Summer Instant Matchpoint Game

July 9, 2018 - Set 180709

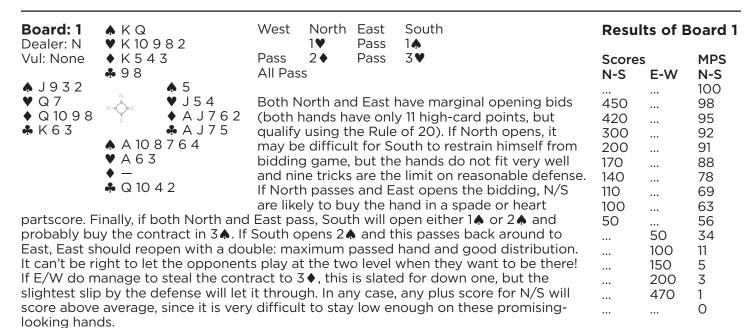


Analysis by Sylvia Shi and Daniel Korbel

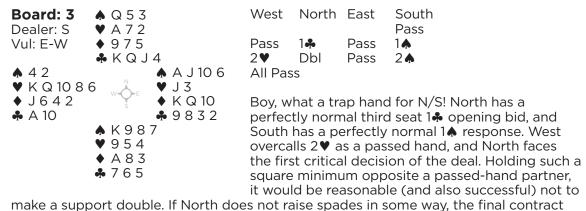


Sylvia Shi started playing bridge in 2011. Since then, she has a meteoric rise to the top. She won her first North American championship, the Lebhar IMP Pairs, in 2015, then quickly followed that up with a win in the Mixed Swiss Teams later that year. She won the Women's USBC in 2016 and 2017, the first 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: 2 Dealer: E	A 9 8 2 ♥ Q J 9 2	West North East South 1NT 3♣	Resu	Its 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	250 150 130 110 100 50	 90	100 99 95 86 77 65 41 24 22
will improve	e his score. 3♦ will prob	ut if East decides to take a chance and bid 3 \(\stackin \), this ably drift down one on a singleton heart lead from and 3. 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.

North East

Pass

Pass

2 ♦

3NT

West

1

3 %

Dos	ulte	Ωf	Roa	rd 1

Results of Board 3

E-W

...

...

50

90

100

110

120

140

150

170

200

300

500

IMP

N-S

100

99

97

95

92

90

83

74

65

55

50

31

10

6

5 4

2

0

Scores

N-S

110

100

90

80

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

Pass

	Scores		IMP	
	N-S	E-W	N-S	
nts,			100	
•	200		99	
in	100		97	
g		110	92	
		130	87	
will		150	78	
s if		200	70	
ne		500	67	
С		600	59	
S		630	29	
		660	5	
е		750	3	
		800	1	

Board: 4 Dealer: W Vul: Both	A K Q ▼ J 8 ◆ K 9 3 ♣ 5 4 3	7 4
♠ 10 9 6 5 2 ♥ A 2 ♦ 8 ♣ K Q J 7 6	W E	♠ 8 3♥ K Q 9 6♠ A Q 10 7 6♣ A 10
	↓ J↓ 10 7 5↓ J 5 4 2♣ 9 8 2	. •

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

South

All Pass

Pass

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!

Board: 5 Dealer: N Vul: N-S	↓ J 10 8 5 3 2↓ A Q 9 3 2↓ —‡ 10 5
<pre>A K 7 6 4 ▼ 7 5 ◆ 10 9 8 ♣ Q 9 7</pre>	
	♠ Q ♥ 8 6 4 ♦ J 7 6 2 ♣ A K 8 4 2

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

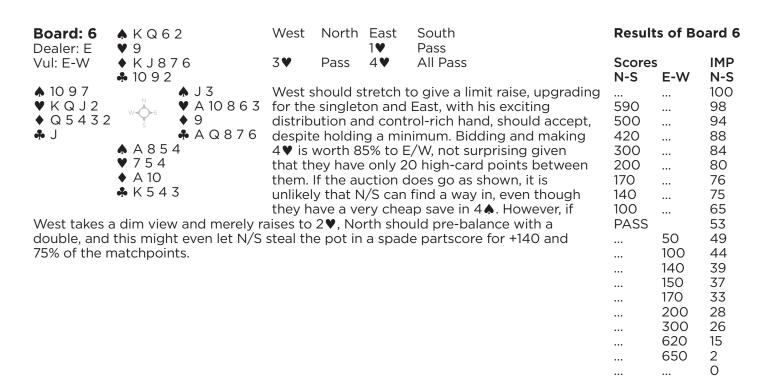
What an unlucky deal we have here! For bidding to the excellent 3NT, E/W will get punished by going down two or three tricks. Those E/W who stop in 3♦ and make it will score very well (if a little undeservedly).

