



Commentary for the CBAI Simultaneous Pairs

Friday 11th February 2022

Dear Bridge Player,

Thank you for playing in the CBAI Simultaneous Pairs 2022, and for your continued support to the Association. With live bridge curtailed, and some members not playing any bridge at all, events such as this one represent an even more important source of funds for us than normal.

Unfortunately, I suspect that all our participants will still be online for these games rather than playing live. However, things are now looking much more positive, and hopefully it will not be TOO much longer before we are all able to meet at the table again as we used to do.

I hope that you enjoyed the chance to test yourself against your fellow players across the country (and indeed maybe overseas as well – one of the benefits of online bridge). As always, the hands, which are randomly dealt by computer with NO manual intervention, provided plenty of challenges. Many thanks to our expert commentators Lucy & John Phelan for their guidance through the maze. I hope that you have picked up some useful tips from their advice. In response to requests, our editors have also included a table with the makeable contracts on each deal (the old “hand records” from live bridge) at the end of this document.

And don't forget to check your standing in the national results by [clicking here](#) once your club has uploaded its results.

Pat O'Mahony – President, Contract Bridge Association of Ireland

Board 1. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

	♠ Q 9 2		
	♥ J 8 4		
	♦ K 7 6		
	♣ K 8 6 4		
♠ 8 6 5 3		♠ A 10 7	
♥ A K 5 2		♥ 7 6	
♦ 10 9 2		♦ Q J 8 3	
♣ Q J		♣ A 10 5 2	
	♠ K J 4		
	♥ Q 10 9 3		
	♦ A 5 4		
	♣ 9 7 3		
North	East	South	West
Pass	INT*	All Pass	
*	12-14		

Many East players will – quite reasonably - not consider their 11 count to be worth an opening bid in second seat and this hand will be passed out at most tables.

(Please try to resist the impulse to re-deal).

However as the hand contains two tens – and we are non-vulnerable - the bolder East players may consider it an 11-1/2 count and punt a INT opening if playing weak NT – which will be passed out as N/S have no reason to enter the auction with their flat hands. The Easts who

are playing strong NT and decide to open one of a minor will likewise land in INT after West responds 1♥ and passes East's INT rebid.

Those East players who do decide to open this hand will score well as eight tricks are likely to be made for +120 without too much difficulty. Double-dummy N/S can hold East to 7 tricks but the defence is difficult - in fact they will need to be careful not to concede 9 tricks.

Generally it pays to be aggressive in the bidding at match point pairs when the vulnerability is Nil-All, as firstly if you are wrong – your undertricks are only 50 a pop, and if you decide to stay quiet and defend and defeat them – you are likewise only getting 50's.

Board 2. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

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

North	East	South	West
	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East will (quite justifiably) be starting to get frustrated here – Am I going to be picking up 11 points in opening position all night ?

Coming straight after Board 1 – where passing got a poor result - most Easts will undoubtedly open 1♠ with their 11 count here. In fact – with such a nice holding in spades (the boss suit), 5-4 shape and an easy rebid available in hearts – this looks like a sound opening.

West will almost certainly push on to game with her 12 count (12-1/2 if she counts her extra 10)

The most likely contract will be 3NT, which will be a bit of a struggle, but has chances – defence is the most difficult aspect of bridge and quite a few declarers will stagger home with 9 tricks.

If you are West and end up failing in 3NT – please be gentle with partner (read first few lines above).

Incidentally – if you were South – and thought about overcalling 2♦ with your 10 count – wash your mouth out. 2♦ doubled should go for about -500. It does not pay to get involved with a weak 5 card minor suit – especially when vulnerable.

Board 3. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

	♠ K Q 9 2		
	♥ 8 2		
	♦ Q 6 5 4 2		
	♣ A J		
♠ J 10 6 4		♠ 7 5	
♥ K 10 9		♥ A J 4 3	
♦ A K J 10 7		♦ 9 8	
♣ 3		♣ K Q 9 8 2	
	♠ A 8 3		
	♥ Q 7 6 5		
	♦ 3		
	♣ 10 7 6 5 4		
North	East	South	West
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	All Pass	

The majority of E/W Pairs will end up playing in a NT part score here, either INT or possibly

2NT if East considers her 10 count worth a game invite. Considering that the hand is evidently a misfit (West has the “pointy” suits ♠+♦ and East has the “roundy” suits ♣+♥) it is wiser to adopt the more conservative approach in the bidding and INT by East is quite sufficient. If West has surplus values she will push on, otherwise game is unlikely.

When you encounter a misfit situation in the auction – it’s usually best to adopt a cautious approach and drop out of the bidding as cheaply as possible.

E/W should come to 8 tricks in NT most of the time, losing just 3 spades ♦Q and ♣A, although some may hold themselves to 7 if they play on hearts and guess the ♥Q wrong.

Board 4. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

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

North	East	South	West
			1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
OR – Maybe			
North	East	South	West
			1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

* 2 Over 1 Style – Forcing to Game

As the cards lie, a grand slam can be made in clubs. However - as frequently with club slams – this is quite difficult to bid using natural methods. If the spade and club holdings in E/W were reversed – the whole room would sail into a spade slam with six to the King opposite AQx.

So – don’t feel bad if you end up in 3NT – this is where most of the E/W pairs will land,

bearing in mind East will justifiably perceive the hand as a misfit with her void in partner's suit.

The pairs who are playing 2 over 1 style – where 2♣ response is game forcing will have a better chance of finding the club fit and bidding slam, although the grand is unlikely to be reached as the hands fit miraculously well with ♥KQ opposite the ♥Ajx

Of course – some Easts will just roll the dice and punt 6NT thinking “I have a 17 count and 6 card suit opposite partners opening and I have paid my entry fee – so I'm bidding slam que sera sera”.

6NT will sail home this time – barring a spade lead and bad guess – for a fine score.

Board 5. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S

♠ 6 ♥ A 9 8 ♦ K 8 5 2 ♣ A J 7 5 3	♠ K 8 7 ♥ K Q 6 3 ♦ Q 10 9 ♣ Q 10 4	♠ A Q J 10 9 2 ♥ J 5 ♦ A J 4 3 ♣ K	♠ 5 4 3 ♥ 10 7 4 2 ♦ 7 6 ♣ 9 8 6 2
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North	East	South	West
1♥	1♠	Pass	INT*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

* Should be generally constructive opposite an overcall – 9-12 points say

This is not a great time for North to be playing a Weak NT and if she opens INT and East doubles the carnage will be unholy. Of course – if East decides not to double and instead overcalls 2♠ – then West may well decide to pass this with her singleton spade and the Weak NT gains a remarkable victory, as E/W are cold for game in spades or NT.

If North opens one of a suit, E/W should have no problem reaching game. With her distributional hand and solid spade suit East should opt for the Spade game rather than 3NT.

12 tricks are available in spades with best play. (Win the opening heart lead in dummy, finesse the ♠Q, cash the ♠A followed by the ♣K, next a diamond to the ♦K, cash ♣A discarding your

heart loser, finesse the ♦J, concede a trump to North's king and claim the rest). This line is watertight as we know that North must have all the missing honours for her opening bid.

The outcome in 3NT will depend on the opening lead. If North leads a low heart declarer can win with the Jack and follow the same line of play for 12 tricks and a great result of +490. Although E/W will be disappointed when they see the traveller and all the 800's, 1100's and +1400's for defending doubled contracts in N/S.

Board 6. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

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

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
All Pass	1♥	Pass	INT

Or maybe

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

West will open 1♦ or INT depending on whether she is playing weak or strong NT, and the hand will be played mostly in either INT or 2♥.

INT by West has good chances and will be a favourite to make after a fairly normal club lead.

