

The 2019WBU Charity Autumn Pairs

Monday 2nd September, Session # 3457



Dear Bridge Player

Thank you for supporting the WBU Simultaneous Pairs - I hope you enjoyed the hands and the commentary which, in order to give our faithful commentators a rest, was taken from an old set of hands from a simultaneous pairs that none of the WBU clubs played in.

We are absolutely delighted to have a sponsor to cover all necessary costs and I would like to thank Bridge Overseas (<https://bridgeoverseas.com/>) for their generosity. I have been looking at their website and there are some great holidays there – do check it out, I am sure you would find something to suit you !

Because of this, all funds raised from this event will be donated to [Wales Air Ambulance](#)- In order to maximise this donation a decision was taken not to print booklets as I am sure most of you have internet access and can read it online, or download and print it.

The results of this event can be found at www.ecatsbridge.com as usual - just click on the link to Sims and you will see how to find them.

Best wishes - and enjoy your bridge! Remember by being nice to your partner and courteous to the opposition everyone will have an enjoyable evening.

David Newman
President, Welsh Bridge Union
president@wbu.org.uk
<https://welshbridgeunion.org/>

Anna Gudge
WBU Simultaneous Pairs Organiser
anna@ecats.co.uk
www.ecatsbridge.com

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

	♠ K 9 7 2	
	♥ J 8 6 5 4	
	♦ 5 4	
	♣ A 10	
♠ 8 3		♠ Q 10 6 5
♥ 10 7		♥ 2
♦ K Q 9 8 3		♦ J 7 6
♣ K 6 4 3		♣ Q J 7 5 2
	♠ A J 4	
	♥ A K Q 9 3	
	♦ A 10 2	
	♣ 9 8	

Nothing exciting to kick off the November game with NS making 11 tricks in hearts. The EW club save is terrible...but surely not as terrible as Deep Finesse has it, where EW don't even make 7 tricks. In addition to their top winners in defence NS can take organise a diamond ruff when EW play in clubs, and that takes their tally to 6 tricks. But I can't see the NS taking any more.

Bridge Overseas Limited has been successfully trading since 1993, is ATOL protected & bonded by the Travel Trust Association.



We are a Travel Agent & Tour Operator, organising hundreds of annual holidays & events. We are proud to be associated with the English, Scottish & Welsh Bridge Unions as well as working with the Four Nations Chess League & English Chess Federation.

We also help Charities & not for profit organisations with their meeting and events, re-unions & group leisure travel.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

♠ K 10	
♥ K J 4 3	
♦ Q 9 3 2	
♣ K J 3	
♠ 7 4 2	♠ Q 5 3
♥ A 6	♥ 10 9 2
♦ A 5 4	♦ K J 10 6
♣ A Q 7 5 4	♣ 9 8 2
♠ A J 9 8 6	
♥ Q 8 7 5	
♦ 8 7	
♣ 10 6	

EW have the same number of HCP and the same fits as NS. Yet they can make only 7 tricks in diamonds while NS make 9 in hearts. Suppose the EW defence against hearts begins with diamonds – not so unlikely, as the bidding might begin, for example, 1♣ by West Pass/Double by North, 1♦ by East – now it is very likely that spades will be picked: being forced in trumps leads to the double-dummy play in spades. I guess when in with the ♥A West hasn't got much to do but cash his ♣A, but if he doesn't it is disappearing on the spades and declarer will make 10 tricks.

Have you looked at the WBU Website recently ? There are lots of interesting events coming up during the Autumn and into next year.

For example

14/15 September: the **Welsh Foursomes**;

29 September: **Green Pointed Swiss Pairs**

The new **WBU Congress** is on 8th October

The **Premier League** kicks off on 19th October, and of course there is the **Porthcawl Congress** on 15th November and the ever-popular **Llangollen Congress** on 23rd November.

Lots of great bridge events to enjoy !

