

# Kath Grimoldby Simultaneous Pairs

2019

31. Dealer : S  
Vul : N/S

|           |            |   |   |            |
|-----------|------------|---|---|------------|
| ♠         | Q J 10 6 2 |   |   |            |
| ♥         | Q 8 7      |   |   |            |
| ♦         | Q 6 3      |   |   |            |
| ♣         | J 4        |   |   |            |
|           |            | N |   | ♠ AK       |
| ♠ 7 3     |            |   |   | ♥ A J 9    |
| ♥ 6 5 4 2 |            | W |   | ♦ J 10 8   |
| ♦ A 9 2   |            |   |   | ♣ AK Q 6 5 |
| ♣ 9 8 3 2 |            |   | S |            |
|           | ♠ 9 8 5 4  |   |   |            |
|           | ♥ K 10 3   |   |   |            |
|           | ♦ K 7 5 4  |   |   |            |
|           | ♣ 10 7     |   |   |            |

|      |      |     |      |
|------|------|-----|------|
| W    | N    | E   | S    |
| pass | pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3♣   | pass | 3♦  | Pass |
| 3NT  | End  |     |      |

**Bidding :** Following a 20-22 NT, West checks for a heart fit, and settles in 3NT.

**Play :**

8 of spades lead (an attempt to be passive, plus we know we're not leading into East's suit), and declarer can count 2 spades, 1 heart, 1 diamond and (probably) 5 clubs.

Cash the top club just to test the break, and then a diamond to the 9, North will play back a top spade, and then East can repeat the finesse.

It would be a disaster if North held both diamond honours, and playing teams, quite a foolish way to play the hand! But at pairs, everybody will be in 3NT, so we have to play for overtricks. The diamond honours are split, so East makes 10 tricks.

|     |   |    |            |   |
|-----|---|----|------------|---|
|     | N | S  | E          | W |
| NT  |   |    | 4          | 4 |
| ♠   |   |    | 1          | 1 |
| ♥   |   |    | 4          | 4 |
| ♦   |   |    | 2          | 2 |
| ♣   |   |    | 4          | 4 |
| opt |   | EW | 3NT : -430 |   |

32. Dealer : W  
Vul : E/W

|             |              |   |   |            |
|-------------|--------------|---|---|------------|
| ♠           | Q 8          |   |   |            |
| ♥           | A 10 9 8 4 3 |   |   |            |
| ♦           | 7 6          |   |   |            |
| ♣           | 9 8 2        |   |   |            |
|             |              | N |   | ♠ AK 7     |
| ♠ 9 6 4 2   |              |   |   | ♥ J 5 2    |
| ♥ K Q       |              | W |   | ♦ AK 9 8 3 |
| ♦ Q J       |              |   |   | ♣ A 3      |
| ♣ K Q J 7 4 |              |   | S |            |
|             | ♠ J 10 5 3   |   |   |            |
|             | ♥ 7 6        |   |   |            |
|             | ♦ 10 5 4 2   |   |   |            |
|             | ♣ 10 6 5     |   |   |            |

|     |      |     |      |
|-----|------|-----|------|
| W   | N    | E   | S    |
| 1♣  | 2♥   | 3♦  | Pass |
| 3NT | pass | 4NT | Pass |
| 6NT | End  |     |      |

**Bidding :** Over 3♦ West would like to mention their spade suit, but it's likely to make it very difficult for partner to bid 3NT, plus they might have doubled 2♥ with 4 spades. So, the practical bid is 3NT.

Over this, East can make an invitational raise (partner hasn't shown any extra values with 3NT), and East, who has a few more points than expected, QJ of partner's suit, and their own good 5 card suit, can accept.

**Play :**

What should North lead? For the best chance of defeating the contract, a passive lead of e.g. a diamond might be best – hope that declarer simply doesn't have 12 tricks. Cashing the Ace would set them up if declarer has e.g. KQx.

However, at pairs, it might be that declarer has 13 tricks already, particularly as we know the Queen of spades would fall doubleton, and so cashing the Ace and making sure to hold it to 12 is reasonable.

As it happens, declarer has 12 tricks either way, just needing to force out the Ace of hearts for the 12<sup>th</sup>.

|     |   |    |             |   |
|-----|---|----|-------------|---|
|     | N | S  | E           | W |
| NT  |   |    | 6           | 6 |
| ♠   |   |    | 4           | 4 |
| ♥   |   |    | 3           | 3 |
| ♦   |   |    | 6           | 6 |
| ♣   |   |    | 6           | 6 |
| opt |   | EW | 6NT : -1440 |   |

1. Dealer : N  
Vul : None

|                 |            |   |   |               |
|-----------------|------------|---|---|---------------|
| ♠               | A K J 9 7  |   |   |               |
| ♥               | 4          |   |   |               |
| ♦               | A Q J 9    |   |   |               |
| ♣               | J 5 4      |   |   |               |
|                 |            | N |   | ♠ 2           |
| ♠ Q 5 4         |            |   |   | ♥ 5           |
| ♥ A Q J 9 8 6 2 |            | W |   | ♦ 10 7 6 5 3  |
| ♦ 2             |            |   |   | ♣ AK 10 9 8 7 |
| ♣ 3 2           |            |   | S |               |
|                 | ♠ 10 8 6 3 |   |   |               |
|                 | ♥ K 10 7 3 |   |   |               |
|                 | ♦ K 8 4    |   |   |               |
|                 | ♣ Q 6      |   |   |               |

|    |     |     |    |
|----|-----|-----|----|
| W  | N   | E   | S  |
| 1♠ | end | 2NT | 3♣ |

**Bidding :** Should East bother showing a 2-suiter with such weak diamonds, or just overcall a weak 3♣? (if available as weak). As East is likely to be on lead anyway (against a spade contract), 2NT is fine – no risk of partner leading a diamond rather than a club.

South isn't quite worth a good raise, (by cue bidding), so can just make a competitive raise, and with terrible holdings in both minors, North makes a somewhat reluctant pass.

**Play :** 2 top clubs and a 3<sup>rd</sup>, which declarer ruffs with the 10 of spades (in case the Queen was with East!), but West over-ruffs. East should have given the ruff with the 10 of clubs, as suit preference to let partner know not to try a diamond – Ace of hearts and another which declarer ruffs high. East can't over-ruff, and all declarer has to do now is draw trumps and claim.

NS will score well for having stopped short of 4S.

|     |   |    |           |   |
|-----|---|----|-----------|---|
|     | N | S  | E         | W |
| NT  | 3 | 3  |           |   |
| ♠   | 3 | 3  |           |   |
| ♥   |   |    | 2         | 2 |
| ♦   | 1 | 1  |           |   |
| ♣   |   |    | 1         | 1 |
| opt |   | EW | 4HX : 300 |   |

2. Dealer : E  
Vul : N/S

|           |           |   |   |            |
|-----------|-----------|---|---|------------|
| ♠         | A         |   |   |            |
| ♥         | K Q 4 3   |   |   |            |
| ♦         | K Q 9 6 4 |   |   |            |
| ♣         | J 10 9    |   |   |            |
|           |           | N |   | ♠ J 10 5 4 |
| ♠ 9 8 3 2 |           |   |   | ♥ A 6 5    |
| ♥ 10 7 2  |           | W |   | ♦ J        |
| ♦ 10 8 5  |           |   |   | ♣ AK 8 7 5 |
| ♣ 6 4 2   |           |   | S |            |
|           | ♠ K Q 7 6 |   |   |            |
|           | ♥ J 9 8   |   |   |            |
|           | ♦ A 7 3 2 |   |   |            |
|           | ♣ Q 3     |   |   |            |

|      |     |      |     |
|------|-----|------|-----|
| W    | N   | E    | S   |
| pass | dbl | pass | 2♠  |
| pass | 3♣  | pass | 3NT |
| end  |     |      |     |

**Bidding :** Had South been non-vulnerable, they might have acted over 1♣. North makes a protective double (being a bit too good for a protective 1♦), and now South shows a good hand with the jump to 2♠. North asks for a club stop, and South is faced with the time-old question of is Qx a stop?

The argument for is that a) partner might have a useful holding, as they do on this hand, and b) often East would duck a trick anyway to preserve communications, thinking declarer has Qxx and partner xx.

