Board # 1

Dealer: North

Vulnerable: None

NORTH
♠ AK8432
♡ T
♢ A95
♣ A62

WEST
♠ 96
♡ K862
♢ KJ763
♣ 83

HCP: 15
7 11
7

EAST
♠ 75
♡ AJ7
♢ T2
♣ KQJT75

HCP: 7
11 7
7

SOUTH
♠ QJT
♡ Q9543
♢ Q84
♣ 94

HCP: 15
7 11
7

N-S have 22 combined points.
Suitable Level: Partscore

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	8	8	4	4
♠	10	10	2	2
♡	7	7	6	6
♢	6	6	6	6
♣	5	5	7	7

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♠n	K♣	=	420	
	4♠n	K♣	=	420	
	3♠n	A♡	+1	170	

North opens 1♠ and East overcalls 2♣. South has only seven points, all of them 'soft' (no aces or kings), but knows the value of letting partner know about an eight-card fit, so should certainly raise to 2♠. West passes and North has 15 and extras: a singleton, the ace in an opponent's suit, and a good six card suit. This hand is worth a re-raise to 3♠ at least, likely 4♠ is best. A third round club ruff in dummy along with six spades and the two minor suit aces is nine tricks, with a chance at a tenth in diamonds.

Board # 2

Dealer: East

Vulnerable: N-S

NORTH
♠ QJT
♡ -
♢ JT52
♣ KQJ642

WEST
♠ 9853
♡ AJ3
♢ AKQ73
♣ 5

HCP: 10
14 6
10

EAST
♠ A4
♡ QT876
♢ 964
♣ 873

HCP: 14
6 14
10

SOUTH
♠ K762
♡ K9542
♢ 8
♣ AT9

HCP: 10
14 6
10

Highcard points are split 20-20
Suitable Level: Partscore

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	6	6	7	7
♠	7	7	6	6
♡	5	5	8	8
♢	4	4	8	9
♣	10	10	2	2

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♢w*	Q♠	-3	500	
	4♣n	A♠	+1	150	
	3♣n	9♢	+2	150	

West opens 1♢ after two passes and North has a 2♣ overcall. It looks a bit light for 2♣, but it takes away lots of useful bidding space from the opponents and a void and extra club length are plusses. Without the overcall, E-W may find their heart fit; with a 2♣ call it is far more difficult and E-W may play in diamonds instead, giving up more than anything N-S can make in clubs.

Board # 3

Dealer: South

Vulnerable: E-W

NORTH
♠ Q764
♡ 85
♢ K54
♣ A873

WEST
♠ KJ5
♡ Q63
♢ AT96
♣ Q92

HCP: 9
12 14
5

EAST
♠ A98
♡ AKT42
♢ QJ87
♣ T

HCP: 12
14 5
5

SOUTH
♠ T32
♡ J97
♢ 32
♣ KJ654

HCP: 9
12 14
5

E-W have 26 combined points.
Suitable Level: Game

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	3	3	10	10
♠	4	4	8	8
♡	2	2	11	11
♢	2	2	11	11
♣	6	6	7	7

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	3♡e	3♢	+1		170
	4♡e	5♣	=		620
	3Nw	5♠	+1		630

South passes and so should West with the flat 12-count. North passes and East opens 1♡ in fourth seat. West jumps to 3♡ and East has enough to continue on to game. In 4♡, East loses the Q♠, K♢, and a high club for an easy ten tricks. The pair in 3NT on these cards was lucky the layout was not one where the whole club suit could be cashed out by the defenders before declarer even got in.

Board # 4

Dealer: West

Vulnerable: Both

NORTH
♠ AJT84
♡ AQ
◇ JT98
♣ 93

WEST
♠ Q95
♡ 7632
◇ 6542
♣ A2

HCP: 12
6 13
9

EAST
♠ 732
♡ KT
◇ AK73
♣ K765

SOUTH
♠ K6
♡ J9854
◇ Q
♣ QJT84

N-S have 21 combined points.
Suitable Level: Partscore

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	8	8	5	5
♠	8	8	5	5
♡	9	9	4	4
◇	7	7	6	6
♣	9	9	4	4

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	2♣w	J◇	-4	400	
	2Ns	2♡	+1	150	
	2♠n	5♣	-1		100

West passes and North has a 1♠ opener: this 12-count has some shape and high honours. East has no safe bid over 1♠ despite 13 points: double promises support for hearts, a 2♣ or 2◇ overcall would usually show five, so pass is the only call. South cannot raise or bid a new suit at the two level with only 9 points, so 1NT is the only available response, and should buy the contract, making eight tricks or so.