2♥ will be a struggle and likely to fail by 2 or even 3 tricks on this layout (once N/S get their black suit cross ruff going), unless the defenders are kind enough to spurn their ruffs and lead trumps instead. However, Christmas is long over so no need for N/S to be dispensing such gifts.

Principle – Don't go leading trumps without a valid reason or just because you are feeling lazy

and can't think of anything else – you are more likely to be solving problems for declarer than helping partner.

Board 7. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

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

North	East	South	West
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
All Pass			

This should be a nice dull hand – a welcome respite from all the earlier excitement – as nearly all the West players will declare a club part score – making an easy 9 tricks +110.

Of course it just so happens that – with the club suit coming home for 6 tricks and the 3 outside aces – 9 tricks are also available in NT – but virtually impossible to gamble 3NT and daft lucky to make.

If you DO bid 3NT on this one with your combined 21 count – don't forget to buy a lottery ticket on the way home – shame to put all that luck to waste.

Board 8. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

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

North	East	South	West
		Pass	
INT*	Dbf**	2♥***	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

- * 12-14 – “Weak” NT
- ** 15+ - Penalty Orientated
- *** Transfer to Spades

Or Maybe.....

North	East	South	West
			Pass
INT*	Dbf**	2♥***	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass

This hand should develop into a part score battle.

If N/S are allowed to play in 2♠ they will land an easy 8 tricks for a fine score.

However – bearing in mind that we are playing match point pairs at NIL ALL Vulnerability, E/W should not sell out cheaply and it pays to compete further in the bidding (see notes on Board 1 above).

As it happens – 3♥ can actually make for West – but even if it's going down they would likely achieve a better result conceding -50 or -100 than the -110 they will concede if 2♠ makes for N/S.

When the vulnerability is Nil-All – It pays to be aggressive in the part score battle.

Board 9. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

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

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	Pass	Dbf*
2♦	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

* Take-Out

Considering the adverse vulnerability of E/W – they may decide to allow North to play in a diamond part score. -50 in 3♦ should be an average result for N/S, when 8 or 9 tricks are available for E/W in a spade part score. Should

E/W choose to defend 3♦ they will need to stay awake as it's easy for East to find herself endplayed and forced to play a heart or a club to allow declarer access to dummy's ♣K for a heart discard. After winning the first two spade tricks, West should return a heart (high spot – 8 or 7 showing no interest in the suit) to avoid any accidents later. It is also possible that East may select a top heart as her opening lead (not unreasonable on the auction) which also allows 3♦ to romp home.

Of course, the pairs who compete to 3♠ in E/W may decide to finesse for the ♠Q and make only 8 tricks. Another part score battle with a lot of possible outcomes depending on the play.

Board 10. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

	♠ K 9 6 5		
	♥ K Q 8		
	♦ Q J 5		
	♣ A 8 6		
♠ Q		♠ A 10 7 3	
♥ 10 9 5 4		♥ J 7 3 2	
♦ 10 9 8 7		♦ 6 4	
♣ K 9 3 2		♣ Q J 7	
	♠ J 8 4 2		
	♥ A 6		
	♦ A K 3 2		
	♣ 10 5 4		
North	East	South	West
	Pass	INT*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

* 12-14 – “Weak” NT

Mr. Sam Stayman popularised a fantastic convention many years ago. When your partner opens INT, you bid 2♣ to check if she has a four card major to match your own – as the major suit game with a 4-4 fit is generally better than 3NT.

However – this convention tends to be overused without discretion – and when you are like North in this hand – with totally flat 4-3-3-3 shape and no ruffing power and also stoppers in each of the 3 card suits – You should of course just bid 3NT.

OK – There will be some hands where this will backfire and 4♠ happens to be the superior contract – but after years of painful experience you will find that 3NT is the place to be.

Furthermore – even when 4 of the major happens to be the better contract – the fact that you have given the opponents less information in the auction may stand to you. (They don't know what you have got).

In the case of the given hand – both 4♠ and 3NT will make 10 tricks with careful play.

With careless play – say leading the ♠J from hand – you will make 9 tricks in either contract. In both scenarios the NT contract scores better than the spade contract.

Board 11. Dealer South. Vulnerability None

	♠ K 10 9 2		
	♥ 10 8		
	♦ J 10 6 2		
	♣ J 5 3		
♠ A 8 5 4		♠ Q J 7	
♥ 6		♥ K Q J 9	
♦ A 9 7 5		♦ K Q 3	
♣ A 9 8 2		♣ K Q 4	
	♠ 6 3		
	♥ A 7 5 4 3 2		
	♦ 8 4		
	♣ 10 7 6		
North	East	South	West
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

This will be a difficult and painful hand for many players – fraught with problems in the auction.

Tonight's hands have been very hard on East – she has had a lot of difficult decisions to make and is by now wondering why she didn't stay at home with the cat.

Basically – East has a balanced 19 count opposite an opening bid – and many will just jump to 6NT on the basis of values. This is not totally unreasonable (although not very scientific either) – but sadly you have to lose the heart ace and spade king for -1.

If the N/S hands were reversed, with the spade finesse working – then 12 tricks would roll home nicely with the heart 10 coming down and clubs breaking 3-3.

The main reason we can think of for restraint in East is her lack of Aces – None.

Therefore she should at least use Gerber or Blackwood to check.

Another approach would be (if agreed per bidding system) to rebid a quantitative 4NT Invitational to 6NT – which West would clearly pass to save the day.

Board 12. Dealer West. Vulnerability N/S

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

North	East	South	West
			1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠*	All Pass	

* Not feeling lucky tonight – so taking the low road.

Those E/W Pairs who manage to stop safely in 2♠ will score very well here. East would like to rebid 2-1/2 Spades – to invite game with her 10 count and 6 card suit. Sadly the rules of the game do not permit this – so she will need to decide whether to rebid 2♠ – and risk missing a marginal game, or jump to 3♠ – which may risk going overboard especially if West is short in spades.

East will be feeling a bit sorry for herself by now (even if already sipping a gin & tonic) and may decide to be cautious and merely rebid 2♠ with some trepidation – expecting a spade void in dummy based on her luck tonight.

Once 8 or 9 tricks are safely in the bag for a decent score at last – East will be feeling much better (or maybe it’s just the G&T).

Of course 10 tricks are possible if declarer adopts the double dummy line of coming to hand (either with a 3rd round club ruff or after defenders heart switch) and then running the Spade Jack. But this is not the natural line of play – and declarer is much more likely to begin spades from dummy.

If by any chance you are South and East does adopt this line – try holding your cards up a bit

closer to your chest – you will find that your results improve dramatically.

Board 13. Dealer North. Vulnerability All

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

North	East	South	West
2NT*	Pass	3♣**	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

* 20-22 Points - Balanced.

** Stayman

4♥ will be by far the most popular contract here, either following a Stayman sequence after North opens 2NT or via a simple raise 1♥-2♥-4♥ if North opens 1♥.

The likely outcome will be 10 or 11 tricks, depending on how declarer decides to tackle the trump suit and how awake the defenders happen to be. Firstly declarer needs to resist the impulse of taking a premature spade ruff in dummy – which will cause her problems later when trumps are discovered to divide 4-1.

Declarer wins the (spade or club) opening lead in hand and cashes one top trump, noting the fall of the Jack in East. There is a bridge theorem called “The principle of restricted choice” which basically tells us that the Jack is twice as likely to be a singleton rather than from QJ doubleton. (Please take our word for this – the maths just gives us a headache).

However – in this instance if the ♥J is a singleton, then declarer has an inevitable trump loser – as West’s ♥8 is going to stand up eventually, therefore it is reasonable for Declarer to decide to play for all the marbles by cashing another top trump hoping for the 33% chance that East has ♥QJ in which case she will make 12 tricks.

The problem with this however is that if the ♥J is singleton and declarer cashes a second top

trump she now loses control of the timing. If she plays a third trump the defenders can either force dummy with a spade to promote a trump trick or develop a diamond ruff holding declarer to 10 tricks – provided they are awake.

