

Board # 1

NORTH
Dealer: ♠ T932 Vulnerable:
North ♡ 97 None
 ♦ K96
 ♣ JT96

WEST
♠ Q865
♡ K
♦ J8753
♣ 854

EAST
♠ K7
♡ AQT6532
♦ Q2
♣ 73

SOUTH
HCP: ♠ AJ4 Available
 ♡ J84 Tricks:
 ♦ AT4 N S E W
 ♣ AKQ2 NT 9 9 4 4
 ♠ 9 9 4 4
 ♡ 5 5 8 8
 ♦ 7 7 6 6
 ♣ 10 10 3 3

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

Board # 2

NORTH
Dealer: ♠ K842 Vulnerable:
East ♡ A86 N-S
 ♦ A9854
 ♣ J

WEST
♠ J76
♡ KT32
♦ KJT2
♣ 76

EAST
♠ QT53
♡ 5
♦ Q73
♣ KQT93

SOUTH
HCP: ♠ A9 Available
 ♡ QJ974 Tricks:
 ♦ 6 N S E W
 ♣ A8542 NT 8 8 5 5
 ♠ 7 7 5 5
 ♡ 10 10 2 2
 ♦ 8 8 5 5
 ♣ 8 8 5 5

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

Board # 3

NORTH
Dealer: ♠ 987 Vulnerable:
South ♡ KQ7 E-W
 ♦ 32
 ♣ QT874

WEST
♠ T32
♡ A9864
♦ A95
♣ J6

EAST
♠ KJ
♡ JT53
♦ KT76
♣ AK5

SOUTH
HCP: ♠ AQ654 Available
 ♡ 2 Tricks:
 ♦ QJ84 N S E W
 ♣ 932 NT 6 6 7 7
 ♠ 6 6 6 6
 ♡ 4 4 9 9
 ♦ 5 5 8 8
 ♣ 7 7 6 6

E-W have 24 combined points.
Suitable Level: Possible Game

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	2♠n	7♣	=	110	
	3♥e	Q♣	-1	50	
	2♥e	A♣	=		110
	2♥e	Q♣	=		110
	2♥e	A♣	=		110

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♥s	T♦	=	620	
	3Ns	T♦	=	600	
	2♥s	7♣	+2	170	
	4♥s	T♦	-1		100
	3♥s	7♣	-1		100

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♥e	2♥	-1	100	
	3♥e	9♣	-1	100	
	4♥e	Q♦	-1	100	
	3♥w	9♠	-1	100	
	3♥e	Q♦	=		140

North passes and East opens 1♥, giving South a difficult time. 1NT? Double? 2♣? I'm gussing most tables last week saw a 1NT overcall (despite the lack of a heart stopper) and a 2♥ call by East, after which South gave up. 2♥ makes, but North-South actually do have an ironclad heart stopper in notrump, because West must win the first heart and cannot get East back in to cash the rest of the suit. If East overtakes the K♥ with the A♥, South's jack gets promoted and wins the third round! You'd be surprised how often this happens.

East passes and South opens 1♥. North should be visualizing 4♥ at least, knowing that N-S have eight hearts and two hands that could open the bidding. One possible sequence: 1♥ - 1♠, 2♣ - 2♦, 3♣ - 4♥. South should not pull trumps on this deal at all, just cash the side suit aces and the K♠ and crossruff the rest as far as it will go. West will overruff at some point and lead back another trump, but South should emerge with ten tricks.

East hears three pases and opens 1NT. West transfers to hearts with a 2♦ call, and continues with the "intersection call" of 2NT, which is a multiple-choice question about East's 1NT opener showing exactly five hearts and invitational values. East must decide whether to choose 2NT or 3NT with a doubleton heart or three small hearts. With three hearts to an honour, or four or more hearts, East will choose 3♥ or 4♥ based on how strong the opener is. East has a minimum with four hearts, so 3♥ is the right choice, and the one that may make if played just right.

