

<p>1 ♠ 8 Dir: N ♥ J97 Vul: None ♦ 5 ♣ J10987652</p> <p>♠ KJ2 ♠ A1096543 ♥ AQ10854 ♥ 6 ♦ Q1043 ♦ J972 ♣ ♣ A</p> <p>2 ♠ Q7 12 9 ♥ K32 17 ♦ AK86 ♣ KQ43</p> <p>♣♦♥♠NT N 3 - - - - S - - - - E - 5 3 4 4 W - 5 3 4 4</p>	<p>2 ♠ Q9864 Dir: E ♥ A983 Vul: N-S ♦ 10 ♣ K82</p> <p>♠ J10752 ♠ A3 ♥ K2 ♥ J105 ♦ Q32 ♦ AK95 ♣ A103 ♣ QJ74</p> <p>9 ♠ K ♥ Q764 10 15 ♦ J8764 6 ♣ 965</p> <p>♣♦♥♠NT N - - - - S - - - - E 3 2 - 2 2 W 3 2 - 2 2</p>	<p>3 ♠ K104 Dir: S ♥ A983 Vul: E-W ♦ K76 ♣ 1054</p> <p>♠ 5 ♠ 98632 ♥ 5 ♥ J1076 ♦ A9832 ♦ 4 ♣ KQ9876 ♣ A32</p> <p>10 ♠ AQJ7 9 5 ♥ KQ42 16 ♦ QJ105 ♣ J</p> <p>♣♦♥♠NT N - 2 3 2 - S - 2 3 2 - E 3 - - - - W 3 - - - -</p>
<p>4 ♠ 102 Dir: W ♥ K9632 Vul: Both ♦ KJ854 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ 9754 ♠ A ♥ J7 ♥ AQ104 ♦ 632 ♦ Q1097 ♣ AQ32 ♣ 10654</p> <p>8 ♠ KQJ863 7 12 ♥ 85 13 ♦ A ♣ K987</p> <p>♣♦♥♠NT N - - - 1 - S 4 - - - - E 3 2 - - - W 3 2 - - -</p>	<p>5 ♠ Q9765 Dir: N ♥ 6 Vul: N-S ♦ 92 ♣ AKQ72</p> <p>♠ J42 ♠ A83 ♥ A1043 ♥ KQ2 ♦ J54 ♦ AQ107 ♣ 986 ♣ 543</p> <p>11 ♠ K10 6 15 ♥ J9875 8 ♦ K863 ♣ J10</p> <p>♣♦♥♠NT N 4 - - 4 - S 4 - - 4 - E - 1 - - - W - 1 - - -</p>	<p>6 ♠ 85 Dir: E ♥ 752 Vul: E-W ♦ QJ54 ♣ Q543</p> <p>♠ A103 ♠ K2 ♥ A986 ♥ QJ10 ♦ 1073 ♦ 962 ♣ KJ8 ♣ A10762</p> <p>5 ♠ QJ9764 12 10 ♥ K43 13 ♦ AK8 ♣ 9</p> <p>♣♦♥♠NT N - - - - S - - - - E 4 2 4 - 3 W 4 2 4 - 3</p>
<p>7 ♠ Q Dir: S ♥ AKQ102 Vul: Both ♦ 9652 ♣ K103</p> <p>♠ 543 ♠ AKJ872 ♥ 7653 ♥ J ♦ KQJ10 ♦ A43 ♣ 54 ♣ J86</p> <p>14 ♠ 1096 6 14 ♥ 984 6 ♦ 87 ♣ AQ972</p> <p>♣♦♥♠NT N 4 - 4 - - S 4 - 4 - - E - 3 - 4 - W - 3 - 4 -</p>	<p>8 ♠ 43 Dir: W ♥ A2 Vul: None ♦ QJ752 ♣ AJ85</p> <p>♠ K962 ♠ Q ♥ KJ1053 ♥ Q97 ♦ 986 ♦ K43 ♣ 7 ♣ KQ10942</p> <p>12 ♠ AJ10875 7 12 ♥ 864 9 ♦ A10 ♣ 63</p> <p>♣♦♥♠NT N 1 2 - 3 1 S 1 2 - 3 1 E - - 1 - - W - - 1 - -</p>	<p>9 ♠ Q973 Dir: N ♥ 93 Vul: E-W ♦ K105 ♣ KQ73</p> <p>♠ 8 ♠ KJ2 ♥ J7642 ♥ KQ108 ♦ 9843 ♦ Q76 ♣ 1062 ♣ A85</p> <p>10 ♠ A10654 1 15 ♥ A5 14 ♦ AJ2 ♣ J94</p> <p>♣♦♥♠NT N 3 2 1 4 2 S 3 2 - 4 2 E - - - - W - - - -</p>