In contrast – If Declarer goes to dummy and runs the ♥10 and then cashes another top trump, she will make 11 tricks in comfort.

Board 14. Dealer East. Vulnerability None

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

North	East	South	West
	Pass	INT*	2♣**
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♣***
Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass

* 12-14 - Weak
** Minor Suits
*** Pass or Correct - Showing extras

When the opponents open INT and you would like to compete – it's useful to have some simple agreements so that you can show 2 suits in the bidding. Better to have 2 places to play than putting all your eggs in one basket.

A simple convention is 2♣ for Minors and 2♦ for Majors – which is what E/W are playing here.

Of course West – with her 16 count – could just double the 12-14 NT for penalties – but the problem is the shape of her hand is better suited to competing in a suit contract. If she does make a penalty double, several (bad) things can happen:-

The opponents escape safely to hearts (expected as she has void) or spades even

Worse – partner runs to 2♥ with a weak hand and 5+ hearts

Or – worse again – the opponents make INTx – maybe with overtricks.

And – of course N/S are non-vulnerable – making the double less attractive.

The hand will develop into a part score battle with West bidding clubs and N/S hearts.

The major suit is likely to win this tussle. Generally, in these auctions the percentage strategy is to make your opponents play in 3 or 5 of a major or in 4 of a minor. Whereas your own objective is to play in 2 or 4 of a major and 3 or 5 of a minor.

On this layout – West can actually make 4♣ if she is allowed to play there. The only snag – and it's a big one – is that N/S might decide to compete to 4♥ as its nil-all. Then only a trump lead from East – reasonable – but by no means automatic – can defeat the heart game.

Without a heart lead North can come to 10 tricks provided she gets the spades right (likely on the bidding). Even after a heart lead – 10 tricks still possible as the defence is quite tricky.

Board 15. Dealer South. Vulnerability N/S

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

North	East	South	West
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♦**	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

* Keycard Blackwood (1430) The 4 Aces and the King of Trumps count as Keycards
** 0 or 3 Keycards (Has to be 3 on the auction – unless South has lost her mind)

This Board will be played in a variety of contracts – 5♦, 3NT, 6♦, 6NT.

Quite a few N/S pairs will reach the optimum contract of a small slam in diamonds.

This should not be very difficult to bid provided E/W stay out of the auction.

(West has a reasonable non-vulnerable overcall of 1♠ available, and if East raises preemptively this will complicate the auction and make things difficult for N/S.)

South will show a good hand with long diamonds, then North can use whatever gadget the partnership has agreed to check for Aces, be it straight blackwood, Roman Keycard blackwood (as in the example) , or even the much maligned Gerber (4♣) convention.

Some pairs may succumb to match point avarice here – and bid 6NT. This can actually make if West does not lead a top spade, as declarer now has time to establish a club winner. But in reality most defenders will lead the ♠K – if only to be sure and prevent an overtrick. 6NT can still theoretically be made double dummy via a “double squeeze without the count” due to the fortunate layout of the club suit, but in practice this is very difficult (We can barely work it out seeing all 4 hands). More likely, an error by the defenders is declarer’s best chance.

To add to their annoyance, the Souths who fail in 6NT will see a string of 3NT+3 scores made by those who stop in the NT game after West makes the (totally normal) lead of her 4th best Spade, allowing dummy’s Jack to take the first trick. (This would – of course – be a daft lead against SIX NT).

Bridge can be a frustrating game.

Board 16. Dealer West. Vulnerability E/W

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

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	INT*	1♥
All Pass			2♥

* “Protective” - 10-14 points

Or maybe

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	2♣	1♥
3♣	All Pass		2♥

This hand should mostly be played in a heart part score by West.

After the opening 1♥ bid is passed around to South, she will most likely compete with either a “protective” INT or 2♣ or possibly even a take out double.

A take out double is not a recommended option with only 2 spades – as you can be sure partner will respond in your shortest suit. We would prefer the hand to be more balanced for our INT. Likewise – 2♣ is not without risk as we might find our partner with shortage in clubs and good diamonds.

So – life is not perfect – but the good news for South is she is non-vulnerable, so even if she takes the wrong option and goes down 2 tricks undoubled (-100) this will be better than letting West make +110.

In practice, nearly every West will compete to 2♥ with such a fine hand. This should make fairly easily with good possibilities of an overtrick if the defenders slip up.

The N/S players who are allowed to play in an undoubled part score will score well here if they can keep it to 2 undertricks due to the favourable vulnerability.

However East may decide to make a sporting double – quite justifiable at match points - and if she can thus earn her side +300 this will be a near top instead of the near bottom +100.

Board 17. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

<p>♠ 10 5 3 ♥ Q 10 8 7 3 ♦ J 5 ♣ A J 5</p> <p>♠ A Q J 7 ♥ A K 6 4 2 ♦ 7 4 2 ♣ 2</p>	<p>♠ 9 4 ♥ — ♦ A K 10 9 3 ♣ K 10 8 6 4 3</p> <p>♠ K 8 6 2 ♥ J 9 5 ♦ Q 8 6 ♣ Q 9 7</p>
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North	East	South	West
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The outcome of this hand will largely depend on whether East considers her hand worth opening.

Only a 10 point count, but the following positives should be noted:-

Excellent shape (Six-Five Come Alive someone says).

Her honours are all Aces or Kings and are Working (In her Long suits)

Long suits have good spot cards (109x and 108xxx)

So a slight majority of Easts may venture an opening. There is of course also the awkward issue that her clubs are longer than the diamonds, and of course – if she opens 1♣ partner will almost certainly respond in 1 of a major and now her hand is not strong enough to make a “reverse” bid of 2♦.

Therefore, it’s probably best to tell a little fib here and open 1♦, so that you can rebid 2♣ comfortably, showing both of your suits without going overboard in the bidding. (If partner asks you why you didn’t open a club, then of course you say “Sorry Partner – I had a club mixed up with my spades”).

After East’s opening, West should land in 3NT which will make without too much trouble with both the spade King and club Ace positioned favourably. However declarer has to time the play carefully. She must duck one of the first two rounds of diamonds to maintain communication with dummy. Also – she has to

make use of both dummy’s diamond entries to take two spade finesses in her hand.

Some East players may land in 5♦ – which also comes home easily thanks to the 3-3 club division.

3NT (or 5♦) may still be reached if East decides to pass, although many pairs will end up in a minor suit part score.

+400 will score well here for E/W, as there will be quite a few pairs either playing in part scores or mistiming the play to fail in 3NT.

Board 18. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

<p>♠ K 7 3 ♥ A K J 2 ♦ 9 8 6 2 ♣ 6 5</p> <p>♠ A 10 2 ♥ Q 10 8 3 ♦ A Q 10 5 3 ♣ 8</p>	<p>♠ J 8 5 4 ♥ 7 6 5 ♦ — ♣ A Q J 7 4 2</p> <p>♠ Q 9 6 ♥ 9 4 ♦ K J 7 4 ♣ K 10 9 3</p>
--	--

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	All Pass	

Or maybe

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	Pass*	All Pass	

* Would you mind putting down the dummy for me please ? I have to go to the bar.

Yet another hand that will see East reaching for the gin & tonic – really wishes she had stayed home in front of the telly tonight. When West opens (as expected) in her void suit – diamonds – her hand is not really strong enough to respond 2♣. Therefore most will show their 4 card spade suit.

West now has to decide how to proceed, she can

- a) Rebid her 5 card diamond suit (Ouch !)
- b) Borrow a spade and give her partner a raise to 2♠ with just 3 card trump support OR

c) Just Pass – as partner is a passed hand, game is unlikely opposite her 12 count.

The inspired guess is option c) - 1♠ should actually make 7 tricks most of the time, possibly 8 as defence is tricky.

