



The Irish Bridge Union Autumn Simultaneous Pairs

Monday 7th November 2016

Dear Friends

Thank you for taking part in the Irish Bridge Union Simultaneous Pairs 2016. I hope you had an enjoyable game.

The IBU Simultaneous Pairs provides us with a great opportunity to compete nation-wide within the relaxed confines of our local clubs as well as a fun evening. You can see how you did at www.ecatsbridge.com/sims. The accompanying booklet contains expert analysis by Brian Senior who will guide us through the hands and give us pointers for improvement - bridge is enjoyable, of course, but more so the better we get!

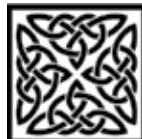
The IBU is committed to encouraging greater participation in our sport. One of the challenges is to persuade more players to take the game outside their club and try tournament play in regional congresses as well as national competitions. The IBU All-Ireland Club Pairs takes place on 13th & 14th May 2017 and the IBU Seniors Congress, hosted by the CBAI's North Eastern Region in Cavan, is scheduled for 21st to 23rd March. These are friendly and enjoyable tournaments open to all player categories including Novice, Intermediate B, Intermediate A and Master. We also look forward to the ever popular Burke and O'Connor Inter-County Teams Championships on the weekend of 25th February 2017

In addition to the development of bridge, your participation in Simultaneous Pairs and IBU competitions supports Ireland's representation at international level. This year our Open, Women, Senior, Mixed and Youth teams competed at European Championships in Hungary and Latvia as well as the World Bridge Games in Poland.

I look forward to meeting many of you at IBU events during the season.

John Bergin

President Irish Bridge Union



Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

The combination of three-nil diamonds and five-two spades means that 5♦ cannot be made – though if East is declarer after a 2♣–2♦ negative/waiting start South may lead a heart if the auction has not been too revealing and now 12 tricks are available. 3NT is the place to be as even a club lead gets only four tricks for the defence and South may well lead a heart anyway, but it isn't easy to find a convincing route to 3NT when a diamond slam could be on if East's values are in clubs instead of hearts.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

Given the vulnerability, E/W may well have a free run. If East opens 1♥ and rebids 2♥ over a 2♦ response, an Acol player should probably pass – there is no premium on bidding thin games at matchpoints and no guarantee that opener has a sixth heart. However, with the ♦A onside and both red suits splitting three-two, ten tricks can be made easily enough, so those who get to game will win the day.

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

Where South passes, West will open 2♥, the six-four shape compensating for the poor suit quality. North doubles and, if East raises to 3♥, South may try 3NT. If he does so, a heart lead and heart back leads to down two. 3NT is also the most likely spot if South stretches to open a weak no trump. West overcalls, North makes a take-out double, and then bids 3♥ over South's response. Three of a minor is the N/S limit but the combined 26 HCP may make it tough to stop.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

East opens 1♣ in third seat and South either doubles or bids 1♥, the more modern approach with the intention to come again to show the extra values and support for the other suits. West bids 1♠, East 2♣, and South doubles for take-out. I'd leave that in as North as I have no guarantee of making anything but fair chances of collecting +200 on defence. Plus 200 is gold dust on competitive partscore deals and is exactly what North achieves on this occasion.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

Acol players will start 1♠–2♥–2♠ with the E/W cards. With no great fit and a near minimum, West does best to give simple preference to 2♠, which ends the auction. Nine tricks can be made by immediately playing three rounds of trumps; +140. 5♦ can be made by ruffing out the spades, but it is a poor contract and will rarely be reached. Two-over-one players will start with a 1NT response, so East will at least get diamonds into the game, but he will pass West's 2♥ rebid or bid 3♦ over 2NT, and West will pass that.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

♠	KJ763	♠	—
♥	AK732	♥	J65
♦	—	♦	AK8642
♣	Q73	♣	J1096
♠	A842	♠	Q1095
♥	94	♥	Q108
♦	10975	♦	QJ3
♣	A85	♣	K42

N/S make 4♠ (or 4♥ if played by North where there is only one spade ruff for the defence). If North gets to open 1♠ it will be a matter of routine to get to game, South showing a constructive three-level raise and North going on to game. Where East makes a mildly off-centre diamond pre-empt as dealer, West can raise, but North will cuebid 4♦ or double, and again 4♠ should be reached.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

