

1	A63
North	Q98432
None	K3
	A5
K74	T9852
75	AJ
Q9	AT74
KQ9764	J3
	QJ
	KT6
	J8652
	T82

This will be a part score battle which I expect will be won by EW bidding 3♠ over 3♥. Deep Finesse says you can beat 3♠ but it is by no means easy. The trick is to stop declarer getting to dummy's ♣s with the ♠7. So North must duck the ♠K when it is played. It is a complex hand to defend and there will be a few +140 scores for EW. Those NSs allowed to play in a ♥ part score should score 9 tricks quite easily. Any plus will score well.

2	AT3
East	AK654
NS	-
	KJT85
KQJ642	
7	T2
Q62	AJT98743
964	AQ2
	9875
	QJ983
	K5
	73

What to open on the East hand? Some will choose to preempt against vulnerable opponents in which case I would go for broke and open 5♦. This would give North quite a headache. If he doubles South is likely to leave it in with his ♦Kx. His only other option would be to bid 5♥ and hope partner has a big fit. This is a gamble but at match points isn't a bad choice. Those who defend 5♦ will get a minus score. Those who play 5♥ by South will also get a minus score after the ♠K lead is ruffed. There will be a lot of 550 scores EW and 650 scores NS and again a plus should get a good score.

3	AKQ643
South	74
EW	K6
	AQ8
972	5
6	JT852
AJT43	Q52
J963	K754
	JT8
	AKQ93
	987
	T2

NS will play this one in ♠s and there will be a few in slam I expect. The Easts who lead the ♥J will rue the day when they see dummy and it gives North the chance to make 12 tricks. But he has to guess whether to play West for the ♦A or the ♣K with nothing to give him a clue. A ♦ lead will work out OK in practice with declarer then needing the ♣ finesse to make 12 tricks (no one will finesse the ♥9 surely?!). If North cashes all his winners East will in fact be squeezed in ♥/♣ but declarer would have to read this after the ♣K is bared, so East has to throw his ♣s without too many signs of pressure. A ♣ lead will let 12 tricks make easily. A passive trump lead works best in fact and is likely to hold it to 11 tricks. Those making slam will get a great score followed by those making 12 tricks in game. There will be few playing in NT but they could score well if they do.

4	A982
West	QJ3
All	53
	KJ74
QT7	K653
962	A74
Q742	AJ86
T96	32
	J4
	KT85
	KT9
	AQ85

If North is feeling frisky he may open 1NT and play 3NT which should make with the ♦A right. If North passes (as most will vulnerable) then East will open 1NT and go 3 off on a ♥ lead. Those EWs playing a strong NT will open 1♦ on the East cards, North will double and NS may well get to the making 3NT again. So, despite losing a few vulnerable undertricks, 1NT by East may score reasonably well for EW. Those making 3NT by NS will also do well.

5	986
North	Q432
NS	987
	AQT
J	Q32
KT	J95
AJ4	K6532
J976542	83
	AKT754
	A876
	QT
	K

Much will depend here on what West does over 1♠ by South. A 2♣ bid would let North double and NS would probably get to 4♥. A 3♣ bid would go back to South who would double or perhaps bid 3♠ over which North would probably bid 3NT. It takes a ♦ lead to beat 3NT by North and East is likely to find it. Playing 4♠ you are likely to get a ♣ lead and it is then possible to make 11 tricks by throwing a ♦ on the ♣Q if you guess trumps right (Restricted Choice says you should) and use the ♥Q as an entry to finesse the ♠Q. In 4♥ you have the same chances for 11 tricks on a ♣ lead. So +650 for NS will get a top and +620 a good score. Any plus for EW will get a lot of match points.

6	KQ
East	KQ
EW	KQ97632
	Q9
J3	AT98542
9872	AJT4
T5	AJ
KJT72	
	76
	653
	84
	A86543

4♠ and even 4♥ by EW make 10 tricks with the very lucky major suit distribution but it is hard to see how to get there scientifically. Those who adopt a more pragmatic approach might just bash 4♠ with such a powerful hand in offence. With fortune favouring the brave those pragmatists will score heavily! Of course North is still to be factored in and may be tempted to bid too much on his good hand. Since it is possible (although difficult) to hold ♦s to 8 tricks that might give EW the opportunity for a 300 or even 500 penalty. +620 should be top for EW and any plus will score very well for NS.

