

1

♠ 875
♥ A83
♦ 832
♣ AQ92

♠ K106
♥ 64
♦ A764
♣ J1086

♠ AQJ32
♥ K52
♦ 9
♣ K743

♠ 94
♥ QJ1097
♦ KQJ105
♣ 5

Dealer: North
Neither Vulnerable

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | Pass | 1 ♠ | 2 ♥ |
| 2 ♠ | 3 ♥ | 3 ♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Opening Lead: ♦ K

Bidding: South should overcall with 2 5-card suits. West should probably support spades, with a good 3 card suit.
Lead: Partner knows about the hearts, perhaps a diamond - or a singleton club?
Play: Without a club ruff, declarer should lose 1♥ and 1-2 clubs. a heart can ruffed in dummy.

<-Makeable contracts->

| | C | D | H | S | NT |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | = | = | = | = | == |
| N | - | 2 | 1 | - | - |
| S | - | 2 | 1 | - | - |
| E | 3 | - | - | 3 | 2 |
| W | 3 | - | - | 3 | 2 |

Best Opening Leads:

vs East 3S: C-5
vs West 3S: C-A

2

♠ AQJ43
♥ 7
♦ AQ86
♣ 654

♠ 85
♥ AJ654
♦ 1052
♣ Q97

♠ 10976
♥ K983
♦ 97
♣ K102

♠ K2
♥ Q102
♦ KJ43
♣ AJ83

Dealer: East
N-S Vulnerable

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | Pass | 1 NT |
| Pass | 3 ♠ | Pass | 3 NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

Opening Lead: ♥ 5

Bidding: North shows a 5-card spade suit, but South cannot support this.
Play: At trick one East plays ♥K, declarer playing ♥2. East should now return ♥3, the card that was originally 4th highest. Based on the bidding, South is unlikely to have 5 hearts, so is likely to have 3, so the defence can collect the first 5 tricks.

<-Makeable contracts->

| | C | D | H | S | NT |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | = | = | = | = | == |
| N | 3 | 5 | - | 4 | 2 |
| S | 3 | 5 | - | 4 | 2 |
| E | - | - | - | - | - |
| W | - | - | - | - | - |

Best Opening Leads:

vs North 2N: H-K98

3

♠ QJ853
♥ A3
♦ 76
♣ KQ42

♠ 92
♥ KQ854
♦ KQ4
♣ 763

♠ A7
♥ J762
♦ 1082
♣ AJ95

♠ K1064
♥ 109
♦ AJ953
♣ 108

Dealer: South
E-W Vulnerable

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | 1 ♠ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | 2 ♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

Opening Lead: ♥ 2

Bidding: Unless East makes a takeout double of 1♠, the auction may well end like this.
Lead: Nothing is obvious. A spade, a heart or a diamond are all reasonable.
Play: Declarer should lose 1 trick in each suit. Two club losers can be ruffed in dummy.

<-Makeable contracts->

| | C | D | H | S | NT |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | = | = | = | = | == |
| N | - | 2 | - | 3 | - |
| S | - | 2 | - | 3 | - |
| E | 2 | - | 2 | - | - |
| W | 2 | - | 2 | - | - |

Best Opening Leads:

vs North 3S: S-A7 H-J762 D-1082
vs South 3S: S-92 H-KQ854 D-KQ C-763

4

♠ 103
♥ K874
♦ K82
♣ J1085

♠ A942
♥ AQJ3
♦ J105
♣ 64

♠ 5
♥ 109652
♦ A64
♣ AKQ3

♠ KQJ876
♥
♦ Q973
♣ 972

Dealer: West
Both Vulnerable

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| 1 NT | Pass | 3 ♥ | Pass |
| 4 ♥ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Opening Lead: ♠ K

Bidding: East should find the heart game. South would love to bid spades, but this is hard at the 3 level.
Play: Declarer has up to 4 losers: 1♥, 2♦ and maybe a club. You may get 2 more tricks by discarding a diamond on the 3rd club - then you can ruff a diamond and a club for 11 tricks.

