

# House of Lords v House of Commons 2021

**Board 1** ♠ 9 5  
 North Deals ♥ K 8 6 2  
 None Vul ♦ K J 8 7 3  
 ♣ 6 4

♠ K Q 8 7 3 2	W N S E	♠ J 6
♥ Q 10 4		♥ A 9 5 3
♦ 6 2		♦ A 10 4
♣ J 2		♣ Q 7 5 3

♠ A 10 4  
 ♥ J 7  
 ♦ Q 9 5  
 ♣ A K 10 9 8

7  
 8 11  
 14

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 N
2 ♠	All pass		

Although North-South can make 3 ♦, they are unlikely to reach it as bidding over 1 NT-2 ♠ is risky with no guarantee of a fit.


In 2 ♠, the defence can take two club tricks and one in each of the other suits, but depending on the lead and how the defence goes, a diamond trick might disappear on Q ♣.

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 Commentary by Heather Dhondy.

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**Board 2**    ♠ A 8 6 4  
 East Deals    ♥ K 3  
 N-S Vul        ♦ J 9 7 2  
                  ♣ K 9 7

♠ K J		♠ 9 5 2
♥ Q 8 7 6 5		♥ A J 10 4
♦ 4		♦ A 8 6
♣ J 10 8 6 2		♣ Q 5 4

11    ♠ Q 10 7 3  
 7 11   ♥ 9 2  
 11    ♦ K Q 10 5 3  
       ♣ A 3

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

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

Do you open the South cards second in hand? It is marginal, but I would, and if you do, the auction will start 1 ♦ -1 ♠ - 2 ♠, and now how does North proceed? With eleven points and a double fit you will want to make a try, and the best way to do this is to show the diamond fit. North, however will not be interested and will return to 3 ♠ (passing 3 ♦ is not an option as it is forcing).

In practice you are likely to be okay in 3 ♠ since the only way to defeat it is by scoring two diamond ruffs in the West hand to go with the diamond and two hearts.

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**Board 3**      ♠ K 10 7 6

South Deals    ♥ 10 6 5 2

E-W Vul        ♦ K 9 8 6

♣ Q

♠ A

♥ A 8 7

♦ 10 3

♣ A K J 9 7 4 2



♠ 9 5 4 3

♥ K Q J 3

♦ A 4

♣ 8 6 5

♠ Q J 8 2

♥ 9 4

♦ Q J 7 5 2

♣ 10 3

8  
16 10  
6

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	-	1	-
S	-	-	-	1	-
E	7	-	7	-	7
W	7	-	7	-	7

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
5 NT	Pass	7 ♣	All pass

This is a tricky hand to bid, and getting to a slam at all is not bad going even though there are thirteen top tricks.

If you open 1 ♣ and partner responds 1 ♥, what do you rebid? 3 ♣ is rather an underbid, and is likely to end up in 3 NT, but do you want to by-pass 3 NT? 4 ♣ is more likely to get the job done along the lines of the auction above.

Alternatively, if you are playing a version of Benjamin Acol this could just be your day.

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**Board 4**    ♠ 10 2  
 West Deals    ♥ A 10 6  
 Both Vul      ♦ Q 10 9 8 6  
                  ♣ A K Q

♠ 8 4	N W    E S	♠ A Q J 6
♥ K Q J 5 3		♥ 8 7 4
♦ A K		♦ J 4 3
♣ J 7 4 2		♣ 10 8 5

♠ K 9 7 5 3  
 ♥ 9 2  
 ♦ 7 5 2  
 ♣ 9 6 3

15  
 14 8  
 3

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♥	1 NT	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	All pass	

What action do you take with the North cards after a 1 ♥ opening by West? The options are between 1 NT and pass. Your suit is not good enough to consider an overcall of 2 ♦ and in any case 1 NT is a much better description of your strength and shape.

If you pass, East-West will wind up in 2 ♥, which will make exactly.