♠	A4	♠	K96
♥	KQ864	♥	J75
♦	AJ109	♦	7642
♣	105	♣	J63
♠	10873	♠	QJ52
♥	2	♥	A1093
♦	KQ3	♦	85
♣	AK942	♣	Q87

West opens 1♣ and North overcalls 1♥. After a pass from East, South will raise hearts, by various routes according agreement. The South hand is ideal for a Mixed Raise, a more common agreement at tournament than at club level, showing four-card support and a hand too good for a pre-emptive raise to 3♥ but not good enough for a constructive raise (about 6-9 HCP). After a club lead, nine tricks should be the normal outcome, with +140 a popular result.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

♠	108	♠	AKQ6
♥	KQ102	♥	9543
♦	Q10753	♦	K6
♣	J4	♣	A72
♠	J4	♠	97532
♥	AJ8	♥	76
♦	J9842	♦	A
♣	986	♣	KQ1053

Much may be decided by East's choice of opening bid. If he opens a strong no trump South may be able to show a twos-suiter including spades. A 1♥ opening may see South bid 2♥, Michaels, showing spades and a minor. N/S will often get to 2♠, where seven tricks can be made. That is OK for N/S because if East opens 1♣, South may pass, not liking to overcall with that spade suit on a potential misfit, and North may rebid 1NT and play there, just making.

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

♠	6	♠	AJ32
♥	Q9872	♥	AKJ63
♦	Q753	♦	KJ
♣	K32	♣	J4
♠	KQ109	♠	8754
♥	5	♥	104
♦	A1096	♦	842
♣	AQ108	♣	9765

E/W have a slam and it should be pretty easy to get to. East opens 1♥ and raises the 1♠ response to game. I like that to show a lot of high cards, more shapely game raises going via a splinter bid. West asks, finds two key cards, and invites seven by bidding 5NT. East can show the king of diamonds now and that doesn't suit West, who settles for 6♠. North may get a trick on opening lead, but declarer's normal line is to take the club finesse and come to 12 tricks.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

♠	J962	♠	K104
♥	K842	♥	J75
♦	AK4	♦	97
♣	AJ	♣	65432
♠	73	♠	AQ85
♥	106	♥	AQ93
♦	Q1086	♦	J532
♣	KQ1097	♣	8

Acrol players can open 1♥ with the South cards, five-card majorites open 1♦. There is a borderline slam, though making it requires a good view in spades. After a 1♦ opening it may continue 1♥ – 2♥ – 2♠ – 4♥. North may go on now. If playing Acrol, after 1♥ – 2NT (GF raise), what do you rebid as South? Show a second suit or shortage and partner expects five hearts. You are too weak to show a balanced hand, have too many key cards to just sign off in 4♥. Don't you just hate 4-4-4-1 hands?

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

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

Yet another slam, though not easy to bid. South opens 1♣ and may rebid 3NT, long clubs and too good to rebid 3♣. That does not really invite partner to go back to hearts, but North may try 4♣ as a slam try, planning to pass a 4♥ cuebid as that would expose a diamond weakness. In practice, South cuebids 4♦, North 4♥, and South takes control and slam is reached. Plus 920 will score very well, however.

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

West is missing the top spades but at least they are solid, so 3♠ would be a normal action. Many Norths will cross their fingers and overcall 4♥, and East can double. That is a bloody affair. With four diamonds to lose, declarer can be held to five tricks; -1100. E/W can make 4♠, but that will be scant consolation to N/S, particularly as many Easts will pass the 3♠ opening if North does not come in to the auction.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

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

East opens 1♦ and South has an easy 1♥ overcall. After a pass from West, North may make an unassuming cuebid of 2♦ to show a constructive heart raise. Facing heart support and a decent 9/10+ HCP, South may bid 3♣ as a game try, but that will not suit North at all, looking at three low clubs, and he should sign off in 3♥. That stop is just in time, though I suspect that many will fail to find a way to nine tricks, though it is possible, whatever the defence.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