**Play :**

West leads a club, and East wins 2 rounds and exits a middling card, suit preference for hearts. Declarer however can now cash 5 diamonds and 3 spades, to make exactly. Anybody in the 'Qx is not a stop' camp might have found their way to 4H though, which would outscore 3NT!

|     |   |    |          |   |
|-----|---|----|----------|---|
|     | N | S  | E        | W |
| NT  | 3 | 3  |          |   |
| ♠   | 1 | 1  |          |   |
| ♥   | 4 | 4  |          |   |
| ♦   | 4 | 4  |          |   |
| ♣   | 1 | 1  |          |   |
| opt |   | NS | 4H : 620 |   |

3. Dealer : S  
Vul : E/W

|                |   |             |    |
|----------------|---|-------------|----|
| ♠ A 10 7 6 5 4 |   |             |    |
| ♥ Q J 8        |   |             |    |
| ♦ J 9          |   |             |    |
| ♣ K 5          |   |             |    |
|                | N | E           | S  |
| ♠ K Q 9 8      |   | ♥ A 2       |    |
| ♥ 6 3          | W | ♥ K 9 7 5 4 |    |
| ♦ Q 5 3        |   | ♦ A 7 6 4   |    |
| ♣ A 8 6 4      |   | ♣ Q J 10    |    |
|                |   |             |    |
| ♠ J 3          |   |             |    |
| ♥ A 10 2       |   |             |    |
| ♦ K 10 8 2     |   |             |    |
| ♣ 9 7 3 2      |   |             |    |
|                |   | 11          | 10 |
|                |   | 11          | 10 |
|                |   | 8           | 8  |

|      |    |     |      |
|------|----|-----|------|
| W    | N  | E   | S    |
| pass | 1♠ | 2♥  | Pass |
| rdbl | 2♣ | end | dbl  |

**Bidding :**  
North could consider a weak 2♠ opening – normally we'd be a little strong, but in 3<sup>rd</sup> seat anything goes. However, with defensive values, we don't really want to encourage partner to sacrifice (which is likely at favourable). East can just about manage an overall, West redoubles to show values but no fit, and North can rebid spades, likely to end the auction.

**Play :**

Queen of clubs lead the to the Ace, and a heart through (thinking that if East has KJ, we might need to play them early to avoid an endplay). This finds the Queen, King and Ace. Declarer can now try the Jack of spades, covered, North winning the Ace. We'd like to get back to dummy, but playing on hearts might set up ruffs. Nothing that East hasn't had much for their overcall, it seems reasonable to believe that the Ace of diamonds is onside – so a diamond to the King and a spade towards hand, West winning with the King. Another heart, and North can win, draw 1 trump with the 10, and just end up conceding the boss trump and the Ace of diamonds.

|     |   |    |    |     |
|-----|---|----|----|-----|
|     | N | S  | E  | W   |
| NT  | 1 | 1  |    |     |
| ♠   | 3 | 3  |    |     |
| ♥   | 1 |    |    |     |
| ♦   | 1 | 1  |    |     |
| ♣   |   |    | 1  | 1   |
| opt |   | NS | 15 | 140 |

4. Dealer : W  
Vul : All

|               |   |                |   |
|---------------|---|----------------|---|
| ♠ A J         |   |                |   |
| ♥ 10 5        |   |                |   |
| ♦ A 9 7 6 5 3 |   |                |   |
| ♣ K 6 3       |   |                |   |
|               | N | E              | S |
| ♠ 4 3         |   | ♥ K 10 9 7 6 2 |   |
| ♥ A K Q       | W | ♥ J 6 3 2      |   |
| ♦ Q J 10 2    |   | ♦ K 4          |   |
| ♣ J 10 8 7    |   | ♣ 2            |   |
|               |   |                |   |
| ♠ Q 8 5       |   |                |   |
| ♥ 9 8 7 4     |   |                |   |
| ♦ 8           |   |                |   |
| ♣ A Q 9 5 4   |   |                |   |
|               |   | 12             | 7 |
|               |   | 13             | 7 |
|               |   | 8              | 8 |

|     |      |    |      |
|-----|------|----|------|
| W   | N    | E  | S    |
| 1NT | pass | 2♥ | Pass |
| 2♠  | End  |    |      |

**Bidding :**  
6-4 shape is powerful, but the East hand lacks the HCP to do anything exciting. North's diamonds aren't really good enough to come in at the 3 level vulnerable, and with Qxx spades, South has no interest in protecting, so the auction should stop in 2♠.

**Play :**

10 of hearts lead (more to be passive, than hoping for a ruff), won by declarer's Ace. In theory dummy's club could be pitched on a diamond, but if we trust the defence to cash the club before that happens, there's no point trying, and we should just go about drawing trumps. A spade from hand, and North can win the Ace and assess.

Declarer winning the heart with the Ace keeps the possibility open that South has the KQ, or maybe Q9, and playing on hearts would be sensible. So, another heart, declarer wins, draws one more trump with the King, and can start playing on diamonds. North wins the Ace, and needs to cash a club now – thankfully, lacking a third heart to try, North can't get that wrong. The defence come to 1 diamond, 1 club and 2 trumps. Anybody defending spades by East might do better, as South starts with the singleton diamond.

|     |   |    |    |      |
|-----|---|----|----|------|
|     | N | S  | E  | W    |
| NT  |   | 1  | 1  |      |
| ♠   |   | 2  | 2  |      |
| ♥   |   |    | 1  |      |
| ♦   | 1 | 1  |    | 1    |
| ♣   | 2 | 2  |    |      |
| opt |   | EW | 25 | -110 |

29. Dealer : N  
Vul : All

|            |   |              |   |
|------------|---|--------------|---|
| ♠ A Q 3 2  |   |              |   |
| ♥ 9 6 5 4  |   |              |   |
| ♦ 7        |   |              |   |
| ♣ Q J 10 4 |   |              |   |
|            | N | E            | S |
| ♠ K J 5    |   | ♥ A 10 9 8 6 |   |
| ♥ A J 3    | W | ♥ 10 7       |   |
| ♦ A K Q 2  |   | ♦ J 9 6 4 3  |   |
| ♣ A 7 5    |   | ♣ 8 2        |   |
|            |   |              |   |
| ♠ 7 4      |   |              |   |
| ♥ K Q 8 2  |   |              |   |
| ♦ 10 8 5   |   |              |   |
| ♣ K 9 6 3  |   |              |   |
|            |   | 9            | 1 |
|            |   | 22           | 1 |
|            |   | 8            | 8 |

|      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|
| W    | N    | E    | S    |
| pass | pass | pass | Pass |
| 2NT  | pass | 3♣   | Pass |
| 3♦   | End  |      |      |

**Bidding :**  
If West wasn't so flat, the hand might be worth an upgrade, but with 4333, opening a 20-22 NT seems reasonable. With such a poor hand, East doesn't want to play 2NT, 3♦ or 3♣ is likely to be better, so by bidding 3♣ East is likely to improve the contract most of the time – if partner bids 3♥ we just hope 3NT makes!

**Play :**

The Queen of clubs lead stands out – South encourages and North continues, West winning the second round. Declarer draws trumps, ruffs a club, and tries a spade to the Jack. North now knows partner has values in hearts and can switch, but declarer will get 9 tricks, losing just 2 spades, 1 heart and a club.

2NT wasn't making, as declarer has to lose two additional club tricks, and so taking the risk of bidding Stayman has paid off (this time).

|     |   |    |    |      |
|-----|---|----|----|------|
|     | N | S  | E  | W    |
| NT  |   | 1  | 1  |      |
| ♠   |   | 2  | 2  |      |
| ♥   | 2 | 2  |    | 2    |
| ♦   |   |    | 2  | 3    |
| ♣   | 2 | 2  |    |      |
| opt |   | EW | 25 | -110 |

30. Dealer : E  
Vul : None

|              |   |                  |    |
|--------------|---|------------------|----|
| ♠ A K 8 6    |   |                  |    |
| ♥ 9 7 2      |   |                  |    |
| ♦ K Q 6 3 2  |   |                  |    |
| ♣ 8          |   |                  |    |
|              | N | E                | S  |
| ♠ -          |   | ♥ Q J 10 9 7 5 3 |    |
| ♥ Q 10 8 5 4 | W | ♥ A              |    |
| ♦ J 8 7      |   | ♦ 10 9 4         |    |
| ♣ Q J 9 7 5  |   | ♣ A K            |    |
|              |   |                  |    |
| ♠ 4 2        |   |                  |    |
| ♥ K J 6 3    |   |                  |    |
| ♦ A 5        |   |                  |    |
| ♣ 10 6 4 3 2 |   |                  |    |
|              |   | 12               | 14 |
|              |   | 6                | 14 |
|              |   | 8                | 8  |

|     |    |     |      |
|-----|----|-----|------|
| W   | N  | E   | S    |
| 1NT | 2♦ | 3♠  | Pass |
|     |    | End |      |

**Bidding :**  
West hopes that they might find a contract other than spades, but when East jumps to 3♠ there's not much to do other than pass. At least the jump has made it difficult for NS to get into the auction and find a double.

**Play :**

Defenders start with Ace and another diamond, North winning, and switches to a singleton club – preserving South's entry with a diamond ruff should they have a second spade. East tries to draw trumps, but North wins, and now plays a 3<sup>rd</sup> diamond.