If you overcall 1 NT, your side will compete to 2 ♠. This is likely to fail by one trick, having three red suit losers and a likely three trump tricks to go with it.

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## Board 5

North Deals ♠ Q  
 ♥ A 9 6  
 N-S Vul ♦ A 6 4  
 ♣ K J 9 8 6 3

♠ 6 4	N W E S	♠ A 10 9 7 3 2
♥ J 10 7 4 3		♥ K Q 2
♦ 9 7 3 2		♦ K Q
♣ 5 2		♣ Q 7

♠ K J 8 5  
 ♥ 8 5  
 ♦ J 10 8 5  
 ♣ A 10 4

14  
 1 16  
 9

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

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

North-South can make a rather fortunate 3 NT, but are unlikely to reach it since the values are not there.


They can also make 5 ♣ since East attacks one red suit on the opening lead, but declarer plays a spade and will discard the two losers in the other red suit on dummy's spades. It is, however, most likely that the hand will be played in a club part-score making eleven tricks.

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**Board 6**     ♠ K J 8  
 East Deals    ♥ 9 7  
 E-W Vul      ♦ Q  
                  ♣ A K J 10 9 6 2

♠ 6 4 3 2		♠ Q 10 9 5	
♥ A K 5 2		♥ Q J 10 8	
♦ 10 7 4 2		♦ A K J 8 6	
♣ 7		♣ —	

	♠ A 7		
14	♥ 6 4 3		
7   13	♦ 9 5 3		
6	♣ Q 8 5 4 3		

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

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

This is a lively board, with East-West able to make game in either major, and North-South having a very cheap sacrifice in clubs, holding a twelve card fit.

East-West will do well to stop off and double 5 ♣ rather than take the push, since 5 ♥ fails on a spade ruff, and 5 ♠ can fail if the defence lead hearts and get a ruff in that suit.

Meanwhile 5 ♣ has three obvious red suit losers for one down. I expect most tables to find this sacrifice as the vulnerability suggests it.

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**Board 7**    ♠ 10 9 8  
 South Deals    ♥ K 10 9  
 Both Vul      ♦ J 8 4  
                  ♣ 10 8 4 3

♠ Q 6 5 3		♠ A K J 7 4 2	
♥ 7 5 4		♥ A Q 8 6 3	
♦ 10 9 7		♦ A 2	
♣ A 5 2		♣ —	

♠ —  
 ♥ J 2  
 ♦ K Q 6 5 3  
 ♣ K Q J 9 7 6

4  
 6 18  
 12

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	3	2	-	-	-
S	3	1	-	-	-
E	-	-	4	6	4
W	-	-	4	6	4

West	North	East	South
			1 ♣
Pass	Pass	2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♠	3 ♣	4 ♣	5 ♣
Dbl	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
5 ♠	All pass		

Another lively board, where East-West can make 6 ♠, but are not likely to reach it unless they are pushed there. It requires a heart finesse, and given that South is the opening bidder that is odds against, but it works.


If South winds up in clubs, there are two minor suit losers to go with the two heart losers when the AQ are sitting over the king.

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**Board 8**    ♠ 8 6  
 West Deals    ♥ 9 3  
 None Vul     ♦ Q J 4 3 2  
                  ♣ Q J 8 2

♠ Q J 4 2		♠ A 9 5 3
♥ K J 4		♥ A 10 5
♦ A 10 9		♦ K 8 5
♣ 7 4 3		♣ 10 6 5

♠ K 10 7  
 ♥ Q 8 7 6 2  
 ♦ 7 6  
 ♣ A K 9

6  
 11 11  
 12

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 N
All pass			

From one extreme to the other, a very quiet board. I expect South to play 1 NT at most tables, and receive a spade lead. This established eight tricks for the defence, and declarer can do little except take the four club tricks and the spade for two down.

If South elects to open 1 ♥, North will respond 1 NT and play there, probably on the same lead, and with the same result.


