



The Irish Bridge Union Autumn Simultaneous Pairs

Monday 4th November 2019

Session Number : 4617

Commentary by Paul Delaney

I hope you -and your partner- enjoyed the hands this evening and will agree, a little at any rate, with our commentators. We are fortunate to have Paul Delaney and Brian Senior to nudge us in a better direction next time. Our thanks to them and of course, thanks to you for participating in our annual Pairs Competition.

Being affiliated to an NIBU and/or CBAI club confers on one automatic membership of the IBU. Over the years the Irish Bridge Union has fostered and developed Schools, Under 21s and Under 25s Bridge playing while all the time coaching players to participate at the highest level in European and World Championships.

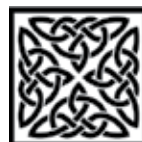
Naturally the work of the IBU Confederation requires finance, your participation in this competition is a great help in this regard.

Likewise taking part in our other events aids revenue, these competitions include;

- ◆ Inter-Regionals
- ◆ Inter County Teams Championships – O'Connor and Burke Trophies
- ◆ I B U Seniors Congress
- ◆ All Ireland Pairs Championship – Moylan Trophy
- ◆ All Ireland Teams Championship – Egan Trophy
- ◆ All Ireland Club Pairs – Intermediate & Novice
- ◆ All Ireland Club Pairs – Master grade

Again, many thanks for your support,

Jim O'Sullivan
I B U President



Board 1. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

♠ A K 10 8 7 4
 ♥ A K 9
 ♦ 8 3
 ♣ 6 4

♠ Q 5
 ♥ Q J 7 6 2
 ♦ K 5
 ♣ K 9 8 7

♠ J 6 3
 ♥ 8 5 4 3
 ♦ J 10 9 6
 ♣ 10 3

After 1♠ from North and 2 passes West bids 2♦. Now Norths 2♠ rebid robs vital bidding space from East. Now E/W do well to find their club fit but will frequently overreach to 5♣ which has 3 top losers. A Law hand with 18 combined trumps (N/S 9 spades, E/W 9 clubs) and 18 total tricks with both 2♠ N/S and 4♣ E/W making

Winning Tip: Use the 'Law of Total Tricks' to guide your competitive bidding.

Board 2. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

♠ K 9 6 5
 ♥ Q 7 6
 ♦ 7 3
 ♣ 8 5 4 3

♠ A Q J 4
 ♥ 9 8 5 4 3 2
 ♦ 8
 ♣ Q 6

♠ 8
 ♥ A J 10
 ♦ A Q 6 5 4
 ♣ A K J 2

A hand where caution is rewarded. After Souths 1♦ opening a pass by North is the winning action leading to a making club or NT partscore for N/S. Playing 5 card majors a 1♠ response by North is reasonable with the unkind lie of the cards leading to 3NT down 1 or 2.

Winning Tip: Stay low on misfit hands in pairs.

Board 3. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

♠ 10 7 4 3 2
 ♥ A K 9 5
 ♦ 7 6 5
 ♣ J

♠ A
 ♥ J
 ♦ A K Q 4
 ♣ A 10 8 7 6 4 2

♠ Q J 9 8 5
 ♥ Q 8 7 6 3
 ♦ J
 ♣ 9 5

♠ K 6
 ♥ 10 4 2
 ♦ 10 9 8 3 2
 ♣ K Q 3

After 3 passes East bids 1♣ and West responds 1♠. East can now show extra values with either a 3♣ jump rebid or a 2♦ reverse. Both bids will have their supporters but rebidding the 7 card club suit is the most descriptive action. The 3♣ rebid will be passed for a top score.

After a reverse E/W may stumble into game with both 3NT and 5♣ contracts failing on the 3-1 club break.