<p>10 ♠ Dir: E ♥ AQJ82 Vul: Both ♦ KQ1093 ♣ KQJ</p> <p>♠ KJ7 ♠ 1093 ♥ K75 ♥ 43 ♦ 84 ♦ AJ72 ♣ 106543 ♣ A982</p> <p>18 ♠ AQ86542 7 9 ♥ 1096 6 ♦ 65 ♣ 7</p> <p>♣♦♥♠NT N - 3 4 3 2 S - 3 4 3 2 E 1 - - - - W 1 - - - -</p>	<p>11 ♠ K86 Dir: S ♥ A1075 Vul: None ♦ 3 ♣ K10752</p> <p>♠ A952 ♠ Q1043 ♥ K6 ♥ Q93 ♦ AJ982 ♦ K754 ♣ 93 ♣ 64</p> <p>10 ♠ J7 12 7 ♥ J842 11 ♦ Q106 ♣ AQJ8</p> <p>♣♦♥♠NT N 4 - 4 - - S 4 - 4 - - E - 3 - 2 - W - 3 - 2 -</p>	<p>12 ♠ KQ106 Dir: W ♥ 7543 Vul: N-S ♦ K8 ♣ J72</p> <p>♠ A952 ♠ J843 ♥ QJ10 ♥ 986 ♦ AQ65 ♦ 973 ♣ 106 ♣ K83</p> <p>9 ♠ 7 13 4 ♥ AK2 14 ♦ J1042 ♣ AQ954</p> <p>♣♦♥♠NT N 4 2 4 2 3 S 4 2 4 2 3 E - - - - W - - - -</p>
<p>13 ♠ KQJ7 Dir: N ♥ K97 Vul: Both ♦ KQ6 ♣ KJ8</p> <p>♠ 109 ♠ 8642 ♥ A65 ♥ 103 ♦ J943 ♦ 10872 ♣ A632 ♣ Q94</p> <p>18 ♠ A53 9 2 ♥ QJ842 11 ♦ A5 ♣ 1075</p> <p>♣♦♥♠NT N 3 1 5 4 4 S 3 1 5 4 3 E - - - - W - - - -</p>	<p>14 ♠ J96 Dir: E ♥ Q1094 Vul: None ♦ J92 ♣ J108</p> <p>♠ K8543 ♠ 107 ♥ A8763 ♥ J2 ♦ 5 ♦ K8764 ♣ 54 ♣ AK76</p> <p>5 ♠ AQ2 7 11 ♥ K5 17 ♦ AQ103 ♣ Q932</p> <p>♣♦♥♠NT N 2 1 - - 3 S 2 1 - - 3 E - - - - W - - - -</p>	<p>15 ♠ AJ1076 Dir: S ♥ 93 Vul: N-S ♦ KJ4 ♣ Q96</p> <p>♠ 9832 ♠ KQ ♥ Q1062 ♥ K854 ♦ Q7 ♦ 6532 ♣ J104 ♣ AK7</p> <p>11 ♠ 54 5 15 ♥ AJ7 9 ♦ A1098 ♣ 8532</p> <p>♣♦♥♠NT N 1 2 - 2 - S 1 2 - 2 - E - 2 - - - W - 2 - - -</p>
<p>16 ♠ J Dir: W ♥ 763 Vul: E-W ♦ AKQ986 ♣ A85</p> <p>♠ AK1086 ♠ 972 ♥ AJ1094 ♥ K2 ♦ J54 ♦ 32 ♣ ♣ K109643</p> <p>14 ♠ Q543 13 6 ♥ Q85 7 ♦ 107 ♣ QJ72</p> <p>♣♦♥♠NT N - - - - S - 1 - - - E - - 3 4 - W - - 3 4 -</p>	<p>17 ♠ QJ5 Dir: N ♥ J962 Vul: None ♦ AKJ1075 ♣</p> <p>♠ A742 ♠ K96 ♥ 874 ♥ AK3 ♦ 84 ♦ Q962 ♣ QJ65 ♣ K102</p> <p>12 ♠ 1083 7 15 ♥ Q105 6 ♦ 3 ♣ A98743</p> <p>♣♦♥♠NT N - 2 1 - - S - 1 1 - - E 1 - - 1 2 W 1 - - 1 2</p>	<p>18 ♠ AJ1063 Dir: E ♥ 73 Vul: N-S ♦ 632 ♣ K107</p> <p>♠ 872 ♠ 95 ♥ AQJ8 ♥ 10654 ♦ K85 ♦ A107 ♣ 632 ♣ AQJ4</p> <p>8 ♠ KQ4 10 11 ♥ K92 11 ♦ QJ94 ♣ 985</p> <p>♣♦♥♠NT N - - - - S - - - - E 4 2 5 1 2 W 4 2 5 1 2</p>

