Summer Instant Matchpoint Game

June 9, 2018 - Set 180709

Analysis by Sylvia Shi and Daniel Korbel



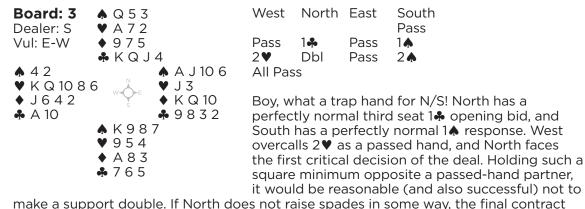


Sylvia Shi started playing bridge in 2011. Since then, she has a meteoric rise to the top. She won her first North American championship, the Lebhar IMP Pairs, in 2015, then quickly followed that up with a win in the Mixed Swiss Teams later that year. She won the Women's USBC in 2016 and 2017, the first win culminating in a Gold medal at the world championships. She has won the Women's Board-a-Match teams and the Women's Open Pairs. In 2017 she placed second in the Blue Ribbon Pairs, one of the most prestigious pairs events on the NABC schedule. She currently lives in Las Vegas and spends her time teaching bridge online and playing bridge at tournaments.

Daniel Korbel has won the Canadian Championships four times and represented Canada six times in international competition, including a silver medal in the Transnational Mixed teams in 2012. He has won two North American Championships and placed second in five others. He is a professional player with 16,000 masterpoints. Daniel has recently migrated from Canada and now he and Sylvia live in Las Vegas where he doesn't have to worry about shoveling snow!

Board: 1 Dealer: N	∧ K Q ∀ K 10 9 8 2	West 1 ♥	North Pass	East 1 ♠	South	Resu	Its of E	Board 1
Vul: None	♦ K 5 4 3 ♣ 9 8	Pass All Pas	2♦	Pass	3♥	Score N-S	s E-W	MPS N-S
		(both qualify may be biddin and nie If Nort are like	nands ha using t e difficu g game, ne tricks h passe ely to bu ass, Sout	ave only he Rule It for So but the sare the sand Eary the heth will o		 450 420 300 200 170 140 110 100 50		100 98 95 92 91 88 78 69 63 56
partscore. Finally, if both North and East pass, South will open either 1 or 2 and probably buy the contract in 3 . If South opens 2 and this passes back around to East, East should reopen with a double: maximum passed hand and good distribution. It can't be right to let the opponents play at the two level when they want to be there! If E/W do manage to steal the contract to 3 , this is slated for down one, but the slightest slip by the defense will let it through. In any case, any plus score for N/S will score above average, since it is very difficult to stay low enough on these promising-looking hands.							50 100 150 200 470	34 11 5 3 1 0

Board: 2 Dealer: E	♠ A 9 8 2 ♥ Q J 9 2	West North East South 1NT 3♣	Resul	lts of E	Board 2
Vul: N-S	♦ J 10 9 ♣ 10 9	All Pass	Score: N-S	s E-W	MPS N-S
<pre>♠ Q 7 6 3 ♥ 10 8 7 4 ♦ K 8 6 ♣ J 8</pre>	 ♣ 10 5 ♥ A K 6 3 ♠ A Q 7 5 3 ♣ K J 4 ♥ 5 ♠ 4 2 ♣ A Q 7 6 4 3 2 	East has a perfectly lovely 1NT opener (don't worry about the unstopped doubleton; if you have a bid that describes your hand type accurately, make it). Although South is vulnerable, it's hard to imagine wanting to let the opponents play at the two level with this hand, so even though it could work out poorly some of the time, South should jump directly to 3. to make life difficult for the opponents. This will get through West and North,	250 150 130 110 100 50		100 99 95 86 77 65 41 24 22
improve his	score. Three diamonds	st decides to take a chance and bid $3 \spadesuit$, this will will probably drift down one on a singleton heart ouble $3 \spadesuit$ and $3 \clubsuit$ is easy to make.		110 120 170 180	18 8 2 1 0



make a support double. If North does not raise spades in some way, the final contract will be 2Ψ by West, +140. If North does make a support double, the deal becomes a classic matchpoint battle. South will retreat to $2\clubsuit$, which is slated to go down two tricks, for -100. This would be a good result for N/S, since E/W have an easy +140 at many tables, and now East faces the second critical decision of the deal: if East doubles, she will get +300 for a sensational result, but if East timidly passes $2\clubsuit$ out, she will receive only 35% of the matchpoints.

Results of Board 3

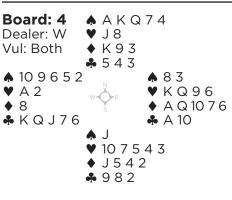
IMP

Scores

	000.0	_	
	N-S	E-W	N-S
			100
	110		99
	100		97
	90		95
	80		92
	Pass		90
1		50	83
		90	74
		100	65
		110	55
		120	50

120	50
140	31
150	10
170	6
200	5
300	4
500	2

...



West North East South

1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass

3♣ Pass 3NT All Pass

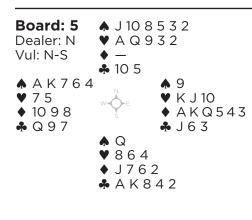
The West hand may have only 10 high-card points, but with the exciting 5-5 distribution it's a long-run winner to open the bidding. This has the twin effects of both silencing North as well as making it easy for E/W to bid to their cold 3NT. If East guesses to finesse the ◆Q for an overtrick, she will take 10 tricks, which looks like the correct guess if one is greedy, because even if the ◆10 forces the ◆K, the defense will probably be able to shift to

spades profitably on most layouts). However, if East gets cold feet and simply cashes her nine tricks, that will swing 30 more matchpoints to N/S. Woe to any North who tries a fancy Lightner double of 3NT asking for a spade lead-now East will have the pleasure of choosing between +750 and +950!

