## EBED



## Sim Pairs

**Commentary by Mike Pomfrey** 

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 Welcome to the English Bridge Education & Development (EBED) Simultaneous Pairs.

The proceeds raised by this event will be used by EBED, the national charity for the promotion and development of bridge, in support of its objectives to promote the national learning program "Bridge for All" and especially to improve and develop the infrastructure for bridge teaching in England by expanding our support for EBTA - the English Bridge **Teachers Association** 

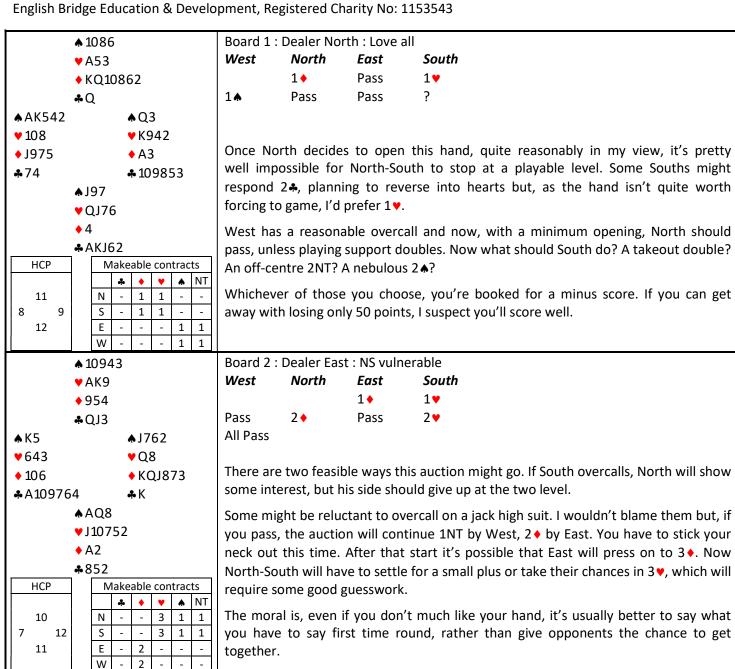
EBED supplies "Bridge for All" teaching materials, organises Minibridge/Duplicate Bridge teacher training and club director training courses, administers the Junior Award Scheme and supports county organisations and individual volunteers at the local level to run youth events.

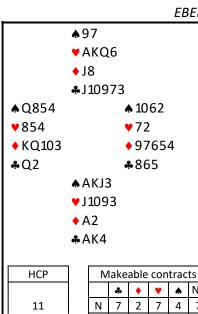
You can read more EBED's activities in the current issue of English Bridge and at www.ebedcio.org.uk. If you wish to know more about EBED or to arrange a donation/legacy in favour of the charity, please contact us via richard@ebedcio.org.uk

Do please encourage your friends to come to play in these events which are open to all and raise vital funds for our work.

We thank you so much for your support!

Donna Wright Chief Executive





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Board 3: Dealer South: EW vulnerable North West East South 2NT Pass 3♣ Pass 3♦ Pass 3♠ **Pass** 4 🕶 **6**♥ **All Pass** Pass

After a couple of low-level battles the set springs to life. I've given a Puppet Stayman auction, in which South's 3♦ promises at least one four card major and North bids the one she hasn't got, which transfers the contract back to the strong hand.

South has excellent controls and might be tempted to make a slam try over 3 , but the modest trumps argue otherwise. North is still interested, however. You could just blast slam, though a check there aren't two aces missing is perhaps prudent.

6♥ is cold except on a diamond lead, when you have to make the unlikely play of dropping the club queen. Funnily enough, making South declarer turns out to be a bad idea, as West has an obvious diamond lead but East doesn't.

**107** ♦ AQJ987 **\$106 1**06 **1 ♠** AJ9753 ♥AKQ8632 **y** -**♦** 5 **♦** K3 **♣**J74 **♣**KQ532 **∧** K4 **♥**J954 10642 ♣A98

S 7 2 7 4 7

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**♠**Q82

Board 4: Dealer West: All vulnerable West North East South 4♥ All Pass

That looks like the world's most obvious 4♥ bid; if you play Texas openings 4♣ is a reasonable alternative.

