



u3a Bridge Simultaneous Pairs,
Celebrating our 40th Anniversary.

Monday 19th to Friday 23rd September 2022

Welcome to our Bridge Festival, a unique and innovative way of celebrating u3a's 40th Anniversary, bringing together bridge players from across the United Kingdom. Games will be played all week both Face to Face at local level and online.

All the results will be included in the overall scoring and each day's overall winners will be invited to nominate a Charity of their choice to receive an equal share of the 'surplus' from the donated "table money".

Thank you for joining in, playing and donating at <https://www.ecatsbridge.com/donate/>
Have fun, enjoy yourselves and celebrate in style.

Steve Carter

National u3a Bridge Adviser

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

We start with a very tricky deal! North is going to open and 1♠ would be my choice, but some may be more adventurous and start with 3♠. In either case East doubles and then it is a question of will a slam be reached? After 3♠ – Dbl, an immediate 6♥ would not be out of the question. It might be harder where the opening bid is 1♠.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

There are several ways in which the bidding might develop on this deal, but when South passes the likely resting place will be 3NT by North. East leads a club, West wins and returns the suit, East allowing North to win the trick. Now the fate of the contract depends on how declarer tackles the spade suit. After four rounds of diamonds there is a strong case for running the ten of spades.

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

E/W should end up playing in hearts. One possible sequence: Pass-1♣-(3♦)-Dbl-(Pass)-3♥-All Pass. The play can develop in several different ways, but there are plenty of pitfalls for both sides. On the given auction North probably leads a spade, South wins and returns the suit. Declarer must win, and after drawing a couple of rounds of trumps must get clubs right.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

After North opens 1♥ and East overcalls 2♣ South has a choice of bids. I would opt for 2♦ and then if North bids 3♥ a raise to 4♥ would be in order. The diamond position means declarer can never make less than ten tricks and might make more if the defenders lose their way. With careful play you can make 11 tricks in 4♠ who will play there?

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

Assuming E/W get a free run they will probably reach 4♠, but it is not easy to make. On a club lead declarer must win, unblock the ♥QJ, cross to dummy with the ♠A and discard his losing clubs on the top hearts. Even then he must get the diamond suit right, so its not going to happen very often! 3NT can be made on a diamond lead.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

7♥ is easy to make on this layout, but may prove difficult to bid. Suppose the auction starts 1♠-(2NT)-3♥-(5♦). If East now bids 6♣ West can bid 6♦ and maybe East will gamble on West having all the right cards.

On the other hand he may be worried about bad breaks and settle for 6♥. If South doesn't overcall, life should be much simpler.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

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

After West opens 1♦ N/S should find a way to 4♠ whatever route North chooses – I would prefer an overcall of 1♥ to Dbl. South will respond 1♠ and when North introduces his clubs South will rebid his spades and North should go on to game. If declarer gets the trumps right 11 tricks can be made.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

After a series of challenging deals this is something of a break, as E/W should easily reach 3NT. The real issue is how many tricks they will make. With spades 3-3, the ace of clubs onside and both red suits lying favourably I expect most pairs will record ten tricks. Making one more – or one less – will be what really determines your matchpoints.

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

Another straightforward deal where E/W can make 11 tricks in hearts. They should be able to stop short of slam perhaps after 1♥-2NT-3NT-4♦-4♥. Once East knows that West has no club control going past game has little to commend it.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

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

A complicated deal. After INT-3NT West leads a club and declarer should have no real chance – even making 8 tricks will be a triumph. A few West's will be able to overcall with a natural 2♣ – now N/S have to avoid game and play in diamonds – not at all easy. Perhaps where South starts with 1♣ and game is reached West will be put off a club lead.

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

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

With 35 points N/S may well get to a grand slam, but will they avoid the trap of playing in 7NT? Suppose they start with 1♠-2♣-2NT-3♦-4♦? Now North can take control with 4NT and eventually bid 7♦.

