

♦♠NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION♥♣



Fourth Interclub – Heat A

23rd - 24th February 2026

Commentary by Ian Hamilton

1

♠ AKQ5
 ♥ Q6
 ♦ J10652
 ♣ 98
 ♠ 962
 ♥ AJ2
 ♦ 94
 ♣ Q7643
 ♠ 10873
 ♥ K74
 ♦ AQ73
 ♣ A5
 ♠ J4
 ♥ 109853
 ♦ K8
 ♣ KJ102

 Dealer: North
 Neither Vulnerable

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

South is likely to be in 1NT here, and a spade lead is awkward, north having no entries outside the suit. Best is to win the knave and play hearts, the defence again playing spades, which must be run, south pitching a club and a heart.

Another heart follows, and the defence have to help declarer by setting up tricks in one hand or other.

In theory, N/S can make 90, but the hand is tricky to both play and defend, so not everyone will.

2

♠ 653
 ♥ QJ105
 ♦ AK6
 ♣ AQ8
 ♠ K87
 ♥ A862
 ♦ J97
 ♣ 1097
 ♠ QJ102
 ♥ K3
 ♦ 84
 ♣ K6543
 ♠ A94
 ♥ 974
 ♦ Q10532
 ♣ J2

 Dealer: East
 N-S Vulnerable

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

This looks like another 1NT spot, though either north or south could be at the helm this time. A spade lead is best, but may not be found by east. West might try a club, giving up a trick.

Declarer has two clubs, five diamonds and a spade, and can make extra hearts if spades aren't led before west's heart king is knocked out.

Will most defences be up to holding N/S to 120?

3

♠ 632
 ♥ 9543
 ♦ 5
 ♣ J7432
 ♠ QJ8
 ♥ AJ
 ♦ AK87
 ♣ AQ95
 ♠ AK954
 ♥ Q87
 ♦ Q106
 ♣ 86
 ♠ 107
 ♥ K1062
 ♦ J9432
 ♣ K10

 Dealer: South
 E-W Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	4	6	3	7	7
W	4	6	3	7	7

E/W now get declaring, after two awkward 1NT defences. East has 11HCP opposite west's maximum 2NT opener, and many will get to either 6♣ or 6NT. The defence may or may not help on opening lead.

Declarer can use the diamond queen and a spade to finesse clubs and hearts, before cashing the heart ace and running spades. This squeezes south in the red suits, all thirteen resulting.

Will many have 1470 on the card?

4

♠ AK932
 ♥ AQJ9
 ♦ 102
 ♣ 105
 ♠ Q1054
 ♥ 6
 ♦ KQJ97
 ♣ A83
 ♠ 8
 ♥ 10875
 ♦ A8654
 ♣ 764
 ♠ J76
 ♥ K432
 ♦ 3
 ♣ KQJ92

 Dealer: West
 Both Vulnerable

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

East may make a nuisance of himself by bouncing west's 1♦ opener to the 3 level after north doubles or overcalls 1♠. South is unlikely to be cowed, and most should reach 4♥ or 4♠.

Either of these spots is tricky, with the majors both breaking 4:1. The defence have two minor suit tricks, plus possible spade tricks or a ruff.

However, declarer can still prevail if everything is done right, the 3:3 club break helping.

Making a major suit game is a test that not all will pass - if they even get there. Going plus at all could be good.

5

♠ J2
♥ AK3
♦ AKJ84
♣ KJ6

♠ A94
♥ J64
♦ 1063
♣ Q1097

♠ Q107
♥ 10952
♦ Q972
♣ 83

♠ K8653
♥ Q87
♦ 5
♣ A542

 Dealer: North
N-S Vulnerable

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

North will be in 3NT after opening 2NT and only having two spades opposite south's transfer. The defence need to lead hearts, a spade or diamond especially unhelpful.

In 3NT, ten tricks are possible by simply conceding three spades, the suit being such that west can't get in often enough to play diamonds through north to set up the queen.

Oddly enough, the best the defence can do is to persuade south to declare and start with a diamond.

However, even with north in charge, not all will succeed in racking up 630.

6

♠ KQJ104
♥ 5
♦ 73
♣ 97643

♠ A32
♥ 3
♦ AK9864
♣ AQ5

♠ 96
♥ AQJ98642
♦ 52
♣ 8

♠ 875
♥ K107
♦ QJ10
♣ KJ102

 Dealer: East
E-W Vulnerable

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

What to do with west's cards when east opens a first in hand, vulnerable 4♥? With a lot of bullets some will have a punt at 6♥.

