



The January Charity Pairs

Thursday or Friday 29/30 January 2026

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.

If you haven't already done so, then please go to :

<https://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims/donations.asp> and

donate whatever you can – but read this first :

<https://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims/BeforeDonating.asp>

to make sure you don't add a "tip" to the donation – quite unnecessary in our view.

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

Board 1	♠ Q10 ♥ 9763 ♦ 653 ♣ Q864	Love All Dlr: North															
♠ A8532 ♥ J105 ♦ A ♣ AJ109	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td>♠ KJ9764 ♥ AQ2 ♦ 10 ♣ 532</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♠ - ♥ K84 ♦ KQJ98742 ♣ K7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT N - 3 - - - S - 3 - - - E 4 - - 5 3 W 3 - - 5 3</td><td></td></tr> </table>	♠ KJ9764 ♥ AQ2 ♦ 10 ♣ 532		♠ - ♥ K84 ♦ KQJ98742 ♣ K7		♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT N - 3 - - - S - 3 - - - E 4 - - 5 3 W 3 - - 5 3	
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Some might open the East hand with a very sound weak 2♠, but most will open 1♠. South probably bids 5♦, giving West a problem. Suppose he settles for 5♠ and the ♦K is led; declarer should play a spade to the ♠K, spade to the ♠A and run the ♥J. If North has the ♥K there is a guaranteed end play for 12 tricks- cash 3hearts and play a club to the ♣J. If South has the ♥K 5♠ will make if either South has at least one club honour or, with no honour, he doesn't find the club shift.

Board 2	♠ QJ92 ♥ J76 ♦ 9432 ♣ AJ	NS Vul Dlr: East															
♠ 764 ♥ AQ2 ♦ QJ108 ♣ K107	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td>♠ A853 ♥ 843 ♦ A7 ♣ 9532</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♠ K10 ♥ K1095 ♦ K65 ♣ Q864</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT N - 1 2 - - S - 1 2 - - E - - - 1 - W - - - 1 -</td><td></td></tr> </table>	♠ A853 ♥ 843 ♦ A7 ♣ 9532		♠ K10 ♥ K1095 ♦ K65 ♣ Q864		♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT N - 1 2 - - S - 1 2 - - E - - - 1 - W - - - 1 -	
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A race to 1NT, everybody's least favourite contract. If South chooses to open 1♣, or an attenuated 1NT, he will declare. Best to win the 2nd round of diamonds and tackle spades, hoping that the defenders will establish a heart trick for you before establishing their own club. If South passes West may become declarer, and must hope the defenders get his club into the game before establishing their hearts

Board 3	♠ AJ872 ♥ Q52 ♦ Q83 ♣ Q8	EW Vul Dlr: South															
♠ 54 ♥ 3 ♦ AK109542 ♣ 1093	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td>♠ 6 ♥ J109874 ♦ J7 ♣ AK42</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♠ KQ1093 ♥ AK6 ♦ 6 ♣ J765</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N - - - 4 3 S - - - 4 3 E - 3 - - - W - 3 - - -</td><td></td></tr> </table>	♠ 6 ♥ J109874 ♦ J7 ♣ AK42		♠ KQ1093 ♥ AK6 ♦ 6 ♣ J765		♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N - - - 4 3 S - - - 4 3 E - 3 - - - W - 3 - - -	
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South opens 1♠ and West bids 3♦, a weak jump overcall. North is barely worth 4♦, a cuebid to show a high card raise to 4♠. South should show no slam ambition and settle in 4♠, a contract with 10 easy tricks. At another vulnerability EW might sacrifice in 5♦, but 2 down is one too many at this vulnerability. Still, if NS are tempted to bid one more.....

Board 4	♠ A Q96 ♥ K1062 ♦ 4 ♣ AK97	Game All Dlr: West															
♠ 5432 ♥ 3 ♦ K1032 ♣ Q632	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td>♠ 107 ♥ J98754 ♦ QJ8 ♣ J10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♠ KJ8 ♥ AQ ♦ A9765 ♣ 854</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N 5 - - 5 4 S 5 - - 5 4 E - - - - - W - - - - -</td><td></td></tr> </table>	♠ 107 ♥ J98754 ♦ QJ8 ♣ J10		♠ KJ8 ♥ AQ ♦ A9765 ♣ 854		♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N 5 - - 5 4 S 5 - - 5 4 E - - - - - W - - - - -	
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North opens 1♣, South responds 1♦ and North rebids 1♥. South bids 3NT with his spade stoppers, and although North has some extras he would be wise to pass. West is likely to lead a spade, though the fourth suit is often strongly held on this sort of auction. A diamond lead is best, but particularly difficult to find. On other leads declarer has 10 tricks on top and by playing clubs from the top he can make 11.

Board 5	♠ Q10765 ♥ J52 ♦ A1063 ♣ Q	NS Vul Dlr: North																																				
♠ 32 ♥ Q73 ♦ Q975 ♣ K742	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ K9</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♥ 1086</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♦ KJ84</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♣ J1063</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N	W	E		N					W					S					♠ K9		♥ 1086		♦ KJ84		♣ J1063		<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ K9</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♥ 1086</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♦ KJ84</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♣ J1063</td><td></td></tr> </table>	♠ K9		♥ 1086		♦ KJ84		♣ J1063	
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South opens 1♣, North responds 1♠ and South raises to 3♣. Some South players might have the methods to rebid 3♦ showing a splinter raise to at least 3♠. North should settle in 4♠, though with the very kind layout he can make 12 tricks.

