



ERIN BERRY ROOKIE-MASTER GAME
CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION
THURSDAY OCTOBER 16, 2025
ANALYSIS BY MIKE HARGREAVES

This year's analysis is prepared by expert player Mike Hargreaves. Mike hails from Victoria, BC. He has won 5 Canadian Championship: 3 Open and 2 Seniors, reaching the quarterfinals at the World Championships in Buenos Aires last fall.

ERIN BERRY

Erin Berry was an avid bridge player. In August of 1997 Erin became a Life Master at the age of 16. She shared her bridge passion with her mother, Carole. She was developing into one of Canada's best Junior players when she tragically died in an automobile accident in January 1998, just three days before her 17th birthday. The Fall Rookie-Master game is named in her honour.

ROOKIE-MASTER GAMES

There are two Rookie-Master Games each year: Helen Shields in the spring, and Erin Berry in the fall. In 2026, these games will take place on Monday, April 13 and Tuesday, October 13, respectively. Mark your calendar, and we look forward to seeing you again there.

We hope you all enjoyed this year's thrilling Rookie-Master Game! May the analysis shared today serve as a valuable tool for refining your strategies in future matches. Keep developing your skills, and we look forward to seeing you shine in upcoming tournaments.

The names of the winners will be posted on the Canadian Bridge Federation website.
(Under: Events / Canadian Rookie-Master Games)

Board: 1	♠10	
Dealer: N	♥AQ108732	
Vul.: None	♦9743	
♠J8543	♣A	♠A9762
♥6		♥KJ4
♦K105	W N E	♦A8
♣J1064	W S	♣Q52
N ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	♠KQ	10
N 2 2	♥95	5 HCP 14
S 2 2	♦QJ62	11
E 1 3 1	♣K9873	
W 1 3 1		

1. A potentially problematic hand for NS to start the session. North will usually open 1♥, although some might choose an offbeat 4♥. East has a clear 1♠ overall despite the poor suit, and South has an obvious negative double, showing values and length in both minors. West has a big spade fit and limited defence. Some might blast 4♣, which won't work well on this hand...South will double and 4 losers look inevitable. 3♣ by West would give North an unenviable problem....4♥ looks very attractive but East is looking at two trump tricks and two aces, so will double and collect 300.

Board: 2	♠QJ764	
Dealer: E	♥6	
Vul.: NS	♦A7	
♠K95	♣A8754	♠A103
♥10		♥K94
♦J1063	W N E	♦KQ842
♣KQ963	W S	♣J2
N ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	♠82	11
N 3	♥AQJ87532	9 HCP 13
S 3	♦95	7
E 1 3 1	♣10	
W 3 3 2		

2. What does one call an 8-card suit? Trump. So after East opens 1♦, how many hearts should South bid? At any other vulnerability, virtually everyone would bid 4♥.

Put maximal pressure on the opponents, with a chance of catching a useful dummy if it's not their hand. Red versus white causes many to pull back a bit...a 3♥ bid at unfavourable vulnerability shows a good playing hand.

But AQJxxxx is maybe more than partner would expect, so some will try 4♥, and be disappointed that the contract fails despite partner holding 2 Aces. It's his fault for having only one heart!

Board: 3	♠KQJ6542	
Dealer: S	♥Q2	
Vul.: EW	♦Q109	
♠10	♣Q	♠73
♥A104	W N E	♥K3
♦J742	W S	♦AK86
♣AK1062		♣J9874
N ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	♠A98	12
N 2	♥J98765	12 HCP 11
S 2	♦53	5
E 5 5	♣53	
W 5 5		

3. A wild and crazy guy...or any bridge player under the age of 40...but I repeat myself...would open 2♥ on that emaciated suit, seeking to take advantage of the vulnerability. However, we expect the majority will pass, allowing West to open 1♣. North bids some number of spades...the side Queens suggest defensive values but partner's passed hand status might encourage some to bid 3♠. East will raise clubs and any EW pair who reaches the cold club game will have earned their good score. We doubt that many will do so.

