

♦♠NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION♥♣



First Interclub – Heat A

23rd - 24th September 2024

Commentary by Ian Hamilton

1

♠ QJ7
 ♥ 95
 ♦ J64
 ♣ Q10975
 ♠ 85
 ♥ J1074
 ♦ AK982
 ♣ 32
 ♠ AK103
 ♥ KQ863
 ♦ 53
 ♣ J6
 ♠ 9642
 ♥ A2
 ♦ Q107
 ♣ AK84

 Dealer: North
 Neither Vulnerable

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

East could declare either 1NT or 2♦ after west has doubled south's 1♥.

1NT should make an overtrick, unless the defence crash the top spade honours, setting up the 9, or manage to blow a heart trick.

2♦ does nearly as well, making nine tricks, a heart ruffed high. Pity 110 in diamonds making nine tricks doesn't beat eight in no trumps.

2

♠ K9754
 ♥ J82
 ♦ Q93
 ♣ KJ
 ♠ Q86
 ♥ 105
 ♦ AK54
 ♣ A1062
 ♠ 32
 ♥ KQ974
 ♦ J8
 ♣ Q975
 ♠ AJ10
 ♥ A63
 ♦ 10762
 ♣ 843

 Dealer: East
 N-S Vulnerable

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

E/W have the balance of points, and east may well open a weak NT, playing there. Alternatively, west may find himself at the helm.

A heart lead from south almost certainly takes six defensive tricks, and a spade from south should do also, though it is a bit trickier.

Rather surprisingly, N/S can make 2♥, though how they are supposed to get there at adverse vulnerability is in serious question. I suppose some souths could totally unsoundly bid 2♥ - hearts and a minor - over 1NT.

I cannot see too many with 110 N/S on the card.

3

♠ Q10
 ♥ A98765
 ♦ J87
 ♣ 76
 ♠ 72
 ♥ KQJ1032
 ♦ A105
 ♣ AQ
 ♠ AK843
 ♥ KQ
 ♣ KJ9854
 ♠ J965
 ♥ 4
 ♦ 96432
 ♣ 1032

 Dealer: South
 E-W Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	6	3	4	5	6
W	6	3	4	5	6

E/W have a cold 6♣ or 6NT, but might have problems getting to the right spot should north pre-empt 2♥ over west's 1♣ opener. East could now bid 3NT, leaving west guessing.

There are only eleven tricks in 6NT without playing on hearts, and entries could be an issue. However, the fall of the club 10 in three rounds means that the club queen can be overtaken if necessary.

Well done those with 1440 on the card.

4

♠ AQJ7
 ♥ AJ54
 ♦ KJ
 ♣ A103
 ♠ 10632
 ♥ Q3
 ♦ Q8754
 ♣ Q2
 ♠ 9
 ♥ 762
 ♦ 963
 ♣ 987654
 ♠ K854
 ♥ K1098
 ♦ A102
 ♣ KJ

 Dealer: West
 Both Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	4	5	7	7	7
S	4	5	7	7	7
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Another slam, with N/S having the cards, and west a Yarborough. Most should be in 6NT when south has 14HCP opposite north's 2NT opener. A few might utilise Stayman and find one of the 4:4 major suit fits to no advantage.

Although 7♥, 7♠ and 7NT are all there double dummy, should declarer lose to the heart queen a winning view is required in the minors for the twelfth trick. If east is on lead some could go light as a passive spade is liable to emerge, and declarer could easily lose to two queens.

High stakes all round.

5

♠ Q5
♥ K95
♦ AJ952
♣ 532

♠ 8762
♥ AQ43
♦
♣ AJ986

♠ AK103
♥ J86
♦ K103
♣ Q107

♠ J94
♥ 1072
♦ Q8764
♣ K4

Dealer: North
N-S Vulnerable

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

E/W should get to 4♠ when west bids the suit and east has 4 card support and better than a minimum. Indeed, some could overbid to slam.

In fact, making even eleven tricks is not straightforward, declarer needing to establish clubs and take a heart finesse, losing just a trump and a club, a heart then pitched and the heart suit ruffed good.

Will many make fewer? It isn't easy if east is shortened early on with diamond leads.

6

♠ 85
♥ Q5
♦ K106
♣ KQ10983

♠ A942
♥ AJ4
♦ Q53
♣ A54

♠ KJ763
♥ K10872
♦ A9
♣ 6

♠ Q10
♥ 963
♦ J8742
♣ J72

Dealer: East
E-W Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	1	2	6	7	6
W	1	2	6	7	6

Shape opposite aces equals a lot of tricks, this exhibit a classical example. Whether east opens 1♠ or a strong NT should not stop E/W finding their spade fit early on. However, few will likely bid the makeable slam, it poor odds anyway.