The outcome is all about the lead. Only a spade works for the defence; you set up a winner to go with your two aces and wait patiently for your trump trick. Some might start with the ace of diamonds, which is fatal as the losing spade goes away. A wishy-washy club is equally ineffective; if South takes it and switches to spades the favourable distribution enables declarer to discard a loser on the clubs. If South ducks, it's no better.

I wonder what a computer simulation would recommend as North's lead. I'm afraid I'm for the diamond ace, with a spade a fairly distant second choice.

HCP Makeable contracts ♠ NT Ν 9 2 10 13 2 S 8 Ε 4 3 3 1 W 4 **♠**Q8753

Board 5: Dealer North: NS vulnerable West North East South 1 • Pass Pass 2\* Dble 3♣ 3♠?

All sorts of things might happen on this one, depending on the methods of both sides. After two passes, what should South open? If you are playing a strong no-trump, that's an obvious choice. And if West is allowed to bid 2NT to show a respectable minor two suiter, that is also clear. North can pass and compete with a takeout double after East's 3♣. South bids 3♠ and probably plays there for one down, unless the defence do anything silly.

If your no-trump is weak you may be allowed to open 1♠, though I wouldn't recommend it in third seat. Too often partner will be on lead and do you want a spade lead? On the auction shown you have to bid 3 ♠ – better than conceding 470 or more – and arrive at the same point as the strong no-trumpers. Both opponents have some defence but neither is likely to double. How will 100 to East-West fare?

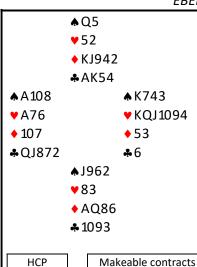
♦ 974 **.** 2 ΑA **∧**KJ9 **♥** A8 97654 ♦ QJ1032 **•** 5 **♣** KJ1095 **\$**8643 **↑**10642 **♥**Q3 ♦ AK86 ♣AQ7

**♥** KJ102

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		6			N	-	-	-	2	-
	15		4		S	-	-	-	2	-
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♠ NT

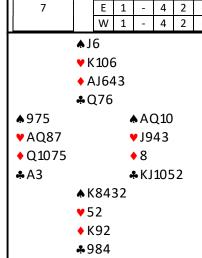
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Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
		1♥	Pass		
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass		
3♥	All Pass				

I can't see anything wrong with opening 1 vas East. It's far too good for a weak two (and, with four spades, quite unsuitable). But you want to say something. Some Norths may overcall, which will persuade South to compete to the three level, but nothing will stop West taking the push to 3 v.

As the cards lie, it's possible to make ten tricks in hearts. You need to play a club early, unblock the trumps from hand to preserve an entry to dummy on the third round, and use a ruffing finesse to pin South's 109x of clubs. It's not an inconceivable play if North bids. The extra 30 points will make a big difference to the match-points.



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Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable						
West	North	East	South			
			Pass			
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass			
2♥	Pass	3♥	All Pass			

This is one possible auction. Either partner may be tempted to have a bash at game, but it is pairs, not teams.

The most challenging lead is a spade. Declarer probably finesses, South wins and returns the eight, indicating a possible entry in diamonds. The only way to make ten tricks is to play ace of clubs, a club to the jack and dispose of the third spade on the king of clubs before touching trumps. Even then you have to play a trump to the ace and a small one back to prevent a defensive trump promotion. That's a pretty unlikely sequence of plays if you are in a part score, but if you have pressed to game you may feel you have to go for it. The alternative line of playing for no-trump loser is a really long shot and, as we see, doomed to failure.

	12   1	.1		S	-	1	-	-	L
	6			Ε	4	-	4	1	
				W	4	-	4	1	
			♠ A	J65	54				
		•	<b>Y</b> A	108	354				
		<b>φ</b> Δ	J						
		•	<b>*</b> 1	0					
	<b>♠</b> 10972		4	KC	23				
<b>♥</b> 7					•	<b>/</b> KJ	63		

**♦**8 **♥**Q92

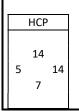
**.**73

♦ KQ98654

Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all						
West	North	East	South			
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT			
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦			
Pass	?					

