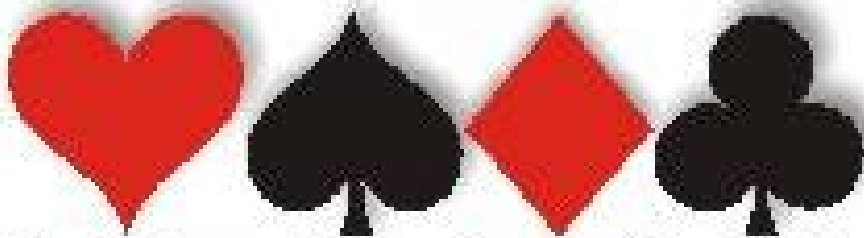


SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION inc

2017 STATEWIDE PAIRS

WEEK COMMENCING 23rd October 2017.

South Australian



Bridge Federation Inc

Convenor: David Anderson

Hands Courtesy of Andy Hung and the Queensland Bridge Association

Results and the online booklet are available at

<http://sabridgefederation.com.au/results/2017/statewide.htm>

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Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

♠ K 7 4
♥ J 10
♦ K 9 7 3 2
♣ K 9 6

♠ A J 10
♥ 4 3
♦ 6 5 4
♣ A 8 7 3 2

♠ 8 6 5 3 2
♥ A Q 7 5 2
♦ A J
♣ 10

♠ Q 9
♥ K 9 8 6
♦ Q 10 8
♣ Q J 5 4

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	2	-	-
S	1	2	-	1
E	-	-	2	2
W	-	-	2	2

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Rdbl	3 ♦	3 ♥	Pass
3 ♠	All pass		

Bidding Tips: 1) West probably shouldn't treat his hand as a limit raise as he only has three trumps (big ones too, so if a heart ruff is needed, it will be trumped with a big spade).

2) If EW attempt to play in 2♠, at not-vul in a pairs game, South should balance with a double, in an attempt to push the opponents higher.

3) East's 3♥ is an offer of partials, as a heart contract might be better than a spade contract.

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

♠ K Q J 8 5
♥ A K 10 6
♦ 7
♣ 10 8 6

♠ 6 3
♥ Q 7
♦ 9 6 4
♣ K Q 7 4 3 2

♠ 10 7 4
♥ 9 8 4 3 2
♦ K 10
♣ A J 9

♠ A 9 2
♥ J 5
♦ A Q J 8 5 3 2
♣ 5

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	-	6	3	6	1
S	1	6	3	6	1
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
			1 ♦
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	

Bidding Tips: Over South's 2♦ rebid, North will rebid 2♥ which implies invitational-or-better values (new suit by responder is

Board 2
East Deals
N-S Vul

♠ —
♥ A 10 9 3
♦ A 7 4 2
♣ Q J 7 5 4

♠ 7 6 4 2
♥ 6 5 2
♦ 10 8 6
♣ 10 9 8

♠ A 10 9 8 5 3
♥ Q 8 7 4
♦ Q 3
♣ 6

♠ K Q J
♥ K J
♦ K J 9 5
♣ A K 3 2

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	7	7	6	2	6
S	7	7	5	2	6
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
		Pass??	2 NT
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	?		

Commentary:

Should East pass at dealer at not vulnerable against not? Tradition (textbooks) teach us to not preempt with a side four-card major, but in a pairs game, this is just "one board" so is it worth it to preempt the opponents? Who knows what's right, it all depends on the rest of the deal!

If East preempts with 2♠, then it may be tough for N/S to get to slam. If East passes, South will open a strong 2NT, and thereafter N/S should get to either 6♣ or 6NT.

forcing), to which South should jump to 3♠ to indicate three-card spade support and a good hand.

Some might play a gadget where the cheapest bid over opener's same-suit-rebid (i.e. the 2♥ bid in the above auction) is artificial and game forcing ("Bourke Relay").

N/S will probably make 13 tricks in spades given the favourable distribution of the diamonds!

