

Board 1
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ A K 8	♠ J 5 4	♠ Q 9 2
♥ Q 6 5	♥ A 10 9 3 2	♥ K J 7 4
♦ A Q 8 3	♦ 10 9	♦ J 7 5
♣ K 10 9	♣ 7 6 5	♣ A 4 3

♠ 10 7 6 3
♥ 8
♦ K 6 4 2
♣ Q J 8 2

EW 6N; E 5♠; E 5♥; W 4♥; EW 5♦; W 3♠; EW 4♣;
 Par -990: EW 6N=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 NT ¹	Pass	3 NT	All pass

1. 18-19 Balance

East / West will have an easy time finding 3 NT. On this auction North should be talked out of a heart lead and will try either a club or a spade. West will find an easy ten tricks and will likely come to 11 on most paths.

Board 2
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ A 3 2	♠ 9 5 4	♠ 7
♥ A 8 4 2	♥ Q 10 6	♥ J 9 7 5 3
♦ K J 7 5	♦ A 8 3	♦ Q 10
♣ A 2	♣ Q 8 6 5	♣ K J 10 9 7

♠ K Q J 10 8 6
♥ K
♦ 9 6 4 2
♣ 4 3

EW 5♥; EW 3N; EW 4♣; EW 2♦; NS 1♠; Par -450; EW 4♥+1

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	2♠
2 NT	Pass	3♦ ¹	Pass
3♥	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4♥	All pass		

1. Hearts

The 2 NT overcall of a weak shows a good 1 NT opening hand with 1.5 stoppers in their suit. With two 5 card suits and a nice 7 count east is on the fence, aggressive players will transfer and find a decent 4♥ contract while passive players will play in 2 NT. In 2 NT as long as West holds up twice on spades it will come to 9 tricks as South will have no entry to cash their good spades. 4♥ should have no problems coming to 11 tricks.

Board 3

South Deals
E-W Vul

	♠ 8		
	♥ Q 10 9 8 4 3 2		
	♦ K J		
	♣ 9 7 2		
♠ K Q 7 6 5 3		♠ A J 10 9	
♥ A 6		♥ K 5	
♦ Q		♦ A 9 8 3 2	
♣ A J 8 3		♣ 6 4	
	♠ 4 2		
	♥ J 7		
	♦ 10 7 6 5 4		
	♣ K Q 10 5		

EW 6♠; EW 5N; EW 4♣; EW 3♦; Par -1430: EW 6♠=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
1 ♠	3 ♥	4 ♥	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♥ ¹	Pass
6 ♠	All pass		

1. 2 Keycards without trump Q

After the routine 1 ♠ opening bid by West, North opposite a pass partner and at a favorable vulnerability will try to jam up the auction with a 3 ♥ preempt. East is in a dilemma as North has taken up most of the bidding room. North options are to bid 3 ♠ - showing 8-10 pts, 4 ♠ - showing either a preempt or hand not good enough for slam, or 4 ♥ showing at least an opening hand with a good spade raise but showing nothing of heart control. If East does choose 4 ♥ West will likely drive to slam.

Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

	♠ A J 7 5		
	♥ Q 8 5		
	♦ A K 4 3		
	♣ 7 3		
♠ K 9 8 6		♠ Q 10 3 2	
♥ A 10 7 2		♥ 9 4	
♦ —		♦ J 10 9 8 7 6	
♣ K J 9 8 4		♣ 5	
	♠ 4		
	♥ K J 6 3		
	♦ Q 5 2		
	♣ A Q 10 6 2		

S 2N; NS 2♥; N 1N; S 2♦; NS 2♣; EW 1♠; N 1♦; Par +120: S 1N+1

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♣	Dbl	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 NT
All pass			

The modern approach to take-out doubles means that North does not promise 4 card in both majors. For this reason South will likely not drive to 4 ♥ despite having an opening hand opposite a take-out double. 2 ♣ would be a forcing making north describe their hand further after which there will be a natural auction to reach a normal 3 NT. Some Souths might blast into 4 ♥ and land in a 4-3 heart fit. 4 ♥ and 3nt will go down 1 or 2 tricks but with 26 HCP between the hands N/S should not be disappointed they reach game.

