



42nd Bermuda Bowl | 20th Venice Cup | 8th d'Orsi Trophy | 10th Transnational Open Teams

Organised by the World Bridge Federation
In cooperation with the Bridge Federation of India
26th September – 10th October 2015

The 42nd World Bridge Teams Championships and the 10th World Transnational Open Teams Championship will be held at the ITC Grand Chola Hotel, Chennai (former Madras), India. Please go to the WBF Website at www.worldbridge.org for more information about this wonderful event.

Results can be found at:

www.ecatsbridge.com

together with more information about future Simultaneous events

Simultaneous Pairs Organiser & WBF Communications Officer:

Anna Gudge
Mill Cottage, Voy
Stromness
Orkney KW16 3HX

Tel: +44 1787 881920

email: anna.gudge@worldbridgefed.com



The 29th World Wide Bridge Contest

Saturday
6th June 2015

The WBF runs four Simultaneous Pairs each year to raise funds for Youth Bridge :

The dates for the next four are :

2015

Monday 17th & Wednesday 19th August

Monday 19th & Wednesday 21st October

Monday 14th & Wednesday 16th December

2016

Monday 14th & Wednesday 16th March 2016

There are different hands each day and clubs can play during the day or in the evening as long as security is observed.

In addition a Charity Pairs is held in January each year – the 2016 event will be run over 5 days from 25th – 29th January although clubs wishing to play on Saturday 30th may do so and they will be sent the Friday evening hands. The hands for Monday through to Friday will be different each day and again clubs can play during the day or in the evening as long as security is observed.

We hope your club will decide to join us for one or more of these events – just email anna.gudge@worldbridgefed.com if you wish to take part.

More information about these events can be found at

<http://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims>

World Championship Events

Information about the forthcoming World Youth Open Bridge Championships to be held in Opatija, Croatia and the World Bridge Teams Championships to be held in Chennai, India can be found at www.worldbridge.org

Social Media – Facebook & Twitter

Please also “like” our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/WorldBridgeFederation> and you will then get news and information about any forthcoming events.

You can follow us on Twitter as well : [@WorldBridgeFed](https://twitter.com/WorldBridgeFed)

Board 35. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

♠ J 8 3
♥ 10 3 2
♦ K Q 10 3
♣ 10 9 8

♠ 2
♥ A K J 9 8 6
♦ A 9
♣ A Q 5 4

♠ A K 9 6 5
♥ 7 5
♦ 8 6 5 4
♣ J 3

♠ Q 10 7 4
♥ Q 4
♦ J 7 2
♣ K 7 6 2

When West opens 1♥ and East responds 1♠ West cannot rebid 3♣ if it is game forcing so will fall back on 3♥, which East will raise to game.

If West starts with a strong 1♣ then East responds 1♠ and West bids 2♥ East will probably rebid 2♣ rather than introduce the poor diamonds. If West then tries 3♣ East bids 3♥ and West goes on to game.

If West plays in hearts and North leads a diamond declarer wins, plays two top spades form dummy pitching a diamond followed by the jack of clubs. If South fails to cover then declarer will take all thirteen tricks.

Board 36. Game All. Dealer West

♠ Q 9 7 6 2
♥ 7 6 5 3
♦ K
♣ A 10 2

♠ J 4 3
♥ A J 8
♦ 9 3
♣ K Q J 5 4

♠ 5
♥ Q 4
♦ A J 7 5 4 2
♣ 8 7 6 3

♠ A K 10 8
♥ K 10 9 2
♦ Q 10 8 6
♣ 9

If West opens 1♣ and North overcalls 1♥ then South will almost certainly take a shot at 4♣ over East's 2♣.

If West starts with 1♦ strong club style and North overcalls then South is still going to bid 4♣.

If West begins with a 12-14 INT North might try 2♣ for the majors when South is sure to bid a game over East's 2♦.

Suppose South is in 4♥ and West leads a top club.

Declarer wins in dummy and plays a heart to the ten and jack. West forces declarer with a club and when East comes in with the ace of diamonds a third club ensures four tricks for the defenders, as West's ♥ A8 will be worth two tricks.

Declarer might try playing a diamond at trick two, ruffing East's club return, discarding a club on the queen of diamonds and then playing another diamond intending to ruff in dummy and play a heart to the ten. However, West ruffs in front of dummy and exits with a spade. Declarer wins in dummy and plays a heart to the king, but when West produces the ace the defenders can cross ruff the next two tricks in spades and diamonds for two down.

Even if the ace of hearts was onside, East could rise with it and play a diamond, ensuring another trump trick for the defence.

South has better chances in 4♣.

If West leads a top club declarer wins in dummy, takes the ace and king of spades and then plays a diamond to the king and ace. If East exits with a club declarer ruffs, pitches a club on the queen of diamonds, draws the outstanding trump and plays a heart to the ten and jack. The club return is ruffed in dummy and heart brings in the suit for only one more loser.

To defeat 4♣ West must lead a diamond at trick one enabling East to win and switch to the queen of hearts.

Where North is the declarer East must lead the queen of hearts (or cash the ace of diamonds and then switch to it).



Message from Gianarrigo Rona, President, World Bridge Federation

Dear Bridge Friends

The World Wide Bridge Contest is a long-standing tournament in the World Bridge Federation's calendar; this is the 29th time it has been held. I do hope you all enjoyed this event and found the hands interesting and challenging – my thanks go to Mark Horton, one of our senior Bulletin Editors, for his excellent and entertaining commentary.