No contract is a thing of beauty on this hand – although playing 2♦ with the 5-0 fit probably the ugliest. If you Do end up as West declaring 2♦ – try to smile at partner – remember that she has been having a rough night – and look at the Upside – You are Non-Vulnerable. (Glass half full again).

Board 19. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

	♠ J 5 2		
	♥ A J 5		
	♦ K 8 7 6 2		
	♣ 10 3		
♠ K Q 7		♠ A 8 4 3	
♥ 8 6 4 2		♥ Q 10 3	
♦ 9 3		♦ Q	
♣ Q 8 4 2		♣ A K 9 7 5	
	♠ 10 9 6		
	♥ K 9 7		
	♦ A J 10 5 4		
	♣ J 6		
North	East	South	West
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♥
3♦	All Pass		

The bidding will be most likely passed around to East, who will open 1♣ (although some naughty Norths may decide to take advantage of the favourable vulnerability and chance a light opening of 1♦ third in hand).

South has a perfectly normal non-vulnerable overcall of 1♦, and once North jump raises they are likely to win the auction. E/W can of course make 4♣ quite easily – losing only one diamond and two hearts (finessing against the ♥J), but it's difficult for them to bid 4♣ vulnerable after the N/S interference.

In fact E/W can make 4♠ with careful play thanks to the favourable layout (The hearts have to be played before you finish drawing trumps – but N/S can't get a ruff as hearts 3-3 and clubs 2-2).

Although makable for E/W – 4♠ is unlikely to be bid on the (Moysian) 4-3 trump fit and sub-marginal values.

N/S will of course fail in their diamond part score – for the same reasons that E/W can make a 4 level contract – 3 spade losers, 2 club losers and heart loser. However it's difficult for E/W to penalty double them as they don't have trumps, so most will escape for -100.

Any E/W pair that does bid the cold 4♣ will score well on this hand, as if N/S decide to bid on to 4♦, that will fail by three tricks for 150 to E/W even without a double, beating all the +130's in club part scores.

Board 20. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

	♠ A Q 8 5		
	♥ A K J 10 9		
	♦ 7 6		
	♣ Q 8		
♠ K 10 6 4		♠ 9 7 2	
♥ 8 6 2		♥ 7 5	
♦ 8 5 3		♦ Q J 10 9 2	
♣ J 6 4		♣ A K 3	
	♠ J 3		
	♥ Q 4 3		
	♦ A K 4		
	♣ 10 9 7 5 2		
North	East	South	West
			Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

* “Reverse” - 16+ points

4♥ is clearly the best contract for N/S here, and the folk playing 5 card majors should sail into the heart game with a shorter auction than the one illustrated.

Playing natural systems and 4 card majors, once South responds at the 2 level – showing 10+ points and North “reverses” showing 16+ points, the partnership are now in a game forcing auction as they each know they have 26+ points between them, so south can rebid just 2NT showing her diamond stop, which allows north to show her 5th heart without fear of the auction ending prematurely.

Declarer can make 11 tricks in 4♥ without too much difficulty, either by (after finessing) ruffing two spades in dummy (if the defenders begin the attack in diamonds) or by establishing dummy's club suit for 2 discards (if the defenders begin by cashing clubs) – either way works on this layout

Some N/S pairs will end up in 3NT which will be held to 9 or 10 tricks depending on the defence.

Board 21. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S

	♠ 9 7 4		
	♥ A 8 7 2		
	♦ Q 6 4		
	♣ Q J 7		
♠ A K Q		♠ J 10 8 2	
♥ K Q J 10 6		♥ 9	
♦ J 3		♦ A K 8 7	
♣ K 10 8		♣ A 9 6 4	
	♠ 6 5 3		
	♥ 5 4 3		
	♦ 10 9 5 2		
	♣ 5 3 2		
North	East	South	West
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♠**	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* Gerber – Asking for Aces

** 2 Aces

Most E/W pairs should have no problem reaching the laydown slam on this hand. Once East shows a normal opening value hand West will push to slam with her 19 count and solid heart suit.

A slight worry for West is that she has only 1 Ace, and if East is a minimum opening – say 11-13 points then it is just possible that we could be missing 2 Aces – so no harm to use something like the Gerber convention to check how many aces partner has with her opening bid.

Of course – Gerber is hated by experts as they much prefer to use 4♣ in this instance as “splinter” (showing short clubs and spade support) or some type of cue-bid or fit-jump or other fancy meaning depending on the day of the week or the ambient temperature.

Fortunately – we are not experts – so we can use Gerber to make sure we are not playing in a slam missing two cashing aces. Blackwood could also be employed – provided the partnership has a safe way of stopping in 5NT if we find 2 aces are missing, but Gerber has the advantage of allowing us to stop in 4NT without ambiguity.

Board 22. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

	♠ Q J 10 7 6 5 4		
	♥ A J		
	♦ Q 5 3 2		
	♣ —		
♠ A K 8 2		♠ —	
♥ Q		♥ K 9 7	
♦ K 8 7		♦ A J 10 9 6	
♣ A Q 10 9 6		♣ K 8 7 3 2	
	♠ 9 3		
	♥ 10 8 6 5 4 3 2		
	♦ 4		
	♣ J 5 4		
North	East	South	West
	1♦	Pass	2♣
3♠	4♣	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♥**	Pass	6♣
All Pass			
* Roman Keycard Blackwood (1430)			
** 2 Key-Cards – No trump Queen			

After all the quiet stuff earlier – now E/W get two slam hands in a row.

This one is a bit trickier than the last however.

East will likely open 1♦ with her 11 count and 5-5 in the minors. South, even though she is non-vul against vul – will most likely decide not to intervene with her 7 card heart suit as it’s a fairly revolting hand, and on a bad day partner might take you seriously and it could all end in tears.

For Example:- North may have values and raise you to a hopeless game (when E/W might have nothing their way)

Or as South, if partner ended up on lead in defence, how would you feel about her leading the K of hearts from Kx ?

West will likely respond 2♣ and North will now compete in some number of spades, 2, 3, or 4 depending on your taste. Provided East is not feeling too shellshocked after the earlier hands, she will now show her club support (hopefully the 6NT on the last Board and the few G&T’s have her feeling more confident).

Once West learns of the club fit, she will drive to slam either bidding 6♣ directly or using some form of ace ask – such as Keycard Blackwood to get there (and determine that the Grand slam is not in the picture).

6♣ is the best place to be as we can just concede a heart, throw a diamond on the ♥K, and ruff 2 diamonds to bring down the ♦Q. 6NT can score better of course – but you need to find the ♦Q, and if North has pre-empted in spades – most of us will get this wrong.

Anyone who ends up in 6♦ will have the same problem of finding the Q, and may have their train derailed before it leaves the station if South finds a club lead.

Board 23. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

	♠ J 6 4		
	♥ 8 7 5 3		
	♦ 2		
	♣ A K Q 7 3		
♠ A Q 9 3		♠ 10 7 2	
♥ J 10 4 2		♥ 9 6	
♦ 8 5 4 3		♦ A Q 7	
♣ J		♣ 10 8 6 5 4	
	♠ K 8 5		
	♥ A K Q		
	♦ K J 10 9 6		
	♣ 9 2		
North	East	South	West
		1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

* 15-16 Balanced

3NT will be the popular contract here for N/S with their combined 26 count.

This will be a struggle though, with neither hearts or clubs obliging.

However - as always – defence is difficult and a slight slip up will let the contract out.

E.G.: If the defenders decide to lead a couple of rounds of diamonds, or make poor discards.

If declarer escapes a spade lead – as many West players will be reluctant to lead away from four to the AQ into the strong hand – then she has a chance of getting home if (before going after the clubs) - she can force out East's AQ of diamonds and East either fails to find the spade switch, or if West fails to duck the first or second round of spades to maintain communications.

