

Page 12 of 12

British Winter Sim Pairs



Monday 13th January 2020

Welcome to the British Winter Simultaneous Pairs. Thank you for playing. I hope you enjoy the event and also the commentary provided by a leading expert. The commentator for this set of hands is Michael Byrne.

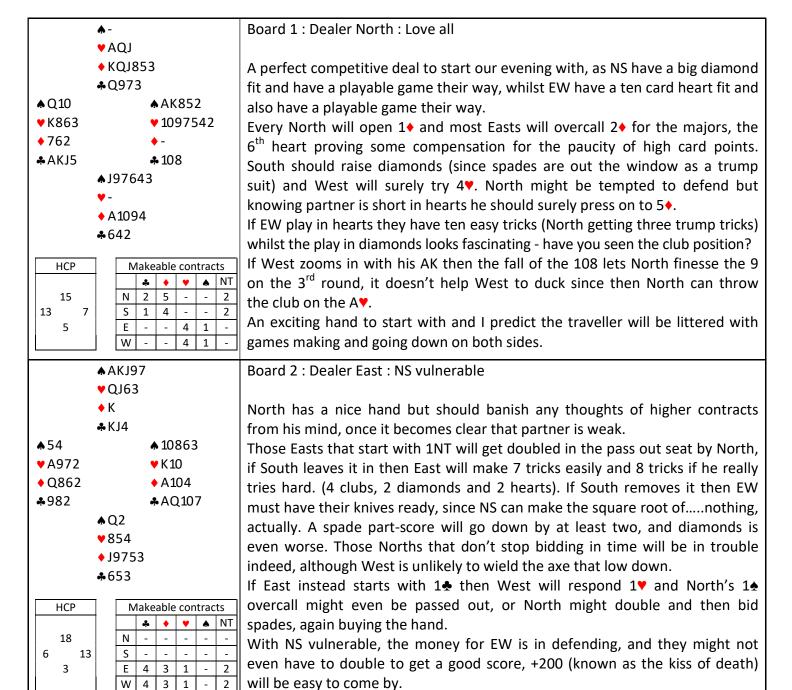
This is the start of the 2020 Simultaneous Pairs season, so it's a new year for prizes. Every host club will be entered in to a prize draw made at the AGM in November. So the club at which you have played today has a chance to win one of ten cash prizes of £250. The prize for the overall winners of each 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/

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. Clubs should keep the travellers if still used.

Coming up in February (4th & 6th) is the Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs. This year money raised will be to help support Junior Bridge. I hope you will support this event and look forward to you playing.

Ian Payn, Chairman EBU



British Winter Sim Pairs ~ Monday 13th January 2020 **♠**87 Board 27: Dealer South: Love all **¥**84 ♦ AQ876 EW have two balanced hands with 25 between them and honours in every **\$**10876 suit, so it is a sad fact of life that 1NT is the limit of the hand. **A**4932 **♠** KJ5 After a pass from South, West will surely open 1NT (or 1♣ for some) and show **♥**QJ10 **♥**K972 12-14 balanced, East will invite and game will be reached. ♦ K95 **♦**42 The good news is that a 4th best diamond lead from North will let West make ♣KJ4 ♣A932 the King, the bad news is that the contract has only 8 tricks and will still go **♠**Q1064 one down. ♥A653 In fact this hand is a good advertisement for damage limitation, if West goes ♦J103 all out to make his contract by playing a spade to the Jack at trick two then he **♣**Q5 will go two down, if instead he accepts his fate with grim resignation and knocks out the heart ace then he will escape for one off which won't be a disaster. Makeable contracts НСР ♣ **♦ ♥** ♠ NT There will be some EW pairs that go plus (don't ask me how there always are) N - - - - -6 but in practice the score sheet will be littered with 50 and 100s..and perhaps 14 11 a few -150s as well. E 2 - 3 2 1 | W | 2 | - | 3 | 2 | 1 **♠**A52 Board 28: Dealer West: NS vulnerable ♥AK876 ♦ AK3 NS will have to show caution here, although North has a beautifully crisp 18 **.**98 count with a 5 card suit, partner doesn't quite have enough and 8 tricks are **♠**Q93 **♦** KJ76 the limit in no trumps. ♥J1042 **y**95 A common sequence will be $1 \vee - 1NT - 2NT - P$, although some stronger no ♦QJ5 **10876** trumpers (for whom the raise shows 18-19) will upgrade the Q♥ and 5 card **♣**Q73 ♣KJ4 suit and raise to game. **♠** 1084 Of course game has no chance on the 4-2 heart break...or does it? **♥**Q3 Played by South West might well lead the Q+ and South can throw a bit of 942 misdirection into the mix by ducking trick one. West will surely continue and ♣A10652 now when the 9♣ is run to the queen West will continue diamonds allowing 9 tricks to be made. НСР Makeable contracts ♣ **♦ ♥** ♠ NT In practice though most uninspired Souths will cash hearts and 8 tricks will 18 N 3 2 3 1 2 be the limit. Well done if you score +600, but even +150 will be enough for S 3 2 3 1 2 8 a good score, with plenty of people going minus in game. E - - - -W - - - -Board 29: Dealer North: All vulnerable **♠**7 **v**843 ♦ K842