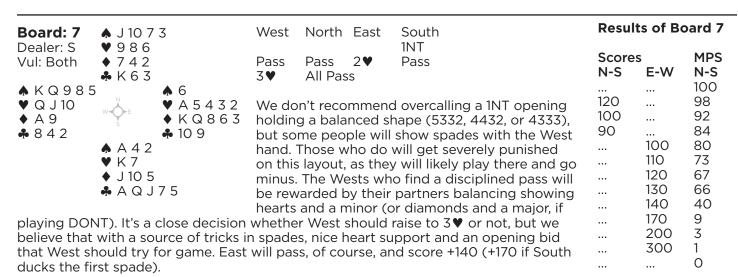
If West passes $2 \spadesuit$ (an error, in my view, with this good of a hand for diamonds), this may allow N/S to back into $3 \heartsuit$, which can be made with (very) careful play.

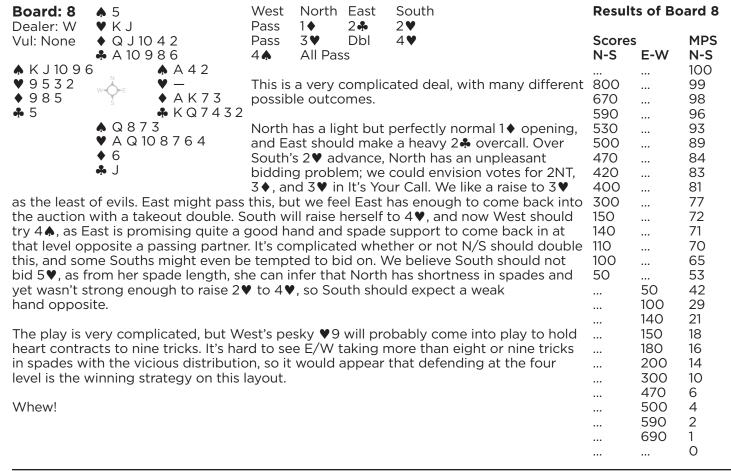
Resu	lts	of	Во	ard	5
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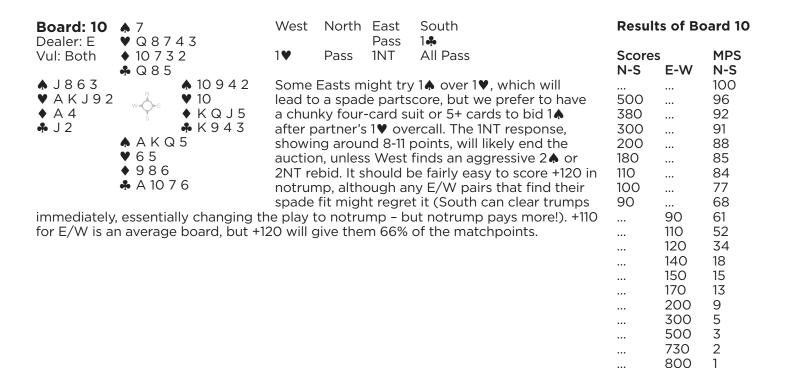
Scores	5	MPS
N-S	E-W	N-S
		100
730		99
300		98
200		97
150		96
100		74
50		43
	90	33
•••	100	32
•••	110	26
•••	150	18
•••	200	16
	400	10
	430	5
	470	3
		ა 1
	500	•
		Ο

