

Board 1

The first three bids are likely to be North: 1♦, South: 1♠, North 2♣.

That sequence shows 5 diamonds and 4 clubs (or it could be more distributional) and a point range of 12 to 17.

Many in the South would bid game with their 12 points but that is not a good idea as it is not clear which game they should bid. 3NT or 4♠ might be better than 5♣.

Better for South to just invite game by bidding 3♣.

Here North will pass but he would bid game if he had a bit extra.

If North's "bit extra" was ♥A or ♥K the best game would be 3NT.

And if North had ♠Q (and no top heart honours) the best game would be 4♠.

<b>1</b>		♠ 74	Dir: N
		♥ 83	
♦ AKJ62	♣ A753	♠ 108	
♠ QJ92	♥ AK102	♥ 10975	
♥ QJ964	♦ Q102	♣ AK653	
♦ 84	♠ 75	♥ Q3	
♣ J9	♦ K864		
12			
7	9		
12			
		♣♦♥♠NT	
		N 4 4 - 3 2	
		S 4 4 - 3 2	
		E - - 1 - -	
		W - - 1 - -	

DATUM: NS: 300 EW: 470

Board 2

After East opens 1NT South should double showing 16 or more points.

That is much better than bidding 2NT as it scores more no matter how many tricks are made. (If he makes 8 tricks 2NT scores 120 whereas 1NT<sup>x</sup> is down 2 for 300.)

North might feel uncomfortable defending 1NT<sup>x</sup> but can only pass and hope South can beat 1NT on his own.

South might be confident of taking 1NT down 2 but after leading his hearts from the top (best) East will win with ♥Q and cash his four spade tricks. South will have to discard one of his winners on the last spade. The ♦A will be East's sixth trick.

<b>2</b>		♠ 10753	Dir: E
		♥ J64	
♦ 952	♣ 543	♠ KJ64	
♠ AQ2	♥ Q72	♦ A63	
♥ 85	♣ Q106		
♦ 10874			
♣ J972			
1	♠ 98		
7	♥ AK1093		
20	♦ KQJ		
	♣ AK8		
		♣♦♥♠NT	
		N - - 2 - -	
		S - - 2 - -	
		E 1 - - 1 -	
		W 1 - - - -	

DATUM: NS: 310 EW: 330

Board 3

The first three bids should be West: 1♥; North: 2♦; East: 3♣.

West's best option is to raise partner's suit to 4♣ rather than repeat the hearts as they aren't very good.

After 4♣ it is a good idea for East to suggest an alternative game by bidding 4♥.

This clearly won't be 4-card support because with that East would have immediately raised the hearts.

West can pass 4♥ if his hearts are good enough (which they are here) or otherwise he can stay with the club fit and bid 5♣.

Both 4♥ and 5♣ should be made.

<b>3</b>		♠ A93	Dir: S
		♥ 107	
♦ AKJ1097	♣ 95	♠ KQJ	
♠ 642	♥ Q4	♥ 642	
♥ AK653	♦ AJ1083		
♦ 5			
♣ KQ74			
12	♠ 10875		
	♥ J982		
12	♦ Q83		
13	♣ 62		
3			
		♣♦♥♠NT	
		N - 1 - - -	
		S - 1 - - -	
		E 5 - 4 1 -	
		W 5 - 4 1 -	

DATUM: NS: 720 EW: 120

### Board 4

South should open 1NT after three passes.

North's 9 points is not enough to consider game but enough to feel comfortable.

South will be less comfortable as his hand is a bit top-heavy with three AK combinations but few intermediates.

South's best (or probably only) chance is from the diamond suit. He must keep all his diamonds if the opponents run the hearts first. South should lead a diamond towards dummy at the first opportunity. West may be tempted to win with  $\heartsuit Q$  (which solves declarer's problem) but if West plays low declarer should try  $\heartsuit 9$ . If that loses to  $\heartsuit 10$  there is still a chance of a third trick in the suit.

