

EBED



Sim Pairs

Commentary by Graham Osborne

Thursday
3rd May 2018

Welcome to the **English Bridge Education & Development (EBED)** Simultaneous Pairs.

The proceeds raised by this event will be used by EBED, **the national charity for the promotion and development of bridge**, in support of its objectives to promote the national learning program “**Bridge for All**” and especially to improve and develop the infrastructure for bridge teaching in England by expanding our support for EBTA – the **English Bridge Teachers Association**

EBED supplies “Bridge for All” teaching materials, organises Minibridge/Duplicate Bridge 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 EBED’s activities in the current issue of English Bridge and at www.ebedcio.org.uk. If you wish to know more about EBED or to arrange a donation/legacy in favour of the charity, please contact us via richard@ebedcio.org.uk

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 thank you so much for your support!

Donna Wright

Chief Executive

English Bridge Education & Development, Registered Charity No: 1153543

<p>♠ Q ♥ 1082 ♦ Q963 ♣ QJ987</p> <p>♠ J9842 ♠ AK65 ♥ AKJ9 ♥ 64 ♦ A ♦ K7542 ♣ 654 ♣ K10</p> <p>♠ 1073 ♥ Q753 ♦ J108 ♣ A32</p>		<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>		West	North	East	South		Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass																												
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<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>7</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>2</td></tr></table>		HCP		7	13	13	7	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	3	4	6	4	W	-	2	4	5	2	<p>The ♣Q lead should enable the defence to take the first two tricks. From here on declarer should be in control and be able to take the rest of the tricks. Whatever he tries should work be it ruffing two losers in dummy, trying the heart finesse or setting up diamonds. No doubt a few declarers will hold themselves to ten tricks and they will be punished in terms of match-points earned. Some may play 4♠ by East, imagine a weak NT opening, a transfer by West and a break by East, although making 12 tricks still looks unlikely, since this will involve taking the ♥ finesse risking only ten tricks when the ♥Q and ♣A are offside.</p>	
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<p>♠ J87 ♥ K1043 ♦ J64 ♣ A73</p> <p>♠ AQ109 ♠ 652 ♥ AQ ♥ J972 ♦ AQ873 ♦ K52 ♣ K10 ♣ 984</p> <p>♠ K43 ♥ 865 ♦ 109 ♣ QJ652</p>		<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table>		West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass																										
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♠K952

♥AQ5432

♦AQ

♣A

♠J4

♥J6

♦K103

♣KQJ864

♠Q10863

♥K98

♦842

♣102

♠A7

♥107

♦J9765

♣9753

HCP

19

11

5

5

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	2	4	1	-
S	-	2	4	1	-
E	1	-	-	-	1
W	1	-	-	-	1

Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

West

North

East

South

1♣

Dble

1♠

Pass

2♣

2♥

All Pass

North with 19 HCP is too strong to make a simple overcall and thus should start with a double. If East bids 1♠ then South doesn't really have enough to get involved and after West rebids 2♣, North can bid 2♥ to show his strong hand. It is close whether South should raise with an ace and a ruffing value but taking the low road at pairs is rarely a bad thing and I suspect more pairs will finish in part-score than game.

On a ♣ lead they way to make game is to play on ♦: ♦AQ from hand, ruff the second round of ♣ and then play ♥ from hand making when the ♦ split 3-3. This doesn't look an obvious line, more natural is to play three rounds of ♠ ruffing in dummy, but West over-ruffs and plays another trump. Now declarer will in addition lose another ♠, two trumps and the ♦K making only eight tricks.

♠J752

♥QJ6

♦43

♣KQ97

♠KQ10943

♥4

♦AKQ109

♣3

♠A

♥10972

♦J72

♣A8652

♠86

♥AK853

♦865

♣J104

HCP

9

14

9

8

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	1	-	-
S	-	-	1	-	-
E	-	6	-	5	2
W	-	6	-	5	2

Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

West

North

East

South

1♠

Pass

2♣

Pass

2♦

Pass

2NT

Pass

4♠

All Pass

In old-fashioned Acol 2♦ was non-forcing but now many play the change of suit after a 2-level response as forcing, those that aren't will have to jump to 3♦. Bidding the slam looks very difficult.

Making 6♦ is somewhat easier, say after two rounds of ♥s, ruff, unblock the ♠A, cross to a ♦, ruff a ♠ with the ♦J and claim. Note that you should not be tempted to cash any more high ♠ before you take your ruff to establish the suit. For those not in slam choice of game will be the issue and the overtrick in 4♠ will mean that those in the major will score better.