Results	of	Board	4
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	Score	S	IMP
	N-S	E-W	N-S
5,			100
	200		99
	100		97
		110	92
		130	87
ill		150	78
f		200	70
		500	67
		600	59
		630	29
es		660	5
е		750	3
		800	1
			\circ



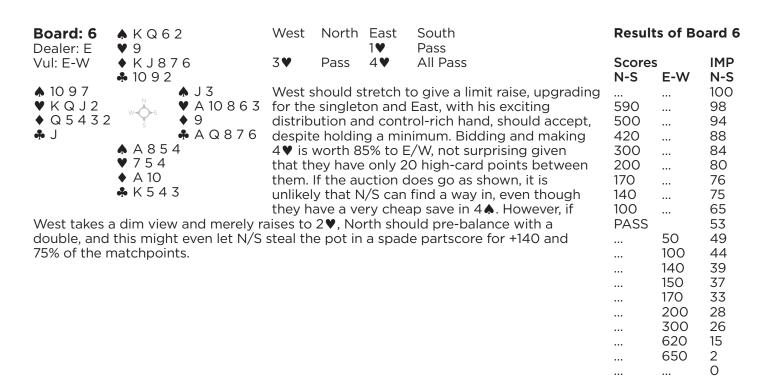
North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass
Pass	2♦	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass
	Pass Pass	Pass 2♦

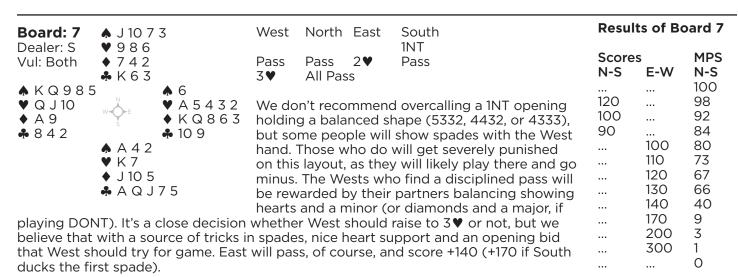
★ K J 10
 ★ A K Q 5 4 3
 ★ J 6 3
 What an unlucky deal we have here! For bidding to the excellent 3NT, E/W will get punished by going down two or three tricks. Those E/W who stop in 3 ♦ and make it will score very well (if a little undeservedly).

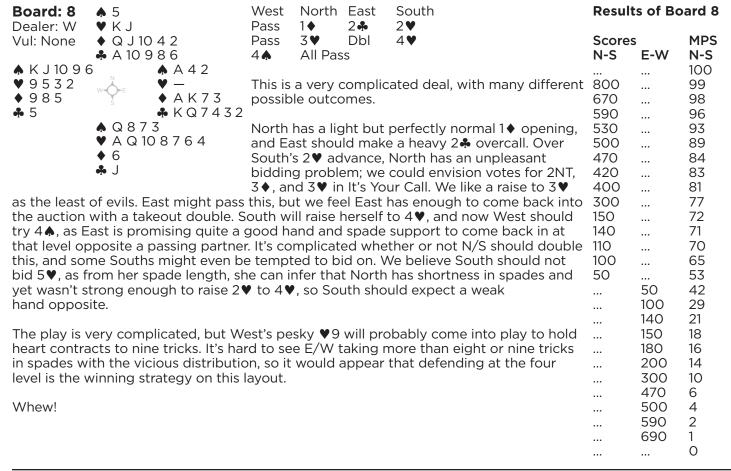
If West passes $2 \spadesuit$ (an error, in my view, with this good of a hand for diamonds), this may allow N/S to back into $3 \heartsuit$, which can be made with (very) careful play.

Results of Board 5

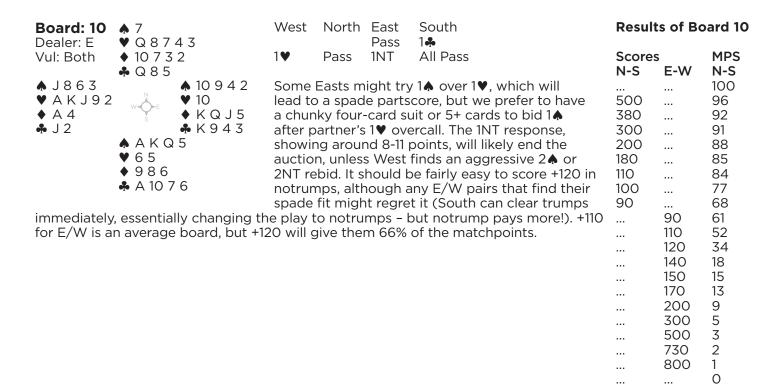
Score		MPS
N-S	E-W	N-S
		100
730		99
300		98
200		97
150		96
100		74
50		43
	90	33
	100	32
	110	26
	150	18
	200	16
	400	10
	430	5
	470	3
	500	1
		0