Board 6	♠ AQ4 ♥ 932 ♦ Q5432 ♣ J10	EW Vul Dlr: East																																				
♠ - ♥ 654 ♦ A109 ♣ AKQ8652	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ K7532</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♥ AK8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♦ J86</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♣ 97</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N	W	E		N					W					S					♠ K7532		♥ AK8		♦ J86		♣ 97		<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ K7532</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♥ AK8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♦ J86</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♣ 97</td><td></td></tr> </table>	♠ K7532		♥ AK8		♦ J86		♣ 97	
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Most will pass the East hand, allowing West to open 1♣. East responds 1♠ and, despite having only 13 points West is worth 3♣ with his great playing strength. East, especially at pairs, now bids 3NT. South is likely to lead the ♥Q and at teams East would win and play clubs immediately, settling for 10 tricks. At pairs there is a very risky line for an extra trick - win the first heart and play a diamond to the ♦10. This makes 11 tricks assuming clubs are not 4/0 and South has at least one diamond honour. It also assumes that if North wins a diamond either he has the ♣A or he does not find the spade shift.

Board 7	♠ 95 ♥ 97653 ♦ Q7 ♣ AK76	Game All Dlr: South																																				
♠ AJ103 ♥ AJ108 ♦ A5 ♣ 1093	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ K876</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♥ Q</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♦ K9843</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♣ Q85</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N	W	E		N					W					S					♠ K876		♥ Q		♦ K9843		♣ Q85		<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ K876</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♥ Q</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♦ K9843</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♣ Q85</td><td></td></tr> </table>	♠ K876		♥ Q		♦ K9843		♣ Q85	
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With such excellent intermediate cards West is really too strong for a weak 1NT. Those who upgrade to a strong 1NT will easily reach 4♣ via Stayman. North's top club lead clarifies that suit, and two heart ruffs bring down the ♥K, so some may make an overtrick. Weak no-trumpers who open 1♥ will have to stretch to a jump rebid over partner's 1♣ response if they are to reach game.

Board 8	♠ A5 ♥ QJ107 ♦ 1096 ♣ K832	Love All Dlr: West																																				
♠ KQ8 ♥ A94 ♦ A85 ♣ 10754	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ J109632</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♥ 8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♦ J743</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♣ Q9</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N	W	E		N					W					S					♠ J109632		♥ 8		♦ J743		♣ Q9		<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ J109632</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♥ 8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♦ J743</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♣ Q9</td><td></td></tr> </table>	♠ J109632		♥ 8		♦ J743		♣ Q9	
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If West opens a weak 1NT East will transfer to spades. South does not particularly want a heart led but should probably double to get his side into the auction. (Some may prefer to pass 2♥ hoping to double 2♣ for takeout on the next round.) Over double West bids 2♣, showing at least 3 spades, and North has a sound 3♦ bid. East has few values but the 6th spade and good distribution suggest competing to 3♣. NS can actually make 10 tricks in hearts, so at pairs it would be a disaster to allow EW to play in 2♣.

Board 9	♠ K1092 ♥ K752 ♦ 8 ♣ J432	EW Vul Dlr: North															
♠ J863 ♥ AQ864 ♦ 6 ♣ A87	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ AQ75 ♥ 9 ♦ AJ3 ♣ KQ965						
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♠ 4 ♥ J103 ♦ KQ1097542 ♣ 10	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♠ 4</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">♠ ♦ ♣ NT</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥ J103</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N - 1 - - -</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ KQ1097542</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S - 1 - - -</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣ 10</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E 5 - - 5 4</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">W 5 - - 5 5</td></tr> </table>	♠ 4		♠ ♦ ♣ NT	♥ J103		N - 1 - - -	♦ KQ1097542		S - 1 - - -	♣ 10		E 5 - - 5 4			W 5 - - 5 5	
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At this vulnerability South might pre-empt to the limit with 5♦ over East's 1♣. His task then will be to hold his losses to no more than 500. He has 4 aces to lose, plus a second heart, so the defenders should be able to collect 800 when East makes two diamond tricks. But it is never easy to take the maximum in defence, even when you know, at pairs, that 500 will be a poor score.

Board 10	♠ AQ105 ♥ AK1043 ♦ J8 ♣ 103	Game All Dlr: East															
♠ 3 ♥ J85 ♦ K105432 ♣ J86	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ KJ964 ♥ 7 ♦ A6 ♣ A7542						
	N																
W		E															
	S																
♠ 872 ♥ Q962 ♦ Q97 ♣ KQ9	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♠ 872</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">♠ ♦ ♣ NT</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥ Q962</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N - - 3 - 2</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ Q97</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S - - 3 - 2</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣ KQ9</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E 2 1 - - -</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">W 2 1 - - -</td></tr> </table>	♠ 872		♠ ♦ ♣ NT	♥ Q962		N - - 3 - 2	♦ Q97		S - - 3 - 2	♣ KQ9		E 2 1 - - -			W 2 1 - - -	
♠ 872		♠ ♦ ♣ NT															
♥ Q962		N - - 3 - 2															
♦ Q97		S - - 3 - 2															
♣ KQ9		E 2 1 - - -															
		W 2 1 - - -															

Playing 5-card majors West will open 1♣. East tries to improve the contract by responding 1NT, and may reach 2♦ after East rebids 2♣. (Not a good hand for Gazzilli where 2♦ shows strength!) 4-card majorites may open 1♣, planning to rebid in spades, but that allows North into the action with a double, or a 1♥ overcall. Either way, NS will reach their heart part score and East will wish he had opened 1♣ instead.