As you know, the World Bridge Federation is committed to the promotion of Youth Bridge, which we strongly believe represents the future of our wonderful sport. Because of this, it had been decided that any profits made from this event will be used specifically to assist the development of Youth Bridge. However, in view of the appalling disaster in Nepal we have decided that up to 5,000 Euro from the profits of the event should be donated to the Nepal Disaster Fund.

We run other, quarterly events to raise funds for our Youth Projects which will include better teaching aids for countries trying to encourage young players, assistance for youngsters to attend World Championships and other initiatives to encourage youngsters to learn bridge. If your club would like to know more about these, do

please get in touch with us - just email anna.gudge@worldbridgefed.com and she will be pleased to help you.

The WBF Website, which is at www.worldbridge.org has details of the 2015 World Bridge Teams Championships to be held in Chennai, India. The World Transnational Open Teams Championship will be held, as always, in the second week, and we will welcome teams consisting of players who are bona fide members of their NBO. It is a really enjoyable and exciting event, giving players the opportunity of enjoying an tournament where they can play against or watch some of the greatest names in bridge today. Do give consideration to joining us – we would love to see you there!

Once again, thank you for taking part in the World Wide Bridge Contest – and please continue to enjoy your bridge.

With warm regards

Gianarrigo Rona
President, World Bridge Federation

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

If North opens 1♠ then South will have to decide between Pass and INT.

After a pass West will either bid 2♥ or double - the former looks a clear winner. After 1♠-(Pass)-Pass-(2♥) North can double when East might raise to 3♥. If North doubles again then South will probably bid 4♣, although you can make a case for passing.

If South responds INT and West bids 2♥ North can double for takeout (if that's the partnership agreement) and if East raises to 3♥ South is probably not going to double, but if North comes again with a second double then we are in the situation outlined previously.

After 1♠-(Pass)-INT were West to pass then North would have to choose between 2♣ and 3♣ and neither is perfect. If North opts for 2♣ and South passes then West might reopen with 2♥ and when South bids 3♣ East competes with 3♥. Guess what? North might double that and once again South has a decision.

If North rebids 3♣ and it is forcing (which is generally the case) then South has a choice of evils, 3♠, 3NT and 4♠. (I would be tempted to break partnership discipline and pass, but perhaps the first deal of the event is not the right time.)

If North starts with a strong 1♠ then East might overcall, one possibility being to try INT, promising ♠+♦ or ♥+♠, when West would bid 2♠, saying 'I prefer diamonds to

spades, but I have a better fit in hearts or clubs'. When North bids 2♠ East will be delighted, but might be disappointed at the outcome.

Let's see how the various denominations play.

If North plays in spades and East leads a heart declarer ruffs the second round and after cashing two top spades plays on clubs. When East takes the ace it would be a mistake to play a third heart, as declarer ruffs, cashes his last trump and then plays a low club. East can ruff at some point and cash another spade but then has to lead away from the king of diamonds and surrender a ninth trick.

The way to avoid this is to retain a heart and exit with a trump, holding declarer to eight tricks.

If West plays in hearts then the best defence is for North to start with two rounds of spades. If declarer ruffs and plays a diamond North must go up with the ace and switch to a trump. What is more, South must hang on to the jack so as to be able to overruff dummy. When declarer wins and embarks on a cross ruff South pitches clubs on spades and declarer will be held to eight tricks.

If North fails to go up with the ace of diamonds dummy's king wins and declarer cashes the ace of clubs, ruffs a spade, ruffs a club, comes to hand with a trump and ruffs a club for nine tricks.

If NS play in clubs and the defenders play two rounds of hearts declarer ruffs and plays a top club, East winning and playing a third heart. Declarer ruffs, cashes a club and will then play a top spade.

If declarer continues with another spade West ruffs, cashes a heart and exits with a diamond, East winning with the king and playing another spade, promoting West's ten of clubs into a sixth defensive trick.

To avoid this declarer must abandon spades and play ace and another diamond. East

Board 33. Love All. Dealer North.

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

If North opens 1♦ South responds 1♠. If West doubles North will rebid 2♦ and now East can bid 3♣. Some players will be able to bid 2NT intending to pass West's forced 3♣ - useful, as then a direct 3♣ can be used to show a stronger hand.

In this case South will always bid 3♦ when EW will be doing well to compete to 4♣.

If West passes over 1♠ North rebids 2♦ and South raises to 3♦. If West doubles that East bids 4♣.

If NS play in diamonds the defenders need to establish a heart trick to go along with two clubs and a spade.

If EW play in clubs they should lose four tricks after an initial spade lead by the defence.

Board 34. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

If East opens 1♦ and South overcalls 1♠ then West doubles and when East bids 2♥

West can raise to 3♥, an invitation East will decline.

If East starts with a 12-14 INT and South bids 2♠ West can double for penalties.

If South makes a conventional overcall of INT then West will probably double and then double the eventual 2♠.

If EW play in hearts and South leads the king of clubs the defenders will start with three rounds of the suit, South exiting with a diamond. If declarer wins in dummy, comes to hand with a heart and plays the jack of spades South might take the ace and get off play with a diamond. Then declarer can win in dummy and cash the queen of hearts. When North discards if declarer cashes the king of spades then the fall of the queen allows declarer to continue with the ten of hearts and one way or another there will be nine tricks.