The defence are best to lead spades, but south is more likely to favour a minor. West wins and finesses trumps. Whatever south does declarer can either set up diamonds, or ruff a club and pull trumps, before squeezing south in the minors. Alternatively, a club finesse can be taken.

Will many manage 680 or 1430?

7

♠ QJ9543
♥ 65
♦ AJ74
♣ 5

♠ A108
♥ AQ10
♦ K105
♣ J843

♠ K72
♥ J32
♦ Q963
♣ 1096

♠ 6
♥ K9874
♦ 82
♣ AKQ72

 Dealer: South
Both Vulnerable

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

I can see north in 2♣ at most tables after south has bid his two suits, and north has insisted on his 6-carder.

The defence need to take two hearts, then switch to a diamond to defeat this spot. On a club lead, hearts go away and a trump to the 9 follows. North wins the next trick and plays another trump. The last club promotes a trump if south ruffs, but he can instead discard a diamond loser.

Hard to believe that E/W can actually make 2NT on inspired play. I can't see many there. Indeed, they will do well to go plus, often ceding 110.

8

♠ KQJ109
♥ 2
♦ 1098
♣ AJ75

♠ A8643
♥ AJ96543
♦ 4
♣

♠ 7
♥ K
♦ AKQJ6532
♣ 1043

♠ 52
♥ Q1087
♦ 7
♣ KQ9862

 Dealer: West
Neither Vulnerable

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

Any that open 4♥ with west's cards will surely go minus. East's 5♦ may well not be passed, instead read as a cue bid.

Some may get to the unbeatable 5♦ when west opens 1♥ and north overcalls 1♠. East will keep bidding diamonds.

In diamonds, the defence can't stop a club ruff except by leading trumps. Now a club eventually goes on the heart ace. A spade kick-off would be more normal. Declarer wins, comes to the heart king and gets a club ruff. No overtrick results as north ruffs the heart ace.

A pleasing 400 on the card, assuming game bid.

9

♠ AKQ9
 ♥ 4
 ♦ J4
 ♣ J107432
 ♠ 2
 ♥ AQ98
 ♦ AQ75
 ♣ AK95
 ♠ J87
 ♥ KJ107653
 ♦ 8
 ♣ Q6

 Dealer: North
 E-W Vulnerable

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

East can only double a north 1♣, despite the obvious spade issue, any other bid a real distortion. It could really make life difficult if south now pre-empts 3♥. West might or might not then bid spades or diamonds (I wouldn't).

However, east surely doubles again, bidding 3NT over a 3♠ bid.

E/W are cold for 3NT or 5♦. However, the non-vulnerable opposition could make it difficult to bid either game.

Will many manage it?

10

♠ 10654
 ♥ 973
 ♦ K10932
 ♣ 8
 ♠ KQ973
 ♥ KQ8
 ♦ 6
 ♣ QJ95
 ♠ J8
 ♥ A104
 ♦ AJ87
 ♣ 10642
 ♠ A2
 ♥ J652
 ♦ Q54
 ♣ AK73

 Dealer: East
 Both Vulnerable

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

West can just about scrape up a 1♠ overcall when south starts with 1♣. He might not overcall a weak NT, but may if 2♣ promises a minor as well. They are best declaring clubs, but it is awkward if south opens the suit.

Defending spades, the defence are best leading diamonds. However, declarer wins and knocks out the trump ace, then ruffs the second diamond. Declarer has now lost trump control, but can counter by cashing top trumps and hearts, then ruffing another diamond for the eighth trick.

Unforced, declarer sets up clubs, but north gets a trump.

With both vulnerable N/S are best defending, since they cannot make anything meaningful, and are going light in 100s.

11

♠ Q5
 ♥ A
 ♦ KJ964
 ♣ J10752
 ♠ A873
 ♥ Q107652
 ♦ 72
 ♣ 3
 ♠ K9642
 ♥ 98
 ♦ A1085
 ♣ Q4
 ♠ J10
 ♥ KJ43
 ♦ Q3
 ♣ AK986

 Dealer: South
 Neither Vulnerable

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

N/S should find their club fit and E/W one of their major suit fits, so we are likely to have a bidding battle.

At love all it pays to declare, even if light, as the penalties are in 50s, unless doubled.

The Law of Total Tricks - the sum of both sides longest fits - suggests that there are 19 Total Tricks (there aren't here), and that it is safe to bid to the level of your fit (it is).