Board # 5

Dealer: North

Vulnerable: N-S

NORTH
♠ AT765
♡ KT8
◇ 75
♣ Q42

WEST
♠ KQ9842
♡ 93
◇ QJ9
♣ 53

HCP: 9
8 10
13

EAST
♠ -
♡ QJ74
◇ KT8632
♣ A97

SOUTH
♠ J3
♡ A652
◇ A4
♣ KJT86

N-S have 22 combined points.
Suitable Level: Partscore

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	7	7	5	5
♠	7	7	6	6
♡	8	8	5	5
◇	4	4	9	9
♣	8	8	4	4

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	3◇e	2♡	=		110
	3◇e	J♣	=		110
	3◇e	J♣	=		110

North passes and East has options. Passing allows South to open 1♣, West overcalls 1♠, North passes hoping South can reopen with a double, and East corrects to 2◇. If East opens 1◇, South overcalls 2♣ and West bids 2♠; now East will need to escape to 3◇. East's considering a weak 2◇ opener have forgotten that it is seldom a good idea to have a side four-card major in a weak two. All roads should lead to diamonds by East, and nine tricks should be the normal result.

Board # 6

Dealer: East

Vulnerable: E-W

NORTH
♠ AT65
♡ AKQJ84
◇ J
♣ Q6

WEST
♠ KQ8732
♡ T5
◇ AQ76
♣ 3

HCP: 17
11 9
3

EAST
♠ J
♡ 9632
◇ K9852
♣ AJ9

SOUTH
♠ 94
♡ 7
◇ T43
♣ KT87542

Highcard points are split 20-20
Suitable Level: Partscore

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	7	7	6	6
♠	4	4	8	8
♡	7	7	5	5
◇	3	3	9	9
♣	9	9	3	3

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	3♡n	J♠	=	140	
	4◇w*	J♡	=		710
	4♡n*	J♠	-4		800

East and South pass (3♣ by South with such a weak suit is asking for trouble!) and West opens 1♠ or possibly even 2♠. Over 1♠, North overcalls 2♡ or may jump to 3♡ but South will not budge. Over 2♠ there is a case to jump to 4♡: four spades to the ace means partner will likely be short and ruffs in the South hand may be available. Wherever things end up, the defenders can take tricks in a crossruff after the lead of a singleton jack if declarer is not careful!

Board # 7

Dealer: South

Vulnerable: Both

NORTH
♠ J8743
♡ K9
◇ 542
♣ J42

WEST
♠ AT962
♡ J52
◇ QT97
♣ 3

EAST
♠ KQ
♡ AQ874
◇ A3
♣ A765

SOUTH
♠ 5
♡ T63
◇ KJ86
♣ KQT98

HCP:
5
7 19
9

E-W have 26 combined points.
Suitable Level: Game

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	3	2	10	10
♠	2	2	11	11
♡	2	2	11	11
◇	3	3	8	8
♣	5	5	8	8

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	3Ne	K♣	-2	200	
	3Ne	K♣	-1	100	
	4♡e	K♣	+3		710

Three passes to East, who opens 1♡ in fourth seat. South passes and West raises to 2♡: 1♠ is a mistake since an eight-card fit needs to be communicated as soon as one is found. East will raise to 4♡ and should lose only a trump and a diamond. Remember to raise a major opening with three-card support and a weak hand: if you have only one chance to bid, telling partner about a fit is more important that telling partner about your best suit.

