

<p>Board 1 Love all Dealer North</p> <p>♠ AQJ103 ♥ 104 ♦ QJ963 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ QJ65 ♦ 4 ♣ AK109642</p> <p>♠ 9 ♥ K9732 ♦ AK852 ♣ 85</p> <p>♠ K86542 ♥ A8 ♦ 107 ♣ Q73</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>♠</th><th>♥</th><th>♦</th><th>♣</th><th>N</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	-	-	3	-	S	-	-	3	-	E	5	1	4	-	W	5	1	4	-	<p>Today's write-up is by Jonathan Cooke.</p> <p>The North hand has only eleven points, but with its 5-5 shape is well worth an opening bid of 1♠. East is also 5-5 and will either overcall 2♥ or try 2♠ showing 5♥ and a five-card minor. South will jump to 4♠ - he has six-card support after all! West will try 5♥ and it will go back round to South for a high-level decision. Double looks normal. Even though south has six trumps, he is just too balanced to bid at the five level, and opposite an opening bid he has too much to just pass 5♥ out. Against 5♥, which his partner has doubled, North cashing an Ace to look around is sensible. Looking at that dummy, a club switch, catering to either Ace in partner's hand is clear, and 5♥ doubled should go one off.</p>				
♠	♥	♦	♣	N																										
N	-	-	3	-																										
S	-	-	3	-																										
E	5	1	4	-																										
W	5	1	4	-																										
<p>Board 2 NS Game Dealer East</p> <p>♠ KQ862 ♥ K104 ♦ Q92 ♣ A2</p> <p>♠ AJ7 ♥ 8762 ♦ 763 ♣ J54</p> <p>♠ 10543 ♥ AJ ♦ J104 ♣ K1063</p> <p>♠ 9 ♥ Q953 ♦ AK85 ♣ Q987</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>♠</th><th>♥</th><th>♦</th><th>♣</th><th>N</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	3	4	4	3	4	S	3	4	4	3	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Vulnerable, that South hand isn't really an opening bid, but some will open it 1♦, making it easy to bid to game via 1♦-1♠-2♣-3NT. On that auction, East has a horrible opening lead problem. Nothing is attractive; probably a diamond is less likely to do any damage than anything else. Whatever declarer does, he should emerge with at least nine tricks, even if he loses two hearts, as the defense can't arrange a fifth winner.</p> <p>If south passes he should then invite game opposite a 1♠ or 1NT opening and I expect 3NT making nine or ten tricks will be the common results.</p>
♠	♥	♦	♣	N																										
N	3	4	4	3	4																									
S	3	4	4	3	4																									
E	-	-	-	-	-																									
W	-	-	-	-	-																									
<p>Board 3 EW Game Dealer South</p> <p>♠ AKJ10875 ♥ A ♦ K1084 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ 9 ♥ J76432 ♦ AJ7 ♣ AQ6</p> <p>♠ Q632 ♥ 10985 ♦ 53 ♣ 983</p> <p>♠ 4 ♥ KQ ♦ Q962 ♣ KJ10742</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>♠</th><th>♥</th><th>♦</th><th>♣</th><th>N</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	3	4	-	3	1	S	3	5	-	3	1	E	-	-	2	-	-	W	-	-	2	-	-	<p>Another distributional eleven-count first in hand. Most will open 1♠, although with no aces, and a short KQ, downgrading to pass intending to overcall clubs later is possible, as is gambling with a 3♣ preempt. After 1♠, I expect the auction to continue 1♥ from west, 1♣ from North, and a preemptive 3♥ from East. South will pass, and North will bid 4♠.</p> <p>On a heart lead this should make. Declarer should just draw trumps. If he carelessly plays a club at trick two and East follows small showing an odd number, West has an opportunity to find a fine play - he expects declarer to have seven spades so reasons his partner has four spades, three clubs (from the count signal) and four hearts from the auction. All hands have thirteen cards so that leaves a doubleton diamond. Declarer's trumps are unlikely to be solid so West can find the brilliant low diamond play and wait for his partner to get in with the queen of spades to play a second diamond and get his ruff.</p>
