



Commentary
for the
World Wide Bridge Contest
Set 1 – Friday 7th June 2019 – session 5976

Thank you for participating in the 2019 WWBC – we hope that, win or lose, you enjoyed the hands and had fun. All the results can be found at www.ecatsbridge.com/sims as normal - just look for the results for the day you played. Mark Horton from England wrote the commentary for this interesting set of boards.

Full details of the Contest itself can be found at <http://www.worldbridge.org/competitions/the-wbf-simultaneous-event/wwbc/>

Board 1. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

<p>♠ J 5 ♥ Q 9 6 4 ♦ K 8 7 2 ♣ Q 9 8</p> <p>♠ Q 9 6 4 3 2 ♥ 7 5 3 ♦ A J ♣ K 5</p> <p>♠ A ♥ K 2 ♦ Q 10 6 4 3 ♣ A 10 7 4 2</p>	<p>♠ K 10 8 7 ♥ A J 10 8 ♦ 9 5 ♣ J 6 3</p>
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If South opens 1♦ West is sure to overcall, with 1♠ and 2♠ attracting support. North has enough to double after 1♠ leaving East to decide how best to show the spade support. East can either raise spades directly or bid 2♦, suggesting a good raise in spades. After 1♦-(2♠) were North to double (dubious) East might decide to 'follow the law' and bid 4♠, which although too high could see South go on with 5♣ although I'm not sure this hand is worth it.

A classic match point battle, where both sides have a good fit and a plus score is likely to be above average.

Board 2. Dealer East. Vulnerability NIS

<p>♠ A Q ♥ K 10 9 8 ♦ J 9 5 2 ♣ 9 8 5</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ Q 6 ♦ Q 10 8 6 ♣ A K Q 7 4 2</p> <p>♠ K 9 5 4 3 2 ♥ 5 4 ♦ 4 3 ♣ 10 6 3</p>	<p>♠ J 10 8 7 ♥ A J 7 3 2 ♦ A K 7 ♣ J</p>
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When East opens 1♥ the vulnerability will deter South from any thoughts of overcalling and EW will have a free run. A likely sequence is 1♥-2♣-2NT-3NT. Now everything hinges on the opening lead. If South starts with a spade, the defenders will be sure of two tricks. If South leads anything else, declarer should collect at least twelve tricks. This is because when declarer runs dummy's clubs (having unblocked the ♣J and cashed three rounds of diamonds) North will be squeezed. When the last club is played North will be down to ♠A ♥K109 ♦J and will probably part with a spade. Then declarer takes the heart finesse and can set up a trick in spades to record +490.

Board 3. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

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

If South opens 1♣ and North responds 1♠ will East be tempted to double? Terence Reese maintained that you should try to bid if possible, and the fortunate position in diamonds allows eight tricks to be made in that suit. Were the auction to proceed 1♣-(Pass)-1♠-(Dble)-INT-(2♦) North might decide to bid 3♣ which should fail as long as the defenders don't cash their hearts too quickly.

If South opens INT (12-14/13-15/14-16) and North passes, East might compete, with 2♣ to show the majors being a popular choice. If West responds 2♥ that is likely to end the auction.

The best lead for the defence is a heart after which declarer will do well to score eight tricks. It is essential to win with dummy's ♥A and play a club. If South wins and plays a second heart declarer wins with the king, ruffs a club, and cashes the top diamonds, the of the ♦QJ allowing declarer to come to hand with the ♦10 and ruff another club.

Board 4. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

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

A few players may open the West hand with a weak 2♦. If North doubles East might bid 2♠, although it creates a situation where playing for penalties could give NS a good score. That will depend on how many pairs bid and make 3NT with the NS cards. If East does not bid 2♠ you can see South bidding 3NT and it is unlikely that West will find the essential spade lead.

When West does not open, if North starts with 1♣ East overcalls 1♠ and that will be enough to ensure

that 3NT is defeated, unless West sees fit not to lead a spade.

Opening INT (10-12/12-14) will see East overcall - probably with 2♣ to show the majors. If South doubles West will want to be able to bid 2♦ to show a long suit - and EW should score seven tricks in diamonds.

If East plays in 2♠ the simplest defence is for South to lead a club, North winning and returning the suit, which should ensure at least +500.

That should be a good score, but there will be some pairs who bid and make 3NT (if East is on lead a top spade works out badly as declarer can win immediately and take the club finesse).

Board 5. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S

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

If East opens 1♥ South is sure to overcall - a weak 2♠ might be the majority choice. If West then tries 3♠ North can double and then West will probably settle for 4♥. Another alternative for West will be to bid 2NT over South's 2♠, a popular method of showing a good heart raise.

