



The January Charity Pairs

Monday, 27 January 2025

Our January Charity Pairs, raises funds for UNICEF to help children in danger through the world.

Thank you for joining us for the event – we really appreciate your support.

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Help us to help these children who are in such need. Please.

1

♠ AQ
♥ K10742
♦ K10
♣ KJ84

♠ 1098654
♥ 6
♦ A985
♣ 106

♠ KJ
♥ A953
♦ QJ74
♣ A95

♠ 732
♥ QJ8
♦ 632
♣ Q732

Dealer: North
Neither Vulnerable

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

North opens 1♥ and, playing acol, south may pass. West is too strong for a protective seat 1NT, so must double, forcing a 1♠ bid from east, who probably rebids his suit over west's 1NT, ending up declaring 2♠.

In 5 card majors south may raise to 2♥. West probably passes and north tries with 3♣, south signing off in 3♥.

Thus at some tables N/S may steal E/W's 4♠ contract, makeable by bringing down the diamond 10, though an E/W part-score in spades is more credible.

Another hand where declaring at love-all pays, even if you go light, as 3♥ will, assuming west finds the top diamond switch, forcing declarer, when he wins the third round of trumps.

3

♠ QJ107
♥ 5
♦ AJ9652
♣ AK

♠ 9852
♥ K983
♦ K8
♣ 875

♠ AK64
♥ QJ2
♦
♣ J109432

♠ 3
♥ A10764
♦ Q10743
♣ Q6

Dealer: South
E-W Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	6	2	-	3
S	-	6	2	-	3
E	2	-	-	1	-
W	2	-	-	1	-

East has an awkward bid over north's 1♦. Best is probably double, bringing all the suits into the game. South can bid 1♥, or may simply bid 2NT, a sound raise in diamonds.

Few will bid the diamond slam, makeable with a winning trump view, but many will make 420. If south has bid hearts, and/or east overcalled in clubs, north could play 3NT.

For once 3NT will score worse than the minor, and could go light. Declarer has to win the club lead, and burn his boats by getting to dummy in hearts, before taking the diamond finesse. If he doesn't, eight tricks are the limit.

2

♠ AQJ962
♥ AJ42
♦ A103
♣

♠ K875
♥ 108
♦ 952
♣ K1082

♠ 4
♥ Q763
♦ QJ86
♣ AQ74

♠ 103
♥ K95
♦ K74
♣ J9653

Dealer: East
N-S Vulnerable

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

East could well open 1♦ or 1♥, making it awkward for north when west bids 1♠. Best is to pass, as there will be another turn. East will rebid his weak no trump or a minor, depending on system. West will probably pass anything, allowing north to come to life with 2♠, natural, probably passed out.

At other tables north will open, east maybe double, and south bid 1NT. Now north rebids 3♥, and declares 4♠.

Playing 4♠ declarer loses a trump, but the helpful fall of the 10/8 in hearts mean only two red suit losers and 620.

Light openers often causing opponents to misjudge each other's strength, in this instance possibly resulting in a missed game.

4

♠ K1093
♥ 102
♦ QJ543
♣ 63

♠ J854
♥ K75
♦ A1086
♣ AJ

♠ A72
♥ AJ83
♦ K72
♣ Q75

♠ Q6
♥ Q964
♦ 9
♣ K109842

Dealer: West
Both Vulnerable

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

West will play 3NT, after either a weak NT and stayman enquiry, or after rebidding 1NT having opened 1♦.

Deep Finesse says 3NT can be made. North's only lead not ceding a trick is clubs, but few will find that. It takes some rather improbable plays in three suits to come home or, more likely, a present from north at trick one, followed by some anti-percentage plays in the two other relevant suits.

There will doubtless be some successful declarers delighted after chalking up 600, perhaps with some help from the defence, but many will record a minus.

