EBED



Sim Pairs

Commentary by John Williams

Thursday 5th 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

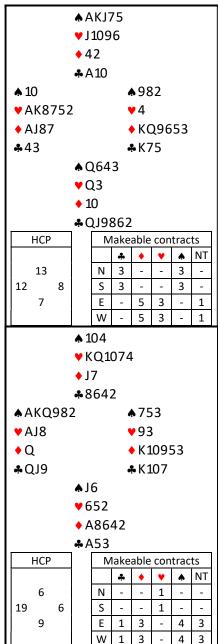
Do please encourage your friends to come to play in these events which are open to all and raise vital funds for our work.

We thank you so much for your support!

Donna Wright

Chief Executive

English Bridge Education & Development, Registered Charity No: 1153543



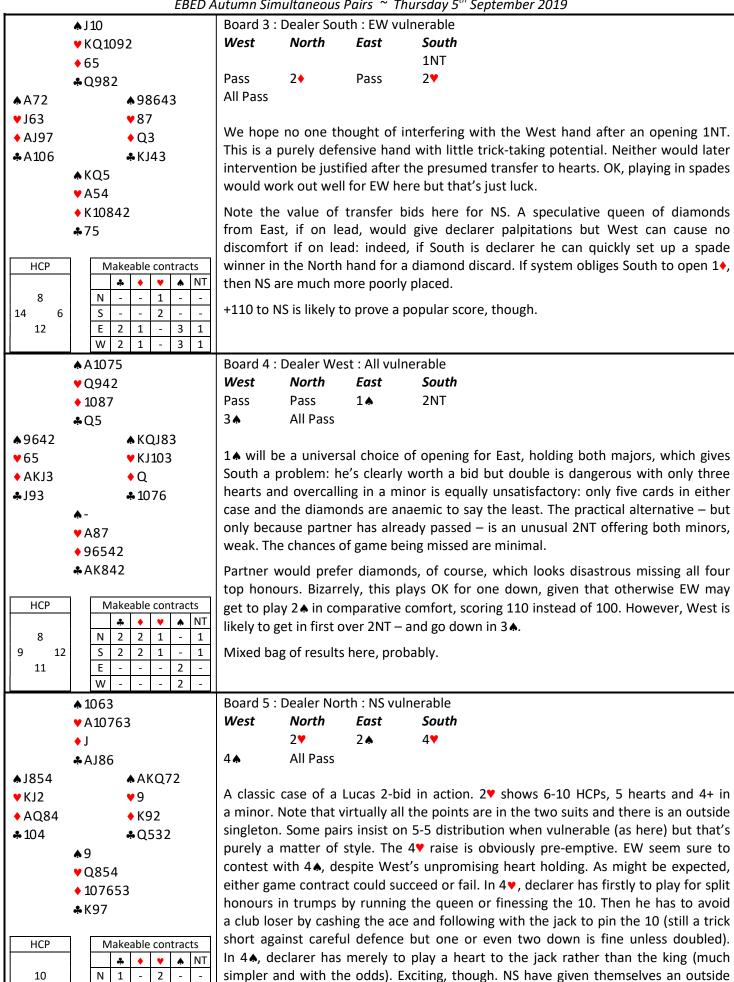
Board 1	all		
West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	2♠
3♥	All Pass		

What a dramatic start to the set! It all comes down to whether East is man or mouse. A pass over 1♠ cannot be criticised, 2♠ is short of the necessary playing strength but a weak jump overcall of 3♠ can't be criticised either, if that's what you fancy. It could be a disaster or — as here - a triumph... It wouldn't be much of a stretch for West to leap all the way to game and with king of clubs well placed, eleven tricks are trivial. As for NS, they just need to be careful to avoid giving the opposition any second chances. However, a sacrifice over 5♠ (but not 4♥!) would save some points. That apart, second prize for EW is 3♥ making for +140. Again, there's no skill required in the play, with just two trumps, a spade and a club to lose.

+140 to EW will figure strongly on the traveller but +400 will be a rare triumph, as will +300. Well done to those brave souls who achieve either.

Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable						
West	North	East	South			
		Pass	Pass			
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass			
4♠	All Pass					

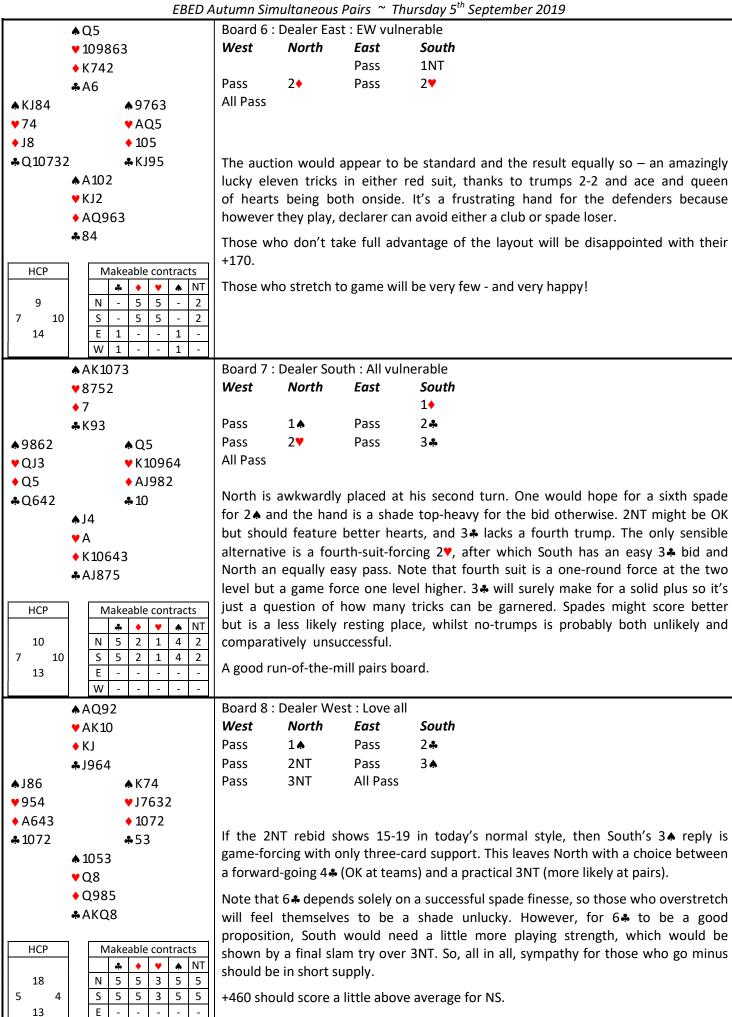
East has a clear choice between 1NT and 2 in response to partner's opening and neither is perfect. One always likes to hold 4-card support to raise partner directly, whilst 1NT risks wrong-siding any no-trump contract. The argument in favour of 2 is that partner should always be aware of possible 3-card support, plus you at least offer a ruffing value in hearts. 1NT also leaves partner with a rebid problem: 3 would be a distinct underbid, 4 a possible slight risk if opposite singleton or void, and 3NT equally risky with a singleton diamond. The answer would be to manufacture a game-forcing 3 rebid: again, partner should always be aware that this is a possible option when the rebid is in a minor. 3NT would be a distinctly lucky make after a heart lead, with both missing aces in the South hand, meaning that two hold-ups would serve. 4 is solid by contrast, and scores better anyway. Most will get this hand right, one way or another.



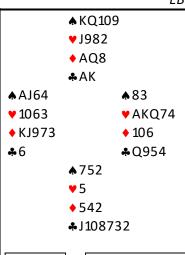
chance of a huge result by bidding 4♥ and need only to avoid a 500 loss.

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				*	•	>	٨	NT
19 9 11 1		Ν	2	ı	1	1	1	
		S	2	-	-	-		
	1		Е	-	-	2	-	1
			W	-	-	2	-	1

Board 9: Dealer North: EW vulnerable West North East All Pass 1♥

Every so often, good bridge practice turns round and hits you in the face.

South

Why is it important to open 1♥ here and not 1♠? Simply because opening 1♠ is likely to lose the heart suit (to rebid 2♥ after a 1♠ opening would promise a 5-card spade suit). The converse, opening 1♥ and then supporting spades without promising five hearts, is acceptable and normal for the simple reason that this does NOT risk losing the spade suit. It's all quite logical, if you think about it. West should bear in mind that partner could have overcalled and hasn't, which is a good reason for staying quiet. Any declarer going down in 1♥ is going to feel foolish and frustrated. Such is life. The consolation is that he is unlikely to be alone. In addition to that, the only makeable contract for NS (2*) is completely unreachable. So, the traveller will have a strange look about it. Lots of multiples of 50 in the minus column for the great majority of NS pairs.