♠	♥	♦	♣	N																										
N	3	4	-	3	1																									
S	3	5	-	3	1																									
E	-	-	2	-	-																									
W	-	-	2	-	-																									
<p>Board 4 Game all Dealer West</p> <p>♠ A4 ♥ QJ10 ♦ KQ64 ♣ K1064</p> <p>♠ K10962 ♥ AK82 ♦ A3 ♣ 53</p> <p>♠ Q873 ♥ 9643 ♦ 9752 ♣ 2</p> <p>♠ J5 ♥ 75 ♦ J108 ♣ AQJ987</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>♠</th><th>♥</th><th>♦</th><th>♣</th><th>N</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	3	3	-	-	1	S	3	3	-	-	1	E	-	-	3	3	-	W	-	-	3	3	-	<p>West starts with 1♠ then North doubles or overcalls 1NT. I don't feel strongly either way which is better, although I'd probably double if I trusted my partner's declarer play - you have a spade holding which suggests double and it's quite likely you want to play a part-score in a suit, but against that you don't have a fourth heart and there's a lot to be said for getting your point count and spade stop across straight away by bidding no trumps with a balanced hand. East will raise spades, probably pre-emptively to three, and South should try 3NT if his partner overcalled 1NT and 4♣ if he doubled. Either should end the auction. One off in 4♣ is a good save against the making 3♣, but two off in 3NT will score poorly.</p>
♠	♥	♦	♣	N																										
N	3	3	-	-	1																									
S	3	3	-	-	1																									
E	-	-	3	3	-																									
W	-	-	3	3	-																									
<p>Board 5 NS Game Dealer North</p> <p>♠ QJ3 ♥ 986 ♦ Q10542 ♣ Q9</p> <p>♠ 1094 ♥ KJ7 ♦ 876 ♣ 10543</p> <p>♠ K876 ♥ Q32 ♦ J93 ♣ J82</p> <p>♠ A52 ♥ A1054 ♦ AK ♣ AK76</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>♠</th><th>♥</th><th>♦</th><th>♣</th><th>N</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	4	5	5	4	5	S	4	5	5	4	5	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Hard to see anything other than 3NT making eleven here. That South hand has way too much game and slam potential to open 2NT though, so 2♣-2♦-2NT (23-24) 3NT is my suggested auction. Those aces and supported kings fully justify adding on a point.</p>
♠	♥	♦	♣	N																										
N	4	5	5	4	5																									
S	4	5	5	4	5																									
E	-	-	-	-	-																									
W	-	-	-	-	-																									
<p>Board 6 EW Game Dealer East</p> <p>♠ A103 ♥ A10764 ♦ 9 ♣ AJ42</p> <p>♠ 2 ♥ QJ3 ♦ Q1087632 ♣ Q7</p> <p>♠ QJ9764 ♥ 2 ♦ AK5 ♣ K98</p> <p>♠ K85 ♥ K985 ♦ J4 ♣ 10653</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>♠</th><th>♥</th><th>♦</th><th>♣</th><th>N</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	3	-	3	-	-	S	3	-	3	-	-	E	-	4	-	1	2	W	-	4	-	1	2	<p>East opens 1♠ and the West hand is too weak to bid 2♦ - that would commit to game opposite a balanced fifteen in Acol. So West starts with 1NT. North will probably try 2♥ and it will continue 2♠, 3♥. West can't bid his diamonds now - he has lots of defense to 3♥ and too weak a diamond suit to introduce at the four level, so East-West will get to play 3♥. If West has a weak jump shift of 3♦ available opposite 1♠ he'll do well, as even if North makes a take-out double, East has enough to compete to the making 4♦.</p>
♠	♥	♦	♣	N																										
N	3	-	3	-	-																									
S	3	-	3	-	-																									
E	-	4	-	1	2																									
W	-	4	-	1	2																									

<p>Board 7 Game all Dealer South</p> <p>♠ AJ3 ♥ 5 ♦ KQ105 ♣ KJ954</p> <p>♠ K64 ♥ AK109864 ♦ 9 ♣ 86</p> <p>♠ 109752 ♥ Q72 ♦ 642 ♣ Q10</p> <p>♠ Q8 ♥ J3 ♦ AJ873 ♣ A732</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>♠</th><th>♥</th><th>♦</th><th>♣</th><th>N</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	6	6	-	1	S	6	6	-	1	E	-	-	1	-	W	-	-	1	-	<p>Slam is OK to bid or not - it needs the clubs to behave for five tricks which is about even money; In practice it won't be bid much. After 1♦-1♥ overcall, North can try a 3♥ splinter bid showing shortage, a decent hand and diamond support, and South will probably just jump to 5♦ with his decent minimum.</p>
