



Sim Pairs

Commentary by Paul Bowyer

Tuesday 14th May 2019

EBED Spring Simultaneous Pairs ~ Tuesday 14th May 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 <u>www.ebedcio.org.uk.</u> If you wish to know more about EBED or to arrange a donation/legacy in favour of the charity, please contact us via <u>richard@ebedcio.org.uk</u>

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 English Bridge Education & Development, Registered Charity No: 1153543





HCP	Makeable contracts			ts		
		÷	٠	۶	¢	NT
12	Ν	2	-	-	-	-
10 10	S	2	I	I	I	-
8	Е	-	2	1	1	1
	W	-	2	1	1	1

Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable				
West	North	East	South	
			1*	
Pass	1♠	Pass	2*	
Pass	2♥	Pass	3 💙	
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	
All Pass				

This is something of a cruel deal. North-South have two decent game contracts available to them in that 3NT and 4 are both playable spots. However, the vile 5-1 spade break wrecks 4 out of hand and the unfortunate disposition of the club suit means that 3NT can't get home either. As long as East-West keep leading diamonds North-South can make no more than two spades, three hearts, two diamonds and one club in no-trumps; they lack the tempo to get the long clubs going.

The auction is awkward as well. On the second round of bidding a jump to $3 \bigstar$ on the North cards would not be forcing, so North has to invent something. $2 \checkmark$ gets an unwelcome raise and North-South will do well to play in 3NT rather than a major.

Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable				
North	East	South		
Pass	1 🛦	Pass		
Pass	3♠	Pass		
Pass	4♦	Pass		
Pass	4NT*	Pass		
Pass	6♠	All Pass		
	Dealer West North Pass Pass Pass Pass Pass Pass	Dealer West : All vulnerNorthEastPass1 ▲Pass3 ▲Pass4 ◆Pass4NT*Pass6 ▲		

An easy slam for East-West on this hand – easy to play that is. There are seven spades, four hearts, two diamonds and a club to take for a grand total of fourteen winners. The only drawback is that the enemy have the $\forall A$ to take first...

What about the bidding? Well, many will open that piece of cheese in the Western quarter. I am not a fan of these tactics as $5\cdot 3\cdot 3\cdot 2$ hands have a lot of losers and play disappointingly, but I am well aware that I am in the minority these days. Any pair who start 1 - 1 - 2 is going to have no further problem as East is likely to launch Blackwood next. In the auction above 4, 4 and 4 are cue-bids, 4NT is Roman Key-card Blackwood and 5 shows two key cards.

Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
	1NT	All Pass			

A part-score deal where the majority of North-South pairs will surely end up in 1NT. Weak no-trumpers may start and finish the auction with their favourite toy (as in the auction above). Strong no-trumpers may bid 1 - 1 - 1NT-Pass, leading to the same contract. Variations may be if North chooses to rebid 2 -, but now West may protect with 2 - if that floats round to him.

1NT should be defeated; an initial diamond lead sets up seven defensive tricks immediately (two spades, one heart, four diamonds and an inevitable club). After a more likely low heart lead East has to switch to diamonds after he is in with the &Q. If he woodenly persists with his hearts declarer will make his contract.

1NT down one is worth 100 to East-West. If West steals the deal in 2+ he may achieve a miserable +90, although he may scramble nine tricks for a wonderful +110.

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1 -

N 3 -

S 3 -

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W - 1 -

11

11

13

5

3 1

3 1

Board 6	: Dealer Eas	st : EW vul	nerable
West	North	East	South
		1*	Pass
1♥	Pass	2*	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Dble	Pass	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

What a deal! East-West have thirteen tricks available with two top losers. I am sure that some pairs will get away with grand larceny on this one, reaching 6. by East and giving South an opening lead problem he may well not solve. With the tempting diamond sequence many Souths will lead the +10 against a punted slam, and great will be the wailing and gnashing of teeth from North. Some Wests may punt 6NT (I've seen that sort of thing often) and North will have to hide his amusement. Doubling 6NT may be unwise, though, as West may try 7. with unknown results.

The auction? Who knows? Maybe something like the above, assuming that East has an opening bid. Maybe the barking mad 1 - 6 is better – it may well work here.

Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
			1♥		
2♦	3♦*	3♠	Pass		
4♦	4 🗸	5♦	Pass		
Pass	Dble	All Pass			

A deal with many possible outcomes. With the club finesse working North-South can make $4 \forall$, losing just the A, a spade ruff and a diamond. Meanwhile East-West can manoeuvre ten tricks in diamonds, losing just one heart and two clubs. Thus, absolute par is for East-West to play in 5 doubled down one for 200 points to North-South.