Board 5

North Deals
N-S Vul

	♠ 6		
	♥ A K J 10 9 8 6 5 4		
	♦ J		
	♣ A 9		
♠ A 10 5 2		♠ K J 9 8 4	
♥ Q 2		♥ 3	
♦ Q 5 4		♦ 10 8 7 2	
♣ Q J 10 3		♣ K 6 2	
	♠ Q 7 3		
	♥ 7		
	♦ A K 9 6 3		
	♣ 8 7 5 4		

NS 6♥; NS 2N; EW 2♠; EW 1♣; Par +800; EW 6♠×-4

West	North	East	South
	1♥	1♠	Dbl
2♥	4♥	All pass	

North picks up a 9 card suit !!!! , but North/South will struggle to find slam on this hand unless North just becomes enamored with their hand. East has an aggressive overcall of 1♠ and South with both minors will have an easy take-out (negative) double. West will show a limit raise or better by cuebidding. If East tries to take advantage of the vulnerability to sacrifice in 4♠ (down 3 is -500 vs -620 for 4♥ making) but this will only push North to bid 5♥ .

Board 6

East Deals
E-W Vul

♠ J 9 4 2	♠ K Q 5	♠ 7 3
♥ 8	♥ A K 10 7 5	♥ Q J 9 6
♦ K 5 3	♦ J 10 7 2	♦ 9 8 6 4
♣ A K 7 4 3	♣ Q	♣ 10 9 2
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 5px;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ A 10 8 6	
	♥ 4 3 2	
	♦ A Q	
	♣ J 8 6 5	

NS 3N; NS 3♠; NS 3♥; NS 3♦; S 2♣; N 1♣; Par +400: NS 3N=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	Pass
1 ♣	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

South has easy cuebid of 2 ♣ showing a limit raise or better in hearts. North will drive to game and go down 1, not all good games will make in bridge.

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

♠ K 5 4 3	♠ A 10 7	♠ J 9 6
♥ J 5 4	♥ A 10 9 6	♥ Q 8
♦ K 4 3	♦ A J 9	♦ Q 8 6 5 2
♣ 8 5 4	♣ Q 9 3	♣ A J 2

♠ Q 8 2	♠ Q 8 2
♥ K 7 3 2	♥ K 7 3 2
♦ 10 7	♦ 10 7
♣ K 10 7 6	♣ K 10 7 6

NS 4♥; NS 3N; N 4♣; NS 2♠; S 3♣; NS 2♦; Par +620: NS 4♥=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥
All pass			

With 8 HCP and two tens South will invite north in game which North will reject. On the likely diamond lead North will be able to pitch a spade on a good diamond. Declarer will have to correctly guess the jack of clubs to make their contract, if declarer is lucky East might break clubs or the frozen spade suit.

Board 8

West Deals
None Vul

	♠ Q 10 9 3	
	♥ K 6 2	
	♦ Q J	
	♣ Q 8 5 4	
♠ K J 8 4		♠ 7 6 5 2
♥ 10		♥ 8 5 3
♦ A 10 8 2		♦ K 7 3
♣ J 10 9 2		♣ A 6 3
	♠ A	
	♥ A Q J 9 7 4	
	♦ 9 6 5 4	
	♣ K 7	

NS 3♥; EW 2♠; NS 1N; EW 1♣; Par +100; EW 3♠×-1

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	All pass	

If North/South are playing Drury now would be the time to use it. Drury is a convention where after 1 of a major opening bid by partner in 3rd or 4th seat, 2♣ is used to show a good major suit raise. Opposite a Drury bid South will drive to game, opposite a simple raise South will make a game try. North has the maximum HCP for their raise but with all the values being in Qs and the value of QJ doubleton of diamonds will probably reject a game try.

With careful play South should come to ten tricks, 1 spade, 6 hearts, 2 diamond ruffs and one club.

Board 9
 North Deals
 E-W Vul

♠ J 4	♠ K Q 10 8	♠ 9 6 5 2
♥ 9 8 2	♥ 7 4	♥ A J 5
♦ A K 8 5	♦ Q 7 6 4 3	♦ J 9
♣ K 9 7 2	♣ J 10	♣ A 6 5 3

♠ A 7 3
♥ K Q 10 6 3
♦ 10 2
♣ Q 8 4

NS 1N; EW 2♣; NS 1♠; NS 1♥; NS 1♦; Par -90: EW 2♣=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
All pass			

In 1 NT South will come to 7 tricks if West starts the high diamond honor. However if West starts with a low diamond declarer will likely play low and East will win the jack, and switch to a club and the defense should collect 3 diamonds, 3 clubs, and one heart for 7 tricks before declarer gets their 7 tricks.

