

# Olympiad Fund Game

Analysis by Brian Gunnell, author of Bridge Bites and founder of The Wednesday Game ([www.wednesdaygame.com](http://www.wednesdaygame.com)).

## 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010

Set 69892

	♠ 5 4	West	North	East	South
<b>1</b>	♥ K 9 6		Pass	Pass	Pass?
	♦ A 6 5				
	♣ J 9 7 6 5				
	♠ A 6 3				♠ Q J 10 9
	♥ Q 10 5 4				♥ A J
	♦ J 8 7 2				♦ 10 9 4 3
	♣ A 8				♣ Q 10 2
					♠ K 8 7 2
<i>Dlr N</i>	♥ 8 7 3 2				
<i>None Vul</i>	♦ K Q				
	♣ K 4 3				

the total is 15+ then open. West scores only 14 on this scale, which is unfortunate for E-W as the hand happens to belong to them.

	♠ Q 10 5 3	West	North	East	South
<b>2</b>	♥ A Q 6 5 2				
	♦ 7				
	♣ 9 4 3				
	♠ 8 4 2				♠ A J 9 7
	♥ K 8 7				♥ J 9 4
	♦ A K 3				♦ 9 6 4
	♣ K J 7 2				♣ A Q 8
					♠ K 6
<i>Dlr East</i>	♥ 10 3				
<i>N-S Vul</i>	♦ Q J 10 8 5 2				
	♣ 10 6 5				

"bold" 2♠, it's conceivable that she'll play it there! That's down only one, and, although South may feel pleased with herself for "stealing" the board, it won't be such a great result if the E-W field is down in 3NT.

	♠	South	West	North	East
<b>3</b>	♥ Q 8 7	Pass	1NT	Pass	??
	♦ Q J 8 7 4 3				
	♣ Q 9 5 3				
	♠ J 10 9				♠ Q 8 7 6 5
	♥ 4 3				♥ A 10 6 5 2
	♦ A K 9 2				♦ 10
	♣ A K 7 2				♣ J 10
					♠ A K 4 3 2
<i>Dlr South</i>	♥ K J 9				
<i>E-W Vul</i>	♦ 6 5				
	♣ 8 6 4				

had bid 2NT or 3NT East would bid Hearts to show 5-5. All in all we'd say that this is a better treatment than using 3♥ and 3♠ for those 5-5 hands.

	♠ A	West	North	East	South
<b>4</b>	♥ K Q 7 4	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
	♦ J 4 3	Pass	3♥	Pass	4NT
	♣ K Q 10 5 2	Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥
					All Pass
	♠ 9 7 6				♠ 10 8 5 4 3 2
	♥ J 3				♥ 8 2
	♦ 10 8 6				♦ K 7 2
	♣ A J 8 6 4				♣ 7 3
					♠ K Q J
<i>Dlr West</i>	♥ A 10 9 6 5				
<i>Both Vul</i>	♦ A Q 9 5				
	♣ 9				

wins the first trick; cross to ♠A; cash Spades (pitching Diamonds); lead a Club. When West pops up with the Ace, Declarer can count 12 tricks with just one Diamond ruff on the board, so trumps are drawn next. Those Declarers who took the Diamond finesse can count themselves lucky!

**Post Script:** Imagine the play with E-W reversed. East takes ♠K with the Ace and returns a trump to Declarer's Ten; Diamond ruff; ♥K is cashed. With trumps 2-2, it's easy for Dummy to score the second Diamond ruff.

	♠ Q 10 9 8 5	West	North	East	South
<b>5</b>	♥ Q		Pass	Pass	Pass
	♦ K 8				
	♣ Q 10 9 8 5				
	♠ J 6 2				♠ K 7 4 3
	♥ A K 9 6 5				♥ J 8 2
	♦ 6 3				♦ A Q J 5
	♣ A K J				♣ 6 4
					♠ A
<i>Dlr North</i>	♥ 10 7 4 3				
<i>N-S Vul</i>	♦ 10 9 7 4 2				
	♣ 7 3 2				

is cashed. North is squeezed in the blacks and it's 12 surprising tricks!

**How About a Club Lead?** The Jack wins, Diamond finesse, ♥A, and South's remaining Hearts are drawn. By now we know that North started with ♥Q, ♦K and ♣Q and is presumably 5-5. If she also has the ♠A surely she would have opened the bidding. So Declarer guesses Spades correctly and again it is 12 tricks!