Board: 4	♠J986	
Dealer: W	♥87	
Vul.: All	♦A10965	
♠32	♣32	♠AQ1075
♥106532	W N E	♥9
♦7	W S	♦Q43
♣QJ975		♣K864
N ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	♠K4	5
N 4 1 4 6	♥AKQJ4	3 HCP 11
S 4 1 4 6	♦KJ82	21
E 3	♣A10	
W 3		

4. East has a marginal opener but spades are the boss suit, so we expect most Easts to bid 1♠. South will recount his hand and find that, yes, he still has 21 hcp. The hand is too strong for any first round action other than double. West has little reason to bid and North an easy 2♦ bid. South has a difficult decision. We'd expect many to cuebid 2♠ to let partner know that South has a very strong hand. North can own up to his spade stopper

(he hopes it is a stopper) and now South can bid 3NT. Why not raise diamonds or bid hearts? Once North shows something in spades, the 9 trick game looks best. However, North will need an inspired guess in diamonds if he wants a plus score in 3NT after a club lead, which some Easts might well find. Any pair who chalks up 10 tricks in 3NT on a club lead can be very happy.

Board: 5	♠32	
Dealer: N	♥A9752	
Vul.: NS	♦K75	
♠AK1065	♣862	♠Q4
♥QJ6		♥1083
♦Q82		♦A106
♣95		♣AKQJ10
N ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣		
N	♠J987	7
S	♥K4	
E 5 4 3 3 4	♦J943	12 HCP 16
W 5 4 3 3 4	♣743	5

declarer calls low from dummy, to guarantee two diamond tricks for her side. But it's not as if anything else is attractive. We'd lead a club, but we like passive leads on these auctions. EW are going to get a plus score, but the good matchpoint scores go to those who score two overtricks.

Board: 6	♠952	
Dealer: E	♥76	
Vul.: EW	♦KQJ108	
♠6	♣A108	♠KQ873
♥AKJ42		♥3
♦943		♦A72
♣QJ43		♣K965
N ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣		
N	♠AJ104	10
S	♥Q10985	
E 1 1 1 3	♦65	11 HCP 12
W 1 1 1 3	♣72	7

and maybe NS could, on a different day, have a diamond fit. We expect a wide variety of auctions, and there's no clear path that stands out. Any EW that chalks up a plus score will be happy with their result.

Board: 7	♠1094	
Dealer: S	♥A	
Vul.: All	♦AQJ96	
♠853	♣9864	♠K6
♥1087		♥Q432
♦1032		♦75
♣AQJ7		♣K10532
N ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣		
N 2 7 4 7 1	♠AQJ72	11
S 2 7 4 7 1	♥KJ965	
E	♦K84	7 HCP 8
W	♣	14

that, once North responds 2♦, South has a very good hand and should be aggressive.

Board: 8	♠AK9	
Dealer: W	♥AKQ93	
Vul.: None	♦K95	
♠Q65	♣J9	♠432
♥762		♥J1054
♦AJ107		♦86
♣KQ8		♣A1074
N ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣		
N 3 1 2 1	♠J1087	20
S 1 3 2 2 1	♥8	
E	♦Q432	12 HCP 5
W	♣6532	3

5. EW should have a smooth, uncontested auction to 3NT, after East opens 1NT and West transfers and then offers a choice of games...we'd expect the field to bid 1NT-2♥-2♠-3NT-P. South's hand offers no clear opening lead. A spade seems ill-advised on the auction and J943 is a very dangerous holding from which to lead when the opponents have had a strong auction to 3NT...and this layout is a classic example of what can go wrong...if

6. East has a 1♠ opening, and South shouldn't be bidding. So, the spotlight turns to West. The hand isn't quite good enough to bid 2♥ if that is forcing to game, as it is if one is playing 2/1 GF. The spade singleton is a cautionary sign: shortness in partner's main suit is usually not a good holding. After 1NT by West, North could take advantage of the favourable vulnerability and the strong suit to bid 2♦. He wants a diamond lead should East declare

