

♦♠NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION♥♣



*First Interclub – Heat B*

*25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024*

*Commentary by Ian Hamilton*

**1**

♠ J65  
♥ J1065  
♦ 7  
♣ KQJ95

♠ KQ  
♥ 42  
♦ AQ986532  
♣ 3

♠ A873  
♥ A9  
♦ K  
♣ A87642

♠ 10942  
♥ KQ873  
♦ J104  
♣ 10

Dealer: North  
Neither Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	1	-	-
S	-	-	1	-	-
E	3	7	-	2	7
W	3	7	-	2	7

I bet nobody gets to 7NT on this one, there in top tricks when west's diamonds are good for eight tricks. Quite how one gets there is intriguing?

West surely bids and rebids diamonds, but whether east feels he has enough to advance beyond game with a bare king as support is the question. With three aces he probably should.

Well done any in a slam of any description - so long as it is in diamonds or NT. I reckon any slam will be above average.

**2**

♠ 94  
♥ A54  
♦ 1095  
♣ 76532

♠ 1076  
♥ K10  
♦ 862  
♣ AQJ94

♠ AK852  
♥ Q976  
♦ AJ3  
♣ 8

♠ QJ3  
♥ J832  
♦ KQ74  
♣ K10

Dealer: East  
N-S Vulnerable

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

4♠ is the spot, and E/W should find this when east opens the suit, and west has three card support and sufficient values to (just) bid at the two level - not that 2♣ will excite east, and 4♠ is no picnic.

However, the Kx in pard's second suit will surely spur west to jump raise spades and east will usually bid game.

4♠ is in some peril on a diamond lead, but declarer can take top trumps and finesse clubs for diamond pitches - two in the event when the king falls in two rounds. South can only ruff with a winner. A good heart guess sees declarer making eleven tricks, otherwise ten.

**3**

♠ AJ432  
♥ AQJ74  
♦  
♣ J97

♠ K65  
♥ 2  
♦ AQ963  
♣ AKQ4

♠ 10  
♥ K9653  
♦ J8542  
♣ 103

♠ Q987  
♥ 108  
♦ K107  
♣ 8652

Dealer: South  
E-W Vulnerable

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

Assuming north tries a Michaels 2♦ over west's opener east does best to bounce straight to the diamond game, presumably buying it.

5♦ should make, declarer starting trumps with the knave and picking up the suit. Two of declarer's black suit losers are ruffed and the other pitched on the heart king.

Should N/S sacrifice in spades they can be four light, losing 800. Declarer has to ruff the fourth club with the knave, but cannot access south to pick up trumps without allowing a heart ruff.

**4**

♠ A65  
♥ KJ102  
♦ AJ7  
♣ KQ10

♠ 1072  
♥ AQ63  
♦ 543  
♣ 876

♠ KJ984  
♥ 7  
♦  
♣ AJ95432

♠ Q3  
♥ 9854  
♦ KQ109862  
♣

Dealer: West  
Both Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	6	6	-	5
S	-	6	5	-	3
E	4	-	-	1	-
W	4	-	-	2	-

N/S should easily get to a red suit game, possibly getting some competition in the black suits from E/W. North can make slam in either red suit, rather luckily, when the club ace can be ruffed out, trumps lie nicely, and east cannot profitably lead spades. East cannot get a diamond ruff either, the suit not played till one round of trumps has gone.

In practice, south could declare, depending on methods, making it a lot trickier, and by no means all will make the twelve tricks possible if the diamond ruff is missed.

Well done any with a four figure N/S score, indeed the heart game made.

**5**

♠ K9863  
♥ 732  
♦ Q10  
♣ 1032

♠ Q74  
♥ 104  
♦ K97653  
♣ 54

♠ AJ1052  
♥ KJ65  
♦ J  
♣ AKJ

♠ AQ98  
♥ A842  
♦ Q9876  
♣

Dealer: North  
N-S Vulnerable

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

Although south has a decent, shapely hand it is E/W who can make anything meaningful. South may well compete with a double over east's 1♠, west maybe raising, and could push the boat out further whether or not west raises the stakes.

N/S can make 1♣, so losing 100 in 2♣ isn't a tragedy with E/W able to make at least eight tricks in spades, despite the 5:0 break.

However, south could easily drive too high and lose 200, not a good result on a part-score hand. Will anyone be doubled in 2♠, almost certainly making at least eight tricks?