Board 11	♠ KQ982 ♥ A ♦ J10976 ♣ 43	Love All Dlr: South															
♠ 6 ♥ 8653 ♦ K ♣ AKJ10762	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ AJ1053 ♥ Q1042 ♦ A832 ♣ -						
	N																
W		E															
	S																
♠ 74 ♥ KJ97 ♦ Q54 ♣ Q985	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♠ 74</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥ KJ97</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N - - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ Q54</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S - - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣ Q985</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E 3 - 3 - 1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">W 3 - 3 - 1</td></tr> </table>	♠ 74		♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT	♥ KJ97		N - - - - -	♦ Q54		S - - - - -	♣ Q985		E 3 - 3 - 1			W 3 - 3 - 1	
♠ 74		♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT															
♥ KJ97		N - - - - -															
♦ Q54		S - - - - -															
♣ Q985		E 3 - 3 - 1															
		W 3 - 3 - 1															

Should West pre-empt, or open 1♣? The spade shortage and weak hearts suggest the pre-empt. A 3♣ opening is likely to be the final contract. ♠K lead removes dummy's side entry, but taking a spade ruff and cashing the ♦K before drawing trump and persevering with hearts will eventually force South to give you a 9th trick. Over 1♣ North will overcall 1♠ and things may get really messy.

Board 12	♠ 106 ♥ K75 ♦ Q10943 ♣ J106	NS Vul Dlr: West															
♠ 875 ♥ J842 ♦ 72 ♣ K942	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ KQ32 ♥ 93 ♦ KJ86 ♣ 873						
	N																
W		E															
	S																
♠ AJ94 ♥ AQ106 ♦ A5 ♣ AQ5	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♠ AJ94</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥ AQ106</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N - 3 3 - 4</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ A5</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S - 3 3 - 4</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣ AQ5</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E - - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">W - - - - -</td></tr> </table>	♠ AJ94		♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT	♥ AQ106		N - 3 3 - 4	♦ A5		S - 3 3 - 4	♣ AQ5		E - - - - -			W - - - - -	
♠ AJ94		♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT															
♥ AQ106		N - 3 3 - 4															
♦ A5		S - 3 3 - 4															
♣ AQ5		E - - - - -															
		W - - - - -															

A normal 2NT opening bid, raised to game by North. West has a nasty lead. A passive spade helps declarer establish 3 spade tricks, a heart gives a 4th trick in that suit, and a diamond gives a tempo. A club looks best; when East wins a diamond he can return a club which declarer must duck. The defenders may then make 2 diamonds and 2 black kings, holding declarer to 9 tricks.

Board 13	♠ 96 ♥ 74 ♦ AKJ103 ♣ AKQ5	Game All Dlr: North																			
♠ 8 ♥ A6532 ♦ 7654 ♣ 943	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ QJ10743</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ 9</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ Q82</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ 1076</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S			♠ QJ10743	♥ 9	♦ Q82	♣ 1076	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ AK52</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ KQJ108</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ 9</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ J82</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N 5 - 6 - 6</td></tr> <tr><td>S 5 - 6 - 6</td></tr> <tr><td>E - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>W - - - -</td></tr> </table>	♠ AK52	♥ KQJ108	♦ 9	♣ J82	♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT	N 5 - 6 - 6	S 5 - 6 - 6	E - - - -	W - - - -
N	W	E																			
S																					
♠ QJ10743																					
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N 5 - 6 - 6																					
S 5 - 6 - 6																					
E - - - -																					
W - - - -																					

Deals with lots of points but no good trump fit are notoriously difficult to bid to a making slam. Whether or not you reach for the skies it is best to play high point count misfits in no-trump, not just because it scores more, but because it also removes the danger of a ruff. Fortunately the singleton heart is the ♦9 so you do not need to fall back on the diamond finesse.

Board 14	♠ J4 ♥ J1085 ♦ 6432 ♣ Q97	Love All Dlr: East																			
♠ 107 ♥ AQ6 ♦ AKQ1085 ♣ AJ	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ 863</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ 974</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ J9</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ K10543</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S			♠ 863	♥ 974	♦ J9	♣ K10543	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ AKQ952</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ K32</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ 7</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ 862</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>S - - - 1 -</td></tr> <tr><td>E 3 5 - - 1</td></tr> <tr><td>W 3 5 - - 1</td></tr> </table>	♠ AKQ952	♥ K32	♦ 7	♣ 862	♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT	N - - - -	S - - - 1 -	E 3 5 - - 1	W 3 5 - - 1
N	W	E																			
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N - - - -																					
S - - - 1 -																					
E 3 5 - - 1																					
W 3 5 - - 1																					

Over 1♠ West is too strong for a simple overcall, and can afford to double with this heart holding. Although Deep Finesse makes 11 tricks in diamonds it might be advisable not to rely on your double dummy skills at so high a level: DF ruffs the 3rd spade high, cashes the ♣A and runs the ♣J, then plays 2 diamonds ending in dummy to discard a heart on ♣K and take the heart finesse. You could always ruff a club instead of finessing, but you need a very specific distribution.