*AK8 in fact and set a

♣76542

♠2

♥AK1075

♦ A1053

♠QJ643

♥J92

QJ

♣QJ10

♠ AK10985

♥Q6

♦ 976

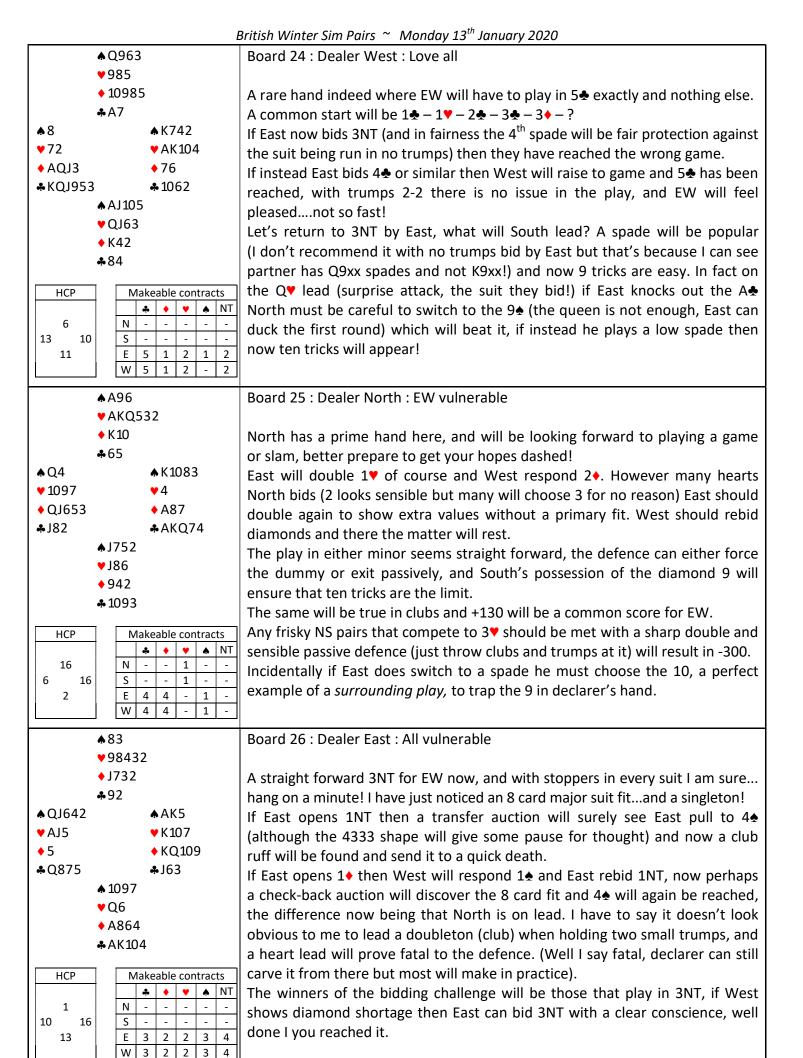
.93

South has a powerful hand and (for once) partner has the right bits and pieces to help him out.

After two passes South will open $1 \checkmark$ and West will overcall in spades, many will choose $2 \spadesuit$ as a weak jump overcall. North will pass and East will raise spades, how high is the question. If East raises to $3 \spadesuit$ then South can double and North will bid $4 \checkmark$, the good game has been reached. If instead East bids $4 \spadesuit$ then South will double and North will pass, 800 will be the penalty.

