EBED



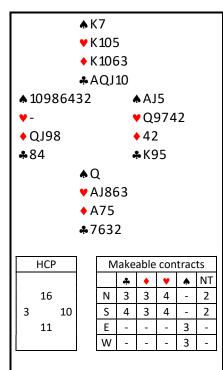
Sim Pairs

Commentary by Mike Pomfrey

Thursday 9th September 2021 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. EBED have responded to the challenges of the past year by continuing to improve and develop the infrastructure for bridge teaching in England. This has been achieved by enabling our EBTA (English Bridge Teaching Association) teachers the flexibility to deliver online and classroom-based learning. We have also established a gentle introduction to duplicate bridge through our weekly EBS (English Bridge School) relaxed games. EBED additionally supplies "Bridge for All" teaching materials, organises teacher and director training courses, administers the Junior Award Scheme, organises the Schools Cup and runs the Junior Teach In. We continue to support 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. Amazon customers can effortlessly support us by switching to AmazonSmile. 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 for your support.

Giorgio Provenza

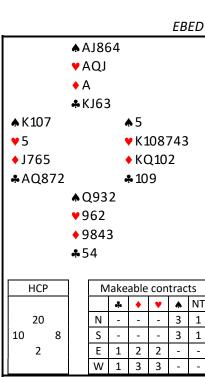
Chief Executive English Bridge Education & Development, Registered Charity No: 1153543



Board 1	: Dealer N	orth : Lov	e all	
West	North	East	South	
	1♣	1♥	Pass	
Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass	
1♠	?			

Here's an intriguing situation. East hasn't a great suit but I imagine nearly everyone will overcall. Now each player has an issue. First, does South want to play for penalties, despite having four cards in partner's suit? It's a close call but let's say you do. West absolutely hates it but there's no rush, you expect to escape later.

The most contentious bid is North's double. You have three decent hearts, which makes it unlikely that South plans a penalty pass. You also have only two spades, partner hasn't bid, so where are all those? I would be strongly inclined to pass, which could lead to an unusual result of four down undoubled at the one level! If North were to double, how does the partnership reach their game in the enemy suit? North should divine the heart fit but how to convince South? As an aside, East-West have a cheap save in spades but I doubt they'll believe they need to take it.

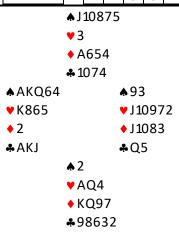


Board 2: Dealer East: NS vulnerable West North East South

Here's another one where the auction is hard to predict. With a shapely 20 count North hopes for an easy ride but that ain't gonna happen. Many Easts will start with a weak 2♥ (don't like it myself with a good side suit and too much playing potential). 2♥ is passed round to North. You start with a double, intending to rebid in no trumps but to your surprise partner bids spades. It takes a lot of discipline to stay out of game now.

With the clubs lying well and East having no entry, there are only three obvious losers but, sadly, not enough access to the South hand to avoid a fourth.

Were East to pass, West will open 1♣ and North doubles. 1♥, pass, 2♣ back to you. Despite the poor suit and values in the opponents' suits, you are probably going to bid 2♠ now, which should be the end of the affair.



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W	-	-	4	2	1			

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1 1 Board 3: Dealer South: EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Dbl	3♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All pass		

South has an odd problem as dealer. With only six losers you seem to have an opening bid but your main suit is revolting. Do you really want to have to rebid it after a 1♠ response? I really dislike distorting your shape but, if you are going to open, I think you have to do so this time.

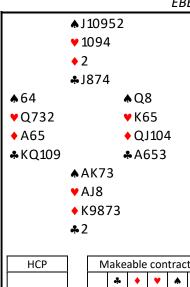
With a shape like West's it's usual to overcall first, planning to double on the next round, but this hand is way too strong. With such a weak hand North is well advised to ignore the spades; 3♦ is more pre-emptive and gives away less information should you end up defending. West, of course, doubles again. There's a slight case for East to bid game but surely West will anyway.

