

Bridge
Great
Britain



The BGB

Autumn

Simultaneous

Pairs



Thursday 13th 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.

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

With the heart jack onside E/W can make ten tricks in no trump. However, they are more likely to reach 4♣. Here, there are eleven tricks unless N/S can find a diamond ruff, which may not be easy. The E/W auction will begin 1♦ – 1♠, and now an expert East will rebid 2♣ while many club players will prefer 3♣. Either way, West repeats the spades as cheaply as possible and East admits to secondary support. After 1♦ – 1♠ – 2♣ – 2♠ – 3♠, West has an easy raise to game.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

East opens 2NT and West will usually check for a spade fit, settling for 3NT when none materialises. There is quite a good case for simply raising 2NT to 3NT – only looking for a spade fit in case slam is a possibility. The reasoning is that there are so many high cards between the two hands and there may be the same tricks in no trump as in a four-four spade fit. Whatever the lead, it is convenient for declarer to play ace and another spade and that produces twelve tricks.

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

The most likely auction is 1♦ – 1♠ – 2♦, with South making eight tricks after a heart lead. I would not double 1♦ with the West hand, though I can understand those who do double. For me, the 4-3-3-3 shape with slow values in diamonds is not really suitable when holding minimum high-card values for a positive action. Double might encourage partner to compete too far when vulnerable. Here, a double would lead to East declaring 2♥ and the obvious defence of three rounds of diamonds means one down for –100 and a poor score.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

Even if playing a strong no trump, the West hand is too strong, given the good five-card suit, so 1♥ looks normal, followed by a 2NT rebid. East now has an easy 4♣ bid, ending the auction. Say that South leads a diamond. Declarer wins and plays on spades, North winning the second round and playing a diamond. Declarer ruffs, draws trumps and leads the ♣Q then continues with a second club to the ten. Ace, king and ten of hearts comes next and, with South having five clubs to North's one, there is a strong case for taking the ruffing finesse for the twelfth trick.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

If North opens a weak no trump, South will transfer to hearts and pass North's completion. Two Hearts makes exactly. A 1♠ opening works less well. North will pass a 1NT response and the diamond lead sees this go a number down. And if South stretches to make a 2♥ response? Whether North raises to 3♥ (normal) or rebids 2♠, the contract should go one down – not necessarily a disaster if enough of the field plays 1NT by South.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

If East opens 1NT, South overcalls 2♥ and plays there, making exactly with two losers in each red suit plus one club if he gets the trumps right. A 1♦ opening gets a 1♥ overcall but now West shows the four-card spade suit and E/W rate to declare 2♠. The spade position looks to be very bad for E/W and, if declarer leads a spade to the queen, the contract is doomed. However, South will probably be marked with a top spade and if declarer ducks the first round he is not badly placed, with the side-suits behaving well.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

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

South opens 1♦, West overcalls and East raises to 2♠. South has a lot of high cards but bad distribution to compete further with poor support for the unbid suits. He should probably pass, though many will not be able to bear doing so. West has a tough lead against 3♦, and the likely choice of a spade helps declarer enormously. One down will be OK and the contract may even make if declarer reads the ending well. Meanwhile, 2♠ should be a matter of overtricks but lack of entries to dummy will give declarer some headaches.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

You won't see this recommended in books but I quite like a 3♣ opening with the West cards. The suit is good, there is little defence to a major-suit contract, and the vulnerability is the best at which to declare if it is a competitive partscore deal. 3♣ should end the auction and makes easily. If West passes, East opens 1♠ and E/W normally reach 3NT. On a non-diamond lead, declarer unblocks the club and has an entry to the club winners so makes OK. But a diamond lead should defeat 3NT as there is only one club trick.