♠	♥	♦	♣	N																						
N	6	6	-	1																						
S	6	6	-	1																						
E	-	-	1	-																						
W	-	-	1	-																						
<p>Board 8 Love all Dealer West</p> <p>♠ 109 ♥ 98764 ♦ KJ4 ♣ A74</p> <p>♠ QJ532 ♥ Q52 ♦ A983 ♣ K</p> <p>♠ K876 ♥ AKJ10 ♦ 102 ♣ Q93</p> <p>♠ A4 ♥ 3 ♦ Q765 ♣ J108652</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>♠</th><th>♥</th><th>♦</th><th>♣</th><th>N</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	2	-	-	-	S	2	-	-	-	E	-	1	2	3	W	-	1	2	3	<p>The West hand is not pretty, but it's a marginal opening bid. 5431 shapes play well, so there's enough there to compensate for the demerit of a singleton king. East-West will bid to 4♠ via some kind of strong raise and will make it unless the defence find their heart ruff. Note that if you have no strong raise it's OK to break the rule that 1♠-2♥ shows five when you always intend to go back to partner's suit whatever happens.</p>
♠	♥	♦	♣	N																						
N	2	-	-	-																						
S	2	-	-	-																						
E	-	1	2	3																						
W	-	1	2	3																						
<p>Board 9 EW Game Dealer North</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ QJ643 ♦ Q103 ♣ 6542</p> <p>♠ 10982 ♥ AK9872 ♦ 2 ♣ J7</p> <p>♠ AK64 ♥ ♦ 9654 ♣ KQ1093</p> <p>♠ J753 ♥ 105 ♦ AKJ87 ♣ A8</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>♠</th><th>♥</th><th>♦</th><th>♣</th><th>N</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	-	1	-	-	S	-	1	-	-	E	2	-	2	3	W	2	-	2	3	<p>East opens 1♣ and south overcalls 1♦ - he has too little in hearts to double. West tries 1♥, East rebids 1♠ and West has to decide how good his hand is. The singleton in diamonds is much more valuable than a singleton in clubs would be so I think West should try 3♠, which East will probably raise. The duplication of values in hearts (void opposite AK) and bad breaks in the majors mean that 4♠ can go off, but it will often make in practice. After a top diamond and a trump switch, if South ducks one club then plays diamonds whenever it is his turn, the declarer can't keep the trumps under control. and will have to lose a trick to the seven of spades as well as the Jack.</p>
♠	♥	♦	♣	N																						
N	-	1	-	-																						
S	-	1	-	-																						
E	2	-	2	3																						
W	2	-	2	3																						
<p>Board 10 Game all Dealer East</p> <p>♠ AK8 ♥ AKQ9 ♦ K52 ♣ 754</p> <p>♠ J6543 ♥ 6 ♦ Q83 ♣ K982</p> <p>♠ Q10972 ♥ 742 ♦ 764 ♣ AJ</p> <p>♠ ♥ J10853 ♦ AJ109 ♣ Q1063</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>♠</th><th>♥</th><th>♦</th><th>♣</th><th>N</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	3	4	4	-	S	3	4	4	-	E	-	-	-	1	W	-	-	-	1	<p>It's very easy to get too high here. After his partner's 1♥ South can splinter with 3♠ which will warn North that his spade values are misplaced. Opposite a passed hand, North will sign off. If North opens a short club and rebids 4♥ opposite 1♥, South will be justified in moving on. Really it's hard to see that rebidding only 3♥ on this balanced hand will miss many games and is probably the value bid.</p>
♠	♥	♦	♣	N																						
N	3	4	4	-																						
S	3	4	4	-																						
E	-	-	-	1																						
W	-	-	-	1																						
