

Board # 1

		NORTH			
Dealer:	♠ J843	Vulnerable:	None		
North	♥ J752				
	♦ 93				
	♣ 743				
WEST		EAST			
♠ AKQ765		♠ T9			
♥ AKQ9		♥ 6			
♦ 7		♦ KQJT652			
♣ AT		♣ KQ2			
		SOUTH		Available	
HCP:	♠ 2	Tricks:			
2	♥ T843	N	S	E	W
22 11	♦ A84	NT	1	1	12 12
5	♣ J9865	♠	1	1	11 11
		♥	2	2	11 11
		♦	1	1	12 12
		♣	3	3	9 9

E-W have 33 combined points.
Suitable Level: Likely Slam

Board # 2

		NORTH			
Dealer:	♠ Q852	Vulnerable:	N-S		
East	♥ AK2				
	♦ A84				
	♣ Q82				
WEST		EAST			
♠ KJT6		♠ 7			
♥ QT		♥ 9865			
♦ 7532		♦ KT96			
♣ AK3		♣ T754			
		SOUTH		Available	
HCP:	♠ A943	Tricks:			
15	♥ J743	N	S	E	W
13 3	♦ QJ	NT	8	8	5 5
9	♣ J96	♠	8	8	5 5
		♥	7	8	5 5
		♦	5	6	7 7
		♣	7	7	6 6

N-S have 24 combined points.
Suitable Level: Possible Game

Board # 3

		NORTH			
Dealer:	♠ AK74	Vulnerable:	E-W		
South	♥ Q54				
	♦ AJ63				
	♣ Q5				
WEST		EAST			
♠ Q5		♠ 963			
♥ JT9832		♥ K6			
♦ K42		♦ Q987			
♣ JT		♣ AK93			
		SOUTH		Available	
HCP:	♠ JT82	Tricks:			
16	♥ A7	N	S	E	W
7 12	♦ T5	NT	8	7	5 5
5	♣ 87642	♠	9	9	4 4
		♥	5	5	7 7
		♦	7	6	6 6
		♣	8	8	5 5

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

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♠w	2♥	+1		450
	3Nw	3♠	+3		490
	6Ne	6♣	=		990
	7Nw	3♠	=		1520

I held the South hand last week and East opened 1♦. This appeared to surprise West, who made a series of bids finally ending with 7NT, putting partner on lead. You can see from the results that partner chose the 3♣ opening lead, but you'll need to dig a bit to discover the full cause of the disaster! The spade lead set up six spade tricks and three club tricks for declarer and after these nine winners I had to come down to four cards. One needed to be the A♦, or did it? Declarer had discarded a diamond on the third club in dummy and presumably had AKQ♥ and one other card. If that card was a fourth heart, I might need to pitch the A♦. I could not bring myself to do this, and sadly partner had pitched a heart on the fifth spade, so the 9♥ was the 13th trick!

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	3♦w*	A♥	-2	300	
	2♣e	Q♦	-2	100	
	2Nn	6♦	-2		200
	4♠n*	A♣	-3		800

West opens 1♦ after two passes and North overcalls 1NT. East passes and South bids 2♣ to seek out a possible major suit fit. West passes and North bids 2♠. Everyone should be happy in 2♠: East hasn't enough for a negative double or a raise in diamonds, South has nine points but three of them are the QJ doubleton in a suit opened on his left, so inviting with this particular nine might be a stretch, and West has no extras and should be happy to defend 2♠ with such fine trumps. Eight tricks are the limit in spades, and all four tables in the open game were unable to put on the brakes, with disastrous consequences for all who declared!

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	2♦w	A♠	-2	200	
	2♠s	J♥	+1	140	
	2♠n	K♥	+1	140	
	1Nn	3♣	+1	120	

South passes and West may be tempted to open 2♥ but the suit is not good enough and being on the low end of the range doesn't help. So North opens 1NT and East and South pass. West now might try a 2♥ call, but this is risky vulnerable: if the opponents find a double, down one is 200, more than any partscore N-S might make. What might actually happen is that North or South might just try a 2♣ call, and make an even better score in spades than they would in 1NT. As for 2♦ by West, I've no idea how that happened and maybe it's a BridgeMate misclick....