Although it looks like 4 is a very lucky make when the diamond comes in, in fact that is not the case if you play it correctly. South can draw trumps and set up the clubs, using dummy's modest suit to throw two diamonds away.

I have sympathy with any NS pairs that bid and make game only to find everyone has gone for 800 the other way, but in practice 620 will still be ok.



♦ K1062 **♦**743 On a diamond lead South can win and play spades from the top (low to the **♣**632 **♣**Q104 ten is not the correct play in the suit, gaining against QJxx onside but losing **♠**6 to Qxxx or Jxxx, much more likely) to set up five spades, two diamonds, two **♥**QJ98 clubs and perhaps a trick in the wash for 430. ♦ AQ98 Those that play in game in spades don't seem to have much chance at all, on ♣A987 a diamond lead there are 4 defensive winners straight away and even on a heart lead West can exit a trump and there aren't the entries for anything Makeable contracts НСР 🚣 🔸 💛 🛦 NT clever (such as throwing the club on the 3rd heart then ruffing the clubs good). N 3 2 2 3 2 12 Many will make 4♠ though as some West players will cash both hearts. S 3 2 3 3 3 11 4 allowing North two discards when the ten drops on the 3rd round, they don't 13 really deserve their good score, but that won't stop them enjoying it! | W | - | - | - | - | **♠**KQ Board 4: Dealer West: All vulnerable **♥**AK76 ♦ 654 Another nip and tuck part-score deal here, but in traditional fashion the major **♣**K1084 suits rule the world and NS will win the bidding war. **♠**976 **♠** A102 If West opens 1♣ (and I'm sure almost everyone will) then North will probably **♥** Q **v** 10982 stretch to 1NT, placing some weight on the nice club pips (K108x often being ♦ AJ97 **♦** 1032 a trick better than K432) and ignoring the doubleton spade honours. ♣AQJ97 **♣**652 That will work well when South responds Stayman, although he must be **♦**J8543 careful not to get too ambitious. It wouldn't be wild for South to use Stayman **♥**J543 then blast game, but at pairs pushing for thin games is rarely necessary, 3♥ is ♦KQ8 more prudent and will be passed out. **.**3 An unlikely diamond lead will hold a heart part-score to 8 tricks but 9 are Makeable contracts more likely after a club lead, the even spade break proving beneficial. HCP ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT Ten tricks seem impossible since East will surely ruff in and lead diamonds N - - 2 2 1 15 at some point, even if he fails to find the switch when in with the A. S - - 2 2 1 14 4 Those playing in spades can make 8 tricks and again many will make 9 if EW E 1 1 - -W 1 1 - - get distracted by the spade ruff and fail to get diamonds going. **♦**K6 Board 5: Dealer North: NS vulnerable **♥**KJ104 ♦ A2 A traditional game contract now, with NS owning 24 points and a 9 card fit **♣**Q8752 I would expect most players to bid and make 4. **♠**J82 **♠**Q943 North should open 1NT if playing one (opening 1♣ and rebidding 2♣ after a 1♠ ♥Q62 **y**9 response is grizzly) and South will Stayman then raise, North should go onto ♦ K107 ♦ QJ943 game with 13 and two useful doubletons. **♣**AJ94 **\$1063** There is potential for a lot of different number of tricks here, with some **♠**A1075 declarers making 10 or 11 (and perhaps a few careless ones making 9!) ♥A8753 For example, if South plays it then the 2♠ lead (a fair choice) gives declarer **♦**865 time to knock out the Ace of clubs and throw the diamond loser on the 5th ♣K club as West ruffs with his trump trick. Alternatively a diamond lead from East will leave North with plenty of work Makeable contracts HCP | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT to be done, but ten tricks seem to fall into place easily, with no defensive 13 N | 2 | - | 5 | 2 | 2 over-ruff available on the 4th club. 5 | S | 2 | - | 5 | 2 | 2 11 11 | E | - | - | - | - | | W | - | - | - | - | Page 3 of 12

British Winter Sim Pairs ~ Monday 13th January 2020

South has excellent pips and soft values suitable for No trumps here, so I would

A simple auction would be 1 - 2 - 2 - 3NT - P, with North respecting his

expect most to reach the best (and making) game that their hands suggest.