7. South opens 1♠ and then it's over to North. Most would upgrade the hand into a game force...see board 6 where shortness in opener's major opening is bad news, while here we have a genuine fit plus shortness on the side. Double dummy analysis says that NS can make 7♠! But, of course, that's unrealistic, as many double dummy evaluations are. We'd be impressed by any NS who reach 6♠ without a lot of guesswork. Having said

8. Most Norths will open 2NT....don't let a 5 card major influence your choice with a balanced 20 count. South will often pass but the possibility of a spade fit might tempt some to bid Stayman, ending up in a hopeless 3NT. Indeed, 2NT is doomed, unless East chooses a low heart lead (which a Stayman sequence will warn him against). Any plus score for NS will give them a good score.

Board: 9	♠J1062	
Dealer: N	♥AJ96	
Vul.: EW	♦Q82	
♠74	♣63	♠Q8
♥K5		♥Q10743
♦AKJ3	N	♦10764
♣QJ1082	W	♣A5
	E	
	S	
N ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	♠AK953	8
N 1 3	♥82	
S 1 3	♦95	14 HCP 8
E 1 2 2	♣K974	10
W 1 2 2		

9. North and East have routine passes. We'd expect most Souths to open 1♠ in 3rd seat...they have a good suit, 1♠ is often preemptive, and their hand meets the Rule of 15...in 3rd seat add your hcp and spade length and, if the result is 15 or more, open even with hands where one would pass in first or second. As with all 'Rules', some judgment is required, but here it is easy. 1♠ gives West a problem. Doubling is a mistake with short hearts and no

good rebid should partner bid hearts. Yet 2♣ on a not very good five card suit, vulnerable, is not exactly textbook...2NT does show both minors but we shudder at the idea of doing it on a 4=5 hand. All of which should reinforce why opening 1♠ was a good idea. However, no matter what West does, North will compete to the 3 level, unless EW stumble into 3♥ where North might choose to defend. We'd expect a lot of +140s for NS, but any pair who collects 200 or more will score very well.

Board: 10	♠42	
Dealer: E	♥964	
Vul.: All	♦AKQ9	
♠AQ107	♣A1042	♠K9865
♥J102		♥A8
♦J10742	N	♦63
♣6	W	♣KJ53
	E	
	S	
N ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	♠J3	13
N 1 2	♥KQ753	
S 1 2	♦85	8 HCP 11
E 3	♣Q987	8
W 3		

10. To open or not to open, that is the question that East faces. Most would pass. The Rule of 20 (a Rule that we don't personally use) will get some opening and now the task is to stay below game...a task we expect most to manage successfully. We'd expect similar success following an initial pass, since North will usually be able to open 1♦, and East overcalls 1♠.

Board: 11	♠52	
Dealer: S	♥964	
Vul.: None	♦9875	
♠A	♣Q854	♠KQJ10986
♥AJ52		♥107
♦AK32	N	♦1064
♣10732	W	♣J
	E	
	S	
N ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	♠743	2
N 1	♥KQ83	
S 1	♦QJ	16 HCP 7
E 3 5 1 2	♣AK96	15
W 3 5 1 2		

11. Some will open 1NT as South, honouring the 15 hcp they have but a few might downgrade because QJ doubleton might not be worth the 3 hcp we've been taught to count. Personally, we rarely downgrade and we expect 1NT to be the popular choice. West has a good hand but, in our view, no intelligent bid, so should pass. North will be looking for a refund of her entry fee! At least NS is not vulnerable! East will balance...there are a lot of conventions for bidding over 1NT, even in balancing seat,

so we're not going to predict how the auctions will go. 11 tricks are easy in spades, what with the QJ of diamonds dropping....remember what we said about QJ doubleton maybe not being worth 3 hcp? Any EW that gets to 4♠ will be very happy with their score. And North will still be looking for her refund.