<p>Board 11 Love all Dealer South</p> <p>♠ KJ109 ♥ AK1093 ♦ Q9 ♣ J4</p> <p>♠ AQ4 ♥ Q ♦ K8764 ♣ AK96</p> <p>♠ 8732 ♥ 8652 ♦ AJ3 ♣ 85</p> <p>♠ 65 ♥ J74 ♦ 1052 ♣ Q10732</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>♠</th><th>♥</th><th>♦</th><th>♣</th><th>N</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	-	-	1	-	S	-	-	1	-	E	2	3	-	2	W	2	3	-	2	<p>P 1♦ 1♥ to East. It's tempting to bid 2♦ but not really necessary to risk partner playing you for more when you have length in the opponent suit. If East passes West will reopen with double and East can now compete with 2♦. Taking club ruffs in the dummy is the simplest route to nine tricks.</p>
♠	♥	♦	♣	N																						
N	-	-	1	-																						
S	-	-	1	-																						
E	2	3	-	2																						
W	2	3	-	2																						
<p>Board 12 NS Game Dealer West</p> <p>♠ J64 ♥ K752 ♦ Q96 ♣ AK3</p> <p>♠ A107 ♥ J106 ♦ AJ852 ♣ 87</p> <p>♠ 985 ♥ 943 ♦ 103 ♣ 109652</p> <p>♠ KQ32 ♥ AQ8 ♦ K74 ♣ QJ4</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>♠</th><th>♥</th><th>♦</th><th>♣</th><th>N</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	4	3	5	4	S	4	3	5	4	E	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	<p>After INT, South could bid Stayman but many will just blast 3NT which would be my choice. Everything breaks nicely, so eleven tricks will be the normal result.</p>
♠	♥	♦	♣	N																						
N	4	3	5	4																						
S	4	3	5	4																						
E	-	-	-	-																						
W	-	-	-	-																						

<p>Board 13 Game all Dealer North</p> <p>♠ AJ93 ♥ J1072 ♦ K3 ♣ AQ2</p> <p>♠ 65 ♥ 98543 ♦ 1095 ♣ K53</p> <p>♠ K107 ♥ AKQ ♦ AJ874 ♣ J9</p> <p>♠ Q842 ♥ 6 ♦ Q62 ♣ 108764</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>♠</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♣</th> <th>N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>4</td> <td>7</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>4</td> <td>7</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	4	7	6	7	7	S	4	7	6	7	7	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>An exercise in point counting. Most pairs will reach 6NT after a strong NT or a 1NT rebid showing 15-17. North will normally be declarer on a club lead to the nine and king. It's wrong to play on diamonds in case they break 4-2 off-side, in which case you'd have to guess spades for your contract. You'd like to cash some hearts to see who is shorter to help clue you in on who has more room for the ♠Q, but entries are a bit awkward. You can't test hearts then take two spade finesses through East and still unblock all your winners, so it's practical to play West for the ♠Q and make only twelve tricks.</p>
	♠	♥	♦	♣	N																										
N	4	7	6	7	7																										
S	4	7	6	7	7																										
E	-	-	-	-	-																										
W	-	-	-	-	-																										
<p>Board 14 Love all Dealer East</p> <p>♠ K87 ♥ K4 ♦ AQ87642 ♣ K</p> <p>♠ Q62 ♥ 832 ♦ J105 ♣ A743</p> <p>♠ A43 ♥ QJ75 ♦ K3 ♣ 10986</p> <p>♠ J1095 ♥ A1096 ♦ 9 ♣ QJ52</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>♠</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♣</th> <th>N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	-	5	1	1	3	S	-	5	1	1	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>1♦-1♥ back to North: 3♦ looks about right - the seventh diamond makes this slightly heavy for 2♦. South has a straightforward 3NT bid and I expect ten tricks on a club lead.</p>
	♠	♥	♦	♣	N																										
N	-	5	1	1	3																										
S	-	5	1	1	3																										
E	-	-	-	-	-																										
W	-	-	-	-	-																										