Board 4
 West Deals
 Both Vul

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

♠ 6 4 2
 ♥ 7 4 3 2
 ♦ Q 9 5
 ♣ Q J 3

N
 W E
 S

♠ K 10 7 5
 ♥ 9
 ♦ A K 7 6
 ♣ K 6 4 2

10
 5 13
 12

♠ Q 9 8 3
 ♥ A J 5
 ♦ J 8 3
 ♣ A 8 7

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	1	-	1
S	-	-	1	-	1
E	2	2	-	1	-
W	2	2	-	1	-

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	All pass	

Bidding Tips: 1) It wouldn't be unreasonable for South to double East's 1 ♦ opening. Despite the 4333 shape, it is only at the 1-level.

2) If South and West passes, then North will balance with 1 ♥. Over this, East should not double (for takeout) or bid 1 ♠ when West could not bid over 1 ♦!

3) If North balances with 1 ♥, then South should bid 2 ♦ as a "Cue raise" to show a good hand (10+ pts) with support.

Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ Q 9 3
♥ K 10 4 2
♦ 9 7 5 2
♣ A 2

♠ 8
♥ 9 8 7
♦ A K Q J 10 8
♣ J 8 6

♠ J 10 4
♥ A Q J 5
♦ 6 3
♣ K 9 5 3

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	2	-
S	-	-	2	-
E	2	2	-	1
W	2	2	-	1

♠ A K 7 6 5 2
♥ 6 3
♦ 4
♣ Q 10 7 4

9
9 11
11

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	Dbf??
1♠	2♥	3♦	Pass
Pass?	Pass		

Interesting problems on this hand. Should South double at vulnerable against not, with a minimum hand, opposite a passed partner? Maybe pairs has more safety?

If South does double, then the auction will likely proceed as in the above auction (West passing out 3♦ is interesting).

If South does not double 1♦, then E/W will have the auction to themselves, 1♦-1♠-2♦-2♠-Pass.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

♠ 5 4 2
♥ K 6
♦ A K 9 6 3
♣ 10 6 2

♠ A Q 10 8
♥ J 7 5 3
♦ 10 5
♣ K J 5

♠ K J 6
♥ Q 9 8
♦ Q J 2
♣ A 8 7 3

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	3	-	2
S	3	3	-	2
E	-	-	1	-
W	-	-	1	-

♠ 9 7 3
♥ A 10 4 2
♦ 8 7 4
♣ Q 9 4

10
6 11
13

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	1♦	Dbf	1NT
All pass			

Most auctions should end with South declaring in 1NT (unless South opens a 12-14 1NT and East balances with 2♣ showing both majors?).

The interesting problem is West's opening lead against 1NT. The fourth-best ♥ 2? With South bidding 1NT, it might be best to try to get to East's hand to push a heart through declarer, so the defence won't give up a trick (important in pairs). In fact, a heart (or a club) lead is best on this actual deal.

Board 6
East Deals
E-W Vul

♠ 6
♥ Q J 10 9 6 3
♦ J 8 7 6 3
♣ 5

♠ Q 10 9 2
♥ K 4 2
♦ A 10
♣ K Q 8 6

♠ K J 4 3
♥ A 8 5
♦ 9 4 2
♣ A 4 3

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	3	3	-
S	-	3	3	-
E	4	-	-	3 2
W	4	-	-	3 2

♠ A 8 7 5
♥ 7
♦ K Q 5
♣ J 10 9 7 2

4
10 14
12

One possible auction...

West	North	East	South
		1♣	Dbf
1♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dbf	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	Dbf	All pass

Over East's 1♣ opening, it is highly recommended for South's hand to double (while the auction is at a low level, and inviting partner to compete in the auction).

Once South doubles, there's probably no stopping North from competing to 4♥ or even 5♥! (So maybe South shouldn't have doubled... who knows, you be the judge!)