<-Makeable contracts->

| | C | D | H | S | NT |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | = | = | = | = | == |
| N | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| S | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| E | - | - | 5 | - | 3 |
| W | - | - | 5 | - | 3 |

Best Opening Leads:

vs North 1S: S-5 H-109652 D-A64 C-AKQ
vs South 1S: Any Card

5

♠ AK9832
♥ AQ5
♦ AQ7
♣ 8

♠ 76
♥ 92
♦ J1062
♣ Q10764

♠ Q54
♥ 104
♦ K94
♣ J9532

♠ J10
♥ KJ8763
♦ 853
♣ AK

Dealer: North
N-S Vulnerable

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | 1 ♠ | Pass | 2 ♥ |
| Pass | 3 ♠ | Pass | 4 ♠ |
| Pass | 4 NT | Pass | 5 ♦ |
| Pass | 6 ♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

Opening Lead: ♦ J

Bidding: Suppose North opens a restrained 1♠. 2♥ promises 10+ points and a 5 card suit, so North is thinking of a slam. 3♠ shows 16-18 points and a 6 card spade suit, which South can support. After discovering the last ace, North can bid 6♥ - to give South a choice of slams.

Play: 13 tricks can be made as follows: win ♦A, draw trumps in 2 rounds, cash ♠AK and ruff a spade, which are now established.

<-Makeable contracts->

| | C | D | H | S | NT |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | = | = | = | = | == |
| N | - | - | 7 | 6 | 6 |
| S | - | - | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| E | - | - | - | - | - |
| W | - | - | - | - | - |

Best Opening Leads:

6

♠ AKQ93
♥ A72
♦ 865
♣ J5

♠ 74
♥ J986
♦ A109
♣ A987

♠ 1052
♥ 543
♦ KQ4
♣ K1062

♠ J86
♥ KQ10
♦ J732
♣ Q43

Dealer: East
E-W Vulnerable

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass | 1 NT |
| Pass | 2 ♠ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

Opening Lead: ♦ K

Bidding: If South responds 1NT, North could pass or bid 2♠.

Lead: ♦K or a trump seem attractive.

Play: Declarer has just 8 top tricks, and best defence will hold him to these tricks - while the defence take their 5 tricks in the minors.

<-Makeable contracts->

| | C | D | H | S | NT |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | = | = | = | = | == |
| N | - | 1 | - | 2 | 2 |
| S | - | 1 | - | 2 | 2 |
| E | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| W | 1 | - | - | - | - |

Best Opening Leads:
vs North 2N: Any Card

7

♠ AJ854
♥ 5
♦ 10752
♣ J102

♠ Q1032
♥ K9
♦ J43
♣ AQ73

♠ 7
♥ AQJ43
♦ AQ86
♣ 654

♠ K96
♥ 108762
♦ K9
♣ K98

Dealer: South
Both Vulnerable

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | 3 ♥ | Pass |
| 1 NT | Pass | | Pass |
| 3 NT | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Opening Lead: ♠ 5

Bidding: East shows a 5-card heart suit, but West returns to NT.

Play: South should win ♠K and return ♠9 - the card that was originally 2nd highest. This shows that South started with fewer than 4 spades, and if North now beats ♠10 with ♠J, North must not lead another spade. Declarer cannot make 9 tricks without letting in South, who then leads a spade to defeat the contract.

<-Makeable contracts->

| | C | D | H | S | NT |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | = | = | = | = | == |
| N | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| S | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| E | 3 | 2 | 3 | - | 1 |
| W | 3 | 2 | 3 | - | 1 |

8

♠ Q82
♥ K
♦ Q109832
♣ Q104

♠ 7
♥ Q98632
♦ K
♣ K9752

♠ A10963
♥ A74
♦ AJ7
♣ J6

♠ KJ54
♥ J105
♦ 654
♣ A83

Dealer: West
Neither Vulnerable

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Pass | Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass |
| 1 NT | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Opening Lead: ♦ 10

Bidding: An awkward hand to bid. If West stretches to bid 2♥, this will lead to 3♥ or 4♥. If West more-correctly bids 1NT, that may be the final contract.

Lead: Top of an internal sequence. The computer's best lead is ♠Q!

