make their two aces, communications being less of problem for declarer.

Makeable Contracts

|  | \% | - | $\varphi$ | 4 | NT |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | = | = | $=$ | $=$ | == |
| N | - | - | - | - | - |
| S | - | - | - | - | - |
| E | 3 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| W | 3 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 |


| Board 21 | 4 | 97 | Dealer N |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\varphi$ | AK853 | Vul: N-S |
|  | - | A5 |  |
|  | 9 | KQ52 |  |
| ¢ $\mathrm{A}^{\text {a }}$ |  |  | ¢ 864 |
| - 62 |  |  | - J74 |
| - Q62 |  |  | - KJI0743 |
| \& Al09643 |  |  | ¢ J |
|  | ¢ | KQJ1052 |  |
|  | $\downarrow$ | Q109 |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ | 98 |  |
|  | 9 | 87 |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| 19 | 17 | Pass | 19 |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3 |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

West scrapes up $1 \%$ opening. Without four spades, a heart stopper or club support, East does not have a convenient bid over IV. South has heart support but also a great spade suit, a suit surely worth showing. North, who had the values for a INT overcall but a slightly odd shape, shows both the extra strength and the club cover by jumping to 2NT. South then shows the heart support. At IMPs North would surely carry on to game - but the reward for bidding game is not so great at matchpoints.

How do the defenders take four tricks against a heart contract? It is not good enough for East to lead the singleton j and West to return a club. If that happens, declarer draws the remaining trumps in two rounds, discards a diamond from dummy on a top club and knocks out the sA. Instead West needs to switch to a diamond or somehow East leads a diamond initially.

West would be likely to lead a diamond against a spade contract by South making it easier for the defenders to score four tricks. The c A followed by a club ruff would also be good enough.

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \& | $\checkmark$ | $\varphi$ | $\pm$ | NT |
|  | = | $=$ | $=$ | $=$ | == |
| N | - | - | 3 | 3 | - |
| S | - | - | 3 | 3 | - |
| E | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| W | - | 2 | - | - | - |


| Board 22 |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { KQ109 } \\ & \text { A2 } \\ & 10985 \\ & 1073 \end{aligned}$ | Dealer E <br> Vul: E-W |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 4. J753 |  |  | ¢ A6 |
| - Q8743 |  |  | - J10 |
| - KQ4 |  |  | - J7632 |
| - K |  |  | ¢ QJ86 |
|  | 4 | 842 |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ | K965 |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ | A |  |
|  | 8 | A9542 |  |
| West | North | East | South |
|  |  | Pass |  |
| 19 | Dble | Pass | 19 |
| Pass | 24 | All P |  |

While it would not be impossible for this deal to be a pass-out, I doubt that will happen at many tables. The player most likely to open the bidding is South, who is non-vulnerable and whose singleton is the ace and so still has a reasonable value despite being in a short suit.
After West's IV overcall it is common to play that is by North shows five spades while double shows four, hence the double. South's Is thus merely shows tolerance for spades.

24 is a good contract North-South on the 4-3 fit. Indeed, unless the defenders start with two rounds of trumps, declarer might ruff two diamonds in the South hand for an overtrick.

The alternative contract of $3 \%$ could make exactly, with three trumps and the $\Phi \mathrm{A}$ to lose. It might fail if declarer twice plays up to the $\boldsymbol{\$ K}$ Q, East having ducked the first round smoothly.

Makeable Contracts

|  | 9 | $\checkmark$ | $\varphi$ | ¢ | NT |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | = | $=$ | = | $=$ | == |
| N | 3 | - | I | 2 | I |
| S | 3 | - | 1 | 2 | I |
| E | - | I | - | - | - |
| W | - | I | - | - | - |

[^1]| Board 23 |  | $\begin{aligned} & 106 \\ & \text { J83 } \\ & \text { AQ10986 } \\ & \text { K2 } \end{aligned}$ | Dealer S <br> Vul: Both |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ¢ A943 |  |  | ¢ K872 |
| - K9754 |  |  | - AQ6 |
| - 72 |  |  | - 43 |
| -95 |  |  | \% Al064 |
|  | - | QJ5 |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ - | 102 |  |
|  | - K | KJ5 |  |
|  | \% | QJ873 |  |
| West | North | East | South |
|  |  |  | Pass |
| Pass | I | Dble | 2\% |
| 29 | Pass | Pass | 3 |
| 39 | All Pass |  |  |

North in my view is a little bit flat to open 3 in third seat vulnerable. East has an easy double and West, with five hearts and some values, feels comfortable about competing to $3 \uparrow$.