If South passes instead, then West will bid 1♠, North 3♥ (preempt), East 3♠, South 4♥, West 4♠...and North may push to 5♥ given the vulnerability anyway!

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

♠ A 2
♥ K 8 4
♦ J 6 3
♣ A J 10 7 5

♠ 8 5
♥ Q J 9 7
♦ 10 8 7
♣ 8 4 3 2

♠ Q 10 9 6
♥ A 6
♦ Q 4 2
♣ K Q 9 6

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	4	-	-	1 3
S	4	2	-	1 3
E	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-

♠ K J 7 4 3
♥ 10 5 3 2
♦ A K 9 5
♣ —

13
11 3
13

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♣?	Pass	3NT
All pass			

Whether North should overcall 2♣ with the stale 5332 shape is debatable, but regardless of North's action, South will eventually get to 3NT. (I.e. if North passes, then the auction would proceed 1♠-P-P-1NT-P-3NT).

Against South's 3NT, West should lead the ♦ A - take a look at dummy and partner's signal, and see what to do next. East will signal discouragement, but in fact, a diamond continuation by West is the only way to hold declarer to nine tricks - anything else (such as a low heart switch) will give declarer a chance to make an overtrick (running the clubs will put pressure on West).

Board 9
North Deals
E-W Vul

♠ A J 7 5 4 3 2
♥ J 5
♦ 10 9
♣ A 5

♠ Q 9
♥ A 8 7 3
♦ A Q J 8 7 2
♣ Q

♠ 10 6
♥ Q 6 4 2
♦ K 6 5
♣ 9 8 4 3

♠ K 8
♥ K 10 9
♦ 4 3
♣ K J 10 7 6 2

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	4	-	-	4
S	4	-	-	4
E	-	3	3	-
W	-	3	3	-

10
5 15
10

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	2 ♦	3 ♣
Pass?	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			

Over North's 1♠ opening (too strong for 3♠ with the two aces), East should overcall 2♦. Doubling with the East's hand is only OK if you and your partner have agreed to play "Equal Level Conversion" doubles (that is, doubling, then, converting partner's club bid to diamonds, does not promise extra values).

What should East lead? Unclear, but if West is able to bid 3♦, that will make a diamond lead easier. The singleton club lead is OK in a teams match, but at pairs, it might just give up the hand four rounds of clubs. (like here - if declarer guesses the spades right, a club lead will give declarer 13 tricks!)

Board 11
South Deals
None Vul

♠ A 10 6 4
♥ J 6 5
♦ K J
♣ J 9 4 2

♠ K J 9 7 3
♥ A 8
♦ 8 7 6
♣ K Q 5

♠ 8 2
♥ Q 10 2
♦ A 10 4 3 2
♣ 10 6 3

♠ Q 5
♥ K 9 7 4 3
♦ Q 9 5
♣ A 8 7

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	-	2	-
S	1	-	2	-
E	-	1	-	-
W	-	1	-	-

10
6 13
11

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
			Pass?
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Pass?
1 NT	Pass	Pass	2 ♥
All pass			

Should South open the bidding, with a minimum balanced hand and scattered honours? It can be a winner, but it's unclear.

If South does open, North will likely make a limit raise and now 3♥ is too high.

If South passes, should he come in with a 2♥ overcall over East's 1♠ opening?

Tough decisions!

Board 10
East Deals
Both Vul

♠ 8 2
♥ K J 7 3
♦ K 7 6
♣ A 10 8 3

♠ A J 6
♥ Q 8
♦ A J 9 5 3
♣ J 9 7

♠ K 10 9 5
♥ A 9 6 4
♦ 8 4 2
♣ 5 4

♠ A J 6
♥ Q 8
♦ A J 9 5 3
♣ J 9 7

♠ Q 7 4 3
♥ 10 5 2
♦ Q 10
♣ K Q 6 2

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	-	1	-
S	2	-	1	-
E	-	2	-	1
W	-	2	-	1

11
13 7
9

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 NT	All pass		

A tricky defensive problem for N/S. Assuming North leads a club, after South wins the ♣ Q (or also after the ♣ K on the next trick), the 'correct' defence on this hand is for South to switch to a low heart, finessing declarer's queen-doubleton. That will set up four clubs, two hearts, and soon a diamond.

