EBED



Sim Pairs

Commentary by John Williams

Monday 7th September 2020 Welcome to the English Bridge Education & Development (EBED) Simultaneous Pairs.

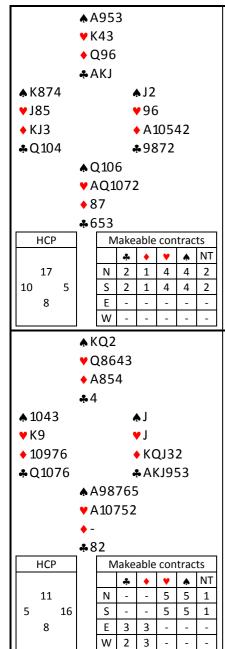
The proceeds raised by this event will go to EBED, the national charity for the promotion and development of duplicate bridge. Particularly, in the past few challenging months staff at EBED have worked hard to improve and develop the infrastructure for bridge teaching in England by launching the new e-learning portal EBS (English Bridge School), and to provide support for EBTA – the English Bridge Teachers Association – in order to enable its members to teach bridge online.

EBED also supplies "Bridge for All" teaching materials, organises teacher training and club director training courses, administers the Junior Award Scheme and supports county organisations and individual volunteers at the local level to run youth events.

You can read more about EBED's activities in the current issue of English Bridge and at www.ebedcio.org.uk. If you wish to arrange a donation in favour of the charity, please do so at www.ebedcio.org.uk/donate. Do please encourage your friends to come to play in these events which are open to all and raise vital funds for our work. We sincerely thank you thank you for your support.

Giorgio Provenza Chief Executive

English Bridge Education & Development, Registered Charity No: 1153543



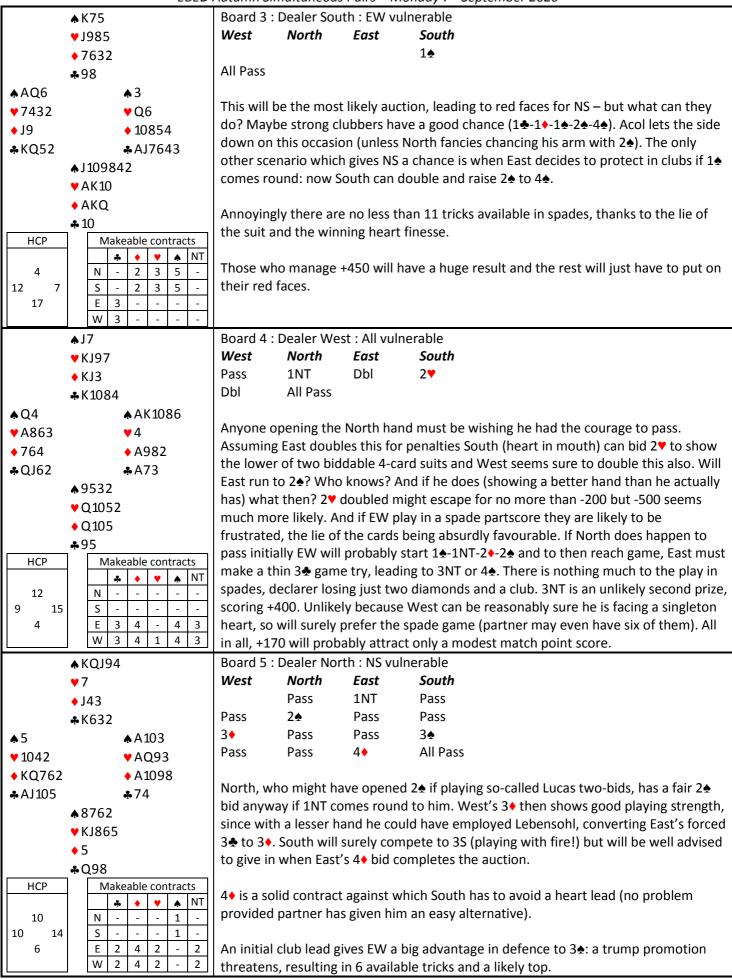
Board 1	: Dealer No	rth : Love al	l
West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