Board: 15	♠2	
Dealer: S	♥10976	
Vul.: NS	♦K862	
♠J8	♣A873	♠K976
♥QJ5		♥K432
♦73		♦AJ9
♣KQ10642		♣J5
N ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	♠AQ10543	7
N 1 3 5	♥A8	
S 1 3 1 5	♦Q1054	9
E 1	♣9	12
W 1		12

15. South opens 1♣. Back when we started playing, West would pass, since 3♣ would promise a 7-card suit. These days it is increasingly popular to bid 3♣ with these hands, especially when the opponents at vulnerable and we are not. So we expect a number of 3♣ bids, which will cause NS some problems. North is too weak to make a 3 level negative double, especially with a stiff spade. East has no reason to bid, and now it's back to South. Some might pass, others might double. Double in turn gives North a problem...we'd like better clubs (say AJxx) to pass, but bidding a short red suit is dangerous, and we do have that stiff spade to lead. If West is a solid citizen, bidding might be right but if West is a modern preemptor, pass should work out ok. Since some Wests will pass (or bid 2♣!) and neither NS have clear actions over 3♣, we expect a range of results. While double dummy says that NS can make 5♦, we don't expect anyone to get there, and +300 NS, against 3♣ x, will be worth a lot of matchpoints.

Board: 16	♠Q4	
Dealer: W	♥A862	
Vul.: EW	♦AKQ	
♠AJ8	♣KQJ3	♠10652
♥KQ104		♥J9
♦J2		♦98753
♣A642		♣97
N ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	♠K973	21
N 2 1 2	♥753	
S 2 1 2	♦1064	15
E 3	♣1085	3
W 3		1

will work very well here. EW are vulnerable and have nowhere to go.

If double is not penalty for you, then pass looks best, aiming to collect undertricks at 100 a pop.

Board: 17	♠AJ7	
Dealer: N	♥AJ8	
Vul.: None	♦1095	
♠Q95	♣KJ86	♠K106432
♥Q743		♥K62
♦AK876		♦2
♣9		♣543
N ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	♠8	14
N 1 1 3	♥1095	
S 1 1 3	♦QJ43	11
E 2 1	♣AQ1072	9
W 2 1		6

allows for at least one club ruff in dummy and we expect more than a few +140s for EW.

16. West opens 1NT. Ok, that was easy. What about North? These days many use double to show various types of hands rather than as the traditional penalty double. Such conventional uses are popular because penalty doubles are rare and the stronger one's hand, the more likely it is that someone will run...be it responder with a long suit or partner with a very weak hand. Doubling for penalties, if you have that available, will work very well here. EW are vulnerable and have nowhere to go.

17. North opens 1♣ and East will probably bid 2♠, despite the poor suit quality. 2♠ takes away a lot of room. South raises clubs...since 1♣ is often only 3 cards in length, bidding more than 3♣ is a stretch. West has a good hand for spades so will raise...how far is an open question. North, despite a promising hand, will usually pass 3♠. The defence to 3♠ isn't easy to find...few would feel comfortable leading a stiff spade, yet not doing so

Board: 18		♠K86	
Dealer: E		♥K6	
Vul.: NS		♦A652	
♠J5		♣AJ64	♠AQ94
♥J9			♥1043
♦K10983		N	♦QJ74
♣7532		W	♣K10
		E	
		S	
N ♠♥♦♣		♠10732	15
N 2 2 4 3		♥AQ8752	
S 2 2 3 3		♦	5 HCP 12
E 2		♣Q98	8
W 2			

It makes on careful play so those who get there will deserve their good score if they make it.

18. East opens 1♦. Some Souths will allow the spade length to discourage them from a 2♥ bid, choosing 1♥ instead. West will bid 3♦ over 1♥, if 3♦ is played as weak, which is a common approach these days....2♦ otherwise, since that support is difficult to suppress. North will think, correctly, that she has the strongest hand at the table and yet everyone else may have bid before it's her turn! Opposite a vulnerable 2♥ bid, 4♥ looks reasonable.