Most declarers will just go after the clubs and/or hearts which will lead to disappointment.

There should be a variety of results, but any N/S pair succeeding in 3NT will score very well.

Board 24. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

	♠ 9 4		
	♥ A 10 8 2		
	♦ A K 8 7		
	♣ A 6 4		
♠ K J 10 8		♠ Q 5 3 2	
♥ 9		♥ J 7	
♦ Q J 10 5 4		♦ 3 2	
♣ Q 10 5		♣ J 9 8 3 2	
	♠ A 7 6		
	♥ K Q 6 5 4 3		
	♦ 9 6		
	♣ K 7		
North	East	South	West
		1♥	Pass
1♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
2♥*	Pass		All Pass

* Would like to bid 2-1/2 Hearts – but can't find that card in Bidding Box (Maybe try pulling out the 2♥ and 3♥ cards together ?)

N/S may find this Board frustrating as they stop in 4♥ and collect an ice cold 12 tricks.

After North's 1♦ opening and South's 1♥ response some North's may consider a raise to 2♥ insufficient with a 15 count – all aces and kings - and an outside doubleton. However North's hand is basically a flat 7 loser, so 2♥ will be the popular choice, which will generally find South stopping in game.

Should North decide to make the slight overbid of 3♥, then South will certainly push on to slam after checking for controls/keycards and finding they have them all.

Nothing much to the play in 6♥ of course – we just lose one spade trick.

However, don't beat yourself up if you didn't bid this slam, as it is quite a fortunate layout and the N/S hands just happen to fit very well.

For example, If North had three spades instead of three clubs, then there would be virtually no chance of making the slam. You are not going to be able to discern this level of information using natural bidding methods – so just shrug your shoulders and move on to the next board.

Board 25. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

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

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1♠	1NT
Pass	2♦*	Dbf	2♥
2♣	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass

* Transfer to Hearts

This Board should develop into a typical part score battle. As usual, the side that possesses the “Boss” Suit (Spades) – and favourable vulnerability – are likely to win the auction.

After South opens 1♠, West with her fine 17 count has a choice of possible actions, none of which is perfect (as usual).

- Pass Well now that’s just being a total WUSS – come on – you paid your entry fee !
- 1NT Shows the shape and point count (15-18) - but we have only one spade stop.
- DBL Also a good option – though we would prefer to have a 4th heart
- 2♣ At least this is making an effort – but puts all your eggs in one basket.

On the layout, E/W can actually make 4h if declarer guesses everything right, including playing South for a stiff AQ of trumps. But hardly a percentage contract, so most E/W pairs will be happy enough just to push N/S into 3♠ which should fail by a trick, even if West starts off with a heart lead into declarer’s AQ (West is going to be endplayed at some point – so might as well be at trick one – at least she can continue hearts later without doing any further damage). The final outcome will depend on who makes the best guesses or the least mistakes.

Board 26. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

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

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
Pass	1NT*	2♣	All Pass

* Protective – nominally 10-14 points (In this case 10-11 as East is a passed hand)

After South opens 1♠, quite a few West players will overcall 2♣. However this is not generally a good idea on hands of this type, as we have only 5 clubs, the club suit quality is very poor, and we are vulnerable and could suffer a substantial penalty if North happens to have a good club holding.

The overcaller will argue afterwards “But I had 12 points” – This would be fine for an Opening Bid, for an Overcall the quality of your suit is far more important than your point count.

Some Wests may try doubling for take-out instead, but the problem is partner may bid diamonds and also we have only 3 hearts, so we risk ending up in a 4-2 or 4-3 fit in a red suit.

Assuming West opts for a sensible pass, the bidding is passed back to East, who should take some “balancing” action with her 10 count, bearing in mind that partner may have some values. Best option is a simple “protective” 1NT. Should East be allowed to play in 1NT she should make 8 or even 9 tricks due to the fortunate layout of the heart suit.

The vulnerability – Game All – Will dampen the enthusiasm for a competitive auction here, but nevertheless the majority of South players will not sell out to 1NT and will up the ante to 2s with their shapely 6-4 hand. This will most likely become the final contract, as E/W will have the prospect of scoring +200 if they can

beat this by 2 tricks which would outshine any possible part score their way.

Some aggressive West players may even risk a sporting match point double with their balanced hand and 3 aces – which should be profitable in this instance for +200 or even +500, barring any defensive howlers.

2♠ should fail by one or two tricks depending on the play & defence.

Should West (unwisely) compete to 3♣ – this will likely fail for a fine score to N/S

Board 27. Dealer South. Vulnerability None

<p>♠ A K 9 7 6 5 ♥ A 10 5 ♦ J 10 9 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ Q 10 3 ♥ 6 2 ♦ A 8 7 6 ♣ Q J 7 2</p> <p>♠ J 2 ♥ K Q 8 ♦ K Q 2 ♣ 10 9 8 5 4</p>	<p>♠ 8 4 ♥ J 9 7 4 3 ♦ 5 4 3 ♣ A K 3</p>
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North	East	South	West
1♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass	2NT*	Pass

* Natural – 10-11 points balanced

There will be some Souths who consider their 11 count with a five card suit worth an opening, but the majority will pass. Thereafter most pairs will end up playing in a spade part score, as even if South shows invitational values in the auction, North still has only a minimum range 12 count 7 loser hand.

On sight of dummy, North will immediately wish she was in game of course, as the hands fit particularly well, with all of the honour cards in the red side suits “working” to produce tricks, and South has no wasted values in clubs. E.g. If South had the KQ of Clubs instead of the KQ of Hearts, then she would struggle to make even 9 tricks in spades and the 2 level would be high enough.

As the cards lie, North will likely make 10 easy tricks in the spade contract, and possibly 11 if she can guess the spade position – running the Jack from table – and if the Queen covers –

returning to dummy and finessing against the ten.

This hand will be a happy one for the players who open the 11 point south hand, as they should stroll into the spade game without much difficulty.

Board 28. Dealer West. Vulnerability N/S

<p>♠ Q 7 ♥ J 7 6 4 2 ♦ A K 10 ♣ 5 4 2</p> <p>♠ A J 8 4 ♥ A 5 ♦ J 7 5 ♣ K Q 7 6</p> <p>♠ K 10 9 2 ♥ 9 3 ♦ Q 9 6 3 2 ♣ A J</p>	<p>♠ 6 5 3 ♥ K Q 10 8 ♦ 8 4 ♣ 10 9 8 3</p>
--	--

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♣
2♦	3♣	All Pass	1♠

We can expect a variety of contracts on this hand, depending on the bidding systems employed.

The strong NT people will open 1NT with the West hand and will most likely play there – as the adverse vulnerability should discourage N/S from competing with their emaciated red suits.

This should work out very well for West after a normal heart lead from North, she can now knock out the Ace of clubs and bring home 7 or 8 tricks.

Of course (as South is busily scratching her ring finger) North may find the inspired diamond lead to defeat the contract with the defenders cashing 5 diamonds and switching to a spade.

The West players who open 1♣ will likely find themselves in a part score battle once N/S find their diamond fit. East will likely compete to 3♣ considering the vulnerability and for the same reason N/S may sell out to 3♣.

Any N/S pair allowed to play in the safe 2♦ contract will score very well on this hand.

Board 29. Dealer North. Vulnerability All

	♠ Q 8 6		
	♥ K Q 9 4		
	♦ K 8 6 4 3		
	♣ 5		
♠ A K 7 5		♠ 4 3	
♥ 7 6 3 2		♥ A 8 5	
♦ Q 10		♦ J 9 5	
♣ 10 9 3		♣ A Q J 7 6	
	♠ J 10 9 2		
	♥ J 10		
	♦ A 7 2		
	♣ K 8 4 2		
North	East	South	West
Pass	INT	All Pass	

This hand will be a good one for the Weak NT players. After East opens INT (12-14), the adverse vulnerability may keep N/S out of the auction (even if North has some convention to show diamonds & hearts). The strong NT folk may also find themselves playing unmolested in INT after the auction goes 1♣-1♥-NT – should the opponents stay silent.

