

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

<p>♠ K7 ♥ K105 ♦ K1063 ♣ AQJ10</p> <p>♠ 10986432 ♠ AJ5 ♥ - ♥ Q9742 ♦ QJ98 ♦ 42 ♣ 84 ♣ K95</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ AJ863 ♦ A75 ♣ 7632</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>1♣</td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Dbl</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>?</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	West	North	East	South		1♣	1♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass	1♠	?																						
West	North	East	South																																			
	1♣	1♥	Pass																																			
Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass																																			
1♠	?																																					
<table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td></td></tr></table>		HCP		16	10	3		11		<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>																												
HCP																																						
16	10																																					
3																																						
11																																						
<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>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr></table>		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	3	3	4	-	2	S	4	3	4	-	2	E	-	-	-	3	-	W	-	-	-	3	-	
Makeable contracts																																						
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																	
N	3	3	4	-	2																																	
S	4	3	4	-	2																																	
E	-	-	-	3	-																																	
W	-	-	-	3	-																																	

<div><div>♠ J10952</div><div>♥ 1094</div><div>♦ 2</div><div>♣ J874</div></div> <div><div>♠ 64</div><div>♥ Q732</div><div>♦ A65</div><div>♣ KQ109</div></div> <div><div>♠ Q8</div><div>♥ K65</div><div>♦ QJ104</div><div>♣ A653</div></div> <div><div>♠ AK73</div><div>♥ AJ8</div><div>♦ K9873</div><div>♣ 2</div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>15</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		2	12	11	15	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	4	-		S	-	-	-	4	-		E	2	1	1	-	1		W	2	1	1	-	1		<div>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>2♦</td></tr><tr><td>Dbl</td><td>2♠</td><td>2NT</td><td>3♠</td></tr></table></div> <div>All pass</div> <div><p>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?</p><p>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.</p><p>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.</p></div>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1NT	2♦	Dbl	2♠	2NT	3♠				
HCP																																																																	
2	12																																																																
11	15																																																																
Makeable contracts																																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																												
N	-	-	-	4	-																																																												
S	-	-	-	4	-																																																												
E	2	1	1	-	1																																																												
W	2	1	1	-	1																																																												
West	North	East	South																																																														
	Pass	1NT	2♦																																																														
Dbl	2♠	2NT	3♠																																																														
<div><div>♠ J1072</div><div>♥ 9732</div><div>♦ 7543</div><div>♣ 6</div></div> <div><div>♠ 985</div><div>♥ AK105</div><div>♦ J10</div><div>♣ K752</div></div> <div><div>♠ 64</div><div>♥ QJ864</div><div>♦ 9</div><div>♣ A10983</div></div> <div><div>♠ AKQ3</div><div>♥ -</div><div>♦ AKQ862</div><div>♣ QJ4</div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>21</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		1	7	11	21	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	6	-	5	-		S	-	6	-	5	-		E	3	-	3	-	-		W	2	-	3	-	-		<div>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>5♦</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div><p>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.</p><p>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.</p><p>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.</p></div>	West	North	East	South			Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass	5♦	All pass	
HCP																																																																	
1	7																																																																
11	21																																																																
Makeable contracts																																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																												
N	-	6	-	5	-																																																												
S	-	6	-	5	-																																																												
E	3	-	3	-	-																																																												
W	2	-	3	-	-																																																												
West	North	East	South																																																														
		Pass	2♣																																																														
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦																																																														
Pass	5♦	All pass																																																															
<div><div>♠ 104</div><div>♥ A109754</div><div>♦ J103</div><div>♣ KJ</div></div> <div><div>♠ AKQ752</div><div>♥ 2</div><div>♦ 8764</div><div>♣ 62</div></div> <div><div>♠ J98</div><div>♥ Q83</div><div>♦ 952</div><div>♣ A853</div></div> <div><div>♠ 63</div><div>♥ KJ6</div><div>♦ AKQ</div><div>♣ Q10974</div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>15</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		9	7	9	15	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	2	4	-	-		S	3	2	4	-	-		E	-	-	-	2	1		W	-	-	-	2	-		<div>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1♣</td></tr><tr><td>1♠</td><td>2♥</td><td>2♠</td><td>3♥</td></tr><tr><td>3♠</td><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div><p>An obvious battle of the two major suits. How far should each side go?</p><p>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♥ 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.</p><p>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.</p></div>	West	North	East	South				1♣	1♠	2♥	2♠	3♥	3♠	All pass		
HCP																																																																	
9	7																																																																
9	15																																																																
Makeable contracts																																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																												
N	3	2	4	-	-																																																												
S	3	2	4	-	-																																																												
E	-	-	-	2	1																																																												
W	-	-	-	2	-																																																												
West	North	East	South																																																														
			1♣																																																														
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♥																																																														
3♠	All pass																																																																