South can avoid this by exiting with a club rather than a second diamond. If declarer ruffs in dummy North can overruff or simply discard and either way the defenders will get a fifth trick.

If NS play in spades there should be seven tricks - one way to get them is for declarer to ruff the second heart, cross to dummy with a club, ruff a heart and then play three rounds of clubs, ruffing with dummy's queen of spades.

If West starts by cashing the ♦AQ and then switches to a heart East wins, cashes the king of diamonds and then plays a fourth round. If declarer ruffs, West overruffs and plays the ten of hearts, forcing declarer to ruff. Now declarer cannot take more than six tricks.

The way to avoid this is for declarer to pitch a club on the fourth diamond. West ruffs and exits with a heart, but declarer ruffs and plays a spade towards the queen. The king of spades will be the sixth and last trick for the defence.

double 1♥, but it is also possible to raise diamonds immediately. If North jumps to 3♠ then East bids 3♥ and now NS have to judge if it is right to go on to 4♦.

Where South starts with a strong 1♣ and West overcalls 1♥ North will usually double. If East bids 3♥ and South passes North might bid again, but there is some danger that South will expect a stronger hand.

If NS play in diamonds and the defenders start with three rounds of hearts declarer ruffs, draws trumps and plays the queen of spades. If West wins and exits with a heart declarer ruffs, comes to hand with a club and plays a spade.

If West is known to have length in spades declarer (having seen East's nine) will know that the best chance of ten tricks is to go up with dummy's king.

A stronger defence is for West to duck the queen of spades. Then declarer will need to play a spade to the king on the next round, but in the heat of battle it is easy to miss this type of play.

If East West play in hearts then a club lead from North should see NS take the first four tricks and they will also score a spade.

That is by no means the only way to hold declarer to eight tricks - just playing diamonds forcing the long trump hand to ruff is one way.

Board 31. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

When South opens 1♠ and North responds 1NT then East bids 2♥ which might easily end the auction.

If North passes 1♠ then East can still bid 2♥.

I don't see any obvious way for NS to compete unless North decides to double 2♥ or raises to 2♠.

If EW play in hearts and South leads a spade then the defenders should have no problems securing six tricks.

If NS play in spades then EW will get a dreadful result, as nine tricks are straightforward.

Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

If West opens 1♦ and East bids 1NT then South might jump to 4♥, ending the auction and it won't make any difference if East passes.

If West happens to pass and South opens 1♥ a double will solve the problem of where the queen of spades is located when South comes to play 4♥.

If South starts with a strong 1♠ and West shows a two suiter declarer might get the spades wrong.

If declarer plays West for the queen of spades (and West might easily lead a spade) then there will be eleven tricks.

wins and exits with a diamond, but declarer wins with dummy's queen, cashes the queen of clubs and plays a spade, ensuring an eighth trick.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

If East opens 1♣ South will have to consider the merits of an overcall. Reverse the vulnerability and it would be automatic to make a weak jump overcall of 3♦, but here it complicates matters.

If South does overcall and West passes then North will do well to pass.

If West bids 4♣ then North might bid 4♥.

Where South passes West must choose between responding 1♥ and raising clubs. After 1♥ North bids 1♠ and East raises to 2♥. If North come again with 2♠ then West might try 3♣ which will see East correct to 3♥.

If West raise to 3♣ North might try 3♠, probably ending the auction.

If East starts with 1♦ West is likely to respond 1♥ and if North bids 1♠ East raises to 2♥. If North now bids 2♠ West might try 3♣ when East will correct to 3♥.

Where East's opening bid is 1NT (12-14 or 13-15) West might try 2♣, or make a transfer to clubs according to system.

If North bids 2♣ then West will have to decide if it is right to compete with 3♣.

If West responds 2NT as a puppet to 3♣ then North will either bid 3♣ immediately or wait until the next round.

Playing in diamonds North/South should collect ten tricks, losing a heart, a diamond and a club.

If EW play in hearts then the defenders do best to start with two rounds of spades, easy enough if East is declarer, but not quite so simple if North is on lead. After a spade to the ace and the queen of spades if declarer puts up the king South ruffs, plays a diamond and North takes the ace and plays another spade promoting South's remaining trump, when the king of clubs will be the fifth defensive trick.

If North plays in spades and East leads a club West wins and returns a diamond. Declarer must go up with the ace and can then play a spade to the jack, a club to hand and a spade. East wins, and plays the ace of hearts and a heart holding declarer to just eight tricks.

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

If South starts with 2♣ and North responds 2♦, 3NT will be reached in short order, North looking for a spade fit along the way.

There are more modern methods of responding to 2♣ (for example North might respond 2♠ to show 4-6 or 9+ balanced) but they will not result in anything other than South becoming declarer in 3NT.

If South starts with a strong 1♠ and North responds 1♦ then a jump to 3NT will give nothing away.

How many tricks can declarer take?

If West leads a heart declarer can win with

dummy's ten and run the jack of diamonds to West's queen. If West plays a back a heart (as good as anything) declarer wins and plays the king of clubs followed by the jack of clubs for the queen and ace. When the ten of diamonds is covered declarer wins and cashes the red suit winners, executing a showup squeeze on East for twelve tricks.

Otherwise, declarer should never take more than eleven tricks, for example on a spade lead declarer wins and plays the king of clubs followed by the jack for the queen and ace. The jack of diamonds goes to West's queen and as long as West avoids a heart return (when dummy's ten will be the twelfth trick) declarer will end up losing a heart at the end.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

If West opens 1♠ East responds 2♣. If West now bids 3NT East might jump to 6NT.

