

*The ECatsBridge
Summer Charity Pairs
Friday 10th July 2026*



Thank you so much for joining us for our Summer Charity Pairs in aid of Kidney Research UK and the British Heart Foundation both of which are charities that need as much funding as possible in order to continue their work.

We hope you enjoyed the hands and that they weren't too challenging – and whether or not you did well at least you can at least rest assured that you are helping to support two great charities.

We are very grateful to our commentators – Julian Pottage for the Monday set, Iain Sime for Tuesday's commentary, Mark Mortimer did the Wednesday commentary, Mark Horton had the fun of doing Thursday's and Liz McGowan undertook Friday's. The great question is – did they get it right ?? or did you do better ?

The results are at <https://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims/default.asp> and the link to make donations to the charities is : <https://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims/donations.asp> - they are done through JustGiving and you will be able to see how much is raised there. If you are making a donation please check this page: <https://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims/BeforeDonating.asp> which explains how to avoid that JustGiving "tip".

By the way, did you know we have a Facebook page ?

<https://www.facebook.com/ECatsBridge> ... do follow us so you can see what we are up to !

And keep enjoying your bridge won't you ...

All the best

Anna & Mark

The ECatsBridge Team
anna@ecats.co.uk

Board 1

♠ Q9
♥ K87652
♦ 107
♣ A103

Dealer N
Vul: None

♠ J10652
♥ J104
♦ KJ94
♣ 6

♠ A74
♥ AQ
♦ 32
♣ KJ8752

♠ K83
♥ 93
♦ AQ865
♣ Q94

A weak 2♥ opener for most. East will be tempted to overcall 3♣, then regret doing so. The Double Dummy analysis says -1, but that needs some good views.

You need to use your dummy entry to lead a club to the ♣K to avoid three club losers - and why would you play North for the ♣A after a weak opener?

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 2

♠ 4
♥ 92
♦ Q96
♣ Q976432

Dealer E
Vul: N-S

♠ Q87
♥ AQ10643
♦ K2
♣ AJ

♠ AKJ1092
♥ 75
♦ A10
♣ K85

♠ 653
♥ KJ8
♦ J87543
♣ 10

A nice easy slam for East-West.

Not a Grand you want to be in, unless the heart finesse works.

If you do have a misunderstanding and reach the Grand it must be your lucky day.

Makeable Contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	=	=	=	=	==
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	2	2	7	7	7
W	2	2	7	7	7

=====

Board 3

♠ Q9842
♥ AK3
♦ Q104
♣ J8

Dealer S
Vul: E-W

♠ K5
♥ J9862
♦ J73
♣ 975

♠ 73
♥ 74
♦ K9865
♣ 10642

♠ AJ106
♥ Q105
♦ A2
♣ AKQ3

North-South's turn for a nice slam.

You may as well be in the higher-scoring 6NT, but that is difficult to see.

Hopefully West will not lead a diamond, giving you a horrible guess at trick 1 – I think I would misguess, assuming an attacking lead against a slam.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 4

♠ KJ1083
♥ Q2
♦ 109
♣ 5432

Dealer W
Vul: Both

♠ 54
♥ AJ3
♦ J8543
♣ J87

♠ Q92
♥ K864
♦ A76
♣ AK9

♠ A76
♥ 10975
♦ KQ2
♣ Q106

If a strong no-trump is passed round to North should you compete? Only if partner knows your style and will not raise!

The auction should encourage you to finesse the right way in spades and +110 should score very well. If West declares INT you may do better to pass and lead your suit: DDS will drop your ♥Q but a person may not.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 5

♠ AQ1084
♥ 83
♦ A95
♣ A83

Dealer N
Vul: N-S

♠ K932
♥ AJ9765
♦ 4
♣ Q7

♠ 75
♥ KQ2
♦ Q1076
♣ J1094

♠ J6
♥ 104
♦ KJ832
♣ K652

Hard to imagine North-South reaching game - or indeed finding the double dummy line to make.

West is more likely to buy the contract in hearts.

Best to establish clubs for two spade discards and a safe 8 tricks.