<div><div><div>♠9732</div><div>♥AK94</div><div>♦A9</div><div>♣A105</div></div><div><div>♠AQ86</div><div>♥1073</div><div>♦108432</div><div>♣9</div></div><div><div>♠KJ10</div><div>♥QJ652</div><div>♦KJ</div><div>♣863</div></div><div><div>♠54</div><div>♥8</div><div>♦Q765</div><div>♣KQJ742</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>8</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		15	11	6	8	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	4	1	-	-	3		S	4	-	-	-	3		E	-	-	2	-	-		W	-	-	2	-	-		<div>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>?</td></tr></table> <p>This one is all about whether South decides to respond a pusillanimous 1NT or an aggressive 2♣. Assuming partner’s rebid of 2NT over 2♣ would be forcing, do we want to be in game opposite a balanced 15 count?</p> <p>The chances of success will depend largely on whether we can bring in the club suit. It’s difficult to estimate the odds but I guess the rest of the world will shrug its collective shoulders and have a bash, so you should too.</p> <p>Another way of looking at it is to imagine partner had opened a strong no trump. At teams it’s clear you should bid game, at pairs, hmm...</p> <p>It looks an obvious nine tricks in 3NT but East has a difficult lead. Then the defenders will have to discard carefully not to concede an overtrick.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	Pass	?				
HCP																																																													
15	11																																																												
6	8																																																												
Makeable contracts																																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	4	1	-	-	3																																																								
S	4	-	-	-	3																																																								
E	-	-	2	-	-																																																								
W	-	-	2	-	-																																																								
West	North	East	South																																																										
Pass	1♥	Pass	?																																																										
<div><div><div>♠J52</div><div>♥1087</div><div>♦A107</div><div>♣AQ92</div></div><div><div>♠Q96</div><div>♥92</div><div>♦K8653</div><div>♣J76</div></div><div><div>♠A10843</div><div>♥AQJ65</div><div>♦J2</div><div>♣K</div></div><div><div>♠K7</div><div>♥K43</div><div>♦Q94</div><div>♣108543</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>8</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		11	15	6	8	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	3	1	-	-	2		S	3	1	-	-	2		E	-	-	2	2	-		W	-	-	1	2	-		<div>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</div> <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>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>?</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Is East worth a game try? Even if you discount the minor honours it’s a six loser hand, which makes it quite a close call. Once again there’s a big difference in your thinking between teams, where you tend to push for close games, and pairs, where you don’t. Another influencing factor is whether you expect partner to have four trumps; for me it’s highly likely there are only three. This time the passers have it. Even 3♠ is too high unless South finds a helpful diamond lead.</p> <p>There are problems in playing the trumps. Despite the shortage of entries to dummy most will only lose one trick in the suit and make eight tricks.</p> <p>According to the computer North-South can compete successfully to 3♣. That will need a lot of unlikely guesses and I can’t imagine many will try it anyway.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	?	
HCP																																																													
11	15																																																												
6	8																																																												
Makeable contracts																																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	3	1	-	-	2																																																								
S	3	1	-	-	2																																																								
E	-	-	2	2	-																																																								
W	-	-	1	2	-																																																								
West	North	East	South																																																										
	Pass	1♠	Pass																																																										
2♠	Pass	?																																																											
<div><div><div>♠AKQ</div><div>♥KQJ94</div><div>♦763</div><div>♣J10</div></div><div><div>♠97</div><div>♥A852</div><div>♦K98</div><div>♣KQ93</div></div><div><div>♠J</div><div>♥10763</div><div>♦QJ54</div><div>♣A852</div></div><div><div>♠10865432</div><div>♥-</div><div>♦A102</div><div>♣764</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>4</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		16	8	12	4	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	3	-		S	-	-	-	3	-		E	3	2	-	-	-		W	3	2	-	-	-		<div>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>I wouldn’t open this, second in hand, vulnerable, but I expect some will. North will look sardonically at the three top honours and sigh “not again”. North can see six potential losers in a spade contract; given South’s rubbishy trumps, can they cover three of those? I would guess it’s unlikely.</p> <p>If South passes, West can open 1NT. It’s dangerous, third in hand and vulnerable, but at pairs we risk the occasional big loss from our favourite toy. North has a reasonable double. I’ve no idea what will happen next. It’s even possible that everyone will stick. On a heart lead or switch this improbable contract will actually make! More likely South will jump to 3♠, not strong but showing a long suit and some playing strength. Can North infer what sort of hand South has and make a disciplined pass?</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	3♠				
HCP																																																													
16	8																																																												
12	4																																																												
Makeable contracts																																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	-	-	-	3	-																																																								
S	-	-	-	3	-																																																								
E	3	2	-	-	-																																																								
W	3	2	-	-	-																																																								
West	North	East	South																																																										
		Pass	3♠																																																										