	♠ Q643
	♥ 53
	♦ J 10 7
	♣A1098
♠ 10872	∧ AK
♥ 876	♥ AKJ9
♦ 964	♦ K32
♣ KQ5	♣ J632
	♦ J95
	♥Q1042
	♦ AQ85
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Board 4: Dealer West: All vulnerable West North East South Pass Pass All pass **1**

In principle you should respond on marginal hands but there's not a lot going for it here. It's highly likely that hearts are your best strain, so you don't need to give partner another chance. You have four spades, which reduces the chances of opponents successfully competing. All in all there isn't much upside to balance the risk of getting too high. If West were to bid then East surely says 2NT which should be too much to handle.

Assuming West passes, is there a case for North to double? It's very close and could well be the right thing to do. Although you are outgunned in high card points it looks as if the cards lie well enough to make 1NT, which will score reasonably well unless other East-Wests get overboard.



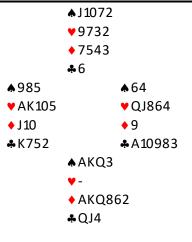
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↑ 104 ♥A109754 ♦ J103 ♣KJ **♠** AKQ752 **♠**J98 **Y** 2 **♥**Q83 ♦8764 **♦**952 **\$**62 ♣A853 **♠**63 ♥KJ6 ◆ AKQ ♣Q10974

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Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable						
West	North	East	South			
	Pass	1NT	2♦			
Dbl All pass	2♠	2NT	3♠			

What a strange hand! South has a tricky decision over a weak no trump. Is it worth a double? Or should you start with some sort of takeout bid?

At the vulnerability you are perhaps more inclined towards reaching a contract of your own. A 2 ◆ Aspro bid, showing spades and another suit, offers a convenient way into the auction. West doubles, showing values, and North is clear that spades is the place to play. East is sure that defending spades is not a good idea, so tries 2NT, looking for a minor suit fit.

South has a lot to spare, but also good defence. Even so, it seems right to compete. You might double 2NT, but North will surely retreat to 3 . As it happens, you can actually make ten tricks, but perhaps only if you play for the ace of diamonds to come down in three rounds, rather than simply playing East for that card.

Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable West North South East 2 🌲 Pass 3 🔷 Pass 2 • Pass Pass 5 • All pass

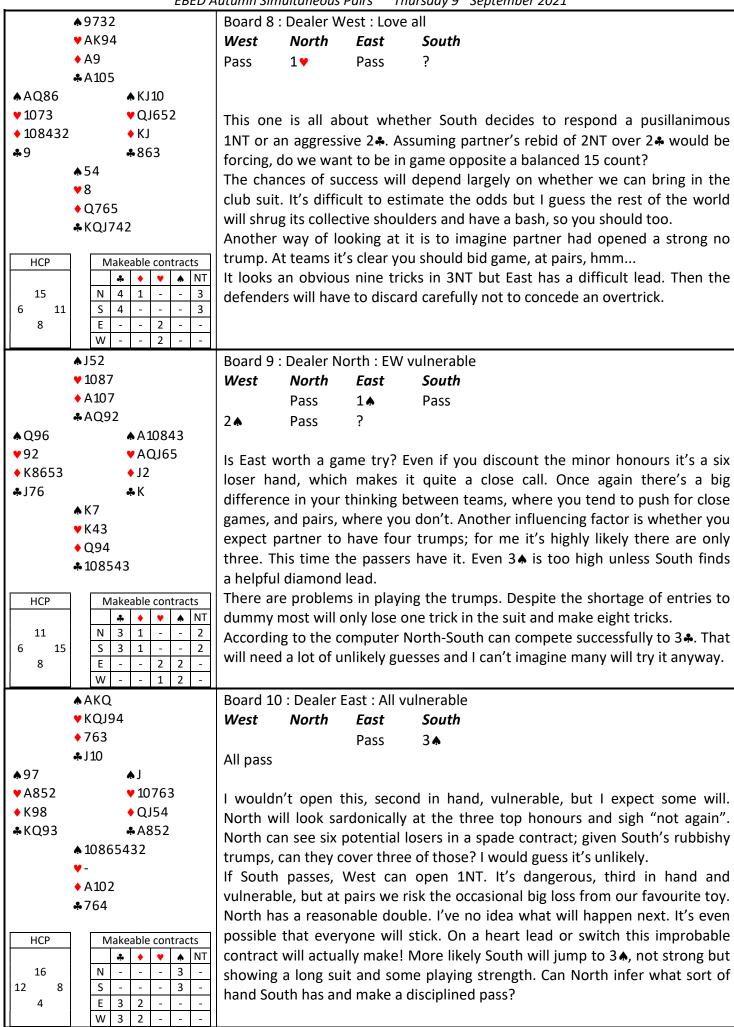
What a difficult hand. Although South doesn't quite have a certain game, I think you have to start with 2. As the auction progresses, what is North supposed to do? Partner has forced to game, we have a very weak hand with diamond support. 5 ♦ says this and offers little encouragement.