Hartford Bridge Club Friday After 11/10/2023

RECAP: N-S-E-W Avg HCP:10.61-10.92-9.14-9.33 Bal:18-18-22-23 Voids:2-1-0-5 Singles:12-12-9-6 7+Suit:2-2-4-0

Table with 6 columns and 6 rows of bridge hand deals. Each cell contains a hand number (e.g., 19, 20, 21), a dealer direction (Dir: S, W, N, E), a vulnerability (Vul: E-W, Both, N-S, None), and the cards held by North and South. A small table at the bottom right of each hand shows the distribution of cards in each suit (NT, N, S, E, W).

Proposed Bidding- Nov 10, 2023

1.	N	E	S	W
	P	1S	X	XX
	2C	2S	P	4S
	All Pass			

Notes:

- Not even I will preempt with North's hand
- Conversely, East's hand is too STRONG to preempt with. Yes, it's only 9 HCP. But, it only has tons of trick taking potential. (Note: If your familiar with Losing Trick count, it's only a 6 loser hand.) That says: open sesame!
- Not the classic shape for a Double, but South is too strong to not take some action. The other option is 1 NT, but Q X is a pretty weak stopper in opponent's major suit. So, Double wins the day.
- West's Redouble shows 10+ HCP and suggests no fit in Spades. Given the potential to hammer a red suit runout, this is the more flexible approach to begin with. She'll get another chance to raise Spades later. (Note: This also says that the opponent's can't play at 2S or lower without being Doubled.)
- North has a clear choice of runout suits: Clubs. (Note: South needs to realize that this bid just shows length, NOT strength!)
- East has no interest in playing defense, so he rebids his 7-card Spade suit
- West has an easy raise to 4S. (Note: If East-West were playing Splinters, West would bid 4C to show her void in that suit. But, that won't change the final contract.

Likely Result: Making 4 – South is likely a lead the Ace of Diamonds to get a better picture of how to attack this hand. When Dummy comes down, he'll have no reason to do anything other than play the King. When North shows out on that trick, South will be able to give him a ruff. Any other play and East will have no problem making 5.

2.	N	E	S	W
		1NT	P	2H*
	P	2S	P	3NT
	All Pass			

2H = Transfer to Spades

Notes:

- This bigging by West shows 5 Spades and 10+ HCP. It asks East to pick between 3NT and 4S.
- With only 2 Spades, East has an easy choice

Likely Result: ? – It largely depends on the initial lead. If South leads his 4th best Heart, then the Defense will have no trouble getting 5 tricks: 3 Hearts, the King of Clubs and either a Spade or a Diamond. However, if he leads a Diamond, things will get quite a bit dicier. East will win North's 10 in hand and lead the Queen of Clubs to try and establish that suit. When North wins her King, she'll be forced to lead a low Heart: Clubs make no sense, she's out of Diamonds and she can see that there's no future in Spades. Since leading the Ace of Hearts runs the risk of setting up 2 tricks for the Defense, she'll need to lead low. Now comes the moment of truth: when East plays the Jack of Hearts, South must DUCK! If he doesn't, then South will eventually get either a 2nd Heart or Spade trick given the layout of the cards. Since that's not very likely to happen at the table, I would expect this lead to result in East making 3.

3.	N	E	S	W
			1D	2C
	X	3C	4C*	P
	4H	All Pass		

4C = Asks partner to bid his better Major

Notes:

- With the singleton in the opponent's suit, East's hand is worth much more than the 5 HCP. (Note: With more trump, he would likely keep competing.)
- When North Doubles, to show the majors and 8+ HCP, South's hand increases in value substantially, especially the singleton Club. Since his Majors are roughly equal, he gets partner involved in deciding which suit to play in by bidding 4C.
- West has an easy choice: bid her 4-card Heart suit.

Likely Result: ? – With a natural trump trick, East isn't likely to go searching for a ruff by leading his singleton 4 of Diamonds. Instead, he'll likely lead his Ace of Clubs. From there, East's best play is to lead a Spade. (Note: Switching to a Diamond doesn't help: it just turns East's natural trump trick into a ruff.) From there, the play will go something like:

- North wins the 10 of Spades in hand to lead a 2nd Club
- Dummy ruffs low and then cashes the King and Queen of trump to find out about the bad trump split

- North overtakes the Dummy's Queen of Spades in hand in order to lead a 3rd Club (Note: West is out of trump, so she can't ruff this even though she's also out of Spades.)
- Dummy ruffs this with his last trump and cashes two more winning Spades. On the second one, North pitches a low Diamond.
- Dummy leads a low Diamond which West wins with her Ace.

Now, it all depends on what West pitched on the 4 major suit tricks. If she tossed all her Clubs, then she'll be forced to return a Diamond which will let North make: she'll either get her King of Diamonds or 2 more trump tricks. On the other hand, if she kept a Club, East can overruff North's 9 and lead his final Spade. That will force North to ruff, which will let East score a 2nd trump trick setting the contract 1.

4.	N	E	S	W
				P
	P	1C	1S	P
	P	X	P	2C
	All Pass			

Notes:

- With equal length, East should open 1C: it gives more room to find the right fit.
- Since East might only have 3 Clubs, West doesn't have enough to raise partner's Clubs over South's 1S.
- Since South's hand is limited in HCP (i.e. he would Double with 18+ HCP), North should NOT bid his Hearts at the 2-level
- Since East is in the pass out seat (i.e. if he Passes, the bidding is over), he should strive to keep the bidding open when 1S comes back to him. (Note: This is referred to as "borrowing a King" from partner's hand.) His shortness in Spades makes Double an easy call.
- West's hand, either strength or trump-wise, is nowhere near strong enough to leave partner's Double in. So, she has a clear 2C bid.
- With 4 Clubs, South knows that partner is short in Clubs. Since she didn't raise North's Spades, that either means she doesn't have 3+ Spades or she's very weak. As a result, South shouldn't bother repeating his Spades.