If North is confident of partner having a doubleton diamond and a trump left, they could play a low one and force partner to ruff. As there is no guarantee, South will have to work this out for themselves – ruff partner's winner, and provide a club ruff. Thankfully, South and West's club suits, combined with the switch should make this obvious enough, and the contract is beaten by 2.

|     |   |    |     |     |
|-----|---|----|-----|-----|
|     | N | S  | E   | W   |
| NT  | 2 | 2  | 1   | 1   |
| ♠   | 1 | 1  |     |     |
| ♥   | 1 | 1  |     |     |
| ♦   | 1 | 1  |     |     |
| ♣   |   |    | 1   | 1   |
| opt |   | NS | 2NT | 120 |

|     |   |  |  |
|-----|---|--|--|
| 27. | ♠ A 4 3 2<br>♥ K 6 5 2<br>♦ Q 5<br>♣ 10 8 3 | Dealer : S<br>Vul : None                     | ♠ Q 9 8<br>♥ 7<br>♦ A J 6 4 3 2<br>♣ A 9 6 |
|     | W   | E  |  |
|     | ♠ K 6<br>♥ A 10 4 3<br>♦ 9 7<br>♣ Q J 7 5 2 | ♠ J 10 7 5<br>♥ Q J 9 8<br>♦ K 10 8<br>♣ K 4 | 9<br>10<br>11<br>10                        |

|      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|
| W    | N    | E    | S    |
| 1♣   | dbl  | 1♦   | Pass |
| pass | 2♥   | 2♦   | Pass |
| 3♣   | pass | pass | dbl  |
| pass | 3♥   | pass | pass |
| dbl  | End  |      |      |

**Bidding :**

NW, playing pairs, and opposite a passed partner. North can make a risky double of 1♣ to get both majors into the auction. (At least we have Hx in diamonds, if partner does bid them.) South cue bids to show both majors, EW compete to 3m, and South doubles to show defensive values. North knows they don't have as much as partner was hoping for and runs to 3♥, and with good trumps, a spade honour and shortage in partner's suit, West can double.

**Play :** Trump lead (often wise against a doubled contract, and the other suits are unappealing). West wins this, and the play could go many ways – any sensible line of play results in NS getting 8 tricks.

East might just try to draw trumps, or might look for ruffs, either in spades or diamonds. EW are likely to get the two minor suit Aces, and either 2 spades and 1 trump or 1 spade and 2 trumps.

-100 beats 3m, but loses to anybody who was allowed to play 2M, or 3M undoubled, and so likely a good score for EW.

|     |    |   |             |   |
|-----|----|---|-------------|---|
|     | N  | S | E           | W |
| NT  | 2  | 2 |             |   |
| ♠   | 2  | 2 |             | 2 |
| ♥   |    |   | 3           | 3 |
| ♦   |    |   | 3           | 3 |
| ♣   |    |   | 3           | 3 |
| opt | NS |   | 3H/Sx : 300 |   |

|     |   |  |  |
|-----|---|--|--|
| 28. | ♠ J<br>♥ A 10 6 5<br>♦ K 6 3 2<br>♣ J 5 4 3 | Dealer : W<br>Vul : N/S                      | ♠ Q 8 4<br>♥ Q J 3<br>♦ A Q 8 5 4<br>♣ Q 2 |
|     | W   | E  |  |
|     | ♠ K 7 5 3<br>♥ 9 4 2<br>♦ J<br>♣ A K 10 8 6 | ♠ A 10 9 6 2<br>♥ K 8 7<br>♦ 10 9 7<br>♣ 9 7 | 9<br>11<br>13<br>7                         |

|    |      |     |      |
|----|------|-----|------|
| W  | N    | E   | S    |
| 1♣ | pass | 1♦  | Pass |
| 1♠ | pass | 3NT | end  |

**Bidding :** Sandwich-seat overcalls should be good quality, particularly vulnerable, so South just passes, and is glad they did so when West rebids 1♠! With hearts stopped and no interest in partner's suits, East just jumps to 3NT.

**Play :**

What should South lead? The heart stop has been shown on the right, so leading the King might be into a finesse, but our suit has been bid on the left.

Partner had opportunity to overcall 1♥ and didn't, whereas they could easily have e.g. Hx(x) spade and our suit can be established, with the King of hearts as entry to it. The 10 is often recommended from such holdings (very close to an internal sequence), but it isn't going to work well on this deal.

10 of spades to Jack and Queen, and declarer can play 4 rounds of clubs (fairly confident that the King of spades will be an entry.) North wins, switches to a heart, to the Queen and King, and South returns the 8. North can't be sure the King of diamonds will be an entry, so ducks.

East can try getting to dummy with a spade, but South flies the Ace and plays a heart back to partner, who cashes 2 heart tricks, for 1 off.

|     |    |   |            |   |
|-----|----|---|------------|---|
|     | N  | S | E          | W |
| NT  |    | 2 | 2          | 2 |
| ♠   |    | 2 | 2          | 1 |
| ♥   |    | 1 | 1          | 1 |
| ♦   |    | 1 | 1          | 1 |
| ♣   |    | 2 | 2          | 2 |
| opt | EW |   | 1NT : -120 |   |

|    |  |  |   |
|----|--|--|---|
| 5. | ♠ Q 8 7 2<br>♥ K J 8 4<br>♦ Q 10 3<br>♣ K 7  | Dealer : N<br>Vul : N/S                    | ♠ J 6 3<br>♥ A 9 5 3<br>♦ 5 2<br>♣ Q 10 5 3 |
|    | W  | E  |   |
|    | ♠ K 10 9 4<br>♥ 10 7<br>♦ 9 7 4<br>♣ A J 4 2 | ♠ A 5<br>♥ Q 6 2<br>♦ A K J 8 6<br>♣ 9 8 6 | 11<br>8<br>7<br>14                          |

|      |     |      |     |
|------|-----|------|-----|
| W    | N   | E    | S   |
| pass | 2♣  | pass | 1NT |
| pass | 2NT | pass | 2♦  |
| End  |     |      | 3NT |

South could consider upgrading and opening 1♥, but in 3<sup>rd</sup> seat I think it is better to get the more obstructive 1NT opening in. (Anybody playing a strong NT might also open 1NT.) With a maximum pass, North invites via Stayman, which South is very happy to accept.

**Play :**

West leads their 4<sup>th</sup> highest spade, and should South play the Queen? Ducking might help preserving stops, but might make it harder to access the trick when the King is onside. We have 5 diamond tricks, can establish 2 hearts (at least), and have 1 spade – so we will need another trick from somewhere. With a somewhat precarious club situation, it's better to try the Queen now. This holds, and we can start playing on hearts – no point cashing diamonds and giving the defence opportunity to discard and share information. A heart to the Queen holds, East can with the second heart and play back a spade. South wins, cashes red suit winners, and tries a club to the King, but at this point West should only have the Ace of clubs and spade winners left, and so South is held to 9 tricks.

|     |    |   |           |   |
|-----|----|---|-----------|---|
|     | N  | S | E         | W |
| NT  | 3  | 3 |           |   |
| ♠   | 2  | 2 |           |   |
| ♥   | 3  | 3 |           |   |
| ♦   | 4  | 4 |           |   |
| ♣   |    |   | 1         | 1 |
| opt | EW |   | 4CX : 500 |   |

|    |  |  |  |
|----|--|--|--|
| 6. | ♠ A K Q 6<br>♥ A J 9 8 2<br>♦ A 5<br>♣ 9 7 | Dealer : E<br>Vul : E/W                      | ♠ J 10 9 7<br>♥ 6 4<br>♦ Q 10 7 6<br>♣ A K 3 |
|    | W  | E  |  |
|    | ♠ 3<br>♥ 7 5<br>♦ 8 4 3<br>♣ Q J 8 6 5 4 2 | ♠ 8 5 4 2<br>♥ K Q 10 3<br>♦ K J 9 2<br>♣ 10 | 18<br>3<br>10<br>9                           |

|      |     |      |      |
|------|-----|------|------|
| W    | N   | E    | S    |
| 3♣   | dbl | pass | Pass |
| pass | 5♥  | pass | 4♣   |
| End  |     |      | 6♥   |

**Bidding :** West's 3♣ opening is going to test NS's bidding. Over North's double, East passes to hide the large club fit, (the sacrifice wouldn't be profitable at these colours anyway), and South bids 4♠ to show values for game with both majors – so that if North is 4-3 in the majors they can pick the fit. North's hand now looks pretty good, but lacks a club control – the jump to 5♥ shows this. (5♠ would show the control) and with a singleton club, South can raise.

**Play :** The defence cash the Ace of clubs, and can safely cash another one (knowing North lacks a club control), so is not singleton, and there is no risk of a ruff and discard). Declarer draws trumps, and the hand would be over if spades were 3-2. As they're not, declarer needs to find a diamond trick to discard the spade on. There are options – finesse, or ruffing out Qxx. However, if West has carelessly discarded a diamond, we can do better.