Judging how the auction might go is next to impossible and I can see many Easts playing this one in spades, maybe even $4 \triangleq$ after North-South have bid $4 \P$. Much depends on what South does as dealer – Pass? $2\P$? $1\P$? And just how much East is enamoured with his spade suit. Anyone playing the hand in spades is going to get a rude shock, although maybe West wouldn't allow his partner to play it doubled.

Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all				
West	North	East	South	
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	
Pass	2 ≜ *	All Pass		

A part-score deal with North-South able to make as many as nine tricks in spades. That North hand with its ghastly spade suit and lack of intermediates is nowhere near an opening bid in my view, but that won't stop many from opening $1 \clubsuit$.

In the auction above 1NT is weak and 2 shows, in the modern style, spades and a minor. It's reasonable to do this as North is a passed hand and also is in the protective position, so South can't take him too seriously. Further, it's match-point pairs, so you can't afford to allow the opposition to steal the deal in 1NT.

If East is allowed to play in 1NT (as some will) he may be able to scramble six tricks. However, if he misguesses diamonds he may be held to five. Neither -50 nor -100 should score badly for East-West, though, as 140 to North-South should be frequently appearing on tonight's traveller.



5 5

Е

W - 5 5

10

3

3

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Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
	Pass	Pass	1		
1NT	Pass	2 * *	Pass		
2♥	Pass	4 💙	All Pass		

East-West have a paper-thin game here with $4 \forall$ just about makeable. It's likely, though, that many will not reach it, and many will fail to make game even if they do.

The auction above is one possible route to game, assuming North-South are playing a weak no-trump with four-card majors. Many Souths, however, will open 1, allowing West an easy take-out double, or a strong no-trump, probably ending the auction. If South does open 1, it is a marginal action to overcall 1NT on the West cards – pass cannot be criticised.

In 4 \forall declarer has to get the trumps right and then play up to the AQ and the AKQ. The 48 lead from North simplifies the play by allowing diamonds to be established. If you note the diamond pips you can see that the 47 now comes into the game.

Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable				
West	North	East	South	
		1♥	Pass	
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	
3♣*	Pass	3♦	Pass	
3♥	Pass	4♦	Pass	
4NT*	Pass	5 ♣ *	Pass	
6♥	All Pass			

East-West have a fair slam available on this deal with $6 \lor$ depending at first sight on a club guess. With South holding both honours there is no guess... but South can defeat the slam by leading the A and another club, giving North a ruff. Unlucky.

Still, this is a 50-50 slam, so no tears should be spilt if East-West fail to bid it. The auction above is one that might suffice to reach the slam. 3♣ is fourth-suit forcing and is game-forcing. 3♦ shows the 5-5 shape and 3♥ sets the suit. After East shows that he is willing to co-operate in a slam venture by cue-bidding his ♦A West takes over with Roman Key-card Blackwood.

Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all					
West	North	East	South		
			Pass		
1♥	Pass	2♦	Dble		
2 💙	Pass	4 💙	All Pass		

A deal where the world, his wife and the family dog would reach 4Ψ . Quite how the auctions will go is anyone's guess (just what is the right response to 1Ψ on those East cards?) but whatever the route the final destination is surely set in stone.

So, an entirely flat board across the country, then? Not at all. A lot of match-points are available on the opening lead with the natural-looking club allowing West to make all thirteen tricks at high speed (six hearts, five diamonds and two clubs). A spade lead, on the other hand allows South to grab the first two tricks and hold declarer to eleven winners.

I'm going to suggest that 510 to East-West will be the commonest score tonight with excellent match-point scores going to those inspired Norths who lead spades.









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Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all					
West	North	East	South		
Pass	1♥	Dble	4 💙		
All Pass					

An interesting deal in that East-West can make the highest scoring contract $(3 \bigstar)$ and North-South do best to bid $4 \checkmark$ and go a quiet one off. The auction above is one route to $4 \checkmark$, although there are many and varied ways the bidding might follow. I can see some West's sacrificing in $4 \bigstar$ (doubled by North) over $4 \checkmark$, expecting that it would be cheap. Well, it is – except that the sacrifice is a phantom.