**How About No Trump?** Some Wests might open 1NT (perhaps not a good idea with AK, AK) and play in 3NT. That could result in the same semi-miraculous 12 tricks. A triumph for the dubious 1NT opening!

	♠ A 9 7 5	West	North	East	South
<b>6</b>	♥ K 10 9 7 4			1♦	2♣
	♦ K				
	♣ Q 7 4				
	♠ J 10 8				♠ K Q 6 4
	♥ 6 5 3 2				♥ A 8
	♦ Q 10 9 5 3				♦ A J 8 7
	♣ 10				♣ 8 3 2
					♠ 3 2
<i>Dlr East</i>	♥ Q J				
<i>E-W Vul</i>	♦ 6 4 2				
	♣ A K J 9 6 5				

resources. This deal is a sock in the eye for adherents of "The Law" ... there are only 18 total trumps but no fewer than 20 total tricks!

	♠ 6	South	West	North	East
<b>7</b>	♥ 7	3♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♦ Q 9 8 7 6 4 2				
	♣ A Q 10 5				
	♠ 10 8				♠ Q 7 2
	♥ Q 10 9 8 6 5				♥ A K 3
	♦ K J 3				♦ A 10 5
	♣ K J				♣ 8 6 4 3
					♠ A K J 9 5 4 3
<i>Dlr South</i>	♥ J 4 2				
<i>Both Vul</i>	♦				
	♣ 9 7 2				

triumph may embolden South to continue over-preempting.

	♠ Q 7	West	North	East	South
<b>8</b>	♥ 8 3	1♣	Pass	1♠!	2♥
	♦ J 6 5 4 2	2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl!
	♣ A Q 5 3	Pass	3♦	3♠!	All Pass
	♠ A K 5 2				♠ 10 9 8 6 3
	♥ 10 2				♥ J 7 5 4
	♦ A Q 3				♦ 9 8
	♣ J 6 4 2				♣ K 10
					♠ J 4
<i>Dlr West</i>	♥ A K Q 9 6				
<i>None Vul</i>	♦ K 10 7				
	♣ 9 8 7				

South refuses to sell out to 2♠ and backs in with a Double, getting her side to 3♦, which would be undoubted for down two and a fine result. But East, he of the magnificent 4-count, is not done yet! His side has 9 trumps, so he bids on to 3♠. That makes 9 tricks (10 if the defense fails to get its trump promotion). Nicely done, Mr. East!

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

*Dlr North*  
*E-W Vul*

The Doctor's lead was spot on, though not perhaps for the right reason on this deal. Anyway, 9 tricks with a Heart lead, 10 with a Spade lead.

**Dr Goodlead – Part 2:** Suppose that E-W are Weak NT types and the bidding goes **1♦ 2NT, 3NT**. Now, as North, would the Doctor lead a Heart or the safer-looking Spade? "A Heart. Partner didn't overcall **1♠**, she's unlikely to have 5, so, I'll take a small chance and play her for a Heart honor" Again he finds the best lead, again not for the right reason!

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

*Dlr East*  
*Both Vul*

Diamond lead and Declarer will hop up with the Ace, cross to the ♠K, back to the ♠K, ♠A (pitching a Diamond), over to the ♠A, Club ruff. Now the ♠J is led and it's 11 tricks (if West declines to ruff a good Club is pitched, then a Spade ruff and the last good Club is ruffed).

<b>11</b>	♠ K J 10 9 2 ♥ 10 9 7 ♦ J 4 2 ♣ 5 2	♠ 8 6 4 ♥ A J 8 6 ♦ 10 3 ♣ A 10 7 4
♠ 7 ♥ K 4 3 2 ♦ A K Q 8 7 6 5 ♣ K	♠ A Q 5 3 ♥ Q 5 ♦ 9 ♣ Q J 9 8 6 3	

*Dlr South*  
*None Vul*

good save in 4♠, but (a) we don't see many N-S pairs finding it (though South may well be tempted), and (b) West may push on to 5♥ if they do.