<p>♠ Q85 ♥ 3 ♦ QJ10743 ♣ 1054</p> <p>♠ KJ64 ♠ A9 ♥ KJ974 ♥ AQ108652 ♦ 85 ♦ A ♣ K7 ♣ 982</p> <p>♠ 10732 ♥ - ♦ K962 ♣ AQJ63</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1 ♣</td></tr><tr><td>1 ♥</td><td>2 ♣</td><td>Eek!</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>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?</p> <p>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?</p> <p>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 harder still.</p>	West	North	East	South				1 ♣	1 ♥	2 ♣	Eek!	
West	North	East	South										
			1 ♣										
1 ♥	2 ♣	Eek!											
<p>♠ 1098652 ♥ A ♦ Q874 ♣ K5</p> <p>♠ K73 ♠ AJ ♥ KJ9 ♥ 54 ♦ AKJ109 ♦ 652 ♣ Q9 ♣ AJ8642</p> <p>♠ Q4 ♥ Q1087632 ♦ 3 ♣ 1073</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1 ♦</td><td>1 ♠</td><td>2 ♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>How much easier it would be if you knew South had the queen of spades. Now you know why I hate strong ten leads.</p>	West	North	East	South	1 ♦	1 ♠	2 ♣	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass
West	North	East	South										
1 ♦	1 ♠	2 ♣	Pass										
2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass										
<p>♠ A106 ♥ A1084 ♦ 1052 ♣ A75</p> <p>♠ K953 ♠ Q874 ♥ KQ5 ♥ 93 ♦ A9874 ♦ KJ ♣ 2 ♣ J10963</p> <p>♠ J2 ♥ J762 ♦ Q63 ♣ KQ84</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2 ♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>2 ♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠	All pass
West	North	East	South										
	1NT	Pass	Pass										
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠	All pass										