In INT after a normal black suit lead, East will wrap up 7 or even 8 tricks (if the defenders switch to diamonds instead of hearts) without breaking a sweat.

Any of the N/S pairs who are brave enough to get into the auction (vulnerability is for children – who cares? – I paid my entry fee) will do well here as 2♦ plays very well for 8 easy tricks, and even 2♠ is playable on the 4-3 “Moysian” fit.

Board 30. Dealer East. Vulnerability None

	♠ 7 5 2		
	♥ A K Q 3		
	♦ A 9 3		
	♣ 9 7 3		
♠ 8 6		♠ 9 4	
♥ J 10 9 8		♥ 7 5 2	
♦ Q 7 5 4		♦ 8 6	
♣ Q 10 5		♣ A K J 6 4 2	
	♠ A K Q J 10 3		
	♥ 6 4		
	♦ K J 10 2		
	♣ 8		
North	East	South	West
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

East may possibly decide to open a pre-emptive 3♣ here as her suit is good even if lacking a 7th card. (Sorry partner – I had one of my spades mixed up with my clubs).

This pre-empt is a double edged sword however. True – It may obstruct N/S from bidding the spade slam – but it certainly will NOT keep them out of the obvious 4♠ game, and if by some chance they DO manage to bid 6♠ – East’s pre-empt means that they will now almost certainly get the diamonds right (playing for the pre-emptor East to be short in diamonds and ♦Q to be in West) whereas if E/W stay silent, this will just be a 50-50 guess.

Should East pass, South will open 1♠. North now has an awkward decision – as generally a 2♥ response over a 1♠ opening shows a 5 card heart suit. If N/S are playing a 5 card spade then she has enough to bid 4♠ – But such an auction is usually reserved for weak shapely hands with good trump support. So – as the lesser of evils she may decide to respond in her 3 card diamond suit.

South now rebids 3♠ and North has another sticky decision to make.

She has opening values opposite partners good hand and a known 10 card trump fit. However her hand is a very flat 8-loser, and she has already shown South 10+ points with her 2♦ bid.

So – as Dirty Harry used to say “Do you feel lucky?”

Some will decide to cop out in 4♠ (no shame in that – at least you will be putting score in N/S column), some will hedge their bets, check for Aces (or Keycards) and stop in 4♠ or 5♠ when they find one missing. And others will just bid the slam.

The play of the hand is a matter of “cherchez la femme” – so we can try leading the Jack of Diamonds from hand in case West is Naïve enough to cover – but basically a 50-50 guess.

Board 31. Dealer South. Vulnerability N/S

<p>♠ K Q 8 ♥ A K 5 3 2 ♦ K 8 ♣ 9 4 3</p> <p>♠ 10 9 7 4 2 ♥ J 8 7 6 ♦ 5 3 ♣ 7 5</p> <p>♠ 6 3 ♥ 4 ♦ A Q 9 7 4 ♣ A Q J 10 6</p>	<p>♠ A J 5 ♥ Q 10 9 ♦ J 10 6 2 ♣ K 8 2</p>
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North	East	South	West
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

* Fourth Suit Forcing – May of may not have spades – asking partner for more details.

A fairly tame hand for a change – Just as well as it’s getting late and we are getting tired.

3NT should be the popular contract here – always a favourite, after South shows her minor suits and North uses the “4th Suit forcing” convention to check the off-chance that South might have 3 card heart support.

The 3NT game should roll home for just 11 tricks +660, provided East does not commit any indiscretion with her diamond suit. (Like leading one or discarding one).

N/S can make a slam in clubs as the cards lie, but this is a distinctly anti-percentage prospect, requiring the club finesse to work, the trumps to behave, and diamonds to be either 3-3 or 2-4 with the defender holding short diamonds not holding the club king, or alternatively the spade ace onside to set up a diamond discard.

Not sure what that all works out at percentage wise – and we have had too many G&T’s to calculate – but suffice to say you don’t really want to be bidding these kind of slams.

If you are East here – and N/S DO bid and make this somewhat fortuitous club slam against you – just congratulate them politely (try your best to fake some sincerity) and take another sip from the gin bottle.

Board 32. Dealer West. Vulnerability E/W

<p>♠ J 10 7 ♥ J 2 ♦ K 9 7 5 ♣ A J 7 4</p> <p>♠ Q 6 4 3 2 ♥ Q 10 ♦ A J 8 ♣ Q 5 2</p> <p>♠ A K 8 5 ♥ A K 8 7 5 ♦ 6 2 ♣ 9 3</p>	<p>♠ 9 ♥ 9 6 4 3 ♦ Q 10 4 3 ♣ K 10 8 6</p>
--	--

North	East	South	West
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
DBL*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

* Negative (Take-Out) Double.

The poor suit quality and adverse vulnerability should discourage most of the Wests from opening 1♠ first in hand with their 11 count. (Do you really want to rebid 2♠ with Q6432 ?)

So bidding will be passed around to South who will open 1♥, North has an average balanced 10 count and depending on the partnership agreements she may bid 1NT, 2NT, or 2 of a minor.

1NT (showing 6-11 – 2/1 style) will end the auction safely.

2NT (showing 10-11 – natural style) will probably entice South to go on to game.

Sadly for North – 3NT will be doomed to go for -1 or -2 once the defenders attack in the minor suits.

Of course – after South’s 1♥ opening – quite a few West players who did not consider opening 1♠ will now come in with a 2♠ overcall. North – with 10 points and both minors – has a clearcut negative double, and if South is inspired to pass this (at the vulnerability) it will be a painful experience for West.

Alternatively, if South decides to bid 2NT, north may push on to game and now a spade lead from West just about gives South a chance to bring home 9 tricks if she starts hearts from the top – playing them to be either 3-3 or either defender to have Doubleton Q9, Q10, or 109.