Winning Tip: Treat 74 hands as a single suiter

Board 4. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

♠ 7 4
 ♥ A K Q 8 4
 ♦ K 8 4
 ♣ Q 10 2

♠ J 5
 ♥ J 10 5 3
 ♦ 10 6 5
 ♣ K 6 4 3

♠ A K 10 9 6 2
 ♥ 6
 ♦ 3 2
 ♣ A 9 7 5

♠ Q 8 3
 ♥ 9 7 2
 ♦ A Q J 9 7
 ♣ J 8

3NT by South scores a lovely +600 if the soft spade stop and quick diamond tricks are appreciated. Otherwise 3♥/4♥ contracts will usually fail. The Double Dummy analysis sheet picks up the 4-1 trumps. Should you show similar flair to lose no hearts if East shows 6+ spades in the auction?

Winning Tip: Consider playing for a bad trump break when one opponent shows a 6+ card suit.

Board 5. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S

♠ K 5
 ♥ Q 9 3
 ♦ 10 8 2
 ♣ A K 6 5 2

♠ 9
 ♥ A J 4 2
 ♦ K Q 7 5
 ♣ J 10 8 4

♠ Q 7 6 4
 ♥ 5
 ♦ A J 6 4 3
 ♣ Q 9 7

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

A weak NT opening by North may well silence E/W who can make 3♦. That leaves South free to explore for a major fit and invite game. The 4-1 major breaks doom 4♥/4♠ but 3♥/3♠ will make with some care. The strong NT'ers will attract lively diamond competition. Punishing an exuberant 4♦-1 is the big winner for N/S.

Winning Tip: Consider a 'pairs double' when vulnerable opponents try to rob you of your making part score.

Board 6. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

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

A risky vulnerable 3♦ opening by East is rewarded and will push North into a failing 4♥. If East passes then N/S may well stop in a making 3♥ with 3♦ for E/W making 9/10 tricks.

Winning Tip: 'No one will always do the right thing after a preempt' Mike Lawrence.

Board 7. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

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

After a strong NT by North East will bid 2♠ or a bid showing spades/minor. On this hand 2♠ is one of the few making contracts.

When North opens 1♦ East overcalls 1♠. Now South should pass with a minimum, no shape and 3 small spades. If North declares INT they will have an unhappy time and concede -200 for a poor score.

Winning Tip: After an overcall on your right a holding of xxx in the overcalled suit is a warning sign.

Board 8. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

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

After East opens 1♦ South will overcall 1♥. West bids 2♦ and now North should bid 2♠. An enterprising E/W pair will compete to 3♦ when South does best to defend.

A Tartan style 2♠ opening by North showing spades and a minor with 6-10 points also gets to the top spot and will apply pressure to everyone including partner.

Winning Tip: When holding a good hand with no fit play in the weaker hands suit.

Board 9. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

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

After a 1♣ opening by South a 1♥ vulnerable overcall by West on a Jack high suit will not be to everyone's taste. Most experts will hold their nose and bid 1♥. A low level bid is the safest entry point. Now 2♦ by East enables E/W to compete to 3♦. North South make 3♣ (or 4♣ if they get every card right).

Winning Tip: After partner overalls bid a new suit as constructive but non-forcing.

Board 10. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

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

The standard 1♦ opening by East allows N/S to compete in the majors starting with a 1♠ overcall. Now North will bid 2♦ an Unassuming Cue Bid (UCB) to check on game prospects and settle in 3♣ when East bids 3♦ and South passes. If East persists and bids 4♦ N/S will accept the push to game. 4♣ will make unless E/W arrange a trump promotion for the 9♣.

Winning Tip: Use the UCB after partner overalls with 10+ pts and 3+ card support or 13+ pts without support.

Board 11. Dealer South. Vulnerability None

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

After 2 passes North opens 1♣ and should rebid 2NT showing 18-19pts (my recommendation). Checkback 3♣/3♦ now locates the 4-4 spade fit and 12 tricks are comfortable. Many pairs playing weak NT will rebid 3NT with the North hand showing their 19pts, this will miss the spade fit and get a poor result.