N/S should then get this right, advancing to the 4 level (ten trumps), and racking up 130 in 4♣. Three of a Major (nine trumps) only goes for 100, even if doubled.

12

♠ A107
 ♥ Q874
 ♦ Q103
 ♣ Q74
 ♠ Q
 ♥ 1063
 ♦ J8654
 ♣ 9632
 ♠ 52
 ♥ AJ92
 ♦ AK92
 ♣ K108
 ♠ KJ98643
 ♥ K5
 ♦ 7
 ♣ AJ5

 Dealer: West
 N-S Vulnerable

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

With seven spades south is worth a bid even over an east strong NT. North has good fitting cards and may even bid game.

Eleven tricks are possible, dummy's two top spade entries used to finesse a club, plus lead a heart to the king. Now a diamond to the 10 end-plays east, to give up a dummy trick in one of the three side suits.

A nice elegant one to record. Will many?

13

♠ 1094
♥ AKQJ109
♦
♣ 7642

♠ A32
♥ 8
♦ 10832
♣ AQ1083

♠ K876
♥ 743
♦ AQJ4
♣ K5

♠ QJ5
♥ 652
♦ K9765
♣ J9

Dealer: North
Both Vulnerable

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

Some might open north 1♥, others a Multi or Weak Two. Some might even pass. Put me down for the Weak Two or Multi.

It is just about E/W's hand, despite the bad breaks. However, they might have to contend with a south bounce to 3♥ (pass or correct in the case of the Multi) before getting into the auction, as east may pass a north opener.

It looks as if north makes 3♥, but not if east repeatedly leads trumps, preventing ruffs. Meanwhile, 4♦ is there for E/W, despite the trump break, south having to follow to enough black cards, and hearts ruffed in west.

200 E/W looks best, beating 3♥ by two tricks, but will it happen often?

14

♠ J742
♥ J109
♦ KJ72
♣ Q2

♠ Q1053
♥ 64
♦ A864
♣ 875

♠ AK8
♥ Q832
♦ Q10
♣ AK63

♠ 96
♥ AK75
♦ 953
♣ J1094

Dealer: East
Neither Vulnerable

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

East may well be in 2NT after rebidding same to west's 1♠ response to his 1♣ or 1♥ opener.

Sadly, there are only seven tricks available unless the defence errs, which is perfectly possible.

South could keep plugging away in clubs after a north unblock, ceding a trick to the 6. Or declarer's heart 8 might likewise come into its own if the defence are too enthusiastic unblocking.

I bet there are more than a few 120s on the card. It seems 2♠ can be made. It looks unlikely this spot will feature often.

15

♠ 985
♥ K984
♦ K96
♣ AJ6

♠ J72
♥ J53
♦ QJ32
♣ Q92

♠ Q3
♥ AQ62
♦ A875
♣ K87

♠ AK1064
♥ 107
♦ 104
♣ 10543

Dealer: South
N-S Vulnerable

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

E/W could have another NT contract here, either east opening the strong variety, or west responding 1NT to east's opener.

South needs to lead a low spade (entryless outside the suit), catering to either two or three spade cards with north. This gives declarer a cheap spade trick, and there are two more in hearts, three in diamonds and one in clubs. So declarer gets home.

When west declares a heart may well be led, making life fairly easy, this giving up trick. It takes top heart lead from south to improbably defeat 1NT.

N/S are best declaring 2♠, going plus, but it requires a light third seat opener to get there.

16

♠ J8
♥ A92
♦ 10862
♣ A1093

♠ K97643
♥ Q106
♦ AK7
♣ 4

♠ 105
♥ K853
♦ Q43
♣ J765

♠ AQ2
♥ J74
♦ J95
♣ KQ82

Dealer: West
E-W Vulnerable

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

Few will be anywhere other than 2♠ by west. A minor suit lead looks best.

East has a heart and diamond entry to lead to the spade king, plus finesse the heart 10. So in theory there should be 140 across the room on the traveller.

In real life some declarers may slip from grace and make fewer tricks - 170 looks decidedly improbable, however, unless the defence seriously lose the plot.

17

♠ K8
 ♥ 9852
 ♦ AJ832
 ♣ 85
 ♠ AQ95
 ♥ J106
 ♦ Q1095
 ♣ 42
 ♠ 1076
 ♥ AQ7
 ♦ 7
 ♣ QJ10763

 Dealer: North
 Neither Vulnerable

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

N/S are cold for 3NT, but may not get there. North's weak NT is almost certainly passed out, and should make nine tricks via six clubs and three hearts. On a diamond lead ten tricks are probable, assuming the suit is returned, and spades not cashed.