Board # 4

		NORTH							
Dealer:	♠ Q3	Vulnerable:							
West	♥ AJ94	Both							
	♦ 63								
	♣ AKQT6								
WEST		EAST							
♠	KJ65	♠	AT2						
♥	T8763	♥	Q52						
♦	J87	♦	Q42						
♣	4	♣	8532						
		Available							
		Tricks:							
		N S E W							
HCP:	♠ 9874								
16	♥ K	NT	9	9	4	4			
5	♦ AKT95	♠	8	8	4	4			
11	♣ J97	♥	7	7	6	6			
		♦	8	8	3	3			
		♣	11	11	2	2			
N-S have 27 combined points.									
Suitable Level: Game									

Board # 5

		NORTH							
Dealer:	♠ AQJ	Vulnerable:							
North	♥ 643	N-S							
	♦ A8								
	♣ AT842								
WEST		EAST							
♠	865	♠	97432						
♥	T9	♥	AQJ						
♦	Q9543	♦	KJ76						
♣	Q76	♣	K						
		Available							
		Tricks:							
		N S E W							
HCP:	♠ KT								
15	♥ K8752	NT	7	7	5	5			
4	♦ T2	♠	6	6	7	7			
7	♣ J953	♥	9	9	3	3			
		♦	6	6	7	7			
		♣	10	10	3	3			
N-S have 22 combined points.									
Suitable Level: Partscore									

Board # 6

		NORTH							
Dealer:	♠ KJ87	Vulnerable:							
East	♥ KT93	E-W							
	♦ AT3								
	♣ KT								
WEST		EAST							
♠	642	♠	A53						
♥	AQJ64	♥	875						
♦	KQ6	♦	J84						
♣	Q8	♣	7543						
		Available							
		Tricks:							
		N S E W							
HCP:	♠ QT9								
14	♥ 2	NT	9	9	4	4			
14	♦ 9752	♠	9	9	3	3			
7	♣ AJ962	♥	7	7	6	6			
		♦	9	9	4	4			
		♣	9	9	3	3			
N-S have 21 combined points.									
Suitable Level: Partscore									

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	3Ns	6♥	+3	690	
	3Nn	8♣	=	600	
	3Nn	5♥	=	600	
	3♦n	2♥	-2		200

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♦w	6♥	-3	150	
	3♥s	6♣	=	140	
	2♥n	K♣	=	110	
	3♠n	6♦	-3		300

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	2♥w*	A♦	-3	800	
	2♥w	7♠	-2	200	
	2Nn	7♥	=	120	
	4♣s	A♥	-2		100

I'm OK with 1NT by the North hand after West passes as dealer, but many will prefer 1♣. Over 1NT, South bids 2♣ Stayman and when North shows four hearts parks in 3NT, which makes even if the opponents lead spades, and even if they don't you cannot finesse and risk losing the finesse and four spade tricks, so nine tricks should be the limit. Over 1♣, South should bid 1♠, not 1♦: finding a possible 4-4 major suit fit is a prime goal of early bidding. North reverses to 2♥ and South may choose 3NT (hoping partner has a spade stopper), or 5♣. 5♣ makes as long as declarer focuses on getting two heart ruffs in dummy before pulling trumps: five trumps, two ruffs, two hearts, and two diamonds is eleven tricks.

North opens 1NT and East might get into the auction and find the eight card spade fit. When you discover that your eight card trump fit consists of no high honours, your best bet is to play trumps every time you are in and hope for a 3-2 break. If East passes, South will transfer with 2♦ and after North bids 2♥, East might try this moment to get in with a spade bid. South will pass, but North might continue on to 3♥ for 140 rather than take 50 per trick for the tough slog of ensuring that 2♠ goes down.

West opens 1♥ after two passes and North's best call may be 1NT! 14 points with two heart stoppers may be just enough, and there is little risk of losing a possible spade fit, since partner will use Stayman with most hands with four spades. Most North players will instead double the 1♥ opener and East will pass, leaving South to respond 2♣. If West now bids 2♥, North cannot double again, doubles do not magically shift from takeout to penalty, and South would take a second double as takeout again. North passes and if South can double to keep the auction alive, North passes and calls the bank manager to arrange for the deposit, for 2♥ has little chance of success and doubled will boost North's bank balance....