<b>12</b>	♠ J 6 4 ♥ 10 8 5 ♦ K Q 7 ♣ A Q 10 2	♠ 8 7 ♥ A J 9 7 ♦ 10 6 5 3 ♣ 8 7 6
♠ K 10 5 ♥ 6 4 3 ♦ J 9 4 ♣ K J 5 3	♠ A Q 9 3 2 ♥ K Q 2 ♦ A 8 2 ♣ 9 4	

*Dlr West*  
*N-S Vul*

finesse and a Heart back. East ducks this and Dummy wins, at which point Declarer is up to 10 tricks. The Diamonds and Spades are rattled off, and at Trick 11 Declarer must decide whether to finesse the Club for 11 tricks. Hey, it's matchpoints, and East may not be a genius who has come down to ♥AJ ♠K. Also, there's a clue! Holding the ♠K, it would make more sense for East to win the second Heart and exit a Heart. So, Declarer fearlessly takes the Club finesse and scores +660.

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1NT	Pass
<b>3NT</b>	<b>All Pass</b>		

As South, what's your opening lead? "4<sup>th</sup> best from longest and strongest" tells us to lead a Spade, but is that a good idea? We called our old friend Dr Goodlead and he said "I lead a Heart at matchpoints, it's less likely to blow a trick. But a Spade at IMPs" Well, that's one opinion and, when leading against NT, it'll help Partner figure things out if you conventionally lead second best from four small.

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
??			

West could leap to 4♥ here, but don't you think his hand is rather too good for that? Those high cards are working really well, and West owes Partner a slower sequence, such as: **1♥ 1♠, 2♣ 2♦, 3♣ 3♥, 4♥ Pass**. This 4<sup>th</sup> suit auction gets to the same 4♥ contract as the rest of the field, and also earns some style points.

**The Play in 4♥:** South might risk a Diamond lead and Declarer will hop up with the Ace, cross to the ♠K, back to the ♠K, ♠A (pitching a Diamond), over to the ♠A, Club ruff. Now the ♠J is led and it's 11 tricks (if West declines to ruff a good Club is pitched, then a Spade ruff and the last good Club is ruffed).

South	West	North	East
1♣	1♦	1♠	??

Does East have a suitable hand for a "4<sup>th</sup> Suit Double" (known to some as a Snapdragon Double)? No, the most common agreement for that bid is that East needs a 5<sup>th</sup> Heart, so East passes smoothly and awaits developments. As it happens, South raises to 2♠ and it is West who finds a Double. Now, surely, the least that East can do is to leap to 4♥. That will be 11 tricks if Declarer takes the normal play in trumps. Yes, there is a

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠?	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
<b>All Pass</b>			

North has a square 12-count (see also Board 31), but at least she has the useful-looking ♠10. If North does decide to open she'll declare 3NT and East will lead a Heart. Declarer may have trouble reading this lead, it could be 4<sup>th</sup> best (from AJ97) or from four small (second highest from 97xx) or from a shorter suit. The ♥K wins Trick 1, then over to the ♠K, losing Spade

<b>13</b>	♠ A K J 8 3 ♥ 6 ♦ Q ♣ K Q 8 7 5 2	♠ 9 4 2 ♥ 10 9 8 4 2 ♦ 7 5 2 ♣ 4 3
♠ 7 6 ♥ K J 7 5 ♦ 10 9 8 4 3 ♣ J 9	♠ Q 10 5 ♥ A Q 3 ♦ A K J 6 ♣ A 10 6	

*Dlr North*  
*Both Vul*

prefer 4NT to be natural (let's say 18-19 HCP). Anyway, there's no harm in confirming trumps first, so South simply raises to 3♠ (forcing). Then, once the Spade fit is confirmed, it is North who wheels out the Roman Key Card machinery. South replies with a 1430 5♣, showing 0 or 3 Key Cards. Next comes 5♥ which (as the cheapest non-signoff) serves as the Queen Ask. South's answer to that is 6♣ (showing the ♠Q and the ♠K, and denying the ♠K). So, the complete (and rather long-winded) auction is: **1♠ 1♦, 1♠ 2♥, 2♠ 3♠, 4NT 5♣, 5♥ 6♣, 7NT**. The play is simpler.

P.S. You can Google "roman key card queen ask" for more information.

