

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 really badly affected by the pandemic in terms of their funding capability.

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.

The results are at <https://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims/default.asp> and if you want more general information about the event and a link to make donations then just go to : <https://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims/Summer-Pairs/default.asp>

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

<p>♠ 5 4 ♥ A J 7 5 ♦ K J 9 7 6 ♣ Q 10</p> <p>♠ A 9 8 ♥ 10 9 4 2 ♦ 8 4 ♣ J 7 6 2</p>	<p>♠ K 10 6 3 ♥ Q 8 6 3 ♦ ♣ A K 8 5 3</p> <p>♠ Q J 7 2 ♥ K ♦ A Q 10 5 3 2 ♣ 9 4</p>
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A fine tactical problem to start with. I'm thinking about the auction 1♦ by North, double by East – what should South bid?

Here's a thought for you: in situations like this where you expect that the opponents own the contract – maybe in hearts or clubs - it can be a good idea to fake strength in a relatively safe way. I suggest that South might bid 3NT here. OK, you've got hardly any stoppers, but what you do have is soft values, plus 6 diamond tricks.

3NT will likely get passed out, and on a heart lead, you can run 8 tricks, for -50 and probably an above average result.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

<p>♠ 7 ♥ K Q J ♦ 9 8 ♣ A K Q J 7 5 3</p> <p>♠ Q J 9 8 ♥ 10 7 4 ♦ Q 10 6 5 3 ♣ 9</p>	<p>♠ K 5 2 ♥ A 9 6 2 ♦ A J 7 ♣ 10 8 2</p> <p>♠ A 10 6 4 3 ♥ 8 5 3 ♦ K 4 2 ♣ 6 4</p>
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Like Board 1, if East opens 1♣, and West bids 1♦, should North "fake" 3NT? No, I

don't think so – too much of a good thing there. But it would work!

No, a 3♣ bid by North is more likely; it sounds natural, and would probably end the auction.

If E/W play weak notrumps, then West has the classic Stayman "escape" from INT by East: 2♣ planning to pass the response. Once again, that's likely to lead to a club partscore for N/S.

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

<p>♠ Q 10 6 5 2 ♥ Q J ♦ K 9 6 3 ♣ 6 2</p> <p>♠ A J 7 ♥ A 9 7 6 4 3 ♦ A 10 7 ♣ 9</p>	<p>♠ 9 ♥ K 8 5 2 ♦ 5 4 ♣ A K Q 10 8 4</p> <p>♠ K 8 4 3 ♥ 10 ♦ Q J 8 2 ♣ J 7 5 3</p>
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West has the aces, East has everything else – is it possible to reach the grand slam here? It looks like a big ask, because it's not easy to diagnose that those trumps play for no loser.

One possibility is for East to make a splinter bid, West to cue-bid 4♦, and now East can try Roman key-card Blackwood. Then if West decides that the sixth heart is enough to "replace" the queen, then East can go all the way. If not, East has to gamble on the heart suit. Difficult.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

A recurring theme for South here: 1♠ – 2♥ overcall – can you pass hoping for a re-opening double? It’s enough to make a man wish for straight penalty doubles! At matchpoints in particular, it makes sense for South’s pass to be “almost forcing”, in which case N/S can chop off East’s head.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

South needs to show some self-discipline here - this is not a good hand for a 2♣ opening: it’s difficult to unravel the suits. After 1♠ – pass – pass – double, 3♣ looks about right. Then if West tries 3♥, who knows what will happen next?

We will discuss the choice of opening bid with South’s hand further on Board 24. On this deal, if South opens 1♣, that just might end the auction! Plus 70 could be ok.

If East opens 1♣ in front of South, South should double, planning to make a strong but non-forcing bid in spades next.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

The par contract here is 5♣ doubled down 1, and it should be reached if South decides to open 3♣. Mind you, a 3♣ opening in 2nd seat is not all that attractive: the hand is quite strong for a white-versus-red 3♣, and South must worry about missing a possible heart contract.