As long as South leads a spade, the defenders will take two tricks - it will be much easier if North has been able to show something useful in spades.

Board 6. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

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

If East opens INT (13-15/14-16/15-17) some players will be able to double for penalties with the South hand, although it's not ideal with few quick tricks and no obvious suit to lead. However, if West

bids 2♠ NS should get a good score even if no-one can double for penalties.

Were East to open 1♥ South can overcall INT almost certainly ending the auction.

Suppose the final contract is INT by East. What should South lead? Starting with a black suit looks dubious so the choice is between hearts and diamonds. On a heart lead, declarer might put up dummy's queen and then play a heart to the ten. If South wins with the king and switches to a diamond, North is likely to take the ace and return a diamond. If declarer rejects the finesse and goes up with the king three rounds of hearts (discarding a spade and two clubs from dummy) can be followed by a diamond exit and declarer will be sure of two more tricks - as long as the ♠K is deposited under the ace if South attempts to exit with two rounds of spades.

If South plays in INT and West leads the ♥Q declarer wins and plays a diamond to the eight. East wins and cashes four hearts but must then lead a black card. Declarer wins with the appropriate queen and ducks a diamond, ensuring seven tricks.

Board 7. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

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

If EW are given a free run their task will be to reach the cold 6♣. There are several ways in which the auction might proceed after East opens 1♠. West might respond with a modern 2NT, or with an old fashioned 3♣ - from a passed hand promising good clubs and great spade support. A splinter bid of 4♥ is also a possibility, but it takes up a lot of space although on this deal it will make it easy for East to ask for key cards and then bid 6♠.

Suppose East starts with a strong 1♣? If South is minded to overcall in clubs there must be some chance that West will go for a penalty - but you can only collect 800 from 3♣ doubled and even less from 3♦ doubled.

Will open the South hand 3♣? If East then bids 4♣ West will want to do more than simply bid 4♠ - bidding 5♣ to show the club control should put the partnership on the road to 6♠ as East will bid 5♥ and then raise West's 5♠.

Board 8. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

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

If North opens 1♣ South responds 1♦ and now West might, despite the modest nature of the hand, feel entitled to bid 1♠. A double from North at this point would be ideal if it promised four hearts and diamond support - but it would also suggest a stronger hand and many partnerships use it to suggest a powerful balanced hand. With a minimum, North does best to pass and East will raise to 2♠. Now North can re-open with a double and if South bids 3♦ the top spot will have been reached. If EW compete with 3♠ then NS will need to double to have a shot at a good score.

If North starts with a 1NT (12-14/13-15) East might come in with 2♣ for the majors and West has an easy 2♠ bid over South's 2♦. If North bids 3♦ it's hard to predict what will happen next, but if EW bid 3♠ someone must find a double.

3♦ is easy enough - declarer wins the spade lead, cashes the top trumps and then plays on clubs.

Defending 3♠ it's hard to see North not leading a top heart, but that allows declarer to collect eight tricks. To record +300 the defenders must attack clubs before declarer has set up a discard.

Board 9. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

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

If East opens 1♣ West responds 1♦ and then rebids 2NT over East's 1♥, ending the auction. Those who open a Precision 1♦ will see West respond 2♦ and then rebid 2NT over East's 2♥.

If North leads a spade and declarer puts up dummy's jack and then plays a diamond to the king followed

by a diamond the 19.37% chance of four tricks in the suit works and should result in nine tricks.

Putting in the $\heartsuit J$ allows North to win and play a second spade when declarer should be held to seven tricks.

If North leads a heart at trick one, let's say declarer plays low from dummy, wins with the nine and plays a heart back to the ten, South winning and switching to a spade. Declarer wins and runs the $\clubsuit 9$, South winning and playing a second spade. Declarer wins, cashes the hearts and plays a diamond. If South ducks, declarer must play the king and will eventually score two club tricks. If South rises with the $\heartsuit A$ and plays a spade declarer will eventually score the last three tricks in clubs or diamonds. This is not an easy line to follow - declarer might easily go wrong at trick three by ducking the spade switch when North wins and returns a spade.

