

ACBL-Wide Charity Pairs, March 12, 2013 • Set #94127

Analysis by Barry J Rigal

Board: 1
Dealer: N
Vul: None

♠ J 3 2
♥ A J 7 4 3
♦ K J 2
♣ Q 5

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

♠ A 5
♥ K Q 8
♦ Q 9 8
♣ A 10 6 4 3

Although there are still some die-hards who would pass the North cards, most will open 1♥ and hear a 1♠ overcall. South has too much to give up on slam; he should cuebid 2♣ to show a limit-raise or better in hearts, (which West might well double to ensure the spade lead) then raise his partner's non-forcing call of 3♥ to 4♥. It doesn't feel right for South to explore for 3NT here, and indeed 4♥ on a spade lead will surely prove one of the less challenging declarer-play hands of the day. Ten tricks will be achieved almost everywhere.

Board: 5
Dealer: N
Vul: N-S

♠ J 7 2
♥ A J 6 4 3
♦ K 8
♣ 5 4 2

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

♠ K Q 10 6
♥ Q 9 7
♦ A J 10 3
♣ K 6

After a strong notrump by South, North will transfer into hearts then offer a choice of contracts. But will he invite with 2NT at his second turn or jump to 3NT? Despite the absence of intermediates, the two honors in the long suit argue for the aggressive position. Still, it is pairs, and one needs to protect the plus score. The final contract should be 3♥ if North goes low, 4♥ if he takes the high road. Game can be defeated on a spade lead (though East might continue spades rather than shifting to clubs) but it might be allowed to make on a diamond lead, if the defenders are not careful.

Board: 2
Dealer: E
Vul: N-S

♠ Q J 10 6
♥ K Q J
♦ K Q 10 5 2
♣ A

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

♠ K 9 8 3
♥ 9 7 4
♦ A 4
♣ J 9 7 5

The natural approach with the North cards is to open 1♦ in fourth chair and raise a 1♠ response to...? 4♣ is a splinter-jump, but North is deficient in keycards for that call. Maybe a jump to 4♣ to show a 'balanced' hand would be a wiser course? Today the lie of the cards is extremely favorable for N/S and the only issue is whether anyone will sneak a second overtrick through. Maybe if West tries to be a hero at trick one and underleads the ♥A, he might lose it. The hearts might go on the diamonds.

Board: 6
Dealer: E
Vul: E-W

♠ Q 10 9 5 4 3
♥ A K
♦ K Q 7
♣ 4 3

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

♠ K 7 6
♥ 9 6
♦ J 10 5
♣ A Q J 9 6

Wars have been fought over whether South's cards constitute a non-vulnerable overcall of 2♣ over 1♥ (no-one would bid if vulnerable... would they?). Today, whether South bids or passes, North will get spades into play and South will help him reach game, so the argument must be postponed for another day. Against 4♣ the defenders must cash their aces early. While few tables may misdefend, I'm sure most travelers will see a +480 or two (and maybe the odd +200 from a missed game?).

Board: 3
Dealer: S
Vul: E-W

♠ 6 4 3 2
♥ K 3 2
♦ K Q 7
♣ 10 8 6

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

♠ A Q 7
♥ A J 6 5
♦ J 9
♣ J 5 4 2

You'd imagine N/S will bid unopposed: 1♣ - 1♠ - 1NT — All Pass. On a diamond lead to the queen and ace and a diamond return, declarer can try to go after clubs to establish his seventh trick. However, the defense can counter by shifting to spades at some point, leaving South with just six tricks when the spade finesse loses. One variation could come if East took his life in his hands and doubled 1♠. That might get his side to 2♦ — an easy make — but of course the auction may well not end there. A score of 100 for either side should matchpoint very nicely.

Board: 7
Dealer: S
Vul: Both

♠ Q 6 5 4
♥ K
♦ K Q J 8 5 3
♣ 7 6

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

♠ A 9
♥ 9 2
♦ A 10 9 4
♣ Q 9 8 3 2

However many diamonds North opens — I'd expect 1♦ to be popular but some will try 2♦ and maybe a few hotheads might open 3♦ — East will probably show the majors with a Michaels Cuebid and West rates to come to rest in 4♥. Of course a few Wests may justifiably get carried away and take their side to the extremely dangerous contract of 5♥. The trumps behave but West has to guess the spades, and if North has opened 1♦ declarer may well get them wrong. All things considered, +650 should score pretty decently for E/W.