Board 10
 East Deals
 Both Vul

♠ 10 9	♠ A 7 6 5 3	♠ Q J 8 4
♥ Q J 6 5 4	♥ —	♥ 10 9 7 2
♦ A 8 7 5	♦ K J 10 6 3	♦ Q 2
♣ J 5	♣ 7 6 4	♣ 8 3 2

♠ K 2
♥ A K 8 3
♦ 9 4
♣ A K Q 10 9

NS 6♣; NS 4N; NS 4♠; NS 5♦; NS 1♥; Par +1370: NS 6♣=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1 ♣
1 ♥	1 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♦ ¹	Pass	3 NT ²

All pass

1. Bidding a New Minor is Forcing and may be artificial (checkback Stayman)
2. Denies 3 spades

South picks a nice hand the key is to not overthink the hand on the second round of the auction. A 2 NT here shows 18-19 balance with a heart stopper, yes South has no diamond stopper but rarely in bridge do you everything in your own hand. North will do checkback Stayman to find out a potential 5-3 spade but after south denies 3 spades they will play in 3 NT. They will likely come to 9 tricks after the defense attacks the heart suit.

Board 11
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ Q 10 3	♠ K 7 5	♠ J 9 4 2									
♥ Q J 6 2	♥ A 4	♥ K 7 3									
♦ K 5 3	♦ Q J 8 7	♦ A 9 6 2									
♣ A 4 2	♣ Q 9 8 6	♣ 10 7									
<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto; text-align: center; line-height: 60px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>				N		W		E		S	
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ A 8 6											
♥ 10 9 8 5											
♦ 10 4											
♣ K J 5 3											

NS 2♣; EW 1♠; EW 1♥; Par +90; NS 2♣=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	All pass		

It should be noted when North leads the diamond 7 (4th best) South can use the rule of 11 to determine declarer has 1 card higher than the 7. This information is vital so south can play small if declarer does not stick in the diamond 9. Note if declarer has diamond 8 then that means partner led 4th best from KQJ7 which would be highly unusual.

Board 12

West Deals
N-S Vul

	♠ Q 10 8 6 5 2		
	♥ 9 6 2		
	♦ 6 3 2		
	♣ K		
♠ 7 4		♠ 9 3	
♥ K J 7 5		♥ A 8 4 3	
♦ A 9		♦ K Q 10 8 7	
♣ Q J 10 8 6		♣ 9 4	
	♠ A K J		
	♥ Q 10		
	♦ J 5 4		
	♣ A 7 5 3 2		

EW 3♥; NS 2♠; EW 3♦; EW 2♣; Par -140; EW 3♥=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Dbl
3♣	3♠	All pass	

East will open light in 3rd seat to get partner off to a good lead. This light opening bid will cause a problem for South. South does not have a good call to make and the club suit with no spot cards looks like a bad decision especially when vulnerable. Probably the best course of action for South is to pass and hope an opportunity presents itself to double back in. Also note South can go passive because after their partner pass they know game is unlikely and this hand is going to be a partscore battle. It is likely at some point N/S will find their spade fit and play in 3♠. West will try to invite game in hearts but is unlikely to bid over 3♠.

East/ West should be able to cash out their red suit tricks after the opening lead and hold N/S to 8 tricks in spades.

Board 13
 North Deals
 Both Vul

♠ A K 7 6	♠ 9 4 3 2	♠ J 5
♥ Q 9 6	♥ K 4	♥ J 3
♦ A 9 6	♦ K 8 4 2	♦ Q J 7 3
♣ 10 8 5	♣ A Q J	♣ K 9 6 4 3

♠ Q 10 8	♠ J 5
♥ A 10 8 7 5 2	♥ J 3
♦ 10 5	♦ Q J 7 3
♣ 7 2	♣ K 9 6 4 3

NS 1♠; NS 1♥; EW 1♦; EW 1♣; Par +80: NS 1♥=; NS 1♠=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥

All pass

West has the enough values to bid but not the shape. East has enough shape to bid but not enough values. East in the pass out seat might be tempted to bid a balancing 2 NT showing both minors but will likely be scared off because of the vulnerability.

Note if the West hand was ♠ AK76 ♥ xxx ♦ A96 ♣ QT8 a takeout double would be normal.