If declarer just cashes trumps, East has to find 3 discards - 1 club, and 2 diamonds. Declarer now knows East has just 2 diamonds remaining – so after Ace and another, if East doesn't play the Queen we can play the King, knowing that West has just Queen singleton left. West must discard clubs and no diamonds to keep declarer on a guess, which sadly they'll probably get right anyway.

|     |    |   |          |   |
|-----|----|---|----------|---|
|     | N  | S | E        | W |
| NT  | 5  | 5 |          |   |
| ♠   | 6  | 6 |          |   |
| ♥   | 6  | 6 |          |   |
| ♦   | 4  | 4 |          |   |
| ♣   |    |   | 1        | 1 |
| opt | NS |   | 6H : 980 |   |

|    |   |                         |   |
|----|---|-------------------------|---|
| 7. | ♠ J 9 4<br>♥ A 8 7 4 3 2<br>♦ Q 8 7<br>♣ 9  | Dealer : S<br>Vul : All | ♠ A 2<br>♥ 10 9 6<br>♦ A J 10 2<br>♣ J 10 8 2 |
|    | ♠ 10 6<br>♥ K J 5<br>♦ K 6 4 3<br>♣ A 5 4 3 |                         | 7<br>12 10<br>11                              |

|    |      |    |      |
|----|------|----|------|
| W  | N    | E  | S    |
| 1♠ | pass | 2♣ | Pass |
| 3♣ | end  |    | Pass |

**Bidding :** Support partner's minor, or show 6 spades?

Neither option will be right all of the time, but the ruffing value plus not a very good trump suit (we're likely to have a lot of losers opposite a small singleton) leads me to favour 3♣.

**Play :**

A small trump lead looks reasonable. Declarer would like to draw trumps, then hope for a 3-2 spade break. The 4-1 trump break is a blessing – it means the opponents could find ruffs against 2♠.

South ducks the second trump, wins the third and plays the King of hearts – this wins, and can continue with a third heart to force the dummy. Declarer can however enter hand with the spade Ace, draw the last trump and cash the spades for 11 tricks – a diamond lead was needed to hold it to 10, to get a diamond trick before the trumps could be drawn and spades cashed.

Against 2♠, North is likely to lead a club, South can win and provide a ruff with the 5 (suit preference), and North can bravely underlead the Ace of hearts for another club ruff, with a diamond trick to come.

|     |   |    |           |   |
|-----|---|----|-----------|---|
|     | N | S  | E         | W |
| NT  |   |    | 2         | 2 |
| ♠   |   | 3  | 3         |   |
| ♥   |   |    |           |   |
| ♦   |   |    |           |   |
| ♣   |   |    | 4         | 4 |
| opt |   | EW | 4C : -130 |   |

|    |   |                          |  |
|----|---|--------------------------|--|
| 8. | ♠ 10<br>♥ 10 9 8 3<br>♦ K 10 3 2<br>♣ 9 8 5 4 | Dealer : W<br>Vul : None | ♠ Q J 9 5<br>♥ K Q<br>♦ A Q 6<br>♣ Q 7 6 2 |
|    | ♠ A K 7 6 2<br>♥ 7 6 2<br>♦ 9 8 5 4<br>♣ J    |                          | 3<br>8 16<br>13                            |

|      |      |    |      |
|------|------|----|------|
| W    | N    | E  | S    |
| pass | pass | 1♣ | Pass |
| 1♠   | pass | 3♠ | Pass |
| 4♠   | End  |    |      |

**Bidding :**

With 4-4 clubs and majors, it's usually best to open 1♣ even if you'd normally open the major first – otherwise partner just has hardly any bidding room. This should lead to 4♠ by West.

**Play :**

10 of hearts lead (passive, plus an unbid suit) and South can win and cash the King of clubs (asking for count). North shows an even number, and South knows not to try cashing another one.

South can now just exit with a heart, and declarer must be careful: if diamonds are 4-2, then they'll need to ruff both the 4<sup>th</sup> diamond and a heart – not a problem if trumps are 2-2, but problematic if 3-1. So, spade to hand, diamond finesse, Ace of diamond and another diamond – North wins, but the hand can now be cross-ruffed for 10 tricks.

|     |   |    |           |   |
|-----|---|----|-----------|---|
|     | N | S  | E         | W |
| NT  |   | 2  | 2         | 4 |
| ♠   |   |    | 4         | 4 |
| ♥   |   | 2  | 2         |   |
| ♦   |   |    | 3         | 3 |
| ♣   |   | 2  | 2         |   |
| opt |   | EW | 4S : -420 |   |

|     |   |                         |   |
|-----|---|-------------------------|---|
| 25. | ♠ A 8 3 2<br>♥ 3 2<br>♦ A 10 9 5<br>♣ 9 8 3 | Dealer : N<br>Vul : E/W | ♠ 6 5<br>♥ 10 7<br>♦ K Q 8 7 6 2<br>♣ K Q 7 |
|     | ♠ J 4<br>♥ Q J 8 5 4<br>♦ 3<br>♣ A 6 5 4 2  |                         | 8<br>8 10<br>14                             |

|      |      |    |     |
|------|------|----|-----|
| W    | N    | E  | S   |
| pass | pass | 2♦ | Dbl |
| 3♠   | End  |    |     |

**Bidding :**

A maximum weak 2♦ opening makes like a little difficult for NS – a double gets both majors in, and North shows a little more than minimum with a jump to 3♠. South can't envisage game opposite a passed hand, so passes.

**Play :**

King of clubs lead and EW can cash 2 clubs, West signalling for a diamond and with a low second club. (Hopping for East to cash the Ace and provide a ruff.)

It doesn't matter what EW do – declarer can draw two trumps, concede a diamond and cross ruff. It was difficult for NS to know the hands were so well fitting, and even just a 3-1 spade break might have made making 10 tricks difficult.

|     |   |    |           |   |
|-----|---|----|-----------|---|
|     | N | S  | E         | W |
| NT  | 2 | 2  |           |   |
| ♠   | 4 | 4  |           |   |
| ♥   |   |    | 1         | 1 |
| ♦   | 1 | 1  |           |   |
| ♣   |   |    | 2         | 2 |
| opt |   | NS | 4S : -420 |   |

|     |  |                         |  |
|-----|--|-------------------------|--|
| 26. | ♠ J 5 3<br>♥ Q 9 8 6 4<br>♦ K 10 2<br>♣ 10 4 | Dealer : E<br>Vul : All | ♠ 6 4<br>♥ A K 7 5 2<br>♦ Q 9 7 5<br>♣ 8 5 |
|     | ♠ A Q 10 9 7<br>♥ 3<br>♦ A J 8 6<br>♣ K Q 6  |                         | 6<br>16 9<br>9                             |

|     |      |     |      |
|-----|------|-----|------|
| W   | N    | E   | S    |
| 1♠  | pass | 2♥  | Pass |
| 2NT | pass | 3NT | End  |

**Bidding :** West would quite like to play the hand, to protect the 2 minor suit holdings. 2NT is forcing, and gives East chance to ask about a 5<sup>th</sup> spade – East has no such interest, and just raises to 3NT.

(2NT on a singleton normally has the risk of partner bidding 4♥ with a 6-card heart suit, but opposite a passed hand with values for a 2♥ bid we can rule this out – they would have opened 1 or 2 hearts.)

**Play :** 10 of clubs lead (passive). To West's King. Declarer would like to play everything towards hand but can't – so just cash Ace of diamonds and towards the Jack, hopefully establishing some entries to dummy with the diamonds. North ducks the Jack – if we knew the layout declarer could overtake to create an entry. North wins, continues a club – South sees the high low and wins this one, and clears the suit.

Declarer can now go to dummy with a diamond, and play a spade to the 10, knowing North can't play a club to South. This loses, but a heart to the Ace and another finesse, and with spades 3-3 (or Kx on side) the suit is now good.

NS would do better to attack hearts, but it's not going to happen after East has bid them.

|     |   |    |           |   |
|-----|---|----|-----------|---|
|     | N | S  | E         | W |
| NT  |   | 3  | 3         | 3 |
| ♠   |   | 4  | 4         |   |
| ♥   |   | 2  | 2         |   |
| ♦   |   | 5  | 5         |   |
| ♣   |   | 1  | 1         |   |
| opt |   | EW | 4S : -620 |   |



|     |            |            |
|-----|------------|------------|
| 23. | ♠ Q 6      | Dealer : S |
|     | ♥ 9 4 2    | Vul : All  |
|     | ♦ A J 6 3  |            |
|     | ♣ A K J 9  |            |
|     | ♠ 10 9 4 2 | N          |
|     | ♥ Q 10 6 5 | W          |
|     | ♦ 5        | E          |
|     | ♣ 7 6 3    | S          |
|     | ♠ A 8 3    | ♠ J 7 5    |
|     | ♥ A K J 3  | ♥ 8 7      |
|     | ♦ Q 8 7 2  | ♦ K 10 9 4 |
|     | ♣ 5 4      | ♣ Q 10 8 2 |
|     |            | 15         |
|     |            | 5 6        |
|     |            | 14         |

|      |     |     |     |
|------|-----|-----|-----|
| W    | N   | E   | S   |
| pass | 3NT | End | 1NT |

**Bidding :** Should be a straightforward auction to 3NT!

**Play :** 10 of spades lead, won by the Queen. Declarer has some, but not a lot of time to establish tricks. Heart to the Ace, and a diamond to the Jack, losing to the King. West unblocks the Jack of spades, South ducking and winning the next one.

