

Bridge
Great
Britain



THE 2007 BGB AUTUMN SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS



Thursday 11th October

Dear Bridge Player

Well I hope you enjoyed that set of hands ! It seems ages ago that I dealt them - but in case you were wondering, I dealt them myself, and they haven't been altered in any way - just ordinary deals, not selected ones. So I do hope they were fun and interesting and not flat boring ones .. I confess I don't even look at them (I just don't have time!) so I am not in a position to comment on them in any way !

Our thanks go to Brian Senior for the commentary ... he is usually pretty accurate in his estimate of what will happen, so I wonder if he has managed to get it right again this time!

Results from the Simultaneous Pairs will be scored live as usual, on www.ecatsbridge.com - hopefully your club will be able to upload the results directly to the server either later this evening or tomorrow and then those of you with Internet access will be able to log on and see your local club result as well as the overall results, which are scored dynamically as soon as the results are uploaded.

Thank you for taking part in this event ... I hope you enjoyed yourself, win or lose, and that you will play in some more Simultaneous Pairs events in the future.

As you play this, the World Championships will be reaching their exciting closing stages out in Shanghai, and you can find results, bulletins and other information at www.worldbridge.org. Do have a look to see how the English Women's Team fared, and I am sure there will be representatives from all over the UK playing in the Transnational Open Teams Championship

With best wishes

Anna

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Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

Everyone should play 3NT by North but the number of tricks to be made is far from clear. An aggressive diamond lead will give declarer an extra trick but a spade is more normal with such a strong hand known to be on the right. Declarer will use the heart entry to take a club finesse, probably leaving the third heart winner stranded as the defence will surely have to lead to it eventually. Ten tricks looks about right but eleven may not be uncommon and there will be a few nines.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

If South opens a weak no trump, West has a borderline double. Today, double is a winner, but it is a very close decision. If North wriggles, anything gets doubled and is at least one down, perhaps two. If not, West leads a low heart to the ace. To get the maximum, East must switch to a low club – not obvious and most will return a heart. The club switch leads to at least two down, while a heart return, ducked to the jack, means only one off. +200 will be good for E/W and +500 great.

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

East opens 1♥ in fourth seat and, if West responds 1NT, that may end the auction. The routine diamond lead should mean one down. With three decent hearts and a weak doubleton, there is a strong case for raising to 2♥, however. East may make a game try with 2♠ and West swiftly return to 3♥, ending the auction. This is between one and two down – South will often give a trick on opening lead, after all, a club lead is quite attractive on this auction.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

Well, this wouldn't be to everyone's taste because of the four low spades, but I would open 2♥ on the North cards and probably play there, making exactly. What if North passes? East opens 1NT and North overcalls 2♥. If West can double for take-out, E/W may reach 3♣, going one or two off. If West instead competes with 2♠ (only four cards because no transfer) East bids 2NT and plays there, making easily. The trick is to go plus.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

A messy little partscore deal, the type that Matchpoints is really all about, with any number of different possible final contracts and results. South may open 1NT and play there, making exactly, 1♣ and play 3♣ for +110, 1♠ and play 2♠ for +110 or +140. Then again, E/W may buy it in diamonds, making eight tricks unless West is declarer on a spade lead, when seven is the limit. 2♥ E/W would be a couple down, but is -100 good or bad?

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

East opens 1♠ and South has no sensible call other than pass, 13 HCP or not. West should raise, only 2 HCP or not – look at the singleton heart. If that can be a pre-emptive 3♠ in the methods, great, but North will still overcall 4♥ – and East may be tempted to double for -590, though partner has promised nothing. Over a 2♠ raise, North bids 3♥ and South raises to game – again, a double from East is not ridiculous. 3NT would be a serious error – how likely is partner to have any help in spades?

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

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

E/W make ten tricks in clubs and will usually play a club partscore. Meanwhile, should South get to play in hearts, a trump promotion can be arranged to create a second defensive trump trick to hold her to seven tricks. If, for example, South opens 1♥ and East doubles after two passes, South may bid a second heart and North compete to 3♥ over 3♣. The difference between -100 and -200 could be huge with -130 the normal result.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

There will be a few partscores: 1♣/♦ – 1♠ – 2♠ – Pass, from N/S, but most should get to 4♠, where eleven tricks is the norm. In an uncontested auction, North should allow for the singleton and raise to 3♠, giving South an easy raise to game. Alternatively, if West can open 2♥, weak with hearts and a minor, North doubles and South may jump to game over East's likely pre-emptive raise to 3♥. If anything, the E/W bidding this time makes it easier to reach game this time.

