

Bridge
Great
Britain



The British

Spring



Simultaneous Pairs

Wednesday 13th 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.

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

If South opens a third seat weak 2♥, West will probably just blast 3NT. More likely West gets to open, presumably 2NT. On the 4321 point count, East does not really have enough to bid over 2NT. However, those who use the Banzai 54321 scale will scrape up a bid. With diamonds 4-4, 3NT rolls home. Indeed, on any lead other than a diamond, you can make an overtrick. 2♥ doubled can go for 500, as can 2♠ doubled. 4♣ makes but is not game.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

An off-centre 4♥ opening may do well since neither opponent can sensibly disturb this. That said, 4♥ is not certain to make. If West cashes a top spade and switches to a trump, it is tempting to win in dummy and finesse the ♦Q; West would win and continue trumps. If South opens 1♥, West overcalls 1♠ and East-West are quite likely to bid 4♠ over 4♥. While the trumps are 4-1, the missing honours in the minors are onside, allowing West to make 10 tricks.

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

East-West should have the auction to themselves, bidding something like 1♠-2♣-2♥-4♥. J-x is not usually an attractive lead, though here it is in the unbid suit and leads to a ruff. This holds West to 10 tricks. 4♥ plays better from the East seat, with 11 tricks possible on any lead: you might ruff two clubs, throw one on the ♠A and later pick the diamonds. 3NT makes from either seat. So long as South does not lead a diamond, there are no overtricks in 3NT.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

An uncontested 1♥-1♠-2♥-3♥ seems about par. Surely, South does not overcall on a glorified flat 11 count in the sandwich seat. The defenders have four top winners and a couple of chances to take them, so 140 will be a common score. With hearts 2-2, the inferior 3♠ also yields 140. A four-level foray in one of the minors should prove costly for North-South even if nobody doubles with three spades, a heart and a diamond to lose.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

Once again, East-West should have the bidding to themselves. East's choice of opening is critical. If it is a weak 2♥ or a Multi, the final contract will be a part-score. If it is 1♥, West will insist on game. With the ♣Q inside, you can make 4♥. However, there is a danger of losing a club ruff as well as the ♠A and two trump tricks. With the diamond tenace protected, West can make 3NT. Indeed, unless North leads the ♠5, 10 tricks for a huge 430 are possible.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

North-South have the cards this time and the question is whether they can reach 6♠. With a pair of five-loser hands facing each other, they ought to know they are in the slam zone. You can make 6♠ even on a heart lead by winning, drawing trumps and running the clubs. The auctions to avoid are 1♣-1♦-1♠-4♠ and 1♣-(1♥)-2♦-2♠-4♠. North needs to bid more strongly. The snag is that North has no aces and two fast heart losers, so cannot really take control.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

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

6♠ is nowhere near as good a contract on this deal and duly fails despite the favourable location of the ♠Q and ♣Q because North is short of entries. Let us say South opens 2♣ and West overcalls 2♥. If you play a double from North as showing some values, you can do that. Otherwise, the bidding comes back to South, who may try 2NT. A simple raise to 3NT by North works best, with 11 tricks on in no-trumps, spades or clubs. 2♥ doubled is down only 500.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

A weak 2♥ from North may backfire because East may scrape up a 2NT overcall and West may find a raise (perhaps checking for a spade fit en route). With the ♠Q and ♦A both inside and the ♣Q bare, no fewer than 11 tricks are possible in 3NT. Left to their own devices, East-West are unlikely to reach game with 23 points. At many tables, East will show a flat 15-17 and decline any game try. 4♠ yields 'only' 10 tricks while 2♥ doubled can go down 500.

