

Bridge  
Great  
Britain



The British



Spring



Simultaneous  
Pairs

Tuesday 12th April 2011



## Dear Bridge Player

Thank you for participating in this BGB Simultaneous Pairs event. It was Julian Pottage's turn to do the commentary and by now you will know whether he got it right or not!

As usual, this Simultaneous Pairs is being scored live on Internet - your club will be able to upload the results directly to the server either later this evening or tomorrow and then you 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. You can watch them change as new results come in, and see your own position overall and how you are doing. Just log onto <http://www.ecatsbridge.com> and click on the "Sims" tab at the top then follow the links.

I am often asked where the hands come from - I know that many of you think we "select" them with a view to making them "interesting and challenging" but let me reassure you - they are not selected. They are straight deals. I simply deal them using the computer - just as you do at the club if you have a dealing machine. So ... no tricks. No trying to catch you out.

Once again, thank you for taking part in this event. I hope you enjoyed yourself, win or lose and that you will join us again soon for another Simultaneous Pairs.

With best wishes

*Anna*

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**Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.**

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

After opening an Acol 2♠ or Benjamin 2♣, it should not be hard for North to discover that South has two aces and a bit of spade support. Armed with this information North bids 6♠. If the ♠Q is singleton or doubleton, 12 tricks are laydown. Even if there is a trump loser, you may be able to set up the clubs or score the ♦J via a squeeze (better than finessing if you know East has a heart guard and West a club guard). The riskier 6NT also yields 13 tricks.

**Board 2. NIS Vul. Dealer East.**

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

If South, with mild disdain for the vulnerability, opens a weak 2♥ or a Multi, West overcalls 2NT and North goes 4♥. This makes in comfort, with two red aces and a spade to lose. Holding the ♣A and having seen West's overcall, East will be tempted to double 4♥. If South does not open, West bids 1♣, North doubles, East bids 3♣ and South 3♥. It is much easier to find the save in 5♣ on this auction and to get the trumps right to escape for only one down.

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

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

West opens 1♦ and North is likely to bid a Michaels 2♦. East doubles to show values and some defence. South bids 2♥, West rebids 3♣ and North competes with 3♥. With a sure heart stopper and the hope of running one or both minors, East may venture 3NT. 9 tricks are easy in 3NT; you can make 11 by playing North for a singleton diamond. 5♣ and 5♦ are also on if you get the diamonds right. 4♥ is not just a cheap save against 3NT – it actually makes!

**Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.**

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

The disciplined auction is for North to open 1♠, East to overcall 2♥, South to bid 2NT and North to go 3♠. East's natural lead is the ♣8. To tempt West to take the ♣A declarer should play an honour from dummy. If West takes the ♣A, bang goes East's club ruff and the defenders make only 3 tricks. One game makes without a defensive error: 3NT. Any East who takes one look at the seven-card suit and decides to overcall 4♥ is liable to lose 800.

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

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

If South opens a lead-directing 1♠ in third seat, this could score a goal if West overcalls 2♥. This can go down two if South wins the first spade and switches to a trump (or the ♣10). With 18 points West may well prefer to double, allowing East-West to find their diamond fit and make 110. They do slightly better in a no-trump partial with 120 available. They may well bid 1♥-1♠-2NT in an uncontested auction. 1♣ and 1♥ are the contracts on for North-South.

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

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

Pass-1♣-1♥-2♣-3♣-3♦-3♥-4♥ is a way for East-West to reach the good 4♥. The quality of the heart suit makes up for the absence of an eight trump. I suspect more pairs will play in their ten-card club fit. South can win the first diamond and switch to a spade to defeat 5♣. If West opens or rebids 1NT, the final contract may be 3NT. In this case, North will need to find a spade lead. If South overcalls 1♠, this will put paid to any thoughts of playing in 3NT.

**Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.**

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

The scientific way to bid is for West to show a huge hand with spades plus a few hearts and then find out via cue bids that no club control is present. If the bidding does highlight the club weakness, North should lead the ♣A rather than the normal ♦J. This leads to the par score of 650. Bashers in the West seat may simply head to 6♠ once East shows a few values, making life harder for North. 650 is also there in a heart contract. 600 is the limit in no-trumps.

**Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.**

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

After East opens 1♠ in third seat and South comes in with 2♣, West is likely to pre-empt with 3♠. North is not quite worth 4♣ but East goes on to 4♠ anyway. Even if North has bid 4♣, South is too flat to save in 5♣ at love all. Losing 500 would be a bottom. With the ♦A in the North hand, 4♠ can hardly fail. The overtrick depends on the trump play. One reason to play for the drop is that an endplay may succeed if North had three spades and the ♦Q.

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

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

If North opens 3♣, South responds 3♥ and North rebids 4♣ (3♠ would be a cue bid, not natural). South may raise to 5♣. To defeat 5♣, East must lead the ♦A or a low spade. If North passes as dealer, East may open 1♦, which South doubles. West raises to 2♦ (possibly 3♦) and North's bid is unclear. North's bid is also unclear (pass/1♠/INT) if South gets to open 1♥ in third seat. North-South can make 2♥, 2♠ or INT. East-West can make 1♦.

**Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.**

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

If you are waiting for a drink, smoke or a comfort break, this deal could be just what you are looking for. At game all, it is quite possible that nobody bids. If anyone opens, it is likely to be West. With the ♠K and ♦K both onside, East-West contracts play well. Indeed, you can make 150 in no-trumps (600 if you are raving overbidders) or 130 in diamonds. With the aid of a backward finesse in clubs (or via a helpful lead like the ♣10), North-South can make 2♥.

**Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.**

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

With a couple of tens and a five-card suit, South is going to treat the hand as worth a 20-22. Since few pairs will have the mechanism for North to sign off in diamonds, a 2NT opening would both begin and end the auction. There are 7 top winners and no time to make more. Minor suit contracts do better, with 110 available in 3♣ or 3♦. If South opens a natural or strong 1♣, East-West can get in the bidding and find their spade fit, potentially making 140 their way.

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

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

If West opens 1♣, North overcalls 1♥. In view of the vulnerability, East may pass in the hope West can reopen with a double. In fact, South bids 1♠, West 2♣ and North 2♦. East then raises to 3♣. South may or may not go on to 3♠. With the hearts offside, 3♠ should fail. However, if the defenders take one heart trick early, declarer can set up the ♦8 and make 9 tricks. With the ♥K and ♦10 onside, 3♣ makes easily with just four top tricks to lose.

**Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.**

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

At many tables, East-West will bid 1♠-INT-3♠-4♠. With the ♣K onside and trumps friendly, the play is for the overtrick. If South leads a club, the ♣9 makes a cheap trick. If the lead is the ♦9, East is likely to face a heart guess. As South might have led a heart from a queen-high suit, it seems normal to guess right. Any South who leads the ♥2 at trick one scores a goal. If West declares, 630 is there in 3NT: after a heart to the ace and one back, put in the eight.

**Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.**

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

Looking at the North-South cards, you want to be in 6♦. On a spade lead, you will make 10 or 12 tricks depending upon the trump split. In real life, few will do that. Suppose West opens 1♠ in third seat, North overcalls 2♦ and East bids 2♥. South may then make a fit jump of 4♣. Over any big diamond raise, North ends in 5♦. East doubles and leads a spade. If West never bids spades, it might be harder for East to find the spade lead. 4♥ should be down one.

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

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

At some tables, the auction will be a simple INT from West raised to 3NT by East. With clubs 3-2, as is normal, there are an easy 9 tricks. If North comes in with a Landy 2♣ (despite having so few values in the majors), East needs to apply a little science, showing the spade stopper and waiting for West to show a heart stopper. 4♦ and 3♣ are on for East-West. 2♥ doubled and 2♠ doubled would go down 500, giving a top score to the defending side.

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

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

Assuming West passes as dealer, North opens INT. South is likely to forget about the hearts, simply showing the spades (via a transfer) and then going to 4♠. If East leads a club, West can take the ace and switch to a heart, though this could be wrong if East had the ♣K but not the ♥A or ♦K (South's second club would go on the ♦K). Finding the heart ruff to stop 450 should be easier if West is on lead. 3NT makes but for only 400. 5♣ doubled is down 800.

**Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.**

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

North-South can make 4♥, losing a spade and two diamonds. East-West have a very cheap sacrifice in 4♣ doubled, down one. Reluctant to accept a paltry penalty and knowing from the law of total tricks that it is rarely right to defend at the four level when both sides have a ten-card fit, many North-South pairs will go on to 5♥. Any South who opens an outrageous 4♥ may buy it there and score a top. The more likely openings of 2♣, 2♥ and 1♥ allow East-West in.

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

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

If East, devaluing the unguarded queens, passes as dealer, North gets to open in fourth seat, presumably with 1NT. If East comes in with 2♥, South doubles, not caring too much how North takes this. So long as South does not lead a spade, 2♥ doubled should be down two. If North plays in 1NT, this yields 8 tricks for 120. North-South may do better playing in a suit contract, with 140 on in spades or 130 in diamonds, courtesy of one or two winning finesses.

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

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

If North opens 1NT in third seat, East doubles. South may forget about the hearts and just show the spades. West will want to compete in clubs. It could be useful to be playing Lebensohl so that West can show a weak 3♣ bid by going through 2NT. If South's way to show spades is conventional, West can achieve the same thing with a delayed 3♣ bid. North can make 3♠ as East cannot get forces going: a club lead holds South to 110. East-West can make 4♣.

**Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.**

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

The bidding seems straightforward: 2NT by East with a raise to 3NT by West. If East, with a 4333 shape and no tens, treats the hand as worth 19 points, West may become declarer. Since North holds the missing aces and only two diamonds, you can make 11 tricks for 660. However, you will not know this at the table and the heart blockage is awkward, so some will hold up a round of diamonds and make only 630. The play is easier if the initial lead is not a diamond.

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

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

Being strong enough to rebid 2NT over a response of 2♣, North may open 1♦. If South raises 1♦ to 3♦, North may bash 3NT despite the singleton club. It still looks like declarer is a trick short, though not if West plays the king on the first spade. 5♦ is a better contract. Still, if East leads a trump, you need to take a bit of care. Playing East for the ♠K will not work. Winning lines include squeezing West in the majors, leading up to the ♥Q-J or finessing in spades.

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

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

With the attractive six-card suit, South is likely to upgrade to a 2NT opening. With 13 points and a six-card suit, many a North is going to head for 6♥. The lucky position in hearts makes it easy to take all the tricks. Perhaps North can work out that 6NT is going to be a better spot. Since North holds so many values outside hearts, it is unlikely that South can usefully ruff anything. If you bid a grand slam, 7♦ is best; this effectively depends on the position of the ♥K.

**Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.**

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

If West downgrades to a weak 1NT (or is playing a strong no-trump but does not downgrade), 1NT may be the only bid. Otherwise West opens 1♦ and rebids 1NT over 1♠, perhaps after North has thrown in a takeout double. North has no effective lead. A heart, even though it gives a third heart trick at once, may work best. Declarer may then need to guess who has the ♣10 to make 9 tricks. 150 to East-West will be a common score, with 120 quite common too.

**Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.**

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

West probably passes as dealer but shows the club suit after North opens 1♦ and South responds 1♥. This stops North from showing the spades. Facing a partner who could not open, East has no interest in game but does want to raise clubs. At love all, South is going to compete to 3♦ almost no matter what East does. To make 3♦ North surely needs to guess the hearts right. With spades 3-3, 3♠ also makes. East-West can make 2♣ or 1NT.



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

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

North-South might steal the contract in 2♠ after a INT opening from North and a transfer or weak takeout from South. To stop any overtricks, the lead needs to be a diamond. Then West can put East in twice, once with a club and once with a heart, to score two ruffs. With so much shape East ought to try a second round double (planning to convert clubs in diamonds if need be). West may then jump to 4♥, making an overtrick by setting up the diamonds.

**Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.**

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

When East opens 1♥, South might overcall 2♣ despite the lack of a sixth club. This suits West, who can make a semi pre-emptive raise to 3♥. If South does not overcall, West has a tough choice between 2♥ and 3♥. At most tables, Easy-West ought to manage to stop in 3♥, which makes exactly 9 tricks assuming North scores a ruff. North-South, as they are vulnerable, do not want to compete to 4♣ and risk losing the dreaded 200 if someone doubles.

**Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.**

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

The contract is quite likely to be INT whether South opens 1♥, 1♣ or a strong INT. Even if South has shown clubs, North probably cannot play in 2♣ as many play 1♣-pass-1♥-pass-INT-pass-2♣ as an artificial enquiry. Curiously, the only lead to be sure of stopping the second overtrick in INT is a club, which allows East to win and return a low spade. This breaks up a possible endplay on West. Other making contracts are 4♣, 3♦ and even 2♠.

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

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

If West passes as dealer, North opens INT and South takes out into 2♥, probably via a transfer. East may come in on the second round with 3♣, pushing South to 3♥. Despite the usual rule that you do not double when partner may have already done well to push the other side up a level, West will be very tempted. As the cards lie, neither side can make much. A club from West or a diamond from East defeats even 2♥. 3♣ goes two down if South scores a spade ruff.

**Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.**

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

The cards lie very well for East-West and they are quite likely to pick up a sizeable penalty. Suppose East opens 1♦, South overcalls 1♥, West calls INT and East rebids 2♣. The warning of West's INT notwithstanding, South may well try 2♥. West can double and collect 800 if East switches to spades early. If West bids 2NT over 1♥, this will silence South and may lead to 630 in 3NT. 4♦ and 3♣ are also makeable.

**Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.**

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

I expect a INT opening from East to begin and end the bidding. So long as East does not allow the ace of clubs to decapitate the king, this should escape for two down and -100, a good score non-vulnerable. If they can find a way into the auction, which they will if East has to open 1♣, North-South can make a variety of contracts: 2NT, 3♥, 3♦ and even 2♠. All of these outscore the 100 available from defending INT. I do like triumphs for the weak no-trump.

**Board 31. N/S Vul. Dealer South.**

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

With spades 3-3 and the ♥K inside, East-West can make 6♣. I hope that not many pairs bid it! If South opens 1NT, East overcalls 2♠. West may then bid 2NT or 3♠, each of which will elicit a raise to game from East. On a non-diamond lead, West can make an overtrick in 3NT; a diamond stops the overtrick. 4♠ makes an overtrick on any sensible line. If South opens 1♦, East might reopen with a double (rather than 1♠). West might pass and collect 500.

**Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.**

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

North might open 1♠ in second seat, which gives East a bit of a problem. A 2♥ overcall will end the auction as the cards lie. Despite the violation of Burn's law, 8 tricks are available in hearts. 110 is also possible playing in one of the minors or even in 2♠! The highest scoring spot offensively is 1NT, with 120 possible, more if South leads one of the minors. If North passes, 1♥-pass-1♠-pass-2♦-end is a likely auction. Few will play in 1NT.

## 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

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b><a href="http://www.ecatsbridge.com">www.ecatsbridge.com</a></b>               | Simultaneous Pairs Results             |
| <b><a href="http://www.bridgegreatbritain.org">www.bridgegreatbritain.org</a></b> | Bridge Great Britain                   |
| <b><a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a></b>                           | English Bridge Union                   |
| <b><a href="http://www.scottishbridge.co.uk">www.scottishbridge.co.uk</a></b>     | Scottish Bridge Union                  |
| <b><a href="http://www.wbu.org.uk/">www.wbu.org.uk/</a></b>                       | Welsh Bridge Union                     |
| <b><a href="http://www.cbai.ie/">www.cbai.ie/</a></b>                             | Contract Bridge Association of Ireland |
| <b><a href="http://www.nibu.co.uk/">www.nibu.co.uk/</a></b>                       | Northern Ireland Bridge Union          |
| <b><a href="http://www.worldbridge.org">www.worldbridge.org</a></b>               | World Bridge Federation                |
| <b><a href="http://www.eurobridge.org">www.eurobridge.org</a></b>                 | European Bridge League                 |
| <b><a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a></b>                             | American Contract Bridge League        |
| <b><a href="http://www.wbfteaching.org">www.wbfteaching.org</a></b>               | WBF Teaching                           |

If you are looking for the official site for a particular country, please go to **[www.ecatsbridge.com](http://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. Look in the Quick Links section on the left of the main page and you will see the list of NBO (National Bridge Federation) addresses.



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