



The 2023 Charity Challenge Pairs Tuesday 14th March

We are raising funds for two support Charities this year -[Mind](#), that wonderful charity supporting people with mental health problems, and [Macmillan Cancer Support](#) ... the work they do is just amazing. Please help us raise lots of lovely funds for them.

Last year you managed to raise over £5,000 for the two charities we supported in 2022 which was just amazing and incredibly generous of everyone. If you haven't already done so, please [click here to go to the page](#) that gives you all the information.

You may already have heard that in addition to the normal Charity events we run, we have decided to "slot in" one for the **Turkiye – Syria Earthquake Appeal**, which will run for the week beginning 17 April – [click here for more information](#) about this one. Another new one is a charity event run by u3a, so if you know of people who would be interested in that please send them along [to this website](#) for more information.

July sees our [Summer Charity pairs](#) for Kidney Research UK and the British Heart Foundation and then of course there will be the [Children in Need Pairs](#) in November – well we couldn't NOT run that could we !

Do join us for some of these events if you can – whether virtually or actually joining in "round the table". We love to have your company.

We do hope you have enjoyed yourselves, and you will know by know whether the commentator has got it right! We are very grateful to Mark Horton for writing the Monday and Thursday commentaries, to Mark Mortimer who penned the ones for Tuesday and Friday and to Brian Senior for doing the mid-week Wednesday commentary. This year the event will again be "hybrid" with some clubs playing face to face and others online, and I suspect that may well continue into the foreseeable future as people find what suits them best and what they are most comfortable with.

Thank you so much for joining us and please do so again in future !

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Board 1. None. Dealer North

<p>♠ Q J 10 9 8 5 ♥ 7 6 ♦ A 8 ♣ 8 7 2</p> <p>♠ 7 6 ♥ A K Q 9 ♦ K Q 7 ♣ A 10 9 5</p> <p>♠ A K 4 ♥ J 5 3 2 ♦ 9 6 5 3 ♣ J 4</p>	<p>♠ 3 2 ♥ 10 8 4 ♦ J 10 4 2 ♣ K Q 6 3</p>
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North will open a Weak 2♠ here. At non vulnerability most Souths would be inclined to a gentle preemptive raise with 3♠. West will surely opt for a take out double with their attractive 18 count. Opener will probably now just bid 4♠ to stop East responding to partner's double at the next level. 4♠ is going for minus 2. Tough for East/West who have part score contracts in the minors but a rickety 4♥ is making on a Moysian Fit if the lucky declarer left in it plays South for long hearts.

Board 2. N/S. Dealer East

<p>♠ A ♥ A J 9 8 7 4 2 ♦ J 9 5 ♣ 9 3</p> <p>♠ Q J 8 5 ♥ 10 5 3 ♦ Q 6 2 ♣ Q J 2</p> <p>♠ K 10 9 7 2 ♥ Q 6 ♦ 10 ♣ A 10 7 6 5</p>	<p>♠ 6 4 3 ♥ K ♦ A K 8 7 4 3 ♣ K 8 4</p>
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East will get things going with 1♦. South's best bet is to come in with a quiet 1♠. West raises partner with a gentle 2♦. North now really likes their Heart suit and singleton AS and jump bids with 3♥. South looks at their hand and probably deduces, with two nice cards in partner's suit and a singleton diamond, that 4♥ is a good punt. On an inevitable diamond lead and continuation, North can make the contract easily by ruffing two diamonds in dummy or a magic 11 tricks by playing for the drop of the singleton K♥.

Board 3. E/W. Dealer South

<p>♠ A 10 6 ♥ A Q 5 3 ♦ A Q 2 ♣ 9 6 4</p> <p>♠ Q J 9 8 5 ♥ 4 ♦ 9 8 4 3 ♣ K J 3</p> <p>♠ K ♥ J 9 8 7 6 ♦ 10 ♣ A Q 10 7 5 2</p>	<p>♠ 7 4 3 2 ♥ K 10 2 ♦ K J 7 6 5 ♣ 8</p>
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Most Souths will open 1♣ here. Depending on style- some may open 1♥ but its generally better to open the longer minor. Many a West may come in with a cheeky 1♠. North opts for a negative double with their promising hand over partner's opening bid. East may make a gentle raise of 2♠. South can now jump to 4♥ with great confidence and this is where the auction is likely to end. East will probably lead their singleton club and declarer then has 10 easy tricks off the top, losing 2♣ and the K♥.