7	J862
South	QT7
All	KT6
	JT2
AK5	Q4
A54	K986
AQ75	98
976	AQ853
	T973
	J32
	J432
	K4

It's hard to see any result other than 3NT for EW on this one and most often played by West either opening or rebidding NT. North will lead a ♠ and key to the hand is to play the ♣ suit correctly. The best chance is for North to hold the ♣K but it costs nothing to play North for the ♣J10 first. So win the ♠K and run the ♣9. When this draws the ♣K you have 10 top tricks. If North covers the ♣9 then you can finesse against the ♣J later for the same result. If South fails to find the ♦ switch when in with the ♣K then the 3-3 ♥ split lets 11 tricks through. I would expect a few 660 and a lot of 630 on the score sheet. Any EW scoring less than that will get below average I expect.

8	T62
West	KT6
None	A97
	T653
AKJ5	943
QJ7	95
KQ4	JT8652
A84	Q7
	Q87
	A8432
	3
	KJ92

West will open 2NT normally and focus will be on East. Should you bid 3NT or pass (few or none will be able to play in 3♦ after a 2NT opener!). At Teams scoring I would bash 3NT since there will seldom be exactly 8 tricks on this kind of hand. At Pairs I am a passer since -100 will perhaps score significantly worse than -50. Some Norths may lead a ♠ against 2NT/3NT and some 4th best of their longest suit. After a ♣ lead and the ♦A ducked twice declarer will make only 6 tricks on best defence. A ♠ lead will let at least 7 tricks through. Any plus for EW will be a great score and +150 will be very good for NS. Those EWs playing a strong ♣ method have chances of a plus although NS can make 2♥ for a good score.

9	T32
North	3
EW	JT8632
	AK4
J9	K75
JT9	K642
KQ7	54
J7653	QT98
	AQ864
	AQ875
	A9
	2

I would think most NSs will end up in 4♠, perhaps after a weak 2♦ from North or after 1♠ by South raised to 2♠ by North. After that start South is best to just blast into 4♠ rather than give the defence more information. If that happens West is likely to lead the ♥J which with careful play will produce 12 tricks, ruffing 2 ♥s in dummy and taking the ♠ finesse. Other leads against 4♠ make 12 tricks less easy and there will be some 450 on the score sheet. I can't really see anyone getting to 6♠ but making that would be a mighty top. Otherwise +480 will score well for NS and EW have to pick up any scraps dropped by NS.

10	Q84
East	Q92
All	K876
	KQJ
AKT9652	3
K64	AT73
QT3	A9
	T86542
	J7
	J85
	J542
	A973

EW will play in a ♠ contract on this one and should make 10 tricks. Six ♠ tricks, ♥AK and ♦A makes 9 and the 3-3 ♥ break or ♦A and a ♦ to the ♦10 gives the 10th. I would expect a lot of +620 scores with perhaps one or two +650? Those EWs staying in a part score won't do that well and any plus for NS will be a near top.

11
 South AJ953
 None KJT5
 KQ43
 AKT97632 QJ8
 2 KQ74
 Q8 A6
 JT 9752
 54
 T86
 97432
 A86

Wow – another huge ♠ hand for West. This one is going to be competitive with North holding a nice shapely hand. Most will open the West hand 4♠ and North will double (most play this as takeout with 4NT showing a 2 suited hand). Holding an ace and having no shape South will probably pass and hope! Then it is over the NS to find the defence. North will lead the ♣K, then should play a small ♣ to South's ♣A. Looking at dummy it should be fairly clear for South to switch to a ♦ and that will mean one off and +100 for NS. If West opens 3♠ (or 1♠) then NS might get to play in a ♦ part score for +130 and a good score. It's hard to see how 5♦ would make but anything is possible! A plus for EW will be good and +100 or more for NS will do well also.

12 654
 West AKT
 NS K654
 965
 2 J873
 J98654 73
 A83 QJT92
 J84 K2
 AKQT9
 Q2
 7
 AQT73

Whether or not West opens it is hard to see NS staying out of game. Most will be in 4♠ mostly by South but there might be a few played by North too. If West has opened (2♥ or 2♦) then the play is fairly clear on a ♥ lead, ie win, cash ♠AK, ♥ to dummy, ♠ finesse, draw trumps and play a ♦. This will net 11 tricks. There will no doubt be a few in 3NT by North and they will get the lead of the ♦Q. The pairs specialists will realise that 11 tricks are available in ♠s so they will have to make 11 tricks in NT to score well. So they need to win the ♦K, ♠AK, ♥Q to ♥K, ♠ finesse, cash ♠s then a ♥ to ♥10, ♥A, ♣ finesse! It will be a brave (and skilful) player who plays this line although easier if West has bid. So 660 for a top for NS, 650 for a very good score, 620 for an average. EW just have to take what NS give them.