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

A weak 2♠ from North may pose a few problems even if South does not raise. If East overcalls 3♦ and West advances with 3♥, is East really going to bid 3NT? Now suppose East passes over 2♠. West is more likely to double or bid 2NT than 3♥. Again, there is a big danger of going past 3NT. Although both minors break 3-2, you cannot make more than 11 tricks anywhere because North has a sure club winner. 4♠ doubled would be down 800.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

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

If North-South stay silent, pass-INT-2♦-2♥-3♣ is a possible start. East takes advantage of being a passed hand to bid what would otherwise be a forcing 3♣. If North can overcall INT with 2♦, East bids 2♥, South raises to 3♦ and West raises to 3♥. Again, East-West get to 4♥. While there is a club loser, North's bare ♥Q spares declarer any headaches in the trump suit. 5♦ doubled is down 500, a useful save if many pairs reach game.

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

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

Most routes lead to 3NT by West. 1♣-1♥-INT-3NT is one possible route. Most declarers will make 9 tricks and no more. With both black suits 3-3, it does not matter which one you try to set up. The odds seem to favour going after the clubs since if South has the king and queen then you do not need a 3-3 break. This figures to be one of the flattest boards of the night. Any score other than 400 to East-West will be very good for someone.

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

6♥ by East is a very good slam. What may make it tricky to reach is that South's spade overcall will cause East to devalue the king-jack. The likely start is 1♦-pass-1♥-1♠-2♦-pass. If East bids 2♠ and West jumps to 4♥, does East bid higher? If 2♠ is game forcing, West can bid 3♥, leaving more room to explore. The diamond position means there is nothing to the play. South will need to cash the ♠A at trick one or lose it. 710 will be a common score.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

<p>♠ A J 8 5 ♥ 8 6 ♦ A ♣ A Q 10 8 5 3</p> <p>♠ 3 2 ♥ Q J 5 ♦ J 10 6 5 4 ♣ J 6 2</p>	<p>♠ 9 7 4 ♥ 10 7 4 2 ♦ 8 7 2 ♣ K 7 4</p> <p>♠ K Q 10 6 ♥ A K 9 3 ♦ K Q 9 3 ♣ 9</p>
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With reasonable breaks all around, you can make 7♠ either by setting up the clubs or via a crossruff. Whether you want to be in it is another matter. If the bidding starts 1♣-1♦-1♠, it will be tempting for South to launch into 4NT. Once North shows three aces, South might blast the grand slam or perhaps just bid 5NT to confirm that the necessary controls are present and give North the chance to bid the grand. 6NT is on if you guess the clubs 'right'.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

<p>♠ 5 ♥ A 10 2 ♦ J 7 6 3 ♣ J 9 8 5 4</p> <p>♠ A K Q 3 ♥ J 9 5 ♦ K 9 5 2 ♣ 6 2</p>	<p>♠ 10 9 6 4 2 ♥ K 8 7 3 ♦ 4 ♣ K 7 3</p> <p>♠ J 8 7 ♥ Q 6 4 ♦ A Q 10 8 ♣ A Q 10</p>
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This should be a competitive partscore deal. If South opens 1♦, West overcalls 1♠ (clear with A-K-Q-x) and North raises the diamonds. East then bids 3♠ (probably a jump) to buy the contract. The law of total tricks suggests that one side can make eight tricks and the other nine. So it proves. With the clubs nice for North-South, they make 3♦ while 3♠ fails by a trick. 3♣ is also making for North-South. Five rounds of spades and a diamond shift defeats 1NT.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

<p>♠ A Q 7 3 ♥ Q 8 6 3 ♦ Q 8 ♣ A 10 3</p> <p>♠ — ♥ 10 9 7 2 ♦ J 4 3 ♣ K Q 9 8 6 5</p>	<p>♠ J 6 4 2 ♥ A 5 ♦ A 7 6 2 ♣ J 7 2</p> <p>♠ K 10 9 8 5 ♥ K J 4 ♦ K 10 9 5 ♣ 4</p>
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If North opens 1NT in third seat and South transfers via 2♥, West overcalls 3♣ and North competes with 3♠. South has an easy raise to 4♠. Even if West passed over 2♥, South has just enough to make a game try over 2♠ – those two 10-9 combinations are well worth an extra point. 5♣ doubled is down 500 assuming the defenders do not allow dummy two ruffs. Despite the 4-0 spade split 5♠ is makeable – just do not finesse East for the ♦J.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