<div><div><div>♠KQ76</div><div>♥KQJ6</div><div>♦-</div><div>♣QJ743</div></div><div><div>♠53</div><div>♥9432</div><div>♦J87</div><div>♣A652</div></div><div><div>♠A10984</div><div>♥-</div><div>♦Q109532</div><div>♣98</div></div><div><div>♠J2</div><div>♥A10875</div><div>♦AK64</div><div>♣K10</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>15</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		14	6	5	15	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	4	-	5	1	5		S	4	-	5	1	5		E	-	1	-	-	-		W	-	1	-	-	-		<div>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</div> <div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div> <div><div>Pass</div><div>?</div><div>Pass</div><div>1♥</div></div> <div><p>This one will be an interesting test for North-South’s methods. These days most partnerships use 2NT to show a strong raise in partner’s suit, but there are many different ways of playing it. The key thing is to find out that much of South’s strength is in diamonds, and therefore wasted.</p><p>If you play splinters, I wouldn’t recommend one here. North’s hand is way too strong; when partner signs off over 4♦ you have no idea whether or how to continue. Was South’s signoff just a bad hand or one that had got worse by your bid?</p><p>We’ve been ignoring poor old East all this time. A weak two suited opening or a Michaels bid on the next round will certainly complicate matters.</p></div>
HCP																																																	
14	6																																																
5	15																																																
Makeable contracts																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																												
N	4	-	5	1	5																																												
S	4	-	5	1	5																																												
E	-	1	-	-	-																																												
W	-	1	-	-	-																																												
<div><div><div>♠QJ1032</div><div>♥K83</div><div>♦J</div><div>♣KQJ7</div></div><div><div>♠AK864</div><div>♥J72</div><div>♦AK97</div><div>♣9</div></div><div><div>♠-</div><div>♥AQ654</div><div>♦Q865</div><div>♣A1084</div></div><div><div>♠975</div><div>♥109</div><div>♦10432</div><div>♣6532</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>0</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</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><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		13	12	15	0	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	-	-	-		S	-	-	-	-	-		E	3	6	6	3	4		W	3	6	6	4	4		<div>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</div> <div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div> <div><div>1♠</div><div>Pass</div><div>2♥</div><div>Pass</div></div> <div><div>?</div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div><p>North has hopes of getting involved but the opening bid puts paid to that. Now, how good is the West hand after a heart response? Despite poor hearts, it’s definitely worth game. The choices are: a wooden raise to 4♥, a splinter 4♣ or a rolling 3♦, planning to support hearts later. The last choice at least shows where your values are, but has the downside that when you bid hearts later partner may not expect genuine support. If you splinter, East has a promising hand but a tricky decision on how to proceed; maybe a cue of 5♣ and then bid slam over a return cue of 5♦.</p><p>6♥ is a good contract; there should be no problem picking up the diamonds and just losing a trump trick.</p></div>
HCP																																																	
13	12																																																
15	0																																																
Makeable contracts																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																												
N	-	-	-	-	-																																												
S	-	-	-	-	-																																												
E	3	6	6	3	4																																												
W	3	6	6	4	4																																												
<div><div><div>♠KJ10732</div><div>♥7</div><div>♦K53</div><div>♣AJ3</div></div><div><div>♠654</div><div>♥J9643</div><div>♦AJ87</div><div>♣Q</div></div><div><div>♠98</div><div>♥Q2</div><div>♦Q642</div><div>♣K10975</div></div><div><div>♠AQ</div><div>♥AK1085</div><div>♦109</div><div>♣8642</div></div></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>13</td></tr></table><table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	HCP		12	7	8	13	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	2	1	3	4	4		S	2	-	3	4	4		E	-	-	-	-	-		W	-	-	-	-	-		<div>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</div> <div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div> <div><div>Pass</div><div>1♠</div><div>Pass</div><div>2♥</div></div> <div><div>Pass</div><div>2♠</div><div>Pass</div><div>4♠</div></div> <div><div>All pass</div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div><p>The first three positive bids are clear-cut. What should South do now? Well, it’s possible that 3NT is the right spot, but not from your side of the table. You might make up something like 3♣, trying to encourage partner to bid it. But I don’t see how your side can know that’s the right thing to do. Those who play game forcing two over one can perhaps raise to 3♠, trying to give partner a choice, though that’s likely to be treated as a slam try.</p><p>In theory spades and no trumps make the same number of tricks, though it takes a trump lead to hold spades to ten.</p></div>
HCP																																																	
12	7																																																
8	13																																																
Makeable contracts																																																	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																												
N	2	1	3	4	4																																												
S	2	-	3	4	4																																												
E	-	-	-	-	-																																												
W	-	-	-	-	-																																												