After 3♣, I would expect double-5♣-pass-pass-double. There’s the par contract.

If South decides to pass, then he might get locked out of the auction, depending on E/W. How should East respond to 1♠? A 2♠ raise will let South in; a 3♠ bid might lock him out.

The play in spades is not without interest. Say it starts with 2 rounds of clubs. West draws trumps, and given the lack of entries to dummy, would run the diamond 10. That passes off well, and declarer can possibly get to dummy with the diamond king to play on hearts.

However, now West must remember the bidding: South did not open at the one-level and has already shown up with the club AK and spade Q. So South is highly unlikely to have the heart K, and declarer should cash the heart ace, with gratifying results: 10 tricks.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

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

This feels like INT by South, and if West leads hearts, South should be able scramble 6 tricks for a reasonable score.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

4♥ would be an unfortunate contract, with a spade being ruffed by the singleton trump. The genuine Yarborough gets a trick! If South has bid spades, then the spade lead by North is obvious; if South hasn't bid, then I think the spade lead is still advised, attempting to develop tricks in the most likely side-suit. Anyway, who wants to guess which minor suit to try?

3NT by East is unpleasant on a low spade lead – declarer has no entries to the clubs. So East leads the heart queen, and it is rather important for South not to cover it! If he does, East suddenly has an entry to the clubs.

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

The strong notrump is not strong enough here: East opens INT, plays it there vulnerable and is likely to go down two tricks for a poor score.

Much better if East, playing a weak NT, opens 1♣, in which case he will get to defend INT the other way.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

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

This should end up in 4♠, when South gives North a raise in spades. The defence needs to be a bit careful to prevent declarer taking 11 tricks. They need to avoid playing a club at any point, and also must take the diamond ace before East gets end-played with it.

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

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

A part-score dogfight with all four suits in play: possibly all bid in the first round of the auction. My guess is that most Easts will win the bidding in hearts. In the play in hearts, South needs to score the heart 10 (on a club play) to get the 5th defensive trick.

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

<p>♠ Q 2 ♥ A K Q 8 5 ♦ K 10 9 ♣ Q 10 6</p> <p>♠ K 6 5 ♥ 10 3 ♦ A 6 5 3 2 ♣ 9 4 3</p>	<p>♠ J 10 9 4 3 ♥ 9 6 4 2 ♦ Q 4 ♣ 8 2</p> <p>♠ A 8 7 ♥ J 7 ♦ J 8 7 ♣ A K J 7 5</p>
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Whether or not North takes the modern approach and opens INT, it seems that most will play 3NT by North on the spade jack lead. It's all about the overtricks.

West wins the king. A spade return is clearly pointless, so West must decide whether to lead the ace of diamonds or a low one. Depending on his choice, and declarer's guess on a low diamond switch, it's 10, 11 or 12 tricks.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

<p>♠ A J 7 ♥ A 10 7 ♦ K J 10 9 5 ♣ K 9</p> <p>♠ Q 8 6 4 3 ♥ K Q ♦ Q 7 6 ♣ A Q 4</p>	<p>♠ K 10 9 ♥ 8 6 5 4 ♦ 8 4 2 ♣ J 8 6</p> <p>♠ 5 2 ♥ J 9 3 2 ♦ A 3 ♣ 10 7 5 3 2</p>
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If North opens INT, it should get passed out. West has the wrong sort of 15 count to come in with, particularly vulnerable at matchpoints.

Here a strong NT opening is pre-emptive, because East will not be able to find a winning lead. If North opens 1♦, then West will get a chance to bid 1♠, thus pointing East to the best opening lead against INT. This is quite a common scenario: a INT opening, whatever the range, can make it

hard for the defence to get off to the best lead.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

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

There are a few sensible ways to get to 3NT for the extra 10 points. A Standard American auction 1♣ – 1♦ (1♥ by North), INT by East could “lose” the spade suit, as West might not bother with a check-back, preferring to raise directly to 3NT.