Board 15	♠ A106 ♥ Q10864 ♦ J8 ♣ Q86	NS Vul Dlr: South																			
♠ KQJ873 ♥ A ♦ K1092 ♣ 95	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ 4</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ K9753</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ Q543</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ AJ10</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S			♠ 4	♥ K9753	♦ Q543	♣ AJ10	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ 952</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ J2</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ A76</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ K7432</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>S - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>E - 4 - 4 2</td></tr> <tr><td>W - 4 - 4 2</td></tr> </table>	♠ 952	♥ J2	♦ A76	♣ K7432	♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT	N - - - -	S - - - -	E - 4 - 4 2	W - 4 - 4 2
N	W	E																			
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N - - - -																					
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E - 4 - 4 2																					
W - 4 - 4 2																					

This is not a very good 4♠ contract. There are 3 inevitable losers, 2 aces and a club, so you need to play spades for just one loser, which means a 3-3 break or 109 doubleton. An Acol auction might go 1♠-2♥-2♠-2NT-3♠-Pass. Those playing 5-card majors may introduce diamonds and play in a diamond part score, making the same number of tricks but scoring less well.

Board 16	♠ Q10 ♥ QJ973 ♦ J8 ♣ A1073	EW Vul Dlr: West																			
♠ K954 ♥ K842 ♦ K94 ♣ Q4	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ 8762</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ A106</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ AQ765</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ 5</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S			♠ 8762	♥ A106	♦ AQ765	♣ 5	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ AJ3</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ 5</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ 1032</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ KJ9862</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N 3 - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>S 3 - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>E - 3 1 4 -</td></tr> <tr><td>W - 3 1 4 -</td></tr> </table>	♠ AJ3	♥ 5	♦ 1032	♣ KJ9862	♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT	N 3 - - - -	S 3 - - - -	E - 3 1 4 -	W - 3 1 4 -
N	W	E																			
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N 3 - - - -																					
S 3 - - - -																					
E - 3 1 4 -																					
W - 3 1 4 -																					

It is not clear that anyone has an opening bid here, yet EW can make 10 tricks in spades when South has the ♠A and everything breaks nicely. West's 11-count is not really a weak no-trump, and North has too many values in his doubletons, but East might open 1♦ in third seat. If South passes the auction may stop quite quickly, but a 2♣ overcall will allow West to make a negative double and so reach spades.

Board 17	♠ 985 ♥ AQ963 ♦ 84 ♣ 1053	Love All Dlr: North																														
♠ AK632 ♥ J ♦ QJ10 ♣ Q872	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ QJ</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥ 1085</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ AK75</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣ KJ94</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S			♦ QJ			♥ 1085			♦ AK75			♣ KJ94			<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ 1074</td><td style="text-align: center;">♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ NT</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥ K742</td><td style="text-align: center;">N - - - - -</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ 9632</td><td style="text-align: center;">S - - - - -</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣ A6</td><td style="text-align: center;">E 5 4 - 5 1</td><td></td></tr> </table>	♦ 1074	♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ NT		♥ K742	N - - - - -		♦ 9632	S - - - - -		♣ A6	E 5 4 - 5 1	
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♣ A6	E 5 4 - 5 1																															
		W 5 4 - 5 1																														

EW will need to avoid 3NT here – even if South does not lead a heart there are only 9 tricks to run before he gets a chance to switch. Weak no-trumpers might bid 1NT -2♥ -2♣ -3♣ -3♦ -4♦ -4♣. (North makes life easier if he makes a lead-directing double of the transfer.) Strong no-trumpers will start 1♣ -1♣ -1NT, and may lack the methods to reach the top 4♦ spot.

Board 19	♠ K652 ♥ J2 ♦ J10963 ♣ 85	EW Vul Dlr: South																														
♠ AQ108 ♥ 743 ♦ 742 ♣ AJ3	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ J7</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥ A1086</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ KQ</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣ KQ976</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S			♦ J7			♥ A1086			♦ KQ			♣ KQ976			<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ 943</td><td style="text-align: center;">♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ NT</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥ KQ95</td><td style="text-align: center;">N - - - - -</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ A85</td><td style="text-align: center;">S - - - - -</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣ 1043</td><td style="text-align: center;">E 3 - 2 - 2</td><td></td></tr> </table>	♦ 943	♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ NT		♥ KQ95	N - - - - -		♦ A85	S - - - - -		♣ 1043	E 3 - 2 - 2	
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♣ 1043	E 3 - 2 - 2																															
		W 3 - 2 - 2																														

I suppose some will open the West hand – it has 11 points after all – but such a call is not for me. East has 17 Pearson points and will open. A strong no-trump will probably get East to 3NT, and since South has no reason to lead a diamond that contract is likely to make. If the auction starts 1♣ -1♣ -1NT it is just possible that South will prefer a diamond to a heart from this dangerous holding. His partner will be impressed.