Board # 7

		NORTH			
Dealer:	♠ Q86542	Vulnerable:	Both		
South	♥ K8 ♦ K93 ♣ KQ				
WEST		EAST			
♠ A	♥ QT63	♠ KJ9	♥ J		
♦ T865	♣ J875	♦ Q4	♣ AT96432		
		SOUTH		Available	
HCP:	♠ T73	Tricks:			
13	♥ A97542	N	S	E	W
7 11	♦ AJ72	NT	6	6	7 7
9	♣ -	♠	10	10	3 3
		♥	9	9	3 3
		♦	8	8	5 5
		♣	4	4	9 9
N-S have 22 combined points.					
Suitable Level: Partscore					

Board # 8

		NORTH			
Dealer:	♠ AQT953	Vulnerable:	None		
West	♥ Q987 ♦ Q ♣ Q4				
WEST		EAST			
♠ J62	♥ 42	♠ K	♥ AKJT63		
♦ J95432	♣ JT	♦ K86	♣ 832		
		SOUTH		Available	
HCP:	♠ 874	Tricks:			
12	♥ 5	N	S	E	W
3 14	♦ AT7	NT	11	10	0 0
11	♣ AK9765	♠	12	12	0 0
		♥	7	6	6 6
		♦	5	5	7 7
		♣	12	12	0 0
N-S have 23 combined points.					
Suitable Level: Partscore					

Board # 9

		NORTH			
Dealer:	♠ AT32	Vulnerable:	E-W		
North	♥ K5 ♦ T7652 ♣ Q2				
WEST		EAST			
♠ Q76	♥ AQJ92	♠ J9	♥ T8764		
♦ -	♣ J6543	♦ KQ98	♣ 97		
		SOUTH		Available	
HCP:	♠ K854	Tricks:			
9	♥ 3	N	S	E	W
10 6	♦ AJ43	NT	8	8	3 3
15	♣ AKT8	♠	10	10	3 3
		♥	5	5	8 8
		♦	10	10	3 3
		♣	8	8	5 5
N-S have 24 combined points.					
Suitable Level: Possible Game					

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	5♣e	A♥	-2	200	
	3♠n	A♣	+1	170	
	4♣e	7♠	=		130
	5♥s*	A♠	-3		800

South is dealer and the South hand doesn't really fit 1♥ (a bit too light), 2♥ (suit not quite good enough), or 3♥ (far too strong to pre-empt), so Pass is probably best. West will also pass and North has a 1♠ opener, after which East overcalls 2♣. South suddenly has an excellent hand and should probably bid 3♣: having passed originally nothing else is forcing. Perhaps North will rebid 3♥. Or 3NT. What actually happens is that West raises to 4♣ or even 5♣, which will leave minimum opener North under too much pressure to bid, and South will need to convert to 4♣ or choose whether to bid 5♣ over 5♣, or try to beat it. 4♣ should make despite three trump losers, while 5♣ should be two down.

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♠n	A♥	+1	450	
	4♠n	A♥	+1	450	
	4♠n	A♥	=	420	
	4♠n	K♥	-1		50

West passes, North opens 1♠ and East overcalls 2♥. South sees that they have a spade fit and enough for game, so must make a forcing call, and 3♣ fits perfectly. West passes and North rebids 3♠ and South raises to game. Not much to the play except to note that just because the computer says that you CAN make 12 tricks with best play doesn't mean that the 'best play' is the normal play. If you regularly drop offside singleton kings you should be performing as a psychic rather than playing bridge! The normal result would be a heart lead and North ruffing the second heart in dummy and leading a spade to the queen or maybe the nine. East wins and South should have the rest unless South plays East for ♠KJ doubleton and loses a second trump trick.

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♥w	Q♣	-2	200	
	4♦s	9♥	+1	150	
	4♦s	4♣	=	130	
	3♥e	A♣	-1	100	

After two passes, South opens 1♦ and West has a perfect hand for the Unusual Notrump: a 2NT overcall shows 5-5 in the two lowest unbid suits, in this case, hearts and clubs. Now it is up to North, and up to the partnership agreements. If North passes or bids a mere 3♦, East will jump to 4♥. It won't make, but it will prevent N-S from finding their game in 4♣. Very few pairs have an adequate defense that allows North to show four spades without risking getting too high. If West instead bids only 1♥, North makes a negative double and the spade fit is found: East can jump to 4♥ but South may bid the winning 4♣ knowing about the fit.