13 K87652
 North A3
 All 97
 KT9
 AT94 3
 7652 KJT8
 63 AKQT542
 842 3
 QJ
 Q94
 J8
 AQJ765

This is a difficult hand to predict! North might pass or open 1♠ or 2♠. East might open 1♦ or 3NT or even 5♦. The best scores will come from doubling opponents I think – either 4♠x by North or 5♦x by East perhaps. But there might be a few making doubled contracts too. My guess is that if you have a +200 or more on your card you will do well, otherwise you will be getting average or less.

14 9432
 East K943
 None Q85
 63
 87 AQT65
 AQ7 8
 KT764 92
 K75 AT842
 KJ
 JT652
 AJ3
 QJ9

Those Easts who open (1♠ no doubt rather than 1♣) are likely to get to 2NT or 3NT by West unless South gets involved with a 2♥ overcall (not for me but there will be some who do). North is likely to lead a ♥ whether South has bid or not after which West can make 8 tricks if he plays for the ♦A in South rather than the ♠K in North. It is unlikely that EW will get to a ♣ part score but if they do they will score well as long as they don't cash top trumps before taking the ♠ finesse (dummy needs to ruff a ♠ for 10 tricks). If NS get too active then EW might be able to get a 300 penalty out of 3♥x which would be a top. I expect to see quite a lot of +50 for NS which should be above average. But any plus should score reasonably well for either side.

15 K5
 South QJ542
 NS K4
 QJ97
 AJ7 862
 AT9 K63
 AJ62 QT8
 T63 AK82
 QT943
 87
 9753
 54

West will open 1NT and the spotlight is on North. Some will come in with the North hand even vulnerable opposite a passed partner, and EW will then have a nice penalty to take if North does bid. Here if North bids 2♣ say (♥ & another) East can just double anything from there on. If North bids 2♥ though, many would now play a double by East as takeout and NS might survive! If North passes then EW will get to 3NT and will make 9 tricks on the normal ♥ lead. Deep Finesse says you can make 10 tricks but that needs 3 ♣ tricks which would need double dummy play. Good defence against 2♥ or 2♠ doubled (the most likely NS contracts) would get at least 500. So the tops for EW would be for +500 or better, average for +400 and not a lot for anything less!

16	62
West	AQ875
EW	92
	Q832
A753	QJT94
KJ642	9
J643	KQ8
	AT65
	K8
	T3
	AT75
	KJ974

Here it is hard to see anything other than 4♠ by EW. Some might open the West or North hand 2♥ Lucas (!), but East will investigate or overcall 2♠ and 4♠ would be the natural outcome. There seem to be 10 tricks there with the trump finesse and split being favourable, and it is hard to see an 11th trick anywhere. So I would predict that +620 for EW will be a little above average and there won't be many different scores. But I'm not sure how good that prediction will be!

17	J863
North	JT92
None	QT8
	A4
Q975	AT
8643	A75
92	AK743
QJT	972
	K42
	KQ
	J65
	K8653

Most likely here is 1NT by East. Strong NTers will open 1NT, weak NTers will open 1♦ and rebid 1NT over 1♥. NS will play ♣s and East will play ♦s. With ♦s 3-3 that will give East 7 tricks and +90 for EW should be common. If South makes a horrible 2♣ overcall then he will get his just deserts since it is likely to go 2 off for a bottom. Anything better than +90 for EW will be good for them.

18	983
East	KT72
NS	QT4
	JT6
A654	J7
Q	98654
J863	K95
Q975	832
	KQT2
	AJ3
	A72
	AK4

Another 2NT opener this time by South. NS will no doubt get to 3NT whatever is opened and West has to find a lead! A passive ♥Q lead (it's going to drop anyway?) looks the best passive start and declarer will do well to make 11 tricks after that – you need to drop the ♠J and play for a 2nd ♦ trick rather than the ♣ finesse. Other leads by West give something away making 11 tricks easier for NS. Played by North you are more likely to get a ♥ lead. I expect 3NT to be universal making between 9 and 11 tricks.

19	J8
South	K5
EW	Q975
	AKJ73
Q96	KT73
98432	Q
T	AKJ6432
T985	2
	A542
	AJT76
	8
	Q64

South will open 1♥, North will respond 2♣ and East will no doubt bid some number of ♦s or may even double to try for a ♠ fit. If NS are allowed then they will play 3NT and this will bring in 10 tricks with the ♥Q dropping under the ♥K. East can make 9 tricks in ♦s but is very likely to make only 8, so has to be careful not to get too high vulnerable. A 500 penalty for NS will be a great score, +430 will be around average and anything less than +430 will score badly. EW will do extremely well to come out with a plus.