♠A63 **♥**Q42 ♦ AKQ4 **\$**1052 **♠** K72 **↑** 1054 ♥A85 **♥**K1073 **109865 ♦** J73 **♣**64 ♣AK9 **♠** QJ98 **♥**J96 **•** 2 **♣**QJ873

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N	Makeable contracts						
	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT						
Ν	3	-	1	2	2		
S	3	-	1	2	2		
Ε	-	-	-	-	-		
W	-	-	-	ı	-		

Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable						
West	North	East	South			
		Pass	Pass			
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠			
Pass	1NT	All Pass				

If North chooses to raise spades rather than rebid 1NT (influenced perhaps by his poor clubs) he will be in a makeable contract producing +110, probably. However, the usual and most justifiable reason for raising partner's suit with three cards is that a ruff is obtainable in the hand with short trumps - not the case here.

The only question is whether, after a 1NT rebid, South should attempt to play in clubs. This is not recommended since a 24 bid might tempt partner to assume five spades opposite. Furthermore, the 1NT bidder, as here, might well be well stocked in diamonds, and no-trumps tend to score appreciably more per trick than clubs.

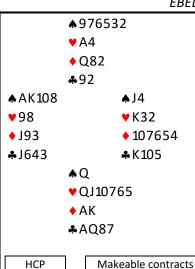
+120 in no-trumps, the most likely result, is also the most likely good score. Simples!

	- −						
	♥AQ976	♥AQ976					
	♦ A6						
	♣AK108	62					
▲ 10976		♠AQJ532					
v 8		v 103					
♦ J82		♦ 1 0974					
♣ QJ974		4 5					
	♦ K84						
	♥ KJ542						
	♦ KQ53						
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HCP		N	lake	able	con	trac	ts
			•	•	>	•	ΝT
17		N	4	5	7	-	5
. 7		S	4	5	7	-	5
12		Ε	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	1	-

Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all							
West	North	East	South				
			1♥				
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥				
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT				
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦				
Pass	6♣	Pass	7♥				
All Pass							

A simple exercise in slam bidding. 3 ♠ is a splinter bid (some would use 3NT as a void splinter, therefore 3♠ promises a singleton loser in spades, but let's not get into such niceties). 4♥ is a clear sign-off. 4♠ confirms a void spade. 4NT is RKCB and 5♣ promises 0 or 3 of the five aces. 5♦ asks for the queen of trumps and 6♣ shows that card plus king of clubs. South now knows enough about key cards to bid the grand. Of course, North could embark on a quite different (and simpler) sequence by forcing in clubs initially before supporting hearts, then taking control: 1♥-3♣-3♦-3♥-4♥-5♣-5♦-7♥. Every experienced pairing would expect to bid the grand here. If you happen to miss it, please don't argue about fault but take the opportunity to discuss good methods for the future!



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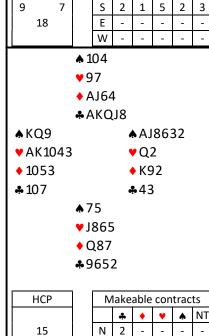
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NT

Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable						
West	North	East	South			
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥			
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♥			
Pass	4♥	All Pass				

This is difficult. South would like to game-force when his spade queen is improved by partner's initial response but he's probably a tad short for that: the game force rebid would be 3. presumably but the suit isn't great and there aren't quite enough quick tricks overall to justify the action. 3♥ is equally a shade of an underbid but, especially at pairs, it usually pays to be circumspect.

North now needs to take up the slack but he can justify a jump to game because ace and another trump is a strong holding, there is a likely ruffing value in clubs and queen of diamonds might prove helpful (and how!). Altogether more pairs will reach game than fail to do so and will be rewarded with an overtrick, thanks to the winning club finesse. If you do miss game, though, don't fret.... You've been thoughtful and on another day, might have scored very well.



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Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable							
West	North	East	South				
	1♣	1♠	Pass				
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass				
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass				

A delicate auction with an uncertain outcome. West's change of suit at the two level is usually played as natural and encouraging (2. is an obvious alternative but fails to bring two suits into focus. East is certainly encouraged by the evidence of a double fit of sorts and the king of diamonds figures to be well placed, but caution dictates a measured response (perhaps wrongly?). West does well to still invite game in spades (hopefully East has kept in tempo to avoid any later intrusion by the TD) and game should then be reached. Of course, West may prefer to jump to game in spades directly over 2. Any who reach 4. (marginally superior to 4♥?) are to be congratulated. Those who fall short shouldn't beat themselves up. Maybe half the field will get there and the need for a good board may come into play. +620 is likely to be comfortably above average.

