

# **British Winter Virtual Sim Pairs**



**Monday  
11<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Welcome to the British Winter Simultaneous Pairs, which we expect will continue to be played mainly online. I hope you enjoy the event and also the commentary provided by a leading expert. The commentator for this set of hands is Paul Bowyer. Please note that the Tuesday event will be in memory of Peter Jordan, the EBU's widely-known and much-loved Competitions department member who for many years was also responsible for running our overseas congresses. Barbara Jordan will be donating trophies for the winners on that day.

This is the start of the 2021 Simultaneous Pairs season, so it's a new year for prizes. Every host club will be entered in to a prize draw made at the AGM in November. So the club at which you have played today has a chance to win one of ten cash prizes of £250. The prize for the overall winners of each Sim Pairs is £100, and we wish you luck in trying to win it.

You can find all the full details, results and last year's prize winners at [www.ebu.co.uk/sims/](http://www.ebu.co.uk/sims/)

You can earn Blue points and they are awarded to the top third of the field. Don't be too impatient for the results! Provisional results will appear quickly but they won't be finalised and nor will the Master Point awards until all results are in and score corrections have been made. This can take up to three weeks. It really helps us if you can keep your scorecard for that period.

Coming up in February (1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>) is the Junior Squad Simultaneous Pairs which raises money to help Junior Bridge. I hope you will support this event and look forward to you playing.

Ian Payn, Chairman EBU

<p>♠AJ102 ♥K98 ♦92 ♣J865</p> <p>♠KQ865      ♠4 ♥A1054      ♥Q6 ♦AJ5      ♦K10874 ♣K      ♣Q10743</p> <p>♠973 ♥J732 ♦Q63 ♣A92</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>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <p>There are some very awkward bidding hands in this selection today, exemplified by this first deal. West will surely open 1♠ in fourth seat and East can do little but respond 1NT. After that it's not at all clear where the auction is headed – indeed, many will rebid 2♥ on the West cards and play there after East finds himself with nowhere to go. As the cards lie, with values in the short suits, West does best to raise no-trumps, but that would be the wrong thing to do if East held hearts. <i>Deep Finesse</i> suggests 3NT can be made (an unlikely low spade lead from South defeats it if East is declarer) but it is by no means straightforward and, in any case, declarer may well get diamonds wrong. The contracts may vary greatly on this one and scores may well be all over the place. As usual with match-point scoring, any plus score won't score too badly as many will go minus on the East-West cards.</p>		West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass	Pass	Pass																												
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<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		9		17	7	7		<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>4</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr></table>	Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	E	2	4	2	2	2	W	3	4	2	2	3		
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<p>♠1083 ♥Q10 ♦A5 ♣1087643</p> <p>♠KQ976      ♠AJ5 ♥J93      ♥K87 ♦Q9743      ♦J106 ♣None      ♣AKQ9</p> <p>♠42 ♥A6542 ♦K82 ♣J52</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>1♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <p>East-West have the values to make game on this deal and, indeed, 3NT cannot be beaten. That's a slightly unlikely spot, though, given West's 5-3-5-0 pattern and the presence of a 5-3 spade fit. It looks normal to play this one in 4♠. 4♠ is a comfortable make on a passive black-suit lead as declarer has time to draw trumps and set up the diamonds – indeed, he may get all his hearts away on the top clubs and make an overtrick. However, the aggressive lead of the ♦A and another diamond will allow North-South to score two diamonds, a diamond ruff and the ♥A for one down. After West's 3♦ call, though, this defence is a tad unlikely, so perhaps an overtrick is more likely than an undertrick.</p>		West	North	East	South			1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass																								
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♠ 5

♥ KQJ7

♦ KQ76

♣ 9762

♠ 1094

♥ A2

♦ 1052

♣ J10543

♠ AJ8632

♥ 9863

♦ 93

♣ K

♠ KQ7

♥ 1054

♦ AJ84

♣ AQ8

HCP

11

5

8

16

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	5	4	-	4
S	3	5	4	-	4
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

West

North

East

South

Pass

2♠

2NT

Pass

3♣\*

Pass

3♦

Pass

3NT

All Pass

Another hand of marginal decisions. North doesn't have an opening bid (4-4-4-1 hands so often disappoint in the play and are best left alone until partner bids) and East doesn't have anything like a classic weak two. Still, I bet many open 2♠ if given the chance, despite the four-card heart suit on the side. Over 2♠, South has an easy 2NT overcall and North has plenty to raise to game after a Stayman enquiry. Some Wests may raise to 3♠ obstructively, but that is unwise at the vulnerability; North may make a take-out double and South will be delighted to pass. 3♠ doubled does not play well for East and the penalty for bidding without due care and attention would be at least 500 against a non-vulnerable game.

After the ♠10 lead to 3NT, incidentally, East must play low or South will make eleven tricks and a fine match-point score of 460.

