

♦♠NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION♥♣



Third Interclub – Heat B

14th - 15th January 2026

Commentary by Ian Hamilton

1

♠ A10
♥ AQJ
♦ Q983
♣ Q1075

♠ 42
♥ K764
♦ A1062
♣ K86

♠ 953
♥ 10952
♦ K5
♣ AJ93

♠ KQJ876
♥ 83
♦ J74
♣ 42

Dealer: North
Neither Vulnerable

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

Getting to 3NT after south has opened a Weak Two or Multi in spades will be a challenge. E/W are far more likely to end up in 3♥ or 4♥.

In 3NT, south has no entries after the first spade is ducked, so declarer can finesse clubs and set up three hearts and a diamond winner.

Declaring hearts, declarer can win the second spade and try the heart queen. Even if ducked, the ace is cashed, three rounds of clubs and a spade ruff follow. A diamond leaves north with no recourse.

It takes a club lead to defeat 4♥. Will many get home?

2

♠ J974
♥ 3
♦ A74
♣ J9643

♠ 62
♥ 106542
♦ 10952
♣ K8

♠ 1083
♥ KJ98
♦ 863
♣ Q105

♠ AKQ5
♥ AQ7
♦ KQJ
♣ A72

Dealer: East
N-S Vulnerable

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

Methods may prevent N/S reaching 4♠ via Stayman after south has shown 25-26 balanced, by opening 2♣ and rebidding 3NT, ending it.

Kokish solves the problem, south rebidding 2♥ (rather than 3NT) over 2♦, with a forced 2♠ response. Now 2NT shows 25-26 and there is room for Stayman.

In 3NT, there are ten tricks on a heart lead, eleven if missed, clubs set up.

In 4♠, declarer can ruff two hearts in north, just losing two clubs. Indeed, on a heart lead, the red suits can be eliminated, two trumps cashed, and ace and another club played. If west has failed to un-block the king he is end-played for a ruff and discard and twelve tricks.

3

♠ J7
♥ KJ
♦ KQ106542
♣ K8

♠ A543
♥ Q8432
♦ AJ
♣ 63

♠ KQ1096
♥ 97
♦ 97
♣ AQJ7

♠ 82
♥ A1065
♦ 83
♣ 109542

Dealer: South
E-W Vulnerable

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

North might try the effect of 3♦ over west's 1♥, but that will be brushed aside, east's 3♠ raised to game. A 4♦ bid might succeed, but east simply doubles, and west removes to 4♠.

4♠ makes in some comfort, clubs good for a diamond pitch, only two hearts lost.

Will any miss it, or only make ten tricks? The play can be mistimed, but it shouldn't matter, the club king being doubleton.

4

♠ A954
♥ A6
♦ KJ10
♣ AKQ2

♠ K1063
♥ Q74
♦ 932
♣ 1054

♠ Q8
♥ K1082
♦ 875
♣ J976

♠ J72
♥ J953
♦ AQ64
♣ 83

Dealer: West
Both Vulnerable

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

North with a big hand this time, opening 2NT. South hasn't quite enough for slam, and there is a case for ignoring a possible 4:4 heart fit, and simply raising to 3NT. Those that take this course may well get the favourable heart lead, making ten tricks fairly easy.

On minor suit lead north can win and play a spade towards the knave, eventually setting up the 9. The defence either play hearts, ceding a trick, or exit passively, allowing the spade 9 its day.

I bet not that many make ten tricks without help.

5

♠ KQJ932
 ♥ 873
 ♦ QJ7
 ♣ 9

♠ A7
 ♥ AJ102
 ♦ 9432
 ♣ K76

♠ 654
 ♥ 964
 ♦ K8
 ♣ Q10854

Dealer: North
N-S Vulnerable

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

N/S might steal it if east passes a north weak 2♠ or Multi, south raising to the 3 level, 3♥, pass or correct if playing the Multi. More likely east will double north's opener, and west will trust east to have at least four hearts, declaring 4♥.