Board 14
 East Deals
 None Vul

♠ K Q 10 6	♠ J 8	♠ A 9 5
♥ A 8	♥ K Q J 6 4 2	♥ 9 5
♦ 9 2	♦ J 4	♦ A K 10 7
♣ A Q J 7 6	♣ 10 5 2	♣ K 9 8 3

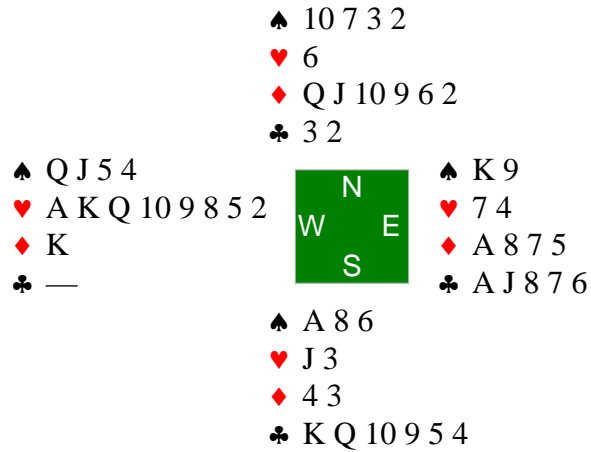
♠ 7 4 3 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 7 4 3 2
N					
W E					
S					
♥ 10 7 3		♥ 10 7 3			
♦ Q 8 6 5 3		♦ Q 8 6 5 3			
♣ 4		♣ 4			

EW 7♣; EW 6N; EW 6♠; EW 3♦; E 1♥; Par -1440: EW 7♣=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All pass		

This board can have a very complex 2/1 auction. First the modern approach is that 2♣ is game forcing but does not deny a 4 card major. The raise of 3♣ usually shows 4 at which point west will have a tough call. West can either drive to the club slam or bid 3NT. A sophisticated partnership would be able to explore slam and stop in 4NT if needed but most partnerships will have to either go low or go high on west's second bid. Note 5 minor contract is often a poor contract at matchpoints for scoring reasons and also taking 11 tricks is harder than taking 9.

Board 15
 South Deals
 N-S Vul



EW 6♥; E 5N; EW 5♠; W 4N; EW 1♦; EW 1♣; Par -980: EW 6♥=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
3 ♥ ¹	Pass	3 ♠ ²	Pass
4 ♣ ³	Pass	4 ♦ ⁴	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♥ ⁵	Pass
6 ♥	All pass		

1. Good Heart Suit playable opposite a singleton, 15-17+ pts
2. control bid
3. control bid
4. control bid
5. 2 keycard with no queen

In a 2/1 sequence a jump rebid of a suit shows better than opening hand and also a strong suit that establishes trump and is playable opposite a singleton. After 3♥ bid East with great controls (2 aces and a king) will start a control bidding sequence and east/west will eventually arrive in 6♥s.

NB: These controls bids shows either Ace, King, Singleton, or void some partnerships might have a different style.

Board 16
 West Deals
 E-W Vul

♠ 9	♠ K 8 7 6 3	♠ Q J 5 4 2
♥ A 7 3	♥ K J	♥ 8
♦ Q 7 6 4	♦ A K J 3	♦ 9 8 5 2
♣ Q 9 8 7 3	♣ 5 2	♣ A J 4

♠ A 10	♠ A 10
♥ Q 10 9 6 5 4 2	♥ Q 10 9 6 5 4 2
♦ 10	♦ 10
♣ K 10 6	♣ K 10 6

NS 5♥; NS 3♠; NS 2N; NS 1♦; Par +450: NS 4♥+1

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2♦ ¹
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥

All pass

1. Hearts

The writer of this analysis is a huge fan of opening 1 NT whenever possible as it makes life easier on the partnership. This method will not always work and you will get zeros playing this style but hands like this it is a clear winner as North/South will reach the easy 4♥ contract without much trouble, saving the mental strain for another hand and will enjoy their cookie break.

NB: If playing Texas transfers than south will 4♦ on the first round of bidding.

Board 17
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ A Q J 10 9 7 3 2	♠ 6	♠ K 4									
♥ 7 3	♥ A K 9 5 2	♥ Q 8 4									
♦ 3	♦ J 10 6	♦ 7 5 4 2									
♣ K 5	♣ 10 9 7 2	♣ A Q J 4									
<table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>				N		W		E		S	
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ 8 5											
♥ J 10 6											
♦ A K Q 9 8											
♣ 8 6 3											

EW 4♠; EW 4♣; NS 2♦; Par -420; EW 4♠=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♦
1 ♠	Dbl ¹	Pass	2 ♦
4 ♠	All pass		

1. Takeout, shows 4+ hearts and competing values

West will drive this auction to 4 ♠ and will take ten tricks. Going to the 5- level is a high risk - high reward action for North/South, going down 3 for minus 500 and a zero or pushing West to bid 5 ♠ and collecting +50 for a top.

