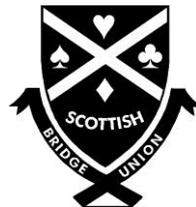


The Scottish Bridge Union

The Easter Sims incorporating  
The Bobby Allan Mixed Pairs



Monday 9th March 2020      Session 3847

Dear Bridge Player

Thank you for playing in this Simultaneous Pairs - we do hope you enjoyed the hands and found the commentary interesting - we would like to thank Liz McGowan for doing the commentary for you.

This event is run over five days, with different hands for the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and a combined set covering Thursday and Friday.

None of the heats are limited to Mixed Pairs - anyone may take part - but the Bobby Allan Trophy will be awarded to the Mixed Pair having the highest percentage overall - i.e. over the five days. Red Points will be awarded across the whole field regardless of gender mix.

And finally - go to the usual place - <https://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims> to check the results.

Best wishes as always

*Anna*

Anna Gudge  
Simultaneous Pairs Organiser  
ECatsBridge  
[anna@ecats.co.uk](mailto:anna@ecats.co.uk)  
[www.ecatsbridge.com](http://www.ecatsbridge.com)

**Board 1. Dealer North. Vulnerability None**

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

Whether East opens 1♠ or 1NT South just has to introduce this heart suit. There are only 9 tricks. You can guess hearts, helped by the opening bid, and diamonds; or ruff a diamond in dummy and lose two trump tricks. Deep Finesse probably ends ♠K and another to make an overruff with the ♥Q, but ♣Q seems a more likely shot from a person.

**Board 2. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S**

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

A 3♣ opener may buy the contract. Good guesswork brings 9 tricks. Duck the ♠K lead, unblocking the jack. If South continues spades discard your heart on the third round, losing just 3 clubs and a spade. On a heart switch you can use 2 diamond entries to shorten your trump, then finesse the spade and lead the ace. Similar double dummy play makes 3NT but I hope you did not bid that!

**Board 3. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W**

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

A weak 2-suited 2♠ from South, or an attenuated 5-card 1♠ and a raise, may goad East into gambling 3NT. You might avoid the spade lead, but a low club fares no better: a heart lead, or ♣A and a switch, collects the first 7 tricks for 200 and a top score. If not playing 2over1 North might respond in hearts but needs to compete over 3♦ to earn a good score.

**Board 4. Dealer West. Vulnerability All**

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

A weak no-trump in 3rd seat, vulnerable, needs to be top weight (with a basic 12HCP you will not miss game opposite a passed partner and there is a greater risk of a penalty double). South will compete in spades for a likely -1 and +100. Strong no-trumpers who can open 1♦ will persuade partner to compete to the 3-level, but you will have to play well to make 9 tricks for 110. Part score deals are tough!

**Board 5. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S**

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

East gets his blow in first and at this vulnerability EW will surely compete to 4♥. If South doubles he must settle for -1 when North has no entry to lead clubs – trying for a bigger penalty may result in -590. If West has made a Fit Jump in diamonds North might just diagnose the double fit and go for the bigger score in 4S. A couple of good views in the black suits bring 11 tricks.

**Board 6. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W**

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

Some will open 1♣ as West, but 3♣ looks the best way to exert pressure on NS. You make 3♣ by dropping the singleton king offside for no obvious reason, but you need feel no angst – you will not be allowed to play there. In theory you need to switch to diamonds after cashing ♣A to hold NS to 9 tricks in their major: In practice North is unlikely to broach hearts by running ♥T to pin the eight, and there will be time to switch to diamonds later.

**Board 7. Dealer South. Vulnerability All**

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

Hard to see any contract other than 4♠ by East. Whatever sort of Weak 2 South opens, and whether or not North raises, East has an obvious call and West will not envision slam. East makes all 13 tricks when both minor suit finesses succeed, but no-one has done anything silly – might even be a flat Board!

**Board 8. Dealer West. Vulnerability None**

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

A strong no-trump will end the bidding – there does not seem to be any reason to upgrade this hand to an 18-count given the quality of the 5-card suit. Weak no-trumpers should reach the same contract with a 1NT rebid. One of these deals where 3NT is likely to fail, but 1NT may make 9 tricks on careless defence.