In the alternative 3NT, on a spade lead, declarer sooner or later is forced into the club finesse, getting home on the nose.

4♥ scores better, even on a singleton club lead. Declarer simply wins and plays two diamonds. South can unblock and get a ruff but ruffs a loser, a spade later pitched on clubs. Another diamond is set up after trumps are drawn. On a spade lead the play is similar, diamonds played before trumps, or declarer is potentially forced.

6

♠ Q1084
 ♥ 105
 ♦ K832
 ♣ 932

♠ A9652
 ♥ Q32
 ♦ 6
 ♣ AQ76

♠ KJ987
 ♥ J109754
 ♦ K5

Dealer: East
E-W Vulnerable

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

E/W will surely get to 4♠ after east opens the suit. South might intervene, even vulnerable, with Michaels, if played. West can show a sound spade raise by bidding hearts (the known oppo suit), but east will shut up shop in game.

A diamond lead is the most testing, the ace winning. Double dummy, the diamond queen is ruffed, the spade king is played and declarer exits ace and another club, end-playing south.

In real life few will manage this, the only likely 420s being where south leads hearts rather than diamonds - though few will do that.

7

♠ Q107643
 ♥ A4
 ♦ 98
 ♣ K93

♠ J82
 ♥ K107653
 ♦ Q
 ♣ 654

♠ AK5
 ♥ J8
 ♦ J10762
 ♣ AQ8

Dealer: South
Both Vulnerable

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

This looks like another 4♠ spot, South at the helm after a strong NT, north where 1♦ is opened.

In truth, it looks a pretty flat board, declarer making the obvious ten top tricks on a heart lead. However, some might lead a top diamond from west, then play another round for east to ruff. Now diamonds can be ruffed good for a heart pitch.

Otherwise, it looks like a lot of 420s, though maybe some will miss game.

8

♠ 963
 ♥ J9865
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ K54

♠ A7542
 ♥ KQ4
 ♦ 105
 ♣ AJ3

♠ K
 ♥ 1073
 ♦ 986432
 ♣ Q72

♠ QJ108
 ♥ A2
 ♦ KQ7
 ♣ 10986

Dealer: West
Neither Vulnerable

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

It may be awkward for N/S to get into the auction where east opens 1♠ and west tries a paper-thin 1NT, or indeed if east opens the weak variety.

The beauty of declaring at love all comes to the fore, as N/S shouldn't make more than eight tricks in defence, whereas declaring they can score 120, beating the 100 penalty defending.

Of course, declarers and defences can slip from grace, so N/S will not consist of simply plus 100s.

9

♠ J10765
 ♥ Q107
 ♦ 975
 ♣ 76
 ♠ AKQ2
 ♥ 653
 ♦ A102
 ♣ KJ5
 ♠ 43
 ♥ A9
 ♦ KQJ6
 ♣ AQ983
 ♠ 98
 ♥ KJ842
 ♦ 843
 ♣ 1042

Dealer: North
E-W Vulnerable

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

E/W are cold for 7NT, with 13 top tricks. However, they have only 33 HCP, so may well not reach the Grand. It is a rather lucky spot, every card working.

Those that open a natural 1♣, if promising length, just might get there. If west simply responds 1♠ and east reverses into diamonds he gets his strength over, and it just might be bid when west knows his clubs are great cards.

Others might simply bid a strong NT, raised to 6NT.

Results awaited with interest.

10

♠ AKQ
 ♥ 83
 ♦ 84
 ♣ AKJ963
 ♠ 954
 ♥ Q10962
 ♦ K63
 ♣ 75
 ♠ 1086
 ♥ A4
 ♦ AJ102
 ♣ Q1082
 ♠ J732
 ♥ KJ75
 ♦ Q975
 ♣ 4

Dealer: East
Both Vulnerable

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

North might double or bid a heavy 2♣ should east open 1♦ and west stretch to 1♥. Double is liable to fetch a 1♠ response. Whether there is adverse bidding or not north is likely to be declaring clubs, maybe too high, at the 3 level.