There is a full calendar of all the WBU Events at

<https://welshbridgeunion.org/bridge-calendar-wbu/>

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

	♠ Q 9 8 7 3	
	♥ 8 4 2	
	♦ J 6 4 2	
	♣ 8	
♠ K 5		♠ 10 4 2
♥ K Q J 7 6 5		♥ 10 9 3
♦ K 5		♦ 8 7 3
♣ 7 6 4		♣ J 10 3 2
	♠ A J 6	
	♥ A	
	♦ A Q 10 9	
	♣ A K Q 9 5	

It's not a bad NS slam, with spade chances if the diamond finesse fails, but it goes down on the layout. Anybody who bids it has done well in the auction: a really big hand opposite a really small one will make the bidding tough. In reality West will enter the auction – even over a game-force 2♣ opening West will bid 2♥ – NS will bid to 4♠ and make 11 tricks.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

	♠ A	
	♥ 10 7 6 3 2	
	♦ A	
	♣ A Q 10 9 7 2	
♠ Q 9 6 3		♠ K J 7 5 4 2
♥ Q		♥ A 9 5
♦ K Q 9 8 6 5		♦ 4 3
♣ 8 3		♣ 6 4
	♠ 10 8	
	♥ K J 8 4	
	♦ J 10 7 2	
	♣ K J 5	

EW's vulnerable 5-level save in spades is actually good, going for 500 vs +650. Will any NS pick trumps when playing in hearts? Maybe. If West could be induced into giving away the diamond position, after an opening spade lead marks him with a spade card, it would be clear, since he is a passed hand, that he can't have the ♥A. So, maybe cross to a club and play the ♦J. West might not fall for that, and in addition declarer is running the risk of a club ruff. Still, double-dummy he can do it. Win the opening spade lead, cash a diamond, cross to a club, ruff a diamond, cross to a club, ruff a diamond and claim picking trumps.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

♠ K 2	
♥ 10 3 2	
♦ K 10 9 7	
♣ 9 8 6 4	
♠ Q 10 5 4 3	♠ A J 6
♥ J 9 7 4	♥ A 5
♦ 5 3	♦ Q J 4
♣ K 10	♣ A Q J 7 3
	♠ 9 8 7
	♥ K Q 8 6
	♦ A 8 6 2
	♣ 5 2

Most likely EW will play in spades, but those in notrumps will trump that contract...so to speak, with 11 tricks available in both.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

	♠ A K Q 4 3	
	♥ A 3	
	♦ J 7	
	♣ J 6 5 4	
♠ 9 2		♠ 10 8 7 5
♥ 9 8 5 4		♥ K 6
♦ Q 10 9 6 3		♦ K 8 5 4
♣ 10 7		♣ A K Q
	♠ J 6	
	♥ Q J 10 7 2	
	♦ A 2	
	♣ 9 8 3 2	

EW make the most tricks in a part-score battle, with 9 tricks in diamonds, but it won't necessarily be so easy for them to find their diamond fit. For those Easts starting with either a strong club or a INT opening it might well be NS buying the contract in a slightly dodgy but playable and makeable 2♠.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

	♠ J 10 6	
	♥ Q 6 2	
	♦ A 9 4 2	
	♣ J 9 8	
♠ K 9 8 5 2		♠ A Q 4 3
♥ J 9 3		♥ K 7 5 4
♦ 10 8 7 5		♦ Q J
♣ 4		♣ 10 3 2
	♠ 7	
	♥ A 10 8	
	♦ K 6 3	
	♣ A K Q 7 6 5	

After the natural start by North-South 1♣ INT, South might just be tempted to raise that to 3NT. Now all depends on the lead. A spade and it is EW's top, a heart and it is NS's...

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

	♠ K	
	♥ K J 9 8	
	♦ Q 8 7 5 4	
	♣ J 6 2	
♠ A J 9 5 4 3		♠ 10 6 2
♥ A 6		♥ Q 2
♦ A J 3		♦ K 10 2
♣ K Q		♣ A 10 7 5 3
	♠ Q 8 7	
	♥ 10 7 5 4 3	
	♦ 9 6	
	♣ 9 8 4	

All the slams, if played by West are making. If East, for some esoteric reason, plays the spades, the 3-3 club break will see him home, but East's other slams – clubs and NT – are failing on the heart lead. In any case, this is one of many thin slam ventures in this session of hands. Anybody bidding it deserves a top.

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

	♠ 10 7 4 2	
	♥ K Q 8	
	♦ 5 4	
	♣ Q 10 5 3	
♠ K 5 3		♠ A J 8 6
♥ J 10 6 3		♥ A 9 7
♦ K Q J 7		♦ A 8 6
♣ A K		♣ 6 4 2
	♠ Q 9	
	♥ 5 4 2	
	♦ 10 9 3 2	
	♣ J 9 8 7	

Speaking of ambitious slams...the last Board had a couple of good fits, unlike this one. Deep Finesse claims 12 tricks, but that is only for those who double-dummy the spades. Declarer will be able to put quite a lot of pressure to bear and will be able to tell South's exact shape by the time he has to play the spades. But that ♠9 could still be from any doubleton. Is there another piece to this puzzle? If you thought that South was not capable of a false-card, then perhaps it becomes a restricted choice situation: he has either ♠109 or ♠Q9, in which case, by all means, play South for the queen!