Board: 19		♠AQJ93	
Dealer: S		♥943	
Vul.: EW		♦KQJ9	
♠106		♣K	♠K8754
♥QJ5			♥7
♦87654		N	♦A103
♣J103		W	♣Q985
		E	
		S	
N ♠♥♦♣		♠2	16
N 3 4 5 2 4		♥AK10862	
S 3 4 5 2 4		♦2	4 HCP 9
E		♣A7642	11
W			

19. Can NS avoid the slam? North has a good hand but the one flaw is the weak heart holding. Most pairs will find out that they are missing a keycard and the heart queen, so even those pairs who venture beyond 4♥ should avoid the failing slam. Ok, next time hearts will be 2-2.

Board: 20		♠KJ974	
Dealer: W		♥KQ	
Vul.: All		♦1065	
♠Q52		♣KJ9	♠10
♥J			♥A1086542
♦KJ873		N	♦AQ4
♣Q852		W	♣43
		E	
		S	
N ♠♥♦♣		♠A863	13
N 1 3 2		♥973	
S 1 3 2		♦92	9 HCP 10
E 3 2		♣A1076	8
W 3 2			

miss-guesses the play in 3♣, but we expect +140 NS to be the most common outcome.

20. North opens 1♣ and East probably bids 2♥: the hand is too strong in our opinion for 3♥. South has a comfortable raise to 2♣, and will be willing to bid 3♣ later if need be. Nether West nor North have any reason to bid further. 3♥ is a somewhat lucky make for EW but, even if East bids it, South should compete to the cold 3♣...cold if North guesses the club situation. +140 EW should win most of the matchpoints, followed by +100 EW if North

Board: 21		♠AK9643	
Dealer: N		♥J10	
Vul.: NS		♦J3	
♠J72		♣AJ2	♠Q8
♥AQ94			♥K8652
♦Q65		N	♦A942
♣K108		W	♣74
		E	
		S	
N ♠♥♦♣		♠105	14
N 2 3		♥73	
S 2 3		♦K1087	12 HCP 9
E 1 2 1		♣Q9653	5
W 1 2 1			

shown if he doubled. So, we expect EW to reach 3♥ if West doubles 1NT. Indeed, there are several plausible routes to 3♥ even if West passes at his first turn.

21. Lots of potential action on this one, with borderline decisions for everyone but North, who has a clear 1♠ opener. South could pass, but most would scrape up a 1NT rebid, and now West has a borderline takeout double. North bids 2♣ regardless of West's action and now it's East's turn. The spade Q is likely worthless on offence, but East has a pretty good hand opposite a takeout double of 1♠, which is what West will have

As for the scores? It's possible to make 2♣, with a winning diamond guess, so bidding 3♥ will do well against a good guesser, but we'd expect many to go down in 2♣, making competing to 3♥ a bad idea on this hand.

Board: 22
 Dealer: E
 Vul.: EW

♠3
 ♥J952
 ♦Q8632
 ♣863

♠Q85
 ♥Q6
 ♦K1074
 ♣AKJ10

♠AK762
 ♥A103
 ♦J5
 ♣Q92

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

♠J1094
 ♥K874
 ♦A9
 ♣754

15
 3 HCP 14
 8

22. East opens 1♠ which will be passed around to North. We'd recommend a 1NT reopening, which for most shows (after 1♠-P-P) about 11-15 hcp. It's always nice to hold a maximum, and our shortness in hearts rules out a double. Nobody has any reason to disturb this. 8 tricks seems reasonable and few will do better or worse, so long as East doesn't get creative and be the first to lead a minor suit.

Board: 23
Dealer: S
Vul.: All

♠AKJ875
♥A942
♦3
♣Q7

♠109
♥7
♦A9654
♣5432

♠Q632
♥Q83
♦QJ87
♣J8

N ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣
N 1 3 5
S 1 3 4
E 2
W 2

♠4
♥KJ1065
♦K102
♣AK109

4
14 HCP 8
14

23. South opens 1♥ and West overcalls 1♠. North has the minor shape to make a negative double and some might...we wouldn't because we are 2-1 in the majors and won't enjoy laying this hand down as dummy in a heart contract. Whatever North does, East raises spades. If North did double, South will probably compete in clubs. West has a nice hand but will regret bidding again should NS reach 4♣. We're not predicting the results here, since S will need a plus to have any chance of a good score.