With west declaring 6♠ is cold, as north cannot profitably lead a diamond. However, it could well be east after opening 1♠ or having had a transfer to the suit. A diamond lead threatens twelve tricks, whatever the level contracted.

The best percentage play in hearts is to play the ace, then run the knave, able to pick up Q9xx in south. This loses today. Will many make thirteen, or only eleven?

7

♠ Q53
♥ 32
♦ AJ8654
♣ A2

♠ A1096
♥ A865
♦ K92
♣ Q8

♠ K842
♥ Q107
♦ Q10
♣ K1063

♠ J7
♥ KJ94
♦ 73
♣ J9754

Dealer: South
Both Vulnerable

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

E/W should again find their spade contract, part-score this time, east doubling north's diamonds for takeout.

Declarer should only lose one trick in each suit, making 140, but declarers have been know to err, so there could be some with only 110 on the card.

3NT is actually there, but highly unlikely to be bid.

8

♠ AKJ10432
♥ A102
♦ Q107
♣

♠ Q96
♥ Q8
♦ A5432
♣ 1064

♠ 7
♥ J975
♦ K86
♣ QJ852

♠ 85
♥ K643
♦ J9
♣ AK973

Dealer: West
Neither Vulnerable

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

North hasn't got a 2♣ opener, needing a few fillers to make game, and precise cards opposite to make slam. Thus, I would recommend 4♠.

This should shut everyone up, and there could be another rather flat board, declarer losing just a trump and two diamonds, a club disposing of the heart loser.

Looks like a lot of 420s.

9

♠ 9543
♥ J1043
♦ 1085
♣ AJ

♠ AQJ
♥ KQ82
♦ J2
♣ 9872

♠ 108
♥ A97
♦ Q943
♣ KQ64

Dealer: North
E-W Vulnerable

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

East will be in 1NT much of the time, either opening the weak variety, or rebidding it.

Declarer can be held to seven tricks via passive defence, but south needs to be careful not to cede a diamond trick to east's knave or crash the club tops.

Plenty of scope for the defence to go wrong here.

10

♠ QJ872
♥ AQ3
♦ AQ4
♣ Q6

♠ A10963
♥ 1086
♦ 95
♣ 1074

♠ K4
♥ 752
♦ 1076
♣ AK982

Dealer: East
Both Vulnerable

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

This looks as if we will see N/S declaring 3NT. With spades foul, but clubs 3:3, it is possible to take both red suit finesses and record 660.

However, south is short of entries and some may not be able to take both, unless the defence have helpfully led a red suit.

I reckon not all will have eleven tricks recorded, and a few could be in spades, just staggering over the line after losing three trumps.

11

♠ J10842
♥ 982
♦ 65
♣ A98

♠ 63
♥ KQ53
♦ K107
♣ Q1073

♠ AKQ97
♥ 6
♦ AJ82
♣ J52

♠ 5
♥ AJ1074
♦ Q943
♣ K64

Dealer: South
Neither Vulnerable

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

South might belatedly try a 2♥ overcall after west has opened 1♠ and east responded 1NT or 2♣. With extra values and diamonds held west could try a double, and this could result in a 300 penalty. Alternatively, east could try 2NT, which can be made, but is hard work.

E/W should go plus here, but it isn't easy.

12

♠ J72
♥ K10943
♦ Q2
♣ KJ10

♠ 1065
♥ Q872
♦ K9
♣ 9643

♠ A3
♥ A5
♦ 108754
♣ AQ82

Dealer: West
N-S Vulnerable

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

East could pass west's 1♠, maybe raise or try an under-value 1NT. Any positive bid is likely to see E/W declaring, and losing 50-100.

N/S are better to find their own spot, but it is difficult, even if east passes, as north hasn't a sound overcall, and south hasn't hearts for a double.

2♥ is probably the best spot N/S, but even that isn't a straightforward assignment.

Anything over 100 N/S looks a good score, and maybe defending the easier option.

13

♠ KQ9
 ♥ K8543
 ♦ 102
 ♣ 865
 ♠ 72
 ♥ AQ109
 ♦ 73
 ♣ AQ942
 ♠ J10854
 ♥ J7
 ♦ J64
 ♣ J73
 ♠ A63
 ♥ 62
 ♦ AKQ985
 ♣ K10

 Dealer: North
 Both Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	7	7	4	3	7
W	7	7	4	2	7

The importance of aces and shape is again apparent here. E/W have thirteen top tricks in no trumps when both minor suits break.

