

The Scottish Bridge Union

The Easter Sims incorporating

The Bobby Allan Mixed Pairs



Thursday 12th & Friday 13th March 2020
Session # 7925

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 Stuart McCreadie 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

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

It is going to be difficult for E/W to reach the best spot of 4♠, making 11 or 12 tricks depending on whether the defence get their heart ruff. East may well open 4♥, and West will be tempted to advance – some pairs even overreaching to a hopeless 6♥. Indeed a heart contract can be held to 10 tricks on the lead of the trump Ace.

Board 2. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

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

East may open a weak NT. It doesn't look right for South to double now, and more likely South will make a conventional intervention. A Multi-Landy 2♠ showing spades and a minor would do the job and making 2♠ would be a satisfactory outcome for N/S especially if they could make 9 tricks. As the cards lie N/S could make 3NT. However they should not be unhappy about being in a spade part-score

If E/W are allowed to play undoubled in 2♥, they will score well.

Board 3. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

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

Both sides will enter the bidding. West will open 1♠. North will overcall 2♦ and N/S ought to prevail and the final contract is likely to be either 2♦ or 3♦, making 9 tricks.

Board 4. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

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

Whether North opens 1♣, 1♥ or a strong NT, there should be no problem in reaching 3NT, even when East overcalls 1♣ with 1♥.

Should East bid 2♥ over 1NT, then in theory N/S could extract a penalty of plus 800, but in practice N/S are likely to brush aside the overcall and progress to 3NT.

Making 10 tricks should be the norm.

Board 5. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S

<p>♠ J 6 4 3 ♥ 10 7 ♦ A Q 8 5 ♣ 8 7 5</p> <p>♠ A 5 2 ♥ J 9 6 4 3 ♦ 6 3 ♣ J 9 6</p>	<p>♠ K Q 9 7 ♥ K Q 8 5 ♦ J ♣ K Q 10 2</p>
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<p>♠ 10 8 ♥ A 2 ♦ K 10 9 7 4 2 ♣ A 4 3</p>	
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With a combined 22 HCP, not all E/W's will reach the good 4♥ contract. If N/S compete in diamonds after East opens, then it should be easier to reach the heart game, when it is appreciated that there are no wasted diamond values. At unfavourable vulnerability there is no profitable sacrifice available for N/S against the heart game.

Board 6. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

<p>♠ K Q 6 ♥ A 8 ♦ 7 5 ♣ Q J 8 6 3 2</p> <p>♠ 10 7 5 3 2 ♥ 7 5 4 ♦ Q J 4 3 ♣ 10</p>	<p>♠ 8 ♥ K 10 6 3 ♦ K 9 8 2 ♣ K 9 5 4</p>
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<p>♠ A J 9 4 ♥ Q J 9 2 ♦ A 10 6 ♣ A 7</p>	
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N/S with a combined 28 HCPs will no doubt bid 3NT. As the cards lie, there is more than one winning line and a not unreasonable losing line. On an awkward diamond lead, if South wins the 3rd round of diamonds and leads ♣A and another towards dummy, the contract fails. If South can diagnose a 4-4 diamond break from opponents' carding, then perhaps the best line is to take the club finesse. If that works, then a 2nd heart trick can be established for 9 tricks. If the finesse fails, then declarer will have to fall back on a 3-2 club break.

Board 7. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

<p>♠ K 10 6 3 ♥ A 10 9 6 5 2 ♦ A 6 ♣ 3</p> <p>♠ Q 4 2 ♥ K J 8 4 3 ♦ K J 3 ♣ 10 8</p>	<p>♠ J 8 5 ♥ Q ♦ Q 9 5 ♣ A K J 9 5 2</p>
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<p>♠ A 9 7 ♥ 7 ♦ 10 8 7 4 2 ♣ Q 7 6 4</p>	
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North will probably open 1♥, and East will overcall 2♣. With no great fits for either side, it would be advisable for both sides to let the bidding subside. With accurate defence 2♣ can be defeated with the aid of heart ruffs and trump promotion