Board # 4

Dealer: **NORTH**
West **♠ AKQ**
♥ 72
♦ KQ754
♣ Q42

Vulnerable: **Both**

WEST	EAST
♠ T75	♠ J98432
♥ 943	♥ KQJ
♦ AJ6	♦ 32
♣ AJ76	♣ 53

SOUTH	Available
HCP: ♠ 6	Tricks:
16 ♥ AT865	N S E W
10 7 ♦ T98	NT 9 9 4 4
7 ♣ KT98	♠ 6 6 7 7
	♥ 9 9 4 4
	♦ 10 10 3 3
	♣ 9 9 4 4

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

Board # 5

Dealer: **NORTH**
North **♠ AJT963**
♥ J
♦ 76
♣ Q854

Vulnerable: **N-S**

WEST	EAST
♠ K87	♠ Q52
♥ KQ983	♥ A754
♦ 52	♦ KJ4
♣ T62	♣ AK9

SOUTH	Available
HCP: ♠ 4	Tricks:
8 ♥ T62	N S E W
8 17 ♦ AQT983	NT 4 4 8 6
7 ♣ J73	♠ 8 8 5 5
	♥ 4 4 9 8
	♦ 8 8 5 5
	♣ 7 7 5 5

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

Board # 6

Dealer: **NORTH**
East **♠ KJ5**
♥ AT8
♦ QT954
♣ J2

Vulnerable: **E-W**

WEST	EAST
♠ QT63	♠ 72
♥ 65	♥ 974
♦ J762	♦ K83
♣ KT8	♣ A7654

SOUTH	Available
HCP: ♠ A984	Tricks:
11 ♥ KQJ32	N S E W
6 7 ♦ A	NT 10 10 3 3
16 ♣ Q93	♠ 10 10 3 3
	♥ 11 11 1 1
	♦ 8 8 4 4
	♣ 8 8 5 5

N-S have 27 combined points.
Suitable Level: Game

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	3♦n	K♥	=	110	
	2♠e	8♣	=		110
	5♦n	J♥	-2		200
	3♦n	K♥	-2		200
	3Nn	4♠	-2		200

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♥w	7♦	-2	100	
	4♥e	4♠	-2	100	
	4♥e	J♠	-1	50	
	4♥e	4♠	-1	50	
	3♠n	A♣	-2		200

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♥s	8♣	=	420	
	4♥s	3♠	=	420	
	4♥s	3♠	=	420	
	4♥s	3♠	=	420	
	3♥s	3♠	+1	170	

West passes and North opens 1NT. Don't let small doubletons dissuade you from bidding notrump; this just lets the rest of the field bid notrump more often than you. East passes and South bids 2♦, a transfer to hearts. North does as requested and now East might try a 2♠ call and it might even make! But if East passes, South probably will as well, and the 3-3 heart break makes 2♥ a favourite to make an overtrick. Scientists in the South chair will note the tens and nines and eights and upgrade the hand to an eight count and try 2NT; North raises to 3NT for a top!

North opens 2♠ and East overcalls 2NT. Overcalling a weak two with 2NT is like opening 1NT: the same strength, same conventions applying except one level higher. South passes and West bids 3♦, a transfer to hearts. North passes and East might even consider jumping to 4♥ with a maximum 17 and four actual hearts. 3♥ might be passed out if that is East's choice, which is good for E-W, because 4♥ is surprisingly difficult! A spade to the ace and a spade ruff is followed by a club from South. East wins and pulls trumps but must lose two diamonds and a club as well.

The reverse is a concept commonly misunderstood by players of all levels. A reverse is a two-level rebid by opener in a higher suit than the one opened: here the N-S auction beginning with South is 1♥ - 2♦, 2♠. A reverse promises about an ace more than a minimum, and more (not equal) cards in the opened suit. North's 2♦ call over 1♥ did not deny four spades, North might have four spades and five or more diamonds in a good hand. In any case, North raises to 4♥ and an overtrick is likely.