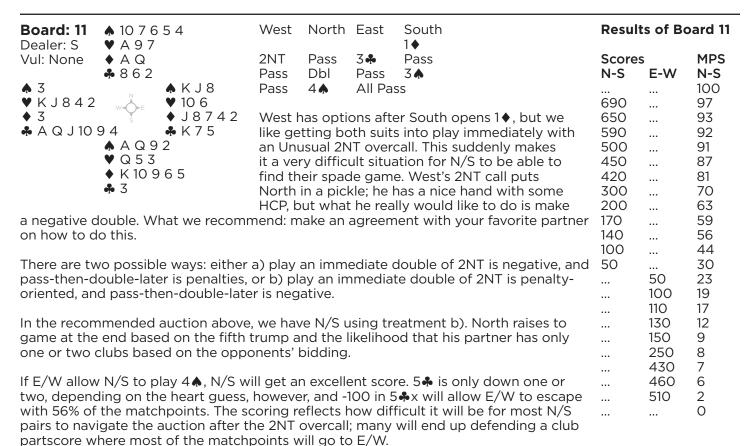


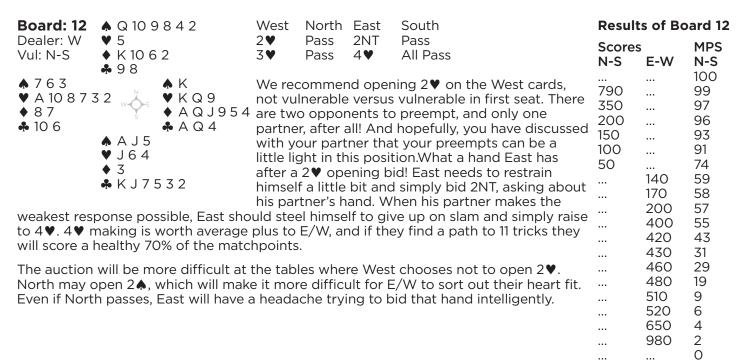




Board: 9	♠ Q 8 3 ♥ K 6 5 3	West	North Pass	East Pass	South 1NT	Resul	ts of B	oard 9
Dealer: N Vul: E-W	◆ 9 5 ♣ K 10 7 4	Pass Pass	2♣ 3♥	Pass Pass Pass	2♥ 4♥	Score N-S	s E-W	MPS N-S
♠ 10 5 4 2 ♥ Q 10	♦ KJ7 ♥ 74	All Pas	SS			 450		100 88
♦ K 7 6 4 ♣ A 8 3	♦ Q J 10 2 ♣ 9 6 5 2		•		commended sequence to y table that is using strong	430 420		77 68
	♠ A 9 6 ♥ A J 9 8 2				just enough to squeak out nce, although some Norths	400 210		60 59
	♦ A 8 3 ♣ Q J				y there for a poor result. If me in hearts, South has a hand	200 180		50 39
the fifth trui	mp should make this an	•	-		e of his notrump range, but . Following "eight ever, nine	170 150		29 14
never" will a	allow South to drop the	♥Q suc	cessfully	, y, and f	rom there it's straightforward South will need to guess to	140 120		7 4
play low fro	m the dummy, using the	power	of his s	oade sp	oots to hold his spade losers	90		2
	I making 4♥ is worth 68 Il give N/S a big board 8		e mater	ipoints	, and successfully taking an			0







Board: 13 ♠ K Q 5 2	West	North		South	Resul	lts of Bo	oard 13
Dealer: N	Playing start w with a presur show I chance hearts	vith a tw forcing mably 2 his game e for a c when h	e West vo-over- 1NT. Ea • , and e-invita lever bi e rebid	Pass Pass Pass hand is not strong enough to- one, and therefore must start ast must rebid a short minor, now West will likely try 2NT to tional strength. East now has a id: he has denied holding four 2, so 3, shows exactly three	Score N-S 200 100 		MPS N-S 100 99 98 96 94 92 91 88 86 78
hearts and a hand that wants to acce and the best contract will be reached bid, East has enough to scrape up a r	i. Even i	f West r	ebids o	only 2♥ over his partner's 2♦		600 620 630	62 46 39
If East doesn't find the 3♥ bid over 3NT, North will surely lead a club, all worth 62% of the matchpoints to N/	lowing					650 	19 0

VVOI (11 02 / 0 V	or the materipoints to 1	, 5.						
Board: 14	♠ A 7 3	West	North		South	Resul	ts of B	oard 14
Dealer: E Vul: None ♣ 5 ♥ A K ♠ Q J 10 9 6 ♣ A J 10	 108654 A872 Q 982 Q Q J92 K6432 K6432 K6432 KQJ1064 73 4 9875 	there inflict auction but who spade respondent	are thos maximu on). Wes hat else s one le nsive do n in the u	eryone se who um dam t is a lit can sh vel, and vuble, sl unbid s	2♠ Pass 's" 2♠ opener (although would open 3♠ to try to hage on the opponents' itle heavy for a 3♠ overcall e do? North will probably raised East should come in with a howing some points and some uits. This should cause West to a chance on 5♠.	140 100	E-W 50	MPS N-S 100 97 93 92 89 87 85 83 72 58 52
recommend excellent plant visualize thi set. Going p	ay of underleading in sp s possible defense in the	ter winn ades to e auctio e most c	ing a ro South t n, he m of the m	und of o get a ight eve	g trump control we trumps, North must find the club ruff. In fact, if North can en double 5♦ for the one-trick ints to N/S, but going -400 by		100 130 150 400 510 550	48 37 21 11 4 1

Board: 15 **♠** 8653 **♥** A 5 Dealer: S Vul: N-S ♦ KJ10862 ♣ Q **♠** 10 9 7 4 K 8 ♥ QJ97632 ♦ Q753 ♣ KJ432 **8** 8 7 5 AKQ2 **V** 10 4 ♦ A 9 4 ♣ A 10 9 6

West North East South 1NT 4♥ 5♦ All Pass

A wild one to be sure! There will be a lot of different results on this deal.

Over South's 1NT opener, we like a direct jump to 4♥ by West to put North into the most awkward position possible. Most people don't play negative doubles this high, but this hand is an example of why it's a good idea. Assuming double is penalties, we would expect most to try 5♠. It will be hard

for either East or West to compete further from here, although $5 \, \nabla$ doubled will not be expensive. In fact, simply making $5 \, \Phi$ will be a solid result for N/S. It's tricky to make: if you misguess diamonds, it appears you have three top losers, but you can recover by drawing only one or two rounds of trumps and one or two rounds of spades before exiting with a heart to West.

Any North South pairs who get to a spade game will score very heavily, and any E/W who get out for -500 or better will salvage some matchpoints on the board - but the only way for E/W to score big here is for N/S to stretch too high and go minus.