Winning Tip: Playing weak NT rebid INT with 15-17 and jump to 2NT with 18-19.

Board 12. Dealer West. Vulnerability N/S

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

After a strong NT opening South plays 3NT on the King clubs lead. Now South should make 10 tricks with the Queen spades onside.

Playing weak NT North will play 3NT with East on lead. The top of nothing 7 of clubs will secure 4 tricks for the defence. The normal major suit lead will likely lead to +630 for N/S.

Winning Tip: Passive top of nothing leads are a frequent winner against 3NT.

Board 13. Dealer North. Vulnerability All

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

A quiet 4♥ or 4♠ missing 2 aces making 11 tricks you might think. After 1♥ - 1♠ - 2♠ South can play in either hearts or spades. The 4-4 fit frequently plays a trick better than the 5-3 fit due to the ability to discard losers on the 5 card heart suit. In 4♣ when West gets in with the Ace spades they must cash the Ace clubs immediately or lose it.

Winning Tip: If declarer has a long side suit which will provide discards cash your winners early.

Board 14. Dealer East. Vulnerability None

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

West has a 3 loser hand but is destined to lose a lot more than 3 tricks playing in spades or clubs. After East opens 2♥ (my own preference) now West should bid 2♠ forcing to check on spade support. East's will reply 3♦ or 3♥. The West cards will be useful for East in a 4♥ contract whereas East's cards will be of little help to West in 3NT/4♠. So West bids 4♥ to close the auction.

4♥-1 will be a great result with many E/W pairs trading horror stories in other contracts.

Winning Tip: Stop bidding when a misfit is evident and play in the weaker hands suit if possible.

Board 15. Dealer South. Vulnerability N/S

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

Do you double a strong NT for penalties? This is a rare example. South will run to 2♣ and West will then bid and make 2♠+1.

Consider playing the Woolsey takeout double of a strong NT showing 10+ pts and either a 6 card minor or 5minor/4major hand. By keeping the point count at 10+ your partner can then convert the

double to penalties if they hold a good hand. Otherwise they bid 2♣ (for minor) or 2♦ (for major).

Winning Tip: don't double the strong NT for penalties – find a conventional use for the double instead.

Board 16. Dealer West. Vulnerability E/W

<p>♠ K Q 8 4 ♥ A 9 8 6 ♦ K 7 6 4 ♣ 9</p> <p>♠ 9 7 6 ♥ K J 4 ♦ A 9 5 ♣ J 6 4 3</p>	<p>♠ 5 3 ♥ Q 10 5 3 2 ♦ J 3 2 ♣ 8 5 2</p> <p>♠ A J 10 2 ♥ 7 ♦ Q 10 8 ♣ A K Q 10 7</p>
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North South can flaunt their slam bidding skills to a 6♣ contract. What is the best line of play to make 12 tricks?

Playing to finesse the 10♦ is little more than 50% can we do better? Yes - there is an elegant cross ruff line. Trick 1 (T1) win heart lead with A♥. T2 ruff heart with 2♠. T3 diamond to K holds. T4 club to Ace. T5-T7 3 rounds of clubs pitching all dummy's diamonds as West wins the J♣. On a trump return cross ruff making 12 tricks even with J♦ offside.

Winning Tip: When you have found a good line as declarer look for a better one.

Board 17. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

<p>♠ A K 8 ♥ 10 8 3 2 ♦ J 10 7 2 ♣ K 8</p> <p>♠ Q 9 2 ♥ 9 7 6 5 ♦ K 4 3 ♣ A 4 2</p>	<p>♠ J 10 ♥ K Q J 4 ♦ A 9 6 ♣ Q J 5 3</p> <p>♠ 7 6 5 4 3 ♥ A ♦ Q 8 5 ♣ 10 9 7 6</p>
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Playing strong NT East West will discover their 4-4 heart fit and try to play in 2♥. A wide awake South should bid 2♠ to win the Board.