Likely Result: Making 2 – The first two tricks are pretty straightforward: East wins South's King of Spades with his Ace and leads a low trump towards Dummy's Queen of Clubs. When North drops the Jack, East should suspect that South has all 3 remaining trump. He would like to ruff Dummy's Spades in hand, but doesn't have enough entries. So, he should instead attack Hearts by leading the Jack from Dummy. That will get covered by North's King and Declarer's Ace. Back in hand, Declarer knows attempts to cash 2 more Hearts. However, South ruffs, and Dummy overruffs, the 3rd Heart. Dummy now leads a 2nd Spade. Declarer ruffs this and leads his final Heart. Regardless of what South does, East will get two more trump tricks to bring his total to 8: Ace of Spades, Ace Queen of Hearts and 5 trump tricks.

5.	N	E	S	W
	1S	1NT	2H	P
	2S	All Pass		

Notes:

- Over East's 1NT, South's 2H bid shows 9- HCP. With 10+, he would Double. (Note: Given this limit, this bid also implies tolerance for partner's suit.)
- With partner's hand capped, North isn't strong enough to introduce her Clubs at the 3 level. So, she's force into just rebidding Spades.

Likely Result: Making 4 – With no good options, East is likely to lead the King of Hearts in spite of Dummy's bid. When this wins, he'll continue with the Queen which North will ruff. On that lead, North can place the Ace of Hearts in West's hand, which means East must have just about everything else for his 1NT bid. So, she should lead low towards Dummy's King of Spades. East will likely rise with the Ace to lead another Heart. North will ruff that, cash Dummy's King of Spades, come back to hand with a Club and cash his final trump. (Note: The best play in Clubs is to cash Dummy's Jack and then overtake the 10. This lets her pick up 4-2 splits at the risk of getting a ruff when that suit splits 5-1. Given the odds, that's a good tradeoff.) When trump split, North can run the rest of her Clubs and lead a Diamond towards Dummy. Since East is out of Hearts and marked with the Ace of Diamonds, this will turn Dummy's King into North's 10th trick: 4 Spades, 5 Clubs and 1 Diamond.

6.	N	E	S	W
		P	1S	P
	1NT	P	2S	All Pass

Notes:

- A simple auction leading to a surprising landing spot

Likely Result: Down 1 – With little to go on from the bidding, West is likely to make her standard lead of a low Heart, which gives South his 7th trick: 3 Trump, 3 Diamonds and 1 Heart. (Note: Given the spot cards, South's best chance to hold his trump losers to 2 is to lead the Queen and then Jack of Spades hoping to squash the 10. Unfortunately, that doesn't work here, so he loses 3 trump tricks.)

7.	N	E	S	W
			P	P

1H	1S	2H	2S
3H	3S	All Pass	

Notes:

- A pretty standard auction
- The only difference for higher level players: East would make a maximal Double instead of bidding 3S to show interest in game. However, with a flat 6 HCP, West would just retreat to 3S.

Likely Result: Making 4 – On the likely Heart lead, East will only lose that and 2 Clubs. (Note: East’s 3rd Club either gets ruffed if the Defense tries to cash 3 Clubs immediately or gets discarded on Dummy’s 4th Diamond after trumps are drawn.)

8.	N	E	S	W
				P
	P	1C	1S	X
	P	2C	P	P
	X	P	P	XX*
	P	2H	P	P
	X	All Pass		

XX = Please find a different suit partner

Notes:

- Since his partner has overcalled (8+ HCP), North knows that her side has the majority of the points. She also knows that none of the outside suits is breaking well for East: partner has 5+ Spades and, since East didn’t bid Hearts, 3+ Hearts. That, plus two trump tricks even sitting in front of Declarer, should be enough to set the contract.
- West wants no part of 2C X, so she makes a rescue Redouble.
- Since West Double showed 4+ Hearts, East chooses that suit over Diamonds.
- South’s Pass is 100% forcing: it says that he is fine with either Defending or Declaring. With A X in Hearts, West decides to Defend by Doubling.

Likely Result: Down 1 – On the bidding, South knows that East isn’t going to get many outside tricks. So, he needs to lead Hearts every time he can to eliminate any ruffs. If he does, East will be held to 7 tricks:

4 trump and 1 in each of the other suits. (Note: Even though it's almost certainly a singleton based on the bidding, North must duck when West leads the 7 of Clubs at trick 3. If not, East will be able to pitch two losers on the King and Queen of Clubs after using the Queen of Hearts to get to Dummy. That will let her make her Doubled contract!)

9.	N	E	S	W
	P	1NT	2S	P
	3S	P	4S	All Pass

Notes:

- This assumes that North-South are playing natural over. The bidding will be VERY different if North-South are playing a convention over 1 NT openers (e.g. with DON'T, South needs to Pass instead)

Likely Result: Making 4 – East's 1NT opener places almost all of the HCP in his hand. This means that South should make the unusual play of crossing to the King of Diamonds to lead the Queen of Spades in order to pin East's King. That holds Declarer's losers to 3: 1 trump, 1 Heart and the Ace of Club. With east marked to hold the Queen of Diamonds, South needs to finesse if/when East wins a trick and leads that suit.

