

The Scottish Bridge Union

The Easter Sims incorporating
The Bobby Allan Mixed Pairs



Wednesday 11 March 2020 Session # 5684

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 John Murdoch 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

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Board 1. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

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

The likely 3NT contract by East-West will fail on a heart lead or switch

A spade contract by West on the normal club lead requires South to cover with his K and to duck at trick 2 when a diamond is led to the K!

Failure in either respect allows declarer to set up diamonds and keep trump control

Board 2. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

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

Some pairs have an opening bid which shows both majors and a moderate hand. If East has this weapon he will surely use it at this favourable vulnerability and North South will never be allowed to play in 3NT – their best scoring contract.

Board 3. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

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

Making 4♥ will not be difficult but even bidding the suit will be after the universal 1♠ (2♣) start.

North will make 4♣ in practice as an initial club lead and an underlead of AK of hearts is needed to get two diamond ruffs and 4 tricks.

Board 4. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

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

Following a 1NT opening East will be advised to treat his hand as a spade one suiter. As the cards lie he has 9 tricks in a spade contract.

If East thinks he has a major two suiter West will prefer hearts and will only manage 6 tricks in that strain if defender's shorten East's trumps.

Board 5. Dealer North. Vulnerability NIS

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

East West are likely to win this part score battle. In spite of his moderate shape East may double North's 1♥ opening and West will have no problem competing to 3♠ if necessary

If East, with his defensive hand, passes the opening bid, there is a slight danger that (a) West will pass out 1♥ or (b) East will bid too much after West's 1♠ balancing action.

Board 6. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

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

West will raise his partner's 3♠ opening after South doubles. With 9 tricks and a chance of a 10th trick in clubs or diamonds East will follow the odds by opting to take the diamond finesse rather playing South for ♣Ax. As is often the case virtue will not feel like a reward.

Board 7. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

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

It seems likely that East West or North South will play in NT. If East West a spade lead or switch will hold them to 8 tricks.

If North South then J♥ lead or switch should produce 8 defensive tricks.

Board 8. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

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

The field will be in 3N probably by West. On a spade lead it seems natural to play on hearts but running the 10 of hearts allows South to win and return a spade while North still has 2 entries - one to establish his suit the second to cash his two winners. Result 1 down

A club to dummy then a diamond to the J removes one of North's entries and allows West to run the 10 of hearts when South has no spades left. Result 9 tricks.

Board 9. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

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

Although West can be heavily punished in 3♣ or 4♠ South will play this hand in clubs with his 3 loser hand.

After 1♣ (2♠) D (4♠) South might feel that 5♣ is an underbid and bid 6♣ probably successfully.

Board 10. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

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

Against silent opposition South has to steal himself to rebid his poor 6 card heart after 1♣ - 1♥ - 1♠.

In truth the alternatives (1N, 2♣, and Pass) don't seem very attractive either.

Board 11. Dealer South. Vulnerability None

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

After South's weak 1N opening is the North hand worth a slam try?

Just swap South's minor suits and you can see how near slam could be. The trouble is that if North uses Stayman and jumps in his void he is never getting the club lead that would enable 12 tricks to be made in a heart contract.

Board 12. Dealer West. Vulnerability NIS

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

A 4th in hand 1N opening may end the bidding.

The defenders will take 5 spade tricks then paths will diverge. A club switch will force declarer to finesse and be defeated.

A red suit switch will allow declarer to make 7 tricks provided he has not discarded from his 4 card heart suit.

Board 13. Dealer North. Vulnerability All

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

West will think he has an 8 or 9 trick hand and is quite likely to open 4♠ after 3 passes.

Anyo East-West pair who score better than -200 will do well.

Board 14. Dealer East. Vulnerability None

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

An opening bid opposite an opening bid usually produces a game and this hand is no exception. Assuming a correct heart guess declarer will make 10 tricks.

If North decides he has a bid then

his opponent's will suggest he has not and they will be right.

Board 15. Dealer South. Vulnerability NIS

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

On an unfavourable position of the cards North South might have been restricted to 7 or 8 tricks with hearts trumps but with this lie 11 tricks are available.

East – West might save in 4♠ particularly if West is able to make a weak 2♠ jump overcall

Board 16. Dealer West. Vulnerability E/W

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

If West opens 1♠ and rebids 2♥ over 2♦ he should pass when responder bids 3N. If he decides to show his 55 then he needs to fess South's singleton ♥K to make game.

Even then 3N would score better on the same play.