Board # 10

		NORTH								
Dealer:	♠ A					Vulnerable:				
East	♥ AJT98					Both				
	♦ T43									
	♣ A963									
		WEST		EAST						
♠	KQ964	♠	JT87	♥	K743					
♥	6	♥	K743	♦	A8					
♦	KQJ5	♦	A8	♣	T85					
♣	J72	♣	T85							
		SOUTH								
HCP:	♠ 532	Available								
13	♥ Q52	Tricks:								
12	♦ 9762	N	S	E	W					
7	♣ KQ4	NT	6	6	5	5				
		♠	3	3	8	8				
		♥	9	9	4	4				
		♦	6	6	5	5				
		♣	8	8	4	4				
Highcard points are split 20-20										
Suitable Level: Partscore										

Board # 11

		NORTH								
Dealer:	♠ QJ7					Vulnerable:				
South	♥ JT83					None				
	♦ JT6									
	♣ K64									
		WEST		EAST						
♠	53	♠	A986	♥	5					
♥	AQ96	♥	5	♦	Q987					
♦	542	♦	Q987	♣	T752					
♣	AQJ3	♣	T752							
		SOUTH								
HCP:	♠ KT42	Available								
8	♥ K742	Tricks:								
13	♦ AK3	N	S	E	W					
13	♣ 98	NT	7	7	6	6				
		♠	7	7	6	6				
		♥	8	8	5	5				
		♦	6	6	7	7				
		♣	5	5	8	8				
N-S have 21 combined points.										
Suitable Level: Partscore										

Board # 12

		NORTH								
Dealer:	♠ K73					Vulnerable:				
West	♥ AK7543					N-S				
	♦ 9									
	♣ Q65									
		WEST		EAST						
♠	Q82	♠	A95	♥	62					
♥	Q9	♥	62	♦	Q8643					
♦	KJT72	♦	Q8643	♣	J84					
♣	732	♣	J84							
		SOUTH								
HCP:	♠ JT64	Available								
12	♥ JT8	Tricks:								
8	♦ A5	N	S	E	W					
13	♣ AKT9	NT	11	11	1	1				
		♠	10	10	2	2				
		♥	12	12	1	1				
		♦	7	7	6	6				
		♣	12	12	1	1				
N-S have 25 combined points.										
Suitable Level: Likely Game										

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♠w	6♣	-1	100	
	3♠w	A♠	-1	100	
	3♠w	A♣	=		140
	2♠e	A♥	+2		170

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	2♥w	6♦	-3	150	
	3♥n	T♣	=	140	
	2♥n	5♥	=	110	
	2♥n	A♠	-1		50

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♥n	A♠	+2	680	
	4♥n	4♦	+2	680	
	4♥n	4♦	+1	650	
	4♥n	4♦	+1	650	

East and South pass, and West has only twelve points, no aces, and is vulnerable, but if anything happens the ready-made excuse "it was a light third-seat opener, partner" is the excuse for the 1♠ opener. North overcalls 2♥ and East raises to 2♠. This might end it if South decides the three level vulnerable is a bit high to contest with a 3♥ call, but if South bids on, one of East or West will surely find a 3♣ call. Spades makes only eight tricks but the defenders need to get their clubs before West gets in and pitches club losers on diamonds. Hearts plays better, making an easy nine tricks when clubs break 3-3.

South opens 1♦ (my advice to those preferring to open this distribution 1♣ so a 1♦ opener promises four: don't. 1♦ promising four 95% of the time is better than opening a two-card club suit and suffering when partner insists on leading clubs because that was the only clue in the auction), and West should pass. Overcalling clubs or hearts on a four-card suit is a bit out there, and a takeout double with only two card support for an unbid major is off the deep end. North responds 1♥ and South raises and 2♥ is the final contract. Eight tricks and perhaps nine are there. How one table managed to play 2♥ by West is beyond me. I can see an aggressive 1♥ overcall of 1♦, but who among East or West bids 2♥ on this layout?

North opens 1♥ and South has three hearts and four spades. Many players, clinging to the notion of the golden 4-4 fit, always respond 1♠ with four spades, even if they have three hearts. But a 5-3 fit is as good as a 4-4 fit, so the intelligent way to handle this is to bid 1♠ with strong hands where you will certainly bid again, and raise hearts with weaker hands where you may not be able to bid again if the opponents come in. South has a full opener so 1♠ is the right choice here. North rebids 2♥ and South raises to game. Twelve tricks come rolling in, but its not a slam you want to be in: hearts and clubs break evenly, and the Q♠ is onside. On most layouts a slam would fail on these 26 cards.