10.	N	E	S	W
		P	3S	P
	3NT	All Pass		

Notes:

- Since Doubling partner's Spade preempt isn't legal, North just needs to bid what she thinks she can make

Likely Result: Making 3 – On a Club lead, North is toast: the Defense will be able to set up 3 Club tricks to go along with their Ace of Diamonds and King of Hearts before Declarer can set up 9 tricks. But, on the more likely 2 of Diamonds lead, North has a good play for 9 tricks:

- Win the first trick in hand with the 10 of Diamonds. Then, lead the King of Diamonds. East will win his Ace, but this set up a 2nd Diamond trick for later.

- Looking at Dummy, East will likely lead the 9 of Clubs: a red suit lead can't help and it's tough to lead a Spade into Dummy's 7-card suit.
- North wins this trick and starts attacking Hearts. But, because there is no communication with Dummy, she needs to do so in the most unusual manor: by leading low from hand!
- West will cover Dummy's 10 with her King and return a Club, but North is in control: he has 2 in each Minor, 4 Hearts and can use the 9 of Hearts to get to Dummy to cash the Ace of Spades for her 9th trick!

11.

N	E	S	W
		P	1D
X	1S	2H	2S
All Pass			

Notes:

- Even though South's 2H bid shows 10+ HCP, North is going to be hard pressed to bid 3H

Likely Result: Making 2 – On the expected low Heart lead, North should insert her 10 when Dummy plays low. (Note: Given the bidding, South lead of the 2 guarantees at least one honor. We also know that East has 2+ Hearts: South would have bid 3H with 6+ Hearts rather than Passing Out on this auction. Therefore, playing the 10 can't hurt and will avoid giving Declarer a cheap trick if South holds both honors.) East will in his Queen and attack Spades: Ace in Dummy, small back towards hand. When North ducks, to avoid the possibility of covering partner's Queen, East wins the actual Queen of Spades. Since the last trump out is the boss, East can leave it out and start attacking Diamonds. Unfortunately, with 9 of them, he will likely play the King from hand and then Dummy's Ace. When North ruffs this, the Defense will easily come to 5 tricks: 1 ruff, the Queen of Diamonds, the Ace of Hearts and 2 Clubs.

12.

N	E	S	W
			1D
P	P	2C	All Pass

Notes:

- An interesting hand: not often the bidding peters out this low.

Likely Result: Making 4 – The play on this one is quite delicate and requires careful attention to the bidding and discards. Since West knows she can't count on East for much help, let's assume she makes the passive lead of the Queen of Diamonds. (Note: Any other lead makes South's life much easier.) Since East Passed his partner's 1D opener, he can have at most one of the two Aces or King of trump. So,

let's go about trying to figure which, if any, he holds. Therefore, win the first trick in hand and lead you Spade. West knows her partner is broke too, so she flies with the Ace and returns the 10 of Hearts. We win that in hand again and lead a low Diamond. Again, West rises with the Ace and cashes her Jack of Hearts. But, now the jig is up: in Dummy for the one and only time, Declarer cashes his two Spades, pitching his remaining Diamonds, and leads the Jack of Clubs. Whether East covers or not, South will come to 5 Club tricks when East 10 drops doubleton to establish South's 9. That leads to a total of 10 tricks: 5 trump, 2 in each Major and 1 Diamond.

13.	N	E	S	W
	1C	P	1H	P
	2NT*	P	3D**	P
	3H	P	4H	All Pass

2NT = 18-19 HCP

3D = New Minor Forcing or just a way to keep both 3NT and 4H alive

Notes:

- South is in a bind after North's 2NT bid playing standard methods. He knows they have game, but not which one. If he bids 3C or 3H, partner may Pass thinking South only has 5 HCP. That leaves 3D as his only option.
- North doesn't know how strong South is: he could be interested in game or slam. So, she just lets partner know that she's got 3 Hearts by bidding 3H.
- South now knows which is the better game: 4H.

Likely Result: Making 5 – On the bidding, West may lead his 10 of Spades. South should win this in Dummy and lead a low Heart. (Note: This keeps open the possibility of finessing the 10 in either direction if Hearts split 5-0.) When West covers South's Queen with his Ace, she now has to decide what to lead. A Spade is out: East will have discouraged that on the initial lead. On the bidding, she expects South to have 5+ Hearts and 4+ Diamonds. In that case, South may lose a second Diamond if he's forced to attack that suit by himself. That leaves Clubs. Since South would probably have won the first trick in hand with the Ace if he was A X, West suspects that South may have only 1 Club, so she leads the Ace. From there, the rest is easy: Declarer wins the next trick, draws trump and pitches his remaining Club on Dummy's 3rd Diamond. (Note: If West leads a low Club and South guesses right [i.e. plays the King], then he'll make 6 using a pitch in both Spades and Diamonds. If he guesses wrong, he'll be held to 4 when East wins his Queen and returns a 2nd Club.)

14.	N	E	S	W
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P 1NT 2H

All Pass

Notes:

- Distributional hands like West's are worth sticking your neck out for after opponent's 1NT opener, even without a system.
- Without any idea of what partner holds, South needs one more Spade to reopen with a Double.