I know a lot of players who would overcall 2. on the East hand but it's a poor bid with good defence and a lousy suit. There's maybe more justification (but not much) for shading it to a 1NT overcall.

Given a free run, is South worth a two-level response? Not these days, when the requirements are higher than in days of yore. But you will stress your suit on the next round, which gives North an interesting problem. Ace, jack is pretty good support and you have two outside aces and good shape. 5 → is a decent contract but sadly you can't make it as South on a heart lead. You can avoid the ruff by rising with the ace and drawing trumps, but now you can't avoid a second club loser. North can make eleven tricks but try getting it played that way round! Funny old game.



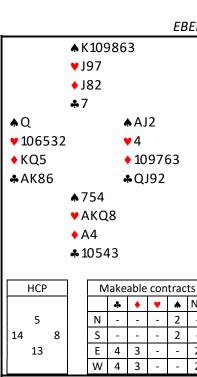
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**♣**KQ984

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ĺ	N	-	5	3	-	2
	S	-	4	3	-	2
	Ε	2	-	-	-	-
	W	2	-	-	-	-

**♦** 7

♣AJ652



Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable						
West	North	East	South			
	2♠	Pass	Pass			
Dble	Pass	3♦	3♠			
Pass	Pass	4 🚓	All Pass			

This time we have a normal, albeit minimum, weak two. South isn't quite worth a game try and West has an obvious double. I strongly recommend using the Lebensohl convention in these auctions. East's 3♦ shows a respectable hand, whilst 2NT, asking partner to bid 3♣, which you convert to 3♦, would be weaker.

As the auction goes, East has a tricky decision. You have some defence to 3 but also a decent prospect of making ten tricks in something. Despite the 4-1 club break, it should be possible to succeed in 4.

Only a heart ruff beats 3 heart

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	<b>♠</b> AK	(4				
	<b>♥</b> KJ	863	3			
	♦ AK	(10	ŝ			
	<b>.</b> 3					
<b>♠</b> Q52			4	6		
<b>y</b> 9			•	Q	742	
<b>♦</b> J9832			•	Q:	75	
<b>♣</b> J964			•	ŀΑŀ	(87	2
	<b>♠</b> J 10	98	73	3		
	<b>♥</b> A1	.05				
	<b>4</b>					
	<b>♣</b> Q1	105				

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Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
		1♣	2♠		
Pass	4 🛦	All Pass			

East's hand is not wonderful but we'd all open. South's is very far from wonderful but we're only young once. North promptly raises to game and you mutter under your breath "haven't you seen my weak jump overcalls before?" but all should be well.

You can't ruff a club in dummy without ensuring there's a trump loser, not that you'd be likely to play West for Qxx anyway. However, East's opening bid and spade shortage should guide you towards finding the queen of hearts.

Is there a case for crossing to dummy early and leading the jack of hearts, repeating the finesse and making eleven tricks for what should be a shared top? As it happens, on a club lead East has a hard time at trick two anyway, so there may be a few 650's.

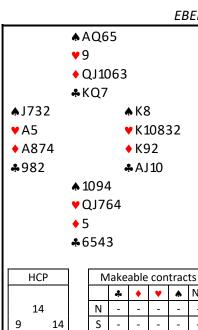
	♠AQJ32
	♥Q102
	<b>♦</b> 32
	<b>♣</b> 985
♠K	<b>♦</b> 97
<b>♥</b> A65	<b>♥</b> KJ987
♦ QJ104	◆ AK85
<b>♣</b> AK732	<b>♣</b> Q6
	<b>▲</b> 108654
	<b>¥</b> 43
	<b>♦</b> 976
	<b>♣</b> J104

Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all						
West	North	East	South			
			Pass			
1♣	1♠	Dble	3♠			
Dble	Pass	4♥	All Pass			

As East, on the first round I slightly prefer a double to 2♥ (and in some players' methods 2♥ would not be forcing). You do have a fifth heart, but also a good hand that might play well in any of three suits.