Unfortunately for north, even a good heart guess should result in the loss of three red tricks and two trumps.

Will many norths stay low enough to go plus?

11

♠ Q5
 ♥ AK10982
 ♦ AQ42
 ♣ 8
 ♠ AKJ1096
 ♥ Q5
 ♦ J105
 ♣ 32
 ♠ 7
 ♥ 643
 ♦ K973
 ♣ AQ765
 ♠ 8432
 ♥ J7
 ♦ 86
 ♣ KJ1094

Dealer: South
Neither Vulnerable

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

My guess is that 2♠ will prove the final contract at many tables after north overcalls 1♠ with 2♥, east makes a Sputnik double, but west simply rebids his good suit.

West can make nine tricks so long as he rises with the ace should north lead or switch to a club, thus avoiding an adverse ruff. Ten tricks also involves felling the spade queen, though many will do so as only one finesse is possible anyway. Indeed, they might make ten tricks, as north can't access south's club winner.

Any norths that advance in hearts should go light, maybe held to seven tricks, though it is difficult for the defence to avoid giving south the club king.

However, losing 100 is cheaper than ceding 140/170.

12

♠ K985
 ♥ 52
 ♦ K5
 ♣ KJ764
 ♠ 10732
 ♥ 10984
 ♦ J
 ♣ 9852
 ♠ 4
 ♥ A6
 ♦ Q10976432
 ♣ A10
 ♠ AQJ6
 ♥ KQJ73
 ♦ A8
 ♣ Q3

Dealer: West
N-S Vulnerable

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

East surely makes a high pre-empt in diamonds, maybe opening 5♦. However, south surely takes some action, double the most flexible.

The auction could end in a variety of spots, 5♦x perhaps the most likely, it losing the obvious five tricks for a 500 penalty.

A lower pre-empt could see N/S declaring one of their major suit fits, spades the better. With east having two aces west gets a diamond ruff, and a trump promotion where hearts are declared.

13

♠ J6
♥ A1093
♦ A7632
♣ 107

♠ 85
♥ KJ8752
♦ Q
♣ J642

♠ 974
♥ Q64
♦ KJ95
♣ Q98

♠ AKQ1032
♥
♦ 1084
♣ AK53

Dealer: North
Both Vulnerable

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

N/S should get to 4♠ when passed hand north owns up to some values, either responding 1NT or a thin 2♦ to south's opening 1♠.

Perhaps west should find the winning trump lead, but many will opt for the singleton diamond. This allows declarer to pitch a diamond on the heart ace and cross-ruff clubs and hearts. With trumps 3:2 only a diamond is lost at the end.

Will many have 680 on the card?

14

♠ 3
♥ K52
♦ QJ96543
♣ K4

♠ Q87
♥ J1096
♦ A8
♣ 9875

♠ 10965
♥ AQ43
♦ 72
♣ J103

♠ AKJ42
♥ 87
♦ K10
♣ AQ62

Dealer: East
Neither Vulnerable

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

BBO robots play 3♦ by north over south's 1♠ as an "invite". With a decent hand and fitting diamonds south might try 3NT, despite the obvious heart flaw. Most systems will see north either responding 1NT or a thin 2♦, the same decisions resulting.

3NT fails today as west has two shots at finding the heart lead or switch, so a one trick defeat beckons. With north declaring some might be blessed with a heart lead and succeed.

I suppose a few could declare diamonds and go plus, but suspect many N/Ss will be recording minus 50. Indeed, 5♦ is a better spot than 3NT, which is beaten on a heart lead where they are 5:3 with the diamond ace even with the heart king scoring - whereas the minor suit game only needs the heart ace onside. Unlucky.