**Board 9. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W**

<p>♠ J 7 6 ♥ A K 7 2 ♦ 10 9 ♣ K Q 10 2</p> <p>♠ Q 9 4 ♥ 9 5 4 ♦ A Q 8 5 3 ♣ 9 3</p>	<p>♠ 8 5 3 2 ♥ Q J 10 3 ♦ K 7 ♣ 6 5 4</p> <p>♠ A K 10 ♥ 8 6 ♦ J 6 4 2 ♣ A J 8 7</p>
---	---

NS will reach the 26-point 3NT quite quickly, but one down seems a normal result. The best chance for a ninth trick is a defensive error. West might establish a diamond trick if on lead. If they lead hearts duck the first round and cash clubs. Forced to find two early discards West might just create an auto-endplay.

**Board 10. Dealer East. Vulnerability All**

<p>♠ A 7 5 ♥ 9 8 6 ♦ K J 3 ♣ 9 8 5 4</p> <p>♠ K 8 6 2 ♥ K 5 ♦ 10 9 5 4 ♣ A K 3</p>	<p>♠ 9 4 3 ♥ A J 2 ♦ A 8 6 ♣ Q J 10 2</p> <p>♠ Q J 10 ♥ Q 10 7 4 3 ♦ Q 7 2 ♣ 7 6</p>
--	--

EW's turn for 3NT with a combined 25 count and little hope of success. East will normally declare, and a heart lead gives an 8th trick. Best shot now is to cross to a top club and try to duck a diamond to South. The defenders need to cash just two spades then play another diamond. Not exactly obvious.

**Board 11. Dealer South. Vulnerability None**

<p>♠ K 8 3 2 ♥ J 10 6 3 ♦ 6 4 ♣ 7 4 2</p> <p>♠ A J 9 4 ♥ Q 4 ♦ A K Q J 3 ♣ Q 5</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 ♥ A K 9 ♦ 10 8 2 ♣ A K J 9 8</p> <p>♠ 7 6 5 ♥ 8 7 5 2 ♦ 9 7 5 ♣ 10 6 3</p>
--	--

EW will surely get these cards to slam, but how many will bid the Grand? If West upgrades to a 20-22 2NT the auction will presumably be brief, but most will downgrade the two doubleton queens and settled for a 1D opener. If West later shows 18-19 East may upgrade, but players are justifiably nervous of overbidding big hands.

**Board 12. Dealer West. Vulnerability N/S**

<p>♠ A K 7 3 ♥ Q 10 9 4 ♦ 7 4 ♣ K 7 6 3</p> <p>♠ Q J 9 8 6 4 ♥ K 8 5 ♦ 5 2 ♣ A 8</p>	<p>♠ 7 5 2 ♥ 7 6 2 ♦ K J 9 8 6 ♣ J 10</p> <p>♠ 10 ♥ A J 3 ♦ A Q 10 3 ♣ Q 9 5 4 2</p>
--	--

A 3NT that NS can make, but on a spade lead you need to guess which red suit finesse to take. If you choose hearts (extra overtricks when East has the king) you may feel inadequate when Deep Finesse makes an overtrick. Not to worry: he peeks. Some may never get into the auction if EW bid 1♠ – 2♣. Any plus score may score well.

**Board 13. Dealer North. Vulnerability All**

<p>♠ 5 2 ♥ 10 7 5 ♦ A 10 9 8 7 2 ♣ 4 3</p> <p>♠ K 7 4 3 ♥ Q 9 6 3 ♦ — ♣ A J 10 8 5</p>	<p>♠ Q J 9 6 ♥ 8 4 2 ♦ K Q J 5 4 ♣ 2</p> <p>♠ A 10 8 ♥ A K J ♦ 6 3 ♣ K Q 9 7 6</p>
--	--

Bit of a death trap for NS. Surely North will not be tempted to pre-empt at this vulnerability? Even so, South will probably upgrade and open 1♣ and it will be hard for North to pass. So EW will collect various numbers of hundreds, though it may be hard to make a penalty double.