It looks reasonable for South to pre-empt, though this may have the effect of pushing East-West into a dodgy slam, which will make with the cards favourably placed. West's double just shows a good hand and East has a difficult bid now. 4 v suggests the fifth trump and maybe implies extra values.

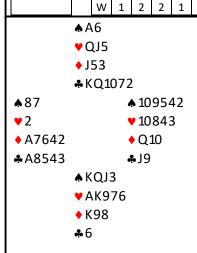
If you are going to play in game only, clearly you want to be in hearts for the best match-point score, though  $6 \bullet$  is the safer slam.



Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable						
West	North	East	South			
Pass	1♦	1♥	Pass			
Pass	Dble	Pass	2♣			
?						

An unusual situation, but one that has an air of inevitability on this hand. North has a normal opening bid and East a very solid overcall. I wouldn't shade it to a 1NT overcall; despite the good intermediates you have only one diamond stopper so you shouldn't upgrade the hand. South clearly has nothing to say and, so long as West doesn't think too long, North is bound to reopen. Partner must have heart length and, for all you know, may be itching to defend 1♥ doubled.

South has a horrible choice now; do you pass, expecting them to make it, or bid your far from robust club suit (or even a cheaper 1 .)? Whatever you choose, you'll be lucky to avoid at least minus 200, even if nobody doubles. Can East-West spring the trap and collect a really juicy penalty?



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Board 1	3 : Dealer N	orth : All vu	Inerable	
West	North	East	South	
	1NT	Pass	2 🔷	
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT	
Pass	<b>4 ⊌</b>	All Pass		

This might look a somewhat contrived auction but there's method in its madness. Assuming your system allows you to transfer to hearts and continue with a forcing 2 , that seems a clear choice. Now what should North do? You have a pretty good hand in support of hearts and it may be a good idea to show where your outside strength lies. Imagine South with short diamonds, rather than clubs, and you may be in the slam zone. South is not encouraged and the auction subsides.

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		N	3	3	5	4	5	
8		3	S	3	3	5	4	5
16		Ε	-	-	-	-	-	
			W	-	-	-	-	-

As it happens, the lucky diamond position means you make as many tricks in no-trumps as in hearts, but I don't suppose many will try 3NT.

	<b>♦</b> KJ10975			
	<b>♥</b> Q753			
	<b>♦</b> 2			
	<b>.</b> 82			
<b>♠</b> 6		<b>♦</b> 842		
<b>♥</b> KJ104		<b>v</b> 2		
♦K976		♦ AJ543		
<b>4</b> 10765		<b>♣</b> AQ43		
	<b>♠</b> AQ3			
	<b>♥</b> A986			
	♦Q108			
	<b>♣</b> KJ9			