Meanwhile, it is possible the auction might induce NS into misdefending as they find the necessary discards on red suit winners. After an auction start, for example, where East opens 1♣ and then rebids INT, North might pitch too many spades to misguidedly keep clubs.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

	♠ 1075	
	♥ KQJ72	
	♦ 7	
	♣ AQ107	
♠ AKQJ94		♠ 62
♥ 84		♥ A5
♦ KJ986		♦ Q5432
♣ —		♣ K983
	♠ 83	
	♥ 10963	
	♦ A10	
	♣ J6542	

EW make only 10 tricks in 4♠ on a diamond opening lead, but North might well begin with a heart. After all, West has probably bid diamonds during the auction. At the slam level 6♦ would make on a non-heart lead, but with North surely bidding hearts in the auction, even if East played the diamonds that slam would presumably be defeated.

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

	♠ AQ94	
	♥ K82	
	♦ 8	
	♣ J9732	
♠ 5		♠ 10763
♥ AQ954		♥ 107
♦ A64		♦ Q10753
♣ K1065		♣ 84
	♠ KJ82	
	♥ J63	
	♦ KJ92	
	♣ AQ	

It looks like the field will be in a tricky 4♠ on this one: hard to defend and hard to play. EW look like they start off with 4 tricks, and Deep Finesse thinks they will end up with 4 as well. Hmm. Easier said than done, I imagine. I asked my resident expert, how he would play 4♠ by South on a club lead. He won the queen, crossed to a spade and played a diamond to the jack and ace. Suppose a club exit by West. He won that played a heart to the king and then it is a simply cross-ruff. It won't be so hard to pick the red suits on an auction where West has done the bidding for his side.

There may be Wests who find the neutral trump lead: but it is only neutral double-dummy. Single-dummy the idea of the trump lead with no possibility of your side pressing that defence because you have all the entries does not appeal in the least to me. Imagine if your partner's small asset is in trumps and you murder it at trick one.

By the way, the odd West might innocently step in after a INT opening by South. North would do well with a speculative double over that.

Board 12. NIS Vul. Dealer West.

	♠ K8743	
	♥ A64	
	♦ 6	
	♣ AKJ9	
♠ 92		♠ A106
♥ Q10952		♥ K873
♦ KJ83		♦ Q1092
♣ 83		♣ Q6
	♠ QJ5	
	♥ J	
	♦ A754	
	♣ 107542	

Again a very thin slam, this time in clubs. Again the field will be largely, if not always, in 4♠ making 11 tricks. Declarer can't take 2 heart ruffs in dummy without setting up an extra trump for the defence.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

	♠ 953	
	♥ 106	
	♦ QJ963	
	♣ J82	
♠ AKQJ104		♠ 86
♥ K9		♥ QJ32
♦ 102		♦ A8
♣ K106		♣ Q9543
	♠ 72	
	♥ A8754	
	♦ K754	
	♣ A7	

EW's normal spot is 4♠ on the equally normal diamond lead. But surely there will be the odd West who fancies raising partner's INT response to 3NT. If South took Valium for breakfast before the game so that even in 3rd seat that hand is not an opening bid, he will then be leading hearts to 3NT and declarer might just make a lot of tricks by picking clubs in the fullness of time. However, presumably most Souths will be drug-free and taking action on their collection. In that case, after an auction going, for example,

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT

South may well think of trying the diamond lead. On the other hand, what about the Wests who get to 3NT from their side after a 1♥ opening. It would be a brave North who didn't begin with partner's suit. Then South can still save the day by rising with the ♥A and shifting to a diamond. This holds 3NT to nine tricks and that'll be good enough...assuming that 4♠ is making. After a diamond lead to 4♠, however, declarer has to pick clubs. I guess it is normal to play North, the player with the short

heart suit to have the ♣J. Still, surely +600 in 3NT would be worth some matchpoints for EW.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