Likely Result: Down 3 – With visions of 3 trump tricks and no clear alternative, North leads a low Heart. West takes South's King with her Ace and leads a Club to Dummy. When a low Spade is returned, South will rise with the Ace and return a Heart to eliminate any potential ruffs. This lets South score her well-deserved 3 trump tricks. Next, since South has shown only 7 HCP: King of Hearts and Ace of Spades, he must have something in Diamonds for his 1NT opener. So, South leads the Jack of Diamonds to trick 7. This Defense will hold Declarer to 5 tricks: 2 trump, 1 Spade and 2 Clubs. (Note: Simply returning a low Diamond will give West at least one, and possibly two, more tricks.)

15. N E S W
P P
1S 1NT All Pass

Notes:

- In third seat, North can be a little more aggressive in opening the bidding, especially with the boss suit: Spades.
- South is not quite strong enough to Double: that should be 10+ HCP. So, he just Passes.

Likely Result: Down 3 – With East's 1NT bid, South is likely to fall back to his standard lead: the 10 of Diamonds (top of an interior sequence). This will let the Defense take the first 4 tricks in Diamonds. Since South now knows that East had only 2 Spades: South can see 6 + partner's 5 for her 1S bid leaves only 2 for East, he can lead the 5 of Spades to trick 5. Now the pressure is on North: does East have K Q 4 or just K Q of Spades? If the former, East is always going to get 2 Spade tricks. If it's the latter, then she needs to duck in case partner has an outside entry. (Note: East should cover with the 8 to make North's life more challenging, but it doesn't change the decision.) Since playing low produces the best results in both cases, South should follow with the 6. If she does, then the Defense will get 4 Spade tricks when South wins the Ace of Hearts and returns another Spade. That will hold East to 4 tricks: 2 Clubs and 1 in each Major.

16.	N	E	S	W
				1S
	2D	2S	P	3D*
	P	3S	All Pass	

3D = Game suit try

Notes:

- East's two low is good support for Diamonds given the bidding. But, with only 6 HCP, he doesn't have enough to go to 4S.

Likely Result: Making 4 – The first tricks are going to be Ace, King and Queen of Diamonds. Dummy needs to ruff high in order to avoid a cheap overruff from South. In with his Queen of Spades, South now leads the Queen of Clubs which West ruffs. Before drawing trump, Declarer should try and get a Heart ruff since she expects North, not South, to have the Queen of Hearts. So, the next 3 tricks are: Heart to Dummy's King, Heart back to Declarer's Ace, heart ruffed in Dummy. When that holds, Declarer leads Dummy's last trump back to his hand. Since the Jack falls, she's able to draw all the trump and then run her remaining Hearts. Making 4: 5 Spades in hand, 4 Hearts and 1 ruff in Dummy.

17.	N	E	S	W
	1D	1NT	P	P
	2D	All Pass		

Notes:

- Despite sitting in front on East's 1NT, the freakish shape and really strong Diamonds makes rebidding Diamonds a winning idea.
- West would like to have either fewer Diamonds or a little more strength to reopen with a Double.

Likely Result: Making 2 – The play is pretty straightforward: once she gets in, North is going to draw trump and then set up her side suits. East will win the 3rd trump trick, but won't have a way to get a ruff, so the Defense will only get 5 tricks: 2 in each Major and 1 trump trick.

18. N E S W
 All Pass

Notes:

- The only one that might open the bidding is West. Yes, she has 4 Hearts in 3rd seat, but a flat 10 is a little to light for me. (Note: If you're going to open this hand, then it's better to open 1H than 1C: bid where you live.)

Likely Result: NA

19. N E S W
 P 1C
 P 1D P 1H
 P 1S P 1NT
 P 3NT All Pass

Notes:

- Finally, a standard bidding sequence! East's 3NT is a little pushy, but makes sense with 2 Aces and 5 Diamonds.

Likely Result: Making 3 – North is likely to lead the 2 of Spades, which will go to the 9, Jack and Ace. Declarer will attack Diamonds with Dummy's Jack losing to South's King. If he blindly returns Spades, Declarer will get another Spade and will make 4. Instead, South should see that leading a Club is a better choice. In that case, Declarer wins in hand, finesses in Hearts and then cashes out: making only 3.

20. N E S W
 P
 P 1C 1NT 2S*
 X 3S 4H All Pass

2S = Weak

Notes:

- Against a 1NT overcall, West can Double to show 9+ HCP. Because of that, 2S by her becomes a weak bid.
- Assuming standard bidding, Double by North is takeout.
- East's 3S is just extending partner's preempt.
- Opposite an even minimum Double by North, South has an easy 4H bid.

Likely Result: Making 5 – The Spade lead from West is likely to set up South's King for a Diamond pitch in Dummy. (Note: If West doesn't lead a Spade, South can do the same thing himself later in the play.) This will be make sure South doesn't take the Diamond finesse the wrong way. This will hold his losers to 1 in Spades and one in Clubs.

21.	N	E	S	W
	P	3D	X	XX
	4C	P	P	5D
	All Pass			

Notes:

- Over partner's preempt, West's Redouble sets up the possibility of a Penalty Double.
- Over West's Redouble, North's 4C is just an attempt to escape, NOT a forward going bid.
- In Clubs, West can't be sure that she can set the contract enough, so she bids what she expects to make: 5D.