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

♠ A Q 9 8 3
♥ A 3
♦ K Q 10 5
♣ 7 4

♠ J 7 6 2
♥ 8 2
♦ J 3
♣ A 10 9 6 5

♠ 10
♥ K Q J 9 7 5
♦ A 9 8 7
♣ K 2

♠ J 7 6 2
♥ 8 2
♦ J 3
♣ A 10 9 6 5

♠ K 5 4
♥ 10 6 4
♦ 6 4 2
♣ Q J 8 3

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	1	-	2
S	-	1	-	2
E	1	-	3	-
W	1	-	3	-

15
6 13
6

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	2 ♥	2 ♠
Pass	Pass	3 ♦!	Pass
3 ♥	3 ♠	All pass	

East has an interesting decision on his second bid. There's nothing wrong with 3♦, but can that be a 5-4 shape? 6-4? Could it be 5-5 as well (or would you have bid 2♠ Michaels Cuebid originally?). Some pairs might employ an artificial 2NT bid by East whereby it shows a 6-4 hand with a four-card minor.

Anyway, whatever East chooses to bid, North is likely to compete to 3♠ with his good 15-point hand, which will unfortunately go down one most likely.

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

♠ 10 7 6 4
♥ J 6 5 3
♦ 9 7
♣ Q 8 7

♠ J 9 8
♥ A Q 9 7 2
♦ J 8
♣ K 9 2

♠ 3 2
♥ 10 8 4
♦ K Q 5 2
♣ A J 10 6

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-
E	2	4	4	5
W	2	3	3	2

♠ A K Q 5
♥ K
♦ A 10 6 4 3
♣ 5 4 3

3
16 11
10

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

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

Another 11 point hand with a 5332 shape, should East open? That's a question of your opening style. As it turns out, opening or not opening did not matter as East should end up declaring 3NT either way! (If East opens, then West will bid 2♦, East

Board 14
East Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 6 5
♥ 8 4 2
♦ A 10 7 3 2
♣ J 9

♠ Q J 10 2
♥ A 10 9 7
♦ 5 4
♣ A 10 5

♠ K 7 3
♥ Q 5
♦ Q J 8
♣ K Q 6 4 3

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	1	-	-
S	-	1	-	-
E	-	-	4	3
W	-	-	4	3

♠ A 8 4
♥ K J 6 3
♦ K 9 6
♣ 8 7 2

5
11 11
13

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
		1 ♣	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♥	All pass

Should one open the bidding with 11 points and a balanced hand? Probably not, but when you hold 4-4 in the majors with lots of intermediate cards (tens and nines), then the hand has much more potential, and thus it is probably worth opening in East's hand. 2NT, then West 3NT.)

South, with ♣ AJ106, should probably lead passively with a spade (to avoid giving tricks away). Declarer should maximise her chances here: Spade lead win ♠A, ♥K, low diamond towards the ♦J (then later try a diamond to the ♦10).

Board 15
South Deals
N-S Vul

♠ 10 8 4 3
♥ K 3
♦ 7 6
♣ K 8 6 3 2

♠ A 6
♥ A 8
♦ K Q J 10 3 2
♣ Q 9 4

♠ K 7 5 2
♥ Q J 10 7 4 2
♦ 9 8 5
♣ —

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	1	-
S	-	-	1	-
E	4	5	-	4
W	4	4	-	4

♠ Q J 9
♥ 9 6 5
♦ A 4
♣ A J 10 7 5

6
12 16
6

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦	2 ♥
Pass	Pass	3 NT	All pass

South, at unfavourable vulnerability, should pass as dealer (opening a weak 2♥ is probably too much of a gamble). Having said that, once the auction continues as above, South can later come back in with 2♥ - this will put some pressure on East who has a very nice hand.