Results of Board 15

Score	S	MPS
N-S	E-W	N-S
		100
1100		99
750		97
650		93
620		79
600		67
500		62
300		53
100		42
	100	26
	200	10
	300	3
	400	2
	500	1
		Ο

Board: 16	♠ Q 10 8 3	3	West	North		South	Resul	ts of Bo	oard 16
Dealer: W Vul: E-W	♥ 10 9 5 ♦ A 9 3 ♣ 8 4 2		Pass Dbl	Pass Pass	1 ♠ 2 ♠	2♥ All Pass	Score N-S	s E-W	MPS N-S
depending (A A 6 ▼ K Q J 6 ◆ 5 2 ♣ 10 7 5 ses first and on whether	♥ 8 ♠ Q J 4 ♣ A K J 4 3 d then balance	round every the raise to shape defended by the control of the cont	of the a table, ur o 3♥ or and spa al, but Sy best ch out a w r tricks Spades nis gues	ntil Nort not. W ade valu ylvia wo ance at ay to de (which s will ta	re battle. We expect the first to be duplicated at almost th must decide whether to ith his minimum hand, square les, Daniel believes he should old raise. As it turns out, a big score is if they can efend 3♥ doubled and take might happen, especially ke eight or nine tricks, oes. It turns out 5♦ can be tithere.	 500 200 140 100 	 50 100 110 130 140 150 170 300 500 620	100 99 94 91 85 78 75 69 64 47 31 26 13 3

Board: 17	♠ Q 7 6	3	West	North	East	South
Dealer: N	♥ A K J	4		1♣	Pass	1♠
Vul: None	♦ K 9		2♦	2♠	3♦	All Pass
	♣ J 9 5					
★ K 9♥ Q 7 6◆ A Q 10 6♣ A 7 3	4 × 5 2 • 5 2 • 10 8 6		it is los hand s will pr South could with w overca	sing brid such as sobably k respond try a 1N' reak sto all the sa	dge to p South's oid 3 ♠ ds 1♠, \ T overd ppers a ifer 2 ♠	A opener, and we believe that bass 1A, not vulnerable, with a . If South jumps to 3A, West and play there, but when West will have a problem. He sall, but between two bidders and a minimum, we would . North and East raise their est must make a disciplined

pass of 3 ◆ rather than try for 3NT. The play should be easy: North leads a high heart, sees South's encouraging signal, and gives South a ruff. If South returns a low spade, West will have to guess to play the king to hold it to -50; -50 is average, but getting that extra undertrick would turn this into an excellent board for N/S.

Results of Board 17

Score	S	MPS
N-S	E-W	N-S
		100
500		99
470		98
300		97
180		95
150		92
140		89
110		85
100		78
90		70
50		52
	50	29
	90	15
	100	7
	110	4
	150	2
•••		0
		_

Board: 18 **♠** A 4 Dealer: E ♥ Q32 ♦ K952 Vul: N-S ♣ Q J 3 2 ♠ 76532 **109** 108764 **♥** A **♦** A Q 8 **♦** 43 ♣ K 10 9 7 ♣ A 6 5 4 ♠ KQJ8 ♥ KJ95 ♦ J 10 7 6 **8**

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2♦	All Pas	SS

Some Souths will open the bidding 1♦ (check out our video on the website if you would like an animated discussion between us as to whether this hand is an opening bid or not), but at many tables South will pass. West is dealt a clear-cut 1♠ opener, and North has a marginal takeout double. Some Norths will double, but Vul against

Not with a passed hand partner, this is not without risk. One possible auction is shown above, where East responds to the opening bid, but since three players each have a marginal do-I-or-don't-I action, there will be a number of different common auctions on this board.

Results of Board 18

E-W

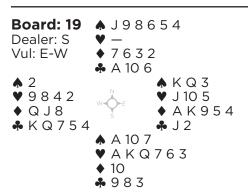
Scores

N-S

MPS

N-S

		100
630		97
180		92
150		88
140		84
130		81
120		74
110		64
100		53
50		44
	80	33
	90	27
	100	19
	110	11
	200	8
	300	6
	400	3
	470	2
		0



West	North	East	South				
Pass	1♠	2♦	1♥ Dbl				
3♦	3 ^	Pass	4 🖍				
All Pass							

If N/S are playing support doubles, we expect the auction to go this way at most tables. With his exciting distribution and knowledge of the ninth trump, North should not be afraid of competing to the three level despite holding only 5 HCP. With his source of tricks and singleton diamond, South should definitely raise 3 to 4 to 4 to the should

be made on careful play. And that, folks, is how a good 18 HCP game is reached! (For a good explanation of how support doubles are used, visit Larry Cohen's site.)

Results of Board 19

Score	es	MPS
N-S	E-W	N-S
		100
630		99
590		97
500		96
420		81
200		62
170		46
140		31
110		26
	50	21
	100	11
	110	4
	150	2
		Ō

Board: 20 West North East South ♥ KQ643 2 ♣ Dealer: W 1 5 5 Vul: Both ♦ 765 4 Dbl ♣ Q 10 7 5 4 Pass 6 -**Pass** Pass ♠ Q 9 8 5 4 3 2 ♠ A K 10 7 6 Pass **Pass** Dbl 6 **A V** 10 5 J 7 2 All Pass **♦** J8 ♦ KQ432 ♣ J 8 This is the wildest board of the set. Hold on to vour hats! **♥** A 9 8 ♦ A 10 9 East has a normal 1 opener, South a normal 2 4 ♣ AK9632 overcall, and West a normal, if freakish, jump to 4.

We believe it would be overly optimistic as North to bid $6\clubsuit$, as South doesn't need a hand anywhere near this good to overcall $2\clubsuit$. East has learned of "big" spade support from her partner's $4\spadesuit$ call, and this should lead her to bid $5\spadesuit$: either it might make opposite the right hand, or else it could be a profitable sacrifice, as it's very unlikely to go down more than two, and $5\clubsuit$ will often make.

Now things get interesting. South will surely double $5 \, \text{\ref A}$ holding all those aces, and it's up to North. North should think, "What is South doubling on?" On this auction, it's very unlikely to be based on a lot of spade values, and therefore South will most often have quick tricks — aces and kings. That's just what the North hand needs to have a chance at slam, and we recommend North now take a chance at $6 \, \text{\ref A}$.