5

♠ AKQJ42
♥ 42
♦ A653
♣ 2

♠ 75
♥ 10873
♦ KJ74
♣ 1095

♠ 3
♥ AKQJ65
♦ Q1092
♣ AJ

♠ 10986
♥ 9
♦ 8
♣ KQ87643

Dealer: North
N-S Vulnerable

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

This looks like a competitive deal, with N/S probably bidding up to 4♠, and E/W to 5♥.

The vulnerable N/S do best to advance to 5♠, rather than settle for the inadequate 300 penalty otherwise available.

The Law of Total Tricks correctly predicts twenty total tricks here (the sum of N/S's and E/W's longest combined fits). N/S would be wrong to bid 5♠ if both sides can make exactly ten tricks. Not every pair will make this difficult judgement correctly.

6

♠ K2
♥ KJ943
♦ 65
♣ AKQ8

♠ A3
♥ A1072
♦ K10983
♣ 42

♠ J7654
♥ 5
♦ Q42
♣ J753

♠ Q1098
♥ Q86
♦ AJ7
♣ 1096

Dealer: East
E-W Vulnerable

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

West will probably open his light but prime hand 1♦, and north overcall 1♥, despite his poor suit.

East could support diamonds, but may not, being vulnerable. South has a decent hand in support of hearts, but may well be rightly put off by his flat distribution.

With 25HCP one might expect N/S to be in game, but many will settle for a part-score. Indeed any N/S plus will prove good.

South can make 3NT, protected by his diamond knave. However, unless he takes an improbable first round heart 9 finesse he lacks the entries to pick up the hearts successfully without help from west in either setting up the diamond knave or allowing the spade queen as an entry.

7

♠ Q92
♥ K943
♦ J2
♣ Q1075

♠ J653
♥ 106
♦ A953
♣ K82

♠ 108
♥ AQJ875
♦ K864
♣ 9

♠ AK74
♥ 2
♦ Q107
♣ AJ643

Dealer: South
Both Vulnerable

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

North's 1♥ response to 1♣ silences east, and south rebids 1♠. North could give preference to 2♣ or try 1NT.

The latter contract will not make on a low heart, or diamond lead and heart switch, but could easily come home. 2♣ is an easy 110.

At some tables east may bid 2♥ on the second round, and will find a suitable dummy, 110 available, if allowed to play there.

The winning action for N/S is to advance in clubs, but not all will do so. Part-score battles at both vulnerable can be the hardest to judge, so it will be interesting to see who comes out on top here. Indeed even 3♥, undoubled down one, by east, is better than losing 110.

8

♠ A9842
♥ 3
♦ A10764
♣ A3

♠ 5
♥ AKQJ
♦ J953
♣ J1082

♠ KQ1076
♥ 6
♦ KQ2
♣ KQ75

♠ J3
♥ 10987542
♦ 8
♣ 964

Dealer: West
Neither Vulnerable

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

West opens 1♥ in acol, 1♦ in 5 card majors, and north overcalls. Over Michaels east has an easy 3NT bid. Over 1♠ he probably contents himself with 2♣, raised by west.

3NT looks a standout now if west has opened 1♥. However, if west has opened 1♦ east cannot be sure he has a heart stop.

Here one must know one's methods. 3♥/♠ by east either asks for a stop in that suit, or promises one and requests a stop in the other. West, with a mere quadruple stop in hearts, can oblige.

Most will be in 3NT, and there is little to the play, north just making his three aces.

Should E/W try and penalise N/S instead they may only get 300 from 2♣.

9

♠ J932
♥ 107
♦ KJ1097
♣ AK

♠ 865
♥ AJ43
♦ A2
♣ 9753

♠ A74
♥ 52
♦ Q653
♣ Q864

 Dealer: North
E-W Vulnerable

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

If north opens 1♦ and south is playing inverted minors his 3♦ may buy the pot. Even a 2♦ raise may do so, though east can double in the pass-out seat.

A weak NT by north may also keep E/W out of their 2♥ spot, at the cost of at least one non-vulnerable undertrick.