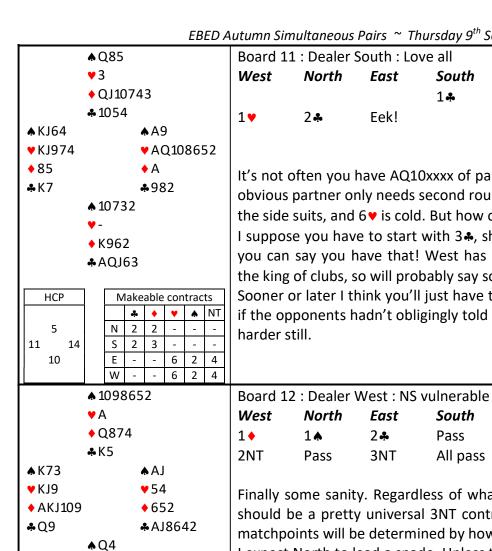
South might gamble on a club control, but that's a very big gamble. As it happens, 5♦ is quite the wrong spot. Not only can you make 6♦; if you don't bid a slam you'd be better off in spades. I'm afraid I have no idea how to find all that out.

And suppose East has a weak two suited 2♥ available? South doubles, West bids 4♥ and now what? I suppose you have to double again, intending to bid 5 ♦ over 5 ♣ but happily partner bids spades.

Board 7	: Dealer So	uth : All	vulnerable
West	North	East	South
			1.
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♥
3♠	All pass		

An obvious battle of the two major suits. How far should each side go? First, is 1 the obvious choice for West? I think so; it's too strong for a weak jump overcall and not quite suitable for anything else. 3 ♠ maybe? As it goes a lot depends on whether you play North's 2 v as forcing. Many players these days treat a response that has been "disturbed" by an overcall, ie you are forced up a level, as non-forcing. If it were forcing South is probably worth game. North can make 4♥ but only if you guess the trumps, unlikely unless the bidding has given you a clue. But if you sound confident when you bid game West may well take the save. A penalty of 500 should be very good for North-South.





It's not often you have AQ10xxxx of partner's bid suit and two other aces. It's obvious partner only needs second round control in clubs and a trick in one of the side suits, and 6♥ is cold. But how on earth can you find out? I suppose you have to start with 3♣, showing a good raise in hearts – I guess you can say you have that! West has a respectable overcall, a side suit and the king of clubs, so will probably say something encouraging. 3♠? 3NT? Sooner or later I think you'll just have to close your eyes and bid it. Curiously, if the opponents hadn't obligingly told you of their club fit it might have been

South

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East South 2* **Pass** 3NT All pass

Finally some sanity. Regardless of what North-South say in the bidding, this should be a pretty universal 3NT contract for East-West. The distribution of matchpoints will be determined by how many tricks you make.

I expect North to lead a spade. Unless the defenders are two of those strange creatures who use strong ten leads West is sure to try the jack and suddenly this contract looks a lot less secure. Whether you take South's queen or not you are going to have to duck a club to be sure of even nine tricks. As it happens, when North clears the spades and you run the clubs, North is under pressure and can be endplayed for a tenth trick.