Board # 13

		NORTH			Vulnerable:
Dealer:	♠ T82		Dealer:	♠ T82	Both
North	♥ -		East	♥ -	
	♦ T8652			♦ T8652	
	♣ A6543			♣ A6543	
		WEST			EAST
♠	9753	♠	AJ6	♥	J873
♥	QT64	♥	J873	♦	AQJ43
♦	K	♦	AQJ43	♣	7
♣	KJ82	♣	7		
		SOUTH			Available
HCP:	♠ KQ4			Tricks:	
4	♥ AK952	N	S	E	W
9 13	♦ 97	NT	5	5	8 7
14	♣ QT9	♠	6	6	7 7
		♥	5	5	7 7
		♦	6	6	6 6
		♣	8	8	5 5
E-W have 22 combined points.					
Suitable Level: Partscore					

Board # 14

		NORTH			Vulnerable:
Dealer:	♠ KQJ5		Dealer:	♠ KQJ5	None
East	♥ 7		East	♥ 7	
	♦ 976			♦ 976	
	♣ K9876			♣ K9876	
		WEST			EAST
♠	A843	♠	92	♥	KQJ2
♥	T96	♥	KQJ2	♦	A53
♦	Q842	♦	A53	♣	AJ52
♣	43	♣	AJ52		
		SOUTH			Available
HCP:	♠ T76			Tricks:	
9	♥ A8543	N	S	E	W
6 15	♦ KJT	NT	5	5	7 7
10	♣ QT	♠	6	6	6 6
		♥	6	6	7 7
		♦	5	5	7 7
		♣	7	8	5 5
E-W have 21 combined points.					
Suitable Level: Partscore					

Board # 15

		NORTH			Vulnerable:
Dealer:	♠ QJ63		Dealer:	♠ QJ63	N-S
South	♥ A		South	♥ A	
	♦ J32			♦ J32	
	♣ AK753			♣ AK753	
		WEST			EAST
♠	T942	♠	AK5	♥	654
♥	KT7	♥	654	♦	QT54
♦	K976	♦	QT54	♣	JT2
♣	94	♣	JT2		
		SOUTH			Available
HCP:	♠ 87			Tricks:	
15	♥ QJ9832	N	S	E	W
6 10	♦ A8	NT	7	7	3 3
9	♣ Q86	♠	8	8	5 5
		♥	9	9	3 3
		♦	6	6	6 6
		♣	10	10	2 2
N-S have 24 combined points.					
Suitable Level: Possible Game					

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	2♦e	A♥	-2	200	
	2♦e	A♥	-1	100	
	1Nw	4♣	=		90
	2♥s*	K♦	-3		800

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	2♠n	K♥	-1		50
	2♣s	3♠	-1		50
	1Ne	4♥	+1		120
	1Ne	4♥	+2		150

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	2♥s	9♣	=	110	
	3♥s	9♣	-1		100
	3Nn	4♦	-2		200
	3Nn	4♦	-3		300

North passes, East opens 1♦, South overcalls 1♥, and West makes a negative double. North passes and prays that East hasn't the cards to pass for penalties, which would be rare but in this case might be deadly. East has a tough call, but is far from being able to pass for penalties, and 1NT or 2♦ will be the popular choices. On this day, 1NT is the winning bid and 2♦ is a nightmare, but if South tries 2♥ it will turn into a disaster if East or West can find a penalty double!

East opens 1NT (don't let that small doubleton dissuade you, opening 1♣ with this will leave you with a rebid problem after partner responds 1♠) and South and West pass. There are hundreds of different schemes for overcalling after a 1NT call, and most have some conventional meaning for 2♣, but if North can bid 2♣ naturally, that's a good idea. 1NT should make easily and might score overtricks, while E-W have some work to do to get a plus score in 2♣. Having some system of bidding over 1NT is good for a partnership, because defending 1NT is often difficult and a reasonable spot at the 2-level might be better even if down one. Wikipedia has a list of such defenses you can choose from, and links to other pages listing them.

South opens a weak 2♥ and after West passes it's up to North, whose options are pass, a raise to 3♥, a shot at 3NT, or a 2NT bid to find out more. This 2NT response to a weak two has several ways to be played: some show side 'features' like the A♦ by rebidding 3♦, some prefer to show short suits, others make all the three-level suit bids an artificial response that shows a good or bad suit and a good or bad hand. I would pass. North needs to find good hearts and an entry to get to them to make 3NT, and most hands with both would open 1♥, not 2♥. But 15 points is hard to give up on, so most pairs are going down in 3♥ or 3NT.