Declarer doesn't want to lose the lead to West. Diamonds are either cashing now or they're not, but clubs can be played on safely. A club to the 9 and another heart through, won by the king. Now diamonds – when West discards we know they're not cashing, and we might suspect 5431 shape, particularly if West discards clubs.

If so, we can bravely cash a top club, the top diamonds, and throw East in with the 4<sup>th</sup> diamond. With only clubs left, East has to lead away from the Queen of clubs into KJ for 9 tricks.

South can technically make 10 tricks on a spade lead, but the play is a little double-dummy - by eliminating East's majors before playing the minors they can be endplayed twice!

|     |   |    |          |   |
|-----|---|----|----------|---|
|     | N | S  | E        | W |
| NT  | 4 | 3  |          |   |
| ♠   | 1 | 2  |          |   |
| ♥   | 3 | 3  |          |   |
| ♦   | 4 | 4  |          |   |
| ♣   | 3 | 3  |          |   |
| opt |   | NS | 3N : 630 |   |

|     |              |            |
|-----|--------------|------------|
| 24. | ♠ A 10 9 7 6 | Dealer : W |
|     | ♥ Q 10 9 6   | Vul : None |
|     | ♦ -          |            |
|     | ♣ 10 8 4 2   |            |
|     | ♠ J 8 3      | N          |
|     | ♥ K J 5 2    | W          |
|     | ♦ 8 6 5 4    | E          |
|     | ♣ A J        | S          |
|     | ♠ 2          | ♠ K Q 5 4  |
|     | ♥ A 4        | ♥ 8 7 3    |
|     | ♦ A K Q J 7  | ♦ 10 9 3 2 |
|     | ♣ K 9 6 5 3  | ♣ Q 7      |
|     |              | 6          |
|     |              | 10 7       |
|     |              | 17         |

|      |      |      |    |
|------|------|------|----|
| W    | N    | E    | S  |
| pass | pass | pass | 1♦ |
| pass | 1♠   | pass | 2♣ |
| End  |      |      |    |

**Bidding :** South is pretty close to being worth a jump reverse over partner's response (showing a Game-Forcing hand), and if one the suits was a major I would recommend it. Bidding 2♣ will allow a 3♣ bid later, and we've had more time to show our shape. As it happens, North just passes 2♣, happy to have found a fit, and not impressed with a void in partner's first suit.

West leads a spade, not wanting to lead from KJ hearts. North wins, and will take the chance to try a club to the King. This loses, and declarer will end up losing 2 clubs, but all of dummy's hearts can be discarded on 4 diamonds, allowing the heart loser to be ruffed.

If South does bid 3♣, North is likely to bid 3NT, which on a heart lead and spade switch (West can see no future in hearts), will be 1 off.

|     |   |    |            |     |
|-----|---|----|------------|-----|
|     | N | S  | E          | W   |
| NT  | 2 | 3  |            |     |
| ♠   | 2 | 2  |            |     |
| ♥   | 3 | 3  |            |     |
| ♦   | 4 | 4  |            |     |
| ♣   | 5 | 5  |            |     |
| opt |   | NS | 3NT/5C : - | 400 |

|    |               |            |
|----|---------------|------------|
| 9. | ♠ A 7 3       | Dealer : N |
|    | ♥ A Q 6       | Vul : E/W  |
|    | ♦ A Q 9 7 5   |            |
|    | ♣ J 6         |            |
|    | ♠ Q 9 4 2     | N          |
|    | ♥ J 5 2       | W          |
|    | ♦ J 10 2      | E          |
|    | ♣ A 9 2       | S          |
|    | ♠ 10 5        | ♠ K J 8 6  |
|    | ♥ 9 8 3       | ♥ K 10 7 4 |
|    | ♦ K 6         | ♦ 8 4 3    |
|    | ♣ Q 8 7 5 4 3 | ♣ K 10     |
|    |               | 17         |
|    |               | 8 10       |
|    |               | 5          |

|      |     |      |     |
|------|-----|------|-----|
| W    | N   | E    | S   |
| pass | 1♦  | pass | 1NT |
| end  | 2NT | pass | 3♣  |

**Bidding :** South scrapes together a 1NT response, but doesn't fancy play 2NT with so few values. 3♣ here must show a weak hand with long clubs, as any good hand would just bid 3NT. (North could still bid 3NT if they expected the club suit to run.)

**Play :** Spade lead, and South has to make a plan. If diamonds are 3-3 there could be 3 discards – enough for the 2 hearts. However, to run all of the diamonds we'd have to draw trumps first.

We don't want hearts being played through dummy – so we can duck the first spade, and win the second (we'd never get chance to discard it, and can always discard a heart instead) Jack of clubs, covered by the King, and another spade. This is ruffed, another club played (won by the 10), and East still can't attack hearts! Another spade, and South can just start playing diamonds – West ruffs the 4<sup>th</sup> diamond, but the Ace of hearts still exists as an entry to the 5<sup>th</sup> diamond for a 2<sup>nd</sup> heart discard.

The favourable diamond break actually allows declarer to make 10 tricks on a spade lead (or 9 with a heart) as 3 rounds of diamonds can be cashed without anybody ruffing (and on a heart lead, keep cashing them and discarding losers without drawing trumps).

|     |   |    |         |   |
|-----|---|----|---------|---|
|     | N | S  | E       | W |
| NT  | 1 | 1  | 1       | 1 |
| ♠   |   |    |         |   |
| ♥   | 1 |    |         |   |
| ♦   | 1 | 1  |         |   |
| ♣   | 4 | 3  |         |   |
| opt |   | NS | ZC: 130 |   |

|     |              |              |
|-----|--------------|--------------|
| 10. | ♠ K 5 3      | Dealer : E   |
|     | ♥ J 10 7 3   | Vul : All    |
|     | ♦ 7 6 2      |              |
|     | ♣ 6 4 3      |              |
|     | ♠ 7 4 2      | N            |
|     | ♥ K Q 9 8 2  | W            |
|     | ♦ A 9        | E            |
|     | ♣ A K 5      | S            |
|     | ♠ A 9 8 6    | ♠ Q J 10     |
|     | ♥ A 6        | ♥ 5 4        |
|     | ♦ K J 10 8 4 | ♦ Q 5 3      |
|     | ♣ J 2        | ♣ Q 10 9 8 7 |
|     |              | 4            |
|     |              | 16 7         |
|     |              | 13           |

|      |      |      |     |
|------|------|------|-----|
| W    | N    | E    | S   |
| 1♥   | pass | pass | 1♦  |
| pass | 2♦   | dbl  | dbl |
| end  |      |      |     |

**Bidding :**

South could protect with either dbl or 1♠ – dbl gives North the option to pass for penalties if they really wanted to, which with Ax trumps we'd be happy to entertain. North hopes for a diamond fit, and East doubles just to show some values, and willingness to cooperate with partner. With 4 tricks likely in their own hand, West might pass and have a go at getting 200.

**Play :**

Ak and another club, and South can see 1 heart loser, at least 1 spade loser, 2 club losers, and at least 1 diamond loser. This means they will need to play diamonds for 1 loser, which with the lack of entries to dummy, requires OX outside. So, a spade to the King, and a diamond to the Jack. The good news is that this loses to the Ace – King of hearts back, won by declarer, and the King of diamonds. Sadly for declarer, the Q doesn't fall, and so they are 1 off – the fortunate spade position resulting in just one spade loser.

|     |   |    |            |   |
|-----|---|----|------------|---|
|     | N | S  | E          | W |
| NT  |   |    | 2          | 2 |
| ♠   |   |    | 1          |   |
| ♥   |   | 1  |            |   |
| ♦   | 1 | 1  |            |   |
| ♣   |   |    | 3          | 3 |
| opt |   | EW | 1NT : -120 |   |

|     |              |              |
|-----|--------------|--------------|
| 11. | ♠ A 9 4      | Dealer : S   |
|     | ♥ A 7 6 3    | Vul : None   |
|     | ♦ A 9 6 4 3  |              |
|     | ♣ Q          |              |
|     | ♠ Q 10 6 3 2 | N            |
|     | ♥ 8          | ♠ 8          |
|     | ♦ Q J 8 5    | W            |
|     | ♠ J 8 5      | E            |
|     |              | ♥ K J 9 5 2  |
|     |              | ♦ K 7        |
|     |              | ♠ K 10 4 3 2 |
|     | ♠ K J 7 5    | 14           |
|     | ♥ Q 10 4     | 6            |
|     | ♦ 10 2       | 10           |
|     | ♣ A 9 7 6    | 10           |

|      |     |     |      |
|------|-----|-----|------|
| W    | N   | E   | S    |
| pass | 1♦  | 2NT | Pass |
| 3♣   | dbl | end | dbl  |

**Bidding :**

East's 2NT bid is doubled by South to show penalty interest, and depending on your agreements, either North doubles for takeout and this is passed by South, or South doubles for penalties.