Where north opens 1♣ south has a possible inverted raise, north maybe trying 2NT with his maximum balanced hand. South might chance game now.

Will many get to the 23 HCP 3NT?

18

♠ AK9763
 ♥ K104
 ♦ J10
 ♣ A7
 ♠ QJ84
 ♥ 98
 ♦ AQ62
 ♣ K95
 ♠ 52
 ♥ A62
 ♦ K73
 ♣ J10864

 Dealer: East
 N-S Vulnerable

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

West likely transfers to hearts over an east 1NT, or bids the suit over 1♦. North surely bids spades up to the Two level, if necessary.

2♠ loses two trumps, a heart, diamond and club, making 110. This is better than the small penalty available in defence, unless E/W's spot is improbably doubled.

Will everyone get this one right?

19

♠ Q984
 ♥ AJ983
 ♦ 103
 ♣ 95
 ♠ K32
 ♥ K52
 ♦ AK8
 ♣ J1064
 ♠ 1076
 ♥ Q74
 ♦ 94
 ♣ AKQ82

 Dealer: South
 E-W Vulnerable

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

Rather like #17 3NT is there on a sub-normal HCP combination. Again, it is on account of a decent six card suit in one hand, plus stops in the other.

Where south opens 1♣ many wests will try a weak 2♦. North might or might not double for take out. As per the earlier hand not everyone will get to 3NT, which needs a fitting king opposite, plus an ace well placed.

A fair few may get to game on #17, but I reckon there will be fewer on this one.

20

♠ 62
 ♥ J
 ♦ AQJ109832
 ♣ K9
 ♠ AQ87
 ♥ 73
 ♦ K6
 ♣ Q6432
 ♠ J1093
 ♥ 10964
 ♦ 7
 ♣ 10875
 ♠ K54
 ♥ AKQ852
 ♦ 54
 ♣ AJ

 Dealer: West
 Both Vulnerable

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

Yet another hand where an improbable number of tricks is available - this time three different slams on 28 HCP N/S.

Of course, it helps that west has the diamond king. In all cases south needs to declare to protect the spade king.

I strongly suspect many will open west 1♣ and north will pre-empt 4♦ or 5♦. That pretty well scuppers any hope of getting to a making slam, though at least 5♦ and 4♥ make.

Declaring NT, declarer needs to anti-intuitively win a club lead in north, unblock the heart knave, enter south in clubs, cash hearts, then play diamonds, finessing if in slam.

21

♠ AQ7
♥ 6
♦ A102
♣ QJ10983

♠ 106
♥ K873
♦ K974
♣ A72

♠ J42
♥ AQJ95
♦ J853
♣ K

♠ K9853
♥ 1042
♦ Q6
♣ 654

 Dealer: North
N-S Vulnerable

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

South might introduce spades when east overcalls north's 1♣ with hearts. However, holding four trumps, west surely advances to 3♥. N/S are better competing further with clubs.

N/S can actually make 4♣, except on an improbable spade lead and continuation. East gets in a second time with the heart ace to deliver a spade ruff. Otherwise, with the diamond suit unable to be attacked, spades provide eventual diamond discards.

Declaring hearts, E/W are unlikely to make more than nine tricks, losing two diamonds in addition to two spades, but still get plus 140, better even than beating 4♣, unless it is doubled.

This looks a finely balanced part-score battle.

22

♠ 1096
♥ K10
♦ 765
♣ K9842

♠ 73
♥ 8743
♦ QJ10
♣ QJ53

♠ AJ5
♥ QJ96
♦ AK82
♣ 107

♠ KQ842
♥ A52
♦ 943
♣ A6

 Dealer: East
E-W Vulnerable

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

An Acol 1♥ may work best on east's cards, west able to support over south's 1♠ overcall. They might conceivably buy the contract in 3♥, losing 100.

An east strong NT is probably passed out. A low spade from south hands declarer the knave, and seven tricks are there by playing on clubs (or hearts).

N/S can make nine tricks in spades where they manage to get into the auction, losing only a trump and three diamonds, A heart is ruffed in north and trumps played twice towards south's honours.

Another interesting battle.

23

♠ J653
♥ J9
♦ K43
♣ 9862

♠ K4
♥ 86
♦ Q7652
♣ AK73

♠ Q1082
♥ K432
♦ A98
♣ Q10

♠ A97
♥ AQ1075
♦ J10
♣ J54

 Dealer: South
Both Vulnerable

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

A south 1NT is likely to be passed out, and proves a disaster on a diamond lead, two light when the suit is continued and the hearts only muster three tricks.