The final contract should be the same if North did open $3 \checkmark$ as East is just worth a takeout double and West is not too strong for a simple 3 .

The play in a heart contract is straightforward, or at any rate it is with both major suits 3-2. Declarer loses one trick in each black suit and two in diamonds.

Even in a spade contract the defenders would not need to take their two diamond tricks straight away because South has a doubleton heart and can interrupt the run of the heart suit before declarer discards anything.
$3 \checkmark$ would fail by a trick with five top losers.

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \% | $\checkmark$ | $\varphi$ | 4 | NT |
|  | = | = | = | = | $=$ |
| N | 1 | 2 | - | - | - |
| S | 1 | 2 | - | - | - |
| E | - | - | 3 | 3 | I |
| W | - | - | 3 | 3 | I |



As on board 7, North would like to have a 'two and a half spades' card in the bidding box. Although having five-card support is good, the rest of the shape is poor and the $\% \mathrm{~J}$ may be worthless. South needs to exercise discipline in passing 3s: this hand has little distributional strength either.
If the defenders cash three heart tricks, declarer will need to judge to play East for the $\cdots \mathrm{A}$ rather than the Q . The theory of 'split aces' does not work here.

If West starts with a club and East returns the suit, declarer obviously can make nine tricks but trying to make ten by finessing either the en or the J results in making only eight.

Since North-South have the boss suit, EastWest are unlikely to buy the contract. If they do, they are likely to lose a ruff somewhere (in diamonds if some other suit is trumps) as well as a spade, two top diamonds and a club.

Makeable Contracts

|  | 8 | $\checkmark$ | $\bullet$ | 4 | NT |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | = | = | $=$ | $=$ | == |
| N | - | - | - | 3 | 2 |
| S | - | - | - | 3 | 2 |
| E | 2 | 2 | 2 | - | - |
| W | 2 | 2 | I | - | - |


| Board 25 |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Al0964 } \\ & \text { Q1093 } \\ & 73 \\ & 106 \end{aligned}$ | Dealer N <br> Vul: E-W |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ¢ 7532 |  |  | ¢ KQ8 |
| - AJ4 |  |  | - K52 |
| - QJ52 |  |  | - 8 |
| \% AQ |  |  | - KJ8543 |
|  | ¢ J |  |  |
|  | - 87 | 876 |  |
|  | - | AKI0964 |  |
|  | \% 9 | 972 |  |
| West | North | East | South |
|  | Pass | $1 \%$ | 2 |
| 3NT | All Pass |  |  |

I strongly prefer a weak jump overcall on the South hand to a simple lt overcall. A jump obstructs the opponents so much more. Indeed there is a case for 3 at this vulnerability.

With a double stopper in diamonds and four bad spades, West is happy to commit to 3NT, not bothering with a negative double en route.
The defenders should manage to make three tricks against a no-trump contract. If South plays the $\$ 9$ at trick one, the $\$ A-K$ can make later after North gets in with the sA. What does not work is for South to take the first trick with the $\uparrow K$ and return the $\downarrow 9$. Then North has no more diamonds and declarer can make eleven tricks by leading twice up to the sK-Q in dummy.

South could make seven tricks in diamond contract because the defenders can only prevent a club ruff in dummy at the expense of a trump trick.