Board: 24
 Dealer: W
 Vul.: None

♠ Q7
 ♥ 52
 ♦ J97532
 ♣ 765

♠ A984
 ♥ 983
 ♦ 64
 ♣ Q1082

♠ KJ1062
 ♥ 1074
 ♦ K10
 ♣ 943

♠ 53
 ♥ AKQJ6
 ♦ AQ8
 ♣ AKJ

N ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣
 N 6 3 2 6
 S 6 3 6 2
 E
 W

6
 3 HCP 7
 24

24. Slam makes due to the diamond hook onside but we doubt that many will reach it despite having an uncontested auction at most, if not all, tables. South will open 2♣ and then we could see different choices being made...some electing to show their heart suit but most, we expect, bidding notrump to describe the balanced nature of the hand. Few think anything of opening 1NT with xx in a suit, provided one has the requisite hcp and

balanced distribution, and we believe that approach is as sound here as there....unless that the opponents have bid our short suit.

Board: 25
Dealer: N
Vul.: EW

♠ 43
♥ J8743
♦ KQ10
♣ 1032

♠ KQJ852
♥ 5
♦ AJ5
♣ K87

♠ A9
♥ A9
♦ 87632
♣ AJ65

♠ 1076
♥ KQ1062
♦ 94
♣ O94

14
6 HCP 13
7

25. North opens 1♠ and East has no call despite his promising hcp. South raises to 2♠ and North has an interesting hand. Game will be good to excellent opposite many normal 2♠ bids so North may trot out a game try. A short suit try, if available, would warn South against bidding game, since most of his hcp are opposite North's shortness. We'd expect most pairs to be able to stop. Should North pass the 2♠ bid, East can try 2NT,

which has to show the minors given that East initially passed. West would bid 3♦ due to the strength of his holding, but North should bid 3♠ anyway. We expect a sea of +140 for North, and anything better than that will take home almost all the matchpoints.

Board: 26		♠QJ95																										
Dealer: E		♥5																										
Vul.: All		♦QJ109																										
♠A1043		♣A932	♠K7																									
♥K8		<table border="1"><tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr></table>	N		E	W		S	♥AJ1096																			
N		E																										
W		S																										
♦A852			♦K63																									
♣J107			♣K86																									
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HCP																												
			14																									
		4																										

26. All roads seem to lead to 3NT by East, and there's not much to the play. Arguably the flattest board of the session. So, we won't comment further.

Board: 27

Dealer: S

Vul.: None

♠Q10

♥J9753

♦852

♣A54

♠KJ32

♥A2

♦AKQ4

♣1082

N

E

W

S

♠98765

♥KQ108

♦J96

♣3

♠A4

♥64

♦1073

♣KQJ976

N

♠

♥

♦

♣

N

5

2

5

S

5

2

5

E

1

W

1

17

7

HCP

10

6

27. Two passes allow North to open a solid 1NT. Some Easts will bid, but few, if any, can bid a natural 2♣ here, so bidding commits to the 3 level, which is not exactly clear...after all if 1NT is passed out, we rate to have an excellent chance of a plus score. But it won't be passed out. How South bids depends on agreements but NS will usually find their spade fit. Whether they can reach the good 4♠ game is far from clear...well done to those who

do...you have earned your good score. By the way, if East overcalls 3♣, South will want to be playing negative doubles.

Board: 28		♠Q5																										
Dealer: W		♥108																										
Vul.: NS		♦QJ7																										
♠J10973		♣AKQJ76	♠K86																									
♥Q754		<table border="1"><tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr></table>	N		E	W		S	♥9																			
N		E																										
W		S																										
♦A8			♦K654																									
♣92			♣108543																									
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		♥AKJ632	7																									
		♦10932	<table border="1"><tr><td>HCP</td></tr></table>	HCP																								
HCP																												
		♣	12																									

28. This board is likely to produce a wide range of results, since both North and South have interesting choices...unless North chooses an offbeat 1NT, which may well be chosen by matchpoint mavens. 1NT will get North to declare hearts, after either a Jacoby or a Texas transfer...2♦ or 4♦. Even so, the result depends on the lead. A diamond lead strikes gold, but most teachers rightly advise against leading away from Kings. The more

likely club lead works very badly for the defence and 4♥ will usually make. If North opens 1♣, the auction may take a few twists and turns but South will usually declare a heart game. The diamond Ace works well if West chooses that lead, but the spade lead looks normal...and it works like a charm as well. Poor declarer....he can't get to dummy in time! So EW will have to go plus to get a decent matchpoint score.