Board # 7

NORTH
 Dealer: ♠ 32 Vulnerable:
 South ♥ T82 Both
 ♦ KQT5
 ♣ AT54

WEST EAST
 ♠ 854 ♠ A6
 ♥ KQ73 ♥ AJ964
 ♦ A94 ♦ J72
 ♣ J72 ♣ Q98

SOUTH Available
 HCP: ♠ KQJT97 Tricks:
 9 ♥ 5 N S E W
 10 12 ♦ 863 NT 6 6 7 7
 9 ♣ K63 ♠ 9 9 3 3
 ♥ 5 5 8 8
 ♦ 8 7 5 5
 ♣ 7 7 5 5

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

Board # 8

NORTH
 Dealer: ♠ AK53 Vulnerable:
 West ♥ 72 None
 ♦ AK2
 ♣ KJ65

WEST EAST
 ♠ QT96 ♠ 4
 ♥ J954 ♥ AKT6
 ♦ QT75 ♦ J83
 ♣ 2 ♣ T8743

SOUTH Available
 HCP: ♠ J872 Tricks:
 18 ♥ Q83 N S E W
 5 8 ♦ 964 NT 9 9 4 4
 9 ♣ AQ9 ♠ 8 8 4 4
 ♥ 6 6 7 7
 ♦ 8 8 5 5
 ♣ 8 8 5 5

N-S have 27 combined points.
 Suitable Level: Game

Board # 9

NORTH
 Dealer: ♠ AJ54 Vulnerable:
 North ♥ KT653 E-W
 ♦ 86
 ♣ 85

WEST EAST
 ♠ T9 ♠ K7632
 ♥ Q9 ♥ AJ74
 ♦ AK9543 ♦ 2
 ♣ J73 ♣ KQ2

SOUTH Available
 HCP: ♠ Q8 Tricks:
 8 ♥ 82 N S E W
 10 13 ♦ QJT7 NT 5 5 8 8
 9 ♣ AT964 ♠ 4 4 8 8
 ♥ 5 5 8 8
 ♦ 4 4 9 9
 ♣ 5 5 7 7

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

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♥e	5♥	-2	200	
	2♠s	4♦	+2	170	
	2♠s	7♥	+1	140	
	3♥e	K♠	-1	100	
	3♥e	K♠	-1	100	

South opens 2♣ and West's average hand is not enough to get into the auction this high. North passes and so might East, allowing South to play 2♣ and make nine tricks easily. Or, East might try a slightly risky takeout double and allow West to bid and play 3♥, which is only one down. If West takes a long time thinking before passing, an ethical East should not make the borderline takeout double, since West's 'tank' suggests values and we're not supposed to make a bid suggested by partner's hesitation when there is a logical alternative.

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♠s	4♥	-1		50
	4♠s	5♦	-1		50
	4♠s	2♣	-1		50
	4♠s	6♣	-1		50
	4♠n	K♥	-2		100

North opens 1♠, South responds 1♣ and North rebids 2NT; South raises to 3NT. East leads a high heart and continues with the other one. What should West do? West should unblock the 9♥, just in case North has fudged the 2NT rebid (NOT recommended, by the way) with a singleton heart and East has five of them. The third round will be won by the queen in dummy, and West can unblock again, so if West wins a spade or diamond later, a LOW heart can be led rather than the jack, allowing East to overtake and win another. But no matter, North has two hearts as expected....

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	3Nw	5♥	-3	300	
	3Ne	6♣	-3	300	
	4♠e	Q♦	-2	200	
	3Ne	6♣	-2	200	
	2♠e	8♥	=		110

The East-West auction will begin 1♠ - 2♦, 2♥ - 3♦ and East will have no real option but to try 3NT, which is a major struggle that may result in down two or three. The modern, 2/1 style auction requires more than just a ten count for the 2♦ response, so it goes 1♠ - 1NT (forcing for one round), 2♥ - 2♠, pass, and East struggles a little less in 2♠ but should emerge with eight tricks. Even if West bids 3♦ over 2♥, this too is non-forcing and should be makeable.