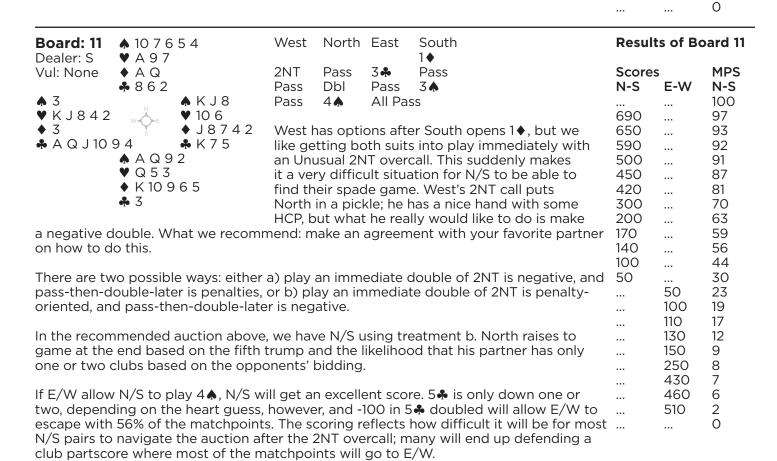


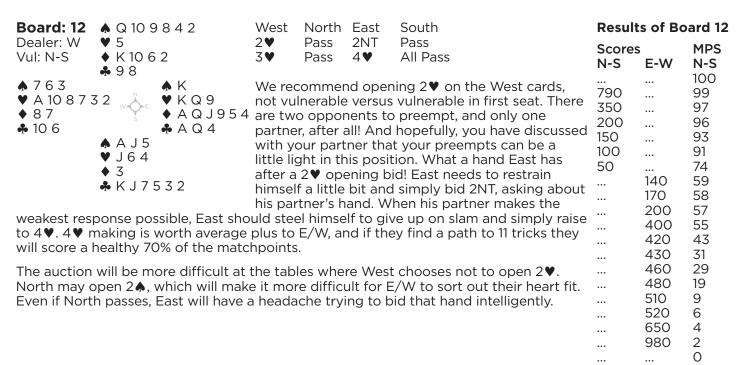




Board: 9	♠ Q 8 3 ♥ K 6 5 3	West	North Pass	East Pass	South 1NT	Resul	ts of B	oard 9
Dealer: N Vul: E-W	◆ 9 5 ♣ K 10 7 4	Pass Pass	2♣ 3♥	Pass Pass Pass	2♥ 4♥	Score N-S	s E-W	MPS N-S
♠ 10 5 4 2 ♥ Q 10	♦ K J 7 ♥ 7 4	All Pas	SS			 450		100 88
♦ K 7 6 4 ♣ A 8 3	♦ Q J 10 2 ♣ 9 6 5 2		•		commended sequence 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 East South	Results o	of Board 13
Dealer: N	Pass 1♠ Pass 1NT Pass 2♦ Pass 2NT Pass 3♥ Pass 4♥ All Pass Playing 2/1, the West hand is not strong enough for a two-over-one response, and therefore must start with a forcing 1NT. East must rebid a short minor, presumably 2♠, and now West will likely try 2NT to show his game-invitational strength. East now has a chance for a clever bid: he has denied holding four hearts when he rebid 2♠, so 3♥ shows exactly three pt the game try. Neat! West will happily raise to 4♥ Leven if West rebids only 2♥ over his partner's 2♠ aise to 3♥, and 4♥ should still be reached.	Scores N-S E	MPS -W N-S 100 99 98 20 96 30 94 40 92 50 91 70 88 80 86 00 78 00 62 20 46
	his partner's 2NT invitation, and simply raises to owing 3NT to scamper home. However, -600 will be 'S.		50 19

		, 0.						
Board: 14	♦ A 7 3	West	North		South	Resu	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 KQJ1064 ∀73 4 9875 	there inflict auctic but w spade respondent	are thos maximuon). 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 ouble, s unbid s	Pass 's" 2♠ opener (although would open 3♠ to try to hage on the opponents' ttle 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	E-W	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 is possible defense in th	ter winn ades to e auctio e most o	ing a ro South ton, he min	und of to get a ight eve	ng trump control we trumps, North must find the a 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 Y ♦ Q753 ♣ KJ432 **%** 875 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 $5 \, \Psi$ 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 after winning the Ψ K lead, 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		West	North	East	South	Resul	ts of Bo	ard 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 4 ◆ 5 2 ♣ 10 7 5 ses first and	8 QJ4 AKJ 13 then balance	round of every to raise to shape a defend E/W's figure of all their es 3 \(\Phi\)).	of the a able, ur by 3♥ or spad spad, but Sybest chaput a war tricks Spadeshis gues.	uction to the still Nort. Winde valuation wo ance at any to de will takes ing should be still takes ing should be still takes ing should be attentional takes in the still be attentional ta	re battle. We expect the first to be duplicated at almost h must decide whether to th his minimum hand, square es, Daniel believes he should uld raise. As it turns out, a big score is if they can efend 3 doubled and take might happen, especially se eight or nine tricks, bes. It turns out 5 double there.	 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 4 ★ A 10 8 5 ★ 5 2 ★ 5 2 ★ 10 8 6 4 2 	it is los hand s will pro South could with w overca	sing brid such as s obably l respond try a 1N' reak sto all the sa	dge to p South's oid 3 ♠ ds 1♠, V T overc ppers a afer 2 ♠	A opener, and we believe that bass 1, not vulnerable, with a . If South jumps to 3, West and play there, but when West will have a problem. He all, 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-l-or-don't-l action, there will be a number of different common auctions on this board.