Board 18
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ A K 10 9 6 5	♠ J 7 4 2	♠ —
♥ K Q 8	♥ J 10	♥ 9 7 6 4 3
♦ 5 4	♦ A 6 2	♦ J 10 9 8 7
♣ 8 7	♣ 9 5 3 2	♣ Q J 4
	♠ Q 8 3	
	♥ A 5 2	
	♦ K Q 3	
	♣ A K 10 6	

NS 3N; NS 3♣; NS 1♠; EW 1♥; NS 1♦; Par +500; EW 4♥×-3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1 ♣
1 ♠	Pass	Pass	1 NT ¹
2 ♠	2 NT	All pass	

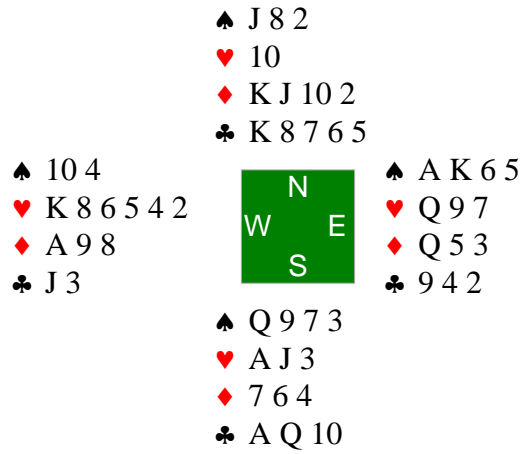
1. 18-19 Balance

Being vulnerable with a crummy 6 count and a poor spade stopper north will pass on the first round of bidding. Vulnerability at matchpoints has a big impact on the auction, if North was non-vulnerable then it is an easy 1 NT response after West overcalls 1 ♠. North has no desire to play in 1 NT opposite a 12-14 balance hand unless the undertricks come at 50 points a piece.

After an opening bid and partners pass rebidding 1 NT shows 18-19 balance. You can achieve this by following the logic with 12-14 Balance south should reopen with a double if they desire, with 15-17 they would have opened 1 NT so by process of elimination they have 18-19 balance.

West will continue to compete to 2 ♠ and North will show a pulse by bidding 2 NT but South without a source of tricks will stop in 2nt and North/South will likely come to 8 tricks in the form of 3 clubs, 3 diamonds, 1 heart, and 1 spade.

Board 19
 South Deals
 E-W Vul



NS 3♠; EW 3♥; NS 2♦; NS 2♣; Par +140: NS 3♠=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♣
1 ♥	2 ♣	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♥	All pass		

3 ♣ by East will show a limit raise or better in hearts. West will have to guess to finesse South for ♥ J to come up with ten tricks to make the contract.

Board 20
 West Deals
 Both Vul

♠ A 10 2	♠ 7	♠ Q J 8 6
♥ 5	♥ A K 8 4 2	♥ 9 7 6
♦ K 7 6 5	♦ A Q 9	♦ J 10 8 4 3
♣ K 8 7 5 4	♣ Q 10 3 2	♣ A

♠ K 9 5 4 3
♥ Q J 10 3
♦ 2
♣ J 9 6

NS 3♥; EW 3♦; NS 1N; NS 1♣; Par +140: NS 3♥=

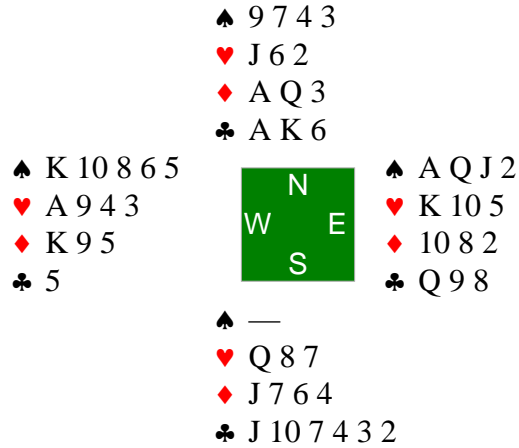
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass	3♥

All pass

1. Natural Help Suit Game Try

North will a game try in clubs and South has good reason to go on but will likely reject the game try. Declarer will likely take ten tricks unless E/W find the double dummy defense of giving east a club ruff.

Board 21
 North Deals
 N-S Vul



EW 3♠; EW 2N; NS 3♣; EW 1♥; NS 1♦; Par -140: EW 3♠=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	Pass	3 ♣ ¹
Dbl	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

1. Preemptive

This hand is an example why people like to play preemptive double raises as it puts East/West to the guess right away about what level and/or strain to play. The fact that East/West are non-vulnerable makes it far to attractive for at least one of them to get into the auction although there is a chance that N/S buy it in 3 ♣. If East/West would do well to avoid the game but sometimes in bridge you are just doomed to go down 1.

NB 1: If the East held the ♦ Q instead of ♣ Q a take-out double on the first round would be recommend.