Makeable Contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	=	=	=	=	==
N	3	5	-	4	I
S	3	5	-	4	I
E	-	-	2	-	-
W	-	-	2	-	-

=====

Board 6

♠ AKQ76
♥ 2
♦ 1075
♣ AQ65

Dealer E
Vul: E-W

♠ 9852
♥ 87
♦ QJ92
♣ J109

♠ 4
♥ K10964
♦ K843
♣ K87

♠ J103
♥ AQJ53
♦ A6
♣ 432

Looks like a bad idea for East to open a Vulnerable stretched 1♥, or a Lucas 2♥, but you will probably get away with it.

North is likely to re-open in spades and South may bid a disgusted 3NT, or a resigned 4♠.

Perhaps more trouble lies in wait if you pass, then compete when North transfers over partner's weak no-trump,

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 7

♠ K8752
♥ A
♦ AK82
♣ 876

Dealer S
Vul: Both

♠ A96
♥ 8742
♦ 94
♣ J943

♠ J43
♥ Q1065
♦ Q10763
♣ Q

♠ Q10
♥ KJ93
♦ J5
♣ AK1052

Seems North-South can make at least nine tricks in any denomination. I suspect most will try 3NT.

It may not be clear to go after tricks in spades, which behave well, rather than clubs, which break badly, but in no-trump it is usually best to play on the suits with fast losers rather than create losers in suits where you have quick tricks.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 8

♠ K962
♥ J93
♦ AQ4
♣ Q43

Dealer W
Vul: None

♠ 103
♥ 876
♦ K109763
♣ A10

♠ QJ875
♥
♦ J852
♣ K962

♠ A4
♥ AKQ10542
♦
♣ J875

Many players mock a weak 2♦ opener, but it may work well here if East makes a pre-emptive strike and bids 5♦.

South will surely bid 5♥ and West may find the killing ♣A lead – on this sort of auction it is clear that leading your side's suit will not achieve much.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 9

♠ 973
♥ 2
♦ QJ84
♣ AQ1032

Dealer N
Vul: E-W

♠ Q2	♠ 84
♥ AKJ108654	♥ 97
♦ 105	♦ K9632
♣ J	♣ 9654
♠ AKJ1065	
♥ Q3	
♦ A7	
♣ K87	

You have to be an optimist to bid slam on this one after West jumps to 4♥.

And then you must be inspired to drop ♠Qx offside when the auction suggests that it is better to finesse.

At Pairs, in the long run, it is better to be a realist.

Makeable Contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	=	=	=	=	==
N	6	3	-	6	-
S	6	3	-	6	-
E	-	-	2	-	-
W	-	-	2	-	-

=====

Board 10

♠ A106
♥ Q762
♦
♣ Q98632

Dealer E
Vul: Both

♠ Q87532
♥ 95
♦ QJ64
♣ J

♠ 4
♥ AJ4
♦ A108752
♣ AK7

♠ KJ9
♥ K1083
♦ K93
♣ 1054

5♦ is the best contract here, but not a popular spot at pairs, so some will try 3NT. Which would make comfortably if the diamond finesse worked and you could get to dummy to take it.

As it is, the game should fail when the ♦K does not drop singleton.

Unless North decides to overcall in clubs and attracts the wrong lead...

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 11

♠ KQ764
♥ 75
♦ 94
♣ 8532

Dealer S
Vul: None

♠ A85
♥ J862
♦ QJ103
♣ K10

♠ J3
♥ Q43
♦ AK852
♣ J74

♠ 1092
♥ AK109
♦ 76
♣ AQ96

Weak no-trumpers will buy this in 2♠, which can make 9 tricks if South takes a good view in clubs; no reason why you should!

If you wonder why North makes only 8 tricks it is because DDS leads a club from the East hand and can give partner a club ruff.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 12

♠ KQJ653

Dealer W

♥

Vul: N-S

♦ J65

♣ A852

♠ A72

♠ 4

♥ K652

♥ A10974

♦ KQ9

♦ 108743

♣ J109

♣ Q7

♠ 1098

♥ QJ83

♦ A2

♣ K643

As the cards lie 4♠ is a great spot, but not easy to reach after West opens the bidding.

On a slightly different layout 4♥ would make, but East-West should not compete too far.

If you push them into the making game, or lose 500, it is just not your day.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 13

♠ KQ
♥ Q1097
♦ 1083
♣ Q1098

Dealer N
Vul: Both

♠ 10982
♥ AKJ4
♦ AKQJ
♣ 3

♠ A763
♥ 632
♦ 72
♣ AK54

♠ J54
♥ 85
♦ 9654
♣ J762

Many will open this East hand with its 3 Quick Tricks. (I would advise against a weak INT with such poor intermediates.)