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 9 | - | $\varphi$ | 4 | NT |
|  | $=$ | $=$ | = | $=$ | == |
| N | - | I | - | - | - |
| S | - | I | - | - | - |
| E | 3 | - | I | 2 | 4 |
| W | 3 | - | I | 2 | 4 |



North is the one with the decision about how high to pre-empt this time. When vulnerable one needs to be a bit cautious since if the opponents do not have game on even one down doubled would produce a bad result.
The way the cards lie, West can make an overtrick in $3 \uparrow$, though the line to do so is perhaps not the most obvious. You need to win the NK with the $\mathrm{N} A$, finesse the $\varphi \mathrm{J}$ and then lead the $\%$ (or the $Q$ but you would never do that). North does best to win with the sK and switch to the sK . Declarer needs to win that in dummy, finesse the $\varphi 9$ and run some trumps. Often a heart contract will make only nine tricks.

A no-trump contract plays well, albeit not quite as well as a heart contract. If declarer holds up the A until the third round, North does best to switch to the $\upharpoonright K$. Declarer can win that, finesse the $\upharpoonright$ J and concede the fourth round of hearts to South.
The maximum number of tricks are available with diamonds as the trump suit - but who plays in a minor?

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \% | $\checkmark$ | $\varphi$ | $\pm$ | NT |
|  | $=$ | = | $=$ | = | == |
| N | - | - | - | - | - |
| S | - | - | - | - | - |
| E | - | 5 | 4 | - | 3 |
| W | - | 5 | 4 | - | 3 |

[^2]| Board 27 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { \& } \\ & \stackrel{y}{2} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Q1032 } \\ & \text { K7 } \\ & \text { AQ8 } \\ & \text { Al053 } \end{aligned}$ | Dealer S <br> Vul: None |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - 198 |  |  | ¢ K54 |
| - AQI | 052 |  | - 984 |
| - J93 |  |  | - K542 |
| - QJ |  |  | - K94 |
|  | 4 | A76 |  |
|  | $\uparrow$ | J63 |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ | 1076 |  |
|  | 9 | 8762 |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Pass | 19 | Pass | Pass |
| 29 | Pass | Pass | 24 |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

Playing a weak no-trump and four-card majors, North opens 14. With five decent hearts West makes a protective $2 \boldsymbol{}$ overcall. South, despite being very flat, competes to 24 . The hand's flat shape and the knowledge that West could not open dissuade East from competing further.
West's initial pass (with the $\mathrm{A}-\mathrm{Q}$ ) should help declarer in 2s to take the winning view in the spade suit, using the \$A as an entry for finessing the $\$ 10$. It is possible to reach dummy again with the fourth round of clubs to take the diamond finesse - though in practice East will often run out of exit cards and have to lead a diamond when in with the ek .

If North-South play a strong no-trump, North might buy the contract in INT. The lead of low card in any suit other than diamonds should defeat INT. Perhaps the poor spot cards in the diamond suit will warn East to forget about 'fourth highest of your longest and strongest'. Even after a diamond lead, declarer might go wrong by playing West for the SK .
With West has declarer, $2 \downarrow$ is makeable. The defenders cannot readily score more than one trick in diamonds to go with two in spades and one trick in each rounded suit.

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\underline{0}$ | - | $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{*}$ | 1 | NT |
|  | = | $=$ | = | $=$ | = |
| N | 2 | - | - | 2 | - |
| S | 2 | - | - | 2 | - |
| E | - | , | I | - | 1 |
| W | - | 1 | 2 | - | 1 |


| Board 28 | $\stackrel{\Delta}{\varphi}$ | Q8 | Dealer W <br> Vul: N-S |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\checkmark$ | J10542 |  |
|  | 9 | A98763 |  |
| ¢ 9652 |  |  | ¢ K74 |
| - AK93 |  |  | - 10854 |
| - Q8763 |  |  | - A9 |
| c |  |  | 2 Ql054 |
|  | 4 | AJ103 |  |
|  | $\varphi$ | QJ762 |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ | K |  |
|  | 2 | KJ2 |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | 19 |
| Pass | INT | All P |  |

In response to South's IV opening North is too weak to bid a new suit at the two level and so makes the INT 'dustbin bid' response. South has no reason to disturb this: North would have responded is if holding four spades.