Play: Even in No Trump, it should be possible to set up the heart suit: Win ♦K, play a low heart to ♥A (♥K drops). Then a low heart, allowing South to win ♥10. This leads to at least 8 tricks: 5♥, 1♠, 2♦

<-Makeable contracts->

| | C | D | H | S | NT |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | = | = | = | = | == |
| E | 4 | - | 5 | - | 2 |
| W | 4 | - | 5 | - | 2 |

Best Opening Leads:
vs East 2N: S-54
vs West 2N: S-Q

9

♠ 10
♥ A10842
♦ 7542
♣ 952

♠ AQJ42
♥ 7653
♦ 8
♣ KJ10

♠ 975
♥ K
♦ QJ1093
♣ AQ76

♠ K863
♥ QJ9
♦ AK6
♣ 843

Dealer: North
E-W Vulnerable

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

Opening Lead: ♥ A

Bidding: West might bid 2♥ as 4th suit forcing, to try to find a heart stopper or support for spades. If West raises to 3♠, East should pass - ♥K is not a good 3 points.

Lead: If you choose the unbid suit, lead the ace against a suit contract.

Play: If you can ruff 2 hearts in dummy, you can hold your losers to: 1♠, 1♥ and 1♦ - another heart can be discarded on a club.

<-Makeable contracts->

| | C | D | H | S | NT |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | = | = | = | = | == |
| N | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| S | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| E | 4 | - | - | 4 | - |
| W | 4 | - | - | 4 | - |

Best Opening Leads:

10

♠ K10953
♥ A73
♦ KJ5
♣ Q7

♠ 6
♥ K2
♦ AQ109643
♣ K83

♠ J742
♥ J984
♦ 8
♣ J1065

♠ AQ8
♥ Q1065
♦ 72
♣ A942

Dealer: East
Both Vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | | Pass | 1 NT |
| 3♦ | 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

Opening Lead: ♦ 8

Bidding: West's hand is worth a jump overcall (12-15), which will help East to lead a diamond against 4♠.

Play: Declarer will probably go down - losing ♠A, a diamond ruff, as well as heart and a club.

<-Makeable contracts->

| | C | D | H | S | NT |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | = | = | = | = | == |
| N | - | - | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| S | - | - | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| E | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| W | - | 1 | - | - | - |

Best Opening Leads:

vs North 4N: C-J1065
vs South 4N: C-K83
vs North 3S: D-8 C-J1065
vs South 3S: D-A

11

♠ 7
♥ K1098432
♦ AJ863
♣

♠ AJ4
♥ J5
♦ 109742
♣ AKJ

♠ KQ98653
♥
♦ Q
♣ Q10985

♠ 102
♥ AQ76
♦ K5
♣ 76432

Dealer: South
Neither Vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | | | Pass |
| 1 NT | 2♥ | 4♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Opening Lead: ♥ A

Bidding: Over 1NT North might overcall 2♥ or 4♥. East should bid 4♠, but North-South might not let the bidding end there.

Play: In 4♠ declarer should only lose 1♦ - only a club lead holds declarer to 11 tricks. Meanwhile North could have made 6♥ according to the computer!

<-Makeable contracts->

| | C | D | H | S | NT |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | = | = | = | = | == |
| N | - | 1 | 6 | - | - |
| S | - | 1 | 6 | - | - |
| E | 5 | - | - | 5 | - |
| W | 5 | - | - | 5 | - |

Best Opening Leads:

vs North 6H: Any Card
vs South 6H: S-AJ4 H-J5 D-742 C-AKJ

12

♠ K32
♥ Q85
♦ KJ4
♣ AJ83

♠ 10976
♥ AJ3
♦ 973
♣ K102

♠ 85
♥ K9642
♦ 1052
♣ Q97

♠ AQJ4
♥ 107
♦ AQ86
♣ 654

Dealer: West
N-S Vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| Pass | 1 NT | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 3 NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

Opening Lead: ♥ 4

Bidding: South signs off in 3NT after failing to find a spade fit.

Play: West must win ♥A and return the card that was originally 2nd highest from a 3-card holding - ♥J. If West mistakenly returns ♥3, North can duck and now North gets a heart trick. Declarer has 9 top tricks and can only be defeated if the opponents take the first 5 hearts.