If West rebids a forcing 2NT (certainly an option for an Acol player) then East will probably continue with 3♣. If the partnership then exchange cue bids - 4♣-4♦ then there is some possibility that inertia will carry EW into a grand slam.

If West starts with a strong 1♣ then after East responds 2♣ West rebids 2♠ and East's raise to 3♠ produces an analogous situation to the one outlined above.

The number of tricks recorded will turn on how declarer tackles the club suit. Good luck with that.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

If North opens 1♦ South responds 2♣. If North rebids 2♦ South continues with 2♥ and North bids 2NT. If South now tries 3♦ it will be difficult for North to do more than bid 3NT, although the aces in partner's suits suggest that it might be right to make some sort of effort. Were North to bid 3♠ and then continue with 4♣ over South's 3NT then 6♦ would be reached.

If North rebids 2NT then South is unlikely to do anything other than raise to 3NT.

It is possible that after 1♦ East might overcall. After 1♦-(1♥) South can choose between 2♣ and double. With West raising to 2♥ I doubt NS will go beyond 3NT.

Another possibility is for East to make a weak jump overcall of 2♥. If South doubles and West raises to 3♥ then South can double again, when North might be tempted to play for penalties.

It is possible that North might start with a 12-14 INT, despite the 2-4-5-2 pattern. Then South will use Stayman before settling for 3NT.

In theory there are eleven tricks in notrumps, but declarer will be doing very well to achieve that many. If East leads a heart declarer wins and will probably play the queen of clubs, covered by the king and ace. Now clearing the clubs allows East to cash three tricks.

It's better to play five rounds of diamonds and see what happens. East, forced to keep three clubs and two hearts must come

Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.

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

If West opens INT (15-17) East transfers to spades and then bids 3♣, West signing off in 3♣. Opposite a 13-15 notrump East will pass 2♣.

Say West starts with 1♦ and then in the Acol style rebids INT over East's 1♠. If that rebid is 12-16 then East might enquire with 2♣ when West will jump to 3♣. Now there is a fair chance East will go on to 4♣.

If East is declarer in a spade contract and South leads a club North wins with the king. The tempting continuation of ace and another heart allows declarer to win in either hand. One option is to unblock the ace of clubs, cash the ace of diamonds, ruff a diamond, and pitch a heart on the queen of clubs. Then declarer will need to find South with the ten of spades, ruffing a club with the five of spades.

The alternative is to win the second heart in hand and take the diamond finesse, planning to pitch a heart on the ace of diamonds.

As the cards lie, both lines should lead to ten tricks.

Suppose North finds the stronger defence of switching to a trump and South wins and returns the ten of spades. Declarer can win in hand and is more or less forced to take the diamond finesse.

When the queen holds declarer cashes the ace of diamonds pitching a heart and ruffs a diamond. When South discards a heart declarer plays the king of hearts and North takes the ace and exits with a trump.

Declarer wins in dummy, cashes the ace of clubs and ruffs a diamond. South, who is down to ♥9 ♣108 is squeezed.

Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.

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

If East decides to open 1♣ South overcalls INT. How best to express the West hand?

One option is to use a convention known as Santa (same as a notrump auction).

Here is how it works:

Dble penalties

2♣ at least nine cards in the majors

2♦ transfer to hearts

2♥ transfer to spades

2♠ transfer to clubs

3♣ transfer to diamonds

2NT 5-5 in the minors

Here if West bids 2♣ and North bids 2♥ East will bid 2♥. If South raises to 3♦ West might come again with 3♥ when NS might push on to 4♦.

Where East passes and South opens INT West might come in with something - 2♣ to show the majors is the obvious move - and if North bids 2♦ East bids 2♥/3♥.

South can bid 3♦ over 2♥ but might not bid 4♥ over 3♥.

If South starts with 1♣ then West overcalls 1♥ and North can double. Now East will raise hearts, perhaps via a cue bid of 2♣. If South doubles West bids 2♥ (the weakest action) and if North then bids 3♦ East can compete with 3♥, but might not.

If South opens 1♦ then North might still

is a slight chance that South will go on to 5♣, but it would be a good view (and still has to be made).

If South opens 2♣ and West bids 2♠ then North's problem is exacerbated. Here I think North has to double and hope for the best. A few East players will be able to redouble to show a high card in spades (the idea is to help partner judge the lead) but if South bids 3♦ then North might continue with 4♣, leaving South the same decision as in the previous scenario.

If East raises 2♣ to 3♠ then it would be a huge stretch for South to bid 4♥. When South passes North, who knows South must be short in spades, might bid 4♣ and we are back on familiar ground.

If NS play in clubs and West leads a spade declarer should perhaps play dummy's jack, taking East's queen with the ace and playing a club to the queen and ace.

The principle of restricted choice now suggests that declarer should finesse on the next round of trumps. If this is new to you this link explains it perfectly: <http://www.larryco.com/BridgeArticles/ArticleDetails.aspx?articleID=103>

With the trumps picked up declarer only has to negotiate the diamonds. Given that West did not lead a heart (which suggests East has at least one honour) and started with only one club then it feels right to play West for the jack of diamonds.

Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West

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

If North opens 1♣ South responds 1♠,

North rebids INT and South bids 2♠, ending the auction unless West doubles to show the red suits (which is not impossible).