**6**

♠ Q632  
♥ 87  
♦ 64  
♣ KQJ52

♠ 10  
♥ KQJ65  
♦ K95  
♣ A986

♠ AKJ4  
♥ A104  
♦ Q72  
♣ 1073

♠ 9875  
♥ 932  
♦ AJ1083  
♣ 4

Dealer: East  
E-W Vulnerable

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

E/W should reach 4♥, whether east opens 1NT or a minor. A club is the most effective opening lead.

Ten tricks are straightforward by taking a diamond pitch on a top spade, leading to the diamond king, before cross-ruffing.

Declarer can make 650, but risks defeat, by taking a spade finesse, then leading a diamond to the king. If the king scores two diamonds can be thrown on spades, otherwise two clubs - a classic Morton's Fork.

Will any rack up eleven in this way?

**7**

♠ AQ542  
♥ A7  
♦ A9  
♣ QJ62

♠ 103  
♥ 964  
♦ Q5432  
♣ AK7

♠ 98  
♥ J102  
♦ K76  
♣ 109843

♠ KJ76  
♥ KQ853  
♦ J108  
♣ 5

Dealer: South  
Both Vulnerable

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

We have a cold 6♠ contract for N/S if any can reach it, north opening the suit, and south having game invitational values in his passed hand, best shown by a jump in hearts, promising a fit.

Those that establish the club shortage in south may well get there when north has a nice heart holding. The even breaks in the majors help considerably too.

Let us hope as decent number manage to record 1430.

**8**

♠ KQ109  
♥ A93  
♦ Q6  
♣ J1076

♠ A853  
♥ 10752  
♦ 1084  
♣ K2

♠ 742  
♥ 86  
♦ J953  
♣ A543

♠ J6  
♥ KQJ4  
♦ AK72  
♣ Q98

Dealer: West  
Neither Vulnerable

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

N/S again, but presumably in 3NT this time when no eight card major suit fit is forthcoming.

Indeed, it looks a pretty flat board, declarer simply knocking out the spade ace and scoring 430.

Could anyone sneak a club trick and make eleven tricks?

**9**

♠ Q642  
 ♥ A7  
 ♦ 1072  
 ♣ 10986  
 ♠ A  
 ♥ Q1086  
 ♦ AJ6  
 ♣ 75432  
 ♠ KJ53  
 ♥ KJ54  
 ♦ K3  
 ♣ KQJ  
 ♠ 10987  
 ♥ 932  
 ♦ Q9854  
 ♣ A

 Dealer: North  
 E-W Vulnerable

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

Where south opens a strong NT, that will likely be passed out. Where Acol opens south 1♥, north bids 1♠, and could find himself far too high declaring the suit.

2♠ is not an inherently poor contract, but the defence can take two diamonds, two black suit aces and two club ruffs, though not everyone will manage that.

1NT fares little better, west presumably leading a club and east switching to diamonds, inflicting a one trick set.

Sometimes defending is more fun than declaring, and a bit unlucky that finding the 8 card major suit fit here may be detrimental.

**10**

♠ Q10965  
 ♥ 103  
 ♦ KQ982  
 ♣ A  
 ♠ 87  
 ♥ KQ64  
 ♦ 53  
 ♣ 109532  
 ♠ K3  
 ♥ 92  
 ♦ AJ1076  
 ♣ Q876  
 ♠ AJ42  
 ♥ AJ875  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ KJ4

 Dealer: East  
 Both Vulnerable

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

N/S should end in 4♠, whether south makes a simple or jump raise of north's suit.

Ten tricks are straight-forward, but making eleven is slightly harder. Declarer needs to get a heart pitch on a club, then lead a diamond. If west wins, trumps can be played and north's losing diamonds ruffed. If west ducks a cross-ruff ensues, and there is some danger of twelve tricks.

**11**

♠ K42  
 ♥ 7  
 ♦ K1054  
 ♣ KQ965  
 ♠ AQJ3  
 ♥ J105  
 ♦ AQ987  
 ♣ 8  
 ♠ 10876  
 ♥ AKQ94  
 ♦ J1072  
 ♣ J1072  
 ♠ 95  
 ♥ 8632  
 ♦ J632  
 ♣ A43

 Dealer: South  
 Neither Vulnerable

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

E/W could declare either major after north overcalls west's 1♦ with 2♣ - east could either double or bid his stronger hearts. Some will get to game.

Ten tricks in either major are available, but do require a number of ruffs in one hand. The defence can switch to trumps after one top club, holding declarer to ten tricks. Otherwise, eleven can come home, but careful entry handling is required.

Well done any with 200 or 450 on the card.