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

♠ A 10 7 2 ♥ K 3 ♦ 8 6 ♣ A J 8 7 4 ♠ J 9 8 3 ♥ A ♦ K Q 3 2 ♣ Q 9 3 2 ♠ K Q 4 ♥ J ♦ A J 10 9 7 5 ♣ K 6 5	♠ 6 5 ♥ Q 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 2 ♦ 4 ♣ 10 ♠ 6 5 ♥ Q 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 2 ♦ 4 ♣ 10
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When North opens 1♣, East has to decide how many hearts to bid. The suit is weak but there are nine of them – and how often do we pick up a nine-card suit? I'd probably bid 4♥ but can understand bidding only 3♥. Over 3♥, South makes a negative double and North responds 3♠. 4♣ should be forcing now as a negative double without four spades should be strong – but it is a tough hand for N/S. 3NT is tough to bid and 4♠/5♣ require some good views in the play. Defending 3/4♥ doubled rates to score well.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

♠ 9 3 2 ♥ J 9 ♦ A Q 9 8 6 ♣ 7 6 5 ♠ A 8 7 6 ♥ A K 6 5 ♦ K 5 ♣ J 10 2 ♠ 5 4 ♥ Q 10 8 2 ♦ J 7 4 3 ♣ A Q 9	♠ K Q J 10 ♥ 7 4 3 ♦ 10 2 ♣ K 8 4 3 ♠ K Q J 10 ♥ 7 4 3 ♦ 10 2 ♣ K 8 4 3
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This will be a good hand for the weak no-trumpers, who can bid 1♥ – 1♠ – 2♠ – Pass. Yes, the seven-loser West hand is only worth a raise to 2♠. If playing a strong no trump, it is normal to get to either 3♠ or 4♠ via a Stayman sequence, according to whether East drives to game or merely invites. Even 3♠ should fail by a trick. For what it's worth, I would only invite as East – too many minor spade honours and not enough outside strength.

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

♠ Q 9 6 3 2 ♥ 10 9 7 ♦ 10 6 3 2 ♣ 10 ♠ A K 7 4 ♥ K Q J 8 4 ♦ ♣ K J 6 4 ♠ ♥ 6 5 2 ♦ 9 7 5 ♣ A Q 9 7 5 3 2	♠ J 10 8 5 ♥ A 3 ♦ A K Q J 8 4 ♣ 8 ♠ J 10 8 5 ♥ A 3 ♦ A K Q J 8 4 ♣ 8
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South's 3♣ opening gives West a headache. 3♥ loses the spades, 3NT loses both majors, double risks a jump in diamonds. I'd choose double and convert diamonds to hearts – though that doesn't guarantee spades. In practice, East may jump to 6♦ or cuebid 4♣ then jump to 6♦. It's difficult to explore properly and the East hand has a lot of potential. As it happens, 6♦ makes, as does 6NT, while 6♠ fails for obvious reasons and 6♥ because of a spade ruff.

Board 12. NIS Vul. Dealer West.

♠ A 9 5 4 3 ♥ 6 4 3 ♦ A 7 5 3 ♣ 2 ♠ Q 10 6 ♥ A Q 10 2 ♦ J 9 ♣ A K Q 4 ♠ J 8 7 2 ♥ J 9 8 ♦ 8 4 2 ♣ J 10 3	♠ K ♥ K 7 5 ♦ K Q 10 6 ♣ 9 8 7 6 5 ♠ K ♥ K 7 5 ♦ K Q 10 6 ♣ 9 8 7 6 5
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The bad thing that could happen to E/W would be to find the club fit, explore a club slam, and stop in 5♣. +400, or +420 if the spade is not cashed, will be awful, as there are eleven tricks in the more normal contract of 3NT. If West is declarer on a low spade lead, the king will score and declarer will cash the clubs and hearts before playing a diamond in case the spades and diamonds are badly positioned. As it happens, nothing can go wrong.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

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

Four Hearts is on the club guess – but some Easts will lead a club – and is the most likely final contract. South, with both five-card support and a ruffing value, will probably make a pre-emptive raise to 4♥ and that will be that. The only variation may come if East makes a wafer-thin overcall. Now West can try either 5♦ or, perhaps better, 4♠. Either is a good save if declarer was going to get the clubs right and make 4♥, with 4♠ costing only 200 and 5♦ 500.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

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

If East opens 1NT South will double and it will be a case of who blinks first out of West and North. I would not run with the West hand. A completely balanced 6-count has no reason to think that something else will be better than 1NT doubled, but I would run to 2♦ as North. South will convert that to 2♠ and play there. With spade entries to dummy, nine tricks should be made. 1NT doubled is one down, but only if North signals clearly and South trusts her enough to switch to the ♦K.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