Board 18	♠ AK9 ♥ 2 ♦ J743 ♣ AKJ96	NS Vul Dlr: East																														
♠ 10654 ♥ AQJ94 ♦ A85 ♣ 5	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ QJ87</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥ K86</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ K109</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣ 432</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S			♦ QJ87			♥ K86			♦ K109			♣ 432			<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ 32</td><td style="text-align: center;">♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ NT</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥ 10753</td><td style="text-align: center;">N 3 1 - - -</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ Q62</td><td style="text-align: center;">S 3 1 - - -</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣ Q1087</td><td style="text-align: center;">E - - 2 3 -</td><td></td></tr> </table>	♦ 32	♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ NT		♥ 10753	N 3 1 - - -		♦ Q62	S 3 1 - - -		♣ Q1087	E - - 2 3 -	
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		W - - 2 3 -																														

Another deal where no-trump contracts have fatal flaws. A good moment for players who like to ignore takeout doubles – after P – P -1♥ -Dbl East can still bid 1♣ and reach the best-scoring part score. South might bid 2♣, but only if partner is trained not to take such a bid too seriously. Whoever plays in a black suit at the 3-level will score very well.

Board 20	♠ 984 ♥ K102 ♦ J5 ♣ K7654	Game All Dlr: West																														
♠ 763 ♥ A98 ♦ AKQ9862 ♣ -	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ AK10</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥ Q6543</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ 4</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣ J1092</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S			♦ AK10			♥ Q6543			♦ 4			♣ J1092			<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ QJ52</td><td style="text-align: center;">♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ NT</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥ J7</td><td style="text-align: center;">N - - - - -</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ 1073</td><td style="text-align: center;">S - - - - -</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣ AQ83</td><td style="text-align: center;">E - 6 4 - 4</td><td></td></tr> </table>	♦ QJ52	♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ NT		♥ J7	N - - - - -		♦ 1073	S - - - - -		♣ AQ83	E - 6 4 - 4	
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♦ QJ52	♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ NT																															
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♦ 1073	S - - - - -																															
♣ AQ83	E - 6 4 - 4																															
		W - 6 4 - 4																														

This is not much of a slam, requiring a reasonable diamond break and hearts 3-2 with the king onside. In 4♥ it is impossible to draw trump without losing some club tricks; or to ruff clubs without losing some heart tricks. A likely auction: 1♦ - 1♥ - 3♦ (partial fit + extra length). Now East may try 3NT with great success on a small spade lead; or perhaps 3♣ to keep 4♥ in the game.

Board 21	♠ AK83 ♥ Q105 ♦ KJ106 ♣ A2	NS Vul Dlr: North																															
♠ 1052 ♥ AJ62 ♦ 8 ♣ J10754	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ J74</td><td style="text-align: center;">♦ ♦ ♦ ♦</td><td style="text-align: center;">NT</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥ K9843</td><td style="text-align: center;">N - - 4 3 3</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ 7</td><td style="text-align: center;">S - - 3 3 3</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣ KQ83</td><td style="text-align: center;">E - - - - -</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W - - - - -</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		N	W	E	N				W				S				♦ J74	♦ ♦ ♦ ♦	NT	♥ K9843	N - - 4 3 3		♦ 7	S - - 3 3 3		♣ KQ83	E - - - - -		W - - - - -			♠ Q96 ♥ 7 ♦ AQ95432 ♣ 96
	N	W	E																														
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S																																	
♦ J74	♦ ♦ ♦ ♦	NT																															
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♦ 7	S - - 3 3 3																																
♣ KQ83	E - - - - -																																
W - - - - -																																	

Many Norths will pre-empt East's pre-empt by opening 1♦. They rebid 1NT over partner's 1♥ response, but Checkback Stayman will see South declare 4♥. Although West is unlikely to find the killing spade lead many will fail by misguessing in trump. If you decide to finesse ♥10 you may as well run the nine to give yourself a chance. A strong no-trump and transfers will make North declarer with the same guesses to make.

Board 22	♠ J6 ♥ 876 ♦ J1092 ♣ AK64	EW Vul Dlr: East																															
♠ AKQ107 ♥ K5432 ♦ 85 ♣ 2	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ 543</td><td style="text-align: center;">♦ ♦ ♦ ♦</td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥ 10</td><td style="text-align: center;">N 2 3 - - -</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ AKQ63</td><td style="text-align: center;">S 2 3 - - -</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣ J1097</td><td style="text-align: center;">E - - 4 4 -</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W - - 4 4 -</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		N	W	E	N				W				S				♦ 543	♦ ♦ ♦ ♦	N	♥ 10	N 2 3 - - -		♦ AKQ63	S 2 3 - - -		♣ J1097	E - - 4 4 -		W - - 4 4 -			♠ 982 ♥ AQJ9 ♦ 74 ♣ Q853
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♦ 543	♦ ♦ ♦ ♦	N																															
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♦ AKQ63	S 2 3 - - -																																
♣ J1097	E - - 4 4 -																																
W - - 4 4 -																																	

West gets his blow in first, and should reach 4 of a major without any serious interference from NS, even though they have a save in 5♦. North will lead a top club, hopefully asking for a count signal from partner. The auction should tell him that South has 4 clubs, not 2, and he will switch to a diamond to avoid conceding any expensive overtricks.