Board 8. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

<p>♠ 9 8 ♥ A 10 2 ♦ J 10 3 ♣ K 8 7 3 2</p> <p>♠ K J 4 3 2 ♥ Q 5 ♦ K 6 5 ♣ Q 9 6</p>	<p>♠ 7 6 ♥ K 7 6 4 ♦ A 9 8 7 2 ♣ A J</p>
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<p>♠ A Q 10 5 ♥ J 9 8 3 ♦ Q 4 ♣ 10 5 4</p>	
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E/W can make part scores in diamonds, spades and NT, and there will be a variety of scores on the traveller. In a NT contract by East a club lead is best for defence, and declarer can be restricted to 7 tricks, as long as North withholds the ♣K at trick one. But often E/W will make 8 tricks. In a diamond contract +130 for EW should result and score fairly well for E/W. Any plus score for N/S as a result of opps getting too high will be good for them.

Board 9. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

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

Hand analysis shows that 3NT can be made by N/S. Declarer can make 9 tricks with 2 black Aces, 4 diamond tricks and 3 heart tricks, as long as West is stripped of exit cards in one of the black suits. So declarer has to hold up either the ♠A for 3 rounds or the ♣A for 2 rounds.

However I don't expect 3NT to be bid. A NT part score is more likely, and making 8 or 9 tricks will be good for N/S. E/W's that are allowed to play in 2S will score well.

Board 10. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

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

E/W will do very well to bid the heart game. West will open 1♥, and N will overcall either 1♠ or 2♠. East will pass. With his good hand W may well bid his clubs now. Now E appreciating the double fit may see the possibility of the heart game.

Board 11. Dealer South. Vulnerability None

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

Despite South opening a weak 2♠, N/S should reach a red suit game. 5♦ is easier to play, losing simply a diamond and a spade. 4♥ will take a little longer to play, because there are more options – club finesse (♣10 or ♣Q); spade ruffs; or possibility of setting up long diamonds. The probable lead of a top spade should be a good start for declarer to find a winning line and the higher scoring heart game will bring the better m.p. score

Board 12. Dealer West. Vulnerability N/S

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

The par contract is 3♥ by N/S. Accurate defence will ensure a trick in each suit for E/W. However West may open a rather unsound 2♠.

South may be tempted to overcall 3♥ and North with two Aces may bid the failing game. A part score in hearts scores well for N/S, and any plus score for E/W will be good for them.

Board 13. Dealer North. Vulnerability All

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

This hand could be played in NT, hearts or diamonds by N/S. 10 tricks can be made in hearts, although there will be very few bidding game on thin values. Indeed the hand could be passed out in 1♦. Those pairs playing in a heart contract should score well.

Board 14. Dealer East. Vulnerability None

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

East opens 1♥ and West makes an invitational raise to 3♥, which at match points East may well pass. This is the par contract for E/W.

Although inaccuracy in defence, could allow declarer to make 10 tricks. North would be either brave or foolhardy to enter the auction with a take-out double.

Board 15. Dealer South. Vulnerability N/S

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

Many E/W's will push to 3NT and this contract will be touch and go. It will usually be played by West. The defence do best to start with a club, but have to defend accurately to take 5 tricks. Declarer should be able to take 2 clubs, 3 hearts, and 2 spades and a diamond. South, defending has to rise with ♦A, when declarer in dummy for the last time leads towards ♦K – else declarer can negotiate a 9th trick in the end game – either another spade or a 2nd diamond.

Board 16. Dealer West. Vulnerability E/W

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

W will open 1♥, and South will either double or overcall 2♣. Now can N/S reach 3NT with North as declarer? Defenders now can do no better than restrict North to 9 tricks. And declarer will make 11 tricks on the lead of ♥Q. If 3NT is wrong-sided and played by South, then it is possible for the defence to take the first 8 tricks.

Board 17. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

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

N/S will bid be bidding hearts and E/W will contest in spades. N/S will have no difficulty in making 10 tricks in hearts and ought to make 11 as the clubs and diamonds lie favourably. 4♠ is always a good save for E/W and the max penalty is -300. Now if N/S judge well to take the push to 5♥, do E/W bid one for the road and bid 5♠? If they do, it may work well for them, because for N/S to take 8 tricks and score + 500, they must organise a club ruff – not so easy.