Board: 4
Dealer: W
Vul: Both

♠ 8 5 4 2
♥ J 10 6
♦ A 3 2
♣ 8 7 4

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

♠ A 10 9 6
♥ A Q 7
♦ J 10 9 8 5
♣ K

Unless the West cards are in his range for a strong notrump, he will open 1♣ and East will respond 1♥. After a textbook double by South, N/S should be able to compete to 2♣, and it may not be straightforward for E/W to bid on to 3♣ over that. 3♣ is an easy make, with clubs lying in such friendly fashion — indeed some will concede the overtrick. By contrast, it would be much harder to bring home 2♠; declarer has no reason to pick off East's diamond honors, unless the defense give the game away.

Board: 8
Dealer: W
Vul: None

♠ K 3
♥ K J 8 7 5 4 2
♦ 7 3 2
♣ J

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

♠ 6 4 2
♥ 3
♦ A J 10 8 6 4
♣ Q 3 2

West's cards may not constitute a 1♣ opening, but many hate to pass at pairs at this vulnerability. Assume West opens and North bids 3♥ — as would we all — then East bids 3♠, and West should surely bid 3NT to slow the auction down. With the ♠K onside and the restricted choice position in clubs yielding six tricks for West, he has no fewer than 12 winners, though on a diamond lead his heart might be in his boots. 4♣ on a heart lead produces only 11 tricks (so long as South hops up with ♠A at trick two and ingeniously shifts to a low club, and North then covers the first spade!)

Board: 9
Dealer: N
Vul: E-W

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

I'm sure the scientists will tell you how to bid the West cards after hearing a 2NT opening bid. You start with Stayman and hear 3♠, then what next? A simple and practical call is 6♠, since if partner has even a moderate spade holding, slam can hardly be much worse than a finesse. Today, notrumps plays as well as spades; though one would rather be in 7♠ (or 6♠) than in notrump, the minor-suit squeeze comes through for you. Few will bid the grand slam off a key-card, so +1460 will be very common here.

Board: 13
Dealer: N
Vul: Both

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

South rates to open in third seat, and pass a 1♥ response, and that would get his side to a sensible enough spot. But West will balance with a takeout double, and that lets N/S find diamonds. East may now compete to 2♠ over that, but if we are looking at absolute par here, it is for N/S to go +90 in a diamond partscore. Still, if East plays 2♠ the defenders have to be relatively accurate do defeat that contract. They must lead trumps early, and avoid getting too active by opening up clubs — which would prove fatal.

Board: 10
Dealer: E
Vul: Both

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

You'd expect the auction to start with West opening 1♣ in third seat rather than a canapé 1♦, when he will hear 1♥ on his left, and 1♠ from partner. South will come to the rescue with a 2♥ call, leaving West with nothing intelligent to say despite his 16-count. If he passes, that rates to end the bidding, and the very favorable lie of all the critical honors means North can bring home +110. This looks good — but don't be surprised to see E/W down at least 200 at many tables in optimistic partscores.

Board: 14
Dealer: E
Vul: None

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

How many diamonds will West open in third seat? It would be unadventurous to open 1♦ — though it might work, I suppose. Most will pick a higher level of action. North rates to double a 3♦ opening; will he also double a 4♦ opening? Almost anything could happen here. Those who open the West cards 1♦ might buy the hand in 3♦, those who open higher may have the joy of defending a spade contract and taking up to seven tricks on defense. Almost no-one will make a contract here, though hearts plays very acceptably for E/W.

Board: 11
Dealer: S
Vul: None

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

The South hand is a fine one to pass in Standard American. Why open your worst suit and be stuck for a rebid over most any call that partner produces? If South does pass, he may nonetheless feel obliged to back in when his opponents bid and support diamonds. His side can take nine tricks in hearts, but are far more likely to play spades, a strain that can be defeated on heart ruffs. Meanwhile, E/W can bring home +110 in diamonds, so this rates to be a hard-fought partscore battle.

Board: 15
Dealer: S
Vul: N-S

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

A straightforward sequence should see West overcall 1♠ with 2♥, and North will then stretch to cuebid 3♥ to show a limit raise in spades — pessimists might treat it as a simple raise to 2♠. Today the pessimists win; 4♠ is a superb contract, but cannot succeed on the lead of ♦J (declarer does best to draw two rounds of trumps with the ace and jack, then play on diamonds). Even nine tricks may not be achieved at every table, so simply going plus as N/S will be worth a fine score.