Board # 10

NORTH
 Dealer: ♠ KQ875 Vulnerable: Both
 East ♥ AQ5
 ♦ T942
 ♣ 4

WEST EAST
 ♠ 4 ♠ JT9632
 ♥ 43 ♥ K9
 ♦ KQ7 ♦ 8
 ♣ KQJT985 ♣ A762

SOUTH Available
 HCP: ♠ A Tricks:
 11 ♥ JT8762 N S E W
 11 8 ♦ AJ653 NT 5 5 8 8
 10 ♣ 3 ♠ 6 6 7 7
 ♥ 9 10 3 3
 ♦ 9 9 3 3
 ♣ 3 3 10 10

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

Board # 11

NORTH
 Dealer: ♠ KJT84 Vulnerable: None
 South ♥ A
 ♦ KT75
 ♣ J95

WEST EAST
 ♠ 93 ♠ Q2
 ♥ T873 ♥ 964
 ♦ Q ♦ J6432
 ♣ QT8642 ♣ AK3

SOUTH Available
 HCP: ♠ A765 Tricks:
 12 ♥ KQJ52 N S E W
 4 10 ♦ A98 NT 7 7 0 0
 14 ♣ 7 ♠ 12 12 0 0
 ♥ 12 12 0 0
 ♦ 10 10 2 2
 ♣ 7 7 6 6

N-S have 26 combined points.
 Suitable Level: Game

Board # 12

NORTH
 Dealer: ♠ K85 Vulnerable: N-S
 West ♥ 9
 ♦ QJ42
 ♣ QJ972

WEST EAST
 ♠ Q ♠ AJ9632
 ♥ JT5432 ♥ A6
 ♦ AK873 ♦ T9
 ♣ 3 ♣ AK6

SOUTH Available
 HCP: ♠ T74 Tricks:
 9 ♥ KQ87 N S E W
 10 16 ♦ 65 NT 3 3 10 10
 5 ♣ T854 ♠ 3 3 10 10
 ♥ 2 2 10 10
 ♦ 2 2 10 10
 ♣ 5 5 7 7

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

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	6♣w*	A♥	-2	500	
	5♣w*	K♠	-1	200	
	3♦n	J♠	=	110	
	4♥s	8♣	-1		100
	3♣w	7♠	+1		130

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♠n	A♣	+2	480	
	4♠n	A♣	+2	480	
	4♠n	A♣	+2	480	
	4♠n	A♣	+1	450	
	4♠n	A♣	+1	450	

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♠e	6♦	-1	50	
	3♠e	7♥	+1		170
	4♥w	9♣	=		420
	4♥w	5♠	=		420
	3Ne	4♣	+1		430

East's spades are not quite good enough for a weak two (in third seat they would be!), and South has the same type of heart suit, but a second option: two aces and extreme shape make 1♥ a reasonable choice. West overcalls 2♣, North makes a negative (takeout) double (intending to support hearts later), and East raises to 3♣. South bids 3♦ to complete the picture and battle lines are drawn, South may prevail in hearts or West in clubs; both make ten tricks with very careful play.

South opens 1♥ and North responds 1♠. South should jump rebid 3♣: the South hand is worth about 17 or 18 in support of spades, adding two for the doubleton and one or two more for the excellent support. North will probably just convert to 4♠ and make six unless North misguesses the Q♣. Is this a slam to be in? Probably not: the Q♣ is a 50-50 guess and the club loser is unavoidable. No sense bidding a 50% slam when game is 100%: unless you think you need to catch up to the field after a rough start!

Here is the McBruce suggested East-West auction with notes: 1♥ (opening bid by West) - 1♠ (obvious response by East), 2♦ (rebidding the second suit) - 3♣ (artificial Fourth Suit Forcing call, promising a good hand and wanting to hear more), 3♦ (five card diamond suit, could be 5-5 or 6-5 in hearts-diamonds) - 3NT (best spot in a strong misfit especially since East has doubletons in West's suits and will likely be able to get to dummy). West might bid 4♥ now to show 6-5 but that's a pretty weak six-card suit and 3NT scores better anyhow.