How much easier it would be if you knew South had the queen of spades. Now you know why I hate strong ten leads.

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◆Q63							
	♣ K	Q8	4				

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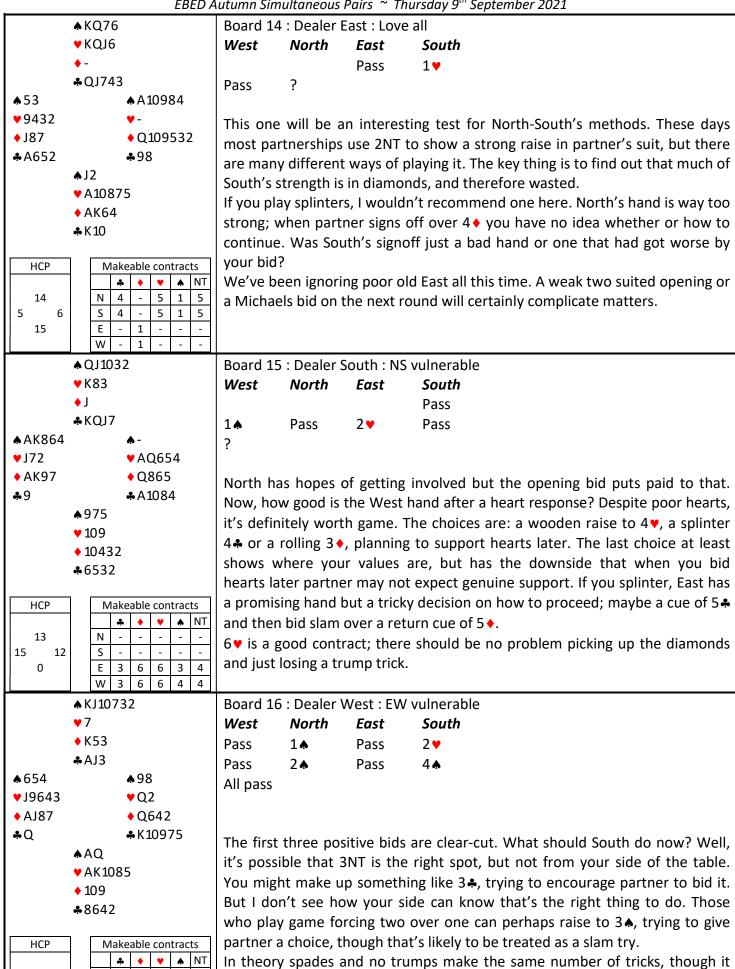
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Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
	1NT	Pass	Pass		
2 •	Pass	2♠	All pass		

Here's another outing for my favourite defence to 1NT, Aspro. Under many methods there isn't a satisfactory way of competing with West's hand. Aspro is slightly more dangerous when your major is only four cards – you may have to play at the three level if partner doesn't like spades, but it gives you a decent chance of a good score.

South is tempted to weigh in with 2NT, a takeout bid showing two places to play. But you have poor playing strength and any contract at the three level may be expensive.