**Board 14. Dealer East. Vulnerability None**

<p>♠ J 5 ♥ J 9 8 5 3 ♦ Q 9 ♣ A 10 8 6</p> <p>♠ A K 10 7 4 3 ♥ 6 ♦ J 10 6 ♣ K 7 4</p>	<p>♠ Q 8 2 ♥ K 7 ♦ K 8 5 4 ♣ Q J 9 5</p> <p>♠ 9 6 ♥ A Q 10 4 2 ♦ A 7 3 2 ♣ 3 2</p>
--	--

If South finds an opening bid the auction will become competitive, and NS might even buy it in 4H-1 for a great score. Any West who reaches 4♠ will not fancy their chances, though there are various unlikely lines to make 10 tricks. An experienced North should not cover ♦J unless he has a doubleton – and you need that doubleton to be Q9 – but can you trust these opponents?

**Board 15. Dealer South. Vulnerability N/S**

<p>♠ J 5 4 ♥ 10 9 ♦ K Q J 10 4 ♣ K 7 4</p> <p>♠ 9 7 6 3 2 ♥ K 7 3 2 ♦ A 5 3 ♣ 10</p>	<p>♠ A 10 8 ♥ 5 ♦ 9 8 6 2 ♣ Q 9 8 5 2</p> <p>♠ K Q ♥ A Q J 8 6 4 ♦ 7 ♣ A J 6 3</p>
--	--

4♥ is unlucky to fail via a club ruff. Those who prefer 3NT at Pairs should do better, though most will not achieve the 10 tricks proclaimed by Deep Finesse. You win the spade, dislodge ♥K and take the club finesse. If you try to sneak past ♦A to take the heart finesse West should grab his ace and clear spades. Perhaps the discards on diamonds will guide you to the winning finesse.

**Board 16. Dealer West. Vulnerability E/W**

<p>♠ K ♥ A J 10 9 7 ♦ A 9 7 6 4 ♣ K 8</p> <p>♠ A 8 6 5 3 2 ♥ 6 2 ♦ 2 ♣ Q J 4 2</p>	<p>♠ 10 7 ♥ — ♦ K Q J 8 5 3 ♣ 9 7 6 5 3</p> <p>♠ Q J 9 4 ♥ K Q 8 5 4 3 ♦ 10 ♣ A 10</p>
--	--

An excellent 6♥, not easy to bid, particularly if West finds an opening bid. Over 2♠ North's suits are not really good enough for a Leaping Michaels 4♦. Even if he finds that call South may imagine that he has forgotten the system. An ethical 6♥ will be well rewarded.

DF's suggestion of 6NT should not be taken seriously

**Board 17. Dealer North. Vulnerability None**

<p>♠ K 8 5 ♥ 7 6 4 3 ♦ Q 7 5 ♣ A 9 2</p> <p>♠ A J 10 3 ♥ Q 8 2 ♦ K J 10 ♣ 10 7 5</p>	<p>♠ 9 7 2 ♥ A 10 9 ♦ A 6 2 ♣ J 8 6 4</p> <p>♠ Q 6 4 ♥ K J 5 ♦ 9 8 4 3 ♣ K Q 3</p>
--	--

A 20-20 hand but likely someone will open. South will live to regret his decision, though going a couple down for -100 may not seem too bad if EW can make something. West can indeed make 8 tricks in INT but needs to take a few good views. North's lead will help.

**Board 18. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S**

<p>♠ A K J 8 ♥ J 10 6 4 ♦ J 7 6 5 4 ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ 10 6 ♥ A 8 5 3 ♦ A Q 8 2 ♣ Q 4 2</p> <p>♠ 7 5 4 ♥ K 7 2 ♦ 9 ♣ K J 10 7 6 3</p> <p>♠ Q 9 3 2 ♥ Q 9 ♦ K 10 3 ♣ A 9 8 5</p>
---	---

Another hand that might just be passed out. If allowed North might try a weak no-trump, but only if partner has enough sense to Pass at Pairs, looking for a plus score rather than a miracle combination. West might choose to open – 1♠ best, planning to rebid 2D over 2C. Here partner probably makes a single raise and leaves you to struggle.

**Board 19. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W**

<p>♠ 8 7 6 ♥ 10 8 7 4 3 ♦ K J 4 ♣ J 6</p>	<p>♠ Q 5 3 ♥ K J 5 ♦ Q 10 9 8 6 5 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ J 10 9 2 ♥ 6 2 ♦ 3 ♣ Q 10 9 8 5 2</p> <p>♠ A K 4 ♥ A Q 9 ♦ A 7 2 ♣ A K 4 3</p>
---	---

Slam depends on successful play in the diamond suit. The simple ace and another fails only when East has KJx(x). Leading low towards the North hand also works here, though on other layouts might give an uncomfortable guess when West plays low. Unfortunately there are enough entries to the North hand to take 2 finesses – that loses to KJx(x) in East, but also to KJ doubleton.