Results of Board 18

E-W

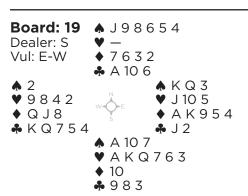
Scores

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						
			1♥						
Pass	1 🖍	2♦	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 N-S	s E-W	MPS 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

0

Results of Board 20

	Score N-S	s E-W	MPS N-S
			100
	 1740		97
	1660		94
	1390		84
	1150		75
	680		73
•	640		68
4♠ .	500		53
h	200		25
st	190		8
er	100		6
е		620	4
		790	1

0

Board: 20	♠ —		West	North	East	South
Dealer: W	♥ K Q 6	4 3	Pass	Pass	1♠	2♣
Vul: Both	♦ 765		4 🌲	5 ♣	5 ^	Dbl
	♣ Q 10 7	' 5 4	Pass	6 ♣	Pass	Pass
♠Q9854	3 2	♠ A K 10 7 6	6♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
V 10 5	Ň	♥ J 7 2	All Pas	S		
♦ J8	W-E	♦ KQ432				
♣ J 8	Š	♣ —	This is	the wild	dest bo	ard of the set. Hold on to
	♠ J		your h			
	♥ A 9 8		<i>y</i> • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •			
	♦ A 10 9)	Fast ha	as a nor	mal 1🛦	opener, South a normal 24
	♣ A K 9	6 3 2				normal, if freakish, jump to 4
						be overly optimistic as North
			VVC DC	IICVC IC V	WOUIU K	oc overry opening the da rivortin

to bid 6.4, as South doesn't need a hand anywhere near this good to overcall 2.4. East has learned of "big" spade support from her partner's 4.4 call, and this should lead her to bid 5.4: 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 5.4 will often make.

Now things get interesting. South will surely double 5. 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.

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

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		East Pass	South 1♥	Result	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
when West hearts. The down to a s will sever W	A J 9 V J 4 2 K J 9 5 7 4 3 2 Q 6 5 4 K Q 9 8 3 8 A 10 9 A 10 9	every they no spade North clear to the west for toward the did not be found to the countries.	table, unled the suit. If contract, will lead a suit. If Q, he will finds the suit do his club and, Sout west in a succed to distribute of South a suit of Sou	ess N/p defe both a hear West surely • Q, ho suit. In and dia ch can trange scard can we	on to be repeated at almost 'S are playing Flannery (there, ending 2NT or playing in a excellent outcomes for N/S). It against 1NT, and South will plays the opening bidder for orgo at least one down, but if e can use the entries to lead however, if the play continues mond back to the dummy, rise with the A and cash his e way: he can't afford to bare a spade and a diamond. This ork out what has happened, des from his hand for one	N-S 300 200 150 140 110 100 50	E-W 90 100 110 120 150 180 200	N-S 100 99 98 91 83 80 69 45 25 17 13 10 8 6
down. +50 f evenly. Eithe lion's share		300	1 O					

Board: 22 ♠ QJ642	West	North		South	Resul	ts of Bo	oard 22
Dealer: E Vul: E-W	and w 2NT to East m by rais with h	ith her k 3NT in night co sing to 4 er minin	as a stro palance stead c nsider t INT, but num co	Pass Pass Pass Pass ong enough hand to open 24, d hand should raise East's of rebidding her heart suit. crying one more time for slam t West will probably pass that unt. Slam is not very good quessing both diamonds	Score N-S 200 100 	E-W 600 650 660 680 690	MPS N-S 100 99 89 79 77 70 62 46
and hearts. For the percentages mathe heart suit is to play hearts from diamonds is to taken two finesses the made. E/W need to make at least (getting to 4♥ or taking only nine to		710 720 1100 1370 1430 1440 1460 1470	32 27 22 20 16 9 4 2				