<p>Board 15 NS Game Dealer South</p> <p>♠ A5 ♥ KJ8754 ♦ 83 ♣ AJ8</p> <p>♠ K832 ♥ 106 ♦ A76 ♣ Q542</p> <p>♠ Q6 ♥ A932 ♦ Q10952 ♣ 93</p> <p>♠ J10974 ♥ Q ♦ KJ4 ♣ K1076</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>♠</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♣</th> <th>N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	-	2	3	-	2	S	-	2	3	-	2	E	4	-	-	2	-	W	4	-	-	2	-	<p>North opens 1♥ in third seat. East overcalls 1♠ and South raises hearts - if you play a jump to 3♥ as semi-preemptive you will be well placed. West will compete with 3♠ and North has to decide whether to push on 4♥ and risk pushing the enemy into 4♠ or just go quietly. It will all depend on how many values his partner has shown. If North does bid game, East may be tempted to sacrifice at this vulnerability given his singleton heart, but he should probably take his chances on defending with all his values outside his trump suit. Today 4♣ won't work well as both 4♥ and 4♠ are off, although both are close to making.</p>
	♠	♥	♦	♣	N																										
N	-	2	3	-	2																										
S	-	2	3	-	2																										
E	4	-	-	2	-																										
W	4	-	-	2	-																										
<p>Board 16 EW Game Dealer West</p> <p>♠ AK102 ♥ 2 ♦ KJ542 ♣ QJ2</p> <p>♠ 97643 ♥ J76 ♦ 103 ♣ 973</p> <p>♠ 85 ♥ K1084 ♦ AQ976 ♣ 85</p> <p>♠ QJ ♥ AQ953 ♦ 8 ♣ AK1064</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>♠</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♣</th> <th>N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	-	4	-	1	3	S	-	4	-	1	3	E	1	-	1	-	-	W	1	-	1	-	-	<p>After 1♦ from North, East has a classic 2NT overcall to show the lowest two unbid suits: hearts and clubs. 3♣ to show a good diamond raise or 3♦ are both sensible choices from south. 3♦ will end matters, but if South does show a good raise North-South may well get to game. 3NT can make because the spade queen jack can be dropped but if you do bid 3NT and East has shown 10 cards in the rounded suits, you should try to take two finesses in spades, leading towards the AK10 instead, and go three off. 5♦ is simply off AAK and it's hard to think West won't just take them.</p>
	♠	♥	♦	♣	N																										
N	-	4	-	1	3																										
S	-	4	-	1	3																										
E	1	-	1	-	-																										
W	1	-	1	-	-																										
<p>Board 17 Love all Dealer North</p> <p>♠ 106 ♥ KJ10 ♦ K82 ♣ AQJ106</p> <p>♠ A72 ♥ A987 ♦ QJ ♣ K943</p> <p>♠ KQ54 ♥ 6432 ♦ 643 ♣ 85</p> <p>♠ J983 ♥ Q5 ♦ A10975 ♣ 72</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>♠</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♣</th> <th>N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	1	2	1	2	2	W	1	3	1	3	2	<p>North is a bit heavy for a weak NT. His point count is strictly only fourteen but the club tricks and controls make it worth a bit more. In any case, North will either open or rebid 1NT and go off on a diamond lead. It will difficult for East West to get involved and a lot of matchpoints will swing on how many off 1NT goes.</p>
	♠	♥	♦	♣	N																										
N	-	-	-	-	-																										
S	-	-	-	-	-																										
E	1	2	1	2	2																										
W	1	3	1	3	2																										
<p>Board 18 NS Game Dealer East</p> <p>♠ J54 ♥ QJ3 ♦ 963 ♣ AK82</p> <p>♠ Q973 ♥ AK52 ♦ 1042 ♣ Q9</p> <p>♠ AK1062 ♥ 96 ♦ AKQ5 ♣ 64</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ 10874 ♦ J87 ♣ J10753</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>♠</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♣</th> <th>N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	2	4	2	4	3	S	2	4	2	4	3	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>After 1♠ from South, North will try 2♣ and South will try 2♦. 3♠ P 4♣ is the normal continuation and that contract will make ten tricks in comfort to beat any pairs receiving a heart lead against 3NT.</p>
	♠	♥	♦	♣	N																										
N	2	4	2	4	3																										
S	2	4	2	4	3																										
E	-	-	-	-	-																										
W	-	-	-	-	-																										