Board 4. All. Dealer West

<p>♠ A Q 9 3 ♥ 4 ♦ 10 7 4 ♣ J 10 9 5 2</p> <p>♠ 10 7 ♥ Q J 7 ♦ A Q 6 ♣ A K Q 8 6</p> <p>♠ J 6 4 ♥ 10 9 2 ♦ 9 8 5 3 ♣ 7 4 3</p>	<p>♠ K 8 5 2 ♥ A K 8 6 5 3 ♦ K J 2 ♣ —</p>
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This is an exciting deal. East/West have terrific cards but how to bid the slam in ♥? W opens a quiet 1♣. Soloway (named after The American Paul Soloway multiple bridge World Champion) jump shifts are popular in some circles so a few might bid 2♥ with the East hand to show a hand with slam going values and a long suit. But let's imagine that most will bid a standard 1♥. Despite the weakness in spades from their point of view, West's clearest option is to rebid 2NT showing an 18 point hand and some toleration for partner's hearts. Now East's best bet is just to go for it and bid 6♥ direct. The reason being that no amount of

sophisticated bidding is going to reveal the position of ♠AQ!

It's a punt but it pays off here as these 2 crucial cards are on the right side from any lead. 6NT also makes easily but 6♥ is the more obvious contract and those who dared to bid it will score well.

Board 5. N/S. Dealer North

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

Now a rather less exciting deal after the thrills of the previous. Quite a few Easts will opt to open a INT here. The singleton A♦ is a minus for such a ploy- but better to risk it in a minor than a major, where you can almost guarantee that partner will transfer you in the major and much ensuing wailing and gnashing of teeth as a result! INT is very likely to be passed out but is always making and if the defence slips up a bit, a few more on top.

Board 6. E/W. Dealer East

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

East will open 1♦ and most Souths will dare a weak jump overcall with 2♠. West has nothing much to say and North should be bold and bid 4♠ with their 15 count and excellent spade support. Nothing much to the play and most declarers should romp home with 10 tricks.

Board 7. All. Dealer South

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

This hand is one of those scrappy battles for part score. Most East/Wests will probably find their spade fit but North/South are more likely to win the day with a moderate 3♦ which is making quite comfortably with the chance of an overtrick or two.

Board 8. None. Dealer West

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

A lot of Wests will open a standard INT here and Acolites either 1♣ or 1♥ depending on style. East will show their spades either naturally or through a Stayman 3♣ enquiry. Whichever way, most will reach the safe contract of 3NT which will score well if declarer can conjure up an overtrick.

Board 9. E/W. Dealer North

<p>♠ K Q 10 6 3 ♥ 9 6 ♦ A 5 4 ♣ Q J 4</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ A Q J 3 ♦ K Q 6 ♣ K 10 8 5 2</p> <p>♠ A J 4 2 ♥ 5 4 ♦ J 9 7 ♣ A 9 7 6</p>	<p>♠ 9 8 5 ♥ K 10 8 7 2 ♦ 10 8 3 2 ♣ 3</p>
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North will open a standard 1♠ and most Souths will make a simple jump raise to 3♠. W should now come in with a take out double showing a goodish hand with 4♥. North will pass with their minimum. The question is whether East should now bid 4♥? This time they're in luck and 10 tricks are there for a no doubt very good score.

Board 10. All. Dealer East

<p>♠ K J 7 5 ♥ K 4 ♦ A K 7 6 2 ♣ K 5</p> <p>♠ Q 10 6 4 2 ♥ 7 6 3 ♦ — ♣ Q J 10 3 2</p> <p>♠ A 8 ♥ A ♦ Q J 10 9 8 4 3 ♣ 9 8 7</p>	<p>♠ 9 3 ♥ Q J 10 9 8 5 2 ♦ 5 ♣ A 6 4</p>
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The majority of Easts will open a pre-emptive 3♥ here- the more cautious amongst you maybe 2♥. South has only one option here- to make a simple overcall in diamonds. It would be crazy for West to raise partner in hearts with that rubbish (or is it with so many aggressive bidders around these days?!) so over to North. Surely a slam in diamonds with their fabulous hand is an almost dead certainty. A simple Blackwood 4NT enquiry will provide 2 Aces and with that in mind, a confident bid of 6♦. The play is straightforward and declarer only losing the top club.