2022 CBAI Pairs Friday 11 February

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<p>1 Dir: N Vul: None</p> <p>♠ Q92 ♥ J84 ♦ K76 ♣ K864</p> <p>♠ 8653 ♥ AK52 ♦ T92 ♣ QJ</p> <p>♠ AT7 ♥ 76 ♦ QJ83 ♣ AT52</p> <p>9 ♠ KJ4 10 ♥ QT93 11 ♦ A54 10 ♣ 973</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N - - - - - S - - - - - E 2 3 1 2 1 W 2 3 1 2 1</p>	<p>2 Dir: E Vul: N-S</p> <p>♠ 9863 ♥ J64 ♦ K63 ♣ K74</p> <p>♠ T7 ♥ K92 ♦ AT98 ♣ AJ86</p> <p>♠ AKQ52 ♥ Q753 ♦ 7 ♣ T92</p> <p>7 ♠ J4 12 ♥ AT8 11 ♦ QJ542 10 ♣ Q53</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N - - - - - S - - - - - E 3 2 4 3 2 W 3 2 4 3 2</p>	<p>3 Dir: S Vul: E-W</p> <p>♠ KQ92 ♥ 82 ♦ Q6542 ♣ AJ</p> <p>♠ JT64 ♥ KT9 ♦ AKJT7 ♣ 3</p> <p>♠ 75 ♥ AJ43 ♦ 98 ♣ KQ982</p> <p>12 ♠ A83 10 ♥ Q765 10 ♦ 3 6 ♣ T7654</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N - - - - - S - - - - - E 2 2 2 1 1 W 2 2 2 1 2</p>	<p>4 Dir: W Vul: Both</p> <p>♠ A2 ♥ T6432 ♦ 9753 ♣ J7</p> <p>♠ KJT765 ♥ KQ ♦ T2 ♣ AQ3</p> <p>♠ AJ7 ♥ AKQ4 ♣ K98542</p> <p>5 ♠ Q9843 15 ♥ 985 17 ♦ J86 3 ♣ T6</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N - - - - - S - - - - - E 7 6 4 5 6 W 7 6 4 5 6</p>
<p>5 Dir: N Vul: N-S</p> <p>♠ K87 ♥ KQ63 ♦ QT9 ♣ QT4</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ A98 ♦ K852 ♣ AJ753</p> <p>♠ AQJT92 ♥ J5 ♦ AJ43 ♣ K</p> <p>12 ♠ 543 12 ♥ T742 16 ♦ 76 0 ♣ 9862</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N - - - - - S - - - - - E 5 7 3 6 4 W 5 7 3 6 4</p>	<p>6 Dir: E Vul: E-W</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ 873 ♦ A963 ♣ AQT54</p> <p>♠ QJ5 ♥ A2 ♦ QT74 ♣ KJ93</p> <p>♠ KT43 ♥ KJT65 ♦ J2 ♣ 76</p> <p>10 ♠ A9762 13 ♥ Q94 8 ♦ K85 9 ♣ 82</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N 2 2 - - - S 2 2 - 1 - E - - - - - W - - - - 1</p>	<p>7 Dir: S Vul: Both</p> <p>♠ KQJ9 ♥ KJ ♦ K953 ♣ T98</p> <p>♠ T8 ♥ 842 ♦ AJ ♣ AKJ632</p> <p>♠ A753 ♥ A97 ♦ 8762 ♣ 54</p> <p>13 ♠ 642 13 ♥ QT653 8 ♦ QT4 6 ♣ Q7</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N - 1 1 - - S - 1 1 - - E 3 - - 1 3 W 3 - - 1 3</p>	<p>8 Dir: W Vul: None</p> <p>♠ K2 ♥ AT6 ♦ AT98 ♣ J763</p> <p>♠ A3 ♥ J9874 ♦ J63 ♣ T92</p> <p>♠ T74 ♥ KQ5 ♦ KQ54 ♣ AQ8</p> <p>12 ♠ QJ9865 6 ♥ 32 16 ♦ 72 6 ♣ K54</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N - - 1 - - S - - 1 - - E 1 1 3 - - W 1 1 3 - -</p>
<p>9 Dir: N Vul: E-W</p> <p>♠ Q6 ♥ A62 ♦ AT85432 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ AKJT ♥ 8743 ♦ K7 ♣ Q92</p> <p>♠ 9543 ♥ KQ9 ♦ QJ ♣ 8764</p> <p>14 ♠ 872 13 ♥ JT5 8 ♦ 96 5 ♣ KJT53</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N - 2 - - - S - 2 - - - E 1 - 1 3 - W 1 - 2 3 -</p>	<p>10 Dir: E Vul: Both</p> <p>♠ K965 ♥ KQ8 ♦ QJ5 ♣ A86</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ T954 ♦ T987 ♣ K932</p> <p>♠ AT73 ♥ J732 ♦ 64 ♣ QJ7</p> <p>15 ♠ J842 5 ♥ A6 8 ♦ AK32 12 ♣ T54</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N 2 3 1 4 4 S 2 3 1 4 4 E - - - - - W - - - - -</p>	<p>11 Dir: S Vul: None</p> <p>♠ KT92 ♥ T8 ♦ JT62 ♣ J53</p> <p>♠ A854 ♥ 6 ♦ A975 ♣ A982</p> <p>♠ QJ7 ♥ KQJ9 ♦ KQ3 ♣ KQ4</p> <p>5 ♠ 63 12 ♥ A75432 19 ♦ 84 4 ♣ T76</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N - - - - - S - - - - - E 5 4 3 5 5 W 6 4 3 5 6</p>	<p>12 Dir: W Vul: N-S</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ T9742 ♦ KJ972 ♣ QJ</p> <p>♠ K5 ♥ A8 ♦ A8654 ♣ KT92</p> <p>♠ AJ9863 ♥ QJ5 ♦ Q3 ♣ 85</p> <p>7 ♠ QT42 14 ♥ K63 10 ♦ T 9 ♣ A7643</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N - - 1 - - S - - 1 - - E 1 2 - 3 2 W 2 2 - 3 2</p>
<p>13 Dir: N Vul: Both</p> <p>♠ AK3 ♥ AK54 ♦ T62 ♣ AQT</p> <p>♠ J76 ♥ Q832 ♦ 83 ♣ J953</p> <p>♠ Q9842 ♥ J ♦ AJ4 ♣ 8764</p> <p>20 ♠ T5 4 ♥ T976 8 ♦ KQ975 8 ♣ K2</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N 2 6 5 2 6 S 2 6 5 2 6 E - - - - - W - - - - -</p>	<p>14 Dir: E Vul: None</p> <p>♠ K72 ♥ KT932 ♦ 9853 ♣ K</p> <p>♠ A98 ♥ AKQ72 ♦ QJ853 ♣</p> <p>♠ Q63 ♥ 7654 ♦ J4 ♣ 9762</p> <p>9 ♠ JT54 16 ♥ AQJ8 3 ♦ T6 12 ♣ AT4</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N - - 3 1 1 S - - 4 1 1 E 4 1 - - - W 4 1 - - -</p>	<p>15 Dir: S Vul: N-S</p> <p>♠ J9 ♥ AK74 ♦ KQ43 ♣ J65</p> <p>♠ KQ742 ♥ QJ8 ♦ T7 ♣ T92</p> <p>♠ T863 ♥ T9632 ♦ 9 ♣ Q74</p> <p>14 ♠ A5 8 ♥ 5 2 ♦ AJ8652 16 ♣ AK83</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N 6 6 1 1 6 S 6 6 1 1 6 E - - - - - W - - - - -</p>	<p>16 Dir: W Vul: E-W</p> <p>♠ KQT5 ♥ 632 ♦ 742 ♣ 985</p> <p>♠ A63 ♥ AT8754 ♦ KJ9 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ J972 ♥ Q9 ♦ T53 ♣ Q763</p> <p>5 ♠ 84 5 ♥ KJ 14 ♦ AQ86 14 ♣ KJT42</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N 1 - - - - S 1 - - - - E - - 3 2 1 W - - 2 2 1</p>
<p>17 Dir: N Vul: None</p> <p>♠ T53 ♥ QT873 ♦ J5 ♣ AJ5</p> <p>♠ AQJ7 ♥ AK642 ♦ 742 ♣ 2</p> <p>♠ 94 ♥ AKT93 ♦ KT8643 ♣</p> <p>8 ♠ K862 14 ♥ J95 10 ♦ Q86 8 ♣ Q97</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N - - - - - S - - - - - E 5 5 3 3 4 W 5 5 3 3 4</p>	<p>18 Dir: E Vul: N-S</p> <p>♠ K73 ♥ AKJ2 ♦ 9862 ♣ 65</p> <p>♠ AT2 ♥ QT83 ♦ AQT53 ♣ 8</p> <p>♠ J854 ♥ 765 ♦ AKQ742 ♣</p> <p>11 ♠ Q96 12 ♥ 94 8 ♦ KJ74 9 ♣ KT93</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N - 1 - - 1 S - 1 - - 1 E 1 - 1 - - W 1 - 1 1 -</p>	<p>19 Dir: S Vul: E-W</p> <p>♠ J52 ♥ AJ5 ♦ K8762 ♣ T3</p> <p>♠ KQ7 ♥ 8642 ♦ 93 ♣ Q842</p> <p>♠ A843 ♥ QT3 ♦ Q ♣ AK975</p> <p>9 ♠ T96 7 ♥ K97 15 ♦ AJT54 9 ♣ J6</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N - 1 - - - S - 1 - - - E 4 - 2 4 - W 4 - 2 4 -</p>	<p>20 Dir: W Vul: Both</p> <p>♠ AQ85 ♥ AKJT9 ♦ 76 ♣ Q8</p> <p>♠ KT64 ♥ 862 ♦ 853 ♣ J64</p> <p>♠ 972 ♥ 75 ♦ QJT92 ♣ AK3</p> <p>16 ♠ J3 4 ♥ Q43 10 ♦ AK4 10 ♣ T9752</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N 3 1 5 3 3 S 3 1 5 3 3 E - - - - - W - - - - -</p>
<p>21 Dir: N Vul: N-S</p> <p>♠ 974 ♥ A872 ♦ Q64 ♣ QJ7</p> <p>♠ AKQ ♥ KQJT6 ♦ J3 ♣ KT8</p> <p>♠ JT82 ♥ 9 ♦ AK87 ♣ A964</p> <p>9 ♠ 653 19 ♥ 543 12 ♦ T952 0 ♣ 532</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N - - - - - S - - - - - E 5 4 6 6 6 W 5 4 6 6 6</p>	<p>22 Dir: E Vul: E-W</p> <p>♠ QJT7654 ♥ AJ ♦ Q532 ♣</p> <p>♠ AK82 ♥ Q ♦ K87 ♣ AQT96</p> <p>♠ K97 ♥ AJT96 ♦ K8732 ♣</p> <p>10 ♠ 93 18 ♥ T865432 11 ♦ 4 1 ♣ J54</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N - - - - - S - - - - - E 6 5 1 1 6 W 6 6 1 1 6</p>	<p>23 Dir: S Vul: Both</p> <p>♠ J64 ♥ 8753 ♦ 2 ♣ AKQ73</p> <p>♠ AQ93 ♥ JT42 ♦ 8543 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ T72 ♥ 96 ♦ AQ7 ♣ T8654</p> <p>10 ♠ K85 8 ♥ AKQ 6 ♦ KJT96 16 ♣ 92</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N 2 2 2 1 2 S 2 2 2 1 2 E - - - - - W - - - - -</p>	<p>24 Dir: W Vul: None</p> <p>♠ 94 ♥ AT82 ♦ AK87 ♣ A64</p> <p>♠ KJT8 ♥ 9 ♦ QJT54 ♣ QT5</p> <p>♠ Q532 ♥ J7 ♦ 32 ♣ J9832</p> <p>15 ♠ A76 9 ♥ KQ6543 4 ♦ 96 12 ♣ K7</p> <p>♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ NT N 1 3 6 1 5 S 1 3 6 1 5 E - - - - - W - - - - -</p>