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	٨K	J95	52				
	* A	53					
	♦ C	J7					
	. 9	7					
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♥ KQ876			•	J 1	094	2	
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	^	Q8	74				
	y -						
	♦ K	9					
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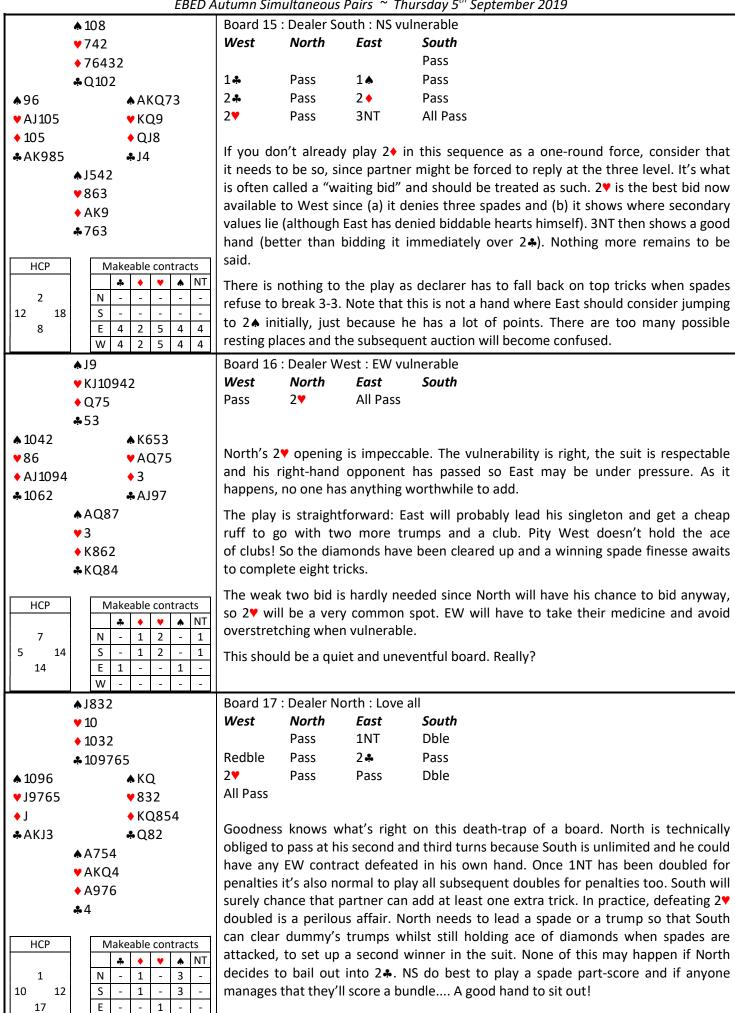
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Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all						
West	North	East	South			
		1♥	1♠			
3♥	3♠	Pass	4♠			
All Pass						

Most would agree that East is worth an opening bid, despite his poor suit, and 3♥ by partner represents a perfect pre-emptive raise (2♠ would show a value raise to the three level). North is caught betwixt and between: with a stronger hand he could cue-bid 4♥, agreeing spades; as it is, he needs to choose between 3♠ and 4♠. There are two possible reasons for going to game: (1) you have at least a 10-card fit, which suggests a 10-trick contract (called "bidding to the level of the fit"); (2) another rule of thumb which might apply here is – if you think you're likely to bid again after your 3♠ and their 4♥, go the whole way straight away. South might overcall 2.4 in the first place but might equally be deterred by the problem of then having to bid spades twice to show five. NS's methods may allow South to employ a 2 Ghestem overcall (any strength), in which case North has the same guess to make. Bidding game here is likely to be a more universal action than on the previous board. If both sides get both boards right, well done all round!