<p>♠ K109 ♥ Q109653 ♦ K8 ♣ 32</p> <p>♠ 65 ♠ QJ4 ♥ A42 ♥ J7 ♦ A1075 ♦ 9643 ♣ AK94 ♣ QJ76</p> <p>♠ A8732 ♥ K8 ♦ QJ2 ♣ 1085</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>10</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		8	7	15	10	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	3	2	1		S	-	-	3	2	1		E	2	2	-	-	-		W	2	2	-	-	-		<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1♣</td><td>2♥</td><td>3♣</td><td>3♥</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♣	2♥	3♣	3♥				
HCP																																																													
8	7																																																												
15	10																																																												
Makeable contracts																																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	-	-	3	2	1																																																								
S	-	-	3	2	1																																																								
E	2	2	-	-	-																																																								
W	2	2	-	-	-																																																								
West	North	East	South																																																										
1♣	2♥	3♣	3♥																																																										
<p>♠ 1095 ♥ A1093 ♦ Q43 ♣ J75</p> <p>♠ K742 ♠ J86 ♥ 84 ♥ QJ52 ♦ 9 ♦ A75 ♣ K108642 ♣ Q93</p> <p>♠ AQ3 ♥ K76 ♦ KJ10862 ♣ A</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>17</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		7	10	6	17	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	4	2	-	1		S	-	4	2	1	1		E	2	-	-	-	-		W	2	-	-	-	-		<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</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>1♦</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td></tr></table> <p>All pass</p> <p>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♦.</p> <p>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.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	3♦
HCP																																																													
7	10																																																												
6	17																																																												
Makeable contracts																																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	-	4	2	-	1																																																								
S	-	4	2	1	1																																																								
E	2	-	-	-	-																																																								
W	2	-	-	-	-																																																								
West	North	East	South																																																										
	Pass	Pass	1♦																																																										
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♦																																																										
<p>♠ K2 ♥ 874 ♦ 10632 ♣ AK42</p> <p>♠ J954 ♠ AQ63 ♥ QJ6 ♥ 102 ♦ AKJ9 ♦ 854 ♣ QJ ♣ 9853</p> <p>♠ 1087 ♥ AK953 ♦ Q7 ♣ 1076</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>9</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="7">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr></table>	HCP		10	6	15	9	Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		N	-	-	1	-	-		S	-	-	1	-	-		E	1	2	-	3	2		W	1	2	-	3	2		<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW 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>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>All pass</td></tr></table> <p>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!</p> <p>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.</p> <p>If the defenders could make West ruff clubs twice they could take away the winning option but that pesky 98 combination scuppers that plan.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	All pass
HCP																																																													
10	6																																																												
15	9																																																												
Makeable contracts																																																													
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																								
N	-	-	1	-	-																																																								
S	-	-	1	-	-																																																								
E	1	2	-	3	2																																																								
W	1	2	-	3	2																																																								
West	North	East	South																																																										
		Pass	Pass																																																										
1♠	Pass	2♠	All pass																																																										

♠ Q3

♥ AQJ8

♦ 1073

♣ KQ108

♠ K104

♥ 76

♦ AJ982

♣ A62

♠ 8762

♥ K943

♦ Q5

♣ 954

♠ AJ95

♥ 1052

♦ K64

♣ J73

HCP

14

12

9

5

Makeable contracts

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

Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

West

North

East

South

Pass

1NT

All pass

We're struggling to find interesting auctions at the moment. 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.

♠ Q87

♥ Q96

♦ K953

♣ 1064

♠ J652

♥ AJ1085

♦ A6

♣ AK

♠ 109

♥ 432

♦ 1084

♣ J9873

♠ AK43

♥ K7

♦ QJ72

♣ Q52

HCP

7

17

15

1

Makeable contracts

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

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.

♠ AJ1075

♥ 85

♦ 103

♣ AKJ10

♠ Q9

♥ A9632

♦ AKQ62

♣ 9

♠ 432

♥ 107

♦ 8754

♣ 7542

♠ K86

♥ KQJ4

♦ J9

♣ Q863

HCP

13

15

12

0

Makeable contracts

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

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.



About the Bridge for All books and how to order



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.

Continuing Bridge Book 2 covers more advanced topics, for those who have grasped the basics – whether having completed Book 1, or a Fast Track course – and wish to improve their game. The cost is £26 plus P&P.



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.

How to Buy the books

All the books are available to purchase directly from EBED - please call Lisa on 01296 317217 - or if you wish to order online please do so through the website of [the Bridge Warehouse](#).