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**Board 9**    ♠ A Q 10 9 5  
 North Deals    ♥ J 8 7 5  
 E-W Vul        ♦ Q J  
                   ♣ 5 4

♠ J 6 3 2		♠ —	
♥ 4 3		♥ A K 10 9 2	
♦ 6 5		♦ A K 10	
♣ A K Q J 10		♣ 9 8 6 3 2	

♠ K 8 7 4  
 ♥ Q 6  
 ♦ 9 8 7 4 3 2  
 ♣ 7

10  
 11    14  
       5

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	1	-	1	-
S	-	1	-	1	-
E	7	-	5	-	2
W	7	-	5	-	2

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	3 ♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	5 NT	Pass
7 ♣	All pass		

1. Splinter

What do you respond to 1 ♥ with the West cards? The test is whether you are worth a second bid if partner simply rebids their suit. If you are, you can respond 2 ♣ and rebid 2 ♠ if partner bids 2 ♥. If you are too weak for this you should respond 1 ♠. Here you are worth a second bid (just) so respond 2 ♣.

This is very exciting news for partner who might simply rebid 5 NT asking for club honours, alternatively you can make a splinter bid of 3 ♠ and bid 5 NT when partner shows some interest (5 ♣ would be West's weakest action but your trumps are too good for this).


7 ♣ is an excellent contract, and well done if you reach it. Establishing the fifth heart will get you to thirteen tricks.

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**Board 10**    ♠ Q J 10 7 5  
 East Deals    ♥ A J 4  
 Both Vul     ♦ 10 9 7  
                  ♣ 3 2

♠ A 2		♠ 9 8 6	
♥ 6 5		♥ Q 2	
♦ A K Q 8		♦ J 4	
♣ A K Q J 5		♣ 10 9 8 7 6 4	

	♠ K 4 3		
8	♥ K 10 9 8 7 3		
23   3	♦ 6 5 3 2		
6	♣ —		

West has an awkward hand to bid over South's 2 ♥, but despite not holding spades, there is little option but to begin with a double, and to double again over North's pre-emptive raise to 3 ♥. You will be worried about partner bidding spades, but pleasantly surprised when they show clubs.

You might as well have a go at 5 ♣ and apologise if you are making exactly ten tricks. Here, however, it is not a problem to make eleven.

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	3	1	-
S	-	-	3	1	-
E	5	4	-	-	1
W	5	3	-	-	1

West	North	East	South
		Pass	2 ♥
Dbl	3 ♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
5 ♣	All pass		

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**Board 11**    ♠ A K J 10 9 5

South Deals    ♥ 3

None Vul      ♦ A K 10 7

♣ Q 2

♠ 8

♥ K Q 8 5 4

♦ J 9 5 3

♣ K J 9



♠ Q 6 4 2

♥ J 10 9 7

♦ Q 6

♣ 8 7 4

♠ 7 3

♥ A 6 2

♦ 8 4 2

♣ A 10 6 5 3

17  
10 5  
8

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

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

What rebid do you make with the North cards after 1 ♠-1 NT? I would bid 2 ♦, intending to catch up on the next round unless partner passes. There is a slight risk of missing game, but it might help to reach the right game. Here when partner corrects to 2 ♠, I'm happy enough to have a go at 4 ♠.

Two aces in dummy are perfect for me, however there is still something left in the play on a heart lead. You will probably take the trump finesse, and the defence do best to play a club to the king and return a club. How do you now avoid two diamond losers?

Did you notice the the 7 ♠ was an entry to dummy? You can use it to discard a diamond on the A ♣.