Board 10. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

\spadesuit Q 10 7 4 \heartsuit 10 3 \diamondsuit K J 10 8 5 3 \clubsuit 2	\spadesuit K 8 6 \heartsuit K J 8 7 2 \diamondsuit A Q \clubsuit K 5 3 \spadesuit A 9 5 \heartsuit A Q 4 \diamondsuit 9 4 \clubsuit A 10 8 7 6 \spadesuit J 3 2 \heartsuit 9 6 5 \diamondsuit 7 6 2 \clubsuit Q J 9 4
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If East opens $1\clubsuit$ West responds $1\diamondsuit$ and North overcalls. In the modern era of light opening bids and even lighter responses, North might prefer INT to $1\heartsuit$. Overcalling INT should end the auction, unless West decides to compete with $2\diamondsuit$.

If East starts with INT (12-14/13-15/14-16) West does not have enough to use Stayman, intending to rebid $3\diamondsuit$ if West bids $2\diamondsuit/2\heartsuit$ as it promises invitational values with 6 diamonds and a four-card major. The sounder option is to transfer to diamonds using whatever methods are available. After INT-2NT* North might double, but assuming South passes West will rebid $3\diamondsuit$.

If East leads a diamond against INT declarer wins with the queen and plays a club. If East plays low (as who would not) declarer wins in dummy and runs the $\heartsuit 6$, after which there should be seven tricks.

The winning defence is for East to win the first club and play a second diamond. Declarer wins and can cash three clubs, but East wins the first round of hearts, cashes a club and plays ace of spades and a spade restricting declarer to six tricks.

Given that EW can take ten tricks in diamonds, even -100 might be a decent result for NS.

Board 11. Dealer South. Vulnerability None

\spadesuit 9 2 \heartsuit J 7 5 \diamondsuit A Q 7 5 2 \clubsuit Q 7 3 \spadesuit A K 4 \heartsuit A K 9 2 \diamondsuit J 4 \clubsuit 9 6 4 2	\spadesuit J 10 8 6 \heartsuit Q 8 3 \diamondsuit K 10 9 6 3 \clubsuit A \spadesuit Q 7 5 3 \heartsuit 10 6 4 \diamondsuit 8 \clubsuit K J 10 8 5
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If West opens INT (13-15/14-16/15-17) East will look for a spade fit en route to an eventual 3NT.

If North leads a diamond, declarer wins with the jack and returns a diamond. If North takes the ace and switches to a club declarer will have to decide if it is right to take the spade finesse in search of at least one extra trick.

Board 12. Dealer West. Vulnerability NIS

\spadesuit 7 6 3 \heartsuit A 8 2 \diamondsuit 6 4 3 \clubsuit K 7 4 3	\spadesuit K 4 \heartsuit J 10 9 \diamondsuit A Q 5 \clubsuit Q 10 8 5 2 \spadesuit Q 10 9 8 2 \heartsuit Q 7 4 \diamondsuit K 10 9 2 \clubsuit A \spadesuit A J 5 \heartsuit K 6 5 3 \diamondsuit J 8 7 \clubsuit J 9 6
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If North opens $1\clubsuit$ East overcalls $1\spadesuit$ and South doubles. Assuming West raises to $2\spadesuit$ South will want to be able to double for penalties.

Were North to start with $1\diamondsuit$ Precision style, the bidding would not be affected much, but the opening bid might easily have an effect on the defence.

If North begins with a weak INT and East joins in with something to show spades and another suit - say $2\diamondsuit$ - South doubles and then doubles West's $2\spadesuit$.

The advantage potentially conferred by $1\diamondsuit$ is revealed if South leads a diamond. North wins and switches to the $\heartsuit J$ which should defeat $2\spadesuit$ by a couple of tricks - a good score if it is doubled, beating everyone who plays in a part-score on the NS cards.

Board 13. Dealer North. Vulnerability All

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

Assuming there are no marginal decisions to open (North something to show both majors or East 2♠ to show spades and a minor) South will be the one to put the ball into play. If South starts with 2NT North can look for a major suit fit which will lead to 4♥.

If South opens 1♥ West can overcall, but North will raise hearts.

There is nothing to the play, declarer losing a diamond and a spade.

Board 14. Dealer East. Vulnerability None

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

If East opens 1♣ South will probably overcall 2♣ to show the majors and West will raise to 3♣. If North now bids 3♥ there is a case of sorts for East to double for penalties, although it is hardly guilt edged. Passing is safer when West might decide to re-open with a double.

If East starts with INT (12-14/13-15/14-16) and South bids 2♣ for the majors West will pass and North will bid 2♥. If West decides to re-open with a double East will have a decision to make.

3♣ is not laydown, but is likely to make. If South leads the ♦8 declarer wins and might decide to play two rounds of clubs, North winning and switching to the ♥Q. South takes declarer's king with the ace and might try a low spade, but if declarer rises with dummy's king, draws the outstanding trump, plays a diamond to hand (finessing as required) ruffs a heart, comes to hand with a diamond and plays the

♥10, pinning North's nine, he can arrive at nine tricks.