Board: 12
Dealer: W
Vul: N-S

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

North's cards do not look like a classical weak 2♦ but many will feel obliged to get in fast. If they do, you'd expect South to look for a major-suit fit and settle for 3NT. This may appear unappetizing on a heart lead, but declarer can bring home his contract, thanks to the miraculous lie of the clubs and spades. 4♠ is another reasonable contract here too. If South plays to take one heart ruff in dummy he might be able to scramble ten tricks, on very precise reading of the cards.

Board: 16
Dealer: W
Vul: E-W

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

West will open 1♦ here, North is likely to overcall 1♥ rather than doubling (with limited values and a respectable five-card major it feels right to get the suit in) and East will raise to 2♦. South has just enough to double for takeout, and then a battle in the minors will either see West declare 3♦, down at least a trick, or North play 4♠, for +130. (Interestingly, 4♠ by South can be set on an unlikely initial trump lead, though East may have to rise with his ♥K when the suit is led from dummy so he can continue leading trumps.)

Board: 17
Dealer: N
Vul: None

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

Of course there is no such thing as a universal auction, but those playing Standard American are surely going to bid 1♣ - 1♥ - 1NT - 3NT, won't they? I grudgingly admire any South who leads a diamond rather than a spade — but a spade works much better today, since the defenders are now in position to take three spades and a heart. Indeed, if declarer misguesses hearts he will go down. On a diamond lead, though, East will have no reason not to play a heart to the jack and score +430 one way or another.

Board: 21
Dealer: N
Vul: N-S

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

Few will treat the East has an opener, but some will act with the South hand in third seat. (It is not clear to do so with such weak suits, because you run the risk of partner blowing a trick on opening lead) but whatever he does the E/W pairs ought to find their heart fit. Even if South can open to show his two-suiter, E/W should get to 4♥ with the minimum of inconvenience. In fact they might play the heart slam, where the fall of the ♦Q means 12 tricks are a pianola once the defenders cannot take a ruff.

Board: 18
Dealer: E
Vul: N-S

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

North will be allowed to open 1♠ in fourth chair at almost every table, and now South's response is going to be affected both by his system and his judgment. Some will bid 4♣, others will treat the hand as worth Drury, or a limit raise to 3♣, or even take the aggressive decision to make a splinter raise. Those pairs who do find their way to the 90% slam will feel victimized by the 3-0 trump break offside, which is all that stands between the slam being cold, and no play. Few will bid the slam — my sympathy to the unlucky ones.

Board: 22
Dealer: E
Vul: E-W

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

It is rare to predict that a particular deal will have a few redoubled contracts on it. But if East opens 4♣ and South doubles, might West redouble? I think so. However, after the 'normal' heart lead from South, there is no way to take more than nine tricks with the E/W cards. Some Souths will kick off with an ace, to look at dummy, and will regret their decision — 'in spades' so to speak. The cheapest phantom sacrifice for N/S is diamonds — down 800 on accurate defense.

Board: 19
Dealer: S
Vul: E-W

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

When South opens 1♥ and West overcalls 1♠ it looks normal enough for North to produce either a cuebid raise to 2♠ or a fit-jump to 3♦ — assuming the partnership have the call available (and that the suit quality is satisfactory). East might double the cuebid but can hardly act over the fit-jump, and South will surely bid 4♥ either way — hoping the defenders cannot cash three spade winners against him. Dummy has just enough to make ten tricks easy; 4♣ is a good sacrifice — but only if the opponents forget to double...

Board: 23
Dealer: S
Vul: Both

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

Another deal, another solid eight-card spade suit. This time however North can take 12 top tricks in spades. If you play strong jump responses, a sensible sequence might start: 1♣ - 2♠ - 3♣ - 3♠ - 4♥, with South cuebidding, facing North's description of his hand as a solid spade suit with extras. 6NT is just fine from the South seat, because declarer can establish his diamond winner without any jeopardy; the unlikely 6NT by North would need the club finesse if the defenders attacked that suit, but today the gods are smiling.

Board: 20
Dealer: W
Vul: Both

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

East has an unremarkable if minimum strong notrump in third seat, and despite the vulnerability I expect those who play Cappelletti or the like to act with a 2♥ call. If South bids, West will show an invitation or better in spades and E/W will have the choice of declaring 3NT or 4♣. While 3NT is hopeless on a diamond lead, South might start with a low heart and let the game through. 4♣ rates to lose two hearts and one trick in each minor, though the defense have to attack diamonds early. Making +140 as E/W should score very nicely.