Another possibility is for West to double 1♠. Then if North passes East, facing a passed partner need do no more than bid 2♥.

If North starts with 1♦ for systemic reasons, then East might double. When South bids 1♠ West comes in with 2♥, which might buy the contract.

If North begins with INT (12-14) then South transfers to spades. When 2♠ comes back to West some reopening action is worth considering, but I doubt many partnerships have discussed the precise meaning of a double and 2NT in this position.

Doubling should ensure a good result as East either passes or bids 3♣ and then corrects West's 3♦ to 3♥ and the same thing will happen when West bids 2NT.

If NS play in spades then it is obvious for West to lead a club. Declarer wins in dummy and plays a spade to the king and ace. Now West does best to switch to a diamond, not an easy play to find, ensuring that declarer scores only six tricks.

If instead West plays a heart and East wins and returns a club West ruffs and can still switch to diamonds, but a second heart followed by a another club ruff will be the last trick for the defenders - this time declarer scores eight tricks.

I should mention that playing in spades declarer has a 17.76 % chance of losing only one trump trick by playing low to the queen.

If EW play in hearts then it should not be too difficult to record nine tricks. For example, on a spade lead declarer wins, draws two rounds of trumps and then plays on diamonds.

down to one spade. If declarer reads the position, the ace of spades is cashed and followed by a club. If East puts in the nine declarer ducks and East is employed.

6♦ is a tricky contract, but it can be made.

Say East leads a spade and declarer wins in hand and plays a heart, East taking the ace and returning another spade. Declarer wins in dummy and plays the queen of clubs for the king and ace. If declarer now plays for a 3-3 club break West pitches a heart, so declarer ruffs, cashes the queen of hearts and the queen of diamonds. When East's ten appears declarer can get home via a cross ruff.

However, this line only works because the ten of diamonds falls. If trumps are 3-2 then declarer, after cashing the queen of hearts should simply cross to dummy with a trump, ruff a spade, ruff a heart and then claim the last three tricks on a high cross ruff.

Well done indeed if you took eleven tricks in 3NT or twelve in 6♦.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East

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

If South opens 1♣ and rebids INT over North's 1♦ then West will be on lead against 3NT.

Should East overcall 1♥? Where that happens South passes and if North then bids 2♥ South can only bid 3♣. If North presses on with 4♣ then South might try 4♦. Then North will be doing extremely well to go on to 5♦ rather than 5♣.

If South starts with a 12-14 INT North raises to game and again West must find a lead.

If South has to begin with 1♦, which would be the case for many pairs playing a strong club, then North will want to be able to bid a forcing 2♦. When South continues with 2♠ North knows there is a potential problem in hearts. If North continues with 3♣ South bids 3♥ asking for a heart stopper and if North then bids 4♦ South might just take a shot at 5♦.

Another possibility is for North to simply bid 3NT over 1♦.

It's easy to see that on a spade lead declarer has eleven tricks in 3NT and by the same token a heart lead should mean only eight.

5♣ will fail as long as the defenders cash two hearts on the go.

5♦ can never be defeated.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South

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

If South opens 1♠ West overcalls 2♣ and North raises to 2♠. Now East must consider the merits of bidding 3♠. Although it is not risk free I think it is the normal action, as leaving NS to play in 2♠ is unlikely to score well. (As a rule, leaving the opponents to play unmolested at a low level when they have a fit frequently results in a poor score.)

Suppose South plays in spades?

If West leads a diamond the best defence is for East to play three rounds of the suit. West overruffs declarer and after cashing the ace of clubs the defenders will still

score a trump trick thanks to East's ♠J95, holding declarer to eight tricks.

If East plays in 3♦ South will cash two top hearts and then switch to a spade. If declarer gets that right by putting in dummy's ten North takes the ace and returns a trump to declarer's ace.

At this point, it will not help declarer to play a spade to the king, ruff a heart and ruff a spade as the lead will be in dummy and when North wins the second round of clubs a third round will promote South's queen of diamonds.

To get home declarer must drop the queen of diamonds, which is not so difficult, as if the club king is offside then South is a clear favourite to hold the ♦Q.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

If North opens 1NT then East will overcall according to agreements.

After 1NT-(2♥) South might bid 2NT (Lebensohl) intending to compete to 3♦, or 3♣ (a Rubensohl transfer) with the same idea (although in Rubensohl the responder usually indicates at least invitational values).

In the latter scenario West might double 3♣, when it is possible that East might bid 4♣ over North's 3♦.

If North opens 1♦ then East overcalls 1♥ and South jumps to 3♦. If East doubles that West bids 4♣. Now South might take the push to 4♦.

If North starts with a strong 1♣ then East

might elect to pass (usually the right thing to do with a good hand). Then after South's 1♦ and North's 1NT East can come in with the partnerships standard defence to 1NT, suggesting a good hand rather than a defensive one.

If EW play in clubs then the defenders need to play spades early to ensure they collect three tricks. If North cashes a high diamond at trick one the singleton in dummy means South can drop the queen as suit preference signal for spades.

If NS play in diamonds then the defenders can't expect to score more than four tricks.

If East cashes a top heart and switches to a club declarer wins, takes a round of trumps and plays a heart.

Even after an unlikely initial club lead declarer can win, draw the trumps and exit with a club. West can win and play a heart, but declarer puts up an honour and East is employed after winning.