♠ J 9 7 5 ♥ 2 ♦ J 9 8 7 6 ♣ 9 8 5	♠ 10 8 3 ♥ 5 4 3 ♦ A K ♣ A K 7 4 2	♠ A Q 4 ♥ J 10 9 7 ♦ Q 5 4 ♣ Q 10 6
	♠ K 6 2 ♥ A K Q 8 6 ♦ 10 3 2 ♣ J 3	

I can imagine North getting excited over a 1♥ opening by South. Working cards, support, a set-uptable suit. In fact, however, the slam has no chance with trumps 4-1. And, I have to confess, I for one, holding the East cards would be spoiling any chance of getting to defence a too-high number of hearts, as I have a 1♥ opening. SOME Easts will be opening that load and this alone will surely stop NS's ambitions...even if the opening bid is not 1♥!

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

♠ 7 ♥ Q 6 5 ♦ 9 8 ♣ K Q 10 8 7 6 5	♠ K J 10 9 5 2 ♥ 10 ♦ A K 10 5 ♣ A 3	♠ A 8 6 3 ♥ A K J 8 7 ♦ J 2 ♣ J 4
	♠ Q 4 ♥ 9 4 3 2 ♦ Q 7 6 4 3 ♣ 9 2	

If EW don't get their club trick early against 4♠ it is disappearing, so any East who had visions of tapping declarer via continued heart plays will be sorely disappointed. West will have bid clubs and this should guide East to the right defence. EW have a good save in hearts or clubs, both of which are only one down.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

♠ J 10 5 4 3 ♥ K 2 ♦ 10 5 4 ♣ 9 8 2	♠ Q 9 6 ♥ 8 6 4 3 ♦ A J 8 3 ♣ Q 10	♠ 2 ♥ Q 10 7 5 ♦ Q 9 ♣ A K J 6 5 3
	♠ A K 8 7 ♥ A J 9 ♦ K 7 6 2 ♣ 7 4	

EW make 3♣ here, but some Easts might get the opportunity to defend 2♥ and that may appeal, with the long trumps and the good suit for forcing purposes. In fact, however, even after 3 rounds of clubs, NS are in no particular danger and will make comfortably. North might even pick diamonds after West shows up with the ♥K and the ♠J.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

♠ 6 2 ♥ A J 10 4 2 ♦ A 10 8 4 ♣ Q 9	♠ 10 5 4 ♥ K 3 ♦ 7 ♣ J 10 8 7 6 3 2	♠ A K J 8 7 ♥ Q 9 8 ♦ J 9 ♣ A K 4
	♠ Q 9 3 ♥ 7 6 5 ♦ K Q 6 5 3 2 ♣ 5	

Another marginal slam, this time failing when the 3♣ preemptor is the one to hold the ♥K. Of course, there will be some Easts overcalling 3NT and playing there after a 3♣ opening by North. Any South who decides to try the diamond suit on opening lead to 3NT had better start with a high one. If he starts instead with a low diamond, declarer will concede a heart and subsequently squeeze South in spades and diamonds, taking 12 tricks.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

♠ A K J 8 ♥ 8 7 3 2 ♦ K 10 9 5 ♣ 7	♠ 10 6 2 ♥ A Q J ♦ 4 3 ♣ A K Q J 3
♠ Q 9 4 ♥ 10 5 4 ♦ Q J 8 7 2 ♣ 10 5	♠ 7 5 3 ♥ K 9 6 ♦ A 6 ♣ 9 8 6 4 2

Anybody for this auction:

East	South	West	North
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Even if the defence doesn't shine – that is, it starts with ♦A and another diamond, rather than shifting to the spade immediately - it is going to get the magical Pairs score of +200.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

♠ Q 7 ♥ 10 9 7 3 ♦ 10 9 4 2 ♣ Q J 8	♠ A J 9 8 3 2 ♥ A ♦ A 7 ♣ K 9 6 2
♠ 6 5 ♥ Q 5 4 2 ♦ Q 6 3 ♣ 10 7 5 3	♠ K 10 4 ♥ K J 8 6 ♦ K J 8 5 ♣ A 4

What could be fairer than this deal, where NS make 8 tricks in the black suits, EW in the reds. The play does not look interesting to me.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

♠ A 10 6 ♥ K 7 4 ♦ A 9 3 ♣ A K 10 6	♠ 9 8 5 4 ♥ J 6 ♦ J 6 5 4 ♣ Q 9 7
♠ K J 3 ♥ A Q 9 8 5 ♦ 7 ♣ J 8 5 4	♠ Q 7 2 ♥ 10 3 2 ♦ K Q 10 8 2 ♣ 3 2

Could somebody out there please give Nakatani a message from me: SEND MORE MONEY! I want overtime for this hand!! Here is why...

