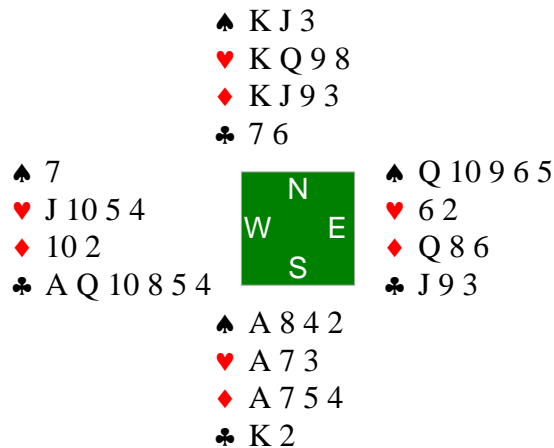


**Board 1**  
 North Deals  
 None Vul



S 4N; NS 4♥; S 5♦; NS 3♠; N 4♦; N 1N; EW 1♣; Par +430

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3 N <sup>3</sup>
Pass	Pass <sup>4</sup>	Pass	

1. Although aceless, North does have 13 high card points so everyone should open 1 ♦.
2. It would be a bad idea to bid 1 NT holding small doubleton club. Raising 1 ♠ to 2 ♠ is better.
3. Game must be reached. South does not "assume" partner has four spades and correctly jumps to 3 NT offering partner a choice of passing or bidding 4 ♠ if there is a 4-4 fit.
4. North does not relish the idea of a 4-3 fit in spades so 3 NT it is.

Who can blame NS for bidding 3 NT with a combined point count of 28? South is going to find it very difficult to make 3 NT on a club lead, which immediately establishes four or five tricks for the defense. I suspect most South players will take the diamond finesse and go down two.

Making 3 NT requires what I call a few hair-raising plays! It is possible for South to take correct inference from the fact that West did not overcall 2 ♣ over 1 ♠ and it looks like West started with ♣ AQxxx(x), she should not have ♦ Q and/or ♠ Q. Therefore, play East to hold those cards.

Win the lead with ♣ K, try ♠ A and small spade first but alas, West discards a spade.

The only other chance is to take the backward finesse in diamonds by cashing ♦ K and running ♦ J through East. If she covers, West's ♦ 10 is smothered and if not covered, ♦ J wins. In either case, South has 4 diamond tricks to go along with 3 hearts, 2 spades and the ♣ K for a total of 10 tricks!

**Board 2**  
 East Deals  
 N-S Vul

♠ K Q 7 5 4	♠ J 10 6	♠ A 9 8 3 2
♥ 7 4	♥ 10 9 6 3	♥ K Q J
♦ 10 7 5	♦ K J 9 3	♦ —
♣ A 6 2	♣ 9 3	♣ J 10 8 7 5
	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 5px;">           N            W     E            S         </div>	
	♠ —	
	♥ A 8 5 2	
	♦ A Q 8 6 4 2	
	♣ K Q 4	

EW 5♠; NS 4♥; NS 4♦; EW 4♣; Par -450

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♠ <sup>1</sup>	Dbl <sup>2</sup>
Rdbl <sup>3</sup>	2 ♥	3 ♣ <sup>4</sup>	3 ♥
4 ♠ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. East should open the bidding Although the points are not mostly in the two long suits, the shape, high card points and quick tricks more than meets the Hi-Le-QT rule of 22.
2. South has extras but with four hearts, a take-out double is more correct than 2♦ overcall.
3. West evaluates her hand to be 10 points in support of spades. The doubleton heart is also a positive factor. The re-double shows those values but not five spades. To show the hand correctly, you need a convention called Jordon (very similar to Jacoby 2NT but slightly weaker).
4. East is not sure what the re-double promised and decided it is best to show her second suit.
5. West is obligated now to clarify what her re-double was all about.

Everyone should pass 4♥ but some players in the South seat may venture into 5♥ but East has enough shape to compete 5♠. If EW let NS play 5♥ whether it is doubled or not, they should score well for only down one when 4♠ was going to make with an overtrick.

In 4♠, North should lead ♥10 but the declarer simply draws trumps and takes the club finesse losing only the ♥A and ♣K making five.

In a heart contract by EW, there are three obvious losers, two trumps and ♣A.