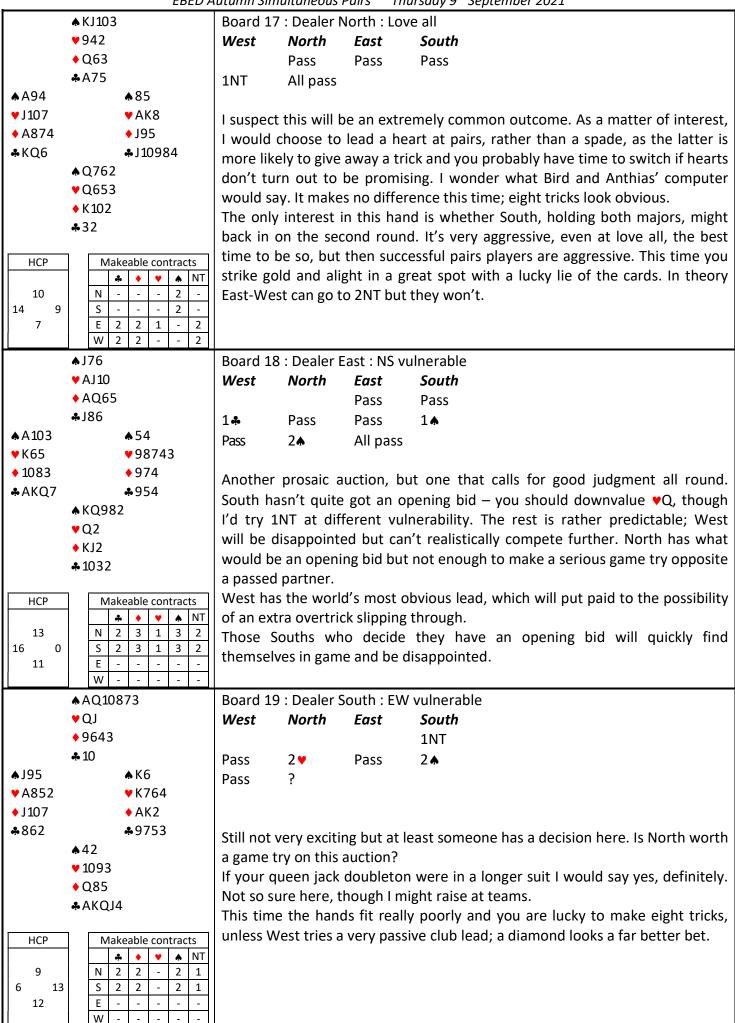
It looks as though East should make nine tricks in spades, either by establishing diamonds or on cross-ruff lines. What should South lead? The bidding suggests a trump; the jack is a choice that may cost a trump trick, though if declarer reads you for the ten as well it could be a great success.

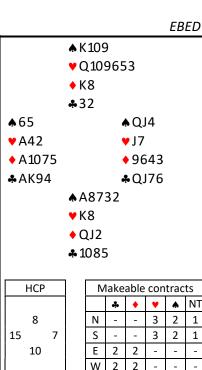


takes a trump lead to hold spades to ten.

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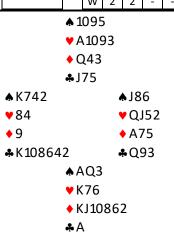
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Board 20: Dealer West: All vulnerable West North South East 3♥ 1. 2 🔻 3♣ All pass

How strong do you play your weak jump overcalls? This one is just OK for me, even vulnerable. Not vulnerable it would definitely be OK. East competes and South should too, even if the Law of Total Tricks suggests it's marginal. With two eight card fits it's possible that neither side can make a three level contract. West is a bit peeved, but what can you do? For most partnerships a double would hardly be a strong penalty suggestion, and you certainly wouldn't consider anything else.

In 3♥ the potential spade loser can go on a diamond so it all depends how you play the trumps. West should be careful not to remove declarer's options and force North to drop the jack. If you don't make 3♥, of course, you can blame partner as 3. shouldn't make either, though there's a slim chance it may if North fails to unblock the king of diamonds.



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Board 21: Dealer North: NS vulnerable				
West	North	East	South	
	Pass	Pass	1♦	
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♦	
All pass				

South is a bit good for 3♦, but there isn't really any alternative, unless you have a clever bid that shows a long suit and three card support for hearts. North can't really think of anything to say over 3 ♦.

It looks as though ten tricks is the likely outcome in diamonds, though there is

a defence that causes problems. How about a club lead, on which East plays the nine? Declarer plays high trumps from hand, but East holds off twice. Now there is only one entry to dummy so which spade finesse do you take? There's a clue, but not a definitive one, in the bidding. You can infer East has a club honour, you know about the ace of diamonds, and you see a heart honour when you duck a round. That makes West favourite to hold the king of spades.