♠ 1083

♥ 6

♦ J1098654

♣ K9

♠ Q54

♥ K1098

♦ Q3

♣ 10642

♠ KJ97

♥ 743

♦ AK7

♣ J83

♠ A62

♥ AQJ52

♦ 2

♣ AQ75

HCP

4

7

12

17

Makeable contracts

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

Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable

West

North

East

South

Pass

2♦

Pass

2♥

Pass

3♦

All Pass

Another deals where system will have an effect on the auction and the final result. If East-West are playing a weak no-trump, East may open one of those (brave, holding just 12 points in a 4-3-3-3 hand, but this *is* match-point pairs) and South will be delighted to double, hoping for a juicy penalty. The lie of the cards makes 1NT unbeatable, though, and North does best to pull the double to 2♦. South is sure to bid 2♥ now and now North should insist on his seven-card suit. These hands play so much better in the trump suit of the weaker hand; the North hand is all but useless in hearts but has a lot of playing strength if diamonds are trumps. Ten tricks are possible in diamonds, but declarer may have to guess the location of the ♥K. Still, making nine tricks for +110 won't score badly for his side.

♠ KQ9

♥ A5

♦ AKQ3

♣ K1084

♠ 107642

♥ Q9

♦ 64

♣ A972

♠ 3

♥ J1076432

♦ 985

♣ J6

♠ AJ85

♥ K8

♦ J1072

♣ Q53

HCP

21

6

2

11

Makeable contracts

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

Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all

West

North

East

South

Pass

2NT

Pass

3♣\*

Pass

3♦

Pass

4NT

Pass

6NT

All Pass

A marginal slam is available to North-South on this deal with 6♦ and 6NT effectively the same contract. Some pairs will have the mechanism to locate the 4-4 diamond fit on this hand although there is no benefit to be had in playing in it with this layout.

In the auction above, incidentally, 4NT is not Blackwood as no trump suit has been agreed. Whether North should accept the invitation is moot – bidding a slam is a marginal decision.

Now, *Deep Finesse* smugly tells us that slam makes in both diamonds and no-trumps. However, many will fail to make a slam because, unlike *Deep Finesse*, they cannot see through the backs of the cards. The percentage play is to play to the ♣Q and finesse the ♣10 on the second round. Correct play, but unlucky here.











♠ Q762

♥ 9853

♦ J93

♣ 75

♠ K8

♥ KJ

♦ K752

♣ AKQ84

♠ AJ43

♥ Q642

♦ 864

♣ J2

♠ 1095

♥ A107

♦ AQ10

♣ 10963

HCP

3

19

8

10

Makeable contracts

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

♠ 10

♥ KJ876

♦ 7653

♣ 1062

♠ 852

♥ A

♦ QJ1042

♣ AJ87

♠ AQJ9764

♥ 10943

♦ A

♣ 5

♠ K3

♥ Q52

♦ K98

♣ KQ943

HCP

4

12

11

13

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	1	-	-
S	-	-	1	-	-
E	1	3	-	6	2
W	1	3	-	6	2

♠ Q52

♥ 87

♦ K43

♣ K10873

♠ K9

♥ A109653

♦ 10865

♣ Q

♠ J108743

♥ QJ42

♦ J97

♣ None

♠ A6

♥ K

♦ AQ2

♣ AJ96542

HCP

8

9

5

18

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	5	-	-	-	1
S	5	-	-	-	1
E	-	1	3	1	-
W	-	1	3	1	-

Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

West

North

East

South

Pass

Pass

Pass

1♣

Pass

1♥

Pass

3NT

Pass

Pass

Pass

North-South had an easy game on Hand 19 – by way of balance the computer has allocated an easy game to East-West on this hand. 3NT is unbeatable whether played by East or West on this deal and declarer should really rack up ten tricks (two spades, two hearts, one diamond and five clubs). The spade finesse might produce an eleventh but that would be icing on the cake.

Bidding? Well, the auction above is somewhat agricultural. Some will prefer a reverse into 2♦ on the West cards and some a scientific rebid of 2NT (many play that as 18-19 points these days). Whatever route is chosen, though, all roads lead to Rome; few pairs will play this in anything other than 3NT.

Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

West

North

East

South

1♠

Pass

2♦

Pass

2♠

Pass

4♠

Pass

Pass

Pass

A deal where East-West will probably end up in 4♠, a contract where the only issue in the play is one of overtricks. Yes, *Deep Finesse* says that you can make a slam on these cards and, in truth, we have all been in worse spots than 6♠. Still, how might you bid it? Much depends on East’s rebid after the 2♦ response – what do you suggest? 3♠ is an overbid, 2♥ looks weird on a 7-4 shape with lousy hearts and 4♠ is just a punt.

As to the play... with a trump loser, East has to get rid of his three losing hearts. The winning play is to ruff them on table (in which case he needs to avoid playing any trumps at all). He might take the ruffing diamond finesse instead, in which case he would certainly lose two tricks. The right line would become more obvious if South has revealed the location of the missing high cards with an unwise 2♣ overcall.

Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

West

North

East

South

1♣

2♥

3♣

4♥

5♣

Pass

Pass

Pass

An interesting deal, this one where there may be some fierce competitive bidding. North-South have a rare 7-5 club fit and have a laydown 5♣ contract, losing just a heart and a spade. Meanwhile, East-West are able to make nine tricks in hearts, assuming they can guess spades correctly, so they would do well to bid to the five-level and concede a mere 500 in 5♥ doubled. That won’t happen often, I suspect, as both East and West will be wary about pushing North-South into a makeable slam.

The above auction is reasonable, assuming that East-West are playing weak jump overcalls. Where West overcalls 1♥ over 1♣ it will be even less obvious for East-West to sacrifice in 5♥ over 5♣.

Just one other point. Did anyone manage to commit grand larceny on the South cards by sneaking through 3NT with overtricks?