**Play :**

North has a rather awkward hand to lead from! It's often best to lead trumps against doubled contracts, and we might assume that our Queen will be shown up when declarer plays on them anyway, so leading the Queen of trumps isn't ridiculous. This goes to King and Ace, and South switches to a diamond, looking for a ruff. North can win and play one back, won by dummy, and declarer can finesse South with a club to the 8. Jack of clubs and then a diamond, discarding a spade, ruffed by South. A spade through, to 10 and Ace. Dummy can ruff, but then has to play hearts away from the KJ.

Declarer's hand can no longer be accessed, and so declarer will lose 3 heart tricks, 1 diamond and 2 clubs, for 2 off. Declarer could have tried ruffing hearts instead, but then would lose more club tricks.

|     |   |    |    |     |
|-----|---|----|----|-----|
|     | N | S  | E  | W   |
| NT  | 1 | 1  |    |     |
| ♠   | 3 | 2  |    |     |
| ♥   | 2 | 1  |    |     |
| ♦   | 2 | 2  |    |     |
| ♣   |   |    | 1  | 1   |
| opt |   | NS | 25 | 140 |

|     |              |            |
|-----|--------------|------------|
| 12. | ♠ 9 8 7 5    | Dealer : W |
|     | ♥ A 10 6     | Vul : N/S  |
|     | ♦ 8 7 6      |            |
|     | ♣ A 9 3      |            |
|     | ♠ Q 10 4 3   | N          |
|     | ♥ Q 7 4      | W          |
|     | ♦ 2          | E          |
|     | ♠ K Q 10 7 4 | S          |
|     | ♠ A K J      | ♠ 6 2      |
|     | ♥ K 9 5      | ♥ J 8 3 2  |
|     | ♦ K Q 10 5 4 | ♦ A J 9 3  |
|     | ♣ 8 5        | ♣ J 6 2    |
|     |              | 8          |
|     |              | 9          |
|     |              | 7          |
|     |              | 16         |

|      |      |      |     |
|------|------|------|-----|
| W    | N    | E    | S   |
| pass | pass | pass | 1♦  |
| dbl  | rdbl | 1♥   | 1NT |
| pass | 2NT  | pass | 3NT |
| End  |      |      |     |

**Bidding :** West resists opening their 9 count, but over 1♦

can manage a passed-hand takeout double NV at pairs. North can redouble to show values and no long suit, and East bids a quiet 1♥. South's 1NT shows 15-18 bal, (we're more interested in bidding our own contract than trying to double at the 1 level), North invites, and South accepts.

**Play :**

King of clubs lead, and South should note that they've reached a pretty slim 3NT – the aim is to make this, not get overtricks.

Declarer ducks the first club. East unblocking the Jack, letting West know it's safe to continue one. Declarer wins the third round, and needs to get 4 diamond tricks. With the takeout double on the left, running the 8 of diamonds is not at all unreasonable – East covers with the 9 (so we can't repeat the finesse), a heart to dummy and run the 7, and with only one diamond loser, 3NT will roll in.

The defence can beat it, but have to be quite careful - switching after the second club helps, as it denies an entry to dummy, and stops declarer picking up the diamonds (although declarer has squeeze chances.)

|     |   |   |    |     |
|-----|---|---|----|-----|
|     | N | S | E  | W   |
| NT  | 2 | 2 |    |     |
| ♠   | 2 | 3 |    |     |
| ♥   | 1 | 1 |    |     |
| ♦   | 3 | 3 |    |     |
| ♣   |   |   | 1  | 1   |
| opt |   | S | 25 | 140 |

|     |                |            |
|-----|----------------|------------|
| 21. | ♠ A 9          | Dealer : N |
|     | ♥ Q 10 9 7 6 2 | Vul : N/S  |
|     | ♦ A 8          |            |
|     | ♣ K 9 4        |            |
|     | ♠ K J 7 6      | N          |
|     | ♥ A            | W          |
|     | ♦ 10 9 7 6 5   | E          |
|     | ♠ J 10 6       | S          |
|     | ♠ Q 10 5 4 3   | ♠ 8 2      |
|     | ♥ J 8          | ♥ K 5 4 3  |
|     | ♦ K 4 3        | ♦ Q J 2    |
|     | ♣ A 7 2        | ♣ Q 8 5 3  |
|     |                | 13         |
|     |                | 9          |
|     |                | 8          |
|     |                | 10         |

|      |    |      |    |
|------|----|------|----|
| W    | N  | E    | S  |
| pass | 1♥ | pass | 1♠ |
| End  | 2♥ | pass | 3♥ |

**Bidding :**

If you open 1NT with 5 card majors, then North's 2♥ rebid promises 6 (not a balanced hand, and hasn't mentioned any other 4 card suit.) South can then just make an invitational raise, which North is pretty close to accepting - it's a good 13 count, but can probably just pass. (It would be accepted at teams.)

**Play :**

QJ leads have a habit of going wrong, so I'd suggest a passive doubleton spade. Declarer can play small from dummy, to Jack and Ace, and then a heart. West wins, cashes the spade and plays another.

Declarer's pips are good enough to ruff this high, on which East discards a club. Draw another trump, and declarer will end up losing just 1 spade and 2 trumps.

West had to switch to a club rather than give the ruff in order to get another trick, however it's impossible to know that East doesn't have a holding that can gain a trump promotion by ruffing – perhaps an argument for East not to lead the doubleton?

|     |   |    |     |     |
|-----|---|----|-----|-----|
|     | N | S  | E   | W   |
| NT  | 3 | 3  |     |     |
| ♠   | 2 | 2  |     |     |
| ♥   | 3 | 3  |     |     |
| ♦   | 3 | 3  |     |     |
| ♣   |   |    | 1   | 1   |
| opt |   | EW | 4DX | 500 |

|     |                |             |
|-----|----------------|-------------|
| 22. | ♠ 9 7          | Dealer : E  |
|     | ♥ 7 4          | Vul : E/W   |
|     | ♦ A Q 7 5 4    |             |
|     | ♣ K Q 4 3      |             |
|     | ♠ A J 10 5 3 2 | N           |
|     | ♥ A Q 10 9     | W           |
|     | ♦ -            | E           |
|     | ♠ A 9 8        | S           |
|     | ♠ 8 6 4        | ♠ K Q       |
|     | ♥ 8 5          | ♥ K J 6 3 2 |
|     | ♦ J 10 9 6 2   | ♦ K 8 3     |
|     | ♣ J 7 2        | ♣ 10 6 5    |
|     |                | 11          |
|     |                | 15          |
|     |                | 12          |
|     |                | 2           |

|    |      |      |      |
|----|------|------|------|
| W  | N    | E    | S    |
| 2♣ | 2♦   | 2♥   | Pass |
| 5♦ | pass | 5♥   | 4♦   |
| 6♥ | End  | Pass | Pass |

**Bidding :**

West has quite the hand.

Over a weak NT, starting with Stayman can help find 4-4 fits that play better than 6-2. West could always jump to 3♣ over a 2♦ response to show 5-4 forcing, and then bid spades again to show 6-4 if need be.

North sticks in a 2♦ bid, East shows their hearts anyway (usually best to just ignore the overcall), and South makes a preemptive raise. West shows a strong hand with a diamond void with 5♦, however East is minimum, with no Aces, and a wasted of King of diamonds. This results in a 5♥ bid, and West raising to 6. Hard to see EW reaching the very good 7♥ contract.

**Play :**

Diamond lead, and declarer just has to draw trumps – 6 spade tricks, 5 hearts, a club and a diamond ruff makes an easy 13 tricks.

|     |   |    |    |       |
|-----|---|----|----|-------|
|     | N | S  | E  | W     |
| NT  |   | 6  | 6  | 6     |
| ♠   |   |    | 7  | 6     |
| ♥   |   | 1  | 1  | 7     |
| ♦   |   |    |    |       |
| ♣   |   |    | 2  | 2     |
| opt |   | EW | 7H | -2210 |

19. Dealer : S

|                |              |              |       |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| ♠ 9 4          | AK 4         | Vul          | : EW  |
| ♥ 7 2          | A 10 7 6 4 2 |              |       |
| ♣ A 10 7 6 4 2 | N            | ♠ A 7 3      |       |
| ♦ K J 10 8 6 2 | W            | ♥ 10 5 2     |       |
| ♠ Q            | S            | ♦ A Q 10 9 6 |       |
| ♣ Q 5          |              | ♣ 8 3        |       |
| ♥ Q J 8 7 6 3  |              |              | 11    |
| ♦ 3            |              |              | 10 10 |
| ♣ K J 9 5      |              |              | 9     |

|    |    |     |     |
|----|----|-----|-----|
| W  | N  | E   | S   |
| 2♠ | 3♣ | 3♥  | 2♥  |
| 5♠ | 6♣ | dbl | 5♠  |
|    |    |     | end |

**Bidding :** South opens a weak 2, and West can manage 2♠ – we should have more values really, but the 6-5 shape makes up for it. North needs to not lazily raise hearts, but show clubs along the way – 5♥ might be a terrible sacrifice if we could have cashed 2 hearts, Ace of clubs and given partner a ruff against 4♠!