The top spot is 7♠ but that will take some bidding!

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

If the auction starts 1♠-1NT-3♣ it will not be easy for West to find the winning action, which is to raise to 4♣, leading to the easy minor suit game. Far more likely is a rebid of 3NT which is destined to fail on a heart lead. Any system that allows South to overcall should see E/W arrive in either 4♠ or 5♣.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

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

The opening exchanges are easy to predict: 1♣-(1♠)-2♥-(2♠)-Pass-(Pass). If West now prefers 3♦ to a direct 3NT East may raise to 4♦ and the final contract will be a game or slam in diamonds. Assuming North does not find a heart lead declarer does best to unblock the ace of clubs and will then need to guess the trump suit to make either contract.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

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

After 1♣-1♥-1♠-North has to decide between 3♥ or 4♥? I would go for the former, but in either case the bidding will surely continue and the reasonable slam should be reached. With trumps 2-2 and clubs 4-2 it will take a serious misplay for declarer to record less than 12 tricks.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

♠ J 2 ♥ Q J 3 ♦ 10 8 ♣ Q J 10 9 6 4 ♠ K 10 9 ♥ 10 5 2 ♦ A J 9 7 4 ♣ A 8	♠ 8 7 5 3 ♥ 8 7 6 4 ♦ K Q 6 ♣ K 3 ♠ A Q 6 4 ♥ A K 9 ♦ 5 3 2 ♣ 7 5 2
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When South opens a weak notrump North may be able to make a transfer to clubs. Assuming West can find no way into the auction 3♣ will be the final contract and barring some defensive accident declarer should lose two clubs, two diamonds and one spade. If by any chance E/W play in diamonds the defence will need to switch to spades at some point to get all their tricks.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

♠ K 8 3 ♥ A K 2 ♦ Q J 9 2 ♣ Q 8 3 ♠ J 10 9 6 ♥ 8 5 ♦ A 10 8 6 3 ♣ K J	♠ A 7 5 2 ♥ J 7 3 ♦ K 7 4 ♣ 6 4 2 ♠ Q 4 ♥ Q 10 9 6 4 ♦ 5 ♣ A 10 9 7 5
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Four Hearts is a reasonable proposition for N/S. One way to get there would be via: 1♦-1♥-INT-2♣*-3♥-4♥. With excellent trumps and a fitting card in clubs it is reasonable for North to jump to 3♥, despite holding a minimum. Assuming declarer does not find a way to lose two club tricks it should be easy to record +420.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

♠ K 10 9 ♥ A J 8 4 ♦ K J 10 8 ♣ 4 3 ♠ J 6 5 3 ♥ Q 3 2 ♦ A Q 9 2 ♣ A J	♠ A Q 8 4 2 ♥ K 10 ♦ 5 4 3 ♣ 10 8 7 ♠ 7 ♥ 9 7 6 5 ♦ 7 6 ♣ K Q 9 6 5 2
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If the auction starts with North bidding INT and South transferring to clubs West will have a balancing problem to solve when 3♣ comes round. Those who choose a takeout double will locate the spade fit and the spotlight will then be on South. 3♠ can only be defeated by an initial diamond lead – hardly an obvious choice.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

♠ 9 8 6 4 3 2 ♥ 8 4 ♦ A 5 ♣ 8 6 5 ♠ 7 ♥ A 6 5 ♦ J 8 3 ♣ Q 10 9 7 4 3	♠ A 10 5 ♥ K Q 7 ♦ 7 4 2 ♣ A K J 2 ♠ K Q J ♥ J 10 9 3 2 ♦ K Q 10 9 6 ♣ —
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A tricky deal, with many possibilities. For example, can N/S find their spade fit? Will E/W defeat 4♠ – they must cash two hearts and then switch to clubs. If E/W play 3NT what will South lead? Only a low diamond will do. 5♣ looks easy to defeat, but on a spade lead declarer can eliminate everything and exit a diamond, forcing South to play low from the ♦KQ10.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