<b>14</b>	♠ A K Q ♥ K 10 7 ♦ 10 9 8 7 6 ♣ 9 8	♠ 6 2 ♥ Q J 8 3 2 ♦ K J 2 ♣ A Q 5
♠ J 7 4 ♥ A 9 6 5 4 ♦ Q 4 ♣ 7 6 2	♠ 10 9 8 5 3 ♥ ♦ A 5 3 ♣ K J 10 4 3	

*Dlr East*  
*None Vul*

**Total Trick Logic:** North suspects that E-W have 10 trumps and that her side has 8. In a perfect world those 18 total trumps mean 18 total tricks, but we can deduct a trick for ♥K107 opposite a void (that provides Heart defense but not Spade offense). So 17 total tricks seem more likely. If that is the case then when 4♠ makes 10 tricks there will be only 7 available in Hearts. And if 4♠ makes only 8 or 9 then bidding 4♠ over 4♥ trades a plus score for a minus. So, perhaps North should double 4♥! Yes, it looks rather odd to us, too! But the Total Tricksters can rejoice that doubling 4♥ scores +500, whereas bidding 4♠ is worth only +420.

<b>15</b>	♠ A 4 ♥ K 8 7 6 4 ♦ J 9 6 2 ♣ K 10	♠ 9 6 5 3 2 ♥ 9 ♦ K 4 3 ♣ A 9 3 2
♠ 8 7 ♥ 10 2 ♦ A 10 8 5 ♣ Q 8 7 5 4	♠ K Q J 10 ♥ A Q J 5 3 ♦ Q 7 ♣ J 6	

*Dlr South*  
*N-S Vul*

obvious (?) Club or an out-of-left-field Diamond.

<b>16</b>	♠ J 4 2 ♥ K 9 4 ♦ A Q 9 8 5 ♣ 8 4	♠ Q 7 5 ♥ 7 6 ♦ K 6 4 3 ♣ K 10 6 3
♠ A K 8 3 ♥ A ♦ J 10 7 2 ♣ J 9 7 2	♠ 10 9 6 ♥ Q J 10 8 5 3 2 ♦ ♣ A Q 5	

*Dlr West*  
*E-W Vul*

wasted cards). Those three Spade losers were the final nail in the coffin.

N-S have 16 top tricks in No Trump. How did your auction go (we'll assume that it was uncontested)? Perhaps it started **1♠ 1♦, 1♠**. Yes, North has a 4-loser hand, but it's not worth a jump rebid of 2♠, this is a hand which does not become really good until a fit is found. After 1♠, South rebids 2♦, played as 4<sup>th</sup> Suit Forcing (let's say to game, it make life so much easier). North continues to bid out her shape with 2♠. Can South now charge into Roman Key Card? Maybe, but in this sequence some

West	North	East	South
4♥	??	1♥	2♥

South's 2♥ was Michaels (Spades + minor) and West's 4♥ was preemptive (with a decent hand she would cue-bid 2♠). Now, what's your choice as North? The ♠AKQ say "Bid 4♠!" but the ♥K107 (opposite a likely void) say "Defend!" The common advice, if in doubt, is to bid 4♠ over 4♥ and here 4♠ does indeed make (Dummy must not ruff the ♥Q opening lead!) thanks to the lucky Clubs and 3-2 trumps.

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

North bids the Jacoby 2NT (showing a game-forcing raise in Hearts). In the N-S methods, South's 3♥ showed extras (if you can really use the term "extras" to describe ♦Q7 ♣J6). North showed a minimum when she rebid 4♥. E-W will get an above average result if they can score their three minor suit tricks. They won't if West leads a pusillanimous Spade or a feeble trump. What is needed is an

Our auction shows N-S freely bidding up to 4♥ with four top losers. Who was the culprit? We are not sure that anybody was, sometimes these things happen. The hands just don't fit together well ... no doubt South just loved her void in the enemy suit ... and no doubt North really liked having ♠AQ over the Diamond bidder (not knowing that they were, in fact, losers were the final nail in the coffin.

17

♠ A 9	
♥ K 7 6 3	
♦ 6 5 2	
♣ J 8 6 5	
♠ Q J 8 7 3	♠ K 5 4
♥ A Q 9 2	♥ J 8 5
♦ K 7	♦ Q 8
♣ K 3	♣ A Q 10 7 2
	♠ 10 6 2
<i>Dlr North</i>	♥ 10 4
<i>None Vul</i>	♦ A J 10 9 4 3
	♣ 9 4

the Ace. Now, will South return a Diamond (maybe North has the ♦K or wants a ruff)? Or will she find the lethal Heart shift (setting up a defensive Heart ruff)? It won't be obvious, we can see 4♣ making as often as not.