After 1♣-1♦-1♥ some play 1♠ by west as natural, some as Fourth Suit Forcing, reserving 2♠ as FSF.

Either way west is best to probe that way and will find east without a spade stop or half stop.

I can see many signing off in 3NT by west, some playing in diamonds or even in clubs.

Will many manage to bid a slam in any denomination? None is great, needing good breaks and maybe the heart finesse. Bid 'em up!

14

♠ KJ632
 ♥ J7
 ♦ AQ5
 ♣ AJ2
 ♠ 10975
 ♥ Q109542
 ♦ K2
 ♣ 4
 ♠ Q
 ♥ K
 ♦ J643
 ♣ KQ98753
 ♠ A84
 ♥ A863
 ♦ 10987
 ♣ 106

 Dealer: East
 Neither Vulnerable

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

East could open a sub-minimum Multi or Weak 2♥, propelled to at least 3♥ by west. This could well have the effect of bouncing N/S into a spade contract - not their best spot, and a sure E/W plus, albeit perhaps smaller than the 140 available playing hearts and guessing trumps correctly.

Where east passes south gets to open 1♣. Unfortunately, N/S are unlikely to stop short of 5♣ or 3NT. The latter could make on a low heart lead. 5♣ could also sneak home if west fails to switch to diamonds after leading the heart ace. The spades can be ruffed good for three pitches.

A variety of results possible here.

15

♠ KQ954
 ♥ KQ1043
 ♦ QJ
 ♣ 7
 ♠ 87632
 ♥ 65
 ♦ 98
 ♣ K1083
 ♠ J10
 ♥ J87
 ♦ 107642
 ♣ Q42
 ♠ A
 ♥ A92
 ♦ AK53
 ♣ AJ965

 Dealer: South
 N-S Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	4	5	7	6	7
S	4	5	7	6	7
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

South is best to leave room for exploration, risking being passed out in 1♣. Today, north responds 1♠ and south reverses into 2♦. North can envisage a possible slam if a fit can be found. In all truth only the heart fit is there, and it is hard to play in the fourth suit, so most will be in no trumps.

In practice, north has the perfect fillers in the ♦QJ, plus the good heart suit.

Everyone should make thirteen tricks in NT or possibly hearts. Will many have contracted for a slam, the Grand probably unrealistic? Another case where bidding them up works.

16

♠ QJ6
 ♥ KQ32
 ♦ 8
 ♣ J10864
 ♠ K10875
 ♥ A8
 ♦ A954
 ♣ AQ
 ♠ 9432
 ♥ J95
 ♦ K107
 ♣ K92
 ♠ A
 ♥ 10764
 ♦ QJ632
 ♣ 753

 Dealer: West
 E-W Vulnerable

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

2NT could easily be the spot here after west responds 1NT to east's 1♠, and gets raised. This is better played by east, protecting the clubs, but few will open east with a strong NT (though maybe they should).

The defence can't lead all their best suits at once but can at least start with a club by north. Now declarer has to play on his diamonds and hope that clubs aren't 6:2. Luckily they aren't, so declarer simply pitches losers on the run of clubs then claims 120. No trumps played by east needs a heart lead to hold it to 120.

5♦ can be made, but needs the fortunate ♠QJx to fall, the suit ruffed good.

Could be pluses and minuses for E/W here.

17

♠ 97
 ♥ KJ8
 ♦ 962
 ♣ AQJ94
 ♠ J10832
 ♥ 107
 ♦ Q854
 ♣ 87
 ♠ AK4
 ♥ 65
 ♦ AKJ103
 ♣ 1063
 ♠ Q65
 ♥ AQ9432
 ♦ 7
 ♣ K52

 Dealer: North
 Neither Vulnerable

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

Assuming north opens N/S are near certain to get to 4♥, despite diamond interference.

With trumps 2:2 450 is possible if the defence fail to cash out accurately, either a diamond or two spades pitched on clubs.

Will most get this right? They should if the bidding has shown west to have four diamonds.

There could be a few norths not opening, but south gets to overcall east's 1♦ or strong NT with hearts, and north surely has enough to raise, though it is awkward if they are using 2♦ as a single suiter over 1NT. Now 2♥ could be the spot.