An alternative 1♥ opener could also be passed out, but should at least make six tricks for a lesser 100 penalty.

East is better protecting 1♥ with 1NT in 4th seat (unless north has bid 1♠ to guarantee a N/S minus). E/W risk getting overboard if they protect. Restrained, they can make at least eight tricks in NT, theoretically more declaring diamonds.

Three consecutive hard-to-predict part-score tussles.

24

♠ Q102
♥ 108
♦ A10865
♣ Q92

♠ AKQ97
♥ J72
♦ AJ865

♠ AK9753
♥ 653
♦ Q9
♣ 103

♠ J864
♥ J42
♦ K43
♣ K74

 Dealer: West
Neither Vulnerable

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

E/W might or might not get to 4♥ after west opens the suit. East should give grudging preference after the 2♣ rebid, rather than rebid his suit. West probably advances to 3♣ even if he does, and still ends in hearts.

Most should be declaring hearts E/W, and the defence can't really do better than get a club and two diamonds.

Looks like a mixture of 420s and 170s E/W, with maybe a few in spades doing worse.

25

♠ A96
♥ Q108732
♦ Q872
♣

♠ J82
♥ J
♦ AK105
♣ 76543

♠ Q73
♥ AK654
♦ J9
♣ K109

♠ K1054
♥ 9
♦ 643
♣ AQJ82

Dealer: North
E-W Vulnerable

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

North could easily open a Weak Two in hearts, passed to west. East will convert a (light) double to penalties or might have a shot at 3NT. Alternatively north might get to play undoubled.

2♥ plays pretty well, and might even sneak home on a club lead, north getting rid of two losers. It should lose six tricks.

3NT fares poorly, declarer having a paucity of tricks, and little hope of the defence allowing more than eight, or fewer.

Will any open a Multi in north and see east overcalling 2♥? E/W are in real shtuck now?

26

♠ A
♥ 10632
♦ 10
♣ QJ98765

♠ K73
♥ Q5
♦ K8542
♣ 1043

♠ J542
♥ KJ8
♦ QJ976
♣ K

♠ Q10986
♥ A974
♦ A3
♣ A2

Dealer: East
Both Vulnerable

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

E/W might buy this in 3♦ should east open light, south overcall 1♠, and west bounce to 3♦. A south double works better, north just about worth 4♣. N/S could languish there or reach the club game. It will be hard to get to 4♥.

Making eleven tricks N/S in either game could hinge on guessing clubs correctly, vital in the club game with two inevitable heart losers. There aren't enough entries to set up spades.

Will there be many successful games?

27

♠ QJ10
♥ AK2
♦ K10962
♣ 52

♠ A985
♥ QJ4
♦ A73
♣ K106

♠ 762
♥ 865
♦ Q5
♣ A9874

♠ K43
♥ 10973
♦ J84
♣ QJ3

Dealer: South
Neither Vulnerable

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

West could find himself in either his weak no trump, alternatively 2♣, should that be the opener, east supporting. Both are unbeatable with north on lead.

North does better to overcall 1♣ with 1♦ and could declare 2♦ after support. The only lead to beat this is a spade, attacking north's of entries needed to get a heart away on the third round of clubs.

Pluses both ways look distinctly possible.

28

♠ KQ72
♥ K9765
♦ 83
♣ A2

♠ 104
♥ Q
♦ K1075
♣ 1086543

♠ AJ965
♥ AJ
♦ 942
♣ J97

♠ 83
♥ 108432
♦ AQJ6
♣ KQ

Dealer: West
N-S Vulnerable

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

Nobody has played #28 for some years. Maybe some will this time. The high cards are pretty evenly distributed.

N/S have a good heart fit, but the honours lie poorly. They might not even get into the auction after an east 1♠ opener, though should if west passes and north protects with 1NT. They ought now find the heart fit, though may get too high.

E/W can make a low level club contract but could simply be outbid.

This looks a battle for a plus score, rather a theme on the set, which had a fair few challenges. It is hoped they were enjoyed.

Ave HCP	N 10.00	S 9.93	E 10.32	W 9.75	Balanced	N 11	S 13	E 19	W 10
Voids/ Singletons	N 2/11	S 0/8	E 0/8	W 2/13	7+ Suit	N 2	S 2	E 2	W 1