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

Most will open the North hand without any thought, but there is certainly a case for downgrading the empty 12-count. There are no tens, only one honour combination, and no suit on which declarer can happily play unless partner fits it well. Still, perhaps it is bad tactics to do something that is so against the rest of the field. North will usually either open or rebid 1NT and play in 3NT, probably on a heart lead. That assures nine tricks, but there are nine on any other lead also. An overtrick will be worth a lot of matchpoints.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

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

When South opens 1♣, West has the wrong shortage to double with only 12 HCP. North responds 1♥ and South rebids either 2♦ or 2NT. North passes the latter or bids an unhappy 2NT over the former, which South should pass. While the defence may not find it easy to get everything 100% right, they should beat 2NT however declarer plays it as there simply is no good source of tricks unless the defence comes to declarer's rescue.

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

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

N/S rate to make either 3NT or 4♠ if they can get there. 3NT by North can go down if East leads a heart and West uses the two red entries to lead clubs through, but that would be fine defence to find. In 4♠ on a club lead, the queen loses to the king and East switches to a heart to queen and ace. A diamond finesse loses and declarer is now forced to ruff a club. He must do so with a n honour so he can lead the ♠9 to dummy's ten to repeat the diamond finesse. If East covers this, the blocking diamond can be thrown on the run of the trumps.

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

The vulnerability should stop N/S from getting involved with their two moderate balanced hands so E/W should declare at almost every table. 2♥ makes exactly unless the defence slips up. If West declares 1NT, there are seven tricks after a diamond lead, eight after a club, so the lead will swing a lot of matchpoints. After 1♥ – 1NT, I would lead diamond, much preferring to lead low from queen-jack than from ace-jack as there is less risk of giving a trick away.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

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

After two passes, South opens 1♥ in third seat, or perhaps 2♥ as he can afford to be a little flexible facing a passed partner as there will be no game unless North fits hearts and has some outside shape, when he will raise either opening. 2♥ ends the auction while 1♥ gets a 1♠ response and a 2♥ rebid. East should not balance with those soft values and heart length when vulnerable. In this ugly contract, declarer has three outside losers and three or four trump losers, so is one or two down.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

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

Non-vulnerable, this is a normal 3♥ opening. After two passes, North doubles for take-out and South has a close decision. With 12 HCP, he must either bid game, and that game will be 3NT and perhaps rely on there being nine running tricks due to the tenuous heart position, or pass and see what penalty develops. As the cards lie, 3NT makes eleven tricks for a decent score. If South passes the double, there are six side-suit losers but declarer should take the backward heart finesse and so avoid a heart loser. Minus 300 should be excellent for E/W.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

South holds a weak no trump and most will either open INT or 1♣ and rebid INT. North could get to be declarer if the method is to open 1♠ on this handtype with a wide-range INT response – what we might call Hackett-style. E/W have four hearts and the ace of clubs, N/S have four diamonds and three spades, the battle will be all about the remaining trick, with N/S favourites to win it and score +120. Plus 90 should be well below average.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

West has no reason to upgrade the 11-count so should pass. North has five-four shape and is non-vulnerable, so may scrape up a 1♥ opening. It should not matter. E/W have the spades and should win the auction, the only question being whether or not they bid to game. Declarer can try to take two diamond ruffs, using heart ruffs to get back to hand, but if South throws a heart on the fourth diamond he will be able to over-ruff in hearts to hold declarer to ten tricks. Eleven tricks therefore requires a diamond lead or diamond finesse.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

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

The hand belongs to N/S in 3♦, where there is just one loser in each suit. Meanwhile, E/W should be held to eight tricks in a spade contract. Where North opens a slightly heavy strong no trump, E/W rate to buy it in 2♠ for an excellent score. If North opens 1♦, South may make a limit raise to 2♦ or a pre-emptive raise to 3♦ (if systemic). Either way, West will double and the spade fit will be found. With N/S having found their fit, E/W will be forced to the three level. 3♠ is one down, but that may not be too bad.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