Board # 8

Dealer: West

Vulnerable: None

NORTH
♠ K8
♡ 7
◇ KJ652
♣ T8652

WEST
♠ QJT
♡ A984
◇ A873
♣ K3

EAST
♠ A9632
♡ Q53
◇ QT94
♣ 9

SOUTH
♠ 754
♡ KJT62
◇ -
♣ AQJ74

HCP:
7
14 8
11

E-W have 22 combined points.
Suitable Level: Partscore

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	3	3	8	8
♠	3	3	10	9
♡	5	5	8	8
◇	4	4	9	8
♣	9	9	4	4

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4◇w	7♡	-1	50	
	4♣s*	Q♠	-1		100
	2♠e	J♡	=		110

West opens 1◇ and North passes. East responds 1♠ and South should get in with a takeout double, showing the unbid suits, hearts and clubs. Whatever West does, the North player should bid clubs, knowing there is at least a nine-card fit. E-W can make a bunch of tricks in spades but with only 22 comibined are unlikely to get to game, and N-S may outbid them in clubs as a sacrifice: nine tricks in clubs are easily made.

Board # 9

Dealer: North

Vulnerable: E-W

NORTH
♠ KQT
♡ KQT8
◇ QJT8
♣ J4

WEST
♠ 9853
♡ A73
◇ 6432
♣ T3

EAST
♠ J76
♡ J962
◇ 97
♣ K987

SOUTH
♠ A42
♡ 54
◇ AK5
♣ AQ652

HCP:
14
4 5
17

N-S have 31 combined points.
Suitable Level: Possible Slam

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	12	11	1	1
♠	11	11	2	2
♡	11	11	2	2
◇	12	12	1	1
♣	10	10	3	3

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4Nn	2♡	+2	490	
	3Nn	7♣	+3	490	
	4Nn	7♣	+2	490	

North opens 1◇, much to South's surprise and delight. South starts with a 2♣ response and North rebids 2NT, showing a balanced hand with less than 15 points. With a totol of no more than 31, South should settle for 3NT, but 4NT as an invite is reasonable: maybe North has 14 with a long diamoind suit and will accept the invite to 6NT. 6NT needs the club finesse to succeed with the A♡ also out there, and 50% slams are only for the desperate!

Board # 10

Dealer: East

Vulnerable: Both

NORTH
♠ KJ3
♡ KQ7
◇ AK
♣ T9542

WEST
♠ 864
♡ AJ98
◇ 854
♣ A73

HCP: 16
9 13
2

EAST
♠ AQ752
♡ T54
◇ Q9
♣ KQ8

SOUTH
♠ T9
♡ 632
◇ JT7632
♣ J6

E-W have 22 combined points.
Suitable Level: Partscore

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	4	4	8	9
♠	4	4	8	9
♡	5	5	8	8
◇	8	8	5	5
♣	6	6	7	7

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	3♠e	J◇	-2	200	
	3♠e	J♣	-1	100	
	2♠e	6♡	=		110

East opens 1♠ as dealer, South passes, and West raises to 2♠. North may feel the urge to make a call, but with the opponents openeing the b idding and making a response, South rates to be weak, so pass is safest, and East plays 2♠, losing a spade, two hearts, and two clubs.

Board # 11

Dealer: South

Vulnerable: None

NORTH
♠ J42
♡ 843
◇ K95
♣ T852

WEST
♠ AQ
♡ T9
◇ QT6
♣ AKQ974

HCP: 4
17 13
6

EAST
♠ 97653
♡ AKQ62
◇ A8
♣ 6

SOUTH
♠ KT8
♡ J75
◇ J7432
♣ J3

E-W have 30 combined points.
Suitable Level: Game

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	1	1	12	12
♠	1	1	12	12
♡	0	0	13	13
◇	3	3	10	10
♣	1	1	12	12

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♠e	J♣	+2		480
	3Nw	5♠	+3		490
	6♣e	5♡	=		920

South passes and West could treat the hand as semibalanced and open 1NT, but this hand is worth more than its 17 in notrump. 1♣ is best, followed by a rebid of 2NT after the 1♡ response, showing 18-19 balanced. East tries 3♠ and West continues with 3NT. Now East can invite 6NT with a 4NT call, but West has already bid the whole hand and should pass 4NT. The slam depends on the location of the missing kings, which this time is favourable.