<p>Board 19 EW Game Dealer South</p> <p>♠ KJ3 ♥ A753 ♦ 43 ♣ A983</p> <p>♠ A975 ♥ Q104 ♦ 972 ♣ QJ10</p> <p>♠ Q642 ♥ K6 ♦ QJ5 ♣ 7654</p>	<p>♠ 108 ♥ J982 ♦ AK1086 ♣ K2</p> <p>♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N 2 - - 1 - S 2 - - 1 - E - 2 1 - 1 W - 2 1 - 1</p> <p>If North opens a weak NT in third seat that will likely buy the contract and go off one on a diamond lead. If North opens 1♣ then East will get in with 1♦ and it will be an interesting part-score battle. Once South responds 1♠ after the 1♦ overcall, I like 1NT from West, stopping both blacks, and that will score very well.</p>
<p>Board 20 Game all Dealer West</p> <p>♠ 9 ♥ KJ984 ♦ K84 ♣ QJ87</p> <p>♠ 42 ♥ A3 ♦ A10762 ♣ AK93</p> <p>♠ AKJ876 ♥ 1072 ♦ 95 ♣ 105</p>	<p>♠ Q1053 ♥ Q65 ♦ QJ3 ♣ 642</p> <p>♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N - - 2 1 - S - - 2 1 - E 1 2 - - 1 W 1 2 - - 1</p> <p>After 1♦-1♥, East will try 1♠, or double if 1♠ shows five. That will shut South's suit out. South should raise hearts and that will make for plus 110 and a good score for North-South. If West makes a take-out double of 2♥, East West will compete to 3♦ and go one off for a pip better score of -100.</p>
<p>Board 21 NS Game Dealer North</p> <p>♠ Q852 ♥ KJ52 ♦ 952 ♣ J10</p> <p>♠ A107 ♥ A6 ♦ Q743 ♣ A643</p> <p>♠ KJ3 ♥ 74 ♦ AJ ♣ KQ9875</p>	<p>♠ 964 ♥ Q10983 ♦ K1086 ♣ 2</p> <p>♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N 3 - - - - S 3 - - - - E - 3 2 - - W - 3 2 - -</p> <p>After P P 1♠, it's not a good idea to make a take-out double with short majors so West should pass. North responds 1♥ and South will rebid 2♣. That will usually end the auction, but with a singleton club East will be highly tempted to reopen the bidding. You'll have to ask me over a beer what I'd probably do with that East hand as I can't admit to it in print.</p>
<p>Board 22 EW Game Dealer East</p> <p>♠ 9652 ♥ 106 ♦ J9 ♣ J8654</p> <p>♠ QJ ♥ KJ92 ♦ AQ865 ♣ 107</p> <p>♠ AK1083 ♥ 43 ♦ K107 ♣ AK9</p>	<p>♠ 74 ♥ AQ875 ♦ 432 ♣ Q32</p> <p>♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N 3 - - 3 - S 3 - - 3 - E - 2 2 - - W - 2 2 - -</p> <p>P 1♠ double is a normal start. North may make a pre-emptive spade raise and East may now try 4♥. Will South take a phantom save? He shouldn't - defensive prospects are too good and 4♠ is never making. If he does take the push, it's not clear who has a double, but perhaps East will just guess that South is trying a sacrifice and double on points.</p>
<p>Board 23 Game all Dealer South</p> <p>♠ A943 ♥ ♦ AK10974 ♣ QJ3</p> <p>♠ 5 ♥ J10853 ♦ 5 ♣ AK6542</p> <p>♠ QJ108762 ♥ K92 ♦ 3 ♣ 107</p>	<p>♠ K ♥ AQ764 ♦ QJ862 ♣ 98</p> <p>♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N - 2 - 4 4 S - 1 - 4 4 E 2 - 4 - - W 2 - 4 - -</p> <p>If South chooses to open 3♠, pre-emptive, it gives North an interesting problem. A punt of 6♠ will often work on this type of hand. Perhaps they won't lead clubs and perhaps partner has a control if they do. A more scientific idea is to try 4♦ and see if partner can raise those; if he does, he probably has short clubs and you can then try 6♠. Today the 6♠ punt fares poorly as the ♠AK are on lead.</p>
<p>Board 24 Love all Dealer West</p> <p>♠ A632 ♥ A6 ♦ Q ♣ AQJ964</p> <p>♠ 108 ♥ K3 ♦ A76532 ♣ K102</p> <p>♠ K4 ♥ QJ108752 ♦ J4 ♣ 87</p>	<p>♠ QJ975 ♥ 94 ♦ K1098 ♣ 53</p> <p>♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ N N 4 - 5 1 - S 4 - 5 1 - E - - - - - W - - - - -</p> <p>With a six-card minor and three prime cards, the West hand is a marginal opening bid. If West does open, North will either overcall 2♣ or double if his partnership style is that 2♣ can't be this strong. East will raise diamonds pre-emptively and South will bid 4♥ opposite a double or 3♥ opposite a 2♣ bid. North will raise 3♥ to 4♥ and West should let that go; he should reason that the 2-2-3 shape outside diamonds and the misplaced club holding will probably mean 5♦ is at least 3 off for -500 or worse if the heart game is making. Save the saves for when you have some shape!</p>