Board 3: Dealer South: EW vulnerable

partner's decision.

♠ AK10985

♠Q42

♥5432

v76

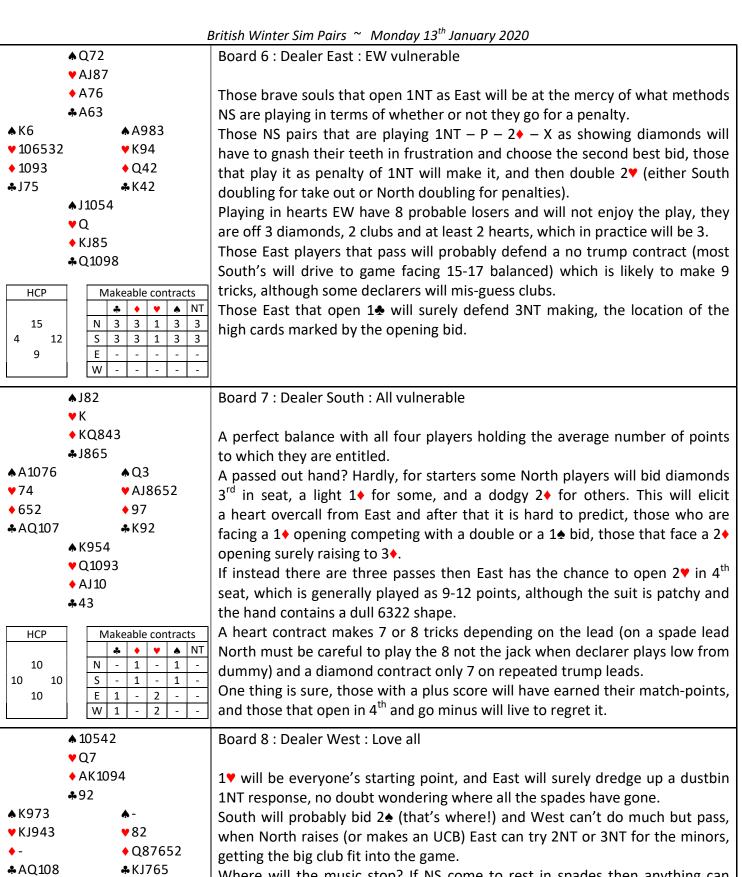
♦ J5

♠J73

♥ AK10

♣KJ5

Page 10 of 12 Page 3 of 12



♠AQJ86 ♥A1065 **♦** J3 **4**43

> НСР Makeable contracts | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT 9 |-|-|1 - 2 12 E | 4 | 1 | 2 | -W 4 1 2 -

13

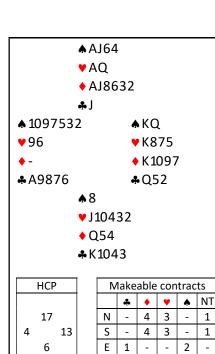
Where will the music stop? If NS come to rest in spades then anything can happen, from a double dummy point of view West can under-lead clubs twice and get two ruffs and wait for his trump trick (the heart winner will vanish sadly) holding South to 8 tricks. In practice West might lead hearts and now declarer has a chance at more.

If EW play in clubs then North should lead trumps, West may only have one loser but 11 tricks he does not have. 5♣ can't be made unless the defence err, and even then it must be fairly egregious.

Making a game always scores well but doubling your opponents and getting them down will work just as well on this hand!

British Winter Sim Pairs ~ Monday 13th January 2020

Board 21: Dealer North: NS vulnerable

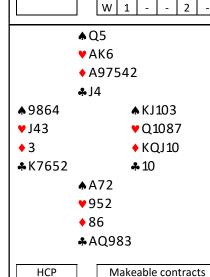


A 1 opening by North will be how everyone starts and East will have to grumpily pass (the strength is fine for a double but the doubleton spade is not!). South will respond 1♥ and West has to bid some spades, 2 will be a mainstream choice although some brave souls will bid 3 no doubt. After that the auction is impossible to predict and all sorts of things might happen. North might rebid diamonds and make plenty of tricks (ten is possible

doubled by East, or he might rebid 3NT and go several down. Alternatively, East might be the one to bid on and raise spades, (8 tricks are the limit and North will be doubling no doubt) or perhaps try no trumps himself!

losing two trumps and the A♣, the heart loser going on the K♣) perhaps even

Once again the traveller will be littered with scores on both sides, but I predict more people will go down in a contract than make one, so plus scores will score well.



♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT

N 2 2 - - 2

S 2 1 - -

E - - 1 2

Makeable contracts

| N | 4 | - | 4 | - | 1

| ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT

Board 22: Dealer East: EW vulnerable

East has the dreaded 4441 shape, but at least he is loaded with intermediate cards, and (not to be old fashioned) the hand does contain 12 points.

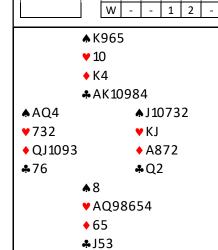
Those that open 1♦ will see South pass (no, I wouldn't bid 2♣) and West should respond 1♠ but most will pass.

If 1♦ is passed round to North he should pass and take a few hundreds in under-tricks, though beating it by 2 doesn't look that easy on the likely heart

After 1♦ - P - 1♠ North will pass and East raise to 2♠. This should make as the diamond shortage and Q are in the right place.

If instead East passes as dealer then North will open 1♦ and probably rebid 2♦ over the 2♣ response, 8 tricks seem easy as the defence will struggle to see that West needs to switch to spades upon winning the K♣.

Anyone scoring 200 will scoop all the match-points, and bidding and making a part-score will be huge for EW and fair for NS.



14

10

НСР

13

12

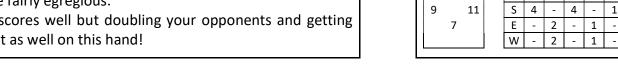
Board 23: Dealer South: All vulnerable

South has a traditional pre-empt to start with and most will open 3♥. (Some cautious souls will open a weak two and some braver souls will open 4\(\forall \).

Over a 3♥ opening North will no doubt pass, fearing club shortage in his partner's hand, alas today it is a double fit (well, just about) and game is playable. If 3♥ is passed around to them then East should pass, but some will bid 3♠ and get raised to game - North will be waiting for them with a sharp double!

The play in hearts seems fairly straight forward, the defence will take 2 diamond tricks and no doubt zoom in with the A♠, but that is the end of the road for them. It will be safe to cross to a club and take the heart finesse, and then there is no reason to get clubs wrong (especially when East is the one with the heart shortage).

A good board for aggressive NS pairs, +620 will score very well, though the best score will be those that defend a spade contract doubled, on a club lead and heart switch 800 is there for the taking!