**Board 3**  
 South Deals  
 E-W Vul

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

♠ 9 7 5 2	<table border="1" style="border: 2px solid green; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ Q J 10 8 6 3
N					
W E					
S					
♥ Q 8 6		♥ 7 5 2			
♦ A 5 2		♦ 9 3			
♣ A K 5		♣ 10 2			

NS 5♥; NS 4N; NS 5♦; NS 3♣; EW 1♠; Par +450

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1♥	2♠	1♣
Pass	3♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♠ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦ <sup>4</sup>
Pass	Pass	Pass	

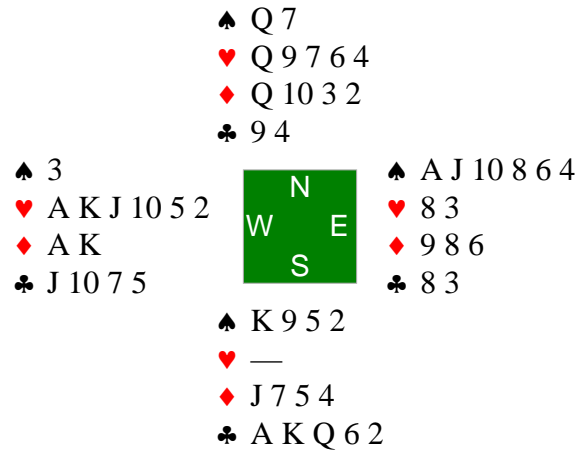
1. Support Double promising three hearts (in case partner had 5 or more).
2. Nope, North introduces her longer diamonds. This shows invitational or better values and is forcing for one round.
3. South makes a try for 3 NT asking for a spade stopper from partner. No, North re-bids diamonds.
4. If not 3 NT, NS go for the minor suit game.

Although 5♥ will also make because trumps split 3-3, not too many NS players will opt for that game contract on a 4-3 fit especially when the 4-card trump suit will be under attack with repeated spade leads. 5♦ is safer and the probability of success depends on hearts behaving.

They do break 3-3, so the declarer should be able to win five trump tricks, three clubs and three hearts for a total of 11 tricks.

**Board 4**

West Deals  
Both Vul



EW 3♥; E 2♠; NS 1N; NS 2♦; W 1♠; NS 1♣; Par -140

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	2♣ <sup>1</sup>
3♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. South is strong enough to introduce clubs at this point.
2. West follows through with her original intention of jumping in hearts to show about 16 high card points and 5+ good hearts.

In the 3♥ contract, West can manage 9 tricks *despite the horrible break in the trump suit*.

North should lead partner's suit, ♣ 9. West can try to ruff two clubs in dummy. Although North is able to ruff higher than dummy, twice, but those ruffs come at a loss of natural trump tricks.

**Board 5**  
 North Deals  
 N-S Vul

♠ 9 8 7	♠ Q J 10 6 5 4 3	♠ K 2
♥ A 7 4 3	♥ 9	♥ Q J 8 2
♦ J 9 4 2	♦ A 6 3	♦ K 10 8
♣ K 7	♣ A 10	♣ Q J 9 2
	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 5px;">       N        W     E        S     </div>	
	♠ A	
	♥ K 10 6 5	
	♦ Q 7 5	
	♣ 8 6 5 4 3	

NS 3♠; EW 1♥; Par +140

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♠	Dbl <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2 ♥	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass <sup>2</sup>			

1. Barely enough strength for a take-out double.
2. 2 ♠ should get passed out but if EW compete to 3 ♥, South must double to protect their part score of +110 or +140.

There is not much to the play in a spade partial for NS. Since ♦ K is onside, the declarer should only lose one trick in each suit.

♣ Q is a better lead than ♥ Q but even if East leads ♥ Q, South covers and defense should be OK provided hearts are not continued. Otherwise, instead of ruffing, North will discard both losing diamonds, and make 10 tricks instead of 9 for a clear top.

If EW compete to 3 ♥, South must double, as most players will, NS will do even better than +110 or +140 by defeating 3 ♥ by two tricks for a score of +300.

**Board 6**  
 East Deals  
 E-W Vul

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

♠ 10 6 3
♥ A J 5
♦ K Q 4 3
♣ K 5 4

NS 4♦; NS 2N; NS 2♠; NS 1♥; EW 1♣; Par +130

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass <sup>1</sup>	1♥	Pass


1. In the balancing seat, North sort of "knows" partner may have 10-14 points but she took no action over 1♥. It is also possible that East is strong. Three small hearts in her hand is a danger sign, and there is no guarantee that partner will have a fit somewhere. In addition, EW are vulnerable, so North can take her plus, as they say, by passing. On this particular deal, 1♥ goes down two for a very good match point score of +200 for NS. Even +100 would not necessarily be bad.

South will lead ♦ K and lead ♠ 3 when the king wins, but then North looking at doubleton spade in dummy, must lead a trump and another trump when in with ♠ A.

This defense will hold the declarer to three trump tricks, one club and one spade for a total of five tricks and poor match point score of -200.

If NS let the declarer score a spade ruff in dummy, the result will be +100 for NS, not good.