This will probably pass around to West, who should figure that $6 \, \text{\ref h}$ is surely making, as partner couldn't double it, and if partner thought $5 \, \text{\ref h}$ was going to be a sensible contract, then surely going down in $6 \, \text{\ref h}$ is better than the opponents making $6 \, \text{\ref h}$.

Although it will happen at some tables, most of the time the auction will not reach the seven level, although 7. is cold.

rewarded with a 75% score.

Board: 21 Dealer: N	♠ A 10 7 3 ♥ 10 7	West North East South Pass Pass 1♥	Resul	ts of Bo	oard 21
Vul: N-S	♦ Q 6 4 2 ♣ J 8 6	1NT All Pass	Score N-S	s E-W	MPS N-S
★ K 8 2♥ A 6 5◆ A 10 7 3♣ K Q 5	 A J 9 V J 4 2 K J 9 5 ↑ 7 4 3 2 A Q 6 5 4 V K Q 9 8 3 ♦ 8 ↑ A 10 9 	We expect this auction to be repeated at almost every table, unless N/S are playing Flannery (ther they may end up defending 2NT or playing in a spade contract, both excellent outcomes for N/S) North will lead a heart against 1NT, and South will clear the suit. If West plays the opening bidder for the $\ \$ Q, he will surely go at least one down, but if West finds the $\ \$ Q, he can use the entries	200 . 150		100 99 98 91 83 80 69
continues ♦		to lead toward his club suit. However, if the play my, club toward the king, and diamond back to the		90 100	25 17
dummy, who and cash his afford to ba diamond. Th has happend hand for one	en West leads another of shearts. The run of the re down to a singleton his will sever West's link ed, he will exit his last c e down. +50 for N/S wi	lub toward his hand, South can rise with the Annearts will squeeze West in a strange way: he can't K, so West will be forced to discard a spade and to his seventh trick, so if South can work out what ub and endplay West into leading spades from his libe a very common result, and splits the matchpoir e contract or defeating 1NT two tricks will give N/S	 3 ts	110 120 150 180 200 300	13 10 8 6 4 1
		If West finds a way to limp home in 1NT, he will be			

Results of Board 20

Scores

MPS

N-S	E-W	N-S
		100
1740		97
1660		94
1390		84
1150		75
680		73
640		68
500		53
200		25
190		8
100		6
	620	4
	790	1
		0

Board: 22 ♠ Q J 6 4 2 Dealer: E ♥ J 5 4	West	North	East Pass	South Pass	Resul	ts of Bo	oard 22
Vul: E-W	and w 2NT to East m by rais with h	ith her k 3NT in night co sing to 4 er minir	2 ♦ 2NT ss as a stropalance istead consider the 4NT, but mum co	Pass Pass ong enough hand to open 24, d hand should raise East's of rebidding her heart suit. trying one more time for slam t West will probably pass that bunt. Slam is not very good	Score N-S 200 100	E-W 600 650 660 680 690 710	MPS N-S 100 99 89 79 77 70 62 46 32
and hearts. For the percentages mavens out there, the percentage play for six tricks in the heart suit is to play hearts from the top, and the percentage play for one loser in diamonds is to taken two finesses through South — so by playing correctly, 12 tricks will be made. E/W need to make at least 12 tricks in notrump to salvage an average plus (getting to 4Ψ or taking only nine tricks leads to a below average result).						720 1100 1370 1430 1440 1460 1470	27 22 20 16 9 4 2

Board: 23 ♠ Q 9 8 6 Dealer: S ♥ J 9 5 3 2	West North East South	Results of Bo	oard 23
Vul: Both ♦ 8 7 5 2 ♣ —	1♦ Dbl 1♠ 4♥ All Pass	Scores N-S E-W	MPS N-S
 ★ K 2 ★ A J 10 4 3 ★ 4 ★ J 10 7 ★ 9 4 3 2 ★ 7 5 ♥ Q 10 8 6 ★ A K Q 8 6 5 this will lead to -100 in 4♥ and an 80 	This board will have a wild result at many tables, depending on exactly what North and East decide to bid, and what E/W decide to lead. In the example auction, North decides to get both majors in the picture (we don't recommend passing 1 ◆ with such exciting distribution, despite holding only 3 HCP), but this allows East an opportunity to introduce his spade suit. If West then leads ♠ K, 2% board for E/W.	990 930 790 730 670 650 620 500	100 98 96 88 78 73 70 63 58
	vill place East on lead, and he is sure to lead the ♦ J,	200 170 140	50 42 36
	e final contract with his powerful hand, and there Os which is why +620 is only average plus.	110 100 100 110 200 500 730	32 27 21 15 7 2 1 0

Board: 24 • 9 4 2 West North East South **Results of Board 24** Dealer: W ♥ KJ104 1 ♦ **Pass** 1 Pass 2NT 3 **MPS** Vul: None **♦** J875 Pass Pass Scores 3♦ 4% N-S **&** 86 Pass Pass E-W N-S **♠** KQ876 ♠ A 10 4 All Pass 100 ♥ A 8 5 Y 62 150 99 ... ♦ AQ10642 3 This is another deal where it's difficult to predict 100 97 ♣ K 5 ♣ A J 10 7 3 the final contract. West may choose either to jump 50 92 **♠** J 5 3 to 2NT or 3♦ at his second turn; we prefer 2NT, 130 88 ... ♥ Q 9 7 3 as the hand is semi-balanced and 3NT is the most 72 400 ... **♦** K 9 likely final contract to aim at. East will check back 420 56 ... ♣ Q 9 4 2 for a spade fit, find none, and probably introduce 430 52 his club suit, hoping for a suitable hand for a club 450 42 ... slam opposite. West, envisioning 5-5 distribution opposite, should preference back to 460 29 ... spades at this point, trying to slow the auction down, and East should reluctantly pass. 480 21 ... Twelve tricks are possible if the diamond finesse is taken to discard a heart, and this 490 11 ... will bring E/W an 80% board. E/W may reason that simply getting to spades is a good 520 4 result, and decide not to risk the diamond finesse if a heart is led; in that case, taking 3 800

2

1

0

980

990

...