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♠ NT

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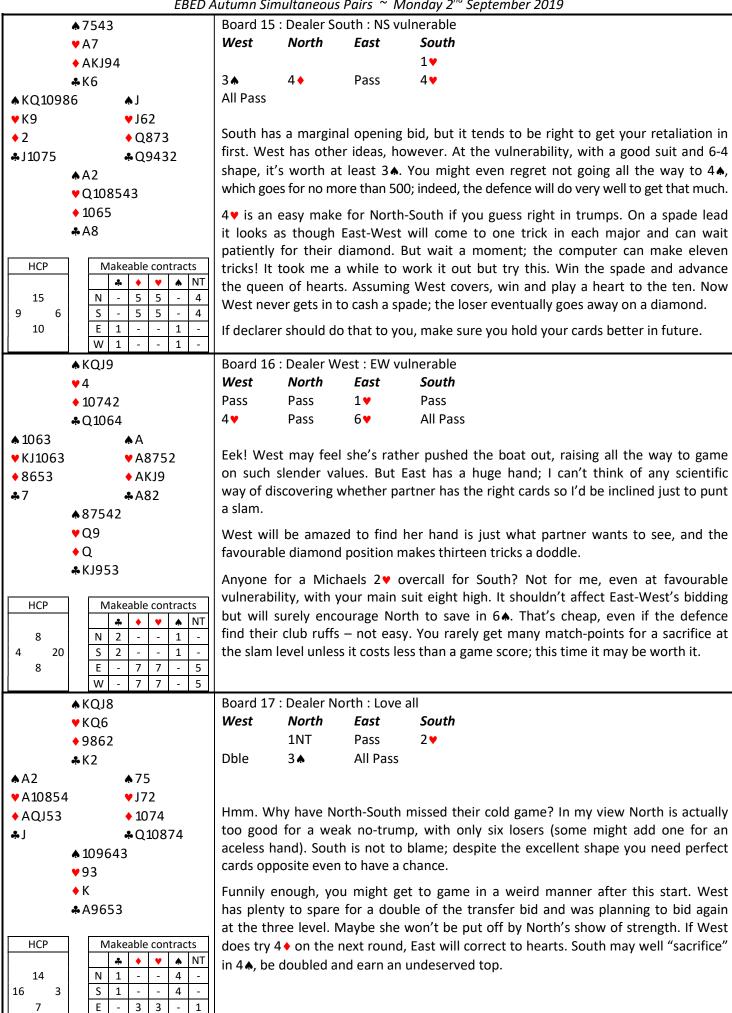
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Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all				
West	North	East	South	
		1♦	1NT	
3♦	4 🆍	All Pass		

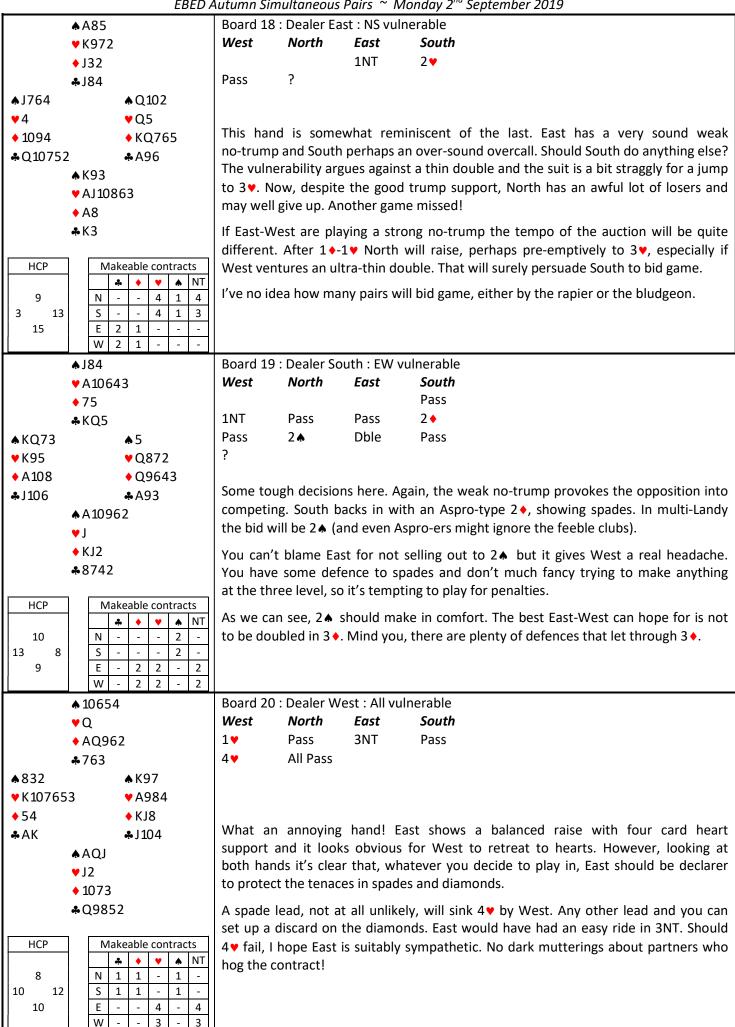
Unlike board 12, this time most players will overcall 1NT as South, despite the modest holding in the opponent's suit. West has decent support, and says so, and it's difficult to imagine North doing anything other than bidding game in spades.