EBED Autumn Simultaneous Pairs ~ Thursday 5th September 2019

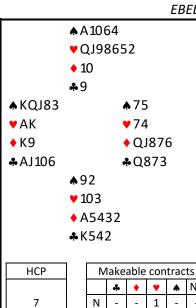


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Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable						
West	North	East	South			
		Pass	Pass			
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass			

Whoever sits out board 17 may well sit out 18 as well – and breathe a sigh of relief. Otherwise, North will have to decide whether to risk 3♥ over 2NT – a fair enough shot when non-vulnerable against vulnerable but this is the other way round. Some brave souls won't be deterred, however, and will suffer a sure minus score (provided the defenders remember to avoid allowing a spade ruff in dummy). This will feel bad but only if they lose 500. Otherwise, just look what happens when West wins the opening heart lead and places king of spades on the table. North can take the first or second round of spades before clearing the hearts. Declarer then takes his spade queen if necessary before laying down king of diamonds. South can take his ace whenever he likes after declarer overtakes the 9 with the jack but declarer will always end in dummy whenever diamonds are exhausted, to pick up the entire club suit by leading the queen, unblocking the 10 when South ducks, and pinning the 9. Eleven tricks, no less! However, this is all double dummy and MAY not be found at every table! What do you think? (I know the answer to that!)

	1 11 1 1 1
	♦ AJ7432
	♥ A8
	◆J9764
	 -
♠ Q5	♠ 10986
♥ 643	♥ KQ9
♦ K532	♦ AQ
♣ A954	. KQJ6
	♠ K
	♥ J10752
	◆ 108
	4 108732

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Board 19	: Dealer So	outh : EW v	vulnerable
West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1♠	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

A 1NT overcall typically promises 15-17(18) HCPs and the usual game invitation when partner holds two suits is a range enquiry of 2♠. Here 3♣ then promises 16+ points, a club suit and possibly a higher-ranking second suit. Reaching 3NT is clear-cut. What is less clear-cut is how to approach the play. A spade lead is likely so there are only two further stops to worry about, and South has to switch. The only danger is enjoying your spade winner whilst North still holds ace of hearts. However, the bidding has marked North with that card so an immediate attack on hearts is best by leading the suit from dummy twice. In the absence of an original spade lead there is the small chance of a swindle by crossing to ace of clubs and leading a low spade off dummy. Would North decide to rush in with the ace and switch to hearts? Probably not, but stranger things have happened! All in all, however, this looks like a near-universal +600 to EW.

	1101			Wakeable contracts					
					*	•	>	٨	NT
	10			Ζ	ı	1	ı	1	1
9		17		S	-	-	-	1	-
	4			Ε	3	-	-	-	3
				W	3	ı	•	•	3
♠K7543									

Makeable contracts

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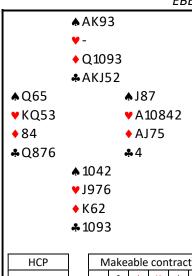
Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass		

98 ♦ A72 **♣**J754 **AQJ86 ♠**92 **♥**Q9 ♥K107654 ♦Q64 **♦** J 109 **♣**A63 **♣**K2 **1**0 **♥**AJ32 ♦ K853 ♣Q1098

The auction will be common-place, leaving East wishing there had been a route to 2♥. The only possible one is for West to manufacture a 2♣ or 2♦ rebid, then trust partner to hold six hearts for his next bid. This is all a bit far-fetched so the usual battle for tricks in no-trumps will probably ensue. A chancy heart to the 9 gains nothing on this lay-out, but declarer will still play on hearts, losing two of them. The worst scenario to avoid is to also lose two clubs, two diamonds and a spade. The chances of taking four heart tricks are slim, so who knows?

HCP Makeable contracts 2 1 15 7 S 2 1 10 Ε

There will be many variations in the play and it's impossible to envisage all the possible outcomes. Suffice it to say that there will be a mix of scores to EW ranging from -50 to +120. The big favourite is +90.



Makeable contracts						
♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT						
Ν	თ	თ	ı	თ	2	
S	3	3	-	3	2	
Ε	-	-	2	-	-	
14/			1			

Board 21: Dealer North: NS vulnerable West North East South 1. 1♥ Pass Dble Pass Pass 2 * 2 🔻 Dble **Pass** 3♣ 3♥ All Pass

West clearly has a heart raise but is betwixt and between. 3♥ might suggest better shape and fewer points and 2♥ is an underbid, so an unassuming cue-bid, asking how good partner's overcall is, fits the bill. North's double could be taken as (a) a good hand, (b) good clubs or (c) take-out of hearts, or, as here, all three at once. East's next bid is unclear and may well depend on partnership agreement: in isolation, pass must be beyond reproach because he doesn't want to advance any particular opinion. West is right to give a simple heart raise and now North's doubling message is clear – a strong take-out. South has an obvious 3♣ bid and West is left with a nasty choice between pass and 3♥: he has a decent defensive hand, after all. As it happens, the winning choice is 3♥, assuming North would make 3♣, but no blame should be attached to a pass. I hope all this makes sense....