When East opens a weak NT after 2 passes North, as a passed hand, can double the weak NT for takeout and again South bids 2♠. The Law of Total tricks holds again here with 16 trumps and 16 tricks (both 2♥/2♠ make 8 tricks)

Winning Tip: Never let your opponents play undis-

turbed in a 4-4 fit at the 2 level. Assume you have a fit also and bid accordingly.

Board 18. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

<p>♠ 9 8 3 ♥ 9 6 4 ♦ 9 3 2 ♣ K 6 5 4</p> <p>♠ A 10 7 4 ♥ A 10 8 3 ♦ K 10 7 ♣ 8 2</p>	<p>♠ J 6 5 2 ♥ Q J 7 5 ♦ J 8 4 ♣ Q 7</p> <p>♠ K Q ♥ K 2 ♦ A Q 6 5 ♣ A J 10 9 3</p>
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After 1♣ from South and a takeout double from West the part score battle is underway. East West can make 3♠ or 2♥ (a spade ruff is possible). For North South the play in 3♠ is fascinating with West likely to be endplayed unless they defend perfectly. West leads a trump against 3♣. Now South plays an innocent looking Queen spades and West ducks hoping for a heart return from partner. Now after spades are eliminated West can be endplayed in diamonds to concede a ruff and discard or play a heart from the Ace.

Winning Tip: When you know a strong hand sits over you see if you can engineer an endplay.

Board 19. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

<p>♠ K J 5 ♥ 3 ♦ K Q 4 2 ♣ A K J 4 3</p> <p>♠ 10 9 6 ♥ A 10 4 ♦ J 10 9 8 7 ♣ 7 2</p>	<p>♠ 4 3 2 ♥ K Q J 2 ♦ A 3 ♣ Q 10 8 5</p> <p>♠ A Q 8 7 ♥ 9 8 7 6 5 ♦ 6 5 ♣ 9 6</p>
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North opens 1♣ and after South's 1♥ makes a reverse bid of 2♦ showing 16-19 pts, played as a one round force. South bids 2♥ (weak 5-7 pts) and North can now make the star bid of 2♠ showing 3145 – South happily passes and 2♠ will make for a top on the Board.

Playing weak NT a rebid of INT will score very well.

Winning Tip: Bid a third suit in a natural auction to 5-4-3.

Board 20. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

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

What do you open with the 20 point West hand? You could open 2NT but partner will expect at least 3 cards in a major. NT may also play better from partners hand with a major suit lead highly likely. A 1♦ opening is best since if partner passes 1♦ you are not making 3NT.

On this hand E/W will bid to 4♥ which makes a comfortable 12 tricks with both the King Clubs and King hearts inside.

Winning Tip: Don't be greedy to play hands consider which hand should play NT and bid accordingly.

Board 21. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S

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

Most pairs will play in 3NT with a beautiful 6♦ contract available. Pairs that have good minor suit bidding agreements will profit on this board.

In 3NT by E/W with 11 top tricks the play has great interest. North will be squeezed in hearts and clubs for 12 tricks. As North struggles with discards can declarer read the position?

Winning Tip: Many players bid 3NT too quickly and don't explore for minor suit slams.

Board 22. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

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

West will show a spade overcall over Souths strong NT. North will bid 3NT immediately or after trying for 4♥. 3NT is cold on any lead by West other than a club.

The weak NT may offer East an opportunity to shine. South 1♦ West bids 1♠, North INT. Now East might bid a brave 2♣ before N/S again bid to 3NT. West's club lead scuttles 3NT.

Winning Tip: Stretch to make a lead directing bid to help your partner make the right lead.

Board 23. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

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

The weak NT'ers will play 3NT and go down 2 on a spade lead. Over a 1♦ opening E/W may find their spade fit with 3♣ making their way.

Over 3♣ South has to decide between 3NT and 4♦. N/S can now avoid 3NT and make 4♦ + 130.

Winning Tip: When your vulnerable opponents bid and support a suit to the 3 level you need a double stop to play 3NT.