The defence need to be careful defending diamonds or west can be end-played in spades to allow nine tricks.

An interesting part-score battle with E/W vulnerable. Par is for E/W to go plus (unless N/S declare an unlikely 2♠), but they may not.

10

♠ 65
♥ A10854
♦ J10975
♣ K

♠ J974
♥ QJ7
♦ A632
♣ 93

♠ AQ832
♥ 96
♦ K8
♣ QJ52

 Dealer: East
Both Vulnerable

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

When west overcalls 1♠ with 2♣ north probably doubles, being too weak for 2♥. South can reluctantly pass, and perfect defence via a diamond opening lead beats 2♠x by one, the defence collecting a spade, a heart, a heart ruff, a diamond and two trumps.

South is more likely to bid 2♠ or 2NT which will to go light at least one. N/S are better declaring a red suit, but it is hard for them to do so.

This looks like a hand best defended, with penalties likely both sides of the traveller.

11

♠ 832
♥ A10932
♦ A3
♣ AQ7

♠ 94
♥ 6
♦ Q9862
♣ 86542

♠ AKQ765
♥ K87
♦ J54
♣ K

 Dealer: South
Neither Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	2	5	6	6
S	1	2	5	6	6
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

South will open 1♠ and north bid 2♥. South's rebid is awkward, as 3♥ is not forcing, and 3♦ a distortion. 3♠ is probably best, possibly even 4♠, implying a secondary heart fit.

Either way north should look favourably on his prime cards and spade support. It should not be difficult to find the cold 6♠ contract.

Indeed, with spades 2:2 all declarer needs is 3:2 hearts for thirteen tricks, pitching a heart on one of dummy's clubs and ruffing the suit good.

Today, the 4:1 break scuppers that plan, and it also does for those declaring 6♥ on a diamond lead, declarer being unable to safety play trumps, unblock his clubs, and get a diamond ruff in dummy. Will anyone bid 6NT?

12

♠ KJ8543
♥ 104
♦ J10
♣ 1075

♠ A10
♥ Q8762
♦ 8763
♣ 63

♠ Q9
♥ AKJ953
♦ AKQ
♣ 82

 Dealer: West
N-S Vulnerable

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

Most wests and norths will pass, though some might bid a thin weak two or Multi in north.

South has an acol 2♥, if played, otherwise 1♥. There is every chance of N/S reaching 4♠ or 4♥, the former the better spot.

Unfortunately the 5:0 heart break beats both contracts, though defending 4♠ east needs to be awake to give his partner a heart ruff. Defending hearts he has a natural trump trick.

Some will doubtless get home in games or part-scores here, but there will be some N/S minuses.

13

♠ 103
♥ J
♦ KJ10763
♣ 10987

♠ A5
♥ 1043
♦ AQ54
♣ Q653

♠ KQJ982
♥ AKQ7
♦ 98
♣ 4

♠ 764
♥ 98652
♦ 2
♣ AKJ2

Dealer: North
Both Vulnerable

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

East opens 1♠ and west bids 2♣. East rebids 2♥ and west has enough for 3♦ (FSF), though some may simply bid 3NT. East is unlikely to sit 3NT, taking out to 4♠. West may be tempted to advance, but probably won't.

6♣ is not a laughable contract, but it needs the heart knave to fall in three rounds, plus the diamond finesse, making it well under 50%.

Those bidding 3NT will get a lucky near top when the top club honours are both in the same hand, they having otherwise eleven top tricks - twelve on a diamond lead. Playing spades, some may get the ace/king of clubs led, east ruffing the second and getting a diamond pitch on the queen and scoring 680.

15

♠ A873
♥ J
♦ K742
♣ QJ54

♠ Q6
♥ 8652
♦ 1096
♣ 7632

♠ K104
♥ K1094
♦ AJ8
♣ K108

♠ J952
♥ AQ73
♦ Q53
♣ A9

Dealer: South
N-S Vulnerable

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

N/S are likely to find their spade fit after south opening either a weak NT, or a minor in 5 card majors. Many will be in game after north invites. East is best keeping schtum throughout.