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

It is hardly compulsory to open the East hand, with its suits the wrong way around to show both comfortably, a bare queen and no ace. Everybody seems to open everything these days so I suppose the majority will open 1♥ and West bid 2NT, good game raise in hearts. If you have opened that rubbish then surely the rebid should be 4♥ – bad hand – and that will be that. Four Hearts is defeated by a club ruff, but most will not find it and +420 will be a common outcome.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

South opens 1♣ and North responds 1♥. If East passes, South will rebid 1♠ and E/W will be shut out of the auction. North will be tempted to repeat the hearts but a jump to 3♣ looks about right to me. Facing an invitational bid, South has a close decision. If he dislikes his diamond holding he may pass and score +150 when the diamond is inside. An optimist will bid on and may get to 5♣. That is makeable, while 3NT is hopeless.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

North has one of those hands that may open either a weak or a strong no trump. Facing 12-14, South will transfer to hearts and let partner declare the heart game. A diamond lead gives 12 tricks, a club only 10 – a big difference with no clue for the opening leader. South may make a mild slam try facing a strong no trump but North, with his minimum hand with two weak suits, will not co-operate. However, if West becomes the opening leader, there is no longer any danger of a costly lead.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

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

Unless playing two-suited weak openings, North will pass and South open 1♠. Acol players may respond 2♥ and South rebid 3♠, forcing. Whatever North does now, N/S are too high and in trouble. Those requiring a stronger hand to respond at the two level will instead bid 1NT. South has a maximum 2♠ rebid, or minimum 3♠ rebid for the more optimistic. 6-2-3-2 means a lot of losers and I would choose 2♠. Even that is not a trivial make. Plus 110 should score well.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

Most tables will see West open 1♠ and play there as no one has any reason to bid. And 1♠ is what West can make as, though spades break evenly, the side suit is five-one. If North leads his singleton, declarer may win the heart ace and try two top diamonds. South ruffs and from here everything gets very messy. Declarer might have done better to play a low trump at trick two, but sorting out the side suit would be the winning line when the main suits split 4-2, so looks normal enough.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

3NT is the place to play on the E/W cards as there are the same 11 tricks there as in diamonds. Getting to 3NT may not be trivial, however. Say that South passes. East will open 1♦ and South overcall 2♣. West doubles to show some values and East may jump to 3♥ – is that forcing for your partnership? If so, West may try 3NT. A 1♣ opening from South sees West overcall 1♠ and now East will drive to game, but someone will have to judge well to play in no trump.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

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

West will open 1♣ and East usually respond 1♠ – the diamonds are hardly worth bidding, after all. West's simple raise to 2♠ will often end the auction. South will lead a top diamond then perhaps switch to a trump. Declarer can take two ruffs in one hand or the other, and has eight tricks without too much difficulty. N/S can make eight tricks in a diamond contract, but will rarely get into the auction at this vulnerability.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

West will get to open in fourth seat and, if playing strong no trump, will open 1NT and play there. If playing a weak no trump, West will open 1♣ or 1♥ and rebid 1NT, again playing there.

North leads a spade and declarer's first play will decide whether he scores above or below average. My guess is that more will play the jack, unless North leads a high spot, not treating the ten as an honour. A misguess means seven or eight tricks, a winning guess eight or nine.

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

East opens 1♥ and West responds 1♠. East will probably raise to game, giving full value to the bare king. Should he raise to 4♠, showing a lot of points in a balanced hand, or 4♦, splinter? I'd be inclined to opt for 4♠, as bare kings are not ideal splinters, but I wouldn't say that 4♦ was wrong. The even breaks in both West's suits mean 12 tricks can be made, though of course he rates to play only in game.

Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.

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

West will open a strong no trump and play there, or 1♦ then pass the 1NT response. Double dummy, it makes no difference who is declarer. In practice, however, I think West has a slight edge as North will lead either a diamond or a passive club. Declarer can play ace and another club while the ♦A is still there as an entry. South, on the other hand, will lead a major and either set up the spades immediately or set up a later heart guess for declarer. Eight tricks is still the most likely outcome but there is a little more pressure.

Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.

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

One Diamond is a nothing bid on the East cards – either 3NT or 5♦ makes life much tougher for the opposition. No, not 2♣, as there will be intervention and the wrong side may have the problems. 5♦ is down one, but South will overcall 5♠ and, if left to play there, the lead of the club king will lead to down two. A 3NT opening allows South to get his hand off his chest at the four level, and now he can leave any decision to partner.

Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

♠ 10	
♥ 10 9 6 5	
♦ AJ 10 8	
♣ AK Q 3	
♠ 7 5	♠ AKQ 8 6 3
♥ Q 7 3	♥ 8 4
♦ Q 7 2	♦ K 9 6 5
♣ J 10 8 6 5	♣ 7
♠ J 9 4 2	
♥ AKJ 2	
♦ 4 3	
♣ 9 4 2	

North opens 1♦ – he will have to rebid 2♣ over a 1♠ response and to open 1♥ then do likewise would be very dangerous as partner might just assume a five-card heart suit. East overcalls 1♠ and South doubles. If North rebids 2♥, East may repeat his spades and now South can double, suggesting playing for a penalty. If North leaves that in, the penalty should be -500. N/S can make 4♥ and may get there if North's rebid is 3♥.

Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.

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

North opens 2NT – don't worry about a weak suit if the strength and shape are right – and South will use whatever version of Stayman he has at his disposal and North should declare 4♠. It seems that there is a loser in each side suit with ten tricks for +620 being the normal outcome. Should anyone alight in 3NT, there is one fewer trick to be had unless the defence goes seriously awry.

Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.

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

This looks to be a terribly unlucky deal for the better bidders among the N/S pairs, as 6♠ is a great contract, doomed only by the three-zero trump split offside. If South opens 1NT, North may transfer to spades and South break the transfer. North can ask for key cards now and finds one missing so settles for 6♠. If South opens 1♣ then raises a 1♠ response to 3♠, North can again use RKCB, while a 1♠ opening sees North splinter or, again, use RKCB. It would be a poor effort to miss this one (and collect your 90% board!)

Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

West has a classic weak 2♠ opener and, after a pass from North, East will usually raise. 2NT would be a very optimistic response, as even when partner has a maximum game is unlikely, so East may raise pre-emptively to 3♠. And that will be that unless North is an enterprising soul who trusts his opponents' bidding to mean that South has good values. N/S can make 5♣, with a good diamond guess, but 3♠ down one by E/W looks more likely.

Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.

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

N/S make 11 tricks in either major, while E/W have 10 tricks in a club contract. Those N/Ss playing five-card majors will be better placed here if West overcalls 2NT to show the majors as North can then show spade support. Facing a four-card major North will have to start with a double. When East now jumps to 5♣, South will be able to bid 5s facing support, but will be less well placed facing a more general value-sowing double.

Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.

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

AAK and five-four the right way round to show conveniently means East has a clear opening bid. South may overcall 2NT, lowest two unbid suits, and West bid 3♣ to show a sound diamond raise – there is no real way to bring spades to the party without overbidding. If North passes and East bids 3♦, South may double to show extras and North respond 3♥. Can West now compete with 3♠? East will correct to 4♦ and that contract is just made, while N/S would also have made 3♥ exactly.

Board 31. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

If West opens 1♥ and east responds 1NT, West has a two-and-a-half heart rebid. My approach is always to choose 2♥ over 3♥ with such hands, and that pays off big time on this deal, where even 3♥ is in serious danger and East will go on to a hopeless game. Some Acol players will respond 2♦ and now West may rebid a forcing 3♥, dooming his side to game. It is possible to let through 3NT, but most will go down, while 4♥ looks completely hopeless.

Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

Is West too good for a 4♥ opener? Maybe, but anything less lets the opposition in at a comfortable level, and West is, after all, vulnerable against not, so is showing some decent playing strength. North will make an unusual no trump overcall at whatever level is necessary. With E/W sure to bid to at least 4♥, that gets his side to 5♦, which is down only one against the making game. The real bonus will come when E/W take the push to the five level, as now N/S can go plus.

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