Deep Finesse says the 3NT makes 9 tricks played by West and 10 tricks played by East. Let's look at the second part of that equation:

3NT by East on a heart lead.

Line 1) East rises with the king and runs 5 diamonds, pitching a heart and a club from dummy. South pitches 1 spade, and 3 clubs. Now declarer cashes a couple of clubs and South has no good discard on the second club. A spade will let declarer play them from the top. A heart lets declarer throw South in with a heart to cash 3 tricks before having to exit a spade. But this line is no good, of course, because North wins the heart exit. Whoops!

Line 2) East ducks the first heart and wins the second. Now he runs the minors squeezing South as before.

Line 3) East ducks the first heart and NS clear hearts, playing 3 rounds. Now East plays 3 rounds of diamonds and South pitches 1 spade and 1 heart. Next East plays a fourth diamond and South pitches what? If a club EW make their tenth trick in clubs. If a heart – which is the last heart - then West will pitch a club and declarer will be able to play on spades for the tenth trick.

So far so good. But look at what happens when West plays 3NT. Apparently North is to get off to a diabolical defence his partner is not capable of mounting from his side. Well, in practice, of course, when West plays 3NT North is likely to lead a heart as South may well have bid them after natural or strong club auctions beginning 1♣ 1♦ by EW.

Still, let's suppose North is left to his own devices and begins with a spade to the jack. That is the only thing North can do which is different to South being on opening lead. As far as I can see declarer has various roads to 10 tricks:

Line 1) simply duck the ♠J. South can do nothing. We have 2 entries to lead a heart up and take a spade finesse at some point in time... 10 tricks and it looked easier than making 10 played the other way up, incidentally.

Line 2) Equally can East not win the ♠J with the ace and play on spades? North has the spade length and no entry.

Well, I have been racking my brains – and the brains of my oracle – to see the point and we've missed it. Deep Finesse is wrong.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

♠ 6 5 3 ♥ J 8 6 2 ♦ A 9 8 ♣ K 9 4 ♠ K 10 ♥ A K Q 10 7 5 3 ♦ J 10 ♣ 8 6	♠ Q 9 2 ♥ 4 ♦ 5 3 2 ♣ A J 10 7 3 2 ♠ A J 8 7 4 ♥ 9 ♦ K Q 7 6 4 ♣ Q 5
---	---

I do hope somewhere the auction begins:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1♠	3NT!

Of course, South may be tempted to try 4♦ over that when it comes back to him. But supposing the auction rests in 3NT and North leads a spade to the ace, will South continue with a low diamond!? That may be an obvious action at teams, but at pairs it might be important just to set up one diamond trick.

At least some Easts will open 3♣ and that is likely to lead to an auction something like this:

North	East	South	West
Pass	3♣	3♠	4♥
4♠	Dble		

Four spades is one down.

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

♠ 9 8 5 4 ♥ K Q ♦ 10 5 4 2 ♣ 8 7 2	♠ J 10 ♥ 9 8 ♦ K J 9 8 7 6 ♣ A K 6 ♠ A K 7 3 ♥ A 6 ♦ A 3 ♣ J 10 5 4 3 ♠ Q 6 2 ♥ J 10 7 5 4 3 2 ♦ Q ♣ Q 9
---	---

With each side holding way too much in a short suit: hearts for EW, clubs for NS, it is no surprise that nothing much makes, EW coming out on top with 8 tricks in spades.

Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.

♠ 9 5 ♥ A 10 6 4 2 ♦ A 7 ♣ 9 6 4 3 ♠ A Q 6 2 ♥ K 9 8 7 5 ♦ K 9 ♣ A 10	♠ 10 8 4 3 ♥ J ♦ 8 5 3 ♣ K J 8 5 2 ♠ K J 7 ♥ Q 3 ♦ Q J 10 6 4 2 ♣ Q 7
--	--

I guess EW could get overboard on this one. 3♠ is the limit of the hand if played by East and even then it could be in danger. If South begins with the ♦Q declarer has to duck in dummy. Otherwise 3 rounds of diamonds and what does declarer do on the third diamond? One could understand ruffing with the ♠Q and then playing ace and another...one down in 3♠.