With hearts bid but clubs unbid, East is quite likely to lead a club against INT. Declarer can win cheaply and does best to finesse the j at trick two - leading the $₫ \mathrm{Q}$ to finesse in spades instead does not work so well. Sooner or later the defenders will be stuck for safe leads and eight tricks may well result.

North-South do far better in a club contract. Declarer can escape for one loser in diamonds and one in clubs by ruffing two diamonds in the South hand and taking the spade finesse. While it might seem that taking two ruffs in the South hand will leave East with two trump winners, an endplay can transform two losers into one.

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \% | $\checkmark$ | $\varphi$ | 4 | NT |
|  | $=$ | $=$ | = | = | == |
| N | 5 | 2 | I | - | I |
| S | 5 | 2 | I | I | I |
| E | - | - | - | - | - |
| W | - | - | - | - | - |

[^3]| Board 29 |  | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{JlO75} \\ & \text { AQ3 } \\ & \text { Q } \\ & \text { K7432 } \end{aligned}$ | Dealer N <br> Vul: Both |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ¢ 43 |  |  | ¢ KQ986 |
| - KI086 |  |  | - J97 |
| - 7543 |  |  | - AKI06 |
| 2 AJ5 |  |  | ¢ 8 |
|  | 4 | A2 |  |
|  | $\bullet$ | 542 |  |
|  | $\checkmark$ | J982 |  |
|  | 2 | Q1096 |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Pass | 1\% | 1s | 2\% |
| Pass | Pass | Dble | Pass |
| 29 | Pass | Pass | 3\% |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

East has a sound overcall and support for all suits apart from clubs, which the second-round double conveys quite well. As the diamonds are so much better than the hearts, I would not mind 2 as East's reopening action instead. With their nine-card club fit, one of North or South needs to take the push to 3 .
If East gets the defenders off to the best start by cashing a top diamond and switching passively to a heart, declarer will be doing well to emerge with nine tricks. The route there is to knock out the A, finesse West for the (not so far fetched as East made a takeout double of clubs) and exit with the third round of hearts. Eventually East has to make a losing lead, either setting up dummy's $\$$ or a spade trick for North.

Despite the 4-I break, East-West can make 2 $\downarrow$. They lose two tricks in each red suit and the A.

West might make 29 - but only with an inspired view in the spade suit if the defenders are on their toes.

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\stackrel{1}{6}$ | - | $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{*}$ | 4 | NT |
|  | = | = | = | $=$ | = |
| N | 3 | - | - | - | 1 |
| S | 2 | - | - | - | I |
| E | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | - |
| W | - | 2 | 2 | I | - |


| Board 30 |  | KJ4 <br> Q86 <br> AQJ84 <br> 63 | Dealer E <br> Vul: None |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - Q865 |  |  | - A3 |
| - J743 |  |  | - AKI095 |
| - 65 |  |  | - 97 |
| - 482 |  |  | * K1097 |
|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & 10972 \\ & 2 \end{aligned}$ |  |
|  | - | K1032 |  |
|  |  | Q 54 |  |
| West | North | East | South |
|  |  | 19 | Pass |
| 29 | 3 | 34 | All Pass |

For a three level overcall North would really like to have a six-card suit - but letting the opponents play quietly in $2 \varphi$ (if that is their plan) is unlikely to result in a good score - and North is certainly happy to attract a diamond lead against a heart contract. With their ninecard heart fit, East-West take the push to $3{ }^{1}$.
In a heart contract, since West can ruff the fourth round of clubs if need be, declarer's only (albeit significant) concern is playing the trumps without loss. Given the known diamond length already in the North hand, I do not see why declarer would expect to find three trumps there as well - so cashing the ace-king is normal. This does not necessarily mean going down, however. If South did not win the second round of diamonds and switch to a spade, North could be vulnerable to an endplay, forced to open up the spades or give a ruff and discard.

With trumps 2-2 and the 4 Q onside, a diamond contract plays well for North-South with nine tricks available.