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Bridge is a funny game: sometimes the best contract is 3NT despite holding an eight- or nine-card major suit fit, and sometimes the best contract is four of a major despite not having a major-suit fit.

11 tricks in spades will still be average-plus for E/W. Landing in 3NT, however, will score

very poorly unless E/W manage to avoid a heart lead.

Board: 25 ♠ J 5 Dealer: N ♥ K 10 9 8 2	West	North All Pa		South	Result	ts of Bo	oard 25
Vul: E-W	at ma	1♥ 3♥ All Pas eal will ny table	Dbl Pass ss become s. After	2♥ Pass e a gritty partscore battle West's routine fourth-seat	Score: N-S 200 150 140	E-W 	MPS N-S 100 98 95 88
♠ K 7 4♥ J 7 5♦ A 9 8 5♣ K 9 4	opening bid, N/S will compete to at least 2♥. We believe North should take the push to 3♥, expecting 2♠ to be making often enough for it to be the winning action. E/W have a difficult decision, but as West, we would compete to 3♠,					 50	81 77 70 63 58
hoping for that contract to be a go in the East hand, if North leads the hold a much more suitable hand.						100 110 140 150	51 42 26 14
In any case, E/W need to score at leat 75% of the matchpoints.	east +1C	0 for an	n averag	ge board, with +140 clocking in		170 300 730	8 3 2 0

Results of Board 26 Board: 26 ♠ Q 6 4 West North East South Dealer: E ♥Q853 **Pass Pass 1 V MPS** Vul: Both ♦ AJ63 1 🍁 Pass Pass **Scores** 1NT ♣ K Q All Pass N-S E-W N-S ♠ A 5 2 **♠** J 10 7 100 ... **♥** 9 2 A K 10 7 4 North would love to be able to get into the 100 95 ♦ KQ875 **♦** 9 4 auction, but may not find a sensible way to do 90 80 ♣ A 6 3 ♣ J 9 2 so. We believe it is okay with a hand like North's 100 67 ... **♠** K 9 8 3 to make an offshape takeout double of 1♦, 110 52 ... **♥** J 6 intending to live with the consequences if partner 32 120 ... **♦** 10 2 chooses clubs, but passing is certainly more 140 22 ... **4** 10 8 7 5 4 prudent. Here, getting involved in the auction 16 150 could be very expensive for N/S, especially if 180 11 ... E/W can figure out to double. 200 10 ... 8 380 ... The play is very complex, but a huge number of matchpoints depends on whether 500 6 ... or not N/S can stop an overtrick in 1NT. North has no obvious lead, since both his 600 3 suits have been bid by the opponents, and we would try a spade as the least of evils. 1 800 0

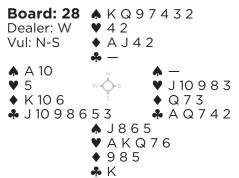
Although this lead isn't wonderful for N/S, it does at least avoid helping West to guess the heart suit.

West can always come to at least eight tricks on his own if he guesses well, but for those Wests who face a non-heart lead and misguess the hand to hold themselves to seven tricks, a 20% board will be their fate.

Board: 27 Dealer: S	♦ 8 ♥ Q J 10 8 4	West	North	East	South Pass	Resu	Its of B	oard 27
Vul: None	♦ A Q J 7 2 ♣ A 4	1 ♦ 1NT	1 ♥ 2 ♦	1 ♠ Pass	Pass 2♥	Score N-S	es E-W	MPS N-S
<pre>♠ 9 2 ♥ K 7 6 ♦ K 9 8 3</pre>	A Q 6 5 4 ♥ A 9 ♦ 6 5			North w	vill introduce his diamond	 800 570		100 99 98
♣KQJ6	♣ 10 8 3 2 ♠ K J 10 7 3	suit in we be	to the to lieve he	eeth of is supp	530 500		97 96	
	♥ 5 3 2 ♦ 10 4 ♣ 9 7 5	an eas	sy corre	ction to	exture in his suits. South has 2 V , and this will be passed his 10 nice-looking HCP,	470 420 300		92 89 86
will be a wir	nner, although if 2 🏚 get	is an eas	sy make	, any de	d compete one more time, ecision by East to compete ave to scamper out to 2NT	200 150 140		83 78 73
	oid Souths might raise d				n we don't like once East's	110 100 50		69 57 41
	a game try, hoping for				nere South raises, North may osite, automatically getting		50 100 110 150	29 14 5 3
	making 2♥ will be worth ing minus on the N/S ca				+50 or +100 will be closer to 0% score to E/W.		300	3 1 0

Results of Board 28

	Scores		MPS
	N-S	E-W	N-S
			100
	790		99
	650		95
	620		87
	300		67
	100		48
•	50		43
		100	35
		200	20
		300	13
		400	12
		500	6.
		550	1
			0
			•



All Pass

Some people have stringent suit-quality or hand-strength requirements for preempts, but we say if it looks like a preempt in first seat, it's a preempt! The effect of a 3. opener will be to accelerate the auction dramatically. North has to choose between an overbid of 4., or a weird 3. overcall, but in either case, East will surely bid 5. or even leap directly to 6.

South

5

Dbl

North East

5 %

6.

3 **A**

Pass

South has a very good hand for North, but the singleton \clubsuit K is unlikely to be carrying full weight — on this type of auction, often both North and South are dealt a singleton in the opponents' suit, so discretion is the better part of valor here.

West

3**%**

Pass

Although in the example auction, East's 6. call is a phantom sacrifice (as long as West remembers to cover the diamonds when they are led from the dummy), it's hard to blame him, as usually 5. will be a very easy make, and it's hard to imagine 6. doubled being very expensive at all. In fact, +100 against 6. x is a 48% score for N/S. If N/S err by going on to 6. E/W can secure quite a good board by defending, but taking insurance in 7. x will get N/S back to 67%.