If North finds himself on lead against a spade contract he has a nasty choice of leads and, indeed, Deep Finesse says West will make 10 tricks.

Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.

♠ 9 7 5 ♥ A 10 7 5 ♦ A 5 ♣ A Q 9 2	♠ J 10 3 ♥ Q J ♦ K Q 4 2 ♣ 10 8 5 4 ♠ A K 8 4 2 ♥ 9 3 ♦ 8 7 6 3 ♣ K 7 ♠ Q 6 ♥ K 8 6 4 2 ♦ J 10 9 ♣ J 6 3
---	---

A routine 4♠ EW.

Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

♠ A K 8 7 2 ♥ A 9 4 ♦ 5 4 ♣ Q 10 7	♠ 10 5 4 3 ♥ K Q 8 6 5 ♦ 8 ♣ J 4 3 ♠ Q 6 ♥ J 7 3 2 ♦ J 7 ♣ A 9 6 5 2 ♠ J 9 ♥ 10 ♦ A K Q 10 9 6 3 2 ♣ K 8
---	---

All these long suits have kept me thinking about 3NT on this set. It wouldn't be an entirely hopeless contract by NS as EW do have to cash out quickly.

In reality it is a fight to the death between 8 tricks in clubs EW and 8 tricks in diamonds NS.

Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.

<p>♠ A 10 8 2 ♥ A K 6 2 ♦ 10 9 8 7 ♣ 6</p>	<p>♠ 9 6 5 ♥ J 8 7 ♦ A K 6 5 ♣ 9 3 2</p>	<p>♠ J 7 4 ♥ 5 4 ♦ J 4 2 ♣ Q 10 7 5 4</p>
	<p>♠ K Q 3 ♥ Q 10 9 3 ♦ Q 3 ♣ A K J 8</p>	

If North plays 3NT a spade lead will beat it. But if 3NT is played by South, although a spade lead sets up a potential 5 tricks for the defence, they have no way of taking them, with no entry to the East hand. Declarer is forced to play West for both heart honours, even if the auction has not indicated this, as otherwise he is down for sure. With the club finesse also working – well, who said bridge wasn't an easy game?

Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.

<p>♠ 10 8 ♥ A J 8 2 ♦ A 9 7 ♣ 9 6 5 2</p>	<p>♠ 6 3 ♥ K 7 5 ♦ K 10 6 5 4 2 ♣ 7 4</p>	<p>♠ A J 5 4 ♥ Q 10 6 3 ♦ 8 3 ♣ A J 10</p>
	<p>♠ K Q 9 7 2 ♥ 9 4 ♦ Q J ♣ K Q 8 3</p>	

With every finesse failing for EW 8 tricks is the limit in 2♥. But what about 3♦ for NS? Deep Finesse says 8 tricks only. In fact diamonds has a sea of winners, but declarer can't quite keep contact with them. The defence has to draw South's diamonds while ducking one round exactly of round of each black suit.

Board 28. NIS Vul. Dealer West.

<p>♠ K 10 8 5 ♥ 9 6 ♦ K J ♣ A K Q 8 7</p>	<p>♠ Q J 4 ♥ A K Q J 3 ♦ 8 6 4 3 ♣ 10</p>	<p>♠ 7 3 2 ♥ 5 4 ♦ A Q 10 ♣ J 6 4 3 2</p>
	<p>♠ A 9 6 ♥ 10 8 7 2 ♦ 9 7 5 2 ♣ 9 5</p>	

EW have a good save in 4♣ if NS bid to 3♥. There is nothing to the play.

Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.

<p>♠ J 5 4 3 2 ♥ 10 7 6 ♦ Q ♣ 10 8 4 2</p>	<p>♠ 10 9 6 ♥ A K 4 3 ♦ A 10 6 4 ♣ K 9</p>	<p>♠ Q 8 ♥ Q J 9 ♦ 9 8 7 3 2 ♣ Q J 7</p>
	<p>♠ A K 7 ♥ 8 5 2 ♦ K J 5 ♣ A 6 5 3</p>	

NS have 11 tricks in 3NT, but what is the right way to play those diamonds? After a spade lead to the queen and ace, I guess there is no reason not to continue with a diamond to the ace, planning to finesse next. Anybody who plays the first diamond from dummy, planning, one assumes, to finesse first round, is going to be sorely disappointed when they discover they have lost a trick to the bare queen.

Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.

<p>♠ 10 9 6 ♥ K Q ♦ K 10 6 4 ♣ A K 10 9</p>	<p>♠ J ♥ 9 8 7 6 3 ♦ 7 5 ♣ J 8 7 6 3</p>	<p>♠ K 8 7 5 4 3 2 ♥ 10 4 ♦ 3 ♣ Q 4 2</p>
	<p>♠ A Q ♥ A J 5 2 ♦ A Q J 9 8 2 ♣ 5</p>	

What a cute hand, if only in a double-dummy way. Deep Finesse tells us that 4♥ makes when played by North and goes down in played by South.

That can only mean that the winning lead is the ♣10 by West and that ♣A from the West hand (or low

club by East, if on lead, to the ace) followed by the ♣10 isn't good enough. Why? Declarer ruffs, cashes the 2 red aces and then exits with a trump. West can exit with a club, but declarer will let East win that!! With East having only spades left to lead declarer takes the free finesse and discards a diamond on the ace...in total he will make 2 club ruffs and 4 trumps in dummy, 2 diamonds and 2 spades: 10 tricks!

Compare the ♣10 at trick one which holds. Now a club to the queen and South must ruff or East can break up the endplay via a diamond shift. If, for example, South now continues with 2 rounds of trumps, West can continue with another club. When he gets in again he will be able to cash the last club.

Board 31. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

<p>♠ —</p> <p>♥ A J 6 4 3</p> <p>♦ J 10 7 4</p> <p>♣ Q 4 3 2</p>	<p>♠ A K Q 10 6</p> <p>♥ K Q 10</p> <p>♦ A 8 3</p> <p>♣ 10 7</p>	<p>♠ J 7 5</p> <p>♥ 8 7</p> <p>♦ Q 6 2</p> <p>♣ K J 9 6 5</p>
<p>♠ 9 8 4 3 2</p> <p>♥ 9 5 2</p> <p>♦ K 9 5</p> <p>♣ A 8</p>		

The normal 4♠ EW is defeated by the 5-0 trump break. It looks like declarer has 10 tricks, but there is no way to get them all. For example a trump lead won in dummy, heart to the king and club. South will rise and play another club. Declarer wins, plays another heart, North wins and puts a low club on the table. East can pitch a diamond from hand, and a diamond from dummy on the heart next, but he is always going to have a diamond loser left to go with a heart, a club and a ruff.

Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

<p>♠ J 10 7 3</p> <p>♥ A 7 6 4</p> <p>♦ 10 7 4</p> <p>♣ 6 2</p>	<p>♠ 5 2</p> <p>♥ 5</p> <p>♦ J 9 6 5</p> <p>♣ K J 10 9 4 3</p>	<p>♠ K Q 4</p> <p>♥ K Q J 9 8 3 2</p> <p>♦ Q</p> <p>♣ A 7</p>
<p>♠ A 9 8 6</p> <p>♥ 10</p> <p>♦ A K 8 3 2</p> <p>♣ Q 8 5</p>		

Against EW's 4♥ contract NS have to shift to clubs quickly, but why wouldn't they? In fact North will at least sometimes open 3♣ and South can practically

Blackwood over that. With 4♥ cold, NS do best to bid on to 5♣. This contract goes one down: the diamond ruff is irrelevant...just a trade for the spade trick which now gets discarded on the long diamond in the end.

Board 33. Love All. Dealer North.

<p>♠ K Q</p> <p>♥ J 8 7 3 2</p> <p>♦ 9 6 4</p> <p>♣ A 10 5</p>	<p>♠ J 5</p> <p>♥ 10 6 5 4</p> <p>♦ A 7 5</p> <p>♣ Q J 6 2</p>	<p>♠ A 10 9 6 3 2</p> <p>♥ K 9</p> <p>♦ K 2</p> <p>♣ K 9 4</p>
<p>♠ 8 7 4</p> <p>♥ A Q</p> <p>♦ Q J 10 8 3</p> <p>♣ 8 7 3</p>		

If East plays spades the limit is nine tricks on a club lead by South. If West were able to declare spades North is left with no good lead. Declarer gets to set up a heart trick for a club pitch before the club is established for the defence. E.g. trump lead, heart up, trump, trump and heart up.