If South opens the bidding and West is tempted to dip a toe into the auction the water may prove to be boiling! A double of 1♠ should see North redouble, West retreat to 2♦ and South double for a routine +800. Anyone who comes in over a strong NT should also suffer a disastrous penalty – but they will probably have some company.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

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

Six spades is the top spot – here is one way it might be reached: INT-3♠-4♣-4♦-4♠-4NT-5♥-6♠. West is worth a cue bid of 4♣ and once East knows West has no heart control he makes sure that two aces are not missing before bidding the slam.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

It should not be too difficult for N/S to stop in 3NT, perhaps via 1♣-1♥-2♣-3NT, although South might be a little nervous with such a good hand. If South tries something like a rebid of 2♦ North bids 2♥ and then over 2♠ bids 3♣, by which time South should have got the message that North is minimum. On this layout, with careful play, declarer should record +660.

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

Another tough one to predict. After 1♦-(Pass)-1♥ North might elect to double and then South will bid INT and make seven or eight tricks. If North passes East rebids 1♠ and if West passes that North may back in with INT. If West gives preference to 2♦ then a club lead, followed by accurate defence, will give the defenders a chance of the magic +200.

Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.

<p>♠ 10 5 ♥ K 9 8 7 ♦ K 9 8 2 ♣ Q 8 5</p> <p>♠ Q J 7 4 ♥ 10 4 3 ♦ A 10 3 ♣ A K 9</p> <p>♠ 9 8 ♥ A 2 ♦ J 6 5 4 ♣ 10 6 4 3 2</p>	<p>♠ A K 6 3 2 ♥ Q J 6 5 ♦ Q 7 ♣ J 7</p>
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4♠ will make in comfort unless the defenders start with three rounds of hearts, as declarer simply draws trumps and knocks out the ♥AK. Indeed, on a minor suit lead by North declarer can make an overtrick.

If the defenders do find their ruff declarer will have to play for a squeeze, but for that to work North would need to hold ♣Q10x as well as the ♦K.

Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.

<p>♠ K 5 ♥ A Q 8 6 ♦ K 8 6 3 ♣ 9 7 4</p> <p>♠ A 9 8 7 6 ♥ 9 7 5 4 ♦ — ♣ K 8 5 2</p> <p>♠ J 10 3 2 ♥ K ♦ Q 10 9 5 4 ♣ J 10 6</p>	<p>♠ Q 4 ♥ J 10 3 2 ♦ A J 7 2 ♣ A Q 3</p>
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If North opens INT and buys the contract he will probably make seven tricks. Those West's who have a way to show the majors, perhaps via a Landy 2♣ will find their heart fit but the 4-1 break means it will be no picnic trying to make even eight tricks. To do that declarer will have to avoid playing more than one round of trumps.

Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

<p>♠ A 8 6 4 2 ♥ K 6 5 ♦ J 8 ♣ Q 10 7</p> <p>♠ J 7 3 ♥ Q J 9 7 ♦ K 4 ♣ 9 8 5 4</p> <p>♠ K 9 5 ♥ 10 3 2 ♦ 9 2 ♣ A K J 3 2</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 ♥ A 8 4 ♦ A Q 10 7 6 5 3 ♣ 6</p>
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A part score battle with N/S having a spade fit that delivers eight tricks and E/W a very easy nine tricks in diamonds. Notice the classic position in hearts – North must not cover the queen, otherwise declarer can score three tricks in the suit by finessing the nine. Those pairs who press on to 3♠ should score very well.

Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.

<p>♠ A 10 2 ♥ J 9 6 5 4 ♦ 6 4 ♣ J 8 6</p> <p>♠ 5 3 ♥ 7 3 2 ♦ A K 9 8 7 ♣ Q 10 3</p> <p>♠ K Q J 9 6 4 ♥ A Q 10 8 ♦ J 10 ♣ 9</p>	<p>♠ 8 7 ♥ K ♦ Q 5 3 2 ♣ A K 7 5 4 2</p>
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N/S can make ten tricks in either major and will surely bid to game in one of them. However, East/West also have a double fit and a cheap save in five of a minor. If the auction goes 1♣-(1♠)-2♦-(2♠)-3♦-(3♥)-4♣-(4♥) then either East or West may decide to go on.

Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.

♠ K J ♥ 10 3 ♦ A Q 10 9 6 5 ♣ Q J 4 ♠ A 10 7 3 ♥ Q 7 6 ♦ J 8 3 ♣ 7 5 2 ♠ Q 9 5 4 2 ♥ A K J 9 ♦ 4 ♣ K 10 8	♠ 8 6 ♥ 8 5 4 2 ♦ K 7 2 ♣ A 9 6 3
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This might be one of the less complicated auctions of the night: 1♠-2♦-2♥-3NT.

However the play should be interesting whatever East leads. The best line of play for five tricks in diamonds is to finesse the queen but those who do so are likely to go down, such is the capricious nature of bridge!

Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

♠ 7 5 ♥ A K Q 9 2 ♦ 8 6 ♣ Q 8 7 5 ♠ A Q J 10 9 ♥ — ♦ 10 9 7 4 3 ♣ J 9 6 ♠ 8 4 3 2 ♥ 10 8 ♦ A K Q J 5 2 ♣ 4	♠ K 6 ♥ J 7 6 5 4 3 ♦ — ♣ A K 10 3 2
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E/W can make eleven tricks in either black suit, but unless West starts the ball rolling they may not bid at all! It could easily go 1♥-2♦-2♥-3♦, although South will not enjoy that particular spot. If West does open then there is likely to be a serious amount of blood on the carpet, for example: 2♠-(3♥)-Dbl-(4♦)-Dbl.

Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.

♠ 9 ♥ A Q 7 6 5 3 ♦ 7 6 4 ♣ K 9 2 ♠ Q J 10 7 ♥ J 4 2 ♦ K 3 2 ♣ A 10 6	♠ A 6 3 ♥ 9 8 ♦ 10 9 ♣ Q J 7 5 4 3 ♠ K 8 5 4 2 ♥ K 10 ♦ A Q J 8 5 ♣ 8
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If the bidding starts 1♠-2♥-2♠ then West should probably bid 3♥. If East decides to raise the location of the black aces and the friendly trump break is all declarer needs to score up the game.

Anyone having the sequence 1♠-1NT-2♦-2♥ may find that they are out of luck.

Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.

♠ 9 ♥ K Q 9 6 ♦ K J 8 5 ♣ 7 6 4 2 ♠ K 5 4 ♥ J 7 5 2 ♦ Q 6 4 2 ♣ J 8 ♠ Q 8 3 ♥ 3 ♦ 10 9 ♣ A K Q 10 9 5 3	♠ A J 10 7 6 2 ♥ A 10 8 4 ♦ A 7 3 ♣ —
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It's not difficult to see E/W reaching a major suit game on these cards, but making either 4♥ or 4♠ will be a tough assignment, even where South has bid a lot of clubs, for example 1♠-(3♣) – that may help you to divine the heart suit, but hardly helps you to get the spades right. Maybe North will come to the rescue and bid 5♣?

Board 31. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

E/W should buy this in hearts, the bidding starting 1♣-1♥-3♥. East does have five trumps, but a void in partner's suit is a mixed blessing. Those who press on to 4♥ are almost certain to be rewarded, as it takes an initial diamond lead to put the defenders ahead of the game. Otherwise declarer can knock out the ace of spades to set up two discards.

Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

It looks as if N/S can make game easily enough, but on a club lead both 4♠ and 3NT are in danger. Playing in spades suppose declarer wins, cashes the ♠A and loses a trick to the queen of trumps. Now a second club will see declarer having to find the play of a low diamond towards the ♦J876. In 3NT declarer has no hope if he fails to divine the spade position.