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♦ AKJ9			•	85	54	
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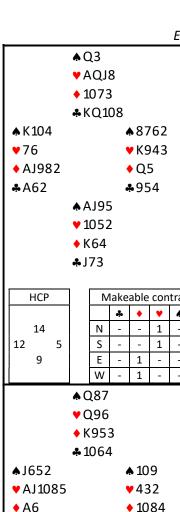
Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable			
West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	All pass

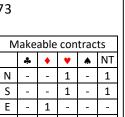
There's a case, third in hand, for opening 1♦ rather than the Standard English 1. If you were to finish up defending you'd rather partner led a diamond. And you make it easier for partner to mention hearts on a weak hand. In this case, unfortunately, all you would achieve is to make partner declarer, a potential disaster on two counts. The weaker hand and, of course, the weaker player is in charge!

It makes no difference this time. The only issue is how to play the trumps. After a successful finesse of the queen do you play to drop the king or pin the ten? There's little to guide you but it makes a lot of difference to the matchpoints.

If the defenders could make West ruff clubs twice they could take away the winning option but that pesky 98 combination scuppers that plan.

Board 23: Dealer South: All vulnerable





1084 **♣**J9873 **♠** AK43 **♥**K7 ◆ QJ72 **♣**Q52

♣AK

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		W	1	-	2	-	-
♦ AJ1075							

¥85 **103** ♣AKJ10 **♠**Q9 **♦**432 ♥A9632 **v** 107 ♦ AKQ62 ♦8754 **.**9 **♣**7542 **♦** K86 ♥KQJ4 **♦** J9 **♣**Q863 **HCP** Makeable contracts

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West	North	East	South	
			Pass	
1NT	All pass			
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oment. I suppose some ultra-aggressive Norths might scrape up a double but not many.

There's one piece of interest in the defence. I guess most Norths will lead a top club, ducked all round. Do you continue the suit or are you worried that declarer might have AJx?

There's a useful tool which helps here. Players are divided between those who tend to show count on partner's lead and those who encourage or discourage. Here you can have the best of both worlds. An ace or queen lead asks for attitude, a king for count. With KQ10x you want to know whether partner has an honour, so you start with the queen. It looks as though 1NT will go just the one down, thanks to both major suit aces being well placed for declarer.

Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all				
West	North	East	South	
1♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl	
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass	
Dbl	Pass	2♥	?	

Here's a typical matchpoint auction. Some Souths will prefer 1NT to a double; Kx can be a useful holding when opener's suit hasn't been supported. It could be a big winner this time as West can't profitably attack hearts.

But most will double; North only has one suit to show and West isn't done yet. Now, should South accept the push to 3♦? You do have quite a decent hand for a protective double and four cards in partner's suit. But the hand as a whole looks better suited to defence. The bidders have it this time. The spade pips mean West can make 2♥ and the lucky lie of the clubs is good for 3 ♦ as well.

Anyone for 2NT over 2♥, or is that being too much of a results merchant? Unfortunately, partner may not treat it as natural.

Board 25: Dealer North: EW vulnerable				
West	North	East	South	
	1♠	Pass	2♣	
Dbl	3♣	Pass	3♠	
Pass	4♠	All pass		

This will probably be the auction whatever West says. An interesting question of theory is whether South's second bid is forcing. Unless you play game forcing two over ones there will be plenty of hands like this one, where you can't be certain of game but want to play in the higher scoring contract.

I know of some players who treat such bids as forcing at teams but not at pairs. My preference is that, whatever the form of scoring, if the suits are both majors or both minors, it's forcing, but not otherwise. This time North is quite good for 3. so will bid game anyway.

The success or otherwise of 4♠ depends on how you play the trumps. The queen of spades is irrelevant to West's bid so it's not clear cut what to do.