If East opens INT, West should transfer to clubs and North will double, South bidding spades. 3♠ is one down for -100, which will be OK if E/W can go plus often enough. Well, 3♣ will usually make with the majors lying well for declarer. If East opens 1♥, West may raise to 2♥ or, if playing pre-emptive raises, perhaps 3♥. North will double either and South respond as cheaply as possible in spades. Anyone allowed to play 2♠ for +110 will score very well.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

The normal auction sees three passes to East and, whether he opens 1♠ or a strong no trump, it should be easy enough to reach the spade game. Allowing for the heart shortage, West is well worth a limit raise to 3♠ not just a simple 2♠. There is just one loser in each side-suit so +620 should be the popular result. Hide this from young children and those of a delicate disposition, but at this vulnerability I would open 2♥ with the South hand. North's game raise puts pressure on East. I do understand that this style is not for everyone.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

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

N/S make ten tricks in either major but it is not clear that they will get to game. 3♥ will be the most popular choice with the North hand and that probably ends the auction. Some may argue that the weak hearts make 2♥ a more appropriate choice when vulnerable - I would certainly agree if the hand was 2-7-2-2 but I like to pre-empt to the limit as a general approach so would open 3♥ with this hand. Again, that may end the auction. If South responds 2♠, constructive but not forcing, North can raise to the fortunate game.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

Most Norths will open 1♠ and South respond 2♥. Slam requires only that the hearts play for no loser and twelve tricks are available here. Left to themselves, it is unlikely that N/S will get there. But West will get involved and if he makes a pre-emptive jump overcall and North supports hearts immediately there may be sufficient momentum to see N/S get higher than they would otherwise do. Of course, the club save produces nine tricks. Minus 800 will be poor as few will reach slam. A lower-level save should score very well for E/W.

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

As the cards lie, E/W have to find their club ruff to defeat 4♣, while they themselves are cold for ten tricks in a diamond contract. There is no reason for East to upgrade that 11-count, particularly when vulnerable, so most Souths will open 1♠. West may make a two-suited overcall, though he is very minimum for a cuebid that forces his vulnerable passed-hand partner to the three level. As with the previous deal, N/S will tend to stop in partscore unless E/W add momentum to the auction.

Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.

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

When South opens 1♥, West has another possible two-suited overcall. Again, he is vulnerable and the two suits are weak. I would just overcall 1♠ as I like my Michaels bids to be better than this. Where West does cuebid 2♥, North will 'know' that his opponent has spades and clubs. Probably he will not try for a penalty – which would be the winning option – but will drive to game. Against 3NT, a low spade lead works better than the queen but the cards lie well enough that 3NT should make OK. 4♥ can also be made but may be more of a challenge.

Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.

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

North has the sort of strong no trump which looks to me like a weak no trump – lack of honour combinations, short on queens, jacks, tens and nines, plus the worst possible shape with only one four-card suit. I might open 1NT whichever range I was playing but I'd rather that range was 12-14 (my apologies to those for whom the point-count is on a par with holy gospel). N/S have nine tricks in diamonds but E/W can score well by competing to 3♥, at worst down one.

Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

South opens 1♥ in third seat and West overcalls. East may raise to 3♣ but South will double anyway. North may respond 3♠ to that but 3♥ is the safer option as the doubler cannot always guarantee to hold all the unbid suits. 3♠ will be hopeless, but 3♥ has good chances on the likely defence of a club to the ace and a second club. Declarer must play on diamonds and ensure that he can ruff the fourth round with the jack. A winning spade play now means nine tricks.

Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.

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

There is scope for N/S to be very unlucky on this one. A good old-fashioned strong jump shift followed by a 3♠ rebid is perfect for the North hand and that may allow an excellent slam to be reached. 6♠ requires no more than reasonable breaks. On a heart lead declarer wins the ace, draws trumps and takes two heart pitches on the clubs before knocking out the ace of diamonds – only the 5-1 trump split defeats him. 6NT by South can be made double dummy but also rates to fail on a passive lead.

Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.

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

E/W makes seven tricks in spades but N/S have nine in hearts. Where South opens one-of-a-suit, both fits rate to be found and it will be important for N/S to bid up to 3♥, which should score well. If E/W then go on to 3♠, it will be necessary to double them as +100 may not be enough for N/S. If South opens 1NT and West passes, 1NT will end the auction and the defence should be able to hold it to just seven tricks. If West doubles, the outcome is unclear. East needs to run as -180 will be a terrible result.

Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

E/W make 4♥, unless South leads a club, declarer wins the first round and takes a heart finesse. Now, a club ruff will set the contract. That combination will not happen very often so most who get to game should make it. If E/W play five-card majors, West will raise the opening 1♥ to 2♥ and East make a game try, perhaps 3♣. While having no club fit, the major-suit holdings are good and West will bid game. If 1♥ promises only four, West may bid 1NT then give preference to 2♥ over the 2♣ rebid. Perhaps East tries with 2NT and West bids 4♥.

Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.

♠ —	
♥ AKQJ97	
♦ Q3	
♣ AJ863	
♠ A 1074	♠ KQJ5
♥ 10	♥ 8642
♦ K87654	♦ A92
♣ 54	♣ 97
♠ 98632	
♥ 53	
♦ J10	
♣ KQ102	

The North hand looks like an Acol strong two opening. North will rebid 3♣ and South support the suit. Now North bids 4♥ and, if South goes back to 5♣, bids 5♥. That should be that as it must be clear that there is no diamond control. If North opens 1♥, South responds 1♠ and North rebids 3♣. Again, South may support the second suit, but North now bids 4♥ and South again has to give up. It is, of course, vital at matchpoints to play in hearts rather than clubs.

Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.

♠ J75	
♥ AK105	
♦ K8	
♣ KJ32	
♠ AQ10832	♠ 4
♥ —	♥ Q643
♦ A42	♦ QJ1053
♣ 10974	♣ Q85
♠ K96	
♥ J9872	
♦ 976	
♣ A6	

West will open 1♠ or, perhaps, 2♠ – he can afford this in third seat as there will be no game unless partner has a good spade fit to raise the notionally weak opening. Either way, North has to double and South will bid hearts, perhaps jumping to 3♥ where the opening was 1♠. Some Norths may be tempted to go on to game, but even 3♥ is in danger as the cards lie. If West leads a minor, declarer may lose two spades, a diamond, a heart and a spade ruff, making only eight tricks.

Board 31. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

♠ KQ102	
♥ Q52	
♦ J1074	
♣ K6	
♠ A84	♠ 9763
♥ 10	♥ J9
♦ K95	♦ AQ632
♣ A95432	♣ Q10
♠ J5	
♥ AK87643	
♦ 8	
♣ J87	

South has a classic 3♥ opener. That will often end the auction and, with the ace of clubs onside, there will be ten tricks at most tables. True, a low club lead or switch when in with the ace of spades would put declarer to a guess, but many will lead the club ace and many who do not may fear underleading later in the play in case they lose their ace altogether. North should not raise to 4♥ as he lacks quick tricks – it is only the good fit that makes game a decent prospect. As for West, may be short in hearts but really doesn't have enough to come into the auction.

Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

♠ AQ9532	
♥ K3	
♦ 9873	
♣ 4	
♠ 6	♠ K74
♥ QJ862	♥ A10754
♦ KQ4	♦ A6
♣ K1096	♣ AQ2
♠ J108	
♥ 9	
♦ J1052	
♣ J8753	

West will open 1♥ and North overcall. With a big heart fit and abundance of controls, East is going to bid very strongly and slam will often be reached – East will know that there are two keycards missing but will also know that these are the ♠A and ♥K and that the overcall suggests that both are more likely to be onside. Still, West will require the ♥J to back up the queen, so some will be cautious and sign-off in 5♥ when they find that both keycards are missing.

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