Hopefully Romand Keycard Blackwood will diagnose the spade weakness and you can stop in 5♠.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 14

♠ 6
♥ KJ1053
♦ A10765
♣ K7

Dealer E
Vul: None

♠ A1095
♥ A94
♦ J9
♣ AJ105

♠ K43
♥ Q762
♦ K42
♣ Q84

♠ QJ872
♥ 8
♦ Q83
♣ 9632

“5=5? Come alive!” is good advice, but you need to be less lively when partner does not have much of a fit.

If North bids a Multi-Landy 2♥ over INT South can try 2♠: that shows no fit for hearts and offers an alternative place to play in case partner has 3 spades.

3♦ is already too high, but not a complete disaster.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 15

♠ AK
♥ 9876
♦ AK1092
♣ 74

Dealer S
Vul: N-S

♠ 1042
♥ KJ432
♦ 876
♣ 63

♠ Q9765
♥ Q10
♦ J
♣ AK852

♠ J83
♥ A5
♦ Q543
♣ QJ109

I hope no-one opens INT with this North hand – too much of a distortion in third seat no matter what your NT range.

Opening 1♦ should see you land in the best partscore, well-placed to penalise any East who gets too lively with the 5=5.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 16

♠ 952
♥ Q74
♦ AQ9753
♣ 8

Dealer W
Vul: E-W

♠ QJ4
♥ J852
♦ 64
♣ 10542

♠ AK76
♥ K103
♦ KJ10
♣ KJ7

♠ 1083
♥ A96
♦ 82
♣ AQ963

If North opens a weak 2♦ East will overcall 2NT and should just about manage 8 tricks.

Some fearless Norths for whom 2♦ means something else may try 3♦, pushing East into 3NT. Which fails on tight defence.

Important to remember that loose pre-empts often push opponents into contracts they might not otherwise bid: you need to defend tightly.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 17

♠ 874
♥ J92
♦ J432
♣ KJ3

Dealer N
Vul: None

♠ KQ1053
♥ K87
♦ K
♣ 8642

♠ A
♥ AQ4
♦ AQ105
♣ A10975

♠ J962
♥ 10653
♦ 9876
♣ Q

Amusing that the 5-1 fit is the making slam.

All you need do is draw just two rounds of trumps, then cash all your winners, ruffing the fourth diamond in hand. Exit with a club at trick 11 and pick up South's ♠Jx on any return.

Sadly, if anyone reaches slam, it will probably be in clubs or no-trump.

Makeable Contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	=	=	=	=	==
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	5	5	5	6	5
W	5	5	5	6	5

=====

Board 18

♠ QJ76
♥ Q765
♦ 1087
♣ 72

Dealer E
Vul: N-S

♠ 953
♥ 1042
♦ A5
♣ KQJ106

♠ K102
♥ 98
♦ QJ432
♣ 985

♠ A84
♥ AKJ3
♦ K96
♣ A43

North-South may well get too high here.

South should not overvalue this hand for suit play: only 4 trump and no ruffing values.

If West overcalls 2♣ that will keep you out of game and you should win the partscore battle.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 19

♠ 97543
♥ AQ5
♦ 643
♣ 43

Dealer S
Vul: E-W

♠ AJ2
♥ J764
♦ K10
♣ Q1092

♠ 86
♥ K10982
♦ AJ7
♣ K87

♠ KQ10
♥ 3
♦ Q9852
♣ AJ65

If West does not open the bidding this may be passed out: East lacks the 15 Pearson points (HCP + spade length) required for a fourth seat opener.

If West does open you may reach game: too thin in theory but very lucky in practice.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 20

♠ 9765
♥ 10974
♦ 865
♣ 92

Dealer W
Vul: Both

♠ J8
♥
♦ AJ432
♣ AK10843

♠ Q2
♥ AK86532
♦ 10
♣ J65

♠ AK1043
♥ QJ
♦ KQ97
♣ Q7

Not easy to reach 5♣, the only making game, when East has such good hearts.

After 1♣ – Pass – 1♥ – 1♠ West can hardly reverse into diamonds with no fit for partner.

Over a 2♣ rebid East will likely blast 4♥. Unlucky

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 21

♠ K
♥ AQ765
♦ K94
♣ K874

Dealer N
Vul: N-S

♠ J10654
♥ J94
♦ 107
♣ AQJ

♠ 9873
♥ K82
♦ J852
♣ 96

♠ AQ2
♥ 103
♦ AQ63
♣ 10532

North-South should reach 3NT, a relatively easy make.