After East's strong spade raise, and considering the vulnerability, it looks certain EW are going to bid 4♠, so South should try to take the sacrifice now with a jump to 5♠.

If NS have hearts and clubs, West can guess partner has spades and diamonds.... With singletons in both suits, West just needs partner to have 2 Aces for 5♠ to be reasonable. North knows partner can't have much defence for the 5♠ bid, and is probably 1633 shape – giving 1 spade loser, 2 diamonds, and maybe a club. (And if we trust the bidding, we have no defence to 5♠.) This makes 6♠/♥ still a profitable sacrifice.

**Play :** This one is settled mainly in the bidding. If EW do win the bidding though, how should spades be played? It's very tempting to play South for a singleton, and EW may only make 10 tricks. Risk of a diamond ruff might encourage declarer to cash top 2 – the odds are pretty close, and may be a deciding factor in the scores.

|     |   |    |             |   |
|-----|---|----|-------------|---|
|     | N | S  | E           | W |
| NT  |   |    | 5           | 5 |
| ♠   |   | 4  | 4           |   |
| ♥   |   | 4  | 4           |   |
| ♦   |   |    | 5           | 5 |
| ♣   | 4 | 4  |             |   |
| opt |   | NS | 6C/Hx : 300 |   |

20. Dealer : W

|               |           |              |       |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|-------|
| ♠ K 4         | ♥ 7 4     | Vul          | : All |
| ♥ A 10 7 4 2  | ♣ K Q 5 4 |              |       |
| ♠ Q 8 3       | N         | ♠ 10 7 6 5 2 |       |
| ♥ K Q 3 8 6 2 | W         | ♥ A 3        |       |
| ♦ 9           | S         | ♦ Q J 5      |       |
| ♣ A 9 7       |           | ♣ 10 6 3     |       |
| ♠ A J 9       |           |              | 12    |
| ♥ J 10 5      |           |              | 11 7  |
| ♦ K 8 6 3     |           |              | 10    |
| ♣ J 8 2       |           |              |       |

|    |      |      |      |
|----|------|------|------|
| W  | N    | E    | S    |
| 1♥ | pass | 1♠   | Pass |
| 2♥ | dbl  | pass | 3♦   |
|    |      |      | End  |

**Bidding :** North doesn't really have an overcall of 2♦, but can make a takeover double second time around after both majors have been mentioned. Double implies more defensive values than an unusual 2NT. South might not defend 2♥, but is now well placed to make a penalty double if EW compete any higher.

**Play :** King of hearts lead, and East has no reason to overtake to play one back and get a ruff, as they have a natural trump trick anyway. So, East wins the second heart and switches to a spade – it doesn't look right to play declarer's second suit, and a diamond could give up a trick.

It doesn't matter whether declarer guesses the spade correctly or not – the trick isn't needed. Declarer can cash two top diamonds (King first, so we can finesse West if Q or Jack falls – principle of restricted choice), and then just has to concede a trump and a club for just making.

|     |   |    |          |   |
|-----|---|----|----------|---|
|     | N | S  | E        | W |
| NT  |   |    | 1        | 1 |
| ♠   |   |    | 1        | 1 |
| ♥   |   | 3  | 3        |   |
| ♦   |   | 2  | 2        |   |
| ♣   | 2 | 2  |          |   |
| opt |   | NS | 2D : 110 |   |

13. Dealer : N

|            |           |                  |       |
|------------|-----------|------------------|-------|
| ♠ A 10 8 2 | ♥ 5 2     | Vul              | : All |
| ♥ 8 5 4    | ♣ Q J 8 2 |                  |       |
| ♠ K Q 3    | N         | ♠ 9 6 5          |       |
| ♥ 4 3      | W         | ♥ K Q J 10 9 7 6 |       |
| ♦ Q J 6 2  | S         | ♦ A K            |       |
| ♣ A K 5 3  |           | ♣ 7              |       |
| ♠ J 7 4    |           |                  | 7     |
| ♥ A 8      |           |                  | 15 13 |
| ♦ 10 9 7 3 |           |                  | 5     |
| ♣ 10 9 6 4 |           |                  |       |

|      |      |    |      |
|------|------|----|------|
| W    | N    | E  | S    |
| pass | pass | 1♥ | Pass |
| 2♣   | pass | 4♥ | End  |

**Bidding :** East's hand is often quite awkward to bid – the 7<sup>th</sup> heart makes it quite powerful, but it doesn't feel great making a jump rebid and showing 16+, when we simply don't have that many HCP.

However, following a 2♣ bid, (which would make a 3♥ rebid forcing), we now have 4♥ available, to show a hand with self-sufficient hearts but without the values for 3♥.

West can now work out that partner can't have hearts good enough for no losers, an outside Ace, and the King of diamonds/Queen of clubs, which is what would be needed for slam, and can just sign on off.

**Play :** A passive diamond lead looks reasonable (unbid suit, and underleading Jacks is never appealing), and East can calculate that the only legitimate play for getting rid of the spade loser (for 12 tricks) is if diamonds are 4-3, with stiff Ace of hearts with the 3. Not great odds!

A sneaky play might work better – if a spade to the King is ducked, the odds of discarding everything is now much higher. This is unlikely to work on this hand, with the Ace being with North, and so many obvious discards available in dummy, but might be worth a go!

Those getting 'too high' and bidding RKCB will find there are two keycards missing and still make 11, so a flat board.

|     |   |    |           |   |
|-----|---|----|-----------|---|
|     | N | S  | E         | W |
| NT  |   | 3  | 3         |   |
| ♠   |   | 2  | 2         |   |
| ♥   |   | 5  | 5         |   |
| ♦   |   | 2  | 2         |   |
| ♣   |   | 1  | 1         |   |
| opt |   | EW | 4H : -650 |   |

14. Dealer : E

|              |             |            |        |
|--------------|-------------|------------|--------|
| ♠ Q 7 5      | ♥ K 8 7     | Vul        | : None |
| ♥ Q J        | ♣ K Q 9 5 2 |            |        |
| ♠ A K J 10 3 | N           | ♠ 8 6 4 2  |        |
| ♥ 10 6 4     | W           | ♥ J 5 3    |        |
| ♦ 5 4 3      | S           | ♦ A K 10 8 |        |
| ♣ 7 3        |             | ♣ J 4      |        |
| ♠ 9          |             |            | 13     |
| ♥ A Q 9 2    |             |            | 8 9    |
| ♦ 9 7 6 2    |             |            | 10     |
| ♣ A 10 8 6   |             |            |        |

|    |      |    |      |
|----|------|----|------|
| W  | N    | E  | S    |
| 2♠ | pass | 3♠ | pass |
|    |      |    | dbl  |
|    |      |    | End  |

**Bidding :** With such good spades, West is worth a 3<sup>rd</sup> seat weak 2 (NV), and East raises that to 3 (not taking their 3<sup>rd</sup> seat partner too seriously). If South finds a brave double, North is left with a difficult choice – we'd prefer to have better spades and less distribution to pass, and there's no guarantee of the Queen of spades being a trick.

At teams I'd bid 4♠, not wanting to risk the game bonus if 3♠X makes. At pairs you might just hope nobody can make anything, and take the chance of a plus score.

**Play :**

Queen of diamonds lead initially looks disastrous, but it doesn't establish any discards or tricks that declarer didn't already have. The defence will get 1 spade, 3 hearts and 2 clubs for -2, +300 and a top.

While 4♠ wouldn't have scored as well, it should probably still be a good score, as it outscores any 3♠ undoubled contracts.

|     |   |    |          |   |
|-----|---|----|----------|---|
|     | N | S  | E        | W |
| NT  | 2 | 2  |          | 1 |
| ♠   |   | 3  | 3        |   |
| ♥   |   | 1  | 1        |   |
| ♦   |   | 4  | 4        |   |
| ♣   |   |    |          |   |
| opt |   | NS | 3H : 140 |   |

|   |            |                 |  |            |           |
|---|------------|-----------------|--|------------|-----------|
|   |            | ♠ 4             |  | Dealer : S |           |
|   |            | ♥ A J 9 6 4 3 2 |  | Vul : N/S  |           |
|   |            | ♦ Q J           |  |            |           |
|   |            | ♣ A 10 6        |  |            |           |
| ♠ | A K 2      | N               |  | ♠          | Q 8 5 3   |
| ♥ | Q 5        | W               |  | ♥          | K 10      |
| ♦ | A 9 8 7 5  | E               |  | ♦          | 6 2       |
| ♣ | 5 4 3      | S               |  | ♣          | Q J 9 8 2 |
| ♠ | J 10 9 7 6 |                 |  |            | 12        |
| ♥ | 8 7        |                 |  |            | 13        |
| ♦ | K 10 4 3   |                 |  |            | 8         |
| ♣ | K 7        |                 |  |            | 7         |

|      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|
| W    | N    | E    | S    |
| pass | pass | pass | pass |
| 1NT  | 3♥   | end  | Pass |

**Bidding :** North can't think game is likely opposite a passed partner, and is expecting the opponents to compete in spades. So, North might as well pre-empt this and overcall a rather heavy 3♥ jump overall, which might well end the auction.