Should East double? Jump to 3NT? 3NT is the practical approach, but sometimes it might miss a slam. Preempts do work!

Board 16
West Deals
E-W Vul

♠ 7 6 5 4 3
♥ A K
♦ J
♣ A J 10 9 5

♠ A K Q 10 2
♥ J 7
♦ K 5 4 3 2
♣ K

♠ 9 8
♥ 8 6 5 3 2
♦ Q 8
♣ Q 7 4 3

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	-	1	-
S	2	-	1	-
E	-	4	-	2
W	-	4	-	2

♠ J
♥ Q 10 9 4
♦ A 10 9 7 6
♣ 8 6 2

13
7 16
4

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	2 ♦	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	Pass?	Pass

West passes and North has one of those classic 5-5 hands in the blacks, with the question being whether to open 1♠ or 1♣. Even with five little spades, my preference is still 1♠ (how else will you find the 5-3 spade fit?). I'm a big believer in "getting your major suits in quick" and here, if partner has four-card spade support, he can surely bump up the auction on the very first round of bidding!

Once North opens 1♠, East will probably be a bit confused at first, but end up overcalling 2♦. Whether East should raise to 5♦ or not, is a bit unclear.

Board 17
North Deals
None Vul

♠ A 10 8 7 4
♥ J 4 2
♦ 8 5
♣ K 7 2

♠ 9 2
♥ Q 8
♦ K J 9 7 2
♣ A Q 10 4

♠ K J 5 3
♥ 10 9 5
♦ A Q 4 3
♣ J 8

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	2
S	-	-	-	2
E	2	2	2	-
W	2	2	2	-

♠ Q 6
♥ A K 7 6 3
♦ 10 6
♣ 9 6 5 3

8
9 12
11

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♣	2 ♥
3 ♣	Pass	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

A fairly ordinary low level competitive auction (South's 2♥ cuebid showed a good hand with spade support).

It's a bit difficult for South to diagnose that 3♣ is failing on the deal (3♣ would be making if spades were 3-1), but with a nine-card spade fit, it's hard to blame South for competing to 3♠ (which is down one).

Board 18
East Deals
N-S Vul

♠ A 7
♥ A J 9 3
♦ A K Q 8 3
♣ A J

♠ K J 2
♥ Q 10 8 6 2
♦ 6 5 4
♣ Q 6

♠ Q 9 8 6 4
♥ K 7
♦ 10
♣ K 10 9 4 2

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	7	6	5	6
S	6	6	4	6
E	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-

♠ 10 5 3
♥ 5 4
♦ J 9 7 2
♣ 8 7 5 3

23
1 8
8

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 NT	Pass	All pass?

After three passes, North is better off treating her hand as a strong 'balanced hand', to show a hand within the 23-24 point range. Over 2NT, South transfers to spades and rebids 4♣ which implies slam interest (if South has no slam interest, he would rebid 3NT, not a new suit).

Over South's 4♣, North, with no fit in either suit, should bid 4NT as "regressive" (to play). If North had interest, she could cuebid with 4♦/4♥ etc. Should South force to slam? It's tempting...this hand makes 12 tricks only due to East's ♣ Q-x!

Board 19
South Deals
E-W Vul

♠ 7 6 4
♥ A 8 6 4
♦ 9 6 4
♣ 6 5 4

♠ A 3
♥ K Q 3
♦ K Q J 8
♣ A K 10 9

♠ 10 9 8
♥ J 10 7 2
♦ 10 7
♣ J 8 7 3

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-
E	6	6	4	6
W	6	6	4	6

♠ K Q J 5 2
♥ 9 5
♦ A 5 3 2
♣ Q 2

4
12 22
2

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
?			

This hand shouldn't be too difficult to overcome. Once West opens the bidding, all East needs to find out about are the aces, and how good of a spade suit West has.