Defending a heart contract, played by North the best lead is a spade. West wins with the king and switches to the ♣Q putting the defenders on track for seven tricks. However, if

declarer withholds the ♣K West must switch to a diamond. East wins and now has to find the anti-positional play of cashing the ♣A before exiting with a spade. Declarer can win in dummy and play the ♥Q but East covers and must take two trumps. Not very easy I'm sure you will agree.

Board 15. Dealer South. Vulnerability NIS

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

If West opens 1♣ North will probably bid, 1♠ perhaps attracting more support than an emaciated double. I'm not sure what East will do now - but supporting clubs looks reasonable, even if partner might be bidding on a doubleton. After 1♣-(1♠)-3♣ South will bid 3♠, which might see West competing with 4♣. Another way of that happening would be for East to bid 2♠ over North's 1♠, with West bidding 4♣ over South's 3♠.

However, East might do more than bid 3♣ - an advance 'sacrifice' of 5♣ will certainly come into consideration where West's opening promises real clubs.

If West begins with a Precision style 2♣ and North bids 2♠ East will do something - but what? Jumping to 4♣ or 5♣ is a possibility and so is 3♠, although the singleton ♠K is of uncertain value.

If EW play in clubs and the defenders lead a spade declarer wins with the ♠K and plays three rounds of diamonds, finessing the jack which sees a losing heart go away after which there are eleven tricks.

If NS play in spades and a club is led declarer wins with the ♣A and plays a spade, East winning and surely switching to a low diamond. West wins, but must now find a heart switch. Declarer wins and plays a second trump but West wins and now reverts to diamonds. A heart goes on the third round of the suit and West can then ruff a heart.

Board 16. Dealer West. Vulnerability E/W

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

If North opens 1♣ South responds 1♥ and then raises North's 1♠ to 2♠.

If North starts with a Precision 1♦ the auction will continue 1♥-1♠-2♠, but it may affect the outcome.

If East leads a diamond declarer can play three rounds of the suit discarding two clubs from dummy and then play a spade. If West wins and plays a club, East wins and will probably switch to a heart. If declarer gets this right - either finessing or playing three rounds of the suit, ruffing and then playing a spade nine tricks will be assured.

If East starts with three rounds of clubs (easier after a 1♦ opening) West ruffs and the defenders score five tricks.

Board 17. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

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

If North opens 1♦ South responds INT. If West comes in with 2♣ and South doubles for penalties East will be worried - but with no guarantee that anything else will be better the soundest action is to let matters rest.

If North starts with INT (10-12/12-14) East might try a conventional bid - 2♣ to show hearts and another suit for example. Then West will have an interesting decision - to pass or bid 2♥.

If West opts for 2♥, North might be tempted to lead a low heart. If declarer wins in hand, pitches a spade on the ♣A, ruffs a club, cashes the top spades and cross-ruffs diamonds and clubs then nine tricks are secured.

If West plays in clubs, the defenders need to be careful. Suppose North leads a top diamond and declarer ruffs and plays on hearts, North winning the second round and playing another diamond. Declarer ruffs, crosses to dummy with a heart, ruffs a diamond, goes to dummy with a spade and plays a diamond. If South discards declarer ruffs, goes back to dummy with a spade and plays a red card ensuring ten tricks -not bad, especially if the contract is 2♣ doubled.

Board 18. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

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

If East opens 1♦ West will be happy to raise defensively to 2♦, while those using inverted raises will be happy to bid 3♦. Although North has a good hand there is no obvious way to enter the auction in either of these scenarios, although after a simple raise to 2♦ South can certainly re-open with a double, while after 3♦ double is a more speculative action. What should North do in either of these situations?

In the first case bidding 2NT looks reasonable, although with South marked with a diamond shortage 3♣ is perhaps a better action. In the second North might be tempted to try 3NT, but that requires partner to have a pretty good hand, which seems unlikely given that South could not bid over 1♦ despite the obvious shortage.

If East opens 1♣ and West responds 1♦ North can bid INT. If East raises to 2♦ South comes in with 2♥, which is comfortable spot.

If East opens INT (12-14/13-15) and North doubles, West (assuming South passes) will bid 2♦ (or perhaps redouble to indicate a five-card suit somewhere). Now NS have a good chance of playing in clubs, as in most sequences South will be able to double 2♦ for take-out, for example: INT-(Pass)-Pass-(Dble)-Pass-(Pass)-2♦-(Pass)-Pass when South can double.