<p>Board 25 EW Game Dealer North</p> <p>♠ KQJ86 ♥ 10654 ♦ J54 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ 1053 ♥ AK832 ♦ 10 ♣ AK42</p> <p>♠ A974 ♥ 9 ♦ K87 ♣ Q9875</p> <p>♠ 2 ♥ QJ7 ♦ AQ9632 ♣ J103</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♣</td><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	♠	♦	♥	♣	N	N	-	2	-	-	S	-	2	-	-	E	4	-	2	2	W	4	-	2	2	<p>North could open 2♣ weak, but the combination of the four-card major on the side and the lack of a sixth trump would lead me to pass - I'd happily open 2♣ if you swapped the hearts and the diamonds. If North passes, South has three choices: 3♦, 1♦ or pass - mostly his selection will be a matter of partnership style. Over 3♦ West will probably try 3♥ and East will try 3NT - this will make on the natural diamond lead. If South passes or opens 1♦ I expect West will bid hearts then rebid clubs, and East-West will play in a club part-score.</p>
♠	♦	♥	♣	N																						
N	-	2	-	-																						
S	-	2	-	-																						
E	4	-	2	2																						
W	4	-	2	2																						
<p>Board 26 Game all Dealer East</p> <p>♠ 532 ♥ A94 ♦ QJ5 ♣ 10753</p> <p>♠ AQ964 ♥ K72 ♦ 1097 ♣ 94</p> <p>♠ J87 ♥ Q1083 ♦ A2 ♣ AKJ6</p> <p>♠ K10 ♥ J65 ♦ K8643 ♣ Q82</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♣</td><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	♠	♦	♥	♣	N	N	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	E	3	2	5	5	W	3	2	5	5	<p>After 1♣-1♠-1NT, if West looks for a 5-3 spade fit he will score well. The alternative of 3NT makes two fewer tricks on a diamond lead. Perhaps checking back for spades is right when you have no honour in one of the unbid suits, but often the 109x in diamonds will have some value - it's a close decision.</p>
♠	♦	♥	♣	N																						
N	-	-	-	-																						
S	-	-	-	-																						
E	3	2	5	5																						
W	3	2	5	5																						
<p>Board 27 Love all Dealer South</p> <p>♠ 2 ♥ AQ103 ♦ A10542 ♣ KQ8</p> <p>♠ AQJ103 ♥ KJ2 ♦ Q9 ♣ 532</p> <p>♠ K874 ♥ 865 ♦ KJ6 ♣ J76</p> <p>♠ 965 ♥ 974 ♦ 873 ♣ A1094</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♣</td><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	♠	♦	♥	♣	N	N	3	3	3	-	S	3	3	3	-	E	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	<p>Pass-1♠-double-2♣ (a bit too balanced to jump to three) will probably end the auction. Seven tricks are the limit.</p>
♠	♦	♥	♣	N																						
N	3	3	3	-																						
S	3	3	3	-																						
E	-	-	-	-																						
W	-	-	-	-																						
<p>Board 28 NS Game Dealer West</p> <p>♠ 987 ♥ 942 ♦ KJ9753 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ A642 ♥ AK1086 ♦ 4 ♣ KJ10</p> <p>♠ KJ10 ♥ QJ5 ♦ 1082 ♣ AQ98</p> <p>♠ Q53 ♥ 73 ♦ AQ6 ♣ 76432</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♣</td><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>	♠	♦	♥	♣	N	N	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	E	4	-	6	6	W	4	-	6	6	<p>Weirdly the best slam is 6♣ as you don't need to find the ♠Q, instead ruffing a diamond in the short trump hand for your twelfth trick, but it's off today as the suit breaks 5-1. After 1♥-2♣-2♠-3♥-4♣ East knows the hands fit well, and some pairs may take a shot at 6♥. I expect most to be in 4♥ and a lot of matchpoints will be at stake playing the "find the lady" game in spades.</p> <p>I hope you enjoyed the commentary. There is a theme running through these hands that bidding lots when you have shape and being cautious when your hand is relatively balanced is how to score well at pairs.</p> <p>Thanks for reading. Jon Cooke</p>
♠	♦	♥	♣	N																						
N	-	-	-	-																						
S	-	-	-	-																						
E	4	-	6	6																						
W	4	-	6	6																						