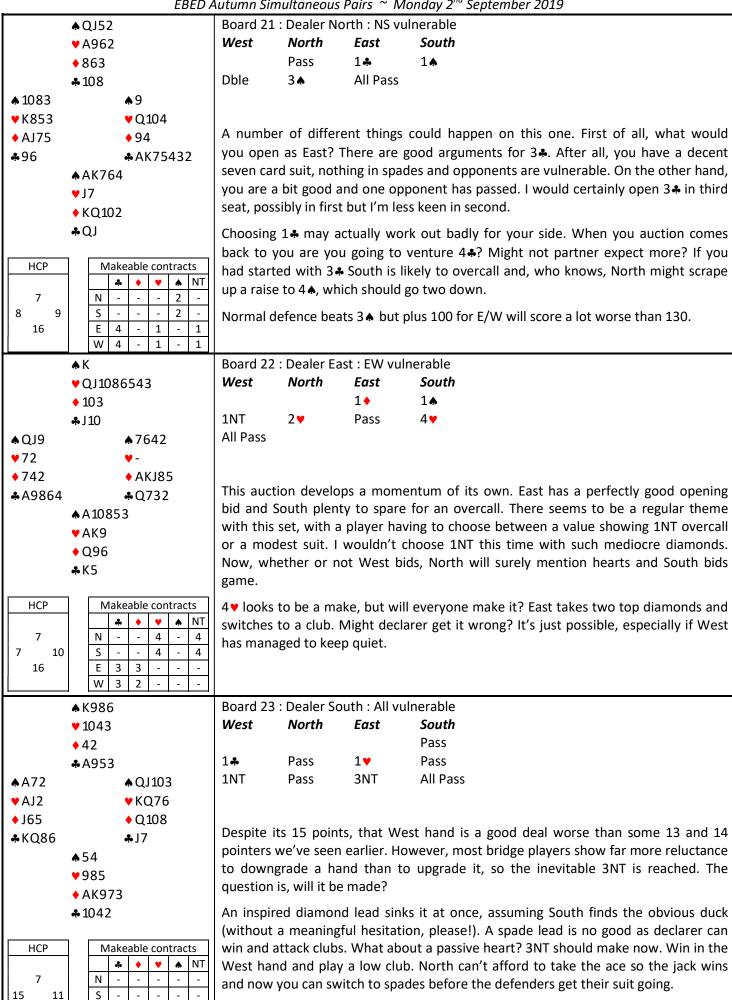
Sadly, the opponents' aggression has made it impossible to get the contract played the right way round. With East on lead the singleton heart should sink 4. You have to win, and because East has three trumps you must draw them all. When you play on clubs, East can duck the first round, leaving no parking place for the second heart loser.

Even so, the defence has to get everything right, and I suspect many Norths will be allowed to bring home 4♠.