Assuming NS declare, the opening lead will be relevant on this deal - a spade is worth a trick to the defenders - to see its importance consider a contract of 6♣ by NS!

Board 19. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

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

If West opens 1♦ East responds 1♥. If West jumps to 3♥ East is not going to stop short of a slam - the only question being just how high to go.

After 1♦-1♥-3♥ East can continue with 3♠ and that should lead to an exchange of cue-bids - 4♣-4♦-4♥-4♠. Now West might ask for key-cards with 4NT, discovering that East has the missing aces and the ♥K. It is then possible to ask for kings and if East is able to show the ♠K & ♦K then it is easy for East to bid 7♥.

A few pairs might be able to start with an opening bid of 2♥, promising a three-suited hand with at least four hearts, a method described in detail in The Mysterious Multi. East would then be able to use a series of relays to reach 7♥.

Board 20. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

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

If North opens 1♣ East overcalls 1♥. If South is able to raise to 2♣ (not possible if 1♣ could be 2+♣) West will compete with 2♥.

If North starts with INT (12-14/13-15) East might still show hearts, although this is hardly an ideal hand for an overcall.

If South leads a trump, declarer wins and must play a diamond, aiming to establish a trick in the suit. That should ensure eight tricks.

If North plays in INT and East leads a top heart (for many the ♥K would ask for an unblock) the defenders start with five rounds of hearts and then

switch to spades, after which declarer will have to get the clubs right, which is hardly straightforward.

Board 21. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S

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

If South opens 1♠ West overcalls 2♥ and North raises spades. The question is - how does North raise spades? With four-card support, two ace and a singleton, it would not be out of the question to jump to game, but there are alternatives - perhaps 3♥ or a 'modern' 2NT both suggesting a good raise in spades. You could also consider a splinter bid of 4♣. Whatever route North chooses, I expect most pairs will reach the spade game.

However, 4♠ is not easy to play. After a heart lead declarer wins and will probably play a spade to the ace. Now playing a second spade is fatal, as East can win and return a spade, when declarer has too much work to do.

Suppose declarer leaves the trump suit alone and plays a club at trick two?

If East wins and plays a heart declarer ruffs, ruffs a club, ruffs a heart (East pitching a club) ruffs a club, cashes the ♠A, ruffs a heart and ruffs a club. East overruffs, cashes the ♠K and exits with a diamond, but declarer plays low from hand to score three diamond tricks.

Another plausible line is to cross to dummy with a diamond at trick two and then play a diamond to the ten. That loses to the king and West will probably exit with a spade. If declarer ducks this East wins and returns a spade leaving declarer a trick short. The winning line here is to take dummy's ace and play a club (covering if East plays the eight). West wins, but has no good move.

Board 22. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

<p>♠ 8 4 2 ♥ A 6 4 ♦ Q 10 ♣ A 7 6 5 4</p> <p>♠ 10 7 6 ♥ K J 10 2 ♦ A J 4 3 ♣ Q 2</p>	<p>♠ A 9 3 ♥ Q 3 ♦ 9 8 7 6 5 ♣ J 10 3</p> <p>♠ K Q J 5 ♥ 9 8 7 5 ♦ K 2 ♣ K 9 8</p>
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If South opens 1♣ West might scrape up a double, East bidding 1♦ if North redoubles. If North then competes with 2♣ and EW go on to 2♦ they will be undone by the vulnerability unless NS can score nine tricks in clubs.

If South starts with a Precision style 1♦ North responds INT, ending the auction.

If South begins with INT (10-12/12-14) North might invite but it will push NS beyond a safe level.

The chances of nine tricks in clubs are very high, as West needs to find a heart lead - otherwise declarer can play on spades, setting up a long card to take care of a losing heart.

The only danger for EW in a notrump contract is that West might lead a spade with East winning and failing to switch to a red suit.

Board 23. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

<p>♠ 9 7 6 5 2 ♥ 10 8 ♦ K 9 6 ♣ 10 6 5</p> <p>♠ Q 10 8 ♥ 9 2 ♦ J 10 7 5 2 ♣ 9 8 7</p>	<p>♠ K 3 ♥ J 6 4 ♦ Q 8 3 ♣ A Q 4 3 2</p> <p>♠ A J 4 ♥ A K Q 7 5 3 ♦ A 4 ♣ K J</p>
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If South opens 2♣ and North responds 2♦ many partnerships may be using a 2♥rebid as Kokish - a relay to 2♠ after which a new suit by opener would show a two-suited hand. Here South might rebid 3♥, which is frequently played as game forcing in this situation. North could bid 3♠, when South might opt for 3NT to protect the ♣KJ.