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

If the auction starts 1♦-(Pass)-1♥-(Pass)-1♠ then South might decide to pass. In that case West might try 1NT, ending the bidding.

If South passes North's 1♦ then West is sure to bid 1NT.

If North starts with 1NT (12-14/13-15/14-16) then East will be on lead.

Spades play well for NS - the 3-3 breaks in trumps and diamonds make it easy to arrive at eight tricks.

on diamonds, which delivers eight tricks. If EW play in clubs then North is likely to lead a top diamond. South wins and in theory must return a spade so North can win, cash a diamond and give South a diamond ruff, holding declarer to eight tricks.

Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

If East opens 1♥ West responds 1♠ and then raises East's 2♠ to game.

When North leads the jack of diamonds South wins and returns the eight of clubs, North taking the ace and returning a club for South to ruff. South's king of hearts will be the setting trick.

Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.

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

I would be tempted to open the South hand 2♠ (spades and a minor) especially as I am only bidding on paper. North would have an easy bid of 4♣ regardless of West's action.

If West overcalled 3♥ then no doubt East would bid 5♥ over 4♠ and North's double would conclude the auction.

Returning to reality if West opens 1♥ North overcalls 1♠ and East raises hearts according to system and mood.

If East bids 2♥ South is sure to bid, the possibilities including 2♠, 3♠, 4♠, 3♣ (fit non jump) and 4♣ (fit jump). That might make a good bidding problem for a magazine feature.

Over 3♥ by East 3♠, 4♠ and 4♣ are the candidates.

It is easy to see that there are only nine tricks in hearts, so 5♥ doubled will cost 500. That's a bargain if NS record +620 and they will if declarer plays West for the queen of clubs.

If the defenders start by cashing a heart and then take two rounds of diamonds and play a second heart declarer will ruff in dummy and play the jack of spades. If declarer is confident that West is 5-5 in the red suits then the decision in clubs is a close one - East has three of them to West's two, but West opened the bidding.

Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.

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

If South starts with 1♣ and West overcalls 1♠ North has an immediate problem. A double without four hearts is dangerous and bidding notrumps without a spade stopper is out of the question. That leaves us with 2♦ and 2♣.

Lacking four card club support I would go with 2♣.

If East then bids 2♠ South raises to 3♦ and West bids 3♠. If North now bids 4♣ there

After 1♠-2♣ if East comes in with 3♥ (which is by no means certain) then West has an easy raise to 4♥ when South will have to choose between defending or bidding 4♠.

In the latter case West will double 4♠, leaving East to decide - play or defend?

After 1♠-INT East is sure to bid 2♥ and again West has an easy raise to game. Here it is unlikely that NS will bid 4♠.

If South happens to start with INT then EW should easily reach 4♥, whatever route East takes.

So far as the play is concerned South needs to lead a diamond to ensure two tricks against a heart contract.

If NS play in spades West is likely to lead a trump. Unfortunately that allows declarer to score nine tricks without undue difficulty.

Only an initial club lead puts the defenders ahead of the game, but even here, declarer can take eight tricks. For example, after winning with the ace say declarer plays a spade to the king and ace. If the defenders then play two more rounds of clubs declarer ruffs, cashes a top trump and then plays on diamonds. West can win and exit with a spade, but declarer plays diamonds and when West ruffs he has to surrender a trick to the king of hearts.

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West

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

A few Wests will be able to open 2♠ (spades and a minor) and if North passes East's defensive raise to 4♠ will complicate matters for South, who will have to choose

between a double (which North will almost certainly pass) or 4NT, promising two places to play. When North then bids 5♣ South removes to 5♦ and North's 5♥ ends the auction.

If West passes North might open 1♣, but where that happens South might drive the partnership to 6♥.

It's more likely that East will try 1♦ third in hand, but when South overcalls 1♥ North will ensure the bidding does not stop below game.

The initial part of the auction might go: 1♠-(1♥)-1♠-(4♦*)-4♠ when South will probably take the push to 5♥.

With trumps 2-2 eleven tricks are straightforward in hearts, but even if they were 3-1 the diamond situation would make it very easy for declarer to get home. After ruffing the spade lead declarer plays the ace of diamonds, ruffs a diamond, draws trumps and gives up a diamond.

If NS defend a spade contract they should score six tricks, two, hearts, a diamond, a club and two trumps (one via a diamond ruff) - but +500 rates to be a poor return.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North

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

If North opens 1♣/1♦ then South is likely to pass. When West doubles East responds 1♥ and raises West's 2NT rebid to game.

If North happens to start with a 10-12 (or watered down 12-14) INT then West's penalty double will spell disaster for NS.

Where North passes and West opens 1♦

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North

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

If North opens 1♥ South can raise to 2♥ (it's a perfect Bergen Raise). Now if West doubles East will bid 2♣ which might end the auction.

If the auction goes 1♥-INT*-2♦-2♥ then West might come in at this point with a double and again East bids 2♣.

If North starts with INT (12-14/13-15) then there is particular reason for West to get into the auction, but there are methods that allow West to bid 2♣ to show the minors for those who are so minded. Here East bids 2♥ but North might then try 2♥, a much better spot than INT.

If NS play in notrumps then a diamond lead should ensure six tricks for the defence.