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Board 26: Dealer East: All vulnerable

North

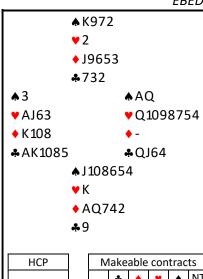
All pass

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West

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	Here's an exciting competitive auction at last. East's hand isn't suitable for
	a high level pre-empt, with a modest suit. 2♥ is Michaels, showing at least 5-5
	in spades and another suit. My preference is to play them as either weak or
	strong but not intermediate (this is the weak version, the king of hearts being
	discounted).
	3♠ is a Splinter bid and North raises the ante. East is worth another try and
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South

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Pass

 Makeable contracts

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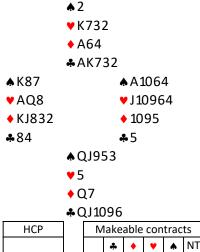
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3♠ is a Splinter bid and North raises the ante. East is worth another try and West is happy to accept. Now in theory North-South show a small profit by a sacrifice. However, sacrificing at the slam level is rarely a good idea; you get a poor score anyway if many East-West pairs aren't bidding the slam. In this case you could do worse still as opponents can make a grand slam, which they might even bid if you push them.



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Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all				
West	North	East	South	
			Pass	
1NT	2♣	All pass		

This looks a very strange auction but it could happen. Assuming South doesn't have an opening toy available West has an obvious weak no trump. North wheels out Aspro again, promising hearts. That's not going to encourage East to bid and South has a problem. Probably partner's other suit is diamonds (ha!); it surely won't be spades. We may have no better than a six card fit in either of North's suits so we'd better pass before someone starts doubling. You can't blame West for passing it out; how do you know opponents have fallen on their feet?

Oddly, if North hasn't a system bid to fit this hand, East will bid 24 and play in 2 of ra good score.

▲J985432 **♥** K ♦ J52 **♣**K6 **♠**A7 **♠**6 **y** 5 ♥QJ108764 ♦ A1087643 **♦** K9 **1**092 **♣**Q83 **♠** KQ10 ♥A932 **♦** Q ♣AJ754

Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable				
West	North	East	South	
Pass	Pass	3♥	3NT	
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠	
All Pass				

I don't think either West or North has a suitable hand for a pre-empt. You really shouldn't have two aces, nor should you have a jack high suit, especially 2^{nd} in hand, vulnerable. East has a sound pre-empt and South scrapes up a risky overcall.

Here's a toy a partner taught me. Because you are forced to bid 3NT over a pre-empt on quite a wide range of hands, you want some way of distinguishing between discouraging and constructive responses. Four of a major (or five of a minor) would be a natural slam try; to just play in game you bid 4
ightharpoonup as a transfer to $4 \ref{v}$, then bid your suit. Obviously in this case it can't be hearts so South decides to be declarer. You can also distinguish between strong and medium natural raises in no trumps.

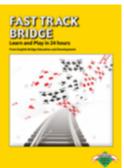
As it happens, it makes no difference who plays the hand in 4\(\text{\(a}\); there are just the two aces to lose.



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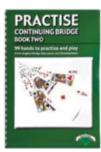
Beginning Bridge Book 1 is ideal for those who want to learn using the 'traditional' method of a lesson once a week, for three terms. It progresses at a steady pace, allowing more time to digest each topic. The cost is £26 plus P&P

Fast Track Bridge is ideal for those who want to learn more quickly, perhaps on a condensed course over a long weekend, or through a number of more intensive classes. It is designed to get you to the table quicker. The cost is £30 plus P&P.

Using either of these programmes will get you to the point at which you can play at a local club.

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Beginning Bridge Book 1 and Continuing Bridge Book 2 are accompanied by the refreshed **Practise Beginning Bridge Book 1 and Practise Continuing Bridge Book 2**, to help consolidate knowledge gained from our Bridge For All books.
They provide the bridge student with sets of hands to practice at home with friends. With each hand there is a commentary that highlights one or two topics of bidding and play which feature in teaching books. The cost is £8 each plus P&P.

Completing the set of materials is the System Summary Card, which gives the Standard English system taught in the Bridge For All books in an easy to use reference format. The cost is £2.50 plus P&P.

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Warehouse.