If South starts with a Precision 1♣ North responds 1♦ and East might come in with a dangerous 2♣. It would not surprise me if South then rebid 3NT - a practical shot given that West is likely to lead a club.

On this deal, playing in no-trumps is a big winner, as there are ten tricks in both denominations.

Board 24. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

<p>♠ A Q 8 6 ♥ J 9 7 6 ♦ Q ♣ 9 6 5 4</p> <p>♠ J 10 7 5 3 ♥ K Q 5 ♦ A 9 6 3 ♣ 10</p>	<p>♠ K 9 4 2 ♥ A 10 8 3 2 ♦ — ♣ A Q 7 3</p> <p>♠ — ♥ 4 ♦ K J 10 8 7 5 4 2 ♣ K J 8 2</p>
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Is the West hand an opening bid?

In the modern era most players will open 1♠ after which East will probably start with a game-forcing 2NT. Although West has a singleton 1 I suspect most players will rebid 4♠ to suggest a minimum opening bid and they can do that even if South comes in with say 4♦.

However, that may not be enough to deter East, who might drive to 6♠.

The 4-0 break is unlucky, and so is the fact that the ♠7 is in the West hand. Exchange it for one of East's small spades and you make 6♠. The point is that after a diamond lead declarer wins and plays the ♠J, covered by the queen and king, South pitching a diamond. Declarer cashes the ♣A, ruffs a club and plays a spade, but on the actual layout North's six forces dummy's nine and declarer must lose two trumps.

Board 25. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

<p>♠ 10 3 ♥ 10 ♦ A Q J 8 6 5 ♣ 8 7 6 5</p> <p>♠ A 8 4 ♥ A K J 9 2 ♦ — ♣ A K 9 3 2</p>	<p>♠ Q 9 6 5 ♥ Q 6 5 ♦ K 9 7 3 2 ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ K J 7 2 ♥ 8 7 4 3 ♦ 10 4 ♣ J 10 4</p>
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If North is unable to start with a weak 2♦ then 3♦ is the alternative. In either case, West can choose between a double and a bid of 4♣ (leaping or non-leaping Michaels) to show clubs and a major. The main issue with doubling is that you can't be sure that a pass by partner will result in a penalty that compensates you for a possible game or slam. There is some debate about how strong non-leaping Michaels can be and whether or not it is forcing.

In this situation, East will bid 4♥. Now West would like to bid 4♠ as a cue bid, but that's not possible here. 5♦ would be a clear slam try - but will East accept? The ♣Q and ♥Q are good cards but I'm not sure that is enough to justify bidding 6♥.

If West starts with a double what should East do?

Passing a double of 3♦ looks tempting. 3♠ is a possibility, but East could be bidding that with a Yarborough. 3NT will work if partner has a strong hand, but might be ridiculous. Don't you just love preempts!

If West doubles 2♦ then passing is still a possibility, as are a natural 2NT or perhaps 3♠. On this deal West is unlikely to pass a response of 2♠, so EW are sure to reach at least a game.

The play in a heart contract is interesting. If North leads a trump declarer has more than one line of play available. One option is to win in hand and play a low spade, putting in dummy's nine if North does not produce the king. If South returns a trump declarer wins in dummy, unblocks the ♣Q and plays the ♠Q, successfully completing the intra-finesse. Declarer will be able to ruff a club, ruff a diamond, draw South's trumps and claim twelve tricks.

There is an alternative, which involves crossing to dummy with a club and playing a spade, ducking to North's ten. Declarer will be able to pitch two spades on the top clubs and eventually ruff a spade in dummy. However, this line would fail if trumps were 3-2 as North could return a trump at trick four.

Board 26. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

<p>♠ A 9 8 4 ♥ A 9 7 6 3 ♦ Q J ♣ Q J</p> <p>♠ 10 6 5 3 2 ♥ K J 10 5 ♦ 9 5 4 ♣ A</p>	<p>♠ — ♥ Q 8 4 ♦ 10 8 7 6 2 ♣ 10 9 6 5 4</p> <p>♠ K Q J 7 ♥ 2 ♦ A K 3 ♣ K 8 7 3 2</p>
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If South opens 1♣ North responds 1♥ and then jumps to 4♠ over South's 1♠ rebid.

If South starts with a Precision style 1♣ the vulnerability argues against an overcall by West.