**Board 7**  
 South Deals  
 Both Vul

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

NS 4N; NS 5♦; EW 1♠; EW 1♥; Par +630

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
Pass <sup>1</sup>	1♦ <sup>2</sup>	1♥	Dbl <sup>3</sup>
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥ <sup>4</sup>
Pass	3N	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. I don't recommend vulnerable 2♠ in second seat; West hand is way too weak. Besides, she has support for hearts and a void in diamonds, both are negative factors for a preempt.
2. North intends to open 1♦ and then jump to 3♦.
3. South has barely enough values to make a Negative Double promising four spades.
4. South looks for a heart stopper from North. Since she has ♦Q96, partner's diamond suit should run.

Ten tricks will fall into declarer's lap on the normal lead of ♥K. Win the lead and run seven diamond tricks. Poor East has to keep doubleton ♣K and ♠A so she has to throw two hearts.

If North plays a spade now, East wins and cashes ♥Q but then must lead a club. Dummy's ♣Q wins for the 10th trick and a top for NS.

Even bidding and making only 3NT should be above average for NS.

**Board 8**  
 West Deals  
 None Vul

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

♠ 8 7 5 2	N	♠ 8 7 5 2
♥ Q 4	W	♥ Q 4
♦ A 10 6 4 3	S	♦ A 10 6 4 3
♣ 9 7	E	♣ 9 7

EW 5♣; EW 3♥; EW 2♠; EW 1N; NS 1♦; Par -400

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2 N	Pass
3 ♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Normal start should be 1 ♣ by West and a jump to 2 NT by East inviting game.
2. Players who have an undue affinity for notrump, may pass 2 NT but taking it out to 3 ♣ is the correct action. A trump contract almost always plays better.

No matter what the lead, North is essentially end-played at trick one! Any lead helps the declarer; a heart or a spade offers a free finesse and a diamond should establish a trick for the declarer not otherwise possible. If North cashes ♣ AK, she is back in the same end-ply position as before.

Anyway, West should make 11 tricks for a score of +150.

Please note 3 NT has no chance whatsoever on the 4th best diamond lead. When North wins ♣ K, the ♦ 8 through East will result in six tricks for the defense and a score of +100 for down two.

Anybody who overbids to 5 ♣ on a combined total of 23 high cards and then guesses both major suit queens will be extremely lucky to score +400 and a clear top. They would not be able to complain about bad luck at the bridge table for the next six months!



**Board 9**

North Deals  
E-W Vul

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

EW 4♣; EW 2♠; S 1N; NS 2♦; S 1♥; Par -130

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣ <sup>1</sup>
1N	2♦	2♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. I would pass South hand in 1st or 2nd seat but it is clear-cut 1♣ opening bid in the 3rd or 4th seat.
2. East should not let opponents steal a low-level 2♦ contract and should bid 2♠ despite the possibility that she may be in a 5-2 fit.

Please note that it is impossible for EW to get to the best spot, 3♣ or 4♣ instead of 2♠. Good news is 2♠ making two for +110 is the same score as 3♣ making three.

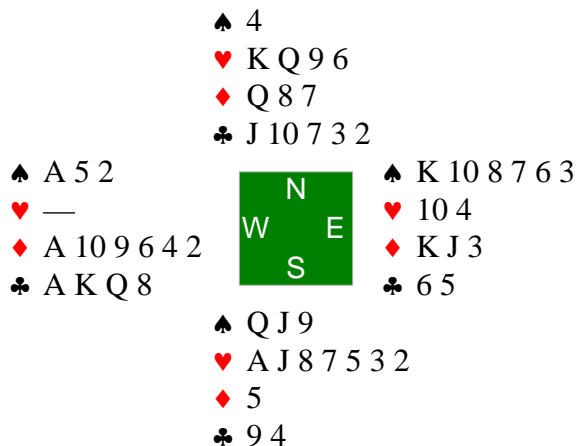
Declarer should not have too much trouble in 2♠ losing two spades, two hearts and a diamond. However, if South starts with ♦Q, the defense may let the declarer make nine tricks by establishing five club tricks via repeated finesses and discard one losing heart on the 5th club.

On a diamond lead, the second diamond is ruffed in the East hand and the first of the two club finesses taken right away. Then cash ♠A and ♠K (forget the finesse since South opened the bidding) and then take another club finesse and play a 3rd club.

South can ruff with her two natural trump tricks and switch to a heart but it's too late. Declarer wins the ♥A and cashes the 5th club to discard a heart as South ruffs with her last trump.

If the play goes as described above, EW score +140 for a clear top.