<p>♠ 7 6 ♥ A K Q 10 5 3 ♦ Q J 2 ♣ 9 2</p> <p>♠ Q 10 ♥ 4 2 ♦ 10 8 ♣ Q J 10 7 6 4 3</p>	<p>♠ J 8 2 ♥ 8 7 6 ♦ A K 6 5 3 ♣ A 8</p> <p>♠ A K 9 5 4 3 ♥ J 9 ♦ 9 7 4 ♣ K 5</p>
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The vulnerability should deter West from opening 3♣ (and East from bidding 2♦). After 1♥-1♠-2♥, South might rebid 2♠, 3♠ or 3♥. The spade bids are more effective in terms of staying out of game. In a spade contract, if the defenders take their top winners and a ruff, South needs to play the trumps without loss. When West plays a second spade honour on the first round, restricted choice favours finessing East for the other honour. 3♥ makes more easily.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

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

Reaching 6♣ should not prove too difficult. After 1♠-2♦-3♣, West is very interested in a slam if East has a heart control. A raise to 5♣ might convey the message of good trumps but poor controls. East, with super controls, can then bid 6♠. Since two of West's hearts can go on the ♠A-K, the fact that the hand with the ♥K happens to be on lead is incidental. The choice of declarer will be much more material if the contract is 6NT – you also need to pick the diamonds.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

After East opens 1♦, South might overcall 1♠. If so, West doubles and North bids 2♦ to show a sound raise. When South retreats to 2♠, West is a bit good for a competitive 3♦ and so doubles. East then calls 3♦ and West raises to 4♦. As it turns out even 4♦ is a level too high because the defenders can take two spades, an ace and a ruff. If South does not bid 1♠, the bidding takes a different course, possibly to 3NT. North needs to find the right lead to beat 3NT.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

In view of the vulnerability, East is not going to come in over North's Benjamin 2♣, Acol 2♥ or whatever. If South gives a positive response, there is a danger of getting too high, though of course South is not going to encourage hearts. On a non-diamond lead (say the ♣9), North can make 11 tricks in a heart contract by leading up to the spades and throwing a club on the ♠K. The diamond lead attacks a vital entry. 5♦ does make but for an inferior score.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

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

In third seat, East is happy to open a weak 2♠. South has too little, especially facing a passed partner, to come in. North would reopen but West ups the ante to 3♠. With the ♣K inside but the ♠K offside, this should fail by a trick. North-South, if they can get there, can make 3NT (indeed with an overtrick) – the ♠A is onside for them and the ♦K is singleton. Curiously, a diamond contract plays a trick worse because East can obtain a club ruff.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

If East opens 1♦ and rebids INT, West is likely to find out via some sort of enquiry that East holds three-card heart support and bid 4♥. For those of you playing simple methods, a jump to 3♣ should have the same effect. You can make 4♥ if you take the inspired view to play for an endplay against North in clubs. Many will tackle clubs earlier, perhaps after a couple of rounds of trumps, and go down. 3NT is the easier game to make as the cards lie.

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

North opens 1♣ in fourth seat and, whether South responds 1♦ or 1♥, is quite likely to rebid INT. Facing 15-17 South has just enough to look for game. When North shows a maximum, 3NT will be the contract. As it happens, the hands do not fit well for no-trump purposes – a fifth diamond in one hand or the other would be so useful. A heart lead or a heart switch at trick two defeats 3NT. You can make game if you play in diamonds. I suspect that few will.

Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.

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

Unless South has a two-suited gadget available, West opens 3♥, which East raises to 4♥. Having passed already, South might venture a reopening double, which surely shows a hand like this. Facing a void in hearts, North retreats to 4♠. In theory, 4♠ by North is cold. Why might practice differ? Placing a spade shortage with the long hearts, declarer may well lose a trick to the ♠J. A diamond lead beats 4♠ by South. West makes 4♥, throwing a black loser on the ♦K.

Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.

