

Bridge
Great
Britain



The BGB

Autumn

Simultaneous

Pairs



Wednesday 12th October 2011

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. 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 on

www.ecatsbridge.com

as normal - 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.

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.

With best wishes

Anna

Anna Gudge, BGB Simultaneous Pairs Organiser
The Old Railway Station
Long Melford
Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9HN
Tel: 01 787 881920 / Fax: 01 787 881339
email: anna@ecats.co.uk
Web Site: www.bridgegreatbritain.org
Web Site for Results: www.ecatsbridge.com

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

Those who play a weak no trump have the option of rebidding INT with the North hand. Most, however, will bid two suits. That should mean opening 1♦ and rebidding 2♣. Major suits are more important than minors (the clue is in the name) and to open 1♥ and rebid 2♣/♦ should guarantee five hearts to create a sound base for further bidding. Here, the cards lie well for N/S, and all sensible partscores should succeed.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

Whether East can open a weak 2♦ or West opens in third seat, the likely contract will be 2♠ by North. A heart lead ducked, club switch and second heart through while the diamonds are still blocked beats this, while it should be made on any other defence, a loser going away on the king of diamonds. Left to himself, East will probably lead a diamond, but a 1♥ opening in third seat is a live option and West will be very impressed with himself if he finds the bid.

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

The favourable club position means that N/S have nine tricks in a no-trump contract, though it would be normal to stop in partscore. Those who find the spade fit should also be held to nine tricks via a defensive club ruff, without which there are ten tricks. Should East make a weak jump overcall of 2♦ over 1♣ on his right, West may compete to 3♦. That goes two down for a very poor score, even if nobody finds a double.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

With no semblance of a dummy entry, West should be held to eight tricks in either a heart or club contract, losing two hearts and one in each of the other suits. Meanwhile, N/S are between eight and nine tricks in spades, with nine the more likely outcome. N/S rate to buy the contract at most tables when West's 1♥ opening comes around to South who, with no ideal action, will usually double.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

7♣/♠/NT are all on the same thing, the heart finesse – which fails. The top spot is 6NT. If spades are agreed and South takes control, he can discover that North holds the ♥A, ♠Q and ♦K (it is superior to show specific kings in response to the follow-ups to whatever version of Blackwood you use). Unless North opened the bidding, there is no room for the ♥K also. South may well see the possibility of the same twelve tricks in NT as in spades. Should North open? I don't think so, vulnerable with a bare king as part of his 12-count.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

South is not strong enough for a high-level reverse so the popular auction will be: 1♠ – 2♦ – 2♠ – 3♥ – 3NT. A low heart runs to the eight and East ducks when declarer takes the diamond finesse. A club to hand and a second finesse loses, and now a club comes through. The finesse loses and the contract makes ten tricks – four diamonds, three hearts and three clubs.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

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

If South passes, West opens 2♠ and East enquires with 2NT. Does the 6-4 shape turn the West hand into a maximum? If West thinks so, E/W will play game, failing by one trick. If he thinks no, they will stop in 3♠ and score +140. It's a close decision for me. What if South opens 2♦ (weak)? There should be two passes and now East will probably bid 2NT. West will usually drive to 4♠ now and the weak two bid has done its job.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

If West can open 2♥, hearts and a minor, North will get a big surprise. He will have to pass and 2♥ may end the auction as South is very light for any action. 2♥ will fail, of course. If South overcalls 2♠, North will raise to game and there looks to be too much work to do to make ten tricks. For South to double 2♥ with only 6 HCP would be a wild gamble. Where West does not open, North may declare 2♥, and he too will surely go down.

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

Most N/Ss will play a game here. Those who show a five-card heart suit will normally play the heart game while those who open a weak no trump as North will play 3NT. Nine tricks are easy in either contract but the tenth can only come from a winning heart play. There is no reason at all to get hearts right if playing in 3NT so nine tricks should be the norm. I suspect that the majority will go down in 4♥ but maybe, if East leads the singleton diamond, declarer will therefore play him for heart length and get it right, albeit for the wrong reason.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

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

While N/S may get involved at some tables, the vulnerability suggests that they will not go to 5♦ over the popular E/W contract of 4♠. Ten tricks for +620 looks to be completely routine – anyone who is permitted an overtrick will get a huge score, but that should be very rare.

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

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

With E/W making either 1NT or 3♦, any N/S who manage to play a spade partscore should score well. Where West opens 1♦, North may overcall 1♥ and, if East bids a slightly aggressive 1NT, will South get involved on a misfit? He probably should double for take-out but many will not. It is easier for N/S when West opens 1NT as North can come in with a two-suited bid and now the spade fit should be found easily enough.