**Board 10**  
 East Deals  
 Both Vul



EW 6♠; EW 6♦; NS 3♥; EW 2♣; Par -1100; NS 7♥×-4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass <sup>1</sup>	Pass <sup>2</sup>
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 N	Pass
5 ♦ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	6 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Here we go again! I would not recommend vulnerable 2 ♠ in the first seat but some may do just that.
2. The same arguments are valid here. Besides, South has great support for the other major.
3. East has responded 1 ♠; therefore, West is strong enough for the 3 ♣ Jump Shift because she has spade support. Over 3 ♣, East should first show diamond support.
4. West bids 3 ♠ to show 3-card spade support, which improves East hand considerably. 4 NT asks for key cards for spades. Playing 1430 responses, 5 ♦ promises three.

Getting to the top spot of 6 ♠ will not be an easy task for most of us. I suspect most EW players will be end up in 4 ♠ making six on this hand. Hope not too many are in 5 ♦ making six.

Also, you may not have bidding gadgets to show a working void in their response to partner's RKCB but if you do, your response would be 6 ♣ (0 or 3 with a void in the unbid suit).

This is my recommended void-showing gadget: Start at the 5 NT level with the same 1430 step responses but also promise a working void.

In any case, aggressive action by East may land her in 6 ♠, which is a good slam. Either spades come in for no losers, or partner has 1st round control of hearts.

**Board 11**  
 South Deals  
 None Vul

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

♠ 8 7	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K Q 10 4
N					
W E					
S					
♥ J 10 3		♥ K Q 8 7 5 2			
♦ 10 7 6 2		♦ Q 8 4			
♣ 6 5 3 2		♣ —			

EW 7N; EW 7♠; EW 7♥; EW 6♦; EW 6♣; Par -1520

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
2 ♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2 ♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
3 ♠ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4 N <sup>5</sup>	Pass
5 ♣ <sup>6</sup>	Pass	7 ♠ <sup>7</sup>	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Although 4-5 in black suits, the hand is just too good to open 1 ♣ and then play catch up.
2. Standard bidding, 2 ♦ is positive and waiting. If you play "Controls" over 2 ♣, the response will be 2 ♥ but either way, the rest of the bidding should remain the same.
3. 3 ♣ is natural, so is 3 ♥.
4. It is perfectly fine to bid a four card suit next. If West happened to be 5-6 in ♠/♣, she can bid spades twice. That sequence will promise longer clubs than spades.
5. RKCB for spades, the last bid suit.
6. 5 ♣ shows four key cards (1430 responses are recommended).
7. East can count 13 tricks; three hearts, three clubs, one diamond, four trumps and two ruffs in either hand. Even if you draw three rounds of trumps, hearts may break 3-3 or one ruff should establish five heart tricks.

Since hearts are 3-3, even 7 NT makes but EW cannot bid it with confidence. To do so requires East's hearts to be at least ♥ KQJ752, in which case, the suit can be counted for six tricks.

The lead will be ♣ J, win, cash ♥ A, draw trumps and ruff a club in dummy. Both clubs and hearts are now established and that gives West easy 13 tricks.

**Board 12**  
 West Deals  
 N-S Vul

♠ 6	♠ K Q 9 5 2	♠ A J 10									
♥ A 9	♥ K 10 6 4	♥ 7 5									
♦ A 7 4 2	♦ 9 8	♦ Q J 10 6 3									
♣ K Q 10 5 4 3	♣ A 7	♣ 9 6 2									
<table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>				N		W		E		S	
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ 8 7 4 3	♠ 8 7 4 3										
♥ Q J 8 3 2	♥ Q J 8 3 2										
♦ K 5	♦ K 5										
♣ J 8	♣ J 8										

EW 5♦; EW 5♣; EW 2N; NS 1♠; NS 1♥; Par -400

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♣	1 ♠ <sup>1</sup>	1 N <sup>2</sup>	2 ♠ <sup>3</sup>
3 ♣	3 ♥ <sup>4</sup>	4 ♣ <sup>5</sup>	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Simple overcall is sufficient with North hand
2. East has a choice between 1 NT and a negative double (then bid either clubs or diamonds, thereby denying hearts)
3. South has a choice between a 3 ♠ preempt and a simple raise, she should opt for 2 ♠ being vulnerable.
4. When you have 9 cards in two suits, it is OK to show your second suit at the 3-level (a 9-trick contract)
5. East could double for penalty but it is reasonable to raise clubs since partner has bid 3 ♣ freely. She should have a good hand.

Although 5 ♣ or 5 ♦ makes, it is not reasonable to actually bid it since it requires ♦ K and ♣ J to be with South, not North. Normal result should be 4 ♣ making five. Those who double 3 ♥ by NS, will of course be rewarded with +500 but that also requires ♦ K to be with South.