Board 11. None. Dealer South

<p>♠ A J 10 7 4 2 ♥ 10 ♦ 8 5 ♣ J 10 4 2</p> <p>♠ K 6 ♥ J 7 2 ♦ A K Q 9 6 4 ♣ A K</p> <p>♠ 9 ♥ K 9 6 3 ♦ J 10 7 3 ♣ Q 8 7 5</p>	<p>♠ Q 8 5 3 ♥ A Q 8 5 4 ♦ 2 ♣ 9 6 3</p>
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With the West hand- an opening bid of 2NT seems the most appropriate with a long and solid minor. East's best bet is 3♦ as a transfer showing 5♥. A Stayman 3♣ enquiry is also an option with both majors but you cannot lose by showing the longer one first. The final resting place is likely to be 4♥ which is safely making but will prove difficult to unearth those golden overtricks for a good score.

Board 12. N/S. Dealer West

<p>♠ A 7 5 3 2 ♥ A J 5 4 ♦ A 9 ♣ 6 3</p> <p>♠ 4 ♥ 10 7 3 2 ♦ K Q J 8 ♣ A 10 7 2</p> <p>♠ Q J 10 9 ♥ 9 8 ♦ 10 7 4 ♣ J 9 8 4</p>	<p>♠ K 8 6 ♥ K Q 6 ♦ 6 5 3 2 ♣ K Q 5</p>
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A rather more prosaic deal. On any bidding sequence with or without East/West intervention- its difficult to imagine anything other than North/South ending up in a moderate part score spade contract after North is allowed to bid them. Sometimes you just have to accept that Bridge isn't always full of thrills!

Board 13. All. Dealer North

<p>♠ Q 10 9 6 ♥ A J 8 ♦ K 7 6 ♣ A 7 6</p> <p>♠ A K J 8 4 ♥ 6 4 ♦ Q 9 4 3 ♣ 5 3</p> <p>♠ 7 5 3 ♥ 10 7 5 3 ♦ A J 2 ♣ Q 10 2</p>	<p>♠ 2 ♥ K Q 9 2 ♦ 10 8 5 ♣ K J 9 8 4</p>
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Another deal not exactly designed to get the pulses racing. Most Acolites will open a bog standard INT with the North hand. After that the auction is going nowhere fast apart from West entering with a cheeky 2♠ that is likely to end in tears.

Board 14. None. Dealer East

<p>♠ 6 ♥ K J 10 6 4 ♦ J 8 ♣ A 9 8 5 2</p> <p>♠ A 8 7 5 ♥ A Q ♦ 6 4 ♣ K J 10 7 6</p> <p>♠ K J 10 9 2 ♥ 5 2 ♦ A Q 9 5 3 ♣ 3</p>	<p>♠ Q 4 3 ♥ 9 8 7 3 ♦ K 10 7 2 ♣ Q 4</p>
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The points are pretty much evenly balanced between the hands here- so that usually leads to – yes – you’ve guessed it- another scrappy battle for part score and the inevitable lack of suit fits which torturously come with it! East/West are probably best left to their own devices in a low level NT contract, but strange things happen with these type of deals and those determined to make an impact may have a few woeful tales to tell at the end

Board 15. N/S. Dealer South

<p>♠ A Q 10 3 ♥ 8 7 3 2 ♦ 8 5 4 ♣ A 3</p> <p>♠ J 6 4 2 ♥ A J 10 ♦ 6 2 ♣ 8 7 6 5</p> <p>♠ 9 7 ♥ K 4 ♦ A K Q J 10 7 ♣ 10 4 2</p>	<p>♠ K 8 5 ♥ Q 9 6 5 ♦ 9 3 ♣ K Q J 9</p>
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Most Souths will open 1♦ here and although East/West will get involved in the auction in some way or another its difficult to envisage anything but South stealing it with a diamond contract which should yield 9 tricks at least.