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

The lie of the minors means that E/W are heavy favourites to bring home 3NT as there is no suit which N/S can attack effectively. Whichever suit the basic method requires East to open, the empty 19 HCP is only worth an invitational 2NT rebid. However, when both hands are balanced, the minor honour cards are undervalued in the standard point count. The West hand is worth quite a bit more than 6 HCP and West should raise to 3NT.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

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

Some will open 1♦ in third seat but the majority will pass, discouraged by the vulnerability. If West opens 1♥, he may play there, and should be defeated. If his system requires a 1♣ opening, East may raise to 2♣ if that is systemic and West go on to 2NT. That should fail by a trick, as should a correction to 3♣ from East. Where East passes, South may balance. Eight or even nine tricks with a good trump guess, are available in a diamond contract.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

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

E/W make 4♠, courtesy of the heart ace being well placed and no spade loser – so in theory you would not want to be in it as it is less than a 50-50 prospect. For all the big spade suit, the East hand is not a 4♠ opening – not with 7-2-2-2 shape. When East opens 1♠ and rebids 2♠, some Wests will pass, some raise to 3♠. If I have already made a two-over-one response, I am a passer. There may be eight losers, suggesting a raise to 3♠, but the lack of an ace or top trump plus the soft diamond holding suggest pessimism.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

N/S can make ten tricks in a heart contract but few will reach the fortunate game, so that +170 should score just fine. Many Wests will upgrade and open 1♣ because of the good five-card suit, creating an awkward situation for North, who has the wrong shortage to double and no five-card suit to overcall. The classic solution is to pass, intending to double next time if the opposition find a spade fit or West rebids 1NT.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

If North overcalls 2♦, South is very likely to look at the vulnerability and save in 5♦ if his opponents get to game. Repeated diamond leads is the best defence, restricting dummy to one ruff. And repeated diamond leads is also the best defence should West declare a spade contract. 4♠ rates to go down, though declarer can get close with a little inspiration – win the diamond lead, heart to the ace, spade towards dummy and, if the spade is ducked, switch attention to hearts.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

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

If North opens a strong no trump South may just raise to game. On a club lead, declarer plays low from dummy, wins the ace and plays one back to the ten. He will need a successful diamond play plus the ♠A onside. If North opens 1♦/♥, South may respond 1NT and play there or may look at his tens and nines and bid 2♣, which will get North to 3NT. On a non-club lead, the percentage play in clubs is ace, king and another – there are eight ♥s and only six xxs – and down you go.

Board 18. NIS Vul. Dealer East.

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

If East opens 1♦ and South overcalls 1NT, West will double. If everyone sits for this, it should make as either minor-suit lead is good for declarer, whose natural play knocks out the heart entry to East's diamonds before they get established. If East runs to 2♦, that makes exactly, while if North scrambles 2♥ looks to also be successful.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

South opens 1♦ and West doubles. 2♣ is the normal response from East and West is worth another bid, 2♦ being the obvious action. Now East has a decent hand in context and can bid no trump. With the clubs coming in, there is no defence to 3NT. Indeed, with the red aces pretty well marked in the South hand, if South doesn't give a diamond trick on the lead, declarer will play to set up a heart for what turns out to be the overtrick when spades also behave kindly.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

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

North will often open 2♠ and East has nothing better than a 3♣ overcall – not that I am a fan of three-level overcalls on 5-3-3-2 shape hands but what else is there? South should pass, having some hopes on defence and no reason to imagine he can make a heart contract. West will also pass as 3♦ would be, in principle, forcing, though perhaps not quite so from a passed hand. There are some wrinkles to the play but two down looks the most likely outcome after the spade lead.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

Another weak two opening for North. If 2♠ would be constructive but non-forcing, my preferred method, South may as well bid it. Spades will rarely be a worse spot and bidding may convince the opposition that you are stronger in high-card terms than is actually the case. If West now overcalls 2NT, will East play him for this much and raise, or will he pass? 3NT is cold, of course, courtesy of the club finesse.

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

When West responds 1♠ to East's 1♦ opening, East can only rebid 2♦. Despite the diamond fit, 2NT is the practical continuation for West, and East has an easy raise to 3NT. Look at those black tens – without them 3NT could be in jeopardy, with them the contract is cold for an overtrick. On a club lead, declarer should put in dummy's ten. If he plays low and the eight or nine forces the king he has a guess when North leads a second club (not today, of course). Put in the ten and there are two club stoppers when North has either honour.

Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.

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

Four Hearts will be a popular contract. A diamond lead will assure defeat as there are two hearts and one trick in each black suit to be lost, but what about the singleton club lead. We should be clear – this is not a good lead as West has no need for a ruff with two natural trump tricks. However, people makes these leads and declarer will win the ace, cash the top hearts and look disappointed. Now he should try the ten of spades. A sleepy West may think this is the start of a finesse and play low. Now the ♠K goes away on the ♦K and there are ten tricks.

Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.

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

A spade lead should hold North to eight tricks in a diamond contract. Meanwhile, E/W do well in either major, the spades in particular being very friendly. Most experts would overcall 1♠ with the East hand but on this occasion double works much better as it makes it easier for West to compete effectively. If South has bid clubs, East will not feel able to bid a second time on his own.

Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

If East opens INT, he may declare 4♥ with no clues from the bidding, while if he opens 1♦ and South overcalls it may be harder to reach the heart game, though still possible. If South has bid, it becomes natural to lead the first heart through him, hoping for ace-doubleton, and now there are eleven tricks on any lead. With no opposition bidding, there is no good reason to get hearts right. Get them wrong and an early spade attack defeats the game.

Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.

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

What should West do when South opens 1♠? Double with only two hearts? INT with a bare minimum for the bid, vulnerable and facing a passed partner? Or pass – a bit wet with 15 HCP? Anything could be right on a given day. This day, pass works out badly because N/S get to play 2♠ and should make it. Double gets redouble but South will again bid 2♠ – will E/W compete to 3♣, which makes? And INT? North doubles, East may run to 2♣ and South bid 2♠. Again, the winning action is for West to bid 3♣.

Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.

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

Where South opens INT and North passes, East can compete with a two-suited overcall and West perhaps invite with 3♠ once the fit comes to light. If North transfers to clubs, however, he may shut E/W out of the auction. A 1♦ opening sees West double and E/W play a major-suit partscore. Playing in spades, declarer can lead the ♠J to pin the ten, playing in a minor, declarer can lead the ♦Q to pin the 10-9. Easy, you say, when a big spot-card falls on the first round – but North can play ♠8 from ♠10-8-x and West ♦9 from ♦10-9-x.

Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

North is borderline between a weak and a strong no trump. Weak gets my vote and is the winner this time as 3NT will fail unless declarer is really inspired. Even having been given a second club trick by a club lead, declarer will need to get spades right and never play on hearts to come to nine tricks. Why should he play for the hand with the longer clubs to also have the spade card?

Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.

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

If North opens 1NT, East will probably pass and South transfer to hearts then bid 2NT. Whether North passes that or goes back to 3♥, East will lead the ♠Q and a duck gets a pleasant surprise. Declarer may lose a heart trick to keep East off lead, but either contract will make in comfort. A 1♦ opening may get a weak jump overcall of 2♠ and now it is unclear where N/S will end up. Game is unbeatable if declarer gets everything right.

Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.

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

If West opens 1♠ in third seat, North will be mildly suspicious – we all know what tricks some players get up to third in hand non-vulnerable. However, this time the bid is honest. North has to pass. If East bids 2♥, West will raise, my vote going to a raise to game. If East responds 1NT, West bids 2♥ and maybe North bids 2♠ despite the five-card suit on his right. I suspect that East will raise to 4♥ either way and this makes in some comfort.

Board 31. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

Where South opens 1NT, he will become declarer in 4♥, either via a transfer sequence or via Stayman followed by Smolen to show five hearts and four spades. Where South opens 1♣, North will normally declare that contract – he will respond 1♥ then use checkback after the 1NT rebid to find the five-three fit. As the cards lie, there will just be two red-suit losers after the natural diamond lead.

Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

Where West can open 1♥ he will do so and East may raise to game. As this is pre-emptive, it should end the auction despite West's 19 HCP. If East thinks he is too good for 4♥ and tries a 4♦ splinter, West will go past game despite the wasted diamond values, imagining that his partner has more high cards than this. If West has to open 1♣, he will raise the 1♥ response to 4♥. East may be tempted to go on but cannot be sure that the five level is safe so will probably pass. There are 12 tricks.

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.



For information about Bridge Great Britain please contact:

Mrs Sandra Claridge
31 Elmtrees
Long Crendon Aylesbury
Bucks HP18 9DG

Telephone: 01844 208629
email: claridge31@tiscali.co.uk