If NS play in hearts and East leads a trump declarer should win in hand and play a club. West wins and plays a second trump and declarer again wins in hand and plays a club. West winning and switching to a diamond. Declarer takes the ace, crosses to dummy with a trump and takes a ruffing club finesse, pitching a diamond. After ruffing out West's ace of clubs declarer can cross to the ace of spades to cash the master club and the ace of trumps will be the ninth trick.

If EW play in spades and the defenders start with two rounds of hearts and then switch to diamonds, North ducking, declarer wins and can play a low spade to the nine (the odds play to avoid the loss of only two tricks which pays off 42.73% of the time. North wins and can play the ace of diamonds and a diamond, but after South has ruffed, the

ace of spades will be the defenders sixth and last trick.

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East

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

If South opens 1♣ and North responds 1♦ South's rebid of 1♠ will leave North wondering how to proceed. A splinter bid of 4♥ is a possibility, but when all South can do is bid 4♠ North should probably call it a day.

If South starts with 1♦ in a strong club base then North responds 1♠ and when South raises to 2♠ there is again something to think about, but it's worth remembering that a 4-4-4-1 is generally an unproductive distribution and hoping for more than a game might be wishful thinking.

If South starts with a 12-14/13-15/14-16 INT North will look for a spade fit and might make a noise or two facing 14-16 en route to 4♠.

Eleven tricks should be the limit in spades - unless some lucky declarer sees East cover the ten of spades on the first round of the suit.

Board 23. Game All. Dealer South

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

the lead was a singleton, fearing that South might be able to put North in to deliver a diamond ruff.

With trumps 2-2 declarer will only need a winning guess in spades to score a tenth trick. Playing in spades declarer is virtually certain to lose two spades, a heart and a club.

If East is on lead against 3NT and chooses a low heart (and who would not) then NS will have a spectacular result.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West

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

If West opens 1♠ East responds 2♦ and rebids 3NT over West's 2♠.

Another possibility is for West to start with 2♠, spades and a minor, 5-10. East can discover West has clubs via 2NT and then bid 3♥, when West can complete the picture with 3♥, East going on to 3NT.

If West does not open and East starts with 1♦ West responds 1♠. Facing a passed partner and with no guarantee of a fit East might rebid 2♦ when West will either take the low road with a pass, or the high one with 2NT, which East would raise to game.

Were East to rebid 2♥ then West would jump to 3NT.

If East begins with a strong 1♣ then West responds 1♠ and East rebids 2♦. If West then bids 3♣ East signs off in 3NT.

Suppose South comes in over a strong 1♣? Bidding a natural 1♦ might turn out badly by tipping East off to the bad break in the suit, while making a two suited overcall risks

conceding a significant penalty.

If East is declarer in 3NT what should South lead? Suppose it is a small spade?

Declarer wins with dummy's jack and plays the jack of diamonds. When that holds declarer is likely to come to hand with the ace of clubs to play a top diamond. South wins with the ace and can calmly return a diamond, leaving declarer with no real hope.

Declarer can get home by playing on clubs, and then taking a good view in hearts, but that would only be on the horizon if South has indicated that the diamonds are not breaking.

This is how declarer might succeed:

After a spade lead and a diamond ducked declarer plays a club to the ace and the eight of clubs for the jack, queen and king. When North returns a heart declarer ducks to South's king, wins the heart return and plays a top diamond. If South wins and returns a diamond declarer ducks, wins the next diamond pitching dummy's queen of spades, crosses to the ten of clubs and cashes the ace of spades, squeezing North in hearts and clubs.

Wouldn't that be something.

South can lead a diamond at trick one, but it must not be the ten, nine or eight. Then declarer can win with dummy's jack and play on clubs as above. If play follows similar lines declarer, when in with the queen of hearts can play the king of diamonds. If South wins (ducking does not help as declarer exits with a low diamond) and returns a diamond then declarer ducks. When South exits with a spade declarer takes the finesse, cashes the ace of spades, come to hand with a heart and cashes the queen of diamonds, once again squeezing North in the rounded suits.

Leading the six of diamonds at trick one means that when declarer eventually plays a top diamond South can win and return the suit, ensuring five tricks for the defence.

East responds 1♥ and West rebids 3NT.

If West starts with a strong 1♣ East responds 1♦ and then uses Stayman over West's rebid before settling for 3NT.

North has an awkward hand to lead from - perhaps a diamond is the lesser evil.

Declarer takes South's king with the ace and plays a top heart. If North ducks that, wins the next heart and exits with a heart declarer wins in dummy and runs the ten of spades. One way or another declarer will arrive at ten tricks.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East

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

A few players will try opening the East hand with a weak 2♦. If West then bids 3♣ North will have to choose between a pass and a double. In either case East might raise to 4♣ when South, facing a partner who has doubled, will probably feel constrained to bid 4♥ (or perhaps 4♠, offering North a choice of major).

Where East passes and West opens 1♣ I daresay many a North will double, despite the shape. (You can do this sort of thing if you play 'equal level conversion'.) East will have various options now, including raising clubs, bidding 1♦ or perhaps making a fit jump in diamonds.

Hard to predict where the bidding will come to a halt, but quite possibly in either 5♣ doubled or 4♥.

If North passes West's 1♣ and East responds 1♦ West rebids 1♥ and if East then supports clubs there is some danger that NS might

get squeezed out of the auction.

North might double 2♣, but would be pushing it to bid over 3♣.

Suppose NS play in hearts and the defenders lead a club?

Declarer's natural line is to win, ruff a club, cross to a top spade, ruff a club and then play trumps. However, West ducks the king of hearts, wins the next heart and plays a club, resulting in two down.