**Back to the Bidding:** Yes, perhaps North *should* have piped up with a 3♣ raise! She knows she will likely be on lead (E-W appear to have at least 8 Spades) so the weakness of the suit is not an issue. Having bid 3♦, her opening lead can be the Diamond Six (top from three small when the suit has been raised). Now, careful spot-reading makes it clear to South that North does not have ♦Kxx, and therefore the Heart shift is obvious.

18

♠ Q 6	
♥ J 8 6 5	
♦ 7 6 4 2	
♣ 7 4 3	
♠ 3	♠ K J 9 8 7 5 4 2
♥ Q 10 7	♥ K
♦ A K 8	♦ Q J 10
♣ A K J 9 6 5	♣ Q
	♠ A 10
<i>Dlr East</i>	♥ A 9 4 3 2
<i>N-S Vul</i>	♦ 9 5 3
	♣ 10 8 2

the actual hand, those who stop short of slam may well make 12 tricks, but those who stumble into 6♠ will surely make just 11 tricks.

19

♠ K 5 3	
♥ A J 7 5	
♦ Q 7 5 2	
♣ 4 2	
♠ A Q J 10 9 8 6 4	♠ 7 2
♥ 9 6	♥ K Q 8 4 3
♦ K 10	♦ J 6 3
♣ 3	♣ 9 7 6
	♠
<i>Dlr South</i>	♥ 10 2
<i>E-W Vul</i>	♦ A 9 8 4
	♣ A K Q J 10 8 5

use that precious entry to play on Diamonds rather than for the trump finesse? It should be! Three reasons: (a) there may be a singleton ♦K at large; (b) a winning Spade finesse won't help if South has 3 Spades; (c) playing on Hearts before trumps risks running into a defensive ruff. If Declarer gets it right he is down one for a fine E-W result. But using that entry for the losing Spade finesse will result in a disastrous -500.

20

♠ 10 9	
♥ A K 9 7 5	
♦ K 10	
♣ 9 8 7 3	
♠ K J 8 4 3 2	♠ A 6 5
♥ Q J 10	♥ 8 3
♦ A 5	♦ J 8 7 6 4
♣ Q 10	♣ J 6 2
	♠ Q 7
<i>Dlr West</i>	♥ 6 4 2
<i>Both Vul</i>	♦ Q 9 3 2
	♣ A K 5 4

is down one, no doubt undoubted. But West (with that extra trump) will presumably push on to 3♠. That will be down one if N-S defend correctly, and will be yet another triumph for unsound bidding ☹

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♠	2♦
2♠	Pass?	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West did well to bid 2♠ instead of a Negative Double, he could show the Hearts later if necessary. On the actual deal a Double is likely to lose the 5-3 Spade fit and get E-W to the hopeless 3NT. Over 2♠ North refrains from bidding 3♦, reasoning that it's obviously an E-W hand, and she does not especially want a Diamond lead.

**The Play in 4♠:** North leads the ♥2 to

West	North	East	South
		4♠	All Pass

It's unusual for a 4♠ preempt to contain so much stuff outside, and some might prefer to open 1♠. However, it's White vs Red, and the urge to preempt is awfully strong. After the 4♠ opening, West will start fantasizing about an East hand which has ♠AKQ and a Heart singleton (or lesser Spades and a Heart void). But trying for slam is more likely to get E-W too high and it seems to us that Pass is West's percentage call. On

West	North	East	South
			1♠
4♠	Dbl	Pass	??

North's Double shows some values, and it's a Double which South will pass with most hands, all the more so here with N-S being White vs Red. It may not be obvious at the table, but in this case South's winning call is 5♠, scoring 11 tricks and +400.

**The Play in 4♠ Doubled:** The defense leads Clubs and Declarer ruffs the second round. Declarer can get to Dummy only once. Is it clear to

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass

2♠ makes 8 easy tricks and there might even be 9 if the defense slips (by cashing the ♠AK before attacking Diamonds). But the question is "Did N-S give up too easily in the auction?" It's not obvious to us that they did.

Over 1♠, the North hand is not many people's idea of a vulnerable 2♥ overcall, but unsound actions sometimes work (see Boards 5 and 7). If North does indeed perpetrate a 2♥ overcall, then South will compete to 3♥, which

21

♠	
♥ A K J 8 7	
♦ K 10 9 5 3	
♣ 10 8 7	
♠ A Q J 8	♠ 6 5 4
♥ 9 5	♥ 10 6 4 3
♦ A J 7 2	♦ 8 4
♣ J 6 2	♣ K Q 4 3
	♠ K 10 9 7 3 2
<i>Dlr North</i>	♥ Q 2
<i>N-S Vul</i>	♦ Q 6
	♣ A 9 5

North will bail out to 4♦ and declare 4♥ (which will no doubt be doubled as a matter of principle). Down one for the same -200.