If West has all of the goods, East can try for 7♦ (or 7NT if East can actually find out enough information to count to 13 tricks). On the actual deal, the ♥ A is missing so East can confidently place the contract as 6NT (22 points plus an opening bid) since it is matchpoints after all!

Board 20
West Deals
Both Vul

♠ K 10 9 3
♥ 7 2 ♦ 9
6 3 2 ♣ Q
8 2

♠ A
♥ K Q 8 6
♦ A Q J 4
♣ A J 7 6

♠ Q J 2
♥ J 5 4 3
♦ K 8 5 ♣
10 9 3

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-
E	6	4	6	3
W	6	4	6	3

♠ 8 7 6 5 4
♥ A 10 9 ♦
10 7 ♣ K 5
4

5
7 21
7

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

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

Handling strong 4441 hands is always a tricky problem. However, it usually only gets problematic when the HCP count is 22 or more, since with 21 or less, you can usually 'get by' with opening at the 1-level.

Some may have a 2-level opening gadget to show a strong 4441 hand, but I would say it is not an important convention to play since strong 4441 hands aren't that frequent.

Anyway, after a 1♦ opening and a 2♥ reverse, E/W should rest in 3NT (East should not get overly excited since West has no fit, and is a passed hand - so limited to 11 HCP)

Board 21
North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ A 8 5
♥ K 9 8
♦ K 10 9 7
♣ A 10 5

♠ Q
♥ Q 10 6 3 2
♦ J 6 4 2
♣ K 9 7

N
W E
S

♠ K 10 6 2
♥ 5 4
♦ A Q 5 3
♣ 4 3 2

14
8 9
9

♠ J 9 7 4 3
♥ A J 7
♦ 8
♣ Q J 8 6

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	4	1	2	4	4
S	4	1	2	4	4
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	Pass?
Pass			

Whether N/S stop in 1NT or 2 ♠, it appears that they can make 10 tricks! This is in part due to West's singleton ♠Q (allowing the spades to be played for one loser only), and the favourable club position.

Having said that, wouldn't you think North's hand is close to a 1NT (15-17) opening? The hand is full of Aces and Kings with lots of intermediate cards!

Board 22
East Deals
E-W Vul

♠ 2
♥ 10 9 5 3
♦ K Q 5 3 2
♣ A 10 4

♠ A K 10 9 6 5 4
♥ J 7 4
♦ —
♣ K 8 2

N
W E
S

♠ J 7
♥ K Q 6
♦ A J 10 8 7
♣ J 6 5

9
11 12
8

♠ Q 8 3
♥ A 8 2
♦ 9 6 4
♣ Q 9 7 3

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-
E	1	1	4	3
W	1	1	4	3

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	1 NT	Pass
4 ♠	All pass		

All roads should lead to 4♠, but it's a shame that spades aren't breaking and that the ♣ A is offside.

Chalk one up for bad luck...

(Unless the declarer managed to guess the spades!)

Board 23
South Deals
Both Vul

♠ J 7 5
♥ K 6 4 3
♦ 10 9 6
♣ 8 7 2

♠ A 6
♥ 10
♦ A K 7 5
♣ A K J 9 6 4

N
W E
S

♠ K 8 4 2
♥ 8 5
♦ Q J 4 3 2
♣ Q 3

4
19 8
9

♠ Q 10 9 3
♥ A Q J 9 7 2
♦ 8
♣ 10 5

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	-	-	1	-	
S	-	-	1	-	
E	6	6	-	3	1
W	6	6	-	3	1

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♥
3 ♦	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
6 ♦?	Pass	Pass	Pass

Here is another hand where South has to decide what to do as dealer. Passing is the normal action, but again, perhaps South should take that risk (of missing out on spades) and preempt the opponents with a 2♥ opening since it is a pairs game?

If South passes, then E/W "should" get to 6♦. Once East shows excitement about diamonds, West can probably push it up one more due to the singleton heart and the long club suit. Well done if you got to 6♦ (or 6♣).