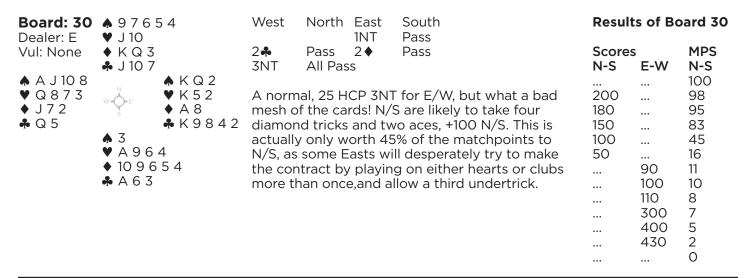
At the tables where West does not open, a 4 h opener by North is likely to steal the pot, giving N/S at least an 87% board. A 1 h opener will allow East to overcall a Michaels 2 h, but it's hard for West to imagine that his partner's suit is clubs (!), so N/S may still buy it in 4 h at those tables as well.

if a club is led, N/S will get at least 80% of the matchpoints, while on any other lead

Score one up for the 3♣ preempt.

E/W will get over 95% of the matchpoints.

Board: 29 Dealer: N	↑ 10 9 2 ♥ 10 4 2	West North East South Pass 2♦ Pass			Results of Board 29			
Vul: Both	♦ 65 ♣ A K 9 7 6	2NT 3NT		3♦	Pass	Score N-S	s E-W	MPS N-S
A K Q 4▼ A Q 8◆ A Q 8♣ Q 3 2	↑ 7♥ 65♦ KJ97432♣ J 5 4	just to	se colors o threadl	500 200 100		100 99 93		
4 Q 3 2	♠ J 8 6 5 3 ♥ K J 9 7 3 ♦ 10	us. However, we would compromise and open 2 ♠, a diamond long and a few high-card points short. West, with his beautiful hand, should enquire with 2NT. When East gives the most negative response possible, West should give up on slam and simply settle for 3NT.					 170 240 600	79 69 68 66
	4 10 8						620 660 690	64 58 44
and if he gu working), he	esses to finesse hearts i e will emerge with 13. Tv	n the er velve tri	ndgame (cks is wo	or play	denly West has 12 top tricks, y for a squeeze, which is % for E/W, while all 13 is where E/W end up in slam;		720 1370 2140	22 4 1 0



Board: 31	West	North	East	South Pass	Resul	ts of Bo
Vul: N-S	2♥	2NT	All Pa		Score N-S	s E-W
♠ 2 ♥ A Q 9 7 6 2 ♦ J 9 8 7 6 ♦ K J 6 5 3 ♥ 8 5 4 ♦ K 3	consid	ler eithe	er passi	ent deal! Some Wests might ng or opening 3♥, but we the chunky six-card suit.	 500 300	
♣ 2 ♣ KJ5 ♠ 1087 ♥ J	North balanc	will pro ed han	bably c d, and E	overcall 2NT with his 17-point East has a decision. While	150 120	
◆ A 10 5 2 ◆ 9 8 6 4 3	bid to trump	the thre s, the de	ee-level efensiv	dea to raise a weak two- holding nine combined e nature of East's hand,	100 50 	 100
that defending might here be the be at least one trick, while 2NT has no duck the first two rounds of hearts	etter op chance	tion. Ar to make	nd so it e as Ion	g as West can work out to		110 140 200 400

Should West, with his exciting hand, bid again over 2NT? It's possible that this is the winning action, but it sounds from the auction that the hearts may be poorly placed, so if West does not catch a good fit in a red suit, getting doubled at the three level could be very expensive.

+100 defending correctly against 2NT is worth a juicy 77% board for E/W, but misdefending to let it make is worth only 27%. 3♥ going down one is approximately average (depending on whether it's doubled), so we suppose for anyone who doesn't trust his own defense skills, competing on to 3♥ might be the winning action.

oard 31

MPS

	-	
N-S	E-W	N-S
		100
500		99
300		91
150		79
120		73
100		62
50		40
	100	23
	110	19
	140	15
	200	8
	400	4
	500	3
	800	1
		0

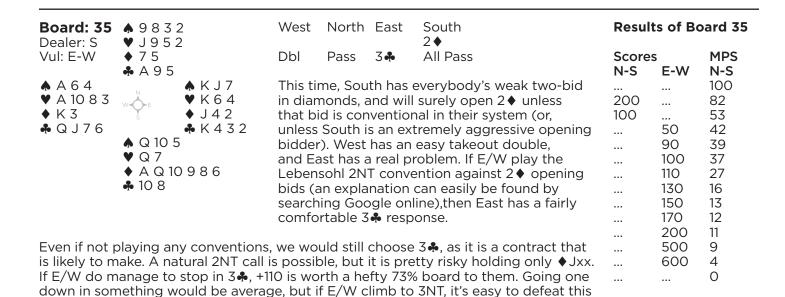
Board: 32 Dealer: W	♠ A 10 6 3 ♥ K 9 3	West Pass	North 1 ♣	East Pass	South 1♥	Results of Boa		oard 32	
Vul: E-W	◆ K Q J 8 3	Dbl Pass	Rdbl Pass	Pass 2♦ Dbl	4♥ All Pass	Score N-S	s E-W	MPS N-S	
<pre> KQJ2 7 QJ52 9654 </pre>	♦ 9 7 4 ♥ A 10 ♦ A 8 4 3 ♣ A 10 7 2 ♦ 8 5 ♥ Q J 8 6 5 4 2 ♦ K 10 7 6 ♣ —	step in takeou and re card h lot and	nas just nto the a nt doubles doubles eart sup d we hig oly com	800 690 630 590 450 420 200		100 99 97 94 81 62 34 9			
South, with his fabulous distribution and knowledge of a 10-card fit, should waste no time in leaping to 4∇ , and now West's frisky action might come back to haunt him: we know that as East, we would have a lot of difficulty reaching for a pass card instead of a double card.						110	50 100	4 3 1 0	

In fact, this contract will be doubled so many times that +420 for N/S is worth only a 34% board; +590, on the other hand, will be worth 81%. To salvage this board undoubled, N/S will have to find a way to sneak an 11th trick, something that should be impossible as long as West leads from his obvious spade sequence.