Likely Result: Making 5 – On the likely 5 of Clubs lead, East realizes that South is very unlikely to underlead an Ace on this bidding, so he plays the 7 from Dummy. Now it's North's turn: South's low Club in a suit he's shown some length in, with his Double, indicates an honor, which must be the Queen. So, she knows that her 10 is enough to win the trick. Even if she switches to a Spade, East will still be able to take the rest of the tricks like this:

- Win the Ace of Spade is Dummy
- Finesse North's King of Diamond to pick up that suit
- After drawing trump, lead the 8 of Hearts. Assuming South splits his honors, Dummy wins and ruffs a Club back to hand. (Note: Leading the 8 makes it more likely that South won't cover.)
- East now leads his 10 of Hearts. South needs to cover that, too. If he does, then East will only get 11 tricks: 7 Diamonds, 3 Hearts and the Ace of Spade.

(Note: If South doesn't split his honors, then East will be able to pitch his last Spade on Dummy's 4th Heart. That will let him make an extra trick.)

22.	N	E	S	W
		P	1D	1H
	X	P	2D	2H
	3C	All Pass		

Notes:

- To keep Spades in play, North is better off starting with a Double rather than bidding Clubs.
- When North subsequently bids 3C, South knows that she has 4 Spades, 6+ Clubs and 1- Diamonds. That makes Pass the winning bid.

Likely Result: Making 3 – On the likely Heart lead, North will be able to draw trump and then pitch one Spade on Dummy’s King of Diamonds. That will hold the Defense to the 3 top tricks and one Spade. (Note: Finessing in Diamonds can’t help because there is no way to get to Dummy and draw trump even if the finesse works.)

23.	N	E	S	W
			P	1H
	2C	3C*	4C	4H
	All Pass			

3C = Limit raise in Hearts: 10+ HCP, 3+ Hearts

Notes:

- With a semi-solid suit and a void, West is too strong to preempt. So, she opens 1H.
- With the opponents showing length in her void and partner showing support, West has an easy bid at her second turn: 4H.

Likely Result: Making 4 – West should try and get as much information about the hand as possible before attacking the key suit: Diamonds. Unfortunately, that won’t help much: both opponents show up with 3 Spades, 2 Hearts and 3 Clubs. Therefore, she will have to fall back on the standard play: Ace and King of Diamonds. When the Queen drops, West’s contract rolls home: the Defense only gets the Ace of Hearts and the Ace and Queen of Spades.

24.	N	E	S	W
				P
	1NT	P	2C	P
	2S	P	3NT	All Pass

Notes:

- If North-South are playing Puppet Stayman, then they will find the superior 4S. If not, this is the likely bidding.

Likely Result: Making 4 – East is likely to lead a low Diamond. (Note: An unlikely Club lead will hold Declarer to 9 tricks.) With that, North has time to set up her Spades and still finesse in Hearts without risking the contract. When that wins, she'll have 10 tricks: 4 Spades, 3 Hearts and 3 high cards in the Minors.

25.	N	E	S	W
	1S	P	1NT	P
	2H	P	3H	All Pass

Notes:

- Having both majors, North's hand is strong enough to open 1S
- Even though North's 2H limits her hand to 15 HCP, South's has enough to invite game.
- With a minimum, North Passes

Likely Result: Making 4 – Unless the Defense fails to take them, they will be limited to 3 tricks: 1 Diamond and 2 Clubs.

26.	N	E	S	W
		P	P	1S
	3C	X	P	4C*
	P	4D	P	4S
	All Pass			

4C = Over partner's Double, this shows a strong hand that's interested in slam

Notes:

- Since East's Double showed 4+ Hearts (i.e. the unbid Major), East should show his Diamonds at his second turn. (Note: This bid is 100% forcing after West's 4C bid.)
- West's Spades are strong enough to make game, so he bids 4S. (Note: Since he bid 4C first, this shows slam interest.)
- East doesn't have enough to invite slam given that West didn't open 2C, so he Passes.

Likely Result: Making 6 – Given her holding, North is very unlikely to lead a Heart. If she doesn't, then West will have enough time to draw trump and force her way into Dummy in Diamonds. That entry will let her pitch her losing Heart on Dummy's Ace of Clubs.

27.	N	E	S	W
			1S	P
	4S*	All Pass		

4S = Weak: 5+ Spade, 6- HCP

Notes:

- South is just a little short of opening 2C. So, he opens 1S.
- West has the right shape, but not enough HCP to Double. So, she Passes.

Likely Result: Making 5 – Just losing 2 Diamonds.

28.	N	E	S	W
				1C
	1D	P	1H	P
	1NT	P	2NT	All Pass

Notes:

- After South's 1H, North has to bid something, so he's backed into bidding 1NT despite only a partial stopper in opener's Club suit.

Likely Result: Down 1 – On the likely Club lead, West will be able to set up 4 Clubs tricks. So, when Dummy gets in with the King of Clubs on trick 3, he needs to lead a LOW Heart. If not, then Declarer will have no entry to cash Hearts when the suit splits.

29.	N	E	S	W
	P	P	1C	P
	1D	P	1NT	All Pass

Notes:

- Despite 13 HCP, West has no bid over South's opening 1C.
- Since South's 1NT limits her hand to 10 HCP, North should Pass.