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**Board 12**    ♠ A K J 9 8  
 West Deals    ♥ Q J  
 N-S Vul        ♦ 5 4  
                   ♣ A K 10 5

♠ 10 4	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">N</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">W</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">S</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">E</span> </div>	♠ Q 7 6
♥ 10 8 6 5 3		♥ A 4 2
♦ 9 7 3 2		♦ A Q 10 8
♣ 4 3		♣ Q 8 2

18	♠ 5 3 2
0 14	♥ K 9 7
8	♦ K J 6
	♣ J 9 7 6

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
All pass			

You have a combined 26 count and an eight-card major suit fit, however 4 ♠ has an unavoidable loser in each suit. On this layout, the key is to reach 3 NT, and the auction above is a possible route.


However on different layouts of the opposing cards, 4 ♠ could be a better contract so it's all a bit of guess. Those reaching and making 3 NT can consider themselves a bit fortunate.

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**Board 13**    ♠ K 6 5 4  
 North Deals    ♥ A J 6 4 2  
 Both Vul        ♦ A 9  
                     ♣ A J

♠ A 10		♠ J 9 8
♥ K 5		♥ 10 7
♦ 10 6 5 4 2		♦ K J 7 3
♣ Q 8 6 5		♣ K 4 3 2

	♠ Q 7 3 2	
17	♥ Q 9 8 3	
9   8	♦ Q 8	
6	♣ 10 9 7	

How do you proceed with the North cards after partner raises your 1 ♥ to two? You are worth an invite to game and your best descriptive bid is a long suit game try of 2 ♠. Holding the South cards, however, nothing is going to entice you accept a try.

Superficially, there appears to be just one loser in each of the side suits, however getting to dummy is problematic and even 3 ♥ may fail depending on how declarer guesses the play.

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♥
All pass			

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**Board 14**    ♠ A 8  
 East Deals    ♥ A J 6 5 3  
 None Vul     ♦ K Q  
                  ♣ Q 7 4 3

♠ J 10 9 6 5 3    ♠ K 7 4 2  
 ♥ K 8             ♥ Q 9  
 ♦ 7 3             ♦ A J 10 9 8 4  
 ♣ K 9 5           ♣ 6

♠ Q  
 ♥ 10 7 4 2  
 ♦ 6 5 2  
 ♣ A J 10 8 2

16    ♠  
 7    ♥    10  
 7    ♦    ♣

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

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

Do you open the East hand, and if so, with what? 1 ♦, 2 ♦ (if weak) or pass are all possible. I prefer to open 1 ♦ with such a good suit, especially nonvulnerable when a weak two bid might be significantly weaker than this.

With everyone getting involved in the auction, North-South might struggle to find 4 ♥, but it is an excellent contract, and makes despite the club finesse failing. Of course, East-West have a cheap sacrifice since 4 ♠ will go either one or two down depending on how declarer guesses the play, but that may not be so obvious to find either.

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**Board 16** ♠ Q 10 3  
 West Deals ♥ A J 9 3  
 E-W Vul ♦ 9 7  
 ♣ Q 9 8 6

♠ K 7 6 5 ♥ 10 2 ♦ A J ♣ J 5 4 3 2		♠ 8 4 ♥ K Q 5 4 ♦ K Q 8 6 3 2 ♣ 10	♠ A J 9 2 ♥ 8 7 6 ♦ 10 5 4 ♣ A K 7
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9  
 9 10  
 12

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

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

On this hand, West must respond 1 ♠ (see board 9) as there is not enough strength for two bids, and pass partner's 2 ♦ rebid.

Playing a diamond part-score is the best result East-West can obtain, and they are likely to end up with nine tricks, losing a club, a spade and probably two hearts. Although it looks superficially as if you can restrict your heart losers to one, there is a little too much to do and insufficient entries to dummy.

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**Board 17** ♠ Q 10 9 3

North Deals ♥ Q 6

None Vul ♦ A K J 9 7

♣ 5 3

♠ 7 6 5 4

♥ A 9 7 3

♦ 5 4

♣ J 9 2



♠ 8

♥ K J 10 8 4 2

♦ 10 8

♣ A Q 6 4

♠ A K J 2

♥ 5

♦ Q 6 3 2

♣ K 10 8 7

12  
5 10  
13

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

West

North

East

South

3 ♥

Pass

All pass

1 ♦

Pass

3 ♠

1 ♥

Pass

Pass

Dbl

Dbl

4 ♠

4 ♠ is a likely contract for North-South which has few problems despite the trump break. On two rounds of hearts you can ruff and have ten tricks. You will make an overtrick if you cross to hand and lead a club towards the king before drawing trumps, however this is not without risk so you may just settle for an easy ten.