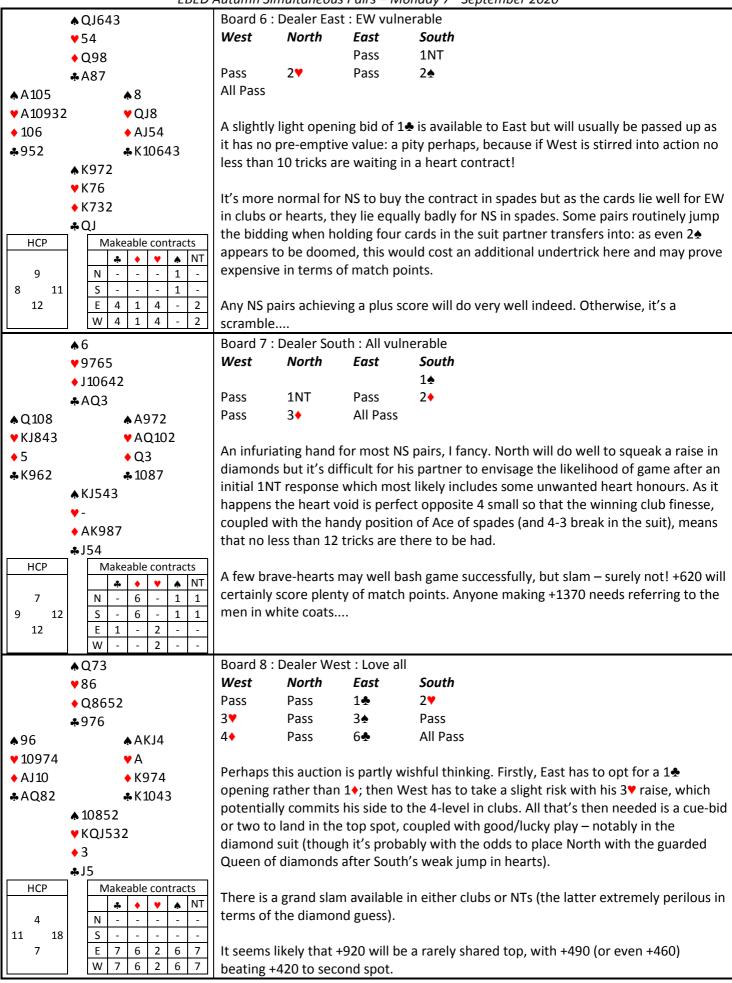
It looks simple enough but there is ample scope for disaster here. South has three possible options after North's opening 1 - 1NT, 2 or 2. 1NT has the right point-count but the wrong shape, 2 is simply too light for modern taste (where a two-level response tends to promise 10+ HCPs at the very least) and 2 risks losing the heart suit altogether (as it happens, North will bid surely rebid 2NT as a natural game-try with weak spades, allowing partner to recover with 3H - 8 surely showing just this hand).

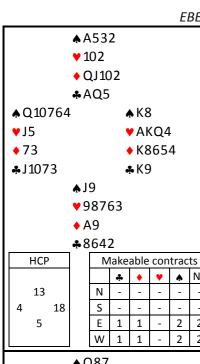
The only disastrous outcome is 3NT, even played by South, as West might well fish out a diamond lead. 4♥ (or 4♠ come to that) relies on playing spades to advantage: that will normally happen painlessly but you never know: -50 will feature on the traveller, for sure, if only rarely. And a few will possibly miss game....

Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
		1♦	3♣		
Pass	4♥	All Pass			

Assuming South has a gadget available to show his weak (but potentially very good) two-suiter - here, for instance, 3♣ is Ghestem, promising both majors - North will surely bash 4♥, not caring even if partner's effort is described as either weak or strong. This relies on partner making a slam try if strong. South will then agonise before passing — and in truth it's a difficult decision (slam may well be making if North has the right cards, regardless of combined high-card strength). Here slam relies solely on bringing in the trump suit for no losers, clearly impossible as they lie (but not if East holds King and another and declarer advances the Queen). So slam is actually odds-against and 11 tricks will bring in a very good score. Note that EW have a good save at this vulnerability (even 6♣ or 6♦ doubled loses only 500!) And a number of Easts are likely to bid on with 5♣ over 4♥, so this is a live a possibility. There is thus scope for a variety of results on the traveller, ranging from +650 to +500 for NS with stopping points in between.



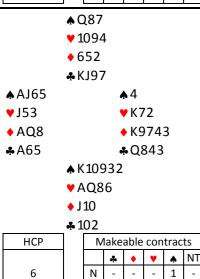




Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable				
West	North	East	South	
	1NT	Dbl	Rdbl	
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass	
1				

This seems likely to be a regular auction with NS using whatever means they have to arrive in a 5-card suit. It should be a golden rule that once 1NT has been doubled for penalties, all subsequent doubles by either defender are also for penalties (this doesn't mean that the double can't be pulled if defending is going to be the worst option – here West has a heart honour and a reasonably balanced hand, so should be content to defend, even at this vulnerability).