Board 24
West Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 3
♥ A 8 3 2
♦ J 8 6 4
♣ K J 3

♠ A 4
♥ J 10 5
♦ K 10 7 3
♣ Q 10 9 4

N
W E
S

♠ K Q J 9 6
♥ K 9 6
♦ A 5
♣ A 7 6

9
10 17
4

♠ 10 7 5 2
♥ Q 7 4
♦ Q 9 2
♣ 8 5 2

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	-	-	-	-	
S	-	-	-	-	
E	4	2	3	4	4
W	4	2	3	4	3

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Finally...a boring hand! Or is it?

Yes, it is. Either East or West will declare in 3NT, and it's just a matter of finding overtricks (or restricting them).

(By the way, East's hand is too strong for a 15-17 1NT opening - it has lots of aces and kings, plus a **very good** five card suit, certainly worth a one-point upgrade!)

Very well done if any E/W managed to take 11 tricks!

Board 25
North Deals
E-W Vul

♠ 9 7 4 2
♥ J 5 3 2
♦ A 7 3
♣ 8 5

♠ K 5
♥ A 7 6
♦ Q 5 2
♣ Q 10 7 6 2

♠ A Q J 10 8 6 3
♥ 10 4
♦ 10 8
♣ A 4

5
11 11
13

♠ —
♥ K Q 9 8
♦ K J 9 6 4
♣ K J 9 3

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	3	3	-
S	1	3	3	-
E	-	-	3	2
W	-	-	3	3

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 ♠	Dbl
Rdbl	2 ♥	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Although West redoubled to show 10+ points, East's hand isn't suitable for defending 2♥X, hence the jump to 3♠ to show a minimum hand with long solid spades. Perhaps West might think about making a bizarre rebid of 3NT (which happens to be the only making game!)? A bit hard for me!

4♠ goes down on a heart lead and that's what most Souths should lead. A non-heart lead allows declarer to draw trumps and set up the clubs for a heart discard.

Board 26
East Deals
Both Vul

♠ Q 7 6 5 4
♥ J
♦ A K Q J 9 6
♣ A

♠ A J 3
♥ A 10 9 7 4
♦ 8
♣ Q 10 7 6

♠ K 10 9 8
♥ Q 8 6 5
♦ 7 3
♣ 9 5 4

17
11 5
7

♠ 2
♥ K 3 2
♦ 10 5 4 2
♣ K J 8 3 2

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	5	-	-
S	-	5	-	-
E	-	3	1	-
W	-	3	1	-

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1 ♥	2 ♥	3 ♥	4 ♦
Pass	5 ♦	All pass	

North's 2♥ is a Michaels Cuebid, and South's 4♦ is "Pass or Correct". South shouldn't bid 4♣ as the "Pass or Correct" since he probably wants to be in 5♣ if North has clubs, but if North has diamonds, 4♦ may be the limit.

Some like to play Michaels Cuebid as either "Weak or Strong", but distribution is the name of the game, so I prefer Michaels Cuebid to be 'any strength' (but not crazy!), just vulnerability dependent.

Board 27
South Deals
None Vul

♠ K 8 7 3
♥ K 5 2 ♦
A Q J 4 ♣
K 10

♠ J 10 5 4
♥ Q 3 ♦ 3
2 ♣ 8 7 5 4
3

♠ Q 9
♥ 10 9 6
♦ K 10 9 7 6
♣ 9 6 2

16
3 5
16

♠ A 6 2
♥ A J 8 7
4 ♦ 8 5 ♣
A Q J

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	5	6	5
S	3	4	6	4
E	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 NT	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

What should South open? 1♥ or 1NT? 1♥ for the purists (small doubleton diamond etc.), and 1NT for the simplic-its! Which category are you in?