Board: 23 Dealer: S	↑ Q 9 8 6 ∀ J 9 5 3 2	West	North	East	South 1♣	Resul	ts of Bo	oard 23
Vul: Both	♦ 8752 ♣ —	1 ♦ All Pas	Dbl ss	1♠	4♥	Score: N-S	s E-W	MPS N-S
★ K 2♥ A K 7◆ K Q 9 6 3♣ J 10 7	♣ 9 4 3 2 ♠ 7 5 ♥ Q 10 8 6 ♦ A ♣ A K Q 8 6 5	depento bid, examp in the with sonly 3 to intr	ding on, and whole auctipicture uch excipuch today	exactly nat E/W on, Nor (we do disput this paddiss spaddiss spaddiss exactly e	wild result at many tables, what North and East decide decide to lead. In the the decides to get both majors n't recommend passing 1 tribution, despite holding allows East an opportunity e suit. If West then leads ♠K,	670 650 620 500		100 98 96 88 78 73 70 63
this will leac	I to -100 in 4♥ and an 8	0% boa	rd for E	/W.		300 200		56 50
	oonds 1♥, however, this llow +620 for N/S, a 639			on lead,	and he is sure to lead the \blacklozenge J,			42 36 32
	oles West may double th Imber of +790s and +73				s powerful hand, and there is only average plus.	100 	100 110 200 500 730	27 21 15 7 2 1

Board: 24 • 9 4 2 West North East South **Results of Board 24** Dealer: W ♥ KJ104 1 ♦ **Pass** 1 Pass 2NT 3 Vul: None **♦** J875 Pass Pass Scores 3♦ 4% N-S **&** 86 Pass Pass **♠** KQ876 ♠ A 10 4 All Pass ♥ A 8 5 Y 62 150 ♦ AQ10642 3 This is another deal where it's difficult to predict 100 ♣ K 5 ♣ A J 10 7 3 the final contract. West may choose either to jump 50 **♠** J 5 3 to 2NT or 3♦ at his second turn; we prefer 2NT, ... ♥ Q 9 7 3 as the hand is semi-balanced and 3NT is the most ... **♦** K 9 likely final contract to aim at. East will check back ... ♣ Q 9 4 2 for a spade fit, find none, and probably introduce his club suit, hoping for a suitable hand for a club ... slam opposite. West, envisioning 5-5 distribution opposite, should preference back to ...

MPS

N-S

100

99

97

92

88

72

56

52

42

29

21

11

4

3

2

1

0

E-W

...

130

400

420

430

450

460

480

490

520

800

980

990

...

...

...

...

spades at this point, trying to slow the auction down, and East should reluctantly pass. Twelve tricks are possible if the diamond finesse is taken to discard a heart, and this will bring E/W an 80% board. E/W may reason that simply getting to spades is a good result, and decide not to risk the diamond finesse if a heart is led; in that case, taking 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.

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.

Board: 25 ♠ J 5 Dealer: N ♥ K 10 9 8 2	West North East South Pass Pass Pass					Results of Board 25			
Vul: E-W	at mar openir We be	Pass 1♥ 3♥ All Pas eal will by table ng bid, No elieve No ting 2♠	Scores N-S 200 150 140 120 110 100	E-W 	MPS N-S 100 98 95 88 81 77 70				
hoping for that contract to be a good in the East hand, if North leads the enhold a much more suitable hand. In any case, E/W need to score at leat 75% of the matchpoints.	decision d one. expecte	on, but a Even de d heart,	as West espite th 3 A wil	I make +140, and East could	PASS	50 100 110 140 150 170 300 730	63 58 51 42 26 14 8 3 2		

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 N-S ♣ K Q All Pass 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 OK 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 150 16 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 ... 600 3 1 800 0

or not N/S can stop an overtrick in 1NT. North has no obvious lead, since both his suits have been bid by the opponents, and we would try a spade as the least of evils. 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	Results of Board			
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	West's opening 1♦ bid, but bosed to with such a strong	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 , and this will be passed his 10 nice-looking HCP,	470 420 300		92 89 86	
	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	200 150 140 110		83 78 73 69	
Some intrep	oid Souths might raise c				n we don't like once East's nere South raises, North may	100 50	 50	57 41 29	
	a game try, hoping for				osite, automatically getting		100 110	14 5 3	
	naking 2♥ will be worth ing minus on the N/S ca				+50 or +100 will be closer to 0% score to E/W.		150 300 	3 1 0	

Results of Board 28

E-W

...