15

♠ Q62
♥ Q9654
♦ 1095
♣ 54

♠ KJ
♥ A832
♦ Q6
♣ AQ1092

♠ A97543
♥ J7
♦ 432
♣ K7

♠ 108
♥ K10
♦ AKJ87
♣ J863

Dealer: South
N-S Vulnerable

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

West presumably overcalls south's 1♦ with 2♣. East has a fitting club card so is just about worth 2♠. E/W might or might not reach the spade game.

Today, 4♠ could succeed. Declarer can pick up trumps by pinning south's 10, or the defence might lead the suit in an effort to prevent a diamond ruff.

Will many get there and succeed?

16

♠ A54
♥ K3
♦ A954
♣ K652

♠ KQ83
♥ 9842
♦ J2
♣ AJ3

♠ 62
♥ AJ
♦ Q10876
♣ 10984

♠ J1097
♥ Q10765
♦ K3
♣ Q7

Dealer: West
E-W Vulnerable

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

West might stretch to open 1♣, though Acoll has to pass. North opens a Weak NT or 1♦ if able, but could feel frozen out of the auction if west opens first.

If west opens E/W could end up in 1NT, a bit of a poisoned chalice, this spot unlikely to make more than six tricks, maybe losing 200. Left alone, N/S could be in 1NT or perhaps 2♥, either of which should get over the line.

These sort of hands are where a bit of luck comes into play, sometimes opening lightish succeeding, other times not. At adverse vulnerability opening west's hand to me looks ill-advised, losing 200 a real risk.

17

♠ 1043
 ♥ A84
 ♦ AK85
 ♣ A107
 ♠ 952
 ♥ QJ1092
 ♦ J32
 ♣ K5
 ♠ AKQJ876
 ♥ 73
 ♦ Q
 ♣ J92
 ♠ K65
 ♥ 109764
 ♦ Q8643

Dealer: North
Neither Vulnerable

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

If north opens 1♦ east likely has a pot at 4♠ or certainly bids the suit. South has few high cards but shape and length in diamonds might see 5♦ declared.

Over a strong NT bid east may pass, hoping to be on lead, though presumably bids his suit if south removes.

4♠ is at least two off unless the defence broach clubs or set up the diamond knave. However, it is a great paying spot with game or even slam on N/S.

Remarkably, 6♦ can be made by guessing the club king being doubleton, playing the percentages in trumps, and ruffing spades in south.

I bet nobody manages it. Indeed, many may not even be in a minor suit game.

18

♠ A8742
 ♥ A92
 ♦ 3
 ♣ AQ107
 ♠ KQJ93
 ♥ K8
 ♦ A875
 ♣ J3
 ♠ 105
 ♥ QJ10754
 ♦ Q94
 ♣ K8
 ♠ 6
 ♥ 63
 ♦ KJ1062
 ♣ 96542

Dealer: East
N-S Vulnerable

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

An east weak 2♥ could cause havoc, west passing and watching a 2♣ card appear from north. The defence should take at least seven tricks for a 200 penalty, wise not to double, as N/S have a better spot.

If west is the opener 1♠ silences north and probably everyone else. It should chalk up 80.

If course N/S can make 130 in clubs, but the suit may never see the light of day unless south reopens with an unusual 2NT, showing the minors. Even then N/S are probably in game.

I can't see many N/S pluses, despite it being their hand.

19

♠ K7
 ♥ AQ976
 ♦ 642
 ♣ 952
 ♠ 108653
 ♥ J105
 ♦ 9
 ♣ Q863
 ♠ QJ9
 ♥ K4
 ♦ KQJ5
 ♣ AKJ4
 ♠ A42
 ♥ 832
 ♦ A10873
 ♣ 107

Dealer: South
E-W Vulnerable

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

North might try a Weak Two in hearts in third seat, or leave east to open 2NT. The latter could be passed out or transferred to 3♠.

Over a north 2♥ east doubles and west should play 2♠, though may well get raised.

The spade part-score is the best spot for E/W, it near impossible to beat.