Board # 12

Dealer: West

Vulnerable: N-S

NORTH
♠ 742
♡ AJ53
◇ QT542
♣ 9

WEST
♠ Q8
♡ Q7
◇ J83
♣ T87652

HCP: 7
5 20
8

EAST
♠ AKJT93
♡ 4
◇ K6
♣ AKQ4

SOUTH
♠ 65
♡ KT9862
◇ A97
♣ J3

E-W have 25 combined points.
Suitable Level: Likely Game

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	1	1	6	6
♠	1	1	11	11
♡	9	9	4	4
◇	9	9	4	4
♣	1	1	11	11

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	3♡s*	Q♠	-1		200
	4♠e	J♣	+2		480
	4♠e	9♡	+2		480

West and North pass and East opens 2♣ with half the deck. South passes and West bids 2◇, the bid made by responders 95% of the time to allow the 2♣ opener to further describe the big hand. North passes and East rebids 2♠. West's second bid should be 3♣, showing not clubs, but a bad hand without any aces or kings. East should not be deterred and should bid 4♠: West rates to have something useful and in this case it is the Q♠ and length in clubs. If the defenders don't cash their aces, East will make more than 11 tricks!

Board # 13

Dealer: North

Vulnerable: Both

NORTH
♠ KJ972
♡ AT7
◇ 5
♣ 9873

WEST
♠ A83
♡ J64
◇ 9763
♣ AQ6

HCP: 8

11 12

9

EAST
♠ 4
♡ KQ9852
◇ AQJ4
♣ T5

HCP: 11

7 8

14

SOUTH
♠ QT65
♡ 3
◇ KT82
♣ KJ42

E-W have 23 combined points.
Suitable Level: Partscore

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	4	4	8	7
♠	8	8	4	4
♡	3	3	10	10
◇	4	4	9	9
♣	8	8	5	5

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♠s*	4♡	-1		200
	4♡e	2♣	=		620
	4♡e	4◇	+1		650

North passes and East opens 1♡. South has perfect distribution for a takeout double and nine points is just enough when the double is unflawed and has support for all unbid suits. West invites with 3♡ and North should throw in a 3♠ call with the five-card suit. East will bid 4♡, but if North or South try 4♠, they do better: 4♡ is worth 620 vulnerable, and 4♠ doubled is down two for only 500.

Board # 14

Dealer: East

Vulnerable: None

NORTH
♠ Q62
♡ K95
◇ A
♣ QT9862

WEST
♠ JT
♡ QT743
◇ T
♣ KJ754

HCP: 11

7 8

14

EAST
♠ A543
♡ 8
◇ KJ87542
♣ 3

HCP: 11

6 11

12

SOUTH
♠ K987
♡ AJ62
◇ Q963
♣ A

N-S have 25 combined points.
Suitable Level: Likely Game

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	9	9	3	3
♠	9	9	4	4
♡	9	9	4	4
◇	8	8	5	5
♣	9	9	4	4

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♣n	8♡	-1		50
	3♣n	8♡	-1		50
	2Ns	4♡	-2		100

A four-card major makes a 2◇ or 3◇ opener flawed for East, so East passes and South opens....1◇! West might use the Unusual 2NT to get into the auction. It turns our that whoever plays this hand is destined to go down: the only makeable game is 3NT by N-S, but who wnats to play 3NT with singleton aces?

Board # 15

Dealer: South

Vulnerable: N-S

NORTH
♠ 863
♡ QJ72
◇ A95
♣ A87

WEST
♠ AJ972
♡ 65
◇ 874
♣ J93

HCP: 11

6 11

12

EAST
♠ KQT
♡ 8
◇ KQJT6
♣ 6542

HCP: 11

6 11

12

SOUTH
♠ 54
♡ AKT943
◇ 32
♣ KQT

N-S have 23 combined points.
Suitable Level: Partscore

Available Tricks:

	N	S	E	W
NT	8	8	3	3
♠	5	5	8	8
♡	10	10	3	3
◇	5	5	8	8
♣	7	7	6	6

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♡s	4◇	=	620	
	4♡s	A♠	=	620	
	3♠w	2♡	-1	50	

South opens 1♡, West passes, and North invites game with a raise to 3♡. East passes and South should go on to 4♡, even with only 12: a sixth trump in a suit headed by the AK, plus two doubletons must be worth something. 4♠ is a possible sacrifice for E-W if they can find their way there: 4♡ is an easy ten tricks.