	♥ J765				
	♦J10832				
	4 6				
♠ AK6	♦ J853				
♥ Q9	♥ AK84				
♦Q654	◆ AK9				
♣A542	4 108				
	♦ 972				
	♥ 1032				
	♦ 7				
	♣ K∩1973				

♠ Q104

17 9

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	♦ J853
	♥ AK84
4	◆ AK9
2	4 108
	♦ 972
	v 1032
	♦ 7
	♣ KQJ973

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4			N	-	-	-	-	-
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6			Е	2	5	5	5	5
			W	2	5	5	5	5

AQ1094 ♥Q98 ♦ A32 **♣**J2 **♠** K32 86 **♥**65 ♥AK102 ♦ K1086 ♦ QJ974 ♣A1097 **4**43 **♠**J75 **♥**J743

♦ 5

♣KQ865

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	Makeable contracts								
		♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT							
ĺ	N	2	-	2	3	-			
	S	2	-	2	3	-			
	Ε	-	3	-	-	-			
	W	-	3	-	-	-			

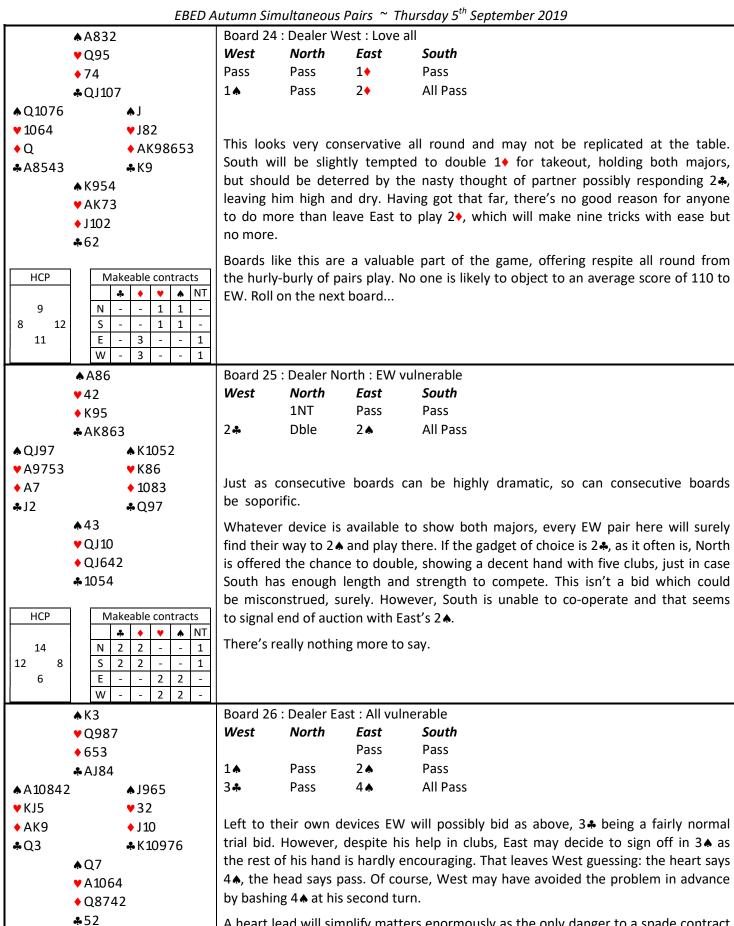
Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
		1♥	Pass		
2♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass		

Difficult! If a 3NT rebid promises a balanced 15-17 and a 2NT rebid an open-ended 15-19, as previously suggested, then 3NT looks right: the snag is that it also suggests no further interest in the majors and there is a 4-card spade suit as yet unmentioned. However, the suit is poor and it may be more important to limit the hand immediately. That certainly works well here.

Anything higher than 3NT is dangerous, particularly after the obvious club lead. Winning the second round is revealing but suggests that other suits are unlikely to break kindly. And so it proves. There are limited options in the play, the best being to put North on lead to cash two diamonds, throwing two spades from hand and a club from dummy. The best North can do then is exit with a small heart, having discarded one earlier, but he might try a low spade. You never know. Nine tricks? Ten tricks? Double-dummy freaks will enjoy working out how eleven are possible. Not me!

Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
			Pass		
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠		
All Pass					

Raising partner's spades with only 3-card support is always more comfortable when it's remembered that a 1 \(\text{opening promises either five spades or 15+ points.} \) Here it's a clear-cut choice anyway. Some players these days always then raise to 3 , by no means an invitation (that would be shown by a trial bid in another denomination) but as a barrage to discourage EW from backing into the auction safely. Note that here East might risk a T.O. double over 2♠, despite the vulnerability, in the hope of playing in hearts or diamonds. This isn't as risky as it looks because partner is marked with some values. It's justified here in that EW can actually take nine tricks in diamonds. It's also pointless in that North will usually push on to 3♠ and make it. But you never know – and it's good to be aware of the opportunities these manoeuvres can create.



trial bid. However, despite his help in clubs, East may decide to sign off in 3 ♠ as the rest of his hand is hardly encouraging. That leaves West guessing: the heart says 4 , the head says pass. Of course, West may have avoided the problem in advance

A heart lead will simplify matters enormously as the only danger to a spade contract (given the kindly trump break) is a mis-guess in hearts. A diamond lead would be possible, given that all alternatives are risky) and equally helpful. A 4 contract is 50%: it may or may not be bid and may or may not be made. The odds slightly favour ten tricks being made, so +620 will be well above average, +170 somewhat below and anything else poor.

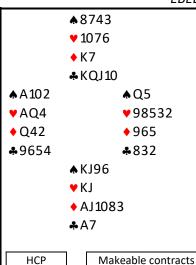
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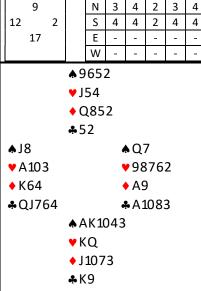
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Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all					
West	North	East	South		
			1♦		
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠		
Pass	4♠	All Pass			

Raising trumps on four small is not an inviting prospect but then neither is the alternative of 1NT, with the heart suit so exposed to attack. When South raises spades to the three level, North has no particular reason to suggest 3NT as an alternative spot, possibly exchanging the frying pan for the fire, so 4 by North will be the popular choice — and an unlucky one if East finds a heart nearest his thumb.

In the unlikely event that South gets to play 4, he will encounter two inescapable spade losers but no damaging heart opening lead, so he has only to lead trumps from dummy twice to prevail. As it happens, 3NT is a lucky second prize because the ten of hearts provides a stop and there is no entry to the long hearts in East's hand. -50 in 4, will probably be close to average, with +420 a fortunate top and +400 a rare second prize.



Makeable contracts

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Makeable contracts

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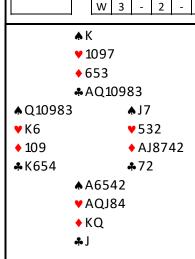
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Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠		
Pass	Pass	2♥	2♠		
3♥	All Pass				

This is a knife-edge pairs auction. East's hearts are not good enough for a light opening at his first turn but the situation is different when 1♠ comes round, making 2♥ a reasonable shot, non-vulnerable. South may risk 2♠ (though he'd like a sixth card in the suit) and West will probably try 3♥. That's awkward for North, with four trumps to offer partner, plus a smattering of points. On the other hand, persisting with 2♠ (if that's what he did) wasn't the strongest action partner could have taken. There may be a small plus score from defending 3♥ but doubling it is not really an option. On the other hand, 3♠ might or might not make and minus scores on hands like these can be ruinous. The defence has three chances against 3♠, ie lead the ace of hearts and, when invited to switch, try a diamond or a club. If a diamond it's bingo, if a club it had better be the queen, leaving partner little choice but to win and try ace and another diamond: then a diamond ruff is again the only option. Bingo again! Meanwhile, those who defend 3♥ have an easier route to follow.



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Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
	Pass	Pass	1♠		
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥		
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦		
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥		
All Pass					

North will feel more comfortable having passed originally before bidding clubs at the 2-level. South's 2♥ is a one-round force and 3♣ is to play. However, South can force to game with fourth-suit at the three level, then raise hearts to game with some confidence.

There are no problems in the play provided declarer adopts the simple line of ruffing spades in dummy. Results will vary between ten and eleven tricks, ten being favourite. A well-controlled auction with no need for chancy leaps, is what makes for success here.