Board: 24
Dealer: W
Vul: None

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

West must open 1♣ here, and after North produces a preempt in hearts you'd expect E/W to find their spade fit and for a series of cuebids auction to reveal the perfect fit. If East uses Blackwood, as you might expect him to do, the partnership can play 6♠ after finding the trump queen is missing. While the grand slam is tolerable enough, who wants to bid 50% contracts when merely reaching the small slam rates to give E/W an excellent matchpoint result? +980 will surely be close to a 75% score at most clubs.

Board: 25
Dealer: N
Vul: E-W

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

North has a normal opening bid of 1♣, over which East will surely bid 1♠ — though some may have an intermediate jump available at this vulnerability. However many spades East bids, West is likely to end up declaring 3NT at a sizeable percentage of the tables to try to right-side his 'vulnerable' club stopper. In fact, spades has play for 12 winners, needing decent breaks in both spades and diamonds, while 3NT never makes more than 11 tricks and on a bad day might be held to 10. Not today; +660 will score well, while +650 may be below average.

Board: 29
Dealer: N
Vul: Both

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

Most Norths will pass, rather than preempt in diamonds, letting East open either 3♥ or 4♥; I'd go for the latter because of the additional playing strength in the side suits. If East opens 3♥ West will raise to game, whereas if he opens 4♥ maybe West will take a shot at Blackwood, hoping for the perfect hand opposite. While 11 tricks might look easy, declarer has to take care of his slow club losers. He could play on spades or diamonds — but against accurate defense there is no legitimate route to a 12th trick.

Board: 26
Dealer: E
Vul: Both

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

After the East-West auction begins: 1♦ - 1♠ - 1NT, West may feel like converting to 2♣ as opposed to passing his partner out. He surely is not worth a game-try, is he? The notrump partscore can easily be held to 120 on a top club lead by South — though not everyone will find that. Conversely, you'd imagine spades would play horribly against the 5-1 trump break but declarer can take three hearts, a club and five tricks from the trump-suit one way or another, whatever the defenders do. +140 rates to score E/W respectably here.

Board: 30
Dealer: E
Vul: None

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

East-West will have an unopposed sequence on a deal where they should try to stop as low as they can in notrump. Even ten tricks might prove an impossible struggle on a spade lead after a club misguess. Still, if declarer finds the club queen he will have enough time to develop the 13th heart for +460. Few pairs will over-reach to slam, but I suspect every traveler will have the odd accident on it, one way or another.

Board: 27
Dealer: S
Vul: None

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

At this vulnerability South has a textbook (well, according to MY textbook) opening of 2♥, his somewhat feeble hearts being bolstered by the playing strength of the club suit. North rates to pass this call — though would anyone consider raising to 3♥? If North passes, he might be charmed to hear East balance with 2♠ —that may even end the bidding! Of course both East and West might do more; and the way the cards lie for them they cannot be prevented from scoring nine tricks at notrump. Few are likely to get there.

Board: 31
Dealer: S
Vul: N-S

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

I'm going to assume that very few Norths will elect to preempt in third chair (even in 2013 vulnerability still counts for something) so E/W can bid unopposed, perhaps with an auction such as: 1♦ - 1♠ - 2NT. South will lead a heart, and North can hardly do anything but continue the suit. After that start declarer has eight top winners but no more. The par spot for E/W is one that few will manage to reach: E/W can bring home +140 in spades with some good guesswork in the trump suit.

Board: 28
Dealer: W
Vul: N-S

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

The intermediates and five-card suit might tempt North into opening 2NT rather than 1♥ but whichever action he chooses, you'd certainly expect him to declare 4♥ at the vast majority of tables. With the defenders unable to attack clubs — in practice — declarer rates to be able to come to 11 tricks in hearts by discarding his slow club loser on the fourth spade. Any North who manages to hold himself to +620 will deservedly end up with a truly horrible matchpoint score.

Board: 32
Dealer: W
Vul: E-W

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

Yet another marginal preempt, since the West hand is not everybody's idea of a 2♥ opening. If he does bid, then East will raise to game and lose just the three top tricks when trumps behave. If West passes, it will be far harder for E/W to construct a convincing sequence to the heart game. And note that N/S have a cheap sacrifice in spades available — 4♣ is not without play in abstract, and even on today's hostile lie of the cards may well escape for -300.