<b>4</b>		Dir: W Vul: Both																									
$\spadesuit$ J98 $\heartsuit$ Q1083 $\diamondsuit$ Q1054 $\clubsuit$ Q7  9 7 10 14	$\spadesuit$ AK53 $\heartsuit$ J42 $\diamondsuit$ J96 $\clubsuit$ 542  $\spadesuit$ Q742 $\heartsuit$ AK6 $\diamondsuit$ 82 $\clubsuit$ J1093  $\spadesuit$ 106 $\heartsuit$ 975 $\diamondsuit$ AK73 $\clubsuit$ AK86	<table border="1"> <tr><th><math>\clubsuit</math></th><th><math>\heartsuit</math></th><th><math>\diamondsuit</math></th><th><math>\spadesuit</math></th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	$\clubsuit$	$\heartsuit$	$\diamondsuit$	$\spadesuit$	NT	N	1	2	1	-	S	1	2	1	-	E	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-
$\clubsuit$	$\heartsuit$	$\diamondsuit$	$\spadesuit$	NT																							
N	1	2	1	-																							
S	1	2	1	-																							
E	-	-	-	-																							
W	-	-	-	-																							

DATUM: NS: 410 EW: 340

### Board 5

After North opens 1 $\heartsuit$  East has the ideal hand for a takeout double, with support for all three unbid suits,.

That is much better than bidding 2 $\clubsuit$  with such a weak suit.

South should pass now but some might consider an aggressive raise to 2 $\heartsuit$  (which won't do their side any good here).

West's hand is much better than the 11 points suggests (especially if South *did* bid 2 $\heartsuit$  allowing West to "see" the likely singleton heart in East's hand).

With or without a bid by South anything less than 4 $\spadesuit$  by West would be a pusillanimous underbid. West can actually make twelve tricks as two hearts can be trumped in the East hand.

<b>5</b>		Dir: N Vul: N-S																									
$\spadesuit$ AQ8532 $\heartsuit$ 1086 $\diamondsuit$ A32 $\clubsuit$ J  13 11 12 4	$\spadesuit$ 10 $\heartsuit$ AK742 $\diamondsuit$ J109 $\clubsuit$ KQ108  $\spadesuit$ K964 $\heartsuit$ 3 $\diamondsuit$ KQ4 $\clubsuit$ A9652  $\spadesuit$ J7 $\heartsuit$ QJ95 $\diamondsuit$ 8765 $\clubsuit$ 743	<table border="1"> <tr><th><math>\clubsuit</math></th><th><math>\heartsuit</math></th><th><math>\diamondsuit</math></th><th><math>\spadesuit</math></th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>8</td></tr> </table>	$\clubsuit$	$\heartsuit$	$\diamondsuit$	$\spadesuit$	NT	N	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	E	2	1	-	8	W	2	1	-	8
$\clubsuit$	$\heartsuit$	$\diamondsuit$	$\spadesuit$	NT																							
N	-	-	-	-																							
S	-	-	-	-																							
E	2	1	-	8																							
W	2	1	-	8																							

DATUM: NS: 570 EW: 40

### Board 6

The recommended opening with three 4-card suits is the suit next in rank below the singleton so South should open 1 $\heartsuit$  here.

If South were to open 1 $\clubsuit$  he would have no sensible rebid if partner bids 1 $\spadesuit$ . And opening a suit like  $\heartsuit 7632$  is best avoided if there is any alternative.

After North responds 1 $\spadesuit$  South will rebid 2 $\clubsuit$ , which has a range of 12 to 17 points.

North has enough for game even if South is minimum so should bid 4 $\heartsuit$  expecting South to have 5 hearts. Although South's hand is a rare exception to two suit bids showing 5-4 he isn't in any bother in 4 $\heartsuit$  provided he trumps one diamond in dummy before drawing trumps (and draws four rounds of trumps after that).

<b>6</b>		Dir: E Vul: E-W																									
$\spadesuit$ K8 $\heartsuit$ 9862 $\diamondsuit$ QJ1095 $\clubsuit$ 73  13 6 9 12	$\spadesuit$ AJ6432 $\heartsuit$ KQ7 $\diamondsuit$ 4 $\clubsuit$ K85  $\spadesuit$ Q1095 $\heartsuit$ 54 $\diamondsuit$ AK8 $\clubsuit$ 10962  $\spadesuit$ 7 $\heartsuit$ AJ103 $\diamondsuit$ 7632 $\clubsuit$ AQJ4	<table border="1"> <tr><th><math>\clubsuit</math></th><th><math>\heartsuit</math></th><th><math>\diamondsuit</math></th><th><math>\spadesuit</math></th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	$\clubsuit$	$\heartsuit$	$\diamondsuit$	$\spadesuit$	NT	N	4	1	4	3	S	4	1	4	3	E	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-
$\clubsuit$	$\heartsuit$	$\diamondsuit$	$\spadesuit$	NT																							
N	4	1	4	3																							
S	4	1	4	3																							
E	-	-	-	-																							
W	-	-	-	-																							

DATUM: NS: 170 EW: 550

### Board 7

The first three bids should be  
West: 1♥; East: 1♠; West 2♦.