22

♠ 10	
♥ K Q 9 6 3 2	
♦ 5 3	
♣ 10 6 5 4	
♠ J 4 2	♠ A K 5
♥ J 8 4	♥ A
♦ A Q 10 9	♦ 8 7 4 2
♣ Q 9 3	♣ K J 8 7 2
	♠ Q 9 8 7 6 3
<i>Dlr East</i>	♥ 10 7 5
<i>E-W Vul</i>	♦ K J 6
	♣ A

unfortunate for N-S, as Declarer now has the timing for 9 tricks, and there may even be overtricks if South is having a bad day. The ♠J wins the first trick, and Declarer very cleverly leads the unblocking ♣9 to Declarer's King and South's Ace. Now, if South shifts to a Heart (she surely should), Declarer will grab his 9 tricks. But, if South persists with Spades, Declarer wins, crosses to the ♠Q, says a silent "Hallelujah!" for his far-sighted unblock as he finesses Clubs, and now has the timing for a Diamond finesse. As Declarer is on something of a roll he will finesse the Ten, get back to hand with a Spade, cash the remaining Clubs, and repeat the Diamond finesse, ending up with an absolutely whopping 12 tricks!

23

♠ K Q 3	
♥ Q 7 5 3 2	
♦ A 6 5	
♣ Q 7	
♠ A J 10 6 2	♠ 7 5
♥ J 9	♥ A 8 6
♦ K 7 2	♦ 10 9 8
♣ A 9 8	♣ K 10 6 5 4
	♠ 9 8 4
<i>Dlr South</i>	♥ K 10 4
<i>Both Vul</i>	♦ Q J 4 3
	♣ J 3 2

methods allow them to stop there) or in 2♠. If North overcalls 2♥ then she will be the one who goes minus.

24

♠ 5 3	
♥ 10 9 5 2	
♦ Q J 5 2	
♣ 7 4 3	
♠ A K Q 9 8	♠ J 7
♥ 8 4	♥ A Q J 7
♦ 9 6 4	♦ K 10 8
♣ A Q 10	♣ 9 8 5 2
	♠ 10 6 4 2
<i>Dlr West</i>	♥ K 6 3
<i>None Vul</i>	♦ A 7 3
	♣ K J 6

common sense prevails, and a Forcing NT auction gets E-W to 3NT from the East side. We suppose that South will lead a Heart and now Declarer can scarf up 11 tricks with careful use of entries and some deep Club finessing. The same number of tricks are also available on a Diamond lead but, in that case, Declarer is more likely to finesse Hearts, a relatively safe way to try for 10 tricks, though here it brings in only 9.

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Dbl	2♦	Pass	3♠?

All Pass

We've put a question mark next to the 3♠ bid, but perhaps the real question is "Why did the computer give us such a horrible deal?" Our West refrains from doubling 3♠ (why spoil a good thing?). The play will be miserable for South, she'll probably get out for down two, losing four trumps, ♦A and a Club (one Club goes on a Heart). If West gets greedy and doubles 3♠,

West	North	East	South
		1NT!	2♠
		3NT	All Pass

You don't have to approve of that 1NT opening with the singleton ♥A, just as others won't be too thrilled about opening One no-good-rebid Club or One yucky Diamond. So, 1NT it is, and that is followed by Two natural Spades and Three stopperless (and Lebensohl-inspired) No Trump. It's a hopeless contract after a Heart lead, but South will probably save the day by leading a Spade. That is most

South	West	North	East
Pass	1♠	Pass!	1NT
Pass	??		