Alternatively, if East is in the point range for a INT opening, again West might consider the soft-values and bid 3NT, not looking for the spade fit.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

<p>♠ 10 9 5 2 ♥ A 8 4 2 ♦ A 9 5 4 ♣ 2</p>	<p>♠ 6 ♥ K Q 5 ♦ K 8 6 3 ♣ Q J 7 6 4</p> <p>♠ A K Q J 8 4 ♥ J 6 ♦ 2 ♣ A K 9 5</p> <p>♠ 7 3 ♥ 10 9 7 3 ♦ Q J 10 7 ♣ 10 8 3</p>
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Slam is a very tall order here, after North opens in third seat. How can East visualize partner covering 4 of his 5 losers? It might need to be an auction where West offers a splinter raise of spades, which could embolden East to check for aces, with a very satisfying response. It looks difficult to me.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

The auction could get competitive here. Perhaps North has a gadget to open that hand (2NT?). If not, then he can come in (with 1NT or 2NT) after 1♥ on his left, 1♠ on his right.

How should South react to this? He has lovely cards for partner, plus some defence as well. Perhaps he should push to 4♣ if required, and be prepared to defend four of a major.

4♠ can make even with hearts 4-1, because of the good diamond spots, allowing a ruffing finesse on most defences.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

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

With the 10 card spade fit, one would expect E/W to buy the contract, but at what level? West has lots of points and 5-card support, but they are junk points, particularly the doubleton QJ. So I would recommend a strong invitation only after East overcalls in spades. For example a cue-bid followed by 3♠, which East will gratefully pass.

This hand illustrates one of the many differences between IMP and matchpoint strategy. At IMPs, West tends to just blast game, because he might be worried about

what N/S can make (indeed, you wouldn't want to be looking for the defence to beat 4♥). If it goes one or two down – too bad. But at matchpoints, you want to be Right – and going one down in 4♠ when you could have nipped 4♥ by a trick is a bad result (at imps, it's just 3 imps or so).

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

6♥ is an unlucky contract, but I wouldn't expect too many pairs to reach it. If East decides to treat his hand as "all spades" and open with a spade preempt, then the 10 card heart fit won't even come to light. If East makes the disciplined first round pass, 4♥ is the likely contract: West opens 1♥, North makes a club preempt (3♣ perhaps at this vulnerability), and I don't see an easy route to slam after that start.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

E/W bid some diamonds; N/S bid some spades: spades beats diamonds at the three level – 9 tricks.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

<p>♠ A Q J 5 3 ♥ A J 4 3 2 ♦ K Q ♣ J</p> <p>♠ K 10 2 ♥ 9 8 ♦ J 10 6 ♣ Q 10 7 6 2</p>	<p>♠ 8 7 4 ♥ 6 ♦ 8 7 5 4 ♣ A K 8 5 4</p> <p>♠ 9 6 ♥ K Q 10 7 5 ♦ A 9 3 2 ♣ 9 3</p>
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There is a controversial aspect of bidding theory here. I am thinking about the N/S auction: 1♠ – INT – 3♥. Now South has a whale of a hand for hearts and would like to cue-bid 4♦ – but is 4♦ natural or a cue-bid here?

There are arguments both ways: perhaps you should discuss the general principle with your partner. One principle that could be applied: if a bid COULD be natural, it SHOULD be natural. That principle is not good for South here, who really REALLY wants to make a cue-bid.

Perhaps it's fair that this is a 50% slam (perhaps a bit better than 50% because a club lead might not always be found). It's certainly a difficult bidding problem.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

<p>♠ 10 7 5 ♥ A Q J 4 ♦ 4 3 ♣ A J 8 5</p> <p>♠ A J 9 6 3 ♥ 10 7 ♦ A Q J 10 ♣ 10 9</p>	<p>♠ K 4 ♥ 5 3 2 ♦ K 8 2 ♣ K 6 4 3 2</p> <p>♠ Q 8 2 ♥ K 9 8 6 ♦ 9 7 6 5 ♣ Q 7</p>
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A dull-looking deal – with the cards lying well for E/W, N/S had better not “win” the auction, being vulnerable and all that. No more than 2♥ for them. E/W do best by getting to a spade contract.