I prefer 1NT which keeps the auction nice and simple. The above auction has North bidding 2♣ Stayman followed by 4NT quantitative, to which South accepts the invite and shows a five-card heart suit with 6♥. If North does not have three hearts, then he would correct to 6NT. Unfortunately, you will need x-ray goggles to make 12 tricks here!

Board 28
West Deals
N-S Vul

♠ A Q 6 4 2
♥ A J 8 2
♦ A K J 8
♣ —

♠ 9
♥ 6
♦ 10 9 6 5 3
♣ A J 7 5 4 2

♠ 5 3
♥ K 10 7 3
♦ Q 7
♣ K Q 9 8 6

19
5 10
6

♠ K J 10 8 7
♥ Q 9 5 4
♦ 4 2
♣ 10 3

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	1	5	6
S	-	1	5	6
E	3	-	-	-
W	3	-	-	-

One possible auction...

West	North	East	South
		3 ♣	Dbl 5 ♣
			?

Keen for a wild deal? Here's one! At favourable vulnerability and a 6-5 shape, West probably does best by opening a preemptive 3♣ (or 2NT both minors if available). As to how the rest of the auction should go is up to your own imagination!

This hand was played in the recent 2016 World Open Bridge Games. Most Wests opened 3♣, but of course everyone's auctions was all over the place!

In the Open field, the results were pretty wild:
25 x 6♠ making 12 tricks. 3 x 7♠ going one down.

7 x 5 ♣X going down two. 5 x 6♣X going down three.

2 x 7 ♣X going down four! 11 x 4♠ making 12 tricks.

And one pair was in 6♥ going down one... How did you fair?

Board 29
North Deals
Both Vul

♠ 10 4
 ♥ A 7 6
 3 ♦ J 9 7
 ♣ K J 9 2

♠ 8 7 6
 ♥ 8 4 2
 ♦ Q 10 8 5
 ♣ 8 4 3

♠ A K J 3 2
 ♥ K 10 9
 ♦ A 2 ♣
 A Q 6

♠ Q 9 5
 ♥ Q J 5
 ♦ K 6 4 3
 ♣ 10 7 5

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	6	4	5	6	6
S	6	4	5	6	6
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

9
 2 8
 21

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	3 NT	All pass	

South's control-rich hand with a very good five-card suit warrants an upgrade from 21 to 22 points - not quite enough for North to go slam hunting anyway.

West will likely lead a diamond: ♦ 5-♦ 9-♦ K-♦ A. Declarer then crosses to dummy via a club to play the ♠10 from dummy (better than a low spade since East may not cover with ♠Q8xx). With the ♠Q onside and spades 3-3, declarer should have no trouble making 12 tricks.

Board 30
East Deals
None Vul

♠ A 7 6 2
 ♥ 7 6 2
 ♦ Q J 8 4
 ♣ 9 5

♠ J 10 5 4
 ♥ A J 10 8
 ♦ 9 6
 ♣ Q J 8

♠ —
 ♥ K Q 4
 ♦ A K 10 7 5 2
 ♣ A K 10 2

♠ K Q 9 8 3
 ♥ 9 5 3
 ♦ 3
 ♣ 7 6 4 3

♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	-	-	-	-	
S	-	-	-	-	
E	5	6	7	1	4
W	5	6	7	1	4

7
 9 19
 5

Suggested Standard Auction(?):

West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 NT	Pass	4 ♥?	Pass
6 ♦?	All pass		

The first four bids are quite straightforward (you might think about a 2♣ opening with East's hand, but with the spade void, I would favour a 1♦ opening since (a) it is unlikely the auction will be passed out, and (b) if the opponents barrage in spades over a 2♣ opening bid, I may have trouble describing my hand if the auction goes 2♣-(2♠)-something-(4♠)-to me!

Over West's 3NT rebid, East's 4♥ describes his hand shape (though more typically 1=3=5=4) with slam interest. West has no wasted values in spades, so perhaps he should now jump to 5NT as a "Pick a slam"? An interesting and tough hand!