However there might be those who do, perhaps bidding 1♠ to show two suits of the same rank, when East would bid 2♥, showing preference for hearts but a better fit in one of the minors.

If West does not overcall North responds 1♥ and then raises spades.

If NS play in spades West does best to start with a trump. If declarer plays a club at trick two West wins and plays a second trump and that is enough to hold declarer to ten tricks.

Suppose West starts with the ♣A and then switches to a red suit (nothing else is better). Declarer can afford a round of trumps and then plays on cross-ruff lines, pitching a club from dummy on the third round of diamonds, recording eleven tricks.

If EW play a doubled heart contract the defenders do best to start with two rounds of trumps, restricting declarer to five tricks.

Board 27. Dealer South. Vulnerability None

<p>♠ K 9 8 5 4 ♥ 8 5 4 ♦ K 3 ♣ J 8 2</p> <p>♠ J 7 6 ♥ Q 9 6 2 ♦ Q 4 2 ♣ A 7 5</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 3 2 ♥ A K 7 ♦ A 8 ♣ K Q 10 4</p> <p>♠ A ♥ J 10 3 ♦ J 10 9 7 6 5 ♣ 9 6 3</p>
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Some players will be able to open the South hand with a weak 2♦ after which EW should find a route to 3NT. Were South to open 3♦ then East would have to bid 3NT and hope for the best.

Where South does not open and East bids 1♣ South should probably keep quiet. The danger in overcalling is that partner might make a catastrophic opening lead (the ♦K against 3NT).

Most of the time South will be on lead and starting with the ♦J will leave declarer with a decision of sorts - although putting up the queen is very committal as not many payers would lead from the ♦KJ10 in this situation.

Board 28. Dealer West. Vulnerability NIS

<p>♠ K J 4 3 ♥ K 10 5 ♦ J 5 ♣ 9 7 6 3</p> <p>♠ Q 6 ♥ J 3 ♦ K 10 8 4 3 ♣ A 10 5 2</p>	<p>♠ 10 9 8 7 ♥ 7 6 4 ♦ 9 6 2 ♣ K Q J</p> <p>♠ A 5 2 ♥ A Q 9 8 2 ♦ A Q 7 ♣ 8 4</p>
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I wonder how many will be tempted to open the West hand? Easier if playing Precision and an

auction which starts 1♦-(Pass)-1♠ does leave South with a decision - to overcall 1NT or 2♥?

1NT has the merit of getting the strength across, so might be the popular choice.

If West does not open, NS might get a free run, finishing in either 3NT or 4♥.

In 3NT with a diamond lead, declarer can win in dummy and cash five rounds of hearts. Were East to pitch a spade declarer could cash four spades which would force West to discard the ♣A to avoid being endplayed for +690.

As long as West avoids a diamond lead, declarer should take no more than nine tricks.

West is unlikely to lead a diamond against 4♥, so declarer should lose two clubs and a diamond.

Board 29. Dealer North. Vulnerability All

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

If North opens 1♦ East might be tempted (despite the lack of a sixth club) to overcall 2♣. When South passes (the hand is too weak for a negative double) West might, depending on agreements, be able to bid 2♠, a great spot for EW on this layout.

If East does not overcall South responds 1♥ and West bids 1♠. When North raises to 2♥ it is a fair shot for East to either bid 2♠ or double, promising clubs and tolerance for spades. As it happens, EW do best to let NS play in 2♥ - they will collect the 'magic 200'.

If North starts with 1NT (12-14/13-15/14-16) that might buy the contract.

The cards lie well for EW on this '20-20' deal with NS getting a poor score if they play the hand.

Board 30. Dealer East. Vulnerability None

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

If East opens 1♠ South will either overcall 1NT or 2♦. In either case, West can scrape up a raise to 2♠. After a 1NT overcall North has an easy raise to 3NT and after 1♠-(2♦)-2♠-(3♦) South might take a pot at 3NT.

If West leads a spade, declarer has ten tricks.

Although the ♣Q works here, there is no obvious reason to prefer it to a spade.

You can understand why Garozzo said that anyone who always found the best lead would win everything the game has to offer!

Board 31. Dealer South. Vulnerability N/S

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

If South opens 1♦ North responds 1♠ and then rebids 4♠ over South's 1NT.

If South opens a 12-14 1NT, West might come in with something to show hearts and another suit, but it will not stop NS reaching the spade game.

Unless declarer gets a diamond lead, or divines the diamond position then ten tricks will usually be the limit in 4♠, although a club lead from East would set up a scenario where declarer might execute a minor suit squeeze for a vital overtrick.