Board 16. E/W. Dealer West

<p>♠ K 10 7 6 4 2 ♥ J 10 4 3 ♦ J 10 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ 9 8 ♥ K 7 2 ♦ 6 4 2 ♣ J 10 9 7 5</p> <p>♠ 5 ♥ A Q 8 5 ♦ K 9 8 7 5 ♣ Q 4 2</p>	<p>♠ A Q J 3 ♥ 9 6 ♦ A Q 3 ♣ K 8 6 3</p>
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The obvious opening bid for the North hand will be a weak 2♠. Many Easts will elect for a straightforward 2NT overcall with their promising 15 count and triple stop in the enemy suit. A nice option for South now would be a double promising some points and the other major. West cannot deliver much with a meagre club suit headed by the J, the only option being a natural and weak bid of 3♣. Owing to partner’s creative double- North can now rebid 3♥ which makes and is likely to steal the auction.

Board 17. None. Dealer North

♠ J 10 9 7 3 2 ♥ Q 2 ♦ K 7 4 3 ♣ 4 ♠ A Q 6 5 ♥ 7 ♦ 10 2 ♣ A Q J 9 6 5 ♠ 8 ♥ J 10 9 5 4 ♦ Q J 9 6 5 ♣ 10 7	♠ K 4 ♥ A K 8 6 3 ♦ A 8 ♣ K 8 3 2
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This is a much more exciting deal- offering silver lined prospects for East/ West. Most Norths will open a predictable weak 2♠. East's obvious choice is a take out double with their enticing 17 count and 5 card heart suit. Those who've wisely decided to adopt the 'Lebensohl' Convention will reap its considerable benefits here. West bids 3♣- showing a decent suit and 8 plus points. Under the requirements of Lebensohl-East now bids 3♥ which definitively shows a 5 card suit. Now West makes a constructive and forcing bid of 4♣. The auction is flowing as smooth as honey and now all West needs to do is a simple Blackwood 4NT enquiry, clearly agreeing clubs. West gives two Aces plus the trump Q - bidding 5♠ in Key Card variety and you've reached the excellent and cold contract of 6♣. 6NT is also a good bet but 6♣ is the safer, more percentage option. Well done to those who bid slam here.

Board 18. N/S. Dealer East

♠ A 10 9 5 ♥ A K 3 ♦ J 8 7 4 ♣ Q 4 ♠ K 7 ♥ 7 5 4 ♦ A K Q 9 3 ♣ 10 8 7 ♠ J 8 4 3 ♥ 10 9 6 2 ♦ 10 5 2 ♣ J 2	♠ Q 6 2 ♥ Q J 8 ♦ 6 ♣ A K 9 6 5 3
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East/ West only have a borderline combined HCP of 24 here but with solid minors- 3NT is a good prospect. The auction should be relatively simple. East opens 1♣ and West responds 2♦. Now East, with adequate stops in

the majors just bids 3NT direct. A safe contract that should yield an over trick.

Board 19. E/W. Dealer South

♠ A K J 4 ♥ 10 6 ♦ Q 9 8 6 2 ♣ 4 3 ♠ Q 10 3 ♥ J 8 5 2 ♦ K 3 ♣ 9 8 7 6 ♠ 9 8 6 2 ♥ 9 7 3 ♦ J 4 ♣ A Q J 5	♠ 7 5 ♥ A K Q 4 ♦ A 10 7 5 ♣ K 10 2
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The auction is likely to be passed around to East in fourth position. Some may decide to open a strong NT which will be left in to play. Acolites may go for 1♥ which will result in a gentle raise of 2♥ from partner- also ending the story. Declarer will probably just get home with 8 tricks.

Board 20. All. Dealer West

♠ A 10 7 5 2 ♥ 6 ♦ A K 2 ♣ K Q J 10 ♠ Q 9 ♥ J 10 5 ♦ 8 6 5 4 ♣ 9 8 6 4 ♠ J 4 3 ♥ Q 8 7 4 ♦ Q 10 9 ♣ 7 3 2	♠ K 8 6 ♥ A K 9 3 2 ♦ J 7 3 ♣ A 5
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North will open an easy 1♠ here and East has a good overcall of 2♥. Most Souths- even if not playing 5 card majors will raise to 2♠. Now the tight decision for North is to pass or punt 4S. The singleton diamond, good clubs and small number of losers in their hand may sway it for some but many will be more cautious.