20	AK73
West	J73
All	83
	AJT7
T2	J864
Q96	AKT5
7652	AKQ9
KQ64	2
	Q95
	842
	JT4
	9853

North is likely to open 1NT and East should double. South has no shape and NS will do well to be able to bale out in 2♣x. Those who play 1NTx should be held to 4 tricks for 800 to EW. In 2♣x it looks like NS can make at least 5 tricks and maybe even 6, so not great for EW. Those NSs who play a strong NT will open 1♣ on the North hand and EW will then have to content themselves with 3NT which looks to have only 9 tricks available. So it's hard to see any plus score for NS and EW will need +800 to score well!

21	K4
North	765
NS	872
	A6432
98732	JT
KQ	JT9842
KJT	Q3
Q87	T95
	AQ65
	A3
	A9654
	KJ

If East passes (most will) then NS look set to get to 3NT by North after 1♦-1NT-2NT-3NT or similar and East will then lead the ♥J. Whether declarer wins the ♥A or ducks and wins it at trick 2, the best play is to win the ♠K and lead a ♦ ducking if East plays small. East then has no entry to his ♥s and North will eventually take 9 tricks with 3xS, 1xH, 3XD & 2xC. If East opened 2♥ (or 2♦) this makes it harder for NS to get there. South would double 2♥ and North may well bid 2NT (Lebensohl) with his hand and play 3♣ probably making only 9 tricks. So the daring 2♥ bidders may get a good score. +600 for NS looks best and should be above average. Any plus for EW will be good.

22	A
East	86532
EW	AQ632
	K2
Q9652	T743
AT4	KQ97
J94	T5
87	A96
	KJ8
	J
	K87
	QJT543

The South hand is a borderline opener for me but I would open 1♣ with a good suit and shape. It looks likely after South opens for NS to get to 3NT especially at pairs. West will lead a ♠ and if East continues ♠s after winning the ♣A then a bad score beckons! 12 tricks will be there for -490. A ♥ switch sets 3NT but may not be found. If South passes then NS may still get to 3NT or they could stop in a minor suit part score. It is hard to see NS getting to 5♣ or 5♦ but if they do then they are likely to make 11 tricks. 5♦ can be beaten by forcing dummy in ♥s and ducking the ♣K but that's not an easy defence to find. 3NT+3 will probably be the best NS score and +50 the best for EW.

23	A
South	AQJ94
All	T32
	K985
95	K87642
T2	86
AKJ875	964
J73	T2
	QJT3
	K753
	Q
	AQ64

It will take an ambitious pair to get to 6♥ (or 6♠) on this hand – after 1♣-1♥-2♥-3♣-4♥ then North might be persuaded to try 4♠ which would get them there. Once in slam all you have to do is ruff 2 ♦s in the South hand for 12 tricks. This ignores West, however, who is going to get busy in ♦s over 1♣. A weak jump of 2♦ seems reasonable, then 2♥ by North and perhaps 4♥ by South leaves NS in the same position except the 2♦ bid makes moving on for North a bit easier. So +1430 for NS should be a top followed by +1370 for 6♣. Those in game will score a bit below average for 4♥ and worse for 5♣. Any plus for EW is a bonus.

24	A5
West	J52
None	KQ9
	J6543
J98	743
Q93	K876
T872	A5
Q82	AKT9
	KQT62
	AT4
	J643
	7

I don't like the North hand as an opener but no doubt there will be the odd 1NT. The common route would be for East to open 1NT and South to overcall. Some will overcall 2♦ (♠ & another) and end in 2♠ probably. But there will be many variations with NS playing in 2NT perhaps. Those EWs who play in 1NT should be held to 5 tricks. Those NSs who play in a ♠ part score will make 8 or 9 tricks depending on the defence. Any NS playing in NT can be held to 7 tricks but it looks easy for EW to miss the perfect defence and let 8 or even 9 tricks through. So +120 or even 150 will be a good one for NS and any plus will be great for EW.