Assuming the defence attack in spades, the overtrick comes from playing on clubs. East has to keep 4 diamonds and can be endplayed to lead a heart into your ♥AQ.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 22

♠ 107
♥ AKQ8
♦ Q106
♣ Q983

Dealer E
Vul: E-W

♠ Q83
♥ 10
♦ J952
♣ A10754

♠ J642
♥ 765432
♦ AK
♣ K

♠ AK95
♥ J9
♦ 8743
♣ J62

I sincerely hope no East opens a weak 2♥ here – there must be some sort of rule about suit quality?

North has enough Pearson points to open in 4th seat and should play quietly in INT, quietly making an overtrick when the minor suits are kind.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 23

♠ 862
♥ Q8
♦ KQ1032
♣ 1095

Dealer S
Vul: Both

♠ KQ1075
♥ KJ5
♦ AJ85
♣ 2

♠ J43
♥ A9643
♦ 74
♣ AKJ

♠ A9
♥ 1072
♦ 96
♣ Q87643

East-West have game in either Major. 4♥ is slightly more comfortable on a diamond lead.

If East responds 2♥, promising a 5+card suit. West should raise one way or another, setting the trump suit with ruffing values in the shorter trump hand.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 24

♠ 74
♥ AQ832
♦ 963
♣ K73

Dealer W
Vul: None

♠ A106
♥ 107
♦ 10874
♣ Q854

♠ K832
♥ KJ94
♦ A2
♣ 1096

♠ QJ95
♥ 65
♦ KQJ5
♣ AJ2

A weak INT in 3rd seat needs to be maximum when you are vulnerable, but you should get away with the 11-count on this deal – the cards lie nicely, and South will almost certainly give a trick on the lead.

Nobody can make anything much, but if South can open 1NT North will transfer and you may score only 50 instead of 90 – a big deal at MP Pairs.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 25

♠ A1065
♥ 9854
♦ A74
♣ Q3

Dealer N
Vul: E-W

♠ 72
♥ A32
♦ KQJ95
♣ 962

♠ QJ84
♥ KQ1076
♦ 10
♣ 754

♠ K93
♥ J
♦ 8632
♣ AKJ108

South will open 1♣ – for the lead if nothing else – and when West overcalls 1♦ North can show both Majors with a negative double.

Tempting for South to bid 1♠ now – 4=3 fits are fun when you can ruff in the shorter hand.

North should not bid too much: with a good, suitable hand partner bids 2♠ rather than 1♠.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 26

♠ 853
♥ 986
♦ J96
♣ 10862

Dealer E
Vul: Both

♠ AJ976
♥ AJ54
♦ K8
♣ J5

♠ Q104
♥ KQ7
♦ Q743
♣ AK3

♠ K2
♥ 1032
♦ A1052
♣ Q974

Hard to see anyone reaching slam on these cards.

A combined 30HCP may well be enough with an 8-card fit, but here East has no ruffing values.

If West gets as far as Keycard he will discover that the slam depends on the spade finesse. Not a good odds proposition at Pairs

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 27

♠ K10
♥ 93
♦ J108
♣ KJ10984

Dealer S
Vul: None

♠ 875
♥ KJ1087
♦ Q75
♣ 32

♠ 96
♥ 6542
♦ AK9643
♣ A

♠ AQJ432
♥ AQ
♦ 2
♣ Q765

High-level competitive auctions are a bit of a guessing game.

All four suits may feature on this scoresheet. Par is 5♦X-1 but some in both directions may score better.

To beat 5♠ by South, West must lead a diamond, and East switch to a heart.

5♥ by West loses 500 double dummy, but only if North leads a diamond.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 28

♠ Q32
♥ 10
♦ AKQ1075
♣ KJ2

Dealer W
Vul: N-S

♠ A104
♥ KJ72
♦ 93
♣ A754

♠ KJ876
♥ 9
♦ 8642
♣ Q63

♠ 95
♥ AQ86543
♦ J
♣ 1098

NS need to be careful here. To quote SJ Simon: “When you diagnose a misfit – stop bidding.

You may not be in the best possible contract – but you are in the best contract possible.”