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

<p>♠ Q 6 ♥ A J 9 4 2 ♦ 9 8 5 4 ♣ Q 8</p>	<p>♠ 10 8 3 ♥ K Q 5 ♦ K Q J ♣ A K 7 2</p> <p>♠ J 9 2 ♥ 10 8 7 ♦ 10 7 2 ♣ J 6 5 3</p> <p>♠ A K 7 5 4 ♥ 6 3 ♦ A 6 3 ♣ 10 9 4</p>
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Danger. If South opens 1♠ (I would – ace-king-ace = an opening bid for me), North needs to take a deep breath and turn to science. His dead flat hand should stop him blasting to slam.

One sensible approach would be for North to apply key-card Blackwood in spades. South shows three key cards, and North asks for the spade queen. When South denies it, North stays at the 5-level.

Even 5♠ is uncomfortably high, but the cards forgive, with the heart ace on-side.

Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.

<p>♠ A K 3 ♥ K 6 5 2 ♦ 8 6 3 ♣ K 8 7</p>	<p>♠ Q 5 2 ♥ 9 8 ♦ J 7 5 ♣ Q J 10 4 2</p> <p>♠ J 7 6 4 ♥ A Q J 10 4 ♦ K 4 2 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ 10 9 8 ♥ 7 3 ♦ A Q 10 9 ♣ 9 6 5 3</p>
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620 across the field here?

Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.

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

What to open 5-5 in the blacks splits the world in two. Here's a suggestion on how to resolve the decision. If you open 1♣, you are obviously intending to bid spades later, but that might not be comfortable if the bidding comes back to you at a high level. So my theory is: only open 1♣ if you are quite strong, and prepared to come back in spades at the 4-level.

This auction is a case in point. If West opens 1♠, North will bid INT, East raise to 2♠, and now West has the hand to sacrifice in 4♠ over 4♥.

If West instead opens 1♣, he has to be prepared to bid spades later. So 1♣ – double – 2♣ (say) – 4♥ – and now West must commit to 4♠, in line with his original bidding plan.

Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

There will be 1♠ contracts and there will be 5♠ contracts. And all points in-between. The deal belongs to E/W (North will have difficulty believing that). I wonder what the consensus is on East's decision over 1♠ – should he make a Michaels cue-bid at unfavourable vulnerability? Consult your nearest oracle on that one.

Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.

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

The auction here is 1♦ – 1♥ – 2♣ – Pass. Against 2♣, North should play trumps early when he sees that dummy – that should hold declarer to 4 clubs and 2 spades for a good N/S score. South will need to hold up the spade ace to stop two entries to dummy (and two heart ruffs) – a count card from North will help.

Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.

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

A very delicate bidding problem for E/W. Here's how I think it should go. North opens 1♦ and East overcalls 1♥. West shouldn't give up in 1♥ – he bids 2♣. Now East is "endplayed" into a 2♦ bid – what else can he do? And West should just rebid 3♣ (no point bidding the spades, because wouldn't East have bid 2♠ if he had four cards there?). And that's the end of the auction.

There's a bit in the defence as well, to 3♣. North presumably starts with a trump – declarer wins that in dummy to lead a heart – North wins that and has a tough decision to make. Should he play partner for the spade ace or the diamond king?

There are a couple of subtle pointers to the right move. First, South didn't bid 1♠ over 1♥, which he just might have done with

♠Axxx(x). Second, South should play his lowest heart on the king – a delicate suit-preference for the lower suit. If North does switch to the spade king (which might be right at IMPs as the spade ruff is needed to beat 3♣), declarer will make slam!

Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

There are two plausible auctions that I can think of here.

In one, West opens 1♠, and that concludes the auction. 1♠ is good for 7 tricks.

So North is better off making a slightly unsound (at the vulnerability) 2♣ overcall. That will deliver him a plus score, after partner raises to 3♣ and West bids 3♥ – all pass.