♠KJ109754

♥AQ854

♦-

♣8

♠A83

♥73

♦AKQJ8

♣Q54

♠6

♥10962

♦532

♣J10963

♠Q2

♥KJ

♦109764

♣AK72

HCP

10

16

1

13

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	4	6	2
S	-	-	4	6	2
E	2	2	-	-	-
W	2	2	-	-	-

Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all

West

North

East

South

1♦

2♦

Pass

2♥

Pass

2♠

Pass

4♠

All Pass

The North hand is a bit skewed for Michaels with two card disparity in the suits but it does have the advantage of getting both suits into play on the first round of the auction. South has nice fitting honours and a side ace so 2♥ is a bit conservative but does not have the guarantee of an eight card fit. North's 2♠ bid is a game try but also showing longer spades than hearts at the same time. Now South is clearly going to game but does have a way of showing a super hand in the context of his 2♥ bid? Perhaps 4♠? If partner interprets that correctly that might (with the emphasis on might) pave the way to the excellent ♠ slam. I suspect any pair that bids it will score very well.

♠ Q9
♥ K2
♦ KQ986
♣ J1092
♠ AK1083
♥ 1094
♦ J4
♣ Q85
♠ J5
♥ J8763
♦ 10732
♣ K3
♠ 7642
♥ AQ5
♦ A5
♣ A764

HCP	
11	
10	5
14	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	3	1	1	1
S	3	3	1	1	1
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT

All pass

The trick on this hand is too stay very low but the majority will finish in game and go minus. If North opens then 1♦-1♠-2♣-3NT and the contract played by South after this sequence has some chance. Say West leads ♥10, declarer wins the king in dummy and finesses a ♣. Now West has to cash his ♠ suit, otherwise declarer can repeat the ♣ finesse for his ninth trick.

If North passes after all it is not a great hand with lots of points in the doubletons, then South will open a weak no-trump, North will invite and South will carry onto game. West will lead a ♠. A top one will lead to two down but with no certain side entry and low ♠ lead will probably be the popular choice and one down. A third variant is North opening a mini no-trump or borrowing a point for a weak no-trump. Again in this scenario West will have to cash the ♠ suit from the top after the first ♣ finesse loses.

♠ 3
♥ AJ10
♦ K10874
♣ AJ96
♠ Q96
♥ 962
♦ AQJ2
♣ K85
♠ J102
♥ 8543
♦ 963
♣ 1043
♠ AK8754
♥ KQ7
♦ 5
♣ Q72

HCP	
13	
12	1
14	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	5	4	4	5	4
S	5	4	4	5	4
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

This looks like everybody's 3NT by North. The initial response will have deflected the best lead for the defence. So after a ♥ lead, declarer can duck a ♠. West will play ♦A and ♦Q. Declarer wins and cashes his winners finishing on table. West will be squeezed in the minors either having to throw the ♦J or bare the ♣K, so declarer won't have to guess whether to take the ♣ finesse at trick twelve. For the few that finish in ♠ eleven tricks are always there with both minors suit finesses right.

♠ 42
♥ A10843
♦ 73
♣ Q874
♠ KJ3
♥ 52
♦ AQ842
♣ 653
♠ AQ10
♥ QJ76
♦ K9
♣ AJ109
♠ 98765
♥ K9
♦ J1065
♣ K2

HCP	
6	
10	17
7	

Makeable contracts					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	3	3	2	2	4
W	3	3	2	2	4

Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

For all your 27 HCPs this contract doesn't have nine top tricks when the ♦s don't break. Most will find a way home, but perhaps the odd declarer will come up short and I don't see many making an overtrick. Say a ♠ is led. One possibility is to win hand with the ace (preserving two entries to dummy) and then play three rounds of ♦s. When they don't break you could turn your attention to ♣s. You lose a finesse to South's king. He continues ♠ and now you have two entries to finesse ♣s twice more to come to nine tricks. The double-dummy line to ten tricks involves starting with ♣J out of hand.

♠A1043

♥K10

♦AJ95

♣942

♠K985

♥862

♦K2

♣AK83

♠QJ

♥A4

♦Q10873

♣QJ76

♠762

♥QJ9753

♦64

♣105

HCP

12

13

12

3

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	1	-	-
S	-	-	1	-	-
E	4	3	-	3	3
W	4	3	-	3	3

♠64

♥73

♦109876

♣AQ76

♠J1093

♥AKQ5

♦QJ53

♣5

♠K52

♥J64

♦A

♣J109432

♠AQ87

♥10982

♦K42

♣K8

HCP

6

13

9

12

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	2	-	-	-
S	-	2	-	-	-
E	1	-	2	2	1
W	1	-	1	2	1