If East-West venture to 5 ♥, they are just two down for a slightly profitable sacrifice, and if that pushes the opponents on to 5 ♠, they will have to take a chance on the clubs.

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**Board 18**    ♠ K Q 10 7 6  
 East Deals    ♥ Q 9 7 4  
 N-S Vul        ♦ 8 6 4  
                  ♣ 2

♠ 4 2		♠ A 5 3	
♥ A 10 6 3		♥ K J 8 5 2	
♦ K 7 2		♦ A 9 3	
♣ 10 9 5 4		♣ A J	

♠ J 9 8  
 ♥ —  
 ♦ Q J 10 5  
 ♣ K Q 8 7 6 3

7  
 7 17  
 9

4 ♥ is an excellent contract, but the bad trump break makes it a little precarious. On a club lead, declarer will be fine if a low heart is led from the East hand at trick two. Once the trump break is discovered you can switch back to clubs, and later trump a spade in dummy.

A diamond lead will give declarer a much tougher time, and you are likely to fail unless you know about the trump position (for example if North is unwise enough to double).

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


<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♥	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	4 ♥	All pass

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# House of Lords v House of Commons 2021

**Board 19**    ♠ A Q 10 7 3 2  
 South Deals    ♥ 8 7 6  
 E-W Vul        ♦ 10 9  
                   ♣ 9 4

♠ K 6 4		♠ J 8 5	
♥ A 9 4		♥ K 5 3	
♦ A K 6 5		♦ Q J 4 3	
♣ K 10 3		♣ A Q J	

♠ 9  
 ♥ Q J 10 2  
 ♦ 8 7 2  
 ♣ 8 7 6 5 2

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♦	2 ♠	3 ♠	Pass
3 NT	All pass		Pass

What call do you make with the East cards after partner's 1 ♦ and a weak jump overcall of 2 ♠ from North? It is useful to play a cue bid of the opponent's suit as an unassuming cue bid, whether it is facing an overcall or an opening bid. Without support you can make a negative double or call a suit.

Over East's 3 ♠ bid, West has an easy call of 3 NT which will end the auction.

What should North lead? You may not fancy leading from your broken suit round to declarer's spades, and given the absence of a negative double from East I would be inclined to lead a heart. It makes little difference, however, since declarer has nine tricks and can always develop a tenth in spades provided the heart is ducked.

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*Commentary by Heather Dhondy.*



# House of Lords v House of Commons 2021

**Board 21**    ♠ A Q 4  
 North Deals    ♥ A K 7 2  
 N-S Vul        ♦ Q 10 5 4  
                  ♣ 6 5

♠ J 10 9 3		♠ K 7 6	
♥ J 10 9		♥ Q 4	
♦ 9 8 3		♦ A K J 6	
♣ 10 7 4		♣ K Q 9 3	

♠ 8 5 2  
 ♥ 8 6 5 3  
 ♦ 7 2  
 ♣ A J 8 2

15  
 2    18  
 5

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♥	Dbl	2 ♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
2 ♠	All pass		

The bidding will start with 1 ♥ and a double by East, and I would expect South to make a stretched raise to 2 ♥. The question is if East backs in with a second double. There are extra values present, but the heart holding is poor.

In 2 ♥, declarer appears to have six losers, however East cannot attack spades, and declarer will be able to lead toward the clubs in dummy, ducking if East splits their honours, and discard a spade on a club.


If East-West compete to 2 ♠ on the auction above, declarer will find themselves unable to get to hand to take a spade finesse and so will lose two trumps, together with two hearts and two clubs for one down.