If NS play in spades and a club is led then declarer wins, ruffs a club, crosses to a top spade, ruffs a club, cashes the queen of spades and plays a heart. Then it is essential for West to go in with the ace and give partner a heart ruff to hold declarer to nine tricks.

If North is declarer and East starts with the singleton heart the defenders can score the first five tricks.

The limit in clubs is ten tricks.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South

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

If South opens 1♠ North will be surprised. The modern treatment is to respond 2NT. If South shows a minimum by rebidding 4♣ North will have nothing to say, but even if South bids 3♣ North can only bid 4♥ and then pass South's 4♠.

There is a technical point in the play.

On a heart lead declarer wins perforce with dummy's king and plays a diamond to the king and ace. The spade return is taken

in dummy and declarer draws a second round of trumps and then cross ruffs the red suits before playing a club from dummy, planning to put in the ten. This works against any distribution of the club suit, most importantly when West started with the ♣AQJ.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

When West opens 1♦ North might come in with a weak jump overcall in hearts. After 1♦-(2♥) if East bids 3♦ and South decides to compete with a double then West might try 3♥. East can't oblige with a heart stopper, but is worth a jump to 5♦.

Where North goes quietly East responds 1♥ and South must choose between bidding spades (1♠/2♠) and showing both suits at once by bidding 2♦/2♥ (should 2♦ show better clubs and 2♥ better spades, or should one of them suggest a stronger or more distributional hand?)

If South bids 1♠ then West jumps to 3♦ and now East might bid 3♣ when West's 3NT will prove to be very effective.

Jumping to 2♣ stops West jumping to 3♦, but East can still bid 3♠ and again the notrump game is reached.

Showing a two suiter with the South hand does not prevent West from bidding 3♦ and now EW need to know if East's 3♣ is showing a stopper or asking for one.

Clearly EW do best to play in 3NT - well done if you achieved it.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

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

If North opens 1NT East might come in, perhaps with 2♥ to show hearts and a minor, or 2♣ promising hearts and another suit.

In either case South can bid 2♠ which should end the auction.

If North starts with 1♣ East overcalls 1♥ and South bids 1♠. Here West might try 1NT or 2♥. North doubling in either case and South probably bidding 2♠.

If North's 1♠ is strong then East is likely to overcall, either a natural 1♥ or perhaps 1NT to show ♠+♦ or ♥+♣.

In those cases system will come into play - South may have to start with a double if bidding spades immediately sets up a game force. Even so, I doubt many pairs will go beyond 2♠.

It is unlikely that the defenders will take more than three trumps and a heart against a spade contract.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

If East begins with 1NT South, despite the

poor quality of the suits, might come in, perhaps with 2♣ promising spades and a minor, or 2♦, suggesting spades and another suit.

(A Cansino 2♣ promising both minors and spades would be a useful club to have in the bag here and other methods also allow South to bid 2♣ to show various hand types that include both minors.)

West can bid 2♦ over 2♣, but will have to pass over 2♠, which East will be happy to defend.

If East opens 1♥ and South overcalls 1♠ West might raise to 2♥ or double. After 1♥-(1♠)-2♥-(Pass) if South finds a double North will think it is Christmas, but it's not that bad a spot and in any event East might try 2NT.

After 1♥-(1♠)-Dble-(Pass) East rebids 1NT which will probably end proceedings.

If East starts with a strong 1♠ then South is sure to bid, the alternatives including a simple 1♠ and a two suited bid (1♥ would be two suits of the same colour and 1NT two odd suits). In the old Amsbury defence South could bid 2♥ to show that suit or the other three. That might work well here as if the bidding continued with a double by West and East passed South would redouble to show the three suiter (or bid 2♠) and North could bid 3♣.

If EW play in notrumps then eight tricks should be the limit unless South leads a low spade when declarer can put up dummy's ten and then get the diamonds right for a more than useful overtrick.

If NS find a way to 3♣ then there should nine tricks, declarer playing to set up the spades. Even if the defenders start with diamonds declarer can ruff and play on spades and there will be no way to prevent nine tricks - and if East forgets to cover when declarer plays the queen of hearts there will even be an overtrick.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

If South opens 1♣ and West passes North responds 1♦ and East comes in with 1♥. When South rebids 2♣ West can get his suits into the game with a double or simply support hearts, perhaps by bidding 2♦ as a good raise to at least 2♥. If North then tries 3♣ and East passes then West will at least bid 3♥. If East bids 3♣ over North's 3♣ then West will be tempted to bid a game, but which one?

There are other possibilities - North might ignore the diamonds and respond 1NT. Then East could either bid a direct 2♥ or get both suits into the picture with 2♣, although that is perhaps risky on a 4-6. After 1♣-(Pass)-1NT-(2♥) if South bids 3♣ West would probably try 4♥, placing partner with a better hand after a vulnerable overcall.

It's also possible that West might bid 1♦ over 1♣. It's hard to predict what might happen then - if North bids 1NT and East comes in with 2♥ South can bid 3♣ and West will support hearts - but probably not at the four level.

If South opens 2♣ in a strong club base then North might stretch to responding 2NT, South going on to game on the basis of the seven card suit.

If East plays in hearts then ten tricks should be made.

If North has bid diamonds and South leads one declarer will win in dummy and probably reject the percentage line of taking two finesses in trumps (76%) in case