НСР

11

11

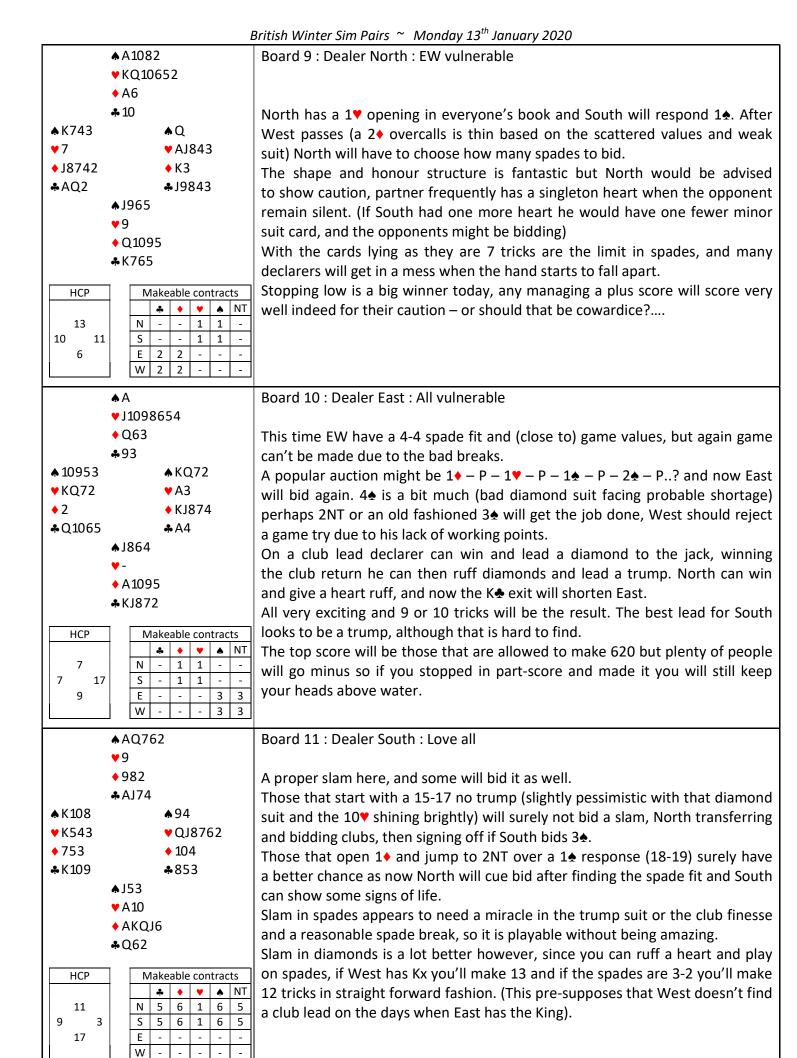
10

Makeable contracts

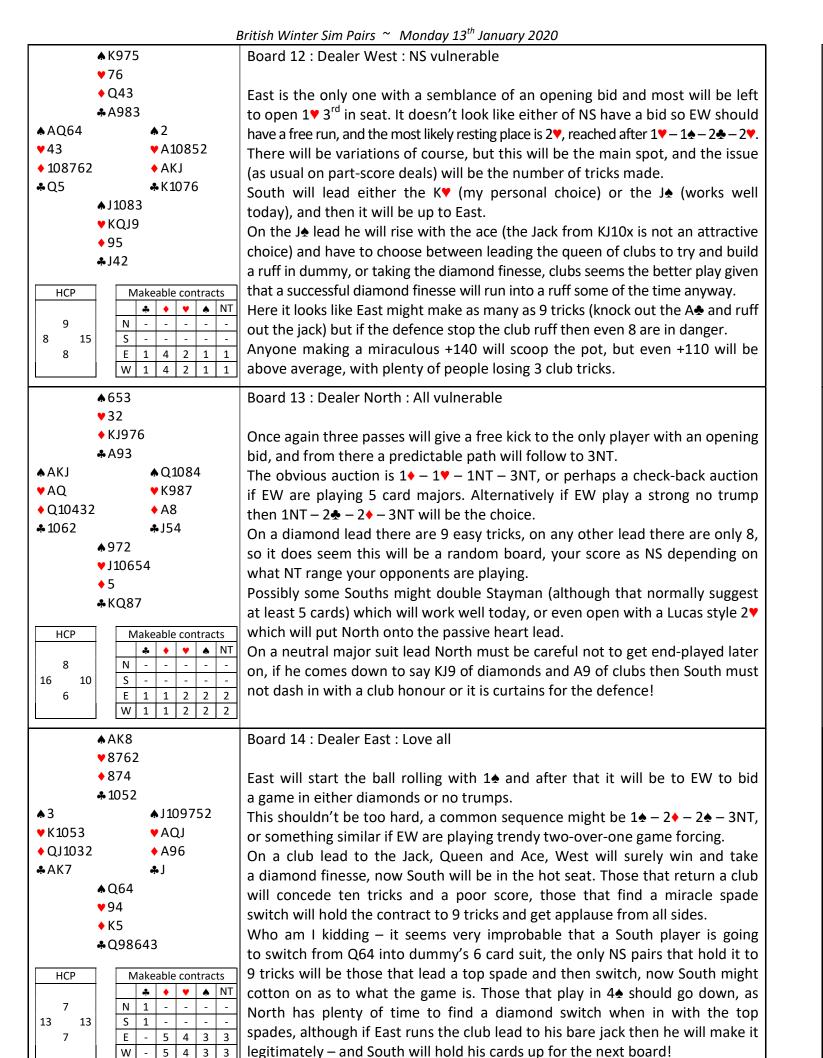
E | - | - | - | 1 | -

| W | - | - | - | - |

Today game depends on the diamond finesse (and an even break, and an extra trick in the black suits), which is far too pushy for duplicate pairs, but | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT those players that have rolled in +600 (and all the bushels of match-points N | 3 | 3 | 2 | - | 3 that accompany it) will doubtless not be troubled by that at all. | S | 3 | 3 | 2 | - | 3 Page 8 of 12