Board: 29		♠J8643																										
Dealer: N		♥94																										
Vul.: All		♦765																										
♠AK95		♣832	♠72																									
♥J7		<table border="1"><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		♥AKQ1083																
	N																											
W		E																										
	S																											
♦Q10			♦KJ42																									
♣AQJ104			♣9																									
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N																												
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17	<table border="1"><tr><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>HCP</td></tr></table>	1	HCP	13																								
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29. 6♥ is the best slam if played by East, since a club lead through West would mean failing if that finesse was offside. 6NT by West is even better, since no lead can hurt. We expect many to reach slam and all to make, whichever one they bid. But only the pairs who play 6NT from West deserve their tie for top score. One point: as West one should bid 2♣ over partner's 1♥, since we have game going values and longer clubs than spades...we

can bid 2♠ next to show our 4 spades and longer clubs.

Board: 30		♠QJ1093	
Dealer: E		♥A976	
Vul.: None		♦3	
♠87		♣KQ4	
♥K52		♠A6542	
♦AKQ8		♥4	
♣AJ103		♦J652	
		♣762	

happy when he sees how poorly +50 or +100 scores compared to the pairs in hearts his way. Bridge is a bidder's game.

30. Two passes leave West to open 1NT, and North can now show both majors, assuming she has that available...2♦ if playing cappelletti or (for most) 2♣. Yes, one would like to be 5=5 but passing with these hands rarely leads to a happy outcome. South will be delighted to declare a heart partial, making an easy 140 or even 170 if the defence slips. If North passes, he gets a pleasant surprise when he gets to defend 2♠! But he won't be as

Board: 31		♠K63																																
Dealer: S		♥J932																																
Vul.: NS		♦Q6																																
♠52		♣A653	♠Q94																															
♥AK54		<table><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		♥Q108																						
	N																																	
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	S																																	
♦K10974		♦A8																																
♣74			♣KQ1098																															
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	N	♠	♥	♦	♣																													
N																																		
S																																		
E	1	4	3	3																														
W	1	4	3	3																														
		♥76																																
		♦J532																																
		♣J2																																

dropping doubleton. Back in the real world, we expect a lot of +90s for EW.

31. Some Wests might open but we expect the vast majority to pass, which should lead to East opening the bidding 1♣. Traditional bidders will respond 1♦ as West while more modern bidders will choose to show the major via 1♥. Either should lead to a final contract of 1NT. Yes, we see that any suit other than spades could lead to a better result, but bear in mind that the computer 'sees' how to pick up the heart suit and knows the club J is

Board: 32		♠96543											
Dealer: W		♥72											
Vul.: EW		♦983											
♠10		♣Q95	♠KJ72										
♥		<table><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		♥AKJ543	
	N												
W			E										
	S												
♦AKQ10654		♦2											
♣AK862			♣43										
N ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣		♠AQ8											
N		♥Q10986											
S		♦J7											
E	4 3 3 5 5	♣J107											
W	4 2 3 5 5												
			16	<table><tr><td></td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>H</td><td>C</td><td>P</td></tr></table>		2		H	C	P			
	2												
H	C	P											
				12									
			10										

32. The wildest hand of the set likely won't be played at many clubs! Too bad. East has what she likely thinks is a sound opener....but if EW end up in 3NT there is a chance that East takes NO tricks at all! Meanwhile we expect many West players to drive to slam...they'll need help from the defence since either a trump lead or a spade followed by a trump switch makes 11 tricks the limit.