Board 32. Dealer West. Vulnerability E/W

<p>♠ Q 5 4 ♥ 4 2 ♦ 6 5 ♣ A J 9 6 5 2</p> <p>♠ 10 9 6 ♥ A 10 9 6 ♦ K Q 2 ♣ 8 7 4</p>	<p>♠ A K 2 ♥ K J 5 3 ♦ A J 7 4 ♣ Q 3</p> <p>♠ J 8 7 3 ♥ Q 8 7 ♦ 10 9 8 3 ♣ K 10</p>
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There will be a few 3♣ bidders on the North cards. East doubles and if South redoubles to show the high club honour West bids 3♥ and is raised to game. If South passes West can only bid 3♥ and hope East bids on. I would - but I can see all four hands.

Where North passes and East opens 1♦ West responds 1♥ and gets to play in game.

If East starts with a Precision 1♣, West responds according to system (INT or an inverted 1♠) and 4♥ should be reached, probably with West as declarer.

Were the defenders to start with three rounds of clubs (that won't happen very often) declarer would need to ruff high and play South for the ♥Q - much easier if North has opened 3♣.

Otherwise, declarer has to guess the heart suit for eleven tricks.

Board 33. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

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

If South opens 2NT North will look for a 5-3 spade fit before settling for 3NT and that contract should be reached whatever system is being employed.

If West leads a spade declarer wins and must decide upon a line of play. Developing the diamonds will setup four tricks in the suit, but there is no guaranteed entry to dummy. Declarer might come up with the idea of playing the ♣Q at trick two. If East wins that, the only way to be sure of restricting declarer to nine tricks is for East to return a heart.

Suppose declarer rejects that idea and goes 'all in' by cashing the ♦A at trick two and then playing a second diamond. West might duck that, win the next diamond (declarer discarding a club) and exit with a spade. Declarer wins, cashes two more spades and plays a heart. Putting in dummy's jack will lead to eleven tricks.

A diamond or club lead is no better, but if West starts with a heart East wins and returns a heart and now declarer will take no more than nine tricks.

Board 34. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

<p>♠ A K 8 7 6 4 ♥ J 4 ♦ A 9 4 ♣ 10 8</p>	<p>♠ Q J 10 5 2 ♥ 8 6 5 ♦ K 3 ♣ A Q 7</p> <p>♠ — ♥ 10 9 7 2 ♦ Q J 7 6 ♣ K 6 5 4 2</p> <p>♠ 9 3 ♥ A K Q 3 ♦ 10 8 5 2 ♣ J 9 3</p>
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It is easy to imagine EW bidding 1♠-INT-2♠. The reflex action is to pass that out with the South hand, but a reopening double will reap a rich reward. You might also like to think about the meaning of a second round double by North. Logically it should be for penalties, although perhaps slightly stronger than this hand.

There is nothing much to the play in 2♠ - on the normal looking heart lead declarer has only six tricks.

Board 35. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

<p>♠ 6 5 4 ♥ 7 5 3 ♦ A Q 7 4 3 ♣ 10 2</p>	<p>♠ K J 8 7 3 ♥ Q 2 ♦ J 8 ♣ A K Q J</p> <p>♠ A Q ♥ 10 9 8 6 4 ♦ K 9 6 5 ♣ 7 6</p> <p>♠ 10 9 2 ♥ A K J ♦ 10 2 ♣ 9 8 5 4 3</p>
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If North opens 1♠ South responds according to system and 4♠ will be reached most of the time.

The opening lead will be critical. If East fails to lead a diamond declarer will be able to play three rounds of hearts to dispose of a loser.

If North has bid clubs en route to 4♣ then East is bound to lead a red suit. Looking at two likely trump tricks it is a question of being active or passive. With

many players disliking the idea of leading away from a king 4♠ is likely to make a lot of the time.

Board 36. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

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

If East opens 1♣ South overcalls 1♠. If West is able to support clubs North raises spades and 2♠ should be the final contract.

If East starts with a weak notrump South can bid 2♣ to show the majors and then bid 2♠ if North responds with 2♦.

If West leads a club declarer is likely to duck and win the next club. Taking the spade suit in isolation, declarer would like to lead twice towards the ♠A109, but there are only two entries to dummy and they might be better employed in leading hearts, hoping the queen is onside.

So declarer exits with a low spade, hoping the suit will behave. West wins and returns a diamond and declarer wins with dummy's king and plays a heart to the jack. When that holds declarer cashes the ♠A then crosses to dummy with a diamond and plays another heart, finishing with eight tricks.