Board 17. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

<p>♠ A K 8 4 3 ♥ A K 4 ♦ Q 8 6 5 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ 10 9 ♥ Q 9 8 ♦ K J 3 2 ♣ J 9 5 3</p>	<p>♠ Q 6 5 2 ♥ J 7 6 2 ♦ 10 9 7 ♣ K 2</p> <p>♠ J 7 ♥ 10 5 3 ♦ A 4 ♣ A Q 10 8 7 4</p>
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North South will probably reach 3N after an uncertain auction after which declarer will not be surprised to see that his contract is uncertain to make.

However the normal play of a low spade to the J will produce 4 lucky tricks and the club finesse will work if needed.

Board 18. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

<p>♠ A Q 9 ♥ 9 7 6 5 ♦ Q 4 2 ♣ A Q 2</p> <p>♠ K 3 ♥ K 3 ♦ J 9 ♣ K J 10 9 8 5 3</p>	<p>♠ 10 8 7 6 ♥ A Q 4 2 ♦ A K 10 8 6 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ J 5 4 2 ♥ J 10 8 ♦ 7 5 3 ♣ 7 6 4</p>
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To defeat 3N South needs to be on lead and lead a spade to produce 5 tricks in the black suits.

If West declares 3N he can win the heart lead in hand and finesse diamonds, cash his 8 winners and throw North in with his 4th heart to lead from one of his black aces.

Board 19. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

<p>♠ A K Q 10 ♥ 8 ♦ A K J 3 ♣ K 9 4 3</p> <p>♠ J 9 8 5 3 ♥ 7 5 3 ♦ Q 9 4 2 ♣ A</p>	<p>♠ 7 4 2 ♥ K Q 10 6 2 ♦ 8 ♣ 10 6 5 2</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ A J 9 4 ♦ 10 7 6 5 ♣ Q J 8 7</p>
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Some North's, afraid of complexity will open 2N and play in 3N and get a top heart led. It is natural now to win and play a club. This will produce 11 tricks and maybe 12 if the defence don't take their heart trick.

On a non heart lead slam could be made in 3 strains with 4 diamond tricks, 4 spade tricks, 3 club tricks, and 1 heart trick

Board 20. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

<p>♠ A K Q 9 ♥ K 10 5 ♦ A K 6 ♣ A 6 5</p> <p>♠ 4 3 ♥ 8 6 2 ♦ 2 ♣ K Q 9 8 7 4 2</p>	<p>♠ 10 7 ♥ A Q 9 3 ♦ 10 9 8 7 ♣ J 10 3</p> <p>♠ J 8 6 5 2 ♥ J 7 4 ♦ Q J 5 4 3 ♣ —</p>
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6♣ is difficult to reach after a standard 3♣ opening. If North doubles East may gently raise to 4♣

and, after South bids 4♠, North may try 6♣ which will make most of the time as the fatal heart lead looks elusive.

Board 21. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S

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

3♣ is a safer contract than 3N for North South, but against 3N even the dangerous spade lead through North can be negated by playing the ♠Q. With the ♦AQ on side can leisurely make 2 diamond tricks to go with his 5 clubs and one trick in each major.

Board 22. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

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

After 3 passes North will open 1N or rebid 1N. A 1N opening may lead to a 2H contract but a 1N rebid will end the bidding and result in a less successful outcome.

In 2H opener can make 2 hearts, 3 clubs, 2 diamonds and 1 spade for 110.

In 1N by North 7 tricks are the limit but a diamond lead is most menacing as it threatens entries to the hearts and sets up a long diamond.

Board 23. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

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

East West have no reason to bid more than 2♠ and North South don't have the means to tempt them higher by competing.

The club blockage cannot be overcome and a defensive mistake seems unlikely so declarer will make

8 tricks no more and no less

Board 24. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

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

3N by West will make unless North leads a heart which he will not do unless South has and takes the opportunity to overcall 2H after both opponents have bid. Either the K♥ or 10♥!

Board 25. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

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

A 3♦ opening will produce a 3N overall which West would do well to stand. 3N is a success because of the lucky heart blockage.

4♣ requires more than luck and more than one defensive mistake.

Board 26. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

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

6♠ is a good and unassailable contract.

On a heart lead declarer will draw trumps and discard two clubs.

On a club lead declarer's heart losers are discarded

Board 27. Dealer South. Vulnerability None

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

East West might be in 4♠ when, on the second round, the bidding comes back to South. If North has raised hearts then South may go to the 5 level; if not he is likely to double 4♠ which would be made if North does not lead trumps or South does not reach him in diamonds to lead a trump.

Board 28. Dealer West. Vulnerability N/S

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

A very sound 2♠ opening will lead to an equally sound 2N overall. South will show his hearts and North will have to choose between 3N and 4♥. Although 11 tricks are available in both strains the NT contract is the more fortunate as the defence cannot make a club trick unless declarer ducks the ♣K lead!