East knows that almost any lead will cost a trick and this might just tip him in the right direction – a low trump! Bullseye when West wins and can return a damaging spade: the best declarer can do is win and run Queen of diamonds (not covered). This will lead to a fine score for EW, however the play continues. And there's no game on for them, so it's all profit. A poor advertisement for the weak NT...



S

E 3

1

1

1

5

5

Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

West North East South
Pass 1♣

1NT. All Page

1NT All Pass

All roads seem to lead to the same spot because, if South fails to open (which seems normal holding both majors), West will open 1♠ instead and now East will be probably be declarer in 1NT (a 2♠ response is not how the world bids these days). In the auction above East has a possible game try available but this is against the odds – particularly at pairs. With diamonds coming in obediently, declarer has 7 top tricks in NTs from either hand. If East is declarer, he may profit from South deciding to try a heart.

No-trumps will yield anywhere between 7 and 9 tricks and, for a good score, it needs to be 9 because those (few) who settle in diamonds will surely score 10 tricks for +130.

A typical pairs scrap!...

W 3 4 1 ♠9743 **♥**K64 ♦ 104 **♣**AQ73 AJ **♠** Q1065 **109873** ♥AQJ5 **•** 2 ♦ 98753 ♣KJ1092 **♠** K82 **v** 2 AKQJ6 **\$8654** HCP Makeable contracts ♠ NT 9 1

E 1

W 1

16

9

9 13

10

Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all

West North East South

1

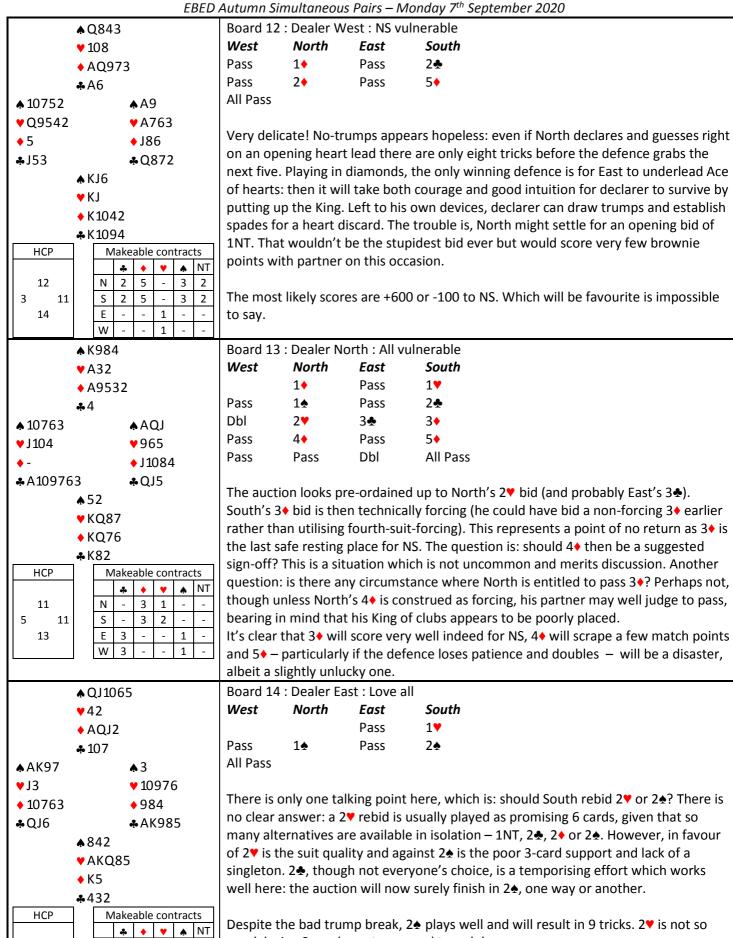
2NT Dbl 4

All Pass

The question is, will West seize the opportunity to show his two-suiter? It's not ideal (much better in theory if his Ace was in hearts). However, the hand isn't an obvious 1♥ overcall either, so those who like to get into the bidding (and that's half the fun!) are quite likely to succumb to temptation. If they do, the result is spectacular: now the spade holding is magic and helps declarer to anywhere up to 11 tricks.

I should add that North will usually double whatever system bid is adopted to show hearts and clubs, having an interest in defending either suit. But he then needs to pull his horns in when East jumps to game, since if he doubles again – for penalties, of course - disaster awaits.

If West simply passes at his first turn any number of things may happen (impossible to predict) but they are less likely to amount to high drama.



A nothing board at teams but more critical at pairs.

good, losing 2 spades, a trump and two clubs.

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Ε

W