4♠ looks one off, but if declarer takes the heart finesse he can succeed by making a diamond trick, taking a club finesse, then cross-ruffing. East in effect eventually ruffs his partner's winning diamond.

Some will doubtless play for a doubleton diamond ace in someone's hand, and go light.

Congratulations to anyone making ten tricks without help from the defence.

14

♠ K1062
♥ 6
♦ AJ983
♣ A97

♠ J3
♥ 9832
♦ K652
♣ Q53

♠ 875
♥ AQJ1054
♦ 104
♣ KJ

♠ AQ94
♥ K7
♦ Q7
♣ 108642

Dealer: East
Neither Vulnerable

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

After east's 1♥ south may double, or it may be north after west raises. Either way N/S should find 4♠. Declarer can actually make eleven tricks by throwing a club on the heart king and setting up the club suit.

Some N/S declarers will only manage ten tricks, so the 450s will top the traveller unless some intrepid E/Ws sacrifice in 5♥, losing at least 500, more likely 800.

16

♠ AK76
♥ J87
♦ Q954
♣ 104

♠ Q932
♥ Q2
♦ 1063
♣ A976

♠ J108
♥ 10964
♦ KJ7
♣ Q52

♠ 54
♥ AK53
♦ A82
♣ KJ83

Dealer: West
E-W Vulnerable

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

It looks like south will declare 3NT, either after opening a strong NT, or after opening 1♥ and rebidding 1NT, playing acol.

Even with the heart queen both outside the knave and dropping doubleton there are only seven obvious tricks. An eighth can be established in diamonds, but the defence - certainly on a spade lead - have five by then.

Doubtless someone will contrive to scramble home, maybe on a diamond opening lead, but I suspect there will be more minuses than pluses N/S.

17

♠ AJ862
 ♥ A1062
 ♦ A83
 ♣ 7
 ♠ K953
 ♥ 8
 ♦ KQ752
 ♣ A96
 ♠ 74
 ♥ QJ75
 ♦ J10
 ♣ KQJ104

 Dealer: North
 Neither Vulnerable

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

It looks like N/S will find their heart fit, even if east overcalls north's 1♠ with 2♦.

Some may declare game, and find the bad trump break just too much to cope with. Declarer gets close, but eventually loses a trick in each suit unless the defence slip up.

The conservative bidders will gain here.

18

♠ 5
 ♥ A10983
 ♦ J1073
 ♣ K109
 ♠ AKQJ32
 ♥ 5
 ♦ AQ
 ♣ Q754
 ♠ 94
 ♥ KJ76
 ♦ 9542
 ♣ J32
 ♠ 10876
 ♥ Q42
 ♦ K86
 ♣ A86

 Dealer: East
 N-S Vulnerable

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

West could be passed out in 1♠. However, some will open an acol 2♣, and with east having a smattering of values, find themselves too high.

North's best lead against spades is an improbable trump. More likely a diamond will emerge. After winning and pulling trumps west will lead a heart. North must play the ace, and exit in diamonds. Now declarer's goose is cooked unless the defence play a high club on air. This is possible, as north may throw a club when declarer pulls trumps.

There will be a lot of 140s here, but some will manage ten tricks, perhaps a few in game.

19

♠
 ♥ J854
 ♦ 10985
 ♣ 97643
 ♠ AKQ652
 ♥ K10
 ♦ K642
 ♣ Q
 ♠ 9843
 ♥ 63
 ♦ AQJ3
 ♣ KJ8
 ♠ J107
 ♥ AQ972
 ♦ 7
 ♣ A1052

 Dealer: South
 E-W Vulnerable

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

There might be the odd east opener, but more likely south will essay 1♥, west overcalling in spades. North could pre-empt in hearts, but that will certainly not keep E/W out of 4♠.

Indeed there is some danger of ending in slam, off two aces, but that is unlikely.