Page 5 of 12



♣K84 **\$**1053 will run round to East. If I was East I would bid 4♠ like a shot, but South's **♠** K932 double might give me pause for thought, and anyone that runs from 4♠ (-300) ♥AJ983 to 5♦ (-100) will have done well. Not as well as anyone that passes out 4♥ **4** mind you, since on a diamond lead and spade switch EW get a ruff and to hold **♣**J92 it to 9 tricks. The long and the short of it is that with both sides having a big fit and lots of Makeable contracts НСР 🚣 🔸 💛 🛦 NT shape no-one can make anything, and even bidding and making a part-score N 2 - 3 -13 will score well for whichever side goes plus. S 1 - 3 -12 6 | E | - | 4 | - | 2 | -W - 4 - 2 -**♠**6542 Board 16: Dealer West: EW vulnerable ♥Q964 ♦ A96 EW just have the balance and will buy the hand at most tables, with NS lacking **♣**J9 the shape to compete. **♠** K1087 **♠**A3 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 = -1 T might be a sensible stop, East choosing caution given that **♥** J **♥**K875 he doesn't actually have a club stop. ♦ K10432 **♦** QJ EW have a lot of potential winners (4 diamonds, 3 clubs, 2 spades) but if NS **\$**87643 ♣A102 are on the ball 7 tricks are the limit. Best for the defence is to attack clubs ♠QJ9 then switch to the Q and take 3 tricks there, but that won't be obvious with ♥A1032 the 10 and 9 hearts being split. **♦**875 Certainly if East wins a top club lead with the ace and knocks out the A◆ North **♣**KQ5 must resist the urge to play a club back. If instead EW play in diamonds then 9 tricks are likely (it seems a spade lead НСР Makeable contracts ♣ 🔸 🔻 🛦 NT from North is needed to hold it to 8 tricks) for +110, so the difference N - - 1 between +90 and +120 will be crucial. S - - 1 - -11 10 E 2 3 - 1 1 W 2 2 - 1 1 **♠**Q7 Board 17: Dealer North: Love all ♥AJ96 **♦**83 Once again the points are evenly balanced but (finally!) the spade suit rules ♣AKJ96 supreme, and EW should stop at a level where they can go plus. **♠**64 **♠** AKJ532 Those Norths that open 1♣ (most I imagine) will see East overcall 1♠ and South pass. ♥Q10543 **♥**K West will have to do something, probably 2♥ and East will rebid 2♠ whatever 2♥ ♦ AKJ7 **♦**95 meant. No-one will have anything to say and a sensible spot is reached. **\$**84 **4**7532 Alternatively, if North opens a strong no trump East will overcall 2♠ (or 2♦ if **▲** 1098 that shows one major) and West should show caution, hearts surely being **¥**872 partner's short suit. ♦ Q10642 Onto the play! East appears to have 6 spade winners, 3 diamonds and a heart, **♣**Q10 so how is 8 tricks the limit of the hand? Best defence is a club lead then 3 rounds allows South to score the 8♠ ahead НСР Makeable contracts | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | NT of dummy. Then a heart back to the ace and another club holds it to 8. 15 This is rather fanciful and I am inclined to think in practice many declarers will make 11 10 9 or even 10 tricks. Anyone that does find this great defence will be disappointed | E | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 that it only stops the overtricks, but pleased with their match-point score! W 1 1 1 2 1 Page 7 of 12

British Winter Sim Pairs ~ Monday 13th January 2020

We're back again to the cut and thrust of competitive bidding, with both sides

South will pass (does anyone play this opening 2 for the majors convention

anymore?) and West will open 1♦, North will overcall 1♥ and East introduce

his spades. South should probably blast 4♥ (ten card fit and all that) and this

Board 15: Dealer South: NS vulnerable

getting good value for their table money.

♠Q6

♦ Q10

^7

♥Q64

♦ AK9732

♣AQ76

♠ AJ10854

♦J865

♥K10752

Page 6 of 12