First, let us congratulate North for not making an abominable overcall of 2♥! We all like to get into the auction, but surely not with this hand. Sure, North has 13 HCP but this hand is far from being a vulnerable 2♥ overcall ... rotten suit (a 6<sup>th</sup> one would have helped) ... three Queens (one of them a doubleton) ... no shape ... no fillers. The bottom line? If North passes then E-W will go minus in 1NT (if their

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
		3NT	All Pass

We just love to open 1NT! It's not to keep Partner from being Declarer (really!); it's because it limits our hand and preempts the opponents. 5-card majors are not an obstacle, but we have to draw the line somewhere, and it's hard to condone a 1NT opening with that West hand. The Spades are just too good, and there is the small matter of the wide-open red suits. So,

25

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

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

*Dlr North*  
*E-W Vul*

♠ A 7  
♥ Q 6 5  
♦ K Q J 6 4 2  
♣ 6 2

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

wins and a Spade is led from the board. Let's say that East plays low and Declarer wins with the ♠K. Now, a Heart ruff and another Spade. East takes his ♠A and fires back a Diamond, promoting West's ♠J. Nice defense, but it's still only three tricks (and a bad board) for E-W. See Board 8 for another trump promotion.

26

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

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

*Dlr East*  
*Both Vul*

♠ Q 10 7  
♥ J 10 8  
♦ J 9 8 5 3  
♣ 5 2

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

**Leaping Michaels:** Over Weak Twos, some use jumps to the 4-level to show various two-suiters. Over 2♦ one method is as follows:

4♣ 5 Clubs and a 5-card major (now 4♦ asks which major)  
4♦ 5-5 in the majors

This deal is a bad commercial for the convention; it gets E-W too high!

27

♠ K 7 6 2  
♥ 8 6  
♦ Q 9 4 3 2  
♣ 8 2

♠ A 10 5  
♥ A Q 3  
♦ 10  
♣ Q 10 7 6 5 3

*Dlr South*  
*None Vul*

♠ 9 8  
♥ J 10 9 7 5  
♦ J 8 6 5  
♣ K 9

♠ Q J 4 3  
♥ K 4 2  
♦ A K 7  
♣ A J 4

**The Play in Spades:** Although 4♠ is not a terrible contract, even 3♠ turns out to be too high. East leads the ♥J, and Declarer ruffs the third round. West ducks the first Spade, wins the second and exits a Spade. By now, North can count 10 tricks if the Diamonds run and might be about to castigate Partner for her feeble 3♠. But, when Diamonds are 4-1, it's only 8 tricks. Still, down one beats those in 4♠ down two, and it also beats the poor Souths who labor in the 3-2 Club fit after North passes 1♠.

28

♠ 5 4 2  
♥ 9 7 6 5 3 2  
♦ 10  
♣ J 10 4

♠ 9 6  
♥ A Q  
♦ 9 8 3 2  
♣ A Q 8 7 5

*Dlr West*  
*N-S Vul*

♠ A K 10 3  
♥ K 8  
♦ A K Q 6 5 4  
♣ 3

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

4♥ in this case. Google "minorwood redwood" if you'd like further details. Anyway, when the RKC ask reveals two Key Cards that's enough for East to take a shot at 7♠. 13 easy tricks!

West North East South  
Pass Pass 1♦ 1♠  
3♥ 3♠ Pass 4♠

**All Pass**

"Well done!" to those N-S pairs that somehow reached their Spade game! In the auction shown let's give credit to North for finding that 3♠ bid (yes, it really does pay to "support with support"!); South's 4♠ with her lovely 5-5 hand was relatively easy.

**Trump Promotion:** Against 4♠ West leads a top Heart and does best to shift to a Diamond. Dummy's Ace

West North East South  
2♠ 3♥? Pass 2♦  
Pass Pass Pass 4♥

North has a pretty good hand, but 3♥ is dangerous to say the least. However, North might get away with it this time. East leads a Spade and now two of North's Spade losers can be ruffed and the other one goes on the ♠A. With the ♠K onside Declarer loses just three trump tricks. If North passes, then 2♠ will be the final contract, probably making 8 tricks.

South West North East  
1♠ Pass 1♠ Pass  
3♠ All Pass

Nowadays, many (or most?) Norths, when holding a minimum hand, will bypass the Diamonds and respond 1♠. Our own North was that way inclined and now it was up to South not to get carried away by the fact that she had 18 HCP. She really should not, the hand is square and there is an alarming absence of Tens and Nines. We'd say that a rebid of 3♠ is plenty in the circumstances.

West North East South  
1♠ Pass 1♦ Pass  
2♦ Pass ??

As East, you now want to use Roman Key Card (RKC). What are your methods? Using 4NT in minor suit auctions does not work well, which is why many pairs use one of these:

**Minorwood:** In a forcing auction, 4 of the agreed minor can be played as RKC. This auction is not forcing, but a *jump* to 4♦ could qualify.