...

...

100

200

300

400

500

550

Scores N-S

790

650

620

300

100

50

...

...

...

...

MPS

N-S

100

99

95

87

67

48

43

35

20

13

12

6.

1 0

2	3♣ Pass All Pas	3♠ Pass ss	5 ♣ 6 ♣	5♠ Dbl
 ♣ — ♥ J 10 9 8 3 ♦ Q 7 3 ♣ A Q 7 4 2 7 6 	hand-s we say a pree accele choose overca	strength if it loo mpt! Th rate the e betwe ill, but in	n requir oks like ne effec e auctic een an o n eithei	tringent suit-quality or tements for preempts, but a preempt in first seat, it's set of a 3% opener will be to on dramatically. North has to overbid of 4%, or a weird 3% r case, East will surely bid 5% to 6%.
d hand for Nor	th, but	the sing	gleton •	K is unlikely to be carrying

South

South has a very good hand for No 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 North East

Although in the example auction, East's 64 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 h will be a very easy make, and it's hard to imagine 6♣ doubled being very expensive at all. In fact, +100 against 6♣ doubled 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. doubled will get N/S back to 67%.

At the tables where West does not open, a 4 no opener by North is likely to steal the pot, giving N/S at least an 87% board. A 1 opener will allow East to overcall a Michaels 2 , but it's hard for West to imagine that his partner's suit is clubs (!), so N/S may still buy it in 4 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: 28 ♠ KQ97432

¥ 4 2

♦ AJ42

♠ J865

♦ 985

♣ K

♥ A K Q 7 6

Dealer: W

Vul: N-S

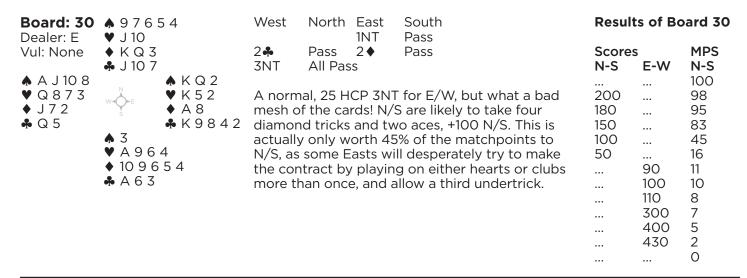
♠ A 10

♦ K 10 6

♣ J 10 9 8 6 5 3

¥ 5

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	Pass All Pas	3 ♦	Pass	Score N-S	s E-W	MPS N-S
A K Q 4∀ A Q 8A Q 8	W-NE	7 65 KJ97432	just to	se color o thread	dbare to	 500 200 100		100 99 93	
♣ Q 3 2	↓ J8653♥ KJ973♦ 10♣ 108		us. However, we would compromise and open 2 ♠, a diamond long and a few high-card points short. West, with his beautiful hand, should inquire with 2NT. When East gives the most negative response possible, West should give up					 170 240 600 620	79 69 68 66 64
			_			ettle for 3NT.		660 690	58 44
North will likely lead a low club against 3NT, and now suddenly West has 12 top trick and if he guesses to finesse hearts in the endgame (or play for a squeeze, which is				y for a squeeze, which is		720 1370	22		
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	_					% for E/W, while all 13 is here E/W end up in slam;		2140	0



Board: 31 ♠ A Q 9 4 Dealer: S ♥ K 10 3	West North East South Pass				Results of Board 31			
Vul: N-S	2♥	2NT A	All Pas		Score N-S	s E-W	MPS N-S	
 ♠ 2 ♠ A Q 9 7 6 2 ♠ J 9 8 7 6 ♠ 2 ♠ 10 8 7 ♠ A 10 5 2 ♠ 9 8 6 4 3 that defending might here be the bat least one trick, while 2NT has no duck the first two rounds of hearts 	consic like a : North baland it's no bid to trump combi etter op chance	ler either 2♥ opene will proba ced hand, rmally a g the three- s, the defe ned with the otion. And to make a	passirer on teacher on	g as West can work out to	500 300 150 120 100 50 	 100 110 140 200 400 500	100 99 91 79 73 62 40 23 19 15 8 4	

800

1

0

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.