♠Q9

♥Q107

♦82

♣Q105432

♠4

♥A9865

♦AK109765

♣-

♠K8632

♥42

♦QJ

♣J876

♠AJ1075

♥KJ3

♦43

♣AK9

HCP

6

11

7

16

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	-	-	1	-
S	3	-	-	1	-
E	-	4	1	-	1
W	-	4	1	-	1

Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable

West

North

East

South

1NT

Pass

3NT

All Pass

It is questionable whether the East hand is worth a raise to game with all its quacks and merely inviting would certainly be a reasonable alternative at match-points. Most pairs will finish in game, one way or another, and North has a slightly uncomfortable lead. With two broken four card suits, most will probably choose the major since East will not have used Stayman. Declarer wins the ♠ Q, and plays a ♦ to the king and ace. Now a ♥ switch would make declarer feel uncomfortable but he is okay with the 6-2 split, but in any case it is very unlikely with North's actual holding. Say North's continues ♠, declarer wins crosses to a ♣ and finesses the ♦10 and clears the suit and now he ends up with an overtrick.

Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable

West

North

East

South

Pass

Pass

1NT

2♣

Pass

2♦

Pass

2♥

All Pass

It may not be everyone's cup of tea to intervene with 2♣ at game all showing the majors over the weak NT opening but it is a fair gamble as there is a good chance of a 4-4 fit. East shouldn't be tempted to pass with his six ♣ as partner will normally have at least one five card major, so 2♦ asking for partner's longer major is the correct bid. 2♥ will be defeated by a ♠ lead leading to a ruff in the suit, although being declarer's second suit it is far from obvious. 1NT passed out by South should fail by one trick although if the defence crash East's ♥J by West playing out his honours declarer will be able to scramble home.

Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all

West

North

East

South

Pass

1♠

2♠

Pass

2NT

Pass

4♦

All Pass

For the second time in this set Michaels is used with a 7-5 shape. Here 2♠ shows hearts and a minor. It is okay to do when the minor is longer but if you had say the 7 hearts and 5 diamonds then a 4♥ overcall would be better. East's 2NT asks for the minors, on a good day it might be ♣s! West is too strong to just bid 3♦ so jumps to show a strongly invitational hand. East's QJ of ♦s are good but the black honours are probably worthless so he rejects the game try, but it is close. In fact it needs a trump lead to beat 5♦ since ♥ are 3-3 and one ruff is good enough to set up the suit. Trump leads are often effective when one hand has shown a 2-suiter and the other has given lukewarm preference.

♠ J976

♥ Q1086

♦ 5

♣ AK43

♠ Q3

♥ 54

♦ 1087432

♣ J87

♠ A2

♥ AJ92

♦ AQ9

♣ 10965

♠ K10854

♥ K73

♦ KJ6

♣ Q2

HCP

10

3

15

12

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	-	2	3	3
S	3	-	2	3	3
E	-	1	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

West

North

East

South

Pass

Pass

1♥

1♠

Pass

2♥

Pass

2♠

Pass

3♠

All Pass

North has a good hand opposite a ♠ overcall, even allowing for the ♥Q to be somewhat diminished in value after the opening. In contrast, South has a flat shape and junky honours despite not being completely minimum in high cards for an overcall. I think more will be in part-score than game, remember at match-points it doesn't pay to stretch for thin games. If you do make ten tricks you should still get a good number of match-points whether you are in game or not. An initial ♥ lead will sink 4♠, since the defence can organise a promotion of ♠Q, even if declarer discards a ♥ on three rounds of ♣. If East opens a strong NT and Wests transfer out to ♦s then if North protects with a double, South has a chance for glory if he passes but bidding his ♠ suit looks more normal. I doubt anyone will find the double dummy par of 3NT.

♠ 763

♥ Q963

♦ 32

♣ AQ75

♠ AKJ2

♥ K10

♦ A10985

♣ K8

♠ 1098

♥ J754

♦ QJ4

♣ 643

♠ Q54

♥ A82

♦ K76

♣ J1092

HCP

8

18

4

10

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	-	-	-	-
S	1	-	-	-	-
E	-	3	-	2	-
W	-	3	1	3	1

Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

West

North

East

South

Pass

Pass

1♦

All Pass

North has to lead something helpful. A ♥ looks least damaging as South plays ace and another. Declarer can't get to table and has to play ♦A and a second round leaving South to switch to the natural looking ♣J to hold declarer to nine tricks. On a diamond lead, South shouldn't cover the queen. He can cover the jack on the second round, locking declarer in hand. Now declarer can draw the remaining trump but has to play ♠ from hand. When South wins the ♠Q if he is inspired enough to switch to ♥2 and declarer misguesses, he will be held to eight tricks. Some variants are possible in the bidding, for example South finds an aggressive 1NT protection. West leads a diamond, and South can win the king and cash four ♣ tricks with the aid of a finesse putting West under some pressure. West has to discard two ♠ on the ♣ to defeat the contract. One down should be a very good score for North/South and even if doubled by West -100 should be above average.