Board # 16

		NORTH			
Dealer:	♠ K8	Vulnerable:			
West	♥ A98	E-W			
	♦ 865				
	♣ KT943				
WEST		EAST			
♠ AJ973	♠ Q642				
♥ KQ74	♥ J52				
♦ A	♦ Q42				
♣ 876	♣ AJ5				
SOUTH		Available			
HCP:	♠ T5	Tricks:			
10	♥ T63	N	S	E	W
14 10	♦ KJT973	NT	7	7	6 6
6	♣ Q2	♠	3	3	10 9
		♥	4	4	9 9
		♦	8	8	5 5
		♣	5	5	6 6

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

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	3♠w	8♦	=		140
	4♠w	8♦	=		620
	4♠w	6♦	=		620
	4♠w	A♥	=		620

West opens 1♠ and if North passes East should bid 3♣, a limit raise, 10-12 points in support of spades. West has 14 and a singleton and should bid 4♣. If East overcalls 2♣, the common treatment is for the cuebid of 3♣ to show a limit raise or better. These three-level limit raises are never made with only three-card support: they always promise four or more. 4♣ by West can be defeated with a club lead: if declarer wins the ace and finesses in spades, North wins the K♠, cashes the K♣, and leads a third club for partner to ruff, and the A♥ is the setting trick. If declarer plays a spade to the ace and another spade, North leads a low club and the defense gets two clubs, the K♠, and the A♥.

Board # 17

		NORTH			
Dealer:	♠ J9	Vulnerable:			
North	♥ KJ9	None			
	♦ 432				
	♣ KT862				
WEST		EAST			
♠ 54	♠ 87				
♥ 42	♥ AQT873				
♦ KJT75	♦ 86				
♣ AJ53	♣ 974				
SOUTH		Available			
HCP:	♠ AKQT632	Tricks:			
8	♥ 65	N	S	E	W
9 6	♦ AQ9	NT	8	6	4 4
17	♣ Q	♠	8	8	4 4
		♥	4	3	8 8
		♦	5	5	7 7
		♣	6	6	7 7

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

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	2♠n	4♥	+1	140	
	4♠s	2♥	-1		50
	4♠s	4♥	-1		50
	4♠s	4♥	-1		50

North passes and East opens a bargain-basement 2♥: it is so weak that I would probably pass if vulnerable. South has too much for any spade overcall and should double first, then bid spades later. When you make a takeout double, where the basic message is "please pick an unbid suit, partner" and then later bid your own suit, that shows a very strong hand. It does not say "no, not that one!" So South doubles, West passes, North bids 3♣, East passes, and South now bids 3♠, sending the clear message of a very strong hand with spades. North bids 4♠ and every card is wrong: West leads a heart, East wins and switches to a club, West wins and fires a second heart through dummy, and East now switches to a diamond, setting up the K♦ as the setting trick. Unlucky!

Board # 18

		NORTH			
Dealer:	♠ K864	Vulnerable:			
East	♥ 7	N-S			
	♦ KT6432				
	♣ K6				
WEST		EAST			
♠ A72	♠ JT95				
♥ 543	♥ KJT96				
♦ -	♦ 9				
♣ AQT9854	♣ 732				
SOUTH		Available			
HCP:	♠ Q3	Tricks:			
9	♥ AQ82	N	S	E	W
10 5	♦ AQJ875	NT	9	9	3 3
16	♣ J	♠	8	8	5 5
		♥	5	6	7 7
		♦	11	11	2 2
		♣	4	4	9 9

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

Players	Contract	Lead	Result	NS	EW
	4♦s	A♣	+1	150	
	4♦s	A♣	+1	150	
	3♦s	A♣	+1	130	
	6♦n*	2♣	-1		200

East passes, South opens 1♦, and West overcalls 3♣. A 2♣ overcall may seem right, but with partner a passed hand West wants to put maximum pressure on the opponents and take away as much bidding space as possible safely. North bids 3♦ and that may end it. Better would be a jump to 4♦ from North, letting South know North has a good hand in support of diamonds. North's nine points are actually worth more like 14 or so, with extra trump length, a singleton, a trump honour, and two well-placed black kings. Eleven tricks are easy; the hard part is getting all the way to 5♦.