4♥ has no chance – East-West don't even need to play three rounds of clubs securing a ruff. Declarer has three natural club losers and a diamond. As for 4♠ it should die of natural causes, losing two spades and two red aces. Unless, that is, North gets it into his head to kick off with ace and another trump... (!)

Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable				
West	North	East	South	
	3♥	3NT?	All Pass	

This could prove to be an unhappy board for East-West. Surely every North will open 3♥ with that North hand and now what do you do as East? As the cards lie it's best to pass, leaving South to pass and for North to rack up a relatively trouble-free nine tricks, losing two spades and two red aces.

However, red-blooded Easts may well try their luck with 3NT, playing to be able to shut North out of the play and hoping that the missing points lie as much with West as they do with South. Nope, West is a near desert and, after a heart lead, 3NT can get marmalised.

It is possible for South to muck up the defence, though; having led his heart he may well funk leading from the A. Nonetheless, it's hard to see East making much beyond, say, six tricks. If South has doubled 3NT the cost will be 800 or so.

Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable				
West	North	East	South	
		Pass	Pass	
3 💙	All Pass			

Well, this is a tough hand, I have to say. East-West can make $4 \triangleq$ taking advantage of the friendly splits in the majors. Are they likely to reach it? No, not really. After two passes it looks more logical for West to attempt to throw a spanner in the works with a pre-emptive $3 \clubsuit$ than to open with an attenuated $1 \clubsuit$. The pre-empt is likely to scoop the pool and record a score of 140 points, losing a trick in each suit.

East-West might reach the marginal spade game if East were to open 2 (Lucas style, showing a weak hand with spades and a minor). Now West would raise to 4 and Bob's your uncle. Other than that, I can't see too many East-West pairs getting spades into the game. We shall see...



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♥ AK108
◆ AQ53
♣ Q72

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VQ9762

N 2 1 3

S 1 1 3

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W

♥KQJ7632 ♦Q105 ♣5

▲104

♦ 942
♣ 10643

▲Q932

♦K1086

♣AKJ9

Makeable contracts

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♥A105

♦ J42

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W 2 - - 1

Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all					
West	North	East	South		
			Pass		
Pass	2♥*	Pass	3♣*		
Pass	3♦	All Pass			

After South asses as dealer do you open that piece of junk in the West seat? A $5\cdot 3\cdot 3\cdot 2$ hand containing a brace of unsupported jacks is not my idea of an opening bid as it has far too many losers, but many will doubtless count up to 11 points, close their eyes and enter the fray with 1. After that, who knows? If East-West's methods allow them to stop at a low level they may survive. *Deep Finesse* says that 1.4 is the limit on the East-West cards, but 2.4 is likely to be made in practice as the defence will find it all but impossible to untangle their tricks. 3.4, though, has no chance.

The auction above is a fanciful one based on North-South playing Lucas twos (cf Hand 26). North's 2♥ shows hearts and a minor, South's 3♣ is pass or correct and 3♦ reaches the optimum spot. Unlikely, I realise, but what else is there to say about a deal where the rightful bidding is Pass–Pass–Pass–Pass?

Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable				
West	North	East	South	
2♦	All Pass			

A part-score deal with East-West able to make nine tricks in either minor. Maybe the quickest auction will be where West opens with a weak 2 and scoops the pool. South might protect with a take-out double, but 2 does not play well for his side, despite the 4-4 fit, especially after East leads a diamond.

Note that *Deep Finesse* says that East can make 3NT. Well, maybe. After a spade lead from South (generating two spade tricks for declarer) East has to play a diamond to the jack, hoping that diamonds are 3-2 and that South has two honours. Not a great chance. If, instead, he plays for clubs to be 3-3 (a better chance in theory) he will lose two spades, two clubs and a diamond. Not that East-West should be anywhere near 3NT, but we have all seen such contracts on the travelling scoresheet.

Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable				
West	North	East	South	
	1♦	Dble	1♥	
Pass	1NT	All Pass		

Another part-score deal with North likely to win it in 1NT. Some pairs may get there directly by open 1NT (strong version), others may get there after North opens 1 and East makes a perfectly respectable take-out double.

North cannot be prevented from making eight tricks in no-trumps. After East leads clubs (probably best to start with the A K and another) declarer always has three hearts, four diamonds and a club. East must be careful to cash out his five tricks quickly or he may be squeezed in the majors for the second overtrick.

South, by the way, can be held to seven tricks in 1NT if West sees fit to lead a spade. The defence can now take three spades, a diamond and two clubs, holding the contract tight.