It looks a pretty flat board in 650 E/W, though there could be those allowed to sacrifice in 5♥, only losing 500.

20

♠ AQJ108
 ♥ Q65
 ♦ QJ3
 ♣ A2
 ♠ K4
 ♥ J9832
 ♦ 2
 ♣ Q10843
 ♠ 5
 ♥ A104
 ♦ K109765
 ♣ 765
 ♠ 97632
 ♥ K7
 ♦ A84
 ♣ KJ9

 Dealer: West
 Both Vulnerable

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

The spades are held N/S this time, and again slam is within reach, though unlikely to be bid, with a strong NT opposite 11HCP.

Against north's 4♠ east could lead the diamond 10, won by the queen. Declarer can now play a club to dummy, pick up trumps, cash the club ace, then lead a heart, producing a classic Morton's Fork on east. He has to play low, and the king scores. Now declarer ruffs dummy's last club high, cashes a top spade and overtakes the trump 8 before cashing dummy's last trump, throwing a heart. Now east can be end-played.

Declarer is more likely to play a heart at trick two, allowing east to win, and give west a diamond ruff. Some will miss these possibilities altogether and settle for 650.

21

♠ 8
♥ K107
♦ 107632
♣ Q843

♠ 52
♥ Q92
♦ AK
♣ AK10962

♠ 963
♥ J543
♦ QJ98
♣ J7

♠ AKQJ1074
♥ A86
♦ 54
♣ 5

Dealer: North
N-S Vulnerable

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

Opposite a passed partner 4♠ is probably best in 3rd seat by south. This could provoke 5♣ from west. North, who certainly doesn't want to hear 5♠, doubles.

5♠x can go for 800 (north getting a heart ruff), but may only cede 500.

4♠ will make if west starts with two top clubs. Best defence is to cash a top club, two top diamonds, then exit a trump.

If a trump is played at trick two after a top club, declarer pulls trumps then plays a diamond. After two diamonds west must exit with the heart queen to avoid ceding an extra heart or club and ten tricks.

There will be those getting home in 4♠.

22

♠ 97654
♥ Q5
♦ K43
♣ A85

♠ KQJ1082
♥ A
♦ 109
♣ J1064

♠ J7642
♦ QJ862
♣ 732

♠ A3
♥ K10983
♦ A75
♣ KQ9

Dealer: East
E-W Vulnerable

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

South is best doubling east's 1♠, rather than bidding 1NT with his poor spade stop. No matter, north bids 1NT, and could end up in game. A 2♥ overcall overstates the hearts, and understates south's balanced values.

Playing no trumps south wins the spade king, and plays a heart to the queen. If east cashes spades, setting up the 9, west gets squeezed in the red suits, declarer making nine tricks. If east fails to cash his spades, declarer simply loses a heart to west, with the same result.

It will be interesting to see how many chalk up 400. Some may get penalties when east bids spades again, most likely when south has overcalled 2♥, and this gets passed round, south then doubling to show extras.

23

♠ 764
♥ A2
♦ AQ9875
♣ 43

♠ AK9852
♥ 7
♦ J63
♣ 965

♠ J103
♥ QJ10843
♦ 2
♣ AJ10

♠ Q
♥ K965
♦ K104
♣ KQ872

Dealer: South
Both Vulnerable

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

South opens 1♠ and west may overcall in spades, north then bidding diamonds. When no spade stop is established north will probably declare 5♦.

There are only two obvious losers in 5♦, but west's heart shortage plus three trumps mean best defence holds declarer to ten tricks. On a spade lead west wins and switches to his singleton. Declarer cannot now ruff his spade losers in dummy without playing either a club or a heart. West gets a heart ruff.

Not all defenders will make the right plays, so there could be some getting home in 5♦. Some may manage to declare spades E/W. Best defence takes four tricks, but it is easy to let declarer make ten or even more tricks.

There could be a range of results here.