**Redwood:** Here, the RKC bid is 4 of the suit above the agreed minor, so

29

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

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

*Dlr North*  
*Both Vul*

♠ A J 6 2  
♥ A 3  
♦ A 9  
♣ K 9 8 4 3

♠ Q 8 5  
♥ 10 7 4  
♦ 10 7 6 5  
♣ A J 5

on Clubs immediately (in case he needs to ruff twice in Dummy) and eventually winds up with 10 tricks.

30

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

♠ 9 2  
♥ K Q 10 5 3  
♦ K J 9 2  
♣ J 9

*Dlr East*  
*None Vul*

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

♠ A 4  
♥ 4  
♦ Q 10 8 7 5 3  
♣ Q 8 3 2

the King; ♦A; Spade ruff; ♦K. Declarer now needs three tricks:

North: ♠Q ♥J76 ♣A

Declarer: ♥KQ ♦J9 ♠J

Dummy: ♥82 ♠765

South: ♦Q108 ♠Q8

Declarer plays a Diamond and, sooner or later, Dummy's ♥8 will score a trick. Well scrambled for +140!

31

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

♠ A J 6 3  
♥ Q J 8 7  
♦ 7 6 3  
♣ 5 3

*Dlr South*  
*N-S Vul*

♠ 10 7 4 2  
♥ 9 3  
♦ K Q 10 5 2  
♣ K 10

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

to try a Spade. Now, with the Clubs behaving, it's 9 tricks.

32

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

♠ Q 10 8 7 5 3 2  
♥ 9 8 3  
♦ J 8  
♣ J

*Dlr West*  
*E-W Vul*

♠ 10 7 6 4  
♥ K 9 7 6 3 2  
♦ K 4  
♣ A

♠ A  
♥ J 5  
♦ A 10 4  
♣ A Q 10 8 7 5 2

West North East South  
Pass Pass 1NT Pass  
2♠ Pass 2♠ Pass  
4♠ All Pass

Some might prefer to open 1♠ with that East hand, but our own East prefers to open 1NT as often as possible, and especially against vulnerable opponents (who may be leery about intruding into the auction). Either way, let's assume that East declares 4♠. South does not have an obvious lead, and may well guess to start with a low Heart. Declarer plays

West North East South  
1♥ 1♠ Dbl 1♦  
2♥ All Pass

East's rebid was a Support Double, showing 3 Hearts. West decided not to look for game, though more optimistic souls will make a try and find themselves toiling in 3♥. North might lead the ♠K or a Diamond, but either way Declarer can scrape up 9 tricks when the ♠A is onside. For example: ♠K; low to the ♠A; Heart to the Nine and Ace; Spade ruff; Club to

South West North East  
1♠? Pass 1♥ Pass  
1NT Pass 3NT All Pass

South might well have passed that Ten-less square 12-count and a more conservative North would have merely invited game (all the more so if South is prone to dubious opening bids). The combined N-S optimism gets them to a poor 3NT, and from the wrong side to boot (Diamonds are doubly stopped if North is Declarer). But West probably won't find the lethal Diamond lead, he's more likely

West North East South  
Pass Pass 1♠ 2♠?  
Pass 3NT? Pass 6♠?  
Pass Pass Dbl!? 6NT!?

**All Pass**

A really wild one to end the set, and we'll warn you that the auction above may be more entertaining than instructional! West sensibly passed and perhaps East should have done likewise. Even with that nice shape, we question committing to the 3-level when Red vs White, opposite a passed hand. 3NT and 6♠ were no

more than guesses (and maybe not even educated ones). How about East's Double? Yes, it asked for an "unusual lead" and West would have no trouble working out that East wants a Spade ruff (that beats 6♠ one trick). But South is not done yet! She converts to 6NT, which is a bid she might well have made previously (to protect a possible North Heart holding of ♥Kx or ♥AQ from the opening lead). 6NT is cold, of course.

**Bizarre Footnote:** Amazingly, 6NT still makes even if Declarer misplays the Club suit! Suppose that East fiendishly leads a low Club. Now the play goes: ♠A; lose to the ♠K; win the Heart return with the Jack; cash ♠A and all the Clubs; cross to the ♥A. Now, when North cashes the ♠K, East is squeezed in the red suits! 12 tricks the exotic way!