**12**

♠ 97  
 ♥ 7632  
 ♦ KJ93  
 ♣ Q73  
 ♠ K82  
 ♥ 98  
 ♦ A862  
 ♣ J1064  
 ♠ 653  
 ♥ J1054  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ K9852  
 ♠ AQJ104  
 ♥ AKQ  
 ♦ Q1075  
 ♣ A

 Dealer: West  
 N-S Vulnerable

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

Many will try 2NT on the south hand in last seat, and will probably declare 3NT when no major suit fit is found. Unfortunately, this is beaten on a club lead, west getting in with the spade king and picking up the club suit.

Both 4♠ on the 5:2 fit or 5♦ are the places to be, but it is hard to find a credible auction to either. Maybe opening 1♠ and jumping to 3♦ over 1NT is the answer. Opening 2♣ likely leaves too little room for exploration.

5♦ is the superior spot, 4♠ likely beaten on a club force had trumps been 4:2.

Of course, 3NT is an easy make if west holds the club king, declarer having two club tricks now, and succeeding by playing on either spades or diamonds - not a lucky hand for some.

**13**

♠ 53  
 ♥ Q2  
 ♦ QJ108  
 ♣ K8762  
 ♠ A1064  
 ♥ AK1085  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ AQ5  
 ♠ J8  
 ♥ J764  
 ♦ 9642  
 ♣ J104  
 ♠ KQ972  
 ♥ 93  
 ♦ K753  
 ♣ 93

 Dealer: North  
 Both Vulnerable

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

Another off-shape possible 2NT opener, west's this time. Sadly, east may pass, and game go a-begging, either in hearts or in no trumps, thanks to the kind 4:4 diamond and 2:2 heart breaks.

Again, west might be better opening at the one level, and if passed by east south may protect, giving west another shot.

Will many manage the top score of 4♥+1?

**14**

♠ 983  
 ♥ 103  
 ♦ J9732  
 ♣ Q109  
 ♠ KJ5  
 ♥ QJ642  
 ♦ 86  
 ♣ A83  
 ♠ Q742  
 ♥ A85  
 ♦ Q54  
 ♣ J74  
 ♠ A106  
 ♥ K97  
 ♦ AK10  
 ♣ K652

 Dealer: East  
 Neither Vulnerable

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

A south strong NT should be passed out, and can be made by playing on clubs after winning the heart king. The club queen an entry to finesse the knave. Sadly, some may reasonably finesse the 9. This or playing on diamonds should lead to defeat.

Where south opens 1♣ E/W should get to their heart fit. They should only make seven tricks, but losing 50 in 2♥ is better than losing 90 defending 1NT, albeit some may well actually go plus E/W beating that spot. N/S are actually best playing in diamonds, but again a sensible auction to the top spot eludes me.

Lots of variables.

**15**

♠ Q10  
 ♥ AQ106  
 ♦ 1085  
 ♣ J1085  
 ♠ J98642  
 ♥ 985  
 ♦ Q9  
 ♣ A7  
 ♠ K3  
 ♥ K732  
 ♦ AKJ6  
 ♣ 643  
 ♠ A75  
 ♥ J4  
 ♦ 7432  
 ♣ KQ92

 Dealer: South  
 N-S Vulnerable

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

E/W can make 4♣, even on a heart or club lead, either setting up defensive tricks. However, declarer can counter by playing four diamonds, pitching a heart and club. North can ruff, but only at the expense of a trump trick. A rather lucky ten tricks.

E/W could get to the winning spot if west opens his threadbare suit with a Weak Two or Multi, but it is unlikely after a pass and an east Weak NT, though they should at least declare spades.

There could be two consecutive rather lucky games E/W here.

**16**

♠ Q10743  
 ♥ Q43  
 ♦ A10  
 ♣ A103  
 ♠ J9  
 ♥ AK10  
 ♦ Q82  
 ♣ KJ984  
 ♠ K8  
 ♥ 8652  
 ♦ J974  
 ♣ Q76  
 ♠ A652  
 ♥ J97  
 ♦ K653  
 ♣ 52

 Dealer: West  
 E-W Vulnerable

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

N/S surely get to play this one, most likely in a spade part-score, after north has overcalled in the suit.

Indeed, it looks as if it could be a pretty flat board, the defence getting a trump, two hearts and a club somewhere along the line.

Not the most exciting hand around.

**17**

♠ 104  
 ♥ KJ  
 ♦ AK9532  
 ♣ 754  
 ♠ AQJ65  
 ♥ Q1086  
 ♦ Q74  
 ♣ 6  
 ♠ K832  
 ♥ A93  
 ♦ J8  
 ♣ AQ108  
 ♠ 97  
 ♥ 7542  
 ♦ 106  
 ♣ KJ932

 Dealer: North  
 Neither Vulnerable

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

West should respond at least 2♠ to east's take-out double of north's 1♦, and surely will get to game in the suit when east is non-minimum.