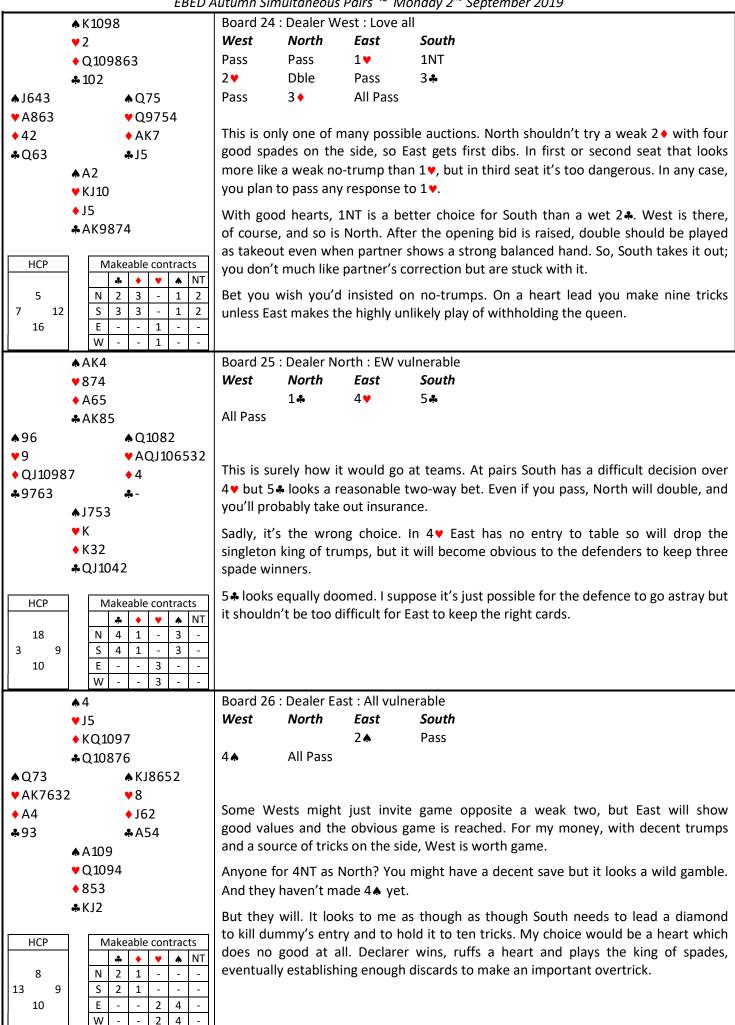


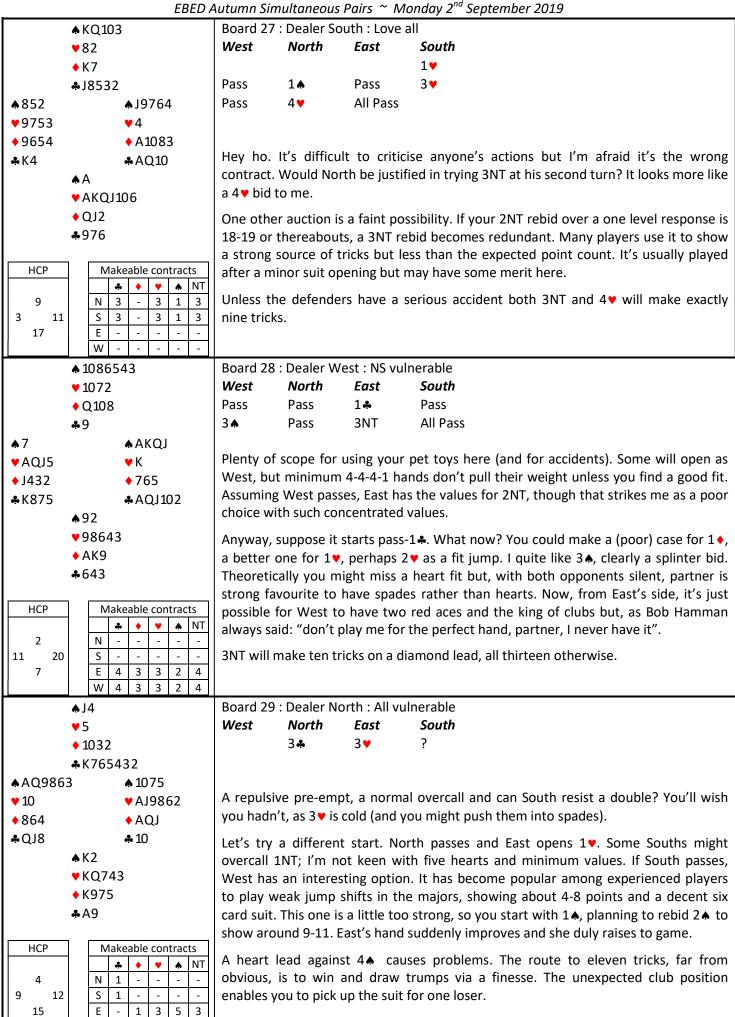
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