Board 21. N/S. Dealer North

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

This auction should be relatively straightforward. South will get the ball rolling with 1♠. Most Easts will probably try a take out double and North just raises direct to 4♠. Nothing much to play and always 10 tricks on top.

Board 22. E/W. Dealer East

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

Most Souths will open a straightforward 2NT here. North is ideal for a Stayman 3♣ enquiry with both majors. With no major fit- South bids 3♦ and North now just 3NT. Double dummy says you're making 12 tricks- but I would be nervous in it on a combined 30 HCP. The clubs behave nicely and you have to get the hearts right. I envisage the vast majority of the field will be in 3NT making various degrees of over tricks scoring well if you achieve 12.

Board 23. All. Dealer South

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

A lot of Wests will open a weak 2♦ these days- fair enough. North is ideal for a take out double with both majors. South, with fast point of arrival, just bids 4♥. The play is straightforward and would be difficult to make less than 11- losing just two clubs.

Board 24. None. Dealer West

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

West will normally open 1♦ but some Acolites maybe open 1NT if not put off too much by their 2 doubletons. North will try a take out double (a lot of these today!) and East is best to try and steal the auction as quickly as possible to hinder the opposition's bidding space. I would propose 4♦ which is likely to steal the auction and prevent North/South from discovering their part score fits in the black suits.

Board 25. E/W. Dealer North

<p>♠ 9 6 ♥ A 9 4 ♦ J 10 8 6 ♣ Q 8 4 3</p> <p>♠ A 10 8 2 ♥ Q 8 2 ♦ 9 ♣ A K 10 7 5</p> <p>♠ J 5 4 3 ♥ J 10 7 5 3 ♦ 7 5 3 2 ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ K Q 7 ♥ K 6 ♦ A K Q 4 ♣ J 9 6 2</p>
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East/West have great cards and tantalisingly close to slam in something. But not their day sadly if they decide to go for it in either 6♣ or 6NT. Bad breaks in the black suits will prove an insurmountable hurdle and 11 tricks is the absolute limit. The vast majority will be in 3NT +2 for one of the flattest travellers of the session

Board 26. All. Dealer East

<p>♠ 4 3 ♥ 9 6 4 ♦ Q ♣ K Q J 10 6 4 2</p> <p>♠ J 10 5 2 ♥ K 8 7 5 ♦ J 4 ♣ A 8 3</p> <p>♠ A Q 8 6 ♥ J 3 ♦ K 10 8 5 2 ♣ 9 7</p>	<p>♠ K 9 7 ♥ A Q 10 2 ♦ A 9 7 6 3 ♣ 5</p>
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A funny hand in some ways as most Easts will surely open 1♦ and North will be cursing them under their breathe, thwarted with 7 of them to the KQJ10! Its a certainty that most East/Wests will find their heart fit and end up in part score uncontested for a par result.

Board 27. None. Dealer South

<p>♠ 10 5 3 2 ♥ Q J 7 6 3 2 ♦ 4 ♣ 6 3</p> <p>♠ 8 7 ♥ K 10 ♦ Q J 10 7 5 ♣ A J 8 2</p> <p>♠ A J 9 6 4 ♥ 8 4 ♦ 9 3 ♣ K 10 7 5</p>	<p>♠ K Q ♥ A 9 5 ♦ A K 8 6 2 ♣ Q 9 4</p>
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Some Wests might open 1♦ with their meagre 11 count- including me- the maxim being 'Get into the auction as quickly as possible!' It would be even more pushy and technically incorrect for North to open a weak 2♥ or overcall one with the other major. On any bidding sequence it's difficult to picture East/West being in anything other than 3NT making 11 tricks on a double club finesse. But some may be attracted by the excellent diamond fit ending up in 5♦ and scoring badly into the bargain.