**Board 20. Dealer West. Vulnerability All**

<p>♠ J 5 2 ♥ 7 6 4 ♦ J 10 9 3 ♣ J 7 3</p>	<p>♠ K 9 8 6 4 ♥ K Q 5 3 ♦ 8 6 ♣ A 10</p> <p>♠ Q 10 7 ♥ A J 8 ♦ Q 7 2 ♣ 9 8 6 4</p> <p>♠ A 3 ♥ 10 9 2 ♦ A K 5 4 ♣ K Q 5 2</p>
---	---

Looks like everybody's 3NT. South will be held to 10 tricks on a diamond lead provided he ducks once: he can establish 2 extra tricks in either major. If North somehow becomes declarer he may be favoured with a club lead and can now make 11 by tackling spades rather than hearts. Possession of the 98 makes 4 spade tricks a slightly better bet than trying for 3 heart tricks.

**Board 21. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S**

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

Some Norths will open 3♣, over which South might try 3♠. West can show his 2-suiter by cue-bidding either suit, but 4♣ seems more prudent. North raises spades, and East might try 4NT to show a bit of stuff in each red suit. When nonvulnerable opponents compete to the 5-level NS have a problem, but South can see little defence and might find the vulnerable sacrifice that happens to make. An exciting Board!

**Board 22. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W**

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

A good advert for the Rubensohl convention: after a INT opener (heavy if weak, upgraded if strong) and overcall from South, bids from 2NT upwards become transfers. So 2NT shows a club suit and East might bash 3NT. This makes easily if South leads a heart, on any other lead there are only 8 tricks. Other EW pairs may buy the contract in clubs, making 10 tricks by endplaying South with the ♥K.

**Board 23. Dealer South. Vulnerability All**

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

West will surely double a 1♦ opener, and that may keep NS out of the unfortunate spade suit contract. Some like to ignore the double but surely North need not introduce this spade suit when he has better alternatives? Over 2♣ South will bid spades and North no-trump. And on a heart lead North will wrap up all the tricks. The only legitimate slam is 6NT by South, but anyone who loses a spade ruff in 6♦ is very unlucky.

**Board 24. Dealer West. Vulnerability None**

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

A simple INT-3NT auction for EW – takes a little longer if playing a weak no-trump – and a hopeless contract at all tables. A heart is a likely lead. This is one situation where South should ignore Third Hand High and save the ace to beat the king later. Escaping for one down should get you a reasonable score, two down is normal. The point count is not infallible!

**Board 25. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W**

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

Brave Easts may open 3♥, great idea if West passes. You can afford to lose 3 hearts – that part is easy – and the ♦A. Some Wests may expect a better suit in second seat, vulnerable, and raise to 4♥, giving South the chance to double. Bidding 3NT with a void in partner's suit gets a fully deserved a bad score. If East passes and South opens 1♥ he has that rare pass of a takeout double but may not get the chance.

**Board 26. Dealer East. Vulnerability All**

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

Whether East fancies a pre-empt or not West will join in with 3♠ and NS have problems. Double and lead trump collects 800. 3NT needs you to duck spades, then finesse diamonds into the safe hand. Making 11 tricks when you cannot take the club finesse. The unlikely making slam is 6♦ – pick up trump and make a ruff in the South hand. 6♥ fails on the 4-1 break. I wish you all luck!

**Board 27. Dealer South. Vulnerability None**

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

4♠ is the normal game that fails when every possible finesse is wrong. Unlucky. 3NT is no better this time, making a trick less because you cannot ruff a heart in dummy. Should be flat, but some NS pairs may create enough action to produce some improbable scores.

**Board 28. Dealer West. Vulnerability N/S**

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

If you stretch to 6NT you succeed by taking the heart finesse. (Test spades first in case you do not need it.) 6♣ may look better, but the entry position means that you cannot both establish and cash the fifth spade and ruff a diamond in dummy. 6♠ is more challenging. You need to draw 2 trumps, ruff a diamond, cash just 2 hearts then run clubs through East for the trump coup. Better to choose an easier slam.