Board: 32 Dealer: W	♠ A 10 6 3 ♥ K 9 3	West Pass	North 1 ♣	East Pass	South 1♥	Results of Bo		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	

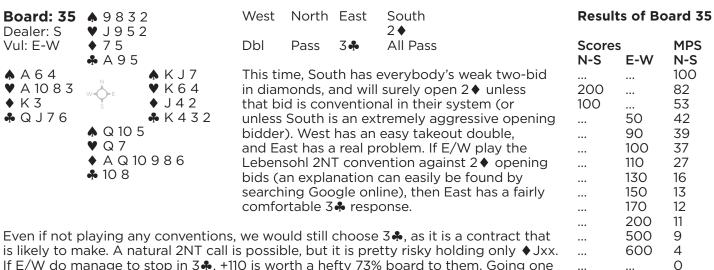
In fact, this contract will be doubled so many times that +420 for N/S is worth only a 34% board; +590, on the other hand, will be worth 81%. To salvage this board undoubled, N/S will have to find a way to sneak an 11th trick, something that should be impossible as long as West leads from his obvious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

Board: 33 ♠ Q J 7 Dealer: N ♥ J 6 4 2	West	North Pass	Resul	Results of Board 33			
Vul: None ♦ Q J 9 3	1♦	1 V	Pass Pass	1 . 2 ♥	Score	:S	MPS
♣ A 6	3♦	Dbl	All Pa	SS	N-S	E-W	N-S
♠ A 10 6 ♠ 8 5 3 2							100
♥ K Q 10	Anoth	er hand	where	the final contract could be	1100		99
♦ A K 10 7 5 2 ♦ 8 4	all ove	r the m	ap. N/S	are tantalizingly close to	960		98
♣ 7				of their cards is such that	800		96
∧ K 9 4				as a chance is 3NT. They	550		92
♥ A 9 8 7				if South aggressively jump	530		90
♦ 6				th should surely offer 3NT as	500		88
♣ K Q J 8 3				uld be up to South to decide	420		86
		. •	_	North can infer his diamond	400		79
	shortr	ess fror	n the a	uction.	300		68
					150		62
3NT is an excellent contract that will					140		57
his diamonds, conceding the ninth t							53
red suits by leading a heart toward	tne jack	arter st	ripping	away west's black cards.	100		44
At the filter beautiful and the second			211.121	1. 1	•••	50	29
At the tables where South raises on					•••	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 awkward. It would not surprise us to							0

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.

at those tables, depending on exactly what North and South choose to do.

Board: 34 ♠ Q 5 3 West North East South **Results of Board 34** Dealer: E **V** 10 8 6 5 2 **Pass** 1 4♥ Pass **MPS** Vul: N-S ♦ AQ962 Dbl 4 Scores 5 🌲 **5 V** 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 ♣ K 8 4 3 ♣ 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 this deal. North has a clear 5♥ call, in our view, 88 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 800 78 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



If E/W do manage to stop in 3♣, +110 is worth a hefty 73% board to them. Going one down in something would be average, but if E/W climb to 3NT, it's easy to defeat this two tricks, which will give N/S the gift of an 82% board.

non-spade lead.

Board: 36 ♠ J 8 4 Dealer: W ♥ J 8	West North East South Pass 1♦ 1♥ 3♦	Results of Board 36			
Vul: Both	All Pass	Scores N-S	s E-W	MPS N-S	
 A Q 10 6 ♦ 10 9 ♦ 8 7 ♦ 8 6 5 4 3 ♦ 9 5 2 ♦ 6 5 4 2 ♦ A K Q 7 3 ♦ 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 close one, and we would personally double back NV but pass vul.	870 400 300 200 130 110 100 	 100 110 140	100 99 98 96 89 77 67 51 33 26 21	
	ould go down one, although we can envision an woodenly continues with a "safe" heart at trick icks disappearing on clubs.		150 170 180 200	17 12 7 3	

0

If E/W manage to defend 3♦ 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♦ to make, often with an overtrick, will transfer most of the matchpoints 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.