Board 24. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

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

After West passes do you open the North hand? A good rule is to pass balanced 11 counts but open unbalanced 11 counts. With the points split 20-20 E/W can make 2♥ and N/S make an unlikely 4♠. Playing in 4♠ you must dislodge the Ace clubs early by playing a club to King without drawing trumps. Even if East ducks the Ace clubs the kind 33 club split sees you home.

Winning Tip: Open unbalanced 11 counts especially if you have an easy rebid.

Board 25. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

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

North will pass and East opens 2♠. After South passes West should bid 3♠ as a preemptive raise. A spade lead and continuation is required to knock 3♠ by East. If North finds a thin take out double of 2♠/3♠ then N/S make 11 tricks in diamonds.

Winning Tip: Bid to the level of your trumps and raise partners 6 card suits when holding 3 card support.

Board 26. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

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

The most exciting deal of the night. East opens 2♠ and West bids 2NT asking. North should gate crash the party and bid 3♥. East can bid 3♠ now and West cue bids 4♦ (denying a club control). After further competition E/W will normally play in 5♠+1 but might be pushed to the magnificent 6♠ on their combined 23 count. For N/S the 7♦-5 E/W sacrifice then makes little sense at pairs – take your chances defending 6♠.

Winning Tip: When cue bidding bypass a suit to deny control in that suit.

Board 27. Dealer South. Vulnerability None

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

After 1♠ by West and INT by East. West will jump to 3♠ now East may bid a reluctant 4♠ or an enterprising 3NT (which makes comfortably).

4♠ can be defeated if the defenders are on top of their game. The slightest slip will allow declarer to make game.

Winning Tip: With no ruffing values (4333) consider playing in 3NT rather than 4 major.

Board 28. Dealer West. Vulnerability N/S

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

After 1♣ by West and 2♣ by East. South bids 2♥ and N/S will play 4♥ or double E/W in 5♣-2.

4♥ makes either by establishing spades (best line) or dropping the Qx doubleton diamond in the strong hand.

Winning Tip: With plenty of entries play to establish dummy's long suit.

Board 29. Dealer North. Vulnerability All

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

North passes and East opens 1♣ South overcalls 1♥ and West bids INT. Now North has a good hand and may bid a 3♣ jump cue bid to show a good 4 card raise to 3♥. South will signoff in 3♥ which makes in comfort.

Playing this style North can jump raise to 3♥ with 4 hearts and a weaker hand.

Winning Tip: Use jump cue bids to show a good hand with 4 card support for partners major suit overcall.

Board 30. Dealer East. Vulnerability None

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

2 passes to West who opens INT 12-14. Now after North bids 2♣ showing both majors South must evaluate. Partner sits over the West opening hand with finesses likely to work. With prime 4 card heart support, a working singleton and AK diamonds South jumps to 3♥ invitational. North bids 4♥ which makes in comfort.

Winning Tip: When partner shows both majors over 1NT invite game with 8 losers and 4 card major support.

Board 31. Dealer South. Vulnerability N/S

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

With no diamond stop 3NT is a lucky make losing only 4 tricks when diamonds break 4-4.

Playing weak NT after 1♠ - 2♣ South will raise to 3♣.

N/S can make 2NT+1 +150 but 3♣+1 +130 will be a popular result.

Winning Tip: Do not push for close games at pairs.

Board 32. Dealer West. Vulnerability E/W

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

A positive score on this hand will score well with few making contracts available. After two passes East opens 1♠ passed around again to North who bids a balancing INT. South will now transfer to hearts. 2♥ drifts one off when the defenders find their diamond ruff.

Where East plays 2♠ this contract is also defeated this time by a heart ruff by North.

Winning Tip: When defending 2 level suit contracts look for a defensive ruff.

Paul Delaney is a Life Master and winner of the Irish Pairs Championship (Davidson) for the last 2 years with Martin Brady .

Now retired Paul is an active bridge coach

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/coachteach/home.html>