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<p>25 ♠ J643 Dir: N ♥ T96 Vul: E-W ♦ 97 ♣ J832</p> <p>♠ K7 ♠ T2 ♥ KJ3 ♥ 87542 ♦ AT5 ♦ KJ43 ♣ AQT54 ♣ 96</p> <p>2 ♠ AQ985 ♥ AQ 17 4 ♦ Q862 17 ♣ K7</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>- - - 1 -</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>- - - 2 -</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2 3 4 - 1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2 3 4 - 1</td></tr> </table>	♠	NT	N	- - - 1 -	S	- - - 2 -	E	2 3 4 - 1	W	2 3 4 - 1	<p>26 ♠ 4 Dir: E ♥ J9642 Vul: Both ♦ Q9832 ♣ 98</p> <p>♠ T87 ♠ K65 ♥ A85 ♥ QT73 ♦ A5 ♦ KJ64 ♣ A7632 ♣ J4</p> <p>3 ♠ AQJ932 ♥ K 12 10 ♦ T7 15 ♣ KQT5</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>- - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>- - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3 2 3 1 3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2 2 3 - 2</td></tr> </table>	♠	NT	N	- - - - -	S	- - - - -	E	3 2 3 1 3	W	2 2 3 - 2	<p>27 ♠ AK9765 Dir: S ♥ AT5 Vul: None ♦ JT9 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ QT3 ♠ 84 ♥ 62 ♥ J9743 ♦ A876 ♦ 543 ♣ QJ72 ♣ AK3</p> <p>12 ♠ J2 ♥ KQ8 9 8 ♦ KQ2 11 ♣ T9854</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>2 1 2 5 2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2 1 2 5 2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>- - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>- - - - -</td></tr> </table>	♠	NT	N	2 1 2 5 2	S	2 1 2 5 2	E	- - - - -	W	- - - - -	<p>28 ♠ Q7 Dir: W ♥ J7642 Vul: N-S ♦ AKT ♣ 542</p> <p>♠ AJ84 ♠ 653 ♥ A5 ♥ KQT8 ♦ J75 ♦ 84 ♣ KQ76 ♣ T983</p> <p>10 ♠ KT92 ♥ 93 15 5 ♦ Q9632 10 ♣ AJ</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>- 2 - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>- 2 - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2 - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2 - - 1 -</td></tr> </table>	♠	NT	N	- 2 - - -	S	- 2 - - -	E	2 - - - -	W	2 - - 1 -
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<p>29 ♠ Q86 Dir: N ♥ KQ94 Vul: Both ♦ K8643 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ AK75 ♠ 43 ♥ 7632 ♥ A85 ♦ QT ♦ J95 ♣ T93 ♣ AQJ76</p> <p>10 ♠ JT92 ♥ JT 9 12 ♦ A72 9 ♣ K842</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>- 2 1 2 -</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>- 2 1 2 -</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2 - - - 1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2 - - - 1</td></tr> </table>	♠	NT	N	- 2 1 2 -	S	- 2 1 2 -	E	2 - - - 1	W	2 - - - 1	<p>30 ♠ 752 Dir: E ♥ AKQ3 Vul: None ♦ A93 ♣ 973</p> <p>♠ 86 ♠ 94 ♥ JT98 ♥ 752 ♦ Q754 ♦ 86 ♣ QT5 ♣ AKJ642</p> <p>13 ♠ AKQJT3 ♥ 64 5 8 ♦ KJT2 14 ♣ 8</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>1 5 5 6 1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1 5 5 6 1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>- - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>- - - - -</td></tr> </table>	♠	NT	N	1 5 5 6 1	S	1 5 5 6 1	E	- - - - -	W	- - - - -	<p>31 ♠ KQ8 Dir: S ♥ AK532 Vul: N-S ♦ K8 ♣ 943</p> <p>♠ T9742 ♠ AJ5 ♥ J876 ♥ QT9 ♦ 53 ♦ JT62 ♣ 75 ♣ K82</p> <p>15 ♠ 63 ♥ 4 1 11 ♦ AQ974 13 ♣ AQJT6</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>6 5 4 3 5</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>6 5 4 1 5</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>- - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>- - - - -</td></tr> </table>	♠	NT	N	6 5 4 3 5	S	6 5 4 1 5	E	- - - - -	W	- - - - -	<p>32 ♠ JT7 Dir: W ♥ J2 Vul: E-W ♦ K975 ♣ AJ74</p> <p>♠ Q6432 ♠ 9 ♥ QT ♥ 9643 ♦ AJ8 ♦ QT43 ♣ Q52 ♣ KT86</p> <p>10 ♠ AK85 ♥ AK875 11 5 ♦ 62 14 ♣ 93</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>NT</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>1 1 2 3 2</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1 1 3 3 2</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>- - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>- - - - -</td></tr> </table>	♠	NT	N	1 1 2 3 2	S	1 1 3 3 2	E	- - - - -	W	- - - - -
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RECAP

	N	S	E	W
AvgHCP	10.38	9.31	9.34	10.97
Balanced	20	17	15	17
Voids/Singles*	1/8	0/7	4/7	1/10
Suit with 7+	2	1	0	0

* Number of voids/ Number of singletons in all hands.