18

♠ AKJ4
 ♥ A2
 ♦ 103
 ♣ AKQ64
 ♠ 5
 ♥ KQJ109875
 ♦ KQJ7
 ♣
 ♠ 109872
 ♥ 3
 ♦ 95
 ♣ J10875
 ♠ Q63
 ♥ 64
 ♦ A8642
 ♣ 932

 Dealer: East
 N-S Vulnerable

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

I think I would open west 4♥, and hope passed hand partner hasn't two suitable aces. This could work well today, giving north a real problem. Double is probably best, but could well get N/S into a losing contract.

Best is probably for south to pass. However, it needs the defence to avoid playing the diamond ace on air, instead pulling trumps and letting declarer lose a trump, spade and two diamonds.

With no communication between east and west N/S can actually make 4♠ double dummy, but few will. 5♦ and 5♣ are doomed by bad breaks.

A good one to defend, as long as it is accurately.

19

♠ AJ98
 ♥ 52
 ♦ AK52
 ♣ A92
 ♠ KQ7
 ♥ 43
 ♦ QJ8743
 ♣ 87
 ♠ 105432
 ♥ AKJ
 ♦ 10
 ♣ Q1053
 ♠ 6
 ♥ Q109876
 ♦ 96
 ♣ KJ64

 Dealer: South
 E-W Vulnerable

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

I would hope most would get to 4♥ by N/S, a near certainty where south opens a Multi or Weak 2.

Most will only make ten tricks, but eleven are possible double dummy, using north's spade and a diamond entry to pick up trumps. The club 9 can then be run pinning west's 87.

Could any go light by getting a second high diamond ruffed, then failing to make four club tricks?

20

♠ 642
 ♥ J4
 ♦ A3
 ♣ 1098652
 ♠ AK108
 ♥ K107
 ♦ 9875
 ♣ 73
 ♠ J73
 ♥ 863
 ♦ K1062
 ♣ AJ4
 ♠ Q95
 ♥ AQ952
 ♦ QJ4
 ♣ KQ

 Dealer: West
 Both Vulnerable

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

South is liable to be passed out in either his 1♥ or strong NT opener.

1♥ should survive, losing only a trump, three spades, a club and a diamond, though the defence could err, allowing an overtrick by setting up the spade queen.

By contrast, in 1NT, declarer can't ruff the fourth spade, so should lose seven tricks, going minus.

Things don't always go to plan, however.

21

♠ AJ42
 ♥ 10864
 ♦ 76
 ♣ AJ7
 ♠ K86
 ♥ KJ75
 ♦ J32
 ♣ Q65
 ♠ 3
 ♥ A3
 ♦ AKQ109854
 ♣ 43
 ♠ Q10975
 ♥ Q92
 ♦
 ♣ K10982

 Dealer: North
 N-S Vulnerable

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

Despite a passed north some will open east with 5♦. Passed out, this should be beaten, but makes on a heart lead, either the knave scoring or the queen ruffed down.

Despite 17HCP between them it is N/S who can make game, and could even record an overtrick if the heart ruff is missed.

I suppose N/S might get there if east opens 1♦ and south has Ghestem available, showing the black suits.

However, I can't see too many games being bid N/S.

22

♠ J3
 ♥ K742
 ♦ 432
 ♣ Q742
 ♠ K4
 ♥ A953
 ♦ K107
 ♣ AJ83
 ♠ Q1095
 ♥ QJ8
 ♦ J965
 ♣ 109
 ♠ A8762
 ♥ 106
 ♦ AQ8
 ♣ K65

 Dealer: East
 E-W Vulnerable

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

South probably declares his weak NT. A 1♠ opener could well be doubled for takeout by west, the result either 1NT or 2 of a red suit by east.

1NT by south fares badly, possibly as many as three down, though a low club lead may blow a trick.

E/W may be better off declaring, where they can certainly manage at least 120 in no trumps, a bit less in a red suit.

At Teams a 1 IMP swing might or might not be the outcome. At Pairs the extra 10 points or so might be a top or an average.

23

♠ J10976
 ♥ QJ753
 ♦ 10
 ♣ 64
 ♠ 8
 ♥ 84
 ♦ J642
 ♣ AKJ875
 ♠ Q42
 ♥ K1092
 ♦ A975
 ♣ 32
 ♠ AK53
 ♥ A6
 ♦ KQ83
 ♣ Q109

 Dealer: South
 Both Vulnerable

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

Over a south strong NT north is perhaps best to transfer to spades, planning on passing south's completion. Now west could introduce clubs, though 3♣ is a perilous contract, at least one down.

In practice, south may well break the transfer, 3♣ resulting. This might or might not succeed. Acol opens south 1♠, and could get too high into game.