♠ Q73

♥ 108

♦ KQ976

♣ 1096

♠ K98

♥ AQ976542

♦ 104

♣ -

♠ J52

♥ KJ

♦ 53

♣ AQJ874

♠ A1064

♥ 3

♦ AJ82

♣ K532

HCP

7

9

12

12

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	2	-	1	-
S	-	3	-	2	-
E	1	-	4	-	1
W	1	-	4	-	1

Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

West

North

East

South

1♦

4♥

5♦

All Pass

5♦ from North is far from obvious with little to commend it but the very strong trump support. It will work a treat here though with 4♥ an easy make with the ♠A onside. Indeed it may not be easy for either player to double 5♦ and even if they do it is only two down on the double dummy defence of a low ♥ lead. On the ♥A lead declarer can work on ♠ and with the K onside and the suit splitting 3-3 declarer can eventually build a discard for one of the ♣ in dummy. If East/West push on to 5♥ there is little scope for the defence to go wrong after two rounds of ♦ cash.

♠ 95

♥ AQ964

♦ A2

♣ KJ109

♠ KJ10

♥ J852

♦ J753

♣ 76

♠ AQ82

♥ K1073

♦ Q9

♣ Q42

♠ 7643

♥ -

♦ K10864

♣ A853

HCP

14

6

13

7

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	4	2	1	2	1
S	4	2	1	2	1
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all

West

North

East

South

Pass

1♥

Pass

1♠

Pass

2♣

All Pass

South will be relieved to have found a better spot after his partner's 1♥ opening. A trump lead is often a good lead when the responding hand doesn't give preference to opener's first suit, even from a seemingly unattractive holding, and here it would help to protect East's ♥ tricks. On a trump lead declarer wins cheaply in hand with ♣J, and plays three rounds of ♦ ruffed in hand and over-ruffed with the ♣Q. Now declarer has ten tricks by way of six ♣, three ♦ and the ♥A. The ♦Q lead in the unbid suit may work well, if declarer believes East has the ♦J and takes a losing finesse: leading to only nine tricks if declarer plays on trumps and gets them wrong.

♠ K84

♥ 106

♦ K63

♣ KJ863

♠ 9632

♥ 32

♦ J1092

♣ A105

♠ AQJ75

♥ K7

♦ AQ85

♣ 72

♠ 10

♥ AQJ9854

♦ 74

♣ Q94

HCP

10

5

16

9

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	-	3	-	-
S	1	-	3	-	-
E	-	3	-	3	1
W	-	3	-	3	-

Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

West

North

East

South

Pass

1♠

4♥

All Pass

Here the aggressive choice of 4♥ at favourable vulnerability may work better than 2♥ or a heavy weak jump overcall which may allow East/West to settle in 3♠. However the defence against spades needs to be precise to hold declarer to nine tricks. The ♥A lead gives declarer a trick immediately whilst trump and ♦ leads give declarer a vital second extra entry for all the finesses he needs to take (two in ♠ and two in ♦). East doesn't have quite enough to re-open, after the 4♥ overcall with three of his points in the enemy suit.

♠ 5

♥ AQ1083

♦ K65

♣ AJ96

♠ A7642

♥ K2

♦ J843

♣ 84

♠ 10

♥ J9754

♦ AQ92

♣ 1032

♠ KQJ983

♥ 6

♦ 107

♣ KQ75

HCP

14

8

7

11

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	4	-	1	4	2
S	4	-	1	3	2
E	-	1	-	-	-
W	-	1	-	-	-

Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

West

North

East

South

Pass

Pass

1♠

Pass

2♥

Pass

2♠

Pass

3NT

All Pass

4♠ is better than 3NT making if the ♦A is onside or trumps play for one loser; whilst 3NT would likely fail should ♦s be 5-3, and even if they are 4-4 will still make only nine tricks to ten in 4♠. The way to defeat 3NT here is not to lead a ♦ at all and then West can switch to the ♦J when he is with the ♠A to scoop up four tricks for the defence.

If a 2♥ response to 1♠ was game forcing you might bid 1♠-2♥-2♠-2NT-3♣-3♦-3♠-4♠; or if North chooses 3♣ over 2♠ in the example auction above, South might raise to 4♣ or rebid his strong ♠ suit a second time leading to 4♠.