5♣ makes exactly and, in theory, that is just fine as 3NT has only nine tricks. In reality, of course, East will lead a diamond against 3NT so there will be an overtrick and +600 will be inadequate. When North opens 1♣, East may overcall 1♦ and South bid 1♥. A jump to 3NT should end the auction for a slightly above average +630.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

It is normal for West to declare 1NT, except at an occasional table where West opens 1♣, North scrapes up a double, and South competes to 2♠. That contract would be down two but East will usually try 3♣ anyway. It is convenient to get the clubs right so nine tricks are likely in 1NT. There is a tenth trick in 3♣, but only if declarer spurns the diamond finesse and plays from the outset to ruff the fourth diamond in dummy. Most will therefore make only nine tricks and, with the majority in 1NT, that will score poorly.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

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

If East opens INT, it would be nice to be playing a two-suited defence, though here a simple 2♥ overall will do just fine. West will bid 2♠, North 3♥, and East may compete to 3♠ despite the balanced minimum – the vulnerability is in favour of competing. At match-points, North should double 3♠ for +100 – if South, who has extra playing strength, doesn't take the push to 4♥, which is also down one. +140 should be pretty good for N/S as some will go minus or collect 50 or 100.

Board 18. NIS Vul. Dealer East.

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

West will either open or rebid INT and play there. North has no good lead so will fall back on the traditional fourth of her longest and strongest, giving a trick. Declarer should keep playing on hearts and can eventually make six tricks – two diamonds, two spades, a club and a heart – but if she tries the spade finesse at any point that will be only five tricks and a poor score. An unlikely club lead would be worth a trick to the defence, but why lead a club?

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

7NT happens to make because of the doubleton ♦J, otherwise a spade lead would defeat it. Still, anyone who reaches 7NT will not object to a little good fortune and, as it would also succeed with an even club break, it is the correct contract. If South opens 2♣, North will drive to at least 6NT and frequently to a grand slam. 7♦ is also a decent spot, around a 70% shot, while 7♣ requires a two-two break so is only 40% – the fact that clubs are three-one means that justice is done to those who land in that contract.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

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

More often than not, E/W will have an uncontested auction, something like: 1♦ – 2♦ – 2NT – 3♦ – Pass. South may overcall 2♠, a pre-balance, and now North will compete to 3♠, which West can double for +500 and an excellent score. Perhaps South should think that partner, who is short in diamonds, will be able to balance herself whenever it is necessary to do so, and wisely not get involved.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

It is hard to see how the contract can be other than 4♥ by E/W and ten tricks is the normal outcome. Even should North lead the singleton spade, trapping South's jack, there is no way for declarer to take advantage of the situation if South withholds the jack at trick one. Anyone who plays 3NT should score very well for +430, but to play other than 4♥ means someone is taking a big gamble.

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

If South opens INT, we would all have methods to show the North hand in an uncontested auction, but do we still have the tools when West doubles? 4♠ is cold and is probably easy to reach if South opens anything other than a weak no trump. I don't have a good solution, unless you still play transfers after the double. 2NT followed by 3♥ might show both majors, but would be forcing. That works this time because partner has a good hand, but it is rather pushy.

Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.

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

Ten tricks are possible in no trump – East can be endplayed if necessary to provide the tenth trick. But will everyone reach game? I might well miss it. After South opens INT, North is only worth an invitation – I would probably not bother with Stayman as the North hand looks to have so many losers that it belongs in no trump, but maybe that is a matter of taste? And is it clear for South to upgrade a minimum because of a mediocre five-card suit? The cards do lie awfully well for declarer.

Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.

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

There are twelve or thirteen tricks available in a heart contract, according to which minor-suit finesse declarer guesses to take (she has no real reason to get the trumps wrong). But how to bid to slam? After 1♥ – 2♦ – 2♥, a 3♠ splinter would work as it finds West with a perfect hand to go on, but bare king is not ideal for a splinter so East may prefer 3♣ then bash 4NT over the 3♥ response. Sometimes, being uncultured is the most effective approach.

Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

North opens 2NT and South must decide whether to look for slam should a four-four fit materialise. If she would not look for slam, there is a strong case for raising quietly to 3NT as the high combined point count may mean there are the same number of tricks in no trump as in a major. That is actually the case here. By playing on spades declarer has eleven in no trump as well as in hearts. If South uses Stayman, she needs to make a cuebid next then sign off in game and leave further moves to North. 6♥ one off will happen here and there.

Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.