<-Makeable contracts->

| | C | D | H | S | NT |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | = | = | = | = | == |
| N | 2 | 3 | - | 3 | 2 |
| S | 2 | 3 | - | 3 | 2 |
| E | - | - | - | - | - |
| W | - | - | - | - | - |

13

♠ 7
♥ Q2
♦ A9764
♣ KQ1098

♠ AJ1096
♥ 876
♦ QJ3
♣ 65

♠ 8
♥ AKJ543
♦ 852
♣ AJ3

♠ KQ5432
♥ 109
♦ K10
♣ 742

Dealer: North
Both Vulnerable

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | 1♦ | 2♥ | 2♠ |
| 3♥ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Opening Lead: ♦ K

Bidding: North should open the bidding with the higher of 2 5 card suits. East is worth a jump overcall with 12-16 and an excellent suit. 2♠ should show 10 points, but is worth a slight stretch. 3♥ should end the auction.

Lead: Top of a doubleton in partner's suit. Play: The defence should win ♦K, ♦A and get a ruff. Declarer wins the return, and plays clubs in order to ruff a club before drawing trumps in 2 rounds. Just making 9 tricks.

<-Makeable contracts->

| | C | D | H | S | NT |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | = | = | = | = | == |
| N | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| S | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| E | - | - | 3 | - | 3 |
| W | - | - | 3 | - | 3 |

14

♠ 8
♥ AQJ875
♦ Q542
♣ 83

♠ AKQ1062
♥ 9
♦ AK7
♣ A107

♠ 943
♥ K1042
♦ 63
♣ J542

♠ J75
♥ 63
♦ J1098
♣ KQ96

Dealer: East
Neither Vulnerable

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | Pass | Pass |
| 2♠ | Pass | 2 NT | Pass |
| 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Opening Lead: ♦ 2

Bidding: West is perhaps worth 8 or 9 tricks, and opens with a strong two. East has just enough to bid game: a doubleton, ♥K and 3 spades.

Lead: I would not lead a heart or a singleton trump - either ♦2 or ♣8. Play: Declarer should plan to ruff a diamond in dummy, and will lose 1♥ and 1♠. Lead a heart towards dummy, as this sets up ♥K for a club discard - 11 tricks.

<-Makeable contracts->

| | C | D | H | S | NT |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | = | = | = | = | == |
| N | - | - | - | - | - |
| S | - | - | - | - | - |
| E | 3 | - | - | 5 | 3 |
| W | 3 | - | - | 5 | 3 |

15

♠ AJ86
♥ 84
♦ K86
♣ 10952

♠ 1054
♥ J92
♦ 10
♣ QJ7643

♠ Q932
♥ AKQ3
♦ J52
♣ AK

♠ K7
♥ 10765
♦ AQ9743
♣ 8

Dealer: South
N-S Vulnerable

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | 1♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | Dbl | 2♦ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| 2♥ | 3♦ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

Opening Lead: ♥ 2

Bidding: If South overcalls 2♦, West cannot really bid, but East re-opens the bidding with a double, so West supports hearts. NS are likely to outbid EW, despite having fewer points.

Lead: The best lead is a trump, though this is not obvious.

Play: Before drawing all the trumps, declarer should plan to ruff 2 hearts in dummy, to lose just 3 tricks: 1♠ and 2♥. The defence should try to stop this by leading trumps at every occasion. Best defence holds declarer to 9 tricks.

<-Makeable contracts->

| | C | D | H | S | NT |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | = | = | = | = | == |
| N | - | 3 | - | - | - |
| S | - | 3 | - | - | - |

16

♠ K72
♥ Q
♦ A10986
♣ Q865

♠ A105
♥ AJ987
♦ K52
♣ K7

♠ 864
♥ K1063
♦ QJ43
♣ 103

♠ QJ93
♥ 542
♦ 7
♣ AJ942

Dealer: West
E-W Vulnerable

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| 1♥ | Pass | 2♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Opening Lead: ♣ 5

Bidding: 1♥-2♥ could be the bidding here, unless NS bid a bit aggressively.

Lead: A club? Play: Win the 2nd trick with ♠K an draw trumps. Win 9 trumps, just cash ♥AK - do not finesse. You should end up losing: 1♣, 2♠ and 1♦ - 9 tricks.

<-Makeable contracts->

| | C | D | H | S | NT |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | = | = | = | = | == |
| N | 4 | - | - | 2 | - |
| S | 4 | - | - | 2 | - |
| E | - | 1 | 3 | - | 2 |
| W | - | 1 | 3 | - | 2 |

Best Opening Leads:

vs North 2S: Any Card
vs South 2S: S-A105 H-AJ987 D-K52