



# The Irish Bridge Union Autumn Simultaneous Pairs

Wednesday 4th November 2015

Dear Bridge Player,

Thank you for playing in the 2015 Simultaneous Pairs organised by the Irish Bridge Union. The booklet has 32 hands analysed by Brian Senior and is full of advice to help both the Novice player and the Club expert improve their game. You have four opportunities to play in this event on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday/Friday. Each night you are faced with a different series of challenges sometimes in the bidding, sometimes in the play and sometimes in defence. By looking at the ECatsBridge Website ([www.ecatsbridge.com](http://www.ecatsbridge.com) and choose Sims) you can see how other players throughout the country faced up to the challenges that you have faced.

The All-Ireland Inter-County Teams event for the Burke Trophy has always been one of the most enjoyable and friendly events for anyone lucky enough to qualify to play in it. Once again this year we will have a second event running in parallel, an Inter-County Team event restricted to players of Intermediate grade, competing for the O'Connor Trophy. Keep your eye out for when your county is running a qualifying competition.

The Irish Bridge Union organises Irish participation in European and World Bridge Events. This year Open, Women and Senior teams will take part in the European Team Championships in Budapest in Hungary next June and we hope they will qualify to go forward to their respective World Championships to be held in Lyons, France in August 2017.

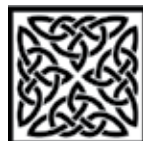
Please have fun playing the Simultaneous Pairs and do think about playing in the other IBU events held during the year if you can.

This year, the IBU Midweek Senior Congress will be played in the La Mon Hotel in Belfast on 1 – 3 March.

The IBU Club Pairs will be played in Templeogue Bridge Centre - with Masters & Intermediate A players on 14 & 15 May and Intermediate B & Novice players taking part on 14 May only.

Enjoy your bridge – a game for life!

Liam Hanratty.  
President Irish Bridge Union



**Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.**

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

A quiet start to the session will see South either open or rebid 1NT, according to system, and play there. After 1♣/♦ – 1♠ – 1NT, many Wests will lead a heart and declarer can come to three tricks in the suit by running this to his ten then leading low towards the queen. The heart lead is a little less attractive against a weak no trump passed out, and a passive spade works much better for the defence, who can just prevail.

**Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.**

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

Whether playing weak no trump or strong, North may judge his hand to be better than 17 HCP and upgrade it to a 1♦ opening followed by jump to 2NT over the 1♥ response. South will raise that to game, where he might/should just pass out a bid that shows 15-17. A spade lead holds declarer to nine tricks. Anyone who cannot bring themselves to lead from that spade holding into a strong hand on his right and tries a club instead will give a tenth trick.

**Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.**

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

If West bids and rebids spades it will be natural for North to lead a club, and that puts the defence in control. That allows them to hold declarer to seven tricks at most. Acol players who respond 2♥ to the 1♠ opening, however, can go plus if West raises to 3♥ rather than repeat the spades. With a complete minimum for the 2♥ bid, East will of course pass 3♥ and that contract cannot be beaten.

**Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.**

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

N/S can make ten tricks in no trump, but the more bidding E/W do the harder it will be for their opponents to get to the no trump game. It is not obligatory for West to open – the suits are the wrong way round to show comfortably and the 11 HCP includes the bad holding of a bare ace – but the good intermediates will convince most to do so. Whether East should scrape up a response is more debatable, but a fair number will do so, and now it is very tough for N/S.

**Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.**

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

With all three missing key cards onside for E/W, they can make either 3NT or 4♠. However, with a combined 22 HCP, there is no reason why anyone should actually bid to game. If West opens a weak no trump East will transfer then pass the 2♣ completion, while if he opens 1♣/♦ he may pass East's 1♠ response. Declarer will draw trumps as soon as he can to avoid possible complications and come to ten tricks.

**Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.**

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

♠ 10 8 7
♥ A 10
♦ Q 8 5
♣ K J 10 4 3

If East opens a strong no trump, West will use Stayman then bid 2NT over the 2♠ response. East is not close to bidding on, of course. On a club lead, declarer will knock out the heart and, after the defence in turn clears the clubs, the contract will come down to the diamond guess. If, however, South can find a spade lead and North a club switch, even 1NT can be defeated.

**Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.**

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

Six Hearts is a borderline contract E/W. While there are some extra chances beyond just the diamond finesse, there is also the 10% danger of a four-zero trump split. After 1♣ – 1♥, some West will rebid 2♠ and it now goes 3♥ – 4♥ and East will surely go on to slam. Where West rebids only 1♠, East may jump to 4♥ and West raise to 5♥, East accepting the invitation, or East may go through fourth-suit, leading to a murkier auction.

**Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.**

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

This time it is N/S's turn to have a borderline slam but this one is definitely with the odds as, even when there is a trump loser, there are prospects of playing spades without loss. If North opens 1♣ and rebids 2NT, South will rebid his hearts and now North, with all those controls, should cuebid. There is every prospect of getting to slam from here.

**Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.**

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

If East opens 1♠ and South overcalls 2♦, West will double and East has an interesting choice of rebids. If he has already shown five spades, will he want to rebid this mediocre suit or should he instead bid the three-card heart suit? Two Spades proves to be a much better contract than 2♥ on this layout, being unbeatable while 2♥ should always go down. If East opens a weak no trump, South may overcall 3♦ and play there, probably going one down after the spade lead.

**Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.**

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

There will be those who open the East hand at the one level, others with as game-forcing 2♣, and a third group with a Benjamin-style 2♣. One Spade could end the auction – I would not double as South, particularly when vulnerable, while the GF 2♣ will get to 4♠. If East shows the 8/9 playing trick type he will be left in 3♠. Looking at the E/W hands, you don't want to be in game, but the lead of either red suit will allow ten tricks to be made.

**Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.**

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

It seems natural that, when South shows a weak no trump type with his opening or rebid, North will commit to hearts. Slam has some chances and can be made in practice, but 4♥ is the normal contract and even those who try for slam will usually stop short. Any matchpoint hogs who choose to play in 3NT should score badly as a diamond lead holds them to ten tricks.

**Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.**

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

When West opens 1♥, North is not strong enough for a vulnerable 2♦ overcall. East responds 1♠ and I would now raise to 2♠ as West rather than rebid 1NT. With this distribution, I would rebid 1NT if my doubleton was a strong one but, with good spades and a weak doubleton, even the four-three fit will often be better than a no trump partscore. On this deal, East will jump to 4♠ and should come to ten tricks.

**Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.**

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

Many Norths will upgrade to a strong no trump because of the good five-card suit and two useful tens. It will rarely matter. A 1NT opening will be passed out, while if North opens 1♦ South will respond 1♠ and pass the 1NT rebid. A heart lead puts declarer under pressure. East will duck the heart return and declarer will need to get the club right to succeed. Playing West for the queen is less convenient than East, so many will be two or three down.

**Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.**

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

A borderline 4♥ for E/W. When East opens a strong no trump, West will use Stayman the raise 2♥ to game. If East opens either 1♦ or 1♥, the outcome is less clear. If West makes only a single raise of a 1♥ opening, or East a single raise of a 1♥ response, that will end the auction. It is normal to get the trumps wrong, so declarer in game will have to take the double finesse in diamonds. That is the percentage play, but not everyone will play that way.

**Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.**

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

West's 1♣ opening will shut out North, who is just short of what is needed for a 1NT overcall. East should respond 1♠ – these shaded responses can gain in a number of ways when short in partner's suit and fear of getting too high should not put East off bidding. West raises to 2♠, far superior to a repeat of the clubs, and that ends the auction. Two Spades can be beaten, but I suspect that quite a number will come to eight tricks.

**Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.**

♠ QJ7	
♥ A Q 9 2	
♦ J 2	
♣ A K Q 7	
♠ 10 8 6 5 2	♠ A 9 4
♥ 10 8 7 4	♥ K J
♦ Q 4	♦ 10 8 7 6 5
♣ 9 3	♣ 8 5 4
	♠ K 3
	♥ 6 5 3
	♦ A K 9 3
	♣ J 10 6 2

How the auction goes will be very much a matter of system, but the destination should almost always be 3NT, the only question being who is declarer. A simple Acol auction could go 1♣ – 3♣ – 3NT, but of course so many pairs nowadays play two- or three-card club openings, or inverted minor-suit raises, that this may be a minority auction – to say nothing of the Acol players who open 1♥ with the North cards.

**Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.**

	♠ 6	
	♥ 9 6 2	
	♦ K 10 9 6	
	♣ QJ763	
♠ Q 10 9 8 4 3 2	♠ A J 7 5	
♥ A Q 10 7 5 3	♥ J	
♦ —	♦ A 8 3 2	
♣ —	♣ K 8 5 2	
	♠ K	
	♥ K 8 4	
	♦ Q J 7 5 4	
	♣ A 10 9 4	

The book on how to bid the E/W cards is yet to be written. Suffice it to say that West will bid spades first and find that he has a fit with partner. Now it will just be a matter of level, however, even those who play Exclusion Key Card will have trouble when West has TWO voids in being certain how many useful key cards East holds. My guess is that the popular spot will be 6♠, with 13 tricks the most likely outcome.

**Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.**

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

Six Clubs is a playable though against the odds spot for N/S. Depending on the defence, declarer will either play to take diamond ruffs in the dummy or to set up the spades. Most, will play 3NT, I think, which is a question of overtricks. West can confuse things a little by opening a weak 2♦ if that is part of his methods. Yes, I know the West hand is hardly a classic example of the bid, but he is third in hand at favourable vulnerability – why not live a little?

**Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.**

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

East can make 4♠ – a diamond lead sets up a ruff for the setting trick if West is declarer. Having said which, it is by no means automatic to bid the borderline game. If West opens 1♣ and rebids 1NT, 12-14, East may use checkback and get to game when West admits to three-card spade support and a maximum, while facing a weak no trump opener East may transfer then follow up with 2NT. But a fair minority will stop in partscore.

**Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.**

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

Four Spades cannot be defeated if played by East, while a heart lead puts it under threat if played by West. If West opens 1♣, a major strong no-trumpers bypass diamonds to show a major when weakfish – that is done to allow opener to rebid 1NT to show his hand-type and strength even when holding a major-suit – and that approach ensures that this contract is played the better way up, curiously, that meaning by the weaker hand.

**Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.**

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

East opens 1♦ and South overcalls 1♥, raised to 2♥ by North. If left to play there, dummy's heart entries mean that declarer can set up a diamond winner and lead towards the spade jack for eight tricks. Non-vulnerable, East may compete with 2♠. If left to play there he can get out for down one, while 3♦ is down two. That is better than conceding -110, but the real bonus will come when South goes on to a failing 3♥.

**Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.**

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

South opens 1♠ and West overcalls 2♥. North cannot do anything at this point but South reopens with double and North bids the clubs. South is much stronger than he might have been so may raise to 4♣, and now North has plenty to go on to game. Slam is good, but it is hard to see how to get there. Despite the five-one trump split, 4♠ can also be made.

**Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.**

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

If North opens 1♣ East will overcall 1♠ and South make a negative double. West's bid will be a matter of system, but his hand is worth a constructive raise to the three level. With such poor distribution, East is not guaranteed to go on to game, though many will and make 11 tricks. Where North opens a weak no trump things will be very different, with many Easts passing. A low spade lead would let 1NT make.

**Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.**

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

Even the most aggressive pre-emptor is unlikely to open the West hand, while only those playing weak two-suited openings will open as North. East therefore opens 1♣ and South doubles. North will either jump to 4♥ or cuebid to keep diamonds in the game. South will ask for key cards over 4♥, while he will also drive to slam once the heart fit comes to light after partner's cuebid response to the double.

**Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.**

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

North will open 1♦ and most Easts will double, planning to follow up with a spade bid to show a hand too good for an initial overcall. If South bids 1NT, West may bid 2♥; more would risk partner bidding too high - it is rarely necessary to jump around on hands of this kind as someone usually bids again. Even a not particularly helpful looking heart bid may be sufficient to convince East to bid the spade game. This can be beaten, but not on a diamond lead.

**Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.**

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

Six No Trump by West is the place to be but, unless playing an opening bid to show a solid heart suit, that will be very difficult to reach. Played by East, a normal spade lead will defeat a heart slam. East will often open 4♥ and now West has a tough decision whether to look for slam – the opening is, after all, vulnerable, otherwise West would pass without too much thought.

**Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.**

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

South opens 1♣ and West will want to do something with his 15 HCP. Neither 1NT with a minimum for the bid and a club holding that is not improved positionally, nor a take-out double with no four-card support for another suit is ideal. Probably most will choose 1NT and North will compete 2♦ – no longer forcing, of course, after the 1NT overcall. With no help from partner, West cannot defeat 3NT, South's likely call over 2♦.

**Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.**

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

E/W can make eleven tricks in a heart contract, or twelve on a non-diamond lead, the diamond loser going away on the club queen. West opens 1♠ and rebids 3♥ over the 1NT response. If there is an agreement that this shows at least five-five East raises to 4♥. If 3♥ could be five-four, as for most players, East may bid 3NT and West bid 4♥, ending the auction.

**Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.**

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

If East opens a strong no trump, I would be inclined to raise directly to 3NT, not worrying about a possible spade fit when 4-3-3-3 with honours in every suit. Here, all that Stayman would do would be to help South with the opening lead. With nine on top, the play is just a matter of overtricks. Those who make only nine tricks will score badly, as there are a number of routes to ten, or even eleven, tricks.

**Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.**

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

Not to everyone's taste, I know, but I would open 3♦ as East. That could work out poorly on this deal, as the key for E/W is to compete in hearts. If South gets to open 1♣, West can overcall 2♥ and East either raise to 4♥ or make the clever bid of 4♦ to show diamonds plus heart support. The latter would convince West to save in 5♥ over 4♠ due to the good diamond holding. Perhaps N/S will go on to 5♠, but they won't always do the right thing.

**Board 31. N/S Vul. Dealer South.**

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

E/W will almost always declare the final contract but the cards lie so badly that they will rarely succeed in bringing home what they bid. If East opens 1NT he will play there. Though the diamond lead ensures him a second trick in the suit, he should still be a trick short on accurate defence. A ♣ opening will see E/W find the spade fit, but here they can be held to six tricks, meaning that those who are one down in 1NT may score quite well.

**Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.**

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

When West starts with 1♣ and east respinds 1♠, South's hearts are much too weak for a two-level overall so should pass. West may rebid an off-centre 1NT if weak rather than repeat the empty club suit. East will check for a five-three spade fit and settle for 3NT when he finds that he is facing a maximum without three spades. A second-round diamond finesse will ensure nine tricks, with ten possible on some opening leads.

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