There are various possible outcomes here, 140 the N/S par, not always achieved, particularly as declarer will not necessarily guess trumps correctly declaring spades.

Contesting the part-score both vulnerable is a dangerous business, and a bit of shape can get a pair overboard, with penalties in 100s unhelpful.

24

♠ KJ42
 ♥ 1076
 ♦ 108
 ♣ K864
 ♠ 7653
 ♥ AJ42
 ♦ A76
 ♣ A9
 ♠ A9
 ♥ K83
 ♦ Q53
 ♣ J10532
 ♠ Q108
 ♥ Q95
 ♦ KJ942
 ♣ Q7

 Dealer: West
 Neither Vulnerable

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

West may well declare his weak NT. Where a minor is opened east could declare, alternatively 2NT might result where west opens a short club and east makes an inverted raise.

North could find either a spade or high diamond lead, putting west under serious pressure, though at least there are seven tricks via the heart suit and aces.

Where a club is led, N/S lose a tempo, and at least eight tricks are there by playing back clubs.

These are the sort of hands where top players make more tricks than the rest and consistently out-score.

25

♠ KJ83
 ♥ 10985
 ♦ 63
 ♣ J42
 ♠ Q1096
 ♥ A7
 ♦ 109872
 ♣ Q8
 ♠ A74
 ♥ 642
 ♦ AKQ54
 ♣ A10
 ♠ 52
 ♥ KQJ3
 ♦ J
 ♣ K97653

 Dealer: North
 E-W Vulnerable

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

East's strong NT surely gets E/W to game after a failing Stayman enquiry, unless south intervenes. Where 1♦ is opened south could bid clubs. West likely doubles, and E/W might get to 3NT by east, might not.

3NT is possible on a correct club guess, if led. On this or a heart lead declarer needs to win and play spades to advantage, which may not happen.

Again, a hand where the par (600 E/W this time) may well not be achieved, as even those bidding 3NT could well play south for the spade king and fail.

26

♠ 43
 ♥ J965
 ♦ J972
 ♣ A62
 ♠ Q72
 ♥ AKQ10
 ♦ AK543
 ♣ 8
 ♠ A986
 ♥ 2
 ♦ Q106
 ♣ KQJ74
 ♠ KJ105
 ♥ 8743
 ♦ 8
 ♣ 10953

 Dealer: East
 Both Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	4	6	4	4	5
W	4	5	4	4	5

3NT looks the spot here, when no real fit is found. The only problem is that west may have slam aspirations, and could get the partnership too high.

3NT might well make fewer than Deep Finesse's 660, since few will finesse the diamond 10.

Similarly, should the diamond slam be bid, a decent spot without the killing spade lead, the trumps may well not be picked up.

Could be some E/W minuses here.

27

♠ 73
 ♥ QJ2
 ♦ AK9865
 ♣ J7
 ♠ K9
 ♥ A9654
 ♦ Q10
 ♣ A1095
 ♠ Q85
 ♥ 107
 ♦ J743
 ♣ Q864
 ♠ AJ10642
 ♥ K83
 ♦ 2
 ♣ K32

 Dealer: South
 Neither Vulnerable

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

N/S have the balance of the points, but no good fit, and should subside below game, spades the probable strain.

Many will make nine tricks, though a heart ruff is possible, holding declarer to eight.

West could intervene, possibly with a double, an E/W 3♣ contract a live possibility.

At love all it pays to bid, as you are only losing 50s if light, and this could well be worth less than the opposing part-score.

28

♠ K
 ♥ KQJ54
 ♦ Q986
 ♣ AJ4
 ♠ A74
 ♥ 108
 ♦ KJ75
 ♣ K1083
 ♠ 982
 ♥ 7632
 ♦ A42
 ♣ Q96
 ♠ QJ10653
 ♥ A9
 ♦ 103
 ♣ 752

 Dealer: West
 N-S Vulnerable

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

As often, #28 may not be played too often, if at all. However, it is a nice enough hand, where south likely insists (correctly in the event) on playing in spades, whatever the actions of west and north.

2♠ on the 6:2 fit plays nicely, though 2♥ by north can be brought home. North has a lot of diamond losers, and is lucky 3:3 spades mean one can be pitched, and maybe one ruffed.

Part-scores are where the best excel. There were plenty in this set, which it is hope was enjoyed.

Ave HCP	N 10.36	S 9.61	E 9.71	W 10.32	Balanced	N 17	S 12	E 16	W 12
Voids/singletons	N 1/4	S 1/10	E 1/5	W 2/9	7+ suit	N 1	S 1	E 1	W 1