Board 23	♠ AQ53 ♥ AK65 ♦ 5 ♣ QJ95	Game All Dlr: South																															
♠ KJ6 ♥ 983 ♦ 10986 ♣ A73	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ 987</td><td style="text-align: center;">♦ ♦ ♦ ♦</td><td style="text-align: center;">NT</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥ Q74</td><td style="text-align: center;">N - - 4 4 4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ AJQ72</td><td style="text-align: center;">S - - 4 4 3</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣ 64</td><td style="text-align: center;">E - - - - -</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W - - - - -</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		N	W	E	N				W				S				♦ 987	♦ ♦ ♦ ♦	NT	♥ Q74	N - - 4 4 4		♦ AJQ72	S - - 4 4 3		♣ 64	E - - - - -		W - - - - -			♠ 1042 ♥ J102 ♦ K43 ♣ K1082
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♣ 64	E - - - - -																																
W - - - - -																																	

After P -1♣ -1♦ weak no-trumpers can get the strength of their hand over by rebidding an offbeat 1NT. South may simply raise to game, and North may not realise that he needs 10 tricks to outscore anyone in 4 of a major. That means establishing diamonds, playing East for ♦Kxx; or spades, playing for a 3-3 break with the ♣K onside.

Board 24	♠ AQ1096 ♥ 1072 ♦ A865 ♣ 2	Love All Dlr: West																															
♠ 3 ♥ AQ85 ♦ QJ104 ♣ A976	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ J</td><td style="text-align: center;">♦ ♦ ♦ ♦</td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥ KJ963</td><td style="text-align: center;">N - - - - -</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ 732</td><td style="text-align: center;">S - - - - -</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣ KJ83</td><td style="text-align: center;">E 3 - - 2 1</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W 3 - - 2 1</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		N	W	E	N				W				S				♦ J	♦ ♦ ♦ ♦	N	♥ KJ963	N - - - - -		♦ 732	S - - - - -		♣ KJ83	E 3 - - 2 1		W 3 - - 2 1			♠ K87542 ♥ 4 ♦ K9 ♣ Q1054
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W 3 - - 2 1																																	

Another 4441. This time the recommended opening bid is 1♦ so that, if partner responds 1♣, you have a rebid in 2♣. Not a very nice option, so it is fortunate that North overcalls 1♣. If this is passed round to West he re-opens with a double. North can be held to 5 tricks, but East should probably remove to clubs rather than seek a penalty by defending perfectly at the one-level. South may rescue the situation by bidding 1NT at some stage, and West may wish he had opened 1♣.

Board 25	♦ J95 ♥ 874 ♦ K74 ♣ J1065	EW Vul Dlr: North																					
♠ AKQ108 ♥ AQ10 ♦ A932 ♣ 9	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">W</td><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">♦ 62</td><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">♦ ♦ ♥ ♦ NT</td><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">♦ ♦ ♥ ♦ NT</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥ J532</td><td style="text-align: center;">N - - - -</td><td style="text-align: center;">N - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ Q8</td><td style="text-align: center;">S - - - -</td><td style="text-align: center;">S - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣ AQ842</td><td style="text-align: center;">E - 5 - 5 3</td><td style="text-align: center;">E - 5 - 5 3</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">W - 5 - 5 2</td><td style="text-align: center;">W - 5 - 5 2</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S			♦ 62	♦ ♦ ♥ ♦ NT	♦ ♦ ♥ ♦ NT	♥ J532	N - - - -	N - - - -	♦ Q8	S - - - -	S - - - -	♣ AQ842	E - 5 - 5 3	E - 5 - 5 3		W - 5 - 5 2	W - 5 - 5 2	
N	W	E																					
S																							
♦ 62	♦ ♦ ♥ ♦ NT	♦ ♦ ♥ ♦ NT																					
♥ J532	N - - - -	N - - - -																					
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♣ AQ842	E - 5 - 5 3	E - 5 - 5 3																					
	W - 5 - 5 2	W - 5 - 5 2																					

A good hand for 5-card majors, since East will show a 3-card raise and reach game with ease. Playing Acol East will probably respond 1NT to West's 4th seat 1♦ opener, giving West a serious rebid problem. 3♦ is game-forcing, but not a very attractive choice with a suit like this. 2NT is also a distortion with this distribution, so perhaps 2♦ is best, provided East finds another bid. When he bids 2♣ you can follow through with 3♥ to show this hand.