Likely Result: Making 3 – On a Club lead, South can set up a Club as long as she plays low from both hands on the first 3 tricks. With the Ace of Diamonds onside, that will hold the Defense to 4 tricks: 3 Clubs and the Ace of Diamonds. (Note: South may need to come to hand and lead towards Dummy's Diamonds twice to establish the suit.)

30.	N	E	S	W
		P	P	1S
	2D	X	P	2NT
	All Pass			

Notes:

- East doesn't have enough to bid 2H, so he starts with a Double.
- With no Heart support and only 5 weak Spades, West is backed into bidding 2NT. (Note: Her hand isn't strong enough to convert Partner's takeout Double into a Penalty by Passing.)

Likely Result: Making 2 – Given the strong intermediates (i.e. Jack, 10 and 9), West should attack Heart after winning the first Diamond trick in hand. If she does, she'll be able to get 8 tricks: 4 Hearts, 2 Diamonds and 1 in each of the other suits before the Defense can set up both Clubs and Diamonds.

31.	N	E	S	W
			P	1D
	P	1S	P	1NT
	P	2NT	All Pass	

Notes:

- Even though they are weaker, East should bid his Spades, not his Clubs, at his first turn
- With most of her points outside of her long Diamond suit, West is better off treating her hand as flat by bidding 1NT at her second turn. (Note: If 5 or more Diamonds are in the cards, East will make a forcing bid at his second turn.)
- Since West could have 14 HCP, East should invite game with his 11 HCP and flat hand. However, with only 13HCP, East Passes.

Likely Result: Making 4 – On the standard Heart lead from North, West needs to hold up her Ace until the 3rd trick. If she does, then South won't be able to get back to partner's good Hearts when she gets in with the Ace of Diamonds. That means, Declarer will have 10 tricks: 5 Diamonds, 1 Heart and 2 top tricks in each of the black suits.

32.	N	E	S	W
				P
	1D	P	1S	P
	1NT	All Pass		

Notes:

- A flat 12 HCP doesn't make an opening hand in first seat. So, West should Pass.
- With a more shapely hand, North should open his 12 HCP in 2nd seat.
- They're not pretty, but Spades are a Major. So, South should respond 1S.
- Opposite no more than 14 HCP, South should Pass partner's 1NT bid.

Likely Result: Making 3 – With no better option, East is likely to make his natural lead of the 3 of Hearts (i.e. 4th best). Partner wins this with the Ace and needs to decide how to continue. Based on the bidding, East has at most 6 HCP. If 3 of them are the King of Hearts, then East probably doesn't have another entry. So, West needs to lead the Queen. However, if North has that instead, then leading that back will give Declarer 2 Heart stoppers. Given the imbalance, West should probably play it safe and lead back the 7 of Hearts, which drives out Declarer's King.

Now it's Declarer's turn to think. She can cash her tricks: 5 Diamonds and the Ace of Spade to make the contract. Or, she can try the Club finesse. With the latter approach, the Defense will get in with the Ace of Clubs and cash their Heart tricks. But, how many is that? Based on his play to the first 2 tricks, East either started with 5 Hearts or just 2. (Note: This is why it's important to watch opponent's discards and know their signals.) But, if he has only 2, then West started with 6 headed by the A Q 10 8. With that holding, her correct play to trick 1 would be the 8 since Dummy held the Jack and 9. Since she played the Ace, the Defense has 3 more Heart tricks to cash. But, that only brings their total to 4, so South can afford to lose 2 Club tricks. Therefore, North should attack Clubs to try for the overtricks. So, the play should go:

- Cash 2 Diamond tricks
- Lead a low Club to Dummy's 10
- If that wins, then cash out! There's no need to risk the contract just in case East is playing games (i.e. ducks holding A Q X X in Clubs. Making 2.
- If it draws out the Ace, then get back to Dummy with the Queen of Diamonds and repeat the Finesse. Making 3.
- The tricky one is if it loses to the Queen. In that case, the key play is to discard the Queen of Diamonds(!) on the run of the Hearts. That way, when East exits with a Spade, Declarer's Diamond suit won't be blocked.

33. N E S W
 1H P 1NT All Pass

Notes:

- Over 1H, East has no bid, despite having the best hand at the table.
- Even playing Standard American, South's hand, especially his Diamond suit, is too weak to bid 2D. So, he settles for a very heavy 1NT.
- With all her HCP in her short suits, North has no interest in going anywhere else. (Note: If playing 2 over 1, then North would be forced to bid 2C.)

Likely Result: Making ? – The lack of communication makes this one tricky. For example, consider this attempt to establish Diamonds:

- 10 of Spades from West won in hand with the Jack.

- Low Diamond to Dummy's Queen and East's King
- Spade back to Dummy's bare Ace
- Cash the Ace of Diamonds

Now what? East still had the boss Diamond. So, you need to get back to hand twice: once to knock it out and another time to cash it. But, you only have one sure entry: the Ace of Clubs. The King of Spades is also good, but you'll need the opponents to lead Spades since Dummy's out of them. Fortunately for you, the spots work out, so that's what's likely to happen. Making 1: 3 Diamonds, 3 Spades and the Ace of Clubs.