Board: 33 ♠ Q J 7 Dealer: N ♥ J 6 4 2	West North East South Pass Pass 1♣				Resul	Results of Board 33			
Vul: None ♦ Q J 9 3	1♦	1 ₩	Pass	2♥	Score	s	MPS		
♣ A 6	3♦	Dbl	Dbl	All Pass	N-S	E-W	N-S		
♦ A 10 6 ♦ 8 5 3 2							100		
♥ K Q 10				the final contract could be	1100		99		
♦ A K 10 7 5 2 ♦ 8 4				are tantalizingly close to	960		98		
♣ 7				of their cards is such that	800		96		
∧ K 9 4	the or	nly game	e that h	as a chance is 3NT. They	550		92		
♥ A 9 8 7	might	get the	re, too:	if South aggressively jump	530		90		
♦ 6	raises	1♥ to 3	♥, Nort	th should surely offer 3NT as	500		88		
♣ K Q J 8 3	a cont	ract, an	d it wo	uld be up to South to decide	420		86		
	to pas	s, figurii	ng that	North can infer his diamond	400		79		
	shortr	ness fror	n the a	uction.	300		68		
					150		62		
3NT is an excellent contract that wi	II very li	kely ma	ke, as e	ither West will plug away at	140		57		
his diamonds, conceding the ninth					120		53		
red suits by leading a heart toward					100		44		
, ,	,					50	29		
At the tables where South raises or	lv to 2	. West	will like	ly try again with his strong		100	12		
hand and compete to 3♦. Where N						180	2		
so, and this will lead to +300 and a						470	1		
be an artificial game try (a "maxima	al" doub	le), the	N/S de	cisions are much more			Ö		
awkward. It would not surprise us to at those tables, depending on exac									

Finding a way to go plus on the N/S cards automatically assures them a reasonable board, but for the many pairs in 4Ψ , even -50 is worth only 29% of the matchpoints.

Board: 34 ♠ Q 5 3 West North East South **Results of Board 34** Dealer: E **V** 10 8 6 5 2 **Pass** 1 Pass **4 V MPS** Vul: N-S ♦ AQ962 Dbl 4 Scores **5 V 5** N-S N-S Pass Pass E-W ♠ AJ2 **∧** K 10 9 7 4 Pass Dbl All Pass 100 **♥** Q 3 Y 99 1660 ♦ K843 J 10 7 • What a wild deal! This is the type of hand where 1460 97 ♣ K843 ♣ Q 10 7 5 2 anything can happen. The example auction is just 1430 93 **\$** 86 one of many possible auctions that will occur on 1200 90 ... ♥ AKJ974 88 this deal. North has a clear 5♥ call, in our view, 1100 **\$** 5 once his partner is likely to be short in spades 850 84 ♣ A J 9 6 based on the auction, since 5♥ will very often 78 800 be making. East must guess what to do; we have 680 66 ... a lot of sympathy for a 5 \(\hbigoldon \) call, hoping for a double fit in the black suits, but here 650 42 ... this could turn out disastrously. If N/S manage to double 5♠ and lead their singleton 620 26 ... diamond, accurate defense will lead to +800 (North wins ♦ Q, returns ♦ 2 for a ruff, 500 22 ... ruffs the club return, returns ♦6 for another ruff). 300 19 ... 18 200 ... It turns out that 11 tricks is the expected result for N/S in hearts, and since it's not 100 11 that easy for E/W to do better, +650 is worth only 42% for N/S. As seen in the 200 3 ... example hand, there will be some who go for a number E/W, there will be some 600 1 ... whose sacrifices end up costing less than the +650 that is North-South's due, and 0 ... there will be some N/S pairs who get pushed to slam and may even make it on a



non-spade lead.

two tricks, which will give N/S the gift of an 82% board.

Board: 36 Dealer: W	♦ J84 ♥ J8	West North East South 1 ◆ 1 ♥ 3 ◆	Results of Board 36			
Vul: Both	♦ K Q 9 2 ♣ A K 10 7	All Pass	Score: N-S	s E-W	MPS N-S	
A Q 10 6♥ 10 9♦ 8 7♣ 8 6 5 4 3	 ♠ K 7 3 ♦ A K Q 7 3 ♦ J 6 ♠ Q J 2 ♦ 9 5 2 ♦ 6 5 4 2 ♦ A 10 5 4 3 ♠ 9 	We recommend South jump to 3♦ after East's 1♥ overcall, assuming N/S are using weak jump raises in competition (highly recommended, since a cuebid of the opponents' suit can serve as a limit raise or better in diamonds). This gives East a real headache: he will feel pusillanimous passing this out, but doubling back in to the auction might easily lead to trouble. This decision is surely a class one and we would personally	870 400 300 200 130 110 100		100 99 98 96 89 77 67 51	
is surely a close one, and we would personally double back NV but pass VUL. It turns out that both 3 ♦ and 3 ♥ should go down one, although we can envision an accident at many tables where East woodenly continues with a "safe" heart at trick three, instead of visualizing spade tricks disappearing on clubs.				110 140 150 170 180	26 21 17 12 7	
	a or viouanzing space t	Total disappearing on stabs.		200	3	

0

If E/W manage to defend $3 \spadesuit$ and defeat it a trick, they will have earned themselves a 67% board, and even competing to three of a major and failing by one trick will be average. Allowing $3 \spadesuit$ to make, often with an overtrick, will transfer most of the match points N/S, and at the tables where North somehow works out to double E/W at the three level for +200, a 90% board will be his reward.