Board 18. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

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

There is a slam on for E/W in NT or diamonds for E/W. But what a poor slam! The diamonds break 3-3; the ♦Q is finessable and the ♠Q is finessable. As the cards lie it is straightforward to make 12 tricks. But not one to brag about. 3NT is the sound contract, and even if you get an average minus, be content that it is the correct spot.

Board 19. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

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

Who will be first to bid INT? Whoever does is likely to buy the contract. INT played by South will not make, but making 5 tricks for -100 is probably ok for N/S. If South opens 1♣ or 1♥, then West may bid a protective INT ending the auction. If he can make 8 tricks, then that should be good enough for average plus.

Board 20. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

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

N/S may attempt 3NT, even if East bids diamonds during the auction - because of North's six solid club tricks. This contract is doomed if played by North, because ♥Q is with West. However if diamonds are not mentioned and South manages to become declarer, then a heart lead will allow the contract to make. But this would be an exception.

Board 21. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S

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

A fiendish hand to bid hand to bid when North presumably opens 1♠. Can E/W reach the optimum 4♥ contract, which will make with some ease because North has doubleton ♥QJ. 3NT and 5♣ are also make-able, but not nearly so comfortable.

Board 22. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

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

6NT, 6♠ and 6♦ are all reasonable slams. All depend on holding the diamond suit to one loser. Do you know your suit combinations? A winning line is to run the ♦Q. But I reckon it is not the best percentage line. Possibly playing the ♦A first is best, but failing. In any case there could be other considerations – e.g. against 6♦ on a spade lead, Declarer might decide there is a danger of a ruff, and decide to play ♦A first - not a winning decision. Unlucky.

Board 23. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

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

If South opens 1♣, then W may bid a Michaels 2♣ showing the majors and E/W should subside in 2♥. Similarly if South opens a weak NT, then a Multi-Landy 2♣, showing the majors, will get them to the same 2♥ contract. This contract appears as though it might be threatened by being forced in diamonds, but with the trumps breaking 3-2 and the ♠Q falling, there will be no problems.

Board 24. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

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

Can N/S reach the good 4♥ contract? A possible sequence might be - 1♣ - (1♦) - 1♠ - 2♠ - 3♥ - 4♥. 4♣ is also a reasonable contract, but could be beaten if defenders can negotiate a heart ruff to go along with ♠K, ♥A and ♦A.

Board 25. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

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

A common bidding sequence will be – 1♠ - 1NT – 3♣ - 3♠ - 4♠. A small heart lead by North might give declarer a slight problem. But West can stay in control despite the 4-1 trump break. Perhaps it is easiest for him to discard a losing diamond on the heart continuation. He should take 10 tricks – four spades, five clubs and a diamond.

Those that bid 3NT may well make, although very accurate defence will defeat that contract.

Board 26. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

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

South opens 1♦ and West overcalls either 1♥ or 2♥ depending on whether he plays weak or intermediate jump overcalls. E/W may climb to 4♥. With both minor suit Aces well placed and the ♥K singleton, West should make 4♥. Perhaps a little fortunate.

Board 27. Dealer South. Vulnerability None

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

West may open 1♦ and partner has a choice of responses - either 1NT or 2D and there the bidding could end. If E/W can register a small minus, either minus 50 or minus 100, they should be reasonably happy.

If South protects with a second round take-out double over 1NT, N/S will find their spade fit. The hand analysis shows that 4♠ can be made, but realistically that is unlikely to be bid. +140 or +170 would be just fine for N/S.

Board 28. Dealer West. Vulnerability N/S

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

Yet another devilish hand to bid. West opens 1♠ and East responds 2♥. It is almost impossible to stop the bidding at the two level, and many are likely to go onto game. In a major suit game, good defence will net 5 tricks. Any E/W's scoring -50 should be content.

This set of hands of mirrors life. Bridge like life can be unfair.