Declarer does need to be careful to ruff high after three rounds of diamonds, but the rest of the hand is straightforward, the hearts lying as they do.

Could be another flattish board.

**18**

♠ 10976  
 ♥ 64  
 ♦ A2  
 ♣ K10952  
 ♠ Q3  
 ♥ QJ82  
 ♦ 108654  
 ♣ AJ  
 ♠ AK54  
 ♥ 95  
 ♦ J73  
 ♣ Q743  
 ♠ J82  
 ♥ AK1073  
 ♦ KQ9  
 ♣ 86

 Dealer: East  
 N-S Vulnerable

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

Most will be in 1NT by south, after either a Weak NT or 1♥ and 1NT rebid. The best lead is a diamond.

Declarer succeeds by keeping on playing spades, the defence unable to set up seven tricks before declarer has his quota.

Surprisingly, top spot goes to the Moysian 4:3 spade fit, where an extra trick is available on cross-ruff lines, or by setting up an extra club.

Nobody will be there, will they?

**19**

♠ Q10986  
 ♥ A105  
 ♦ J32  
 ♣ 72  
 ♠ 54  
 ♥ 76  
 ♦ 10975  
 ♣ AQJ64  
 ♠ 73  
 ♥ J9843  
 ♦ Q64  
 ♣ K108  
 ♠ AKJ2  
 ♥ KQ2  
 ♦ AK8  
 ♣ 953

 Dealer: South  
 E-W Vulnerable

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

I hope everyone is playing transfers over south's 2NT, which if raised to game by north is beaten on a club lead so long as east doesn't block the suit.

Most should find 4♠ after the transfer, which should only lose two top clubs and a diamond.

Science is usually best, but not always.

**20**

♠ K8642  
 ♥ A5  
 ♦ AJ107  
 ♣ 74  
 ♠ J10  
 ♥ J10432  
 ♦ 5  
 ♣ J9532  
 ♠ A93  
 ♥ 76  
 ♦ K982  
 ♣ K1086  
 ♠ Q75  
 ♥ KQ98  
 ♦ Q643  
 ♣ AQ

 Dealer: West  
 Both Vulnerable

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

Science should again win the day. Although 3NT can be made, 4♠ is superior, and should be reached on the 5:3 fit.

In 3NT declarer wins the club lead and guesses that east has the spade ace, leading to a red winner in north then leading a spade. East must duck or the whole suit is good. Having stolen a trick the diamond king is knocked out.

In 4♠ declarer is best to finesse the club queen if the suit is led. Otherwise, north needs entered in hearts to make the same spade play. If east ducks north's club goes on the third heart as the defence's second spade trick ruffs.

A nice Morton's fork in two different contracts.

**21**

♠ 87  
♥ J52  
♦ KJ876  
♣ 976

♠ KQ  
♥ 10874  
♦ 542  
♣ AJ43

♠ 10932  
♥ KQ3  
♦ Q109  
♣ Q85

♠ AJ654  
♥ A96  
♦ A3  
♣ K102

 Dealer: North  
N-S Vulnerable

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

South is liable to be passed out in either 1♠ or 1NT, E/W not having suitable shape nor values to intervene.

1♠ should succeed as the defence can be forced to help in the side suits, when the trump suit lies helpfully for declarer. Certainly, if the diamond suit is eliminated by ruffing the third round there is no escape.

1NT by south is likely to be successful so long as declarer doesn't go for broke, attempting to make five diamond tricks by finessing the queen. Indeed, theoretically the only successful defence involves west leading the suit. The third round squeezes south.

As often, 1NT can be a battleground. Will anyone get to 2♦, which cannot be beaten?

**22**

♠ Q3  
♥ KQJ984  
♦ 108542  
♣ 108542

♠ J764  
♥ A2  
♦ AQ9742  
♣ A

♠ A1085  
♥ 753  
♦ KJ83  
♣ 93

♠ K92  
♥ 106  
♦ 1065  
♣ KQJ76

 Dealer: East  
E-W Vulnerable

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

At last we may have a competitive auction, N/S's hearts or clubs battling E/W's diamonds or spades.

In theory, E/W should be the victors, able to make game in either of their suits. However, N/S might have other ideas, advancing to the 5 level, and succeeding in a profitable sacrifice.