Board 26	♠ AKQ52 ♥ A52 ♦ A86 ♣ 63	Game All Dlr: East																					
♠ 86 ♥ Q ♦ KJ1042 ♣ 108752	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">W</td><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">♠ J3</td><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">♦ ♦ ♥ ♦ NT</td><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">♦ ♦ ♥ ♦ NT</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥ K10863</td><td style="text-align: center;">N - - 7 7 7</td><td style="text-align: center;">N - - 7 7 7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ Q63</td><td style="text-align: center;">S - - 7 7 7</td><td style="text-align: center;">S - - 7 7 7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣ AQ4</td><td style="text-align: center;">E - - - - -</td><td style="text-align: center;">E - - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">W - - - - -</td><td style="text-align: center;">W - - - - -</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S			♠ J3	♦ ♦ ♥ ♦ NT	♦ ♦ ♥ ♦ NT	♥ K10863	N - - 7 7 7	N - - 7 7 7	♦ Q63	S - - 7 7 7	S - - 7 7 7	♣ AQ4	E - - - - -	E - - - - -		W - - - - -	W - - - - -	
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S																							
♠ J3	♦ ♦ ♥ ♦ NT	♦ ♦ ♥ ♦ NT																					
♥ K10863	N - - 7 7 7	N - - 7 7 7																					
♦ Q63	S - - 7 7 7	S - - 7 7 7																					
♣ AQ4	E - - - - -	E - - - - -																					
	W - - - - -	W - - - - -																					

Sometimes the Deep Finesse analysis need not be taken too seriously. 13 tricks depend on dropping the singleton heart honour in the West hand, then finessing twice to make 5 heart tricks; and on a successful club finesse. I would not expect many pairs to advance beyond game with these values, though a 5-card major 1♥ might excite North into some overbidding.

Board 27	♠ A976 ♥ 874 ♦ Q874 ♣ K8	Love All Dlr: South																					
♠ K102 ♥ 952 ♦ AK32 ♣ J92	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">W</td><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">♦ 843</td><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">♣ ♦ ♥ ♦ N</td><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">♣ ♦ ♥ ♦ N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥ AQJ10</td><td style="text-align: center;">N - - 1 1 -</td><td style="text-align: center;">N - - 1 1 -</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ 65</td><td style="text-align: center;">S - - 1 1 -</td><td style="text-align: center;">S - - 1 1 -</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣ Q643</td><td style="text-align: center;">E 1 - - - 1</td><td style="text-align: center;">E 1 - - - 1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">W 1 - - - -</td><td style="text-align: center;">W 1 - - - -</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S			♦ 843	♣ ♦ ♥ ♦ N	♣ ♦ ♥ ♦ N	♥ AQJ10	N - - 1 1 -	N - - 1 1 -	♦ 65	S - - 1 1 -	S - - 1 1 -	♣ Q643	E 1 - - - 1	E 1 - - - 1		W 1 - - - -	W 1 - - - -	
N	W	E																					
S																							
♦ 843	♣ ♦ ♥ ♦ N	♣ ♦ ♥ ♦ N																					
♥ AQJ10	N - - 1 1 -	N - - 1 1 -																					
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♣ Q643	E 1 - - - 1	E 1 - - - 1																					
	W 1 - - - -	W 1 - - - -																					

Unless West decides this flat 11-count is an opening bid – in which case East will probably raise and get far too high – this may well be passed out. East has just 14 Pearson points (HCP + spades) and traditional wisdom demands 15. Still, the intermediates might tempt East to open a weak 1NT. This will make easily if South leads one of his long suits, and a heart looks normal enough.

Board 28	♠ 84 ♥ 85 ♦ 105 ♣ QJ97643	NS Vul Dlr: West																					
♠ 10763 ♥ KJ43 ♦ QJ862 ♣ -	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">W</td><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">♠ AKJ92</td><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">♣ ♦ ♥ ♦ N</td><td style="width: 33.33%; text-align: center;">♣ ♦ ♥ ♦ N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♥ A106</td><td style="text-align: center;">N 5 - - 2 2</td><td style="text-align: center;">N 5 - - 2 2</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♦ K3</td><td style="text-align: center;">S 5 - - 2 2</td><td style="text-align: center;">S 5 - - 2 2</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">♣ A102</td><td style="text-align: center;">E - 3 3 - -</td><td style="text-align: center;">E - 3 3 - -</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">W - 3 2 - -</td><td style="text-align: center;">W - 3 2 - -</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S			♠ AKJ92	♣ ♦ ♥ ♦ N	♣ ♦ ♥ ♦ N	♥ A106	N 5 - - 2 2	N 5 - - 2 2	♦ K3	S 5 - - 2 2	S 5 - - 2 2	♣ A102	E - 3 3 - -	E - 3 3 - -		W - 3 2 - -	W - 3 2 - -	
N	W	E																					
S																							
♠ AKJ92	♣ ♦ ♥ ♦ N	♣ ♦ ♥ ♦ N																					
♥ A106	N 5 - - 2 2	N 5 - - 2 2																					
♦ K3	S 5 - - 2 2	S 5 - - 2 2																					
♣ A102	E - 3 3 - -	E - 3 3 - -																					
	W - 3 2 - -	W - 3 2 - -																					

North should not even consider opening 3♣ at this vulnerability. Assuming East also passes South has an excellent 19 HCP with a good 5-card suit, good controls, good intermediates. He should upgrade to a 2NT (20-22) opener. With no side entry it looks best for North to sign off in 5♣, which makes 11 tricks on this fortunate layout.