24

♠ AKQ972
♥ 94
♦ 5
♣ KJ92

♠ 3
♥ A6
♦ AKQJ8642
♣ A6

♠ J104
♥ K10532
♦ 97
♣ 1053

♠ 865
♥ QJ87
♦ 103
♣ Q874

Dealer: West
Neither Vulnerable

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

West probably opens 2♣, possibly 1♦. North will overcall spades. This should warn E/W off 3NT, instead playing 5♦, cold when east turns up with a trick.

I hope nobody opens 3NT on the west hand and watches the opponents cash the first six tricks.

N/S actually have a profitable sacrifice in 5♠, but I doubt many will find that.

25

♠ KQ98
♥ Q9
♦ 1087
♣ A942

♠ 10
♥ KJ10764
♦ AK
♣ J1073

♠ 76542
♥ 52
♦ QJ9
♣ Q65

♠ AJ3
♥ A83
♦ 65432
♣ K8

Dealer: North
E-W Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	3	4	6	1	4
W	3	4	6	1	4

East will probably start proceedings with 1♥, and wind up in 4♥ when west has an opening hand with three card support.

It is possible to make twelve tricks by either setting up diamonds, thanks to the lucky red suit breaks, or by ruffing two clubs in dummy, after guessing the suit correctly.

I suspect the field will be split between 650s and 620s, as not everyone will get everything right.

26

♠ J102
♥ 9765
♦ Q763
♣ Q7

♠ A543
♥ QJ8
♦ KJ4
♣ 953

♠ 986
♥ K10432
♦ 9
♣ A842

♠ KQ7
♥ A
♦ A10852
♣ KJ106

Dealer: East
Both Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	4	6	1	5	5
W	4	6	1	5	5

This is likely to finish in 3NT, but 4♣ and 5♦ are playable.

Declarer can pick up the diamonds without loss, the spades divide, and clubs can be guessed. If everything is done perfectly 660 is possible.

There are likely to be those who lose to the diamond queen, making only 600.

Anyone who bids and makes the diamond slam will have to look through the back of the cards. 650 is available in spades, using similar vision.

This should be largely, but variable, E/W pluses, but some declarers may be too high and go minus.

27

♠ J92
♥ 975
♦ AK73
♣ K108

♠ 653
♥ AJ32
♦ 96
♣ QJ64

♠ Q87
♥ 1086
♦ Q542
♣ A75

♠ AK104
♥ KQ4
♦ J108
♣ 932

Dealer: South
Neither Vulnerable

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

West's weak NT is likely to be passed out, and can squeak home if the defence take their four diamonds, and the top clubs. The contract goes light if they manage a spade switch before clubs are played.

West opens 1♣ in 5 card majors, and some will rebid 1NT over east's 1♥. Those that bid 1♠ leave east to decide whether to bid 1NT with xx diamonds, pass 1♠, or give preference to 2♠, facing a possible (and actual) three card suit.

In this instance bidding 2♣ or passing 1♠ are the winners, with E/W at least in theory going plus. They can also go plus playing 2♥, or by defeating any balancing N/S who declares 2♦.

28

♠ K
♥ 1098742
♦ J6
♣ J762

♠ Q1073
♥ KJ
♦ Q1085
♣ AQ3

♠ 986542
♥ AQ5
♦ A
♣ K98

♠ AJ
♥ 63
♦ K97432
♣ 1054

Dealer: West
N-S Vulnerable

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

This looks a rather flat board, with west declaring 4♠, and making an overtrick.

Unless the trumps are improbably played from dummy (losing to AKJ in north) there is little chance of south playing the trump ace, felling his partner's king.

So it looks like a pretty swingy set will conclude with a large number of 450s E/W, and few, if any, differing scores.

Ave HCP	N 10.25	S 9.82	E 9.54	W 10.39	Balanced	N 8	S 12	E 12	W 15
Voids/singletons	N 2/12	S 0/12	E 1/13	W 2/8	7+ suit	N 0	S 3	E 0	W 1