Will most get to the right spot? 2NT isn't it on a heart lead or switch.

20

♠ 752
 ♥ AQJ
 ♦ 10754
 ♣ A94
 ♠ KQJ103
 ♥ 92
 ♦ J86
 ♣ Q75
 ♠ A64
 ♥ 1064
 ♦ AKQ2
 ♣ KJ6
 ♠ 98
 ♥ K8753
 ♦ 93
 ♣ 10832

Dealer: West
Both Vulnerable

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

E/W should get to 4♠ by E/W whether east opens 1♦ or a strong NT. Should north open 1♦ east overcalls 1NT, and should find the same spot.

The defence need to find the heart lead, awkward from either polarity, south with the unsupported king, north with AQJ tight.

It looks like a lot of 650s E/W to me, only a heart and club lost.

21

♠ 87432
 ♥ A975
 ♦ Q65
 ♣ Q
 ♠ J6
 ♥ K104
 ♦ A84
 ♣ AK952
 ♠ Q95
 ♥ QJ86
 ♦ K73
 ♣ 764
 ♠ AK10
 ♥ 32
 ♦ J1092
 ♣ J1083

 Dealer: North
 N-S Vulnerable

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

The bidding is liable to run to west, who will open 1♣ or a strong NT, the auction ending in 1NT or 2NT, usually by west.

A spade lead speeds up play, declarer winning the third round and knocking out the heart ace. The defence cash two more spades and can give up.

A diamond lead is a bit more testing, declarer having to win and play hearts. Assuming north wins the ace early dummy wins a diamond and has to play spades, lucky with the lie.

Few will lead a opening diamond, so it looks pretty flat with eight tricks and 120 on the card.

22

♠ K742
 ♥ 82
 ♦ K742
 ♣ 976
 ♠ 105
 ♥ AQJ1074
 ♦ Q6
 ♣ A54
 ♠ AQ3
 ♥ K3
 ♦ A10953
 ♣ 1083
 ♠ J986
 ♥ 965
 ♦ J8
 ♣ KQJ2

 Dealer: East
 E-W Vulnerable

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

It looks like either east will play 3NT or E/W have a shot at 4♥. The best lead is a club in both instances.

Double dummy, declarer ducks the first club and wins the second. In both contracts a spade is finessed, the ace cashed, and hearts run, before a club end-plays south to open up diamonds (or the knave is pinned, if bared).

Not seeing all four hands most will run hearts immediately in 3NT and may or may not get a similar result. The play in 4♥ is similar, though few will run all the hearts, see the ending and guess right. So most will only make ten tricks.

23

♠ QJ764
 ♥ A9642
 ♦ 6
 ♣ 98
 ♠ 1092
 ♥ 85
 ♦ AQ85
 ♣ AK62
 ♠ AK
 ♥ QJ103
 ♦ K942
 ♣ Q43
 ♠ 853
 ♥ K7
 ♦ J1073
 ♣ J1075

 Dealer: South
 Both Vulnerable

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

Some intrepid norths might bid over a west minor or weak NT, perhaps using Michaels for the majors. This proves less of a disaster than it deserves, N/S able to get out for minus 500 in 2♠.

More credibly, E/W end in 3NT. Unassisted by a lack of bidding south may lead the wrong minor, rather than a spade, picking up the diamond suit, and allowing nine or ten tricks.

On a spade lead the suit is set up before declarer's ninth trick is established in hearts. Of course, it is still possible to make game by finessing the diamond 8, but few will do that - after all the spades might be 4:4, or north have a bare or doubleton diamond honour.

24

♠ Q85
 ♥ Q7
 ♦ QJ10963
 ♣ QJ
 ♠ K93
 ♥ A108
 ♦ 74
 ♣ K7642
 ♠ 107642
 ♥ K32
 ♦ K2
 ♣ 1053
 ♠ AJ
 ♥ J9654
 ♦ A85
 ♣ A98

 Dealer: West
 Neither Vulnerable

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

South is likely to declare his 4th seat weak NT, unless north transfers to diamonds, if available. Declarer is best to clear diamonds immediately on a spade lead, but a club lead allows a dummy entry to finesse the suit and make nine or ten tricks.