25	64
North	Q986
EW	A754
	876
JT752	A9
AK5	J732
32	J98
542	AT93
	KQ83
	T4
	KQT6
	KQJ

This one looks pretty straightforward. South will open 1♦ and rebid 1NT – if East passes then North bids 1♥, if East bids 1♠ then North doubles. Or South might open a strong 1NT. West will lead a ♠ to ♠A and that is enough to give South 8 tricks. So +120 should be completely flat across the field! But if West overcalls 1♠ vulnerable then East might be tempted to make a bid – perhaps 2♠. If that happens then NS can get 200 for a top. So any score better than +120 will score well for NS and anything worse will score badly.

26	A954
East	T9
All	KT7653
	8
82	J763
Q642	A83
Q9	A2
KJ952	AQ64
	KQT
	KJ75
	J84
	T73

Another competitive hand at most tables. If EW play strong NT then It may go 1NT-2♣-2♠-2NT and it's hard for NS to get in, plus 2NT might just sneak through. More commonly East will open 1♣, West 1♥ and North may get brave and try a weak jump to 3♦. If North passes then East will bid 1NT or 2♥ which West will probably pass back to North who will often protect with 3♦. 3♦ will no doubt make 9 tricks although 10 tricks are possible if East for example leads a small ♠ to the ♠10 in dummy. So +130 should be a top for NS with +110 not too far behind. +120 for EW should be a top for them.

27	KQ54
South	T86
None	765
	J52
A986	J73
K5	J432
4	KQJ32
AKQ763	T
	T2
	AQ97
	AT98
	984

There will be some in 3NT on this one where West will be ambitious with his nice hand – perhaps 1♣-1♦-1♠-1NT-3NT. There may be some who stay a bit lower in 2NT or maybe 3♣. Good defence will certainly beat 3NT but I can see a little scope for defensive error which would let it make. For example if South leads the ♦10 then there are 9 tricks with ♣s 3-3 and the ♥A right. Or try the ♠10 lead to ♠Q, a ♦ to ♦K/A, and another ♠ to ♠A. If West cashes ♣s and plays the ♥K then South has to keep the right cards and duck! So +400 for EW will appear on the score sheet more than once I'm sure and NS will have to be careful to avoid this and get +50 instead. A plus for NS will score well and +400 for EW will also be very good.

28	84
West	QJ6
NS	QJT85
	KT3
3	AQ62
A95	K743
AK9432	6
J82	AQ54
	KJT975
	T82
	7
	976

I expect (nearly) all roads to lead to 3NT by East on this one. South may lead the ♠J but some might try the ♠K to cater for a stiff ♠Q. Other Souths might go passive and lead another suit. There are many lines of play but with ♥s 3-3 and a ♠ lead likely I think most declarers will end up with 9 or 10 tricks. If South gets too frisky vulnerable then EW may just be able to take a nice 500 or even 800 penalty. The tiniest plus will be great for NS. +430 will be good for EW and anything better will be a top.

29	965
North	J9764
All	K97
	J5
KJ83	T74
A5	3
QJ64	A832
KT8	AQ974
	AQ2
	KQT82
	T5
	632

A difficult board for EW. South will no doubt open 1♥ in 3rd seat and West will double. I expect most Norths will jump to 3♥ (especially those playing 5 card majors) and East will have a think. Some will double and some will bid 4♣ I suppose. I play that a double (responsive) here will deny 4♠s, so that would be ideal. Those who bid 4♣ will probably play there since the West hand has nothing extra for his double and doesn't have 4♠s. Those who double will probably get to 5♦ after West bids 4♦. There will be a few Wests who will pass the double and hope! Some defending 3♥x will get 500 and some only 200. 5♦ will make as will 5♣ for 600. Anyone getting to 4♠ can make 12 tricks with the perfect lie of the cards but even 10 tricks beats those in the minor suit game. So 4♠ looks to score best, followed by 5♣/♦ then 3♥x-2. Any NS doing better than -500 will score well.

30	A8532
East	3
None	AQJ7
	762
QT964	K
JT6	AQ954
T85	K932
Q5	T98
	J7
	K872
	64
	AKJ43

This is tough to predict since some Easts will open 1♥ and others pass. If East opens then some Souths will overcall 2♣ and others not. If East opens and South passes, some Wests will pass and others will bid 1♠ or 2♥. Then North comes into the equation! So there are a lot of variables and plenty of possible final contracts. One such is 2♥ by East after 1♥-1♠-2♦-2♥ which might just scrape up 7 tricks. Another is 2NT by South which is likely to go off by taking the ♣ finesse. Then there are the ♣ part scores which will do well potentially making 10 tricks but more often 9. So for NS I think any plus of 110 or better will do well. For EW a plus will be excellent and anything better than -110 will do well.