Board 28. N/S. Dealer West

<p>♠ A Q 7 3 ♥ 6 4 ♦ A 10 2 ♣ Q 10 9 6</p> <p>♠ K 8 4 ♥ Q 10 9 2 ♦ 7 6 5 3 ♣ J 4</p> <p>♠ J 9 2 ♥ K 8 7 5 ♦ K J 9 ♣ 7 5 2</p>	<p>♠ 10 6 5 ♥ A J 3 ♦ Q 8 4 ♣ A K 8 3</p>
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A seemingly bland deal where most Acolites will open 1NT here and will be passed out, just making with careful play. The only twist in the tail could be if East award themselves another point and makes a penalty orientated double over 1NT and partner might just about leave it in. The perils of bending the rules at this game hey!

Board 29. All. Dealer North

<p>♠ K Q 7 6 3 ♥ Q 9 2 ♦ A Q 5 ♣ A J</p> <p>♠ A J 2 ♥ J 5 ♦ 9 8 7 ♣ Q 9 8 5 3</p> <p>♠ 8 5 ♥ A 8 7 6 4 3 ♦ K J 10 3 ♣ 6</p>	<p>♠ 10 9 4 ♥ K 10 ♦ 6 4 2 ♣ K 10 7 4 2</p>
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North will open 1♠ and South definitely has their bid of 2♥ in my humble opinion. An obvious raise to 4♥ by North will end the auction. Some Norths may be understandably tempted into a slam enquiry and a Key Card Blackwood 4NT will reveal that 2 vital cards are missing and can safely bail out in 5H.

Board 30. None. Dealer East

<p>♠ A J 6 2 ♥ J 7 2 ♦ A 10 3 2 ♣ A Q</p> <p>♠ K 8 3 ♥ A K 5 ♦ K 7 ♣ K J 8 7 5</p> <p>♠ Q 10 9 ♥ 8 6 4 3 ♦ Q J 9 6 ♣ 4 3</p>	<p>♠ 7 5 4 ♥ Q 10 9 ♦ 8 5 4 ♣ 10 9 6 2</p>
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Double dummy says that North/South are making 3NT but its almost impossible to imagine anyone bidding it - particularly when East opens a standard 1♦ and North has a perfectly sound overcall of 1NT which will be passed out. Even more interesting if East hypothetically opens a strong NT and North makes a penalty orientated double of which South should show courage and pass. East is in for a nasty surprise and will struggle to make 5 tricks. A perfect illustration of how no bidding system at Bridge is perfect!

Board 31. N/S. Dealer South

<p>♠ A K J 5 ♥ A Q 9 6 ♦ A K ♣ 8 5 3</p> <p>♠ 8 7 3 2 ♥ J 5 ♦ 7 5 4 3 ♣ A K 10</p> <p>♠ 9 6 4 ♥ 8 7 4 3 2 ♦ 8 ♣ J 9 7 6</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 ♥ K 10 ♦ Q J 10 9 6 2 ♣ Q 4 2</p>
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Most Norths will get the ball rolling here with a strong 2NT opening. The old age question now for South with their pitiful collection- just pass or rescue the situation with a 3♦ bid and transfer to hearts? I would certainly opt for the latter. North completes the transfer and 3♥ is passed out. The bitter irony here being that, on the lie of the cards, North makes 3NT. At this game you often just pay your money and takes your choice!

Board 32. E/W. Dealer West

<p>♠ Q J ♥ A K Q 9 ♦ Q 10 8 7 ♣ A 5 2</p> <p>♠ K 9 ♥ 8 7 6 5 ♦ 5 4 ♣ K 10 9 6 4</p> <p>♠ 10 8 5 4 3 ♥ J 10 ♦ K 6 2 ♣ Q J 7</p>	<p>♠ A 7 6 2 ♥ 4 3 2 ♦ A J 9 3 ♣ 8 3</p>
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A 'nearly but not quite' deal to finish with. Most Norths will either open 1♦ or 1♥ dependent on style. South will show his ropey 5 card spade suit and some unfortunate North/Souths will end up in in 4♠ lacking the 2 top honours. A safer bet is 3NT after North jump rebids 2NT with 25 combined HCP. Sadly doomed to disappointment also on the last with an inevitable diamond lead.