If E/W do declare they may need to bring in the spade suit for one loser. With north marked as short in the suit, the actual lie of doubleton honour may need to be played for, the spade ten finessed, and queen felled. Running the knave, then finessing the 9 when covered loses out.

**23**

♠ AJ3  
♥ 642  
♦ Q9864  
♣ 86

♠ Q952  
♥ AK103  
♦ A2  
♣ 932

♠ 1087  
♥ J987  
♦ KJ5  
♣ QJ4

♠ K64  
♥ Q5  
♦ 1073  
♣ AK1075

 Dealer: South  
Both Vulnerable

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

This looks like another low-level battle, south probably trying to make 1NT. This shouldn't succeed, the defence able to make four hearts and three diamonds. Declarer might get home (with overtricks) if he gets a spade lead, double finessing clubs, using the two spade entries.

Where south opens 1♣ west could double, getting to 2♥. Unfortunately, this spot loses three clubs and three spades.

Another fun contest.

**24**

♠ Q109  
♥ QJ8763  
♦ AQ  
♣ 104

♠ 853  
♥ 10  
♦ J10754  
♣ Q982

♠ KJ742  
♥ K4  
♦ K3  
♣ AJ75

♠ A6  
♥ A952  
♦ 9862  
♣ K63

 Dealer: West  
Neither Vulnerable

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

4♥ should be the spot by north, brushing aside spade intervention.

Sadly, another flat board looks on the cards, declarer losing a diamond, spade and club before writing 420 on the card.

**25**

♠ AQ76  
♥ 7  
♦ KJ52  
♣ A842

♠ 1043  
♥ 1096  
♦ A10863  
♣ K3

♠ KJ8  
♥ KQ84  
♦ 94  
♣ 10975

♠ 952  
♥ AJ532  
♦ Q7  
♣ QJ6

Dealer: North  
E-W Vulnerable

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

I suspect most will be in 1NT, probably by south, when no decent fit is established.

This contract should come home, theoretically with an overtrick, when spades divide. With hearts lying kindly for declarer the suit cannot profitably be attacked by the defence, despite their superior length in the suit.

This is typical of may low level contracts where multiple lines are available, and sometimes a bit of a lottery as to which proves the winner.

**26**

♠ J93  
♥ KQ74  
♦ 95  
♣ J987

♠ 106  
♥ J9852  
♦ AQ43  
♣ A5

♠ 8752  
♥ A6  
♦ 82  
♣ Q10432

♠ AKQ4  
♥ 103  
♦ KJ1076  
♣ K6

Dealer: East  
Both Vulnerable

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

Again we could find N/S in 1NT, maybe by north this time. A club lead gives declarer a trick and a tempo to get diamonds going, and could result in more than seven tricks. This may need declarer to play low on a west heart switch forcing east to play the ace on air.

Again, there are multiple variations in the play, but few will fail to chalk up at least seven tricks.

**27**

♠ J10642  
♥ 106  
♦ Q4  
♣ K1082

♠ A  
♥ QJ983  
♦ 10763  
♣ 954

♠ KQ95  
♥ AK4  
♦ AK95  
♣ A6

♠ 873  
♥ 752  
♦ J82  
♣ QJ73

Dealer: South  
Neither Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	2	6	6	3	5
W	2	6	6	3	5

Sadly, this slam hand may not see the light of day in many clubs, but E/W can make twelve tricks in either red suit when both red suits behave and west's losing clubs can be pitched on spades before the defence can ruff in.

East can open 2♣ and rebid 2NT, showing 23-24, west transferring to hearts. However, with only 30 HCP between the two hands slam is unlikely to be bid, and is really only there because every card is working.

Will any manage it - or even play it?

**28**

♠ 64  
♥ K6543  
♦ J108654  
♣

♠ Q982  
♥ 98  
♦ AQ97  
♣ 986

♠ A1075  
♥ Q10  
♦ K2  
♣ AKQJ4

♠ KJ3  
♥ AJ72  
♦ 3  
♣ 107532

Dealer: West  
N-S Vulnerable

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

E/W may well find their spade fit on this next likely redundant exhibit, but are in danger of getting too high, rather unluckily, as north can get a club ruff and the defence at least two further hearts and another trump.

This completes the set of a mixed bag of games, part-scores and a few slams, with some tricky plays and defence thrown in.

It is hoped they were enjoyed.

Ave HCP	N 8.93	S 11.18	E 9.89	W 10.00	Balanced	N 13	S 17	E 16	W 11
Voids/singletons	N 3/4	S 2/6	E 2/7	W 0/11	7+ suit	N 0	S 1	E 1	W 1