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

There will be a number of alternative auctions, not all leading to game, but 1♦ – 1♠ – 3♦ – 3NT, or 1♦ – 2♣ – 2♦ – 2♠ – 3NT, are as likely as any. The latter is better because it protects the weak spot – hearts, and allows an overtrick. But some play responder's reverse as game-forcing so would have to begin with 1♠. 3NT still makes from the West seat, as long as declarer does not put up the ♥Q at trick one.

Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.

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

There are a number of possible auctions (I know a man who would open 2♠ on the South cards, for example, though you may worry about his mental health), but most end up with East declaring a club partscore and making ten tricks. Where North opens 1♦ and East overcalls 2♣, South may scrape up 2♦ or may pass. Either way, 2♥ looks normal from West and East goes back to 3♣ where available, or passes if North has bid 3♦. Now West competes to 4♣.

Board 28. NIS Vul. Dealer West.

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

When West opens 1NT, South competes in fourth seat. Not for the first time, we see how much better it is to be able to show a two-suiter, as otherwise the spade fit will not be found. Assuming that spades are found, East needs to have a take-out double at her disposal. That allows E/W to compete to 3♣/♦, both of which can be made, as can 2♠ by N/S. If you currently play doubles as penalty here, consider changing your methods – competing the partscore becomes much easier.

Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.

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

6♦ is a very good contract, making but for the heart ruff. Those who get to slam can consider themselves to be very unlucky – though a few will be allowed to get home by a non-heart lead. If East opens 1♦, West should jump to 2♥ then support diamonds, which should see slam reached. If East opens 1♠, she rebids 2NT over 2♥ and West bids 3♦. Again, the fit comes to light and West will probably drive to slam if she can be assured of a club control.

Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.

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

An inspired spade play would produce eleven tricks in no trump but everyone will take two finesses and hold themselves to ten. Still, +430 is better than the +420 available in 4♠. In that contract even playing ace and another spade gives only ten tricks after a heart lead. There is no way to avoid a ruff on careful defence. I would expect most to play 3NT. If East opens West's short suit she will not worry about a five-three fit, while East's 4-3-3-3 shape will make her select no trump if given the choice.

Board 31. NIS Vul. Dealer South.

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

It may start 1♣ from South, 1NT from North. Seven tricks is the limit here for +90, while +110 is available in a club contract. E/W can make eight tricks in hearts but only seven in spades. If E/W get involved, they may get too high as West will expect more for whatever action East takes. It always pays to remember, however, that at matchpoints competing the partscore is the important thing, so give partner some rope.

Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

Double dummy, 4♠ is unbeatable but, after a heart lead and club switch, it takes very careful play. The line is to duck the first club and win the second, cross to dummy in diamonds and lead a spade towards the queen. Then duck a spade to the king so that East does not get in to cash a club. If West puts up the ♠K on the first round, declarer ducks to the same effect. This would be an impressive effort, but it would be the wrong line if East held ♠Jx. Now cashing the second spade would be the winning play.

The Websites ...

There are a lot of official and unofficial websites connected with bridge. Here are some of the official ones that you may find interesting and useful

www.ecatsbridge.com	Simultaneous Pairs Results
www.bridgegreatbritain.org	The official BGB site
www.ebu.co.uk	English Bridge Union
www.scottishbridge.co.uk	Scottish Bridge Union
www.wbu.org.uk/	Welsh Bridge Union
www.cbai.ie/	Contract Bridge Assoc of Ireland
www.nibu.co.uk/	Northern Ireland Bridge Union
www.acbl.org	American Contract Bridge League
www.worldbridge.org	World Bridge Federation
www.eurobridge.org	European Bridge League
www.wbfteaching.org	WBF Teaching

If you are looking for the official site for a particular country, please go to the **Address section** on www.ecatsbridge.com, where there is a list of all official member countries of the World Bridge Federation with their websites listed and contact details.

SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS CALENDAR

2007

November	Monday 26th	European
	Wednesday 28th	European

2008

January	Monday 7th	British - Green Pointed
	Tuesday 8th	British - Green Pointed
	Wednesday 9th	British - Green Pointed

April	Wednesday 9th	British - Green Pointed
	Thursday 10th	British - Green Pointed

May	Wednesday 14th	English - Green Pointed
	Thursday 15th	English - Green Pointed

June	Friday 6th	World Wide Bridge Contest
	Saturday 7th	World Wide Bridge Contest

Do join us for as many of these as you can - just email Anna Gudge - anna@ecats.co.uk or telephone her on 01787 881920 to enter.

Full details are also on the website at www.ecatsbridge.com

There are also a number of special events for schools and universities, as well as a Students Simultaneous Pairs and a Minibrige event - for more details look on the EBU website at www.ebu.co.uk