**Play :**

As it happens, 10 tricks can be made in hearts – South's cards are perfect, and hearts are 2-2. (With the K10 of diamonds to go with our QJ not even club ruffs are needed.)

The exciting tables will be where EW compete over 3♥ – South needs to start doubling to outscore 170.

|     |    |           |   |   |
|-----|----|-----------|---|---|
|     | N  | S         | E | W |
| NT  | 2  | 2         |   |   |
| ♠   |    | 4         |   |   |
| ♥   | 4  |           |   |   |
| ♦   |    |           | 1 | 1 |
| ♣   |    |           | 2 | 2 |
| opt | EW | 5Cx : 500 |   |   |

|   |           |           |  |            |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|--|------------|-----------|
|   |           | ♠ J 8 5 3 |  | Dealer : W |           |
|   |           | ♥ 6 5 4   |  | Vul : E/W  |           |
|   |           | ♦ 10 3    |  |            |           |
|   |           | ♣ J 8 4 3 |  |            |           |
| ♠ | 10 7      | N         |  | ♠          | K Q 6 2   |
| ♥ | J 10 8 3  | W         |  | ♥          | K         |
| ♦ | A J 5     | E         |  | ♦          | K Q 9 7 2 |
| ♣ | Q 9 6 5   | S         |  | ♣          | A K 7     |
| ♠ | A 9 4     |           |  |            | 2         |
| ♥ | A Q 9 7 2 |           |  |            | 8         |
| ♦ | 8 6 4     |           |  |            | 20        |
| ♣ | 10 2      |           |  |            | 10        |

|      |      |     |      |
|------|------|-----|------|
| W    | N    | E   | S    |
| pass | pass | 1♦  | 1♥   |
| 1NT  | pass | 2♠  | Pass |
| 3♥   | pass | 3NT | End  |

**Bidding :** West has already denied 4 spades when bidding 1NT, so East's 2♠ bid is to show either a highly distributional (6-5) hand, or a very strong hand that might be interested in playing e.g. 6♦.

West might show doubt about the heart stop (opposite a singleton, 6♥ might be very good), and East's 3NT bid confirms it as the strong hand with some help in hearts. West just passes – too flat, and too few Aces and Kings to be thinking about slam.

**Play :** North leads a heart. If South just exits with say, a diamond, declarer has to do a bit of work. Declarer needs to force out 1 heart trick, and then 1 spade. Playing on spades first sets up tricks for the defence before the heart can be established. (Hearts can't be established without leading into 108 and giving declarer another heart trick.) Thankfully for declarer, many Souths may end up making the play a lot easier, and not unreasonably – West is marked with most of the remaining points, and if West has 5 or 6 clubs, declarer might have 11 or 12 tricks if South doesn't cash, and so at pairs this is sensible defence.

|     |    |        |   |     |
|-----|----|--------|---|-----|
|     | N  | S      | E | W   |
| NT  |    | 4      | 3 | 4   |
| ♠   |    | 3      | 2 | 3   |
| ♥   |    | 2      | 2 | 2   |
| ♦   |    | 5      | 5 | 5   |
| ♣   |    | 3      | 3 | 3   |
| opt | EW | 3NT :- |   | 430 |

|   |             |            |  |            |           |
|---|-------------|------------|--|------------|-----------|
|   |             | ♠ K J 2    |  | Dealer : N |           |
|   |             | ♥ A Q 10 9 |  | Vul : None |           |
|   |             | ♦ A K      |  |            |           |
|   |             | ♣ 8 6 5 3  |  |            |           |
| ♠ | 7 6         | N          |  | ♠          | A Q 9 4 3 |
| ♥ | K 7 4       | W          |  | ♥          | -         |
| ♦ | J 9 8 6 5 4 | E          |  | ♦          | 10 7 3    |
| ♣ | A 7         | S          |  | ♣          | K J 9 4 2 |
| ♠ | 10 8 5      |            |  |            | 17        |
| ♥ | J 8 6 5 3 2 |            |  |            | 8         |
| ♦ | Q 2         |            |  |            | 10        |
| ♣ | Q 10        |            |  |            | 5         |

|     |    |    |    |
|-----|----|----|----|
| W   | N  | E  | S  |
| end | 1♥ | 2♥ | 4♥ |

**Bidding :** Playing 4 card majors, do you open a major first, or a minor? Opening a major gets it into the auction sooner, opening a minor gives more bidding room (and some open the major, except with clubs and spades, for that very reason). Either way, you should know what your partnership does.

Supposing 1♥ opened, East makes a Michaels cue bid, and South a preemptive raise, ending the auction. With a values-based raise, South could have bid 4♠ (the opponent's known suit) as an unassuming cue bid.

**Play :** Neither black suit holding is appealing to lead from (both contain tenaces), and partner raised neither, so the 7 of diamonds stands out as a lead.

Declarer has two certain club losers, and probably 2 spades, given the bidding. Ordinarily, the way to solve this is to attempt to endplay East, by e.g. drawing trumps, eliminating diamonds, and then giving up the club tricks – hoping East has to win and lead away from spades. There's no way of achieving this on this hand, primarily due to the lack of entries, and declarer is likely to go a few off, West winning the 2<sup>nd</sup> trump, playing a spade through, and getting a spade ruff.

The good news was that the quick auction avoided a double, and 4♠ would have made, if EW could have found a way of bidding it.

|     |    |           |   |   |
|-----|----|-----------|---|---|
|     | N  | S         | E | W |
| NT  |    | 1         | 2 | 2 |
| ♠   |    | 4         | 4 | 4 |
| ♥   | 1  | 1         | 4 | 5 |
| ♦   |    | 4         | 4 | 4 |
| ♣   |    | 4         | 4 | 4 |
| opt | EW | 4S : -420 |   |   |

|   |                  |             |  |            |           |
|---|------------------|-------------|--|------------|-----------|
|   |                  | ♠ 3         |  | Dealer : E |           |
|   |                  | ♥ A K 4     |  | Vul : N/S  |           |
|   |                  | ♦ K J 9 7 2 |  |            |           |
|   |                  | ♣ J 8 5 2   |  |            |           |
| ♠ | K 2              | N           |  | ♠          | A 9 7 6 4 |
| ♥ | Q J 10 8 7 6 5 2 | W           |  | ♥          | 9         |
| ♦ | 8 6              | E           |  | ♦          | A 10 4 3  |
| ♣ | K                | S           |  | ♣          | Q 9 3     |
| ♠ | Q J 10 8 5       |             |  |            | 12        |
| ♥ | 3                |             |  |            | 9         |
| ♦ | Q 5              |             |  |            | 10        |
| ♣ | A 10 7 6 4       |             |  |            | 9         |

|    |      |    |      |
|----|------|----|------|
| W  | N    | E  | S    |
| 2♥ | pass | 1♠ | pass |
| 4♥ | end  | 2♠ | pass |

**Bidding :** It's difficult to see EW not getting too high on this auction. East's 5-5 hand is worth opening (Rule of 20), and with an 8 card suit and Kx in partner's, East isn't likely to stop below game.

North should consider a takeout double over 2♥ – however, at unfavourable vulnerability and the opponents having a strong auction, it doesn't make sense to advertise your shape.

**Play :** What does North lead? Neither minor is attractive, a spade could be ok – perhaps lead a top trump and look at dummy's (With the added advantage of being able to draw dummy's trump(s).)

I don't think North is going to fancy switching to a diamond with that dummy, (although it would work) but a spade looks fine - maybe we get a ruff. Declarer can win the spade and try to sneak a club through – South needs to be on the ball and win the Ace, and provide partner their spade ruff.

A lead from Jxxx will be punished by letting the contract through – South's entry is taken out before North is void in spades, and declarer has time to discard the 2<sup>nd</sup> diamond on the Queen of clubs.

|     |    |           |   |   |
|-----|----|-----------|---|---|
|     | N  | S         | E | W |
| NT  | 3  | 3         |   |   |
| ♠   | 2  | 2         |   |   |
| ♥   | 2  | 2         | 3 | 3 |
| ♦   | 2  | 2         |   |   |
| ♣   | 4  | 4         |   |   |
| opt | EW | 4HX : 100 |   |   |