North could declare 1NT where 1♥ is opened by south. East is less likely to find a helpful lead, though even a club gives an early entry to north.

Looks like a lot of 120s, 150s and 180s N/S.

25

♠ K632
 ♥ QJ854
 ♦ 75
 ♣ 52

♠ 874
 ♥ K1063
 ♦ 106
 ♣ K763

♠ 95
 ♥ A7
 ♦ KQJ984
 ♣ AJ4

♠ AQJ10
 ♥ 92
 ♦ A32
 ♣ Q1098

 Dealer: North
 E-W Vulnerable

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

West probably passes a south weak NT, hoping for a penalty, and indeed 1NT loses 100. However, north surely either employs "garbage" Stayman, if available, or transfers to hearts. Whilst light, both 2♥ or 2♠ are cheaper than the E/W part-score available.

West does best to remove to 3♦, which scores 130, though may pass south's response to Stayman/2♦, unsure of north's strength, losing out.

Par is 130 to E/W, but will they achieve it?

26

♠ KQ96
 ♥ 9654
 ♦ 983
 ♣ KQ

♠ 53
 ♥ AQJ2
 ♦ Q107
 ♣ J1095

♠ 10872
 ♥ K
 ♦ A652
 ♣ 8743

♠ AJ4
 ♥ 10873
 ♦ KJ4
 ♣ A62

 Dealer: East
 Both Vulnerable

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

South has another weak NT, though opens 1♣ if playing 5 card majors. N/S could easily get too high in hearts, eight tricks the limit in any denomination. As the cards lie 1NT or 2NT are equally good.

With such a flat north hand I would pass a weak NT by south, and get a great score with 120. Those that use Stayman find the heart fit, but may get raised to the Three level, losing four trumps and at least one diamond.

Going plus N/S here may not happen at many tables.

27

♠ Q32
 ♥ J86
 ♦ Q973
 ♣ 986

♠ K4
 ♥ 43
 ♦ 10542
 ♣ KJ1053

♠ 765
 ♥ AK107
 ♦ AJ86
 ♣ AQ

♠ AJ1098
 ♥ Q952
 ♦ K
 ♣ 742

 Dealer: South
 Neither Vulnerable

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

E/W are close to game values, but are again theoretically best to take the conservative route. In practice, a west 1♦ may fetch a weak raise, and 3♦ eventuate.

Where Acoll opens 1♥ east's 1NT may be raised to game. 3NT will make on a south spade lead, east getting a present of the king, and running the next eight tricks.

So different methods (and leads) might have very different outcomes.

28

♠ AJ64
 ♥ K4
 ♦ 103
 ♣ AKJ65

♠ QJ109762
 ♥ 762
 ♦ 987
 ♣ 987

♠ 1098
 ♥ 853
 ♦ K85
 ♣ 10432

♠ KQ7532
 ♥ A
 ♦ AQJ94
 ♣ Q

 Dealer: West
 N-S Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	5	5	1	7	7
S	5	5	1	7	7
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

It's a bit of a shame that the cold Grand Slam will probably not see the light of day anywhere, un-played.

It could be awkward where north opens 1♣ and east makes a thin heart pre-empt. South's 3♠ will get raised, but will south advance?

All rather academic, as it is a nice hand, where some might have got there, South getting to at least 6♠ after Blackwood.

This completes a set of various awkward decisions. It is hoped the various challenges were enjoyed.

Ave HCP	N 10.00	S 10.07	E 9.93	W 10.00	Balanced	N 16	S 13	E 16	W 15
Voids/ Singletons	N 07/4	S 3/5	E 1/5	W 0/6	7+ Suit	N 2	S 0	E 3	W 0