## House of Lords v House of Commons 2021

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*Commentary by Heather Dhondy.*

# House of Lords v House of Commons 2021

**Board 22**    ♠ Q 6 5 2  
 East Deals    ♥ A K 4 3  
 E-W Vul      ♦ —  
                  ♣ A 9 8 5 3

♠ A K J 9 3		♠ 10 7 4	
♥ J 8 6		♥ 10	
♦ 10 7 5		♦ A 9 6 4 3 2	
♣ J 6		♣ K Q 7	

♠ 8  
 ♥ Q 9 7 5 2  
 ♦ K Q J 8  
 ♣ 10 4 2

13  
 10 9  
 8

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
3 ♦	Dbf	2 ♦	Pass
All pass		Pass	3 ♥

Some North-Souths may reach 4 ♥ on this deal, which is close to making and may do so at some tables. It takes a club lead to beat it since otherwise declarer can discard a club on the K ♦. It doesn't matter that this ruffing finesse fails since two further clubs will be discarded and the defence, unable to get three rounds of trumps played, will watch declarer play a cross-ruff.


If the defence get to their two club tricks after a club lead, declarer will end up one trick short.

## House of Lords v House of Commons 2021

Sponsored by Lord Stanley Kalms.  
 Commentary by Heather Dhondy.

# House of Lords v House of Commons 2021

**Board 23**    ♠ A K 6  
 South Deals    ♥ A Q 4  
 Both Vul      ♦ Q 10 4  
                   ♣ 9 7 4 3

♠ Q J 4 2		♠ 10 9 5 3	
♥ 9 7		♥ K J 3	
♦ 8 6		♦ A K J 7 5	
♣ A K Q J 10		♣ 6	

♠ 8 7  
 ♥ 10 8 6 5 2  
 ♦ 9 3 2  
 ♣ 8 5 2

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

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1 ♣	1 NT	Dbl	2 ♥
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

What call do you make with the North cards after West's 1 ♣ opening? It is a tricky problem and pass, 1 NT or double are all possible, but none are ideal. You are a little strong to pass, lacking in club stoppers for 1 NT, and the wrong shape for a double. On the hand it doesn't matter much since the opponents will sweep you aside and bid on to their spade game in all probability, although they might stop off and take a penalty from 2 ♥ which will fail by three tricks.


In 4 ♠, declarer has an easy ten tricks. The defence can't even test declarer with a low heart since it is impossible to misguess.

## House of Lords v House of Commons 2021

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 Commentary by Heather Dhondy.

# House of Lords v House of Commons 2021

**Board 24**    ♠ J 6 3 2  
 West Deals    ♥ 10 5  
 None Vul     ♦ A 9 5 2  
                  ♣ 10 4 3

♠ Q 8		♠ A 10	
♥ A K 9 8 7 6		♥ Q 4	
♦ Q 3		♦ J 10 4	
♣ 8 5 2		♣ A K J 9 7 6	

♠ K 9 7 5 4  
 ♥ J 3 2  
 ♦ K 8 7 6  
 ♣ Q

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	2	-	1	-
S	-	2	-	1	-
E	5	-	5	-	5
W	5	-	5	-	5

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

What call do you make with the East card after 1 ♥-2 ♣-2 ♥? You could simply try 3 NT, but it might be a poor contract if partner has a singleton diamond, for example. You could guess to bid 4 ♥, but partner hasn't guaranteed six here since they could have 5 ♥4♠ and not be strong enough to reverse. You can't bid 3 ♣ unless you are playing two over one as game-forcing and are left with temporising with 3 ♦. Once partner shows six hearts you are happy enough to play in game there.

There is little for the defence to do against 3 NT or 4 ♥. Unless they begin with a diamond lead (unlikely in either contract), and cash two tricks, declarer will wrap up all thirteen.

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 Commentary by Heather Dhondy.