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

As on the previous deal, a spade contract plays better from the North seat than the South seat. A heart lead from West would hold South to 10 tricks. North can do better, by taking two rounds of trumps, stripping East's minors and exiting with a trump to endplay East for 450. If North shows a big balanced hand and South transfers into spades, 4♠ by North is indeed a likely resting spot. North but not South can make 3NT, with an overtrick to boot on a non-heart lead.

Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

With such a revolting 12 count – no tens, no five-card suit and those bare honours in clubs, West really ought to pass out the deal if the chance arises. If West opens INT, East uses Stayman and raises to 3♥. Although there is no adverse diamond ruff, South's club shift after coming in with the ♥A sinks 3♥. A no-trump contract fares worse; North-South make 8 tricks unless North leads a club and they make 7 even after a club lead into the tenace. 3♣ makes their way.

Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.

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

An off-centre 3♦ from East may cause North-South to overstretch. After South doubles and West raises to 4♦, North may try a responsive double. When South then bids 4♥, East may double to ask for an unusual (spade) lead. In fact, 4♥ doubled is down 500 on any lead. Still, this is better than 4♠ doubled, which goes for 800. East-West can make 5♦ by squeezing South in the black suits. West, expecting that three aces are missing, is unlikely to bid it of course.

Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.

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

North may well open INT in third seat, whereupon South transfers into spades. At love all, the bidder's vulnerability, West may reopen with 3♦. South will do well to take the push to 3♠. The law of total tricks does its stuff, with 17 trumps and 17 tricks. Well I say that, though actually West will have to decline both pointed suit finesses to avoid an adverse heart ruff and so get out for down one in 3♦. East's club ruff stops the overtrick in 3♠.

Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

It looks like East opens 1♠ in third seat, South doubles and North bids 2♦. This may end the bidding. 2♦ is horrible if West overruffs the third spade and plays a heart for East to duck. West then takes the first trump, puts East in and throws a heart on the fourth spade to defeat 2♦ by two. North may do better to bid INT, which is down only one, with four spades and three red tops to lose. The highest makeable contract on the deal is 1♠ by East.

Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.

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

Playing a weak no-trump, East opens 1NT and plays there. Playing a strong no-trump, East opens one of a minor and rebids 1NT – raising spades with three low is unattractive. By playing on the black suits, clubs from dummy and spades when in hand, East can make eight tricks, just losing two spades and three hearts. Some will make only 7 tricks, perhaps losing a trick to one of the minor queens. Suit contracts play better, with 3♠, 3♣ and 3♦ all makeable.

Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.

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

East opens 1♣, South doubles and West responds 1♦ or 1♠. Either way, East rebids 2NT (a slight upgrade if this shows 18-19) and West raises to 3NT. The takeout double and the relative lack of entries to dummy make it clear to play South for the ♦J, putting declarer on course for 10 tricks and 430. In any case, South is struggling for a safe lead even at trick one. The top score will come to a pair who finds a way to defend 1♥ doubled and collect 500.

Board 31. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

Since East's doubleton heart will make a takeout double unattractive, North-South are likely to have an uninterrupted sequence: 1♣-1♠-2♣-2♠. Decent defence defeats 2♠. Whether North tries to cash three rounds of clubs or the heart finesse, the cards sit unfavourably: the defenders make three tricks in the red suits plus three trumps or the equivalent. A club contract plays much better, with nine tricks available if declarer guesses everything right.

Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

East-West could be in trouble if they get into the auction, which they will if North opens 1♣ and East doubles for takeout. 1♦ doubled is down 800, with all the alternatives worse. At most tables, North will open a weak 1NT and arrive in 3NT. Double dummy declarer can make 11 tricks by dropping the ♣Q. 10 tricks may be more common. By dropping the ♣Q, you can also make 6♣: North's low diamonds go away on the third and fourth spades.

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	Bridge Great Britain
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 Association of Ireland
www.nibu.co.uk/	Northern Ireland Bridge Union
www.worldbridge.org	World Bridge Federation
www.eurobridge.org	European Bridge League
www.acbl.org	American Contract Bridge League
www.wbfteaching.org	WBF Teaching

If you are looking for the official site for a particular country, please go to **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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