Board 29	♠ K1082 ♥ 85 ♦ J86 ♣ 8432	Game All Dlr: North																						
♠ J64 ♥ AJQ106 ♦ K107 ♣ J10	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ 93</td><td>♦ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ 9</td><td>N 3 3 - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ AQ542</td><td>S 3 3 - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ AKQ95</td><td>E - - 3 2 1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>W - - 3 2 1</td></tr> </table>		N	W	E	W					S			♠ 93	♦ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT	♥ 9	N 3 3 - - -	♦ AQ542	S 3 3 - - -	♣ AKQ95	E - - 3 2 1		W - - 3 2 1	♠ AQ75 ♥ K7432 ♦ 93 ♣ 76
	N	W	E																					
W																								
	S																							
♠ 93	♦ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT																							
♥ 9	N 3 3 - - -																							
♦ AQ542	S 3 3 - - -																							
♣ AKQ95	E - - 3 2 1																							
	W - - 3 2 1																							

After 2 passes S opens 1♦ and West overcalls 1♥. North has nothing to say but East will raise hearts, using his pet partnership agreement: eg a cuebid of 3♦ or 2NT to show these values with 4 or more hearts. If 2NT is bid South will venture 3♣ but over 3♦ it would be very bold to bid 4♣. West should not go higher than 3♥, which is in fact the highest making contract.

Board 30	♠ Q975 ♥ J876 ♦ KJ ♣ QJ4	Love All Dlr: East																						
♠ J82 ♥ 3 ♦ Q1076432 ♣ K6	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ K4</td><td>♦ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ AKQ10542</td><td>N - - 2 - 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ 8</td><td>S - - 2 - 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ 982</td><td>E 2 4 - 2 -</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>W 2 4 - 2 -</td></tr> </table>		N	W	E	W					S			♠ K4	♦ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT	♥ AKQ10542	N - - 2 - 2	♦ 8	S - - 2 - 2	♣ 982	E 2 4 - 2 -		W 2 4 - 2 -	♠ A1063 ♥ 9 ♦ A95 ♣ A10753
	N	W	E																					
W																								
	S																							
♠ K4	♦ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT																							
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♦ 8	S - - 2 - 2																							
♣ 982	E 2 4 - 2 -																							
	W 2 4 - 2 -																							

East opens 1♣ and South will bid some number of hearts, making it tough for West to introduce his long suit. North has a very defensive hand, unsuitable for high level competition, so if South has bid less than 4♥ he should not raise. Those for whom 1♣ is a 'real' suit should find their 5 defensive tricks, but 5-card majorites may try a lead other than ♣K, so missing their club ruff and allowing South to make a 9th trick.

Board 31	♠ J10653 ♥ 862 ♦ A109 ♣ 86	NS Vul Dlr: South																						
♠ Q84 ♥ A1093 ♦ 7532 ♣ K4	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ AK7</td><td>♦ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ 5</td><td>N 1 2 - 2 -</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ KJ64</td><td>S 1 2 - 2 -</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ QJ1032</td><td>E - - 3 - 1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>W - - 3 - 1</td></tr> </table>		N	W	E	W					S			♠ AK7	♦ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT	♥ 5	N 1 2 - 2 -	♦ KJ64	S 1 2 - 2 -	♣ QJ1032	E - - 3 - 1		W - - 3 - 1	♠ 92 ♥ KQJ74 ♦ Q8 ♣ A975
	N	W	E																					
W																								
	S																							
♠ AK7	♦ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT																							
♥ 5	N 1 2 - 2 -																							
♦ KJ64	S 1 2 - 2 -																							
♣ QJ1032	E - - 3 - 1																							
	W - - 3 - 1																							

Over 1♣ North should respond 1♣. East intervenes with 2♥ and Souths playing Support Doubles can show a 3-card raise - others will bid 2♣ anyway. West supports hearts, but it is close whether he is worth a cue bid of 3♣. Against 3♥ South leads a top spade and likely shifts to the ♣Q. If South has both top spades East can draw 3 rounds of trumps and play a spade towards the ♣Q. However, if he thinks North might have the other top spade honour he should delay pulling trumps and try to ruff 2 clubs high in the dummy.

Board 32	♠ AK987 ♥ 96 ♦ 1083 ♣ Q105	EW Vul Dlr: West																						
♠ QJ4 ♥ K1052 ♦ K964 ♣ 98	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>♠ 102</td><td>♦ ♦ ♥ ♣ N</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ A874</td><td>N - - - 1 -</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ J752</td><td>S - - - 1 -</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ K63</td><td>E 1 - 1 - -</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>W 1 - 2 - -</td></tr> </table>		N	W	E	W					S			♠ 102	♦ ♦ ♥ ♣ N	♥ A874	N - - - 1 -	♦ J752	S - - - 1 -	♣ K63	E 1 - 1 - -		W 1 - 2 - -	♠ 653 ♥ QJ3 ♦ AQ ♣ AJ742
	N	W	E																					
W																								
	S																							
♠ 102	♦ ♦ ♥ ♣ N																							
♥ A874	N - - - 1 -																							
♦ J752	S - - - 1 -																							
♣ K63	E 1 - 1 - -																							
	W 1 - 2 - -																							

Some might consider East too strong for a weak 1NT, but third in hand vulnerable it pays to be sound. If South leads the ♠10 and North returns a club so that South can lead a second spade declarer will be one down, but that would be really unlucky - more likely East will score 7 tricks in comfort on a red suit lead.