East now has multiple choices.  
Should he invite game? Although  
East only has 9 points they are  
“good” points (lower honours are  
better value when they are in suits  
partner has bid).

The other problem for East is what  
is the best suit? Neither red suit is  
likely to be eight cards and to bid  
2NT with three small cards in the  
only unbid suit is risky.

Happily whatever East does should  
lead to a makeable contract. West  
will decline any game invitation.

If East declares 2NT he should  
discard a heart from dummy on the  
last club so the fourth heart *or*  
diamond will be his eighth trick if  
either suit is divided evenly.

<b>7</b>		♠ KJ	Dir: S
		♥ J973	Vul: Both
♠ 42	♥ AQ654	♠ A8753	
♥ AK73	♦ 109	♥ K2	
♣ 109		♦ Q42	
		♣ 543	
		♠ Q1096	
9		♥ 108	
13	9	♦ 1085	
9		♣ AK87	
			♣♦♥♠NT
			N 1 - - - -
			S 1 - - - -
			E - 3 3 2 2
			W - 3 3 2 2

DATUM: NS: 430 EW: 310

### Board 8

East-West have lots of points and  
no 8-card fit but game in any  
trump suit apart from spades is  
better than notrumps.

East has the points (21) to open  
2NT but he might consider it more  
prudent, in view of the unguarded  
spades and 5-card major, to open  
1♥ accepting the risk partner might  
have 4 or 5 points and pass.

Here West will respond 2♣ or 2♦  
but that gives East a problem what  
to bid next.

East has enough for game but to  
bid 3NT now is unwise because the  
reason for not opening 2NT (weak  
spades) is still there.

It is probably best for East to take  
a chance on the trump suit quality  
and bid game either in hearts or  
partner’s minor suit.

<b>8</b>		♠ 9875	Dir: W
		♥ J86	Vul: None
♠ 642	♥ Q3	♠ QJ	
♥ KJ86	♦ AJ107	♥ AK1042	
♣ AJ107		♦ AQ5	
		♣ KQ5	
		♠ AK103	
1		♥ 975	
11	21	♦ 1042	
7		♣ 986	
			♣♦♥♠NT
			N - - - - -
			S - - - - -
			E 5 5 5 3 3
			W 5 5 5 3 3

DATUM: NS: 610 EW: 120

### Board 9

South must not get too excited  
after North opens 1NT.

His 18 points with partner’s makes  
30 to 32 which is not enough for  
slam.

So South should just bid 3NT and  
expect partner to have an easy  
time.

The likely diamond lead hits the  
weak spot so North can’t afford to  
lose the lead.

If North carelessly leads ♣A first he  
will have a fourth round club loser  
and go down.

The correct play with a holding like  
those clubs is to win the first round  
in the hand with two top ones (that  
is South here with ♣KQ).

If either opponent discards on that  
trick declarer can finesse either ♣9  
or ♣10 and avoid losing a trick to  
the other opponent’s ♣J.

<b>9</b>		♠ KJ5	Dir: N
		♥ 7643	Vul: E-W
♠ 984	♥ Q109	♠ A1064	
♥ K84	♦ J872	♠ 10762	
♣ J872		♥ K82	
		♦ J109762	
		♣	
		♠ AQ3	
12		♥ AJ5	
6	4	♦ Q5	
18		♣ KQ953	
			♣♦♥♠NT
			N 4 - 3 3 4
			S 5 - 3 3 5
			E - 2 - - -
			W - 2 - - -

DATUM: NS: 170 EW: 520

Board 10

After East passes South should open 1NT.

West now has to decide whether or not to overcall 2♣.

The downside is it might be a hand where both 1NT and 2♣ go down and with both sides vulnerable that is the worst time to be bidding too much.

Also a bid of 2♣ by West doesn't prevent North bidding another suit.

But on the positive side if North does bid another suit West will want partner to lead a club.

On balance it appears bidding 2♣ is the best option for West.

Here West should make 2♣ losing only two diamonds and the other three aces.

If South is left in 1NT he would also make that with four diamonds and the other three aces.

<b>10</b>	♠ 984	Dir: E
	♥ 962	Vul: Both
	♦ AK104	
	♣ 832	
♠ QJ10	♠ K762	
♥ K107	♥ QJ53	
♦ J2	♦ 987	
♣ KQJ97	♣ 64	
7	♠ A53	
13	♥ A84	
14	♦ Q653	
	♣ A105	
		♣♦♥♠NT
		N - 1 - - 1
		S - 1 - - 1
		E 2 - 2 2 -
		W 2 - 2 2 -

DATUM: NS: 300 EW 300