Makeable Contracts

|  | 9 | $\checkmark$ | $\varphi$ | 9 | NT |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | = | = | = | $=$ | = |
| N | - | 3 | - | I | - |
| S | - | 3 | - | I | - |
| E | 2 | - | 3 | - | 2 |
| W | 2 | - | 3 | - | 2 |

[^4]| Board 31 |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Q109874 } \\ & \mathrm{J} 72 \\ & 10 \\ & 962 \end{aligned}$ | Dealer S Vul：N－S |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| －K63 |  |  | － 152 |
| －Al098 |  |  | － 5 |
| －Q943 |  |  | －AK86 |
| － 85 |  |  | －KQ1074 |
|  |  | A |  |
|  |  | KQ643 |  |
|  |  | J752 |  |
|  |  | AJ3 |  |
| West | North | East | South |
|  |  |  | 19 |
| Pass | Pass | 20 | Pass |
| Pass | 2. | Dble | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | $3{ }^{\text {d }}$ | All Pass |

Holding five good clubs and only J－x－x，I prefer 2 to double on these East cards when South opens IV and the next two players pass．As it happens，double would make things easier because then East－West would find their diamond fit straight away．On the actual auction，when East overcalls 2 and then doubles，West does well to bid 2NT＇two places to play．＇East can guess these are the minors because if one of them was spades West would have bid 2 ．

3 makes despite the 4－I diamond division． Indeed if North leads a heart－after all，South did bid the suit－declarer has a shot at ten tricks with some good guesswork．Making only nine tricks seems more likely．

24 by South should go one down because West can arrange to ruff a club and reduce dummy＇s ruffing potential by switching to trumps later．
In a spade contract by North the defenders can get a cross－ruff going to score seven defensive tricks and so beat 2 by two．

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | ＊ | － | $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{*}$ | 4 | NT |
|  | $=$ | $=$ | $=$ | $=$ | ＝ |
| N | － | － | I | － | － |
| S | － | － | 1 | － | － |
| E | 1 | 3 | － | － | 2 |
| W | I | 3 | － | － | 2 |

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| Board 32 |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { KQJ63 } \\ & 64 \\ & 863 \\ & \text { A75 } \end{aligned}$ | Dealer W Vul：E－W |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| － 98 |  |  | －A542 |
| －Q8732 |  |  | －K |
| －J42 |  |  | －Q1097 |
| － 932 |  |  | \＆KQ84 |
|  | $\pm$ |  |  |
|  | $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{*}$ | AJ1095 |  |
|  |  | AK5 |  |
|  | 2 | 1106 |  |
| West | North | East | South |
| Pass | Pass | $1{ }^{\text {a }}$ | 19 |
| Pass | 14 | Pass | INT |
| All Pass |  |  |  |

The run of part－score deals continues until this final board of set．

If East opens one of a minor，South overcalls IV and North shows the spades．If East＇s opening was $I \$$ ，South has the suit stopped and rebids INT．It is less clear what South would do if East had opened let let play perhaps as North is a passed hand．
An imaginative East might open INT and be slightly worried when West transfer into hearts－but North overcalls 2 to rescue the situation．

An opening diamond lead or a club lead and a diamond switch should hold a no－trump contract by South to eight tricks．In fact a club lead and high club continuation would work too because that removes the side entry to dummy＇s spades．
If North plays in spades，a diamond lead works better than a club，again holding declarer to eight tricks．

| Makeable Contracts |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 9 | － | $\stackrel{\square}{ }$ | － | NT |
|  | ＝ | ＝ | ＝ | $=$ | ＝ |
| N | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| S | 1 | I | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| E | － | － | － | － | － |
| W | － | － | － | － | － |

[^5]
[^0]:    Commentary for the Children in Need Pairs
    Tuesday $7^{\text {th }}$ November 2023

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    Tuesday $7^{\text {th }}$ November 2023

[^2]:    Commentary for the Children in Need Pairs
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[^3]:    Commentary for the Children in Need Pairs

[^4]:    Commentary for the Children in Need Pairs
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[^5]:    Commentary for the Children in Need Pairs