Your best result is likely to be to sell out to 3♠ and lose just 140.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 29

♠ A109764
♥ J2
♦ 9
♣ A972

Dealer N
Vul: Both

♠ K82
♥ 963
♦ A10762
♣ 86

♠ QJ3
♥ A1075
♦ QJ4
♣ K43

♠ 5
♥ KQ84
♦ K853
♣ QJ105

Not an ideal weak two, but the alternative pass is even less appealing.

Those who open 2♠ will likely buy the contract and many will make 8 tricks.

Anyone who chooses to open 1♠ may find the club fit – but at an uncomfortably high level

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 30

♠ KJ943
♥ KQJ
♦ A65
♣ 85

Dealer E
Vul: None

♠ A2
♥ A10953
♦ Q94
♣ 762

♠ 1075
♥ 8764
♦ 102
♣ KQ104

♠ Q86
♥ 2
♦ KJ873
♣ AJ93

I expect most Souths will open the bidding – this 11-count has more potential than many 12- counts.

Even the passers should reach game opposite this North hand.

At pairs you want to play in the higher-scoring game, which is 4♠ this time.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 31

♠ AKQJ
♥ KQ10974
♦ 2
♣ J5

Dealer S
Vul: N-S

♠ 8432
♥ A5
♦ 10987
♣ A76

♠ 65
♥ J86
♦ KQ63
♣ Q1094

♠ 1097
♥ 32
♦ AJ54
♣ K832

A tricky 4♥ contract.

Unless the defenders can be persuaded to open clubs you need to play hearts for one loser.

Easy for DDS to lead a heart to the ♥K, then duck the second round. A real person may score better by stopping out of game.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 32

♠ K875
♥ Q2
♦ KQ75
♣ 973

Dealer W
Vul: E-W

♠ 3
♥ K75
♦ AJ1062
♣ KJ64

♠ Q104
♥ A98643
♦ 983
♣ 5

♠ AJ962
♥ J10
♦ 4
♣ AQ1082

A vulnerable game you would want to be in at teams, but perhaps not at pairs.

Hearts behave well, but the diamond position is unfortunate.

Best to be less aggressive at pairs, where +170 will often be a top score.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 33

♠ A109
♥ 108632
♦ A
♣ K965

Dealer N
Vul: None

♠ J84
♥ Q9
♦ 1072
♣ QJ732

♠ K6532
♥ AJ54
♦ K3
♣ A10

♠ Q7
♥ K7
♦ QJ98654
♣ 84

Partscore deals often produce a wide variety of scores.

This one looks as if declarer will have a hard time making a plus score.

But defence is also tough, so if you can stop low you should avoid disaster.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 34

♠ AJ106
♥ J1098
♦ K107
♣ 63

Dealer E
Vul: N-S

♠ Q85
♥ 765
♦ J832
♣ K75

♠ 9732
♥ Q2
♦ Q65
♣ AQJ2

♠ K4
♥ AK43
♦ A94
♣ 10984

Another thin game that shows the power of the 4-4 fit when you have controls and can crossruff.

Not easy to bid with insufficient values, so once again +170 should score well enough.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 35

♠ 862
♥ QJ7532
♦ 5
♣ Q85

Dealer S
Vul: E-W

♠ AKQ743
♥ 98
♦ 87
♣ KJ7

♠ 5
♥ AK
♦ 1096432
♣ A1063

♠ J109
♥ 1064
♦ AKQJ
♣ 942

South has an 11-count that I would not normally open unless in 3rd seat, to direct a lead: 4333 is the worst possible distribution and it is not good to have all your high cards in a single suit.

If EW reach 4♠ North will lead the singleton anyway: three rounds of diamonds promote a trump trick, but declarer makes the rest.

Makeable Contracts

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

=====

Board 36

♠ KQJ10872
♥ 85
♦ J
♣ Q105

Dealer W
Vul: Both

♠ 54
♥ 6
♦ AQ8652
♣ KJ43

♠ 963
♥ 109742
♦ K109
♣ 98

♠ A
♥ AKQJ3
♦ 743
♣ A762

Whether West opens the bidding or not, North will pre-empt in spades.

South should not investigate other strains: a singleton ace is more than adequate support, but means that you will have no entry to dummy if you declare.

Makeable Contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
	=	=	=	=	==
N	3	-	4	4	-
S	3	-	4	5	-
E	-	2	-	-	1
W	-	2	-	-	1

=====