

Bridge  
Great  
Britain



The British



Spring



Simultaneous  
Pairs

Wednesday  
9 April 2008



## Dear Bridge Player

Thank you for participating in this BGB Simultaneous Pairs event. It was Barr Rigal's turn to do the commentary and by now you will know whether he got it right or not!

As usual, this Simultaneous Pairs is being scored live on Internet - hopefully your club will be able to upload the results directly to the server either later this evening or tomorrow and then those of you with Internet access will be able to log on and see your local club result as well as the overall results, which are scored dynamically as soon as the results are uploaded. You can watch them change as new results come in, and see your own position overall and how you are doing. Just log onto <http://www.ecatsbridge.com> and click on the "Sims" button on the side then follow the links.

I am often asked where the hands come from - I know that many of you think we "select" them with a view to making them "interesting and challenging" but let me reassure you - I deal a set of 48 boards using a standard computer program and the only changes that may be made are to the order of the hands, which are then reduced to the 32 we need. This is to try and give a balance to the four players, so that you all get some hands to play, but we never, never, **ever** change a card within a board I assure you ! Nor do we "select" boards on the basis of whether they are difficult, have so called interesting singletons or things like that - the only thing we try and do is to give each player at the table a fair crack of the whip with the number of points held and their opportunity to bid. Can't promise to get it right, but we do try hard.

Once again, thank you for taking part in this event. I hope you enjoyed yourself, win or lose and that you will join us again soon for another Simultaneous Pairs.

With best wishes

*Anna*

Anna Gudge, BGB Simultaneous Pairs Organiser  
The Old Railway Station Long Melford  
Sudbury, Suffolk C010 9HN  
Tel: 01 787 881920  
email: [anna@ecats.co.uk](mailto:anna@ecats.co.uk)  
Web Site: <http://www.ecatsbridge.com>

**Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.**

♠ A J 6 3	
♥ 4	
♦ 9 8 3 2	
♣ Q 10 8 4	
♠ K 9 5 2	♠ Q 10 7
♥ K Q 7 6	♥ J 9 8 5
♦ 7 4	♦ A
♣ A 3 2	♣ K J 9 6 5
♠ 8 4	
♥ A 10 3 2	
♦ K Q J 10 6 5	
♣ 7	

Many Souths will bid 2♦ over 1♣ (whether weak or intermediate) to take away E/W's bidding space. Even if North ups the ante to 4♦, E/W should still reach 4♥ anyway. After the top diamond lead, East can see that a second diamond promotes a trump for North if he had four, so he might get the trumps right. East still needs to take a deep finesse in clubs to come home, though. +420 would be a great board here – 5♦ is only set -300 on an initial trump lead.

**Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.**

♠ A K 10 9 5	
♥ 9 2	
♦ A J 8 4	
♣ 4 3	
♠ J	♠ 7 6 4 3
♥ J 10 4	♥ K 8 3
♦ 9 7 6 3 2	♦ K Q 5
♣ J 10 6 5	♣ A Q 8
♠ Q 8 2	
♥ A Q 7 6 5	
♦ 10	
♣ K 9 7 2	

After East opens 1NT South should overcall (most players these days have a way to show this sort of two-suiter). Now the issue is whether North will drive to game. If so will he blast 3NT (making only 600) or explore to find spades. In 4♣ on a trump lead declarer can ruff out the hearts, and lead up to the ♣K, or ruff out the ♦KQ. But I cannot see a way to combine all the necessary plays to come to 12 tricks. The 4-1 trump break looks too inconvenient.

**Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.**

♠ Q 9 6 2	
♥ J 9 8 7 5	
♦ J 10	
♣ 8 2	
♠ A K 8	♠ J 7 4
♥ 3	♥ K 6
♦ 8 6 4	♦ A K Q 3 2
♣ K Q 10 7 4 3	♣ A 9 5
♠ 10 5 3	
♥ A Q 10 4 2	
♦ 9 7 5	
♣ J 6	

E/W can use a strong jump shift here easily enough to get to one of a making slam, but getting to the highest scoring slam at Pairs is a challenge. An auction 1♣-2♦-3♣-4♣-4NT-5♥-6♣ is simple enough. But if East can find diamond support and the ♠A, he might use Blackwood himself, and drive to 6NT. At Pairs it appears that reaching a minor-suit slam will score reasonably, but no better than that. You need to play no-trump to get all the marbles.

**Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.**

♠ J 9 6 3	
♥ A 8 6 4 3	
♦ K J	
♣ 10 9	
♠ A Q 8 4	♠ K 10 5 2
♥ 10 5	♥ J 9
♦ Q 7 5 4 3	♦ A 9 8 2
♣ K 8	♣ A Q 5
♠ 7	
♥ K Q 7 2	
♦ 10 6	
♣ J 7 6 4 3 2	

I'd guess most will choose to bid 1♦, because they can get both suits into play efficiently. Whether or not North overcalls 1♥, E/W will surely play 4♠. After two top hearts, one or other defender might shift to clubs. Declarer will win, play ♠A-Q, (unless North's false-card of the ♠9 misleads him) and then clear the diamonds; ten tricks made. BUT....a better shot for N/S is to give two ruff and discards. Declarer can survive, but may well misread the position.

**Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.**

<p>♠ J 5 ♥ A 10 7 5 3 ♦ K 6 4 ♣ Q 6 3</p> <p>♠ A 9 7 6      ♠ K 10 8 ♥ 9 6            ♥ K J 4 2 ♦ 8 7            ♦ A Q 9 3 2 ♣ A J 10 9 2    ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ Q 4 3 2 ♥ Q 8 ♦ J 10 5 ♣ K 8 5 4</p>	
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As a dedicated member of the 'raise with three trumps' fan-club, I wonder what else the dissenters would do as East if they do not open 1♦ then raise 1♠ to 2♠? Defending 2♠, North is likely to lead a club. West wins his ♣A and might now guess to lead a heart to dummy's ♥K (and North might make the guess easier). If so, the favourable lies in both red suits, with ♣Q onside for the ruffing finesse, mean West might bring home 170 for a huge result.

**Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.**

<p>♠ J 10 5 ♥ K 6 3 ♦ J 9 8 5 3 ♣ A 2</p> <p>♠ A K            ♠ Q 8 3 ♥ 10 8 4        ♥ A 5 ♦ K Q 6        ♦ A 10 2 ♣ K J 9 4 3    ♣ 10 8 7 6 5</p> <p>♠ 9 7 6 4 2 ♥ Q J 9 7 2 ♦ 7 4 ♣ Q</p>	
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Are you a purist or pragmatist? Sometimes one has to choose one approach or the other, and after 1♣-3♣ West can guess to rebid 3NT or explore scientifically with 3♦. I favour the latter approach, but today blasting 3NT would get North to lead a diamond, to concede 11 tricks. Going the slow route would get East to declare 3NT and South would find the heart lead. You pays your money, you takes your choice. 5♣ makes 600 of course, for an average score?

**Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.**

<p>♠ 9 7 6 5 2 ♥ Q 5 ♦ Q 5 ♣ K Q 9 6</p> <p>♠ A 8            ♠ J 10 3 ♥ J 10 9 8 7 6 2    ♥ A 4 ♦ K 8 7            ♦ 10 9 6 3 ♣ J                ♣ A 10 4 2</p> <p>♠ K Q 4 ♥ K 3 ♦ A J 4 2 ♣ 8 7 5 3</p>	
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West will overcall 2♥ over INT at many tables, and North will join in with 2♠. East now has enough to bid 3♥ (♥A4 is pretty decent support here) and will South bid 3♠? I think he might, and now after a heart lead and diamond shift -- yes, a heart continuation might be better -- North will do well to manage to escape for down one. -200 will surely be a disaster for N/S but E/W can make 3♥ -- and also, believe it or not, 3NT on their 17-count!

**Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.**

<p>♠ Q J 3 ♥ A Q 3 ♦ A 3 ♣ A Q 10 6 5</p> <p>♠ 10 9 7 2      ♠ K 6 4 ♥ J 10 9        ♥ K ♦ J 8 4        ♦ K 10 9 6 5 2 ♣ K 8 3        ♣ J 4 2</p> <p>♠ A 8 5 ♥ 8 7 6 5 4 2 ♦ Q 7 ♣ 9 7</p>	
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Facing a 2NT opening (if North upgrades because of his five-card suit) South should transfer into 4♥ and deny slam interest, or transfer and offer 3NT. Either way, North will declare 4♥, and on any lead but a spade can get clubs going at once. In fact by guessing trumps he might make +480. Compare how awkward 4♥ by South is on a diamond lead. If the defenders win ♦K and shift to spades, even ten tricks become something of a struggle. Some may go down in 4♥.

**Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.**

♠ A 10 7	
♥ A 10 9 7 2	
♦ Q 3 2	
♣ A 9	
♠ 9 3 2	♠ J 8 6 5 4
♥ K 5	♥ Q 4 3
♦ A K 10 7	♦ 9 6 5 4
♣ Q 8 6 4	♣ 7
♠ K Q	
♥ J 8 6	
♦ J 8	
♣ K J 10 5 3 2	

North is unsuitable for a 12-14 no-trump; most will open 1♥ and rebid 2NT over 2♣. When South shows 3-card heart support North will raise to 4♥. East might understandably lead either a spade or diamond, but a club gives declarer the worst problems. At double-dummy he can win in hand, pitch a diamond on the spade, and then exit with ♥A and a heart. The chances of this line succeeding are slim – but it works in practice. There are, however, better, less successful lines at single-dummy.

**Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.**

♠ 10	
♥ A Q 9 3	
♦ 10 9 8 7 4 3	
♣ 8 2	
♠ A J 9 6 2	♠ 8 7
♥ K 10 8 6 2	♥ 7 5 4
♦ A 2	♦ J 5
♣ 3	♣ A Q 9 7 5 4
♠ K Q 5 4 3	
♥ J	
♦ K Q 6	
♣ K J 10 6	

South will open 1♠ and West must pass now. When North responds 1NT East might wander in with 2♣. If South can double that for penalties, West might run to 2♥. North would think he had a fair double now, but he would be wrong! On the lead of ♠10, the defenders can only prevail if South avoids splitting his spade honours. Any defender who finds that play would deserve his partner's applause. Students of the bizarre will note that 3NT is cold from South.

**Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.**

♠ A K J 9 4	
♥ K Q 6	
♦ 6	
♣ 9 7 5 3	
♠ Q 7 6 5	♠ 8
♥ J 5	♥ A 10 7 3 2
♦ K Q J 10	♦ A 7 5 4
♣ A K 4	♣ 10 8 6
♠ 10 3 2	
♥ 9 8 4	
♦ 9 8 3 2	
♣ Q J 2	

Do you believe you should open the West cards 1♦ or 1♠? The former works considerably better today. If you open the West cards 1♠, East will play 3NT – and North will be able to double for a spade lead, and +300. If West opens 1♦, then North will overcall 1♠, and the final contract is likely to be a part-score in diamonds, hearts, or no-trump, from West. The favourable heart-break means you can make game in either red-suit, not that you'd want to be there.

**Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.**

♠ Q 8 6 4	
♥ Q 10 4 3 2	
♦ J	
♣ K Q 10	
♠ K 10 3	♠ A 9 7
♥ 7 5	♥ J 9 6
♦ K Q 10 8 7 4	♦ 6 2
♣ J 5	♣ A 8 4 3 2
♠ J 5 2	
♥ A K 8	
♦ A 9 5 3	
♣ 9 7 6	

A weak 2♦ opening by West would surely buy the contract here. But many will have to pass, letting South open 1NT. Now a Stayman auction will probably get North to 2♥ one way or another, and if West overcalls in diamonds, North may just simply bid 2♥ now. Against 2♥ the defenders have four top winners, so the key for N/S is to try to establish the 13th spade before the defenders get a ruff or a force going. Quite a few matchpoints will hinge on this.

**Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.**

♠ K 5 2 ♥ J 8 6 5 ♦ 7 5 2 ♣ A 8 3	♠ 8 3 ♥ A K 10 4 ♦ 9 8 6 ♣ J 7 5 4
♠ Q 7 6 ♥ 7 3 2 ♦ Q J 4 3 ♣ K 9 6	♠ A J 10 9 4 ♥ Q 9 ♦ A K 10 ♣ Q 10 2

South will open 1♠ and North can choose between raising spades or bidding no-trump. Either way, N/S will have to pick between 3NT and 4♠ with two balanced hands and an eight-card fit. 3NT by South on a top diamond lead can be made by guessing ♠Q, and then leading a heart towards the ♥Q9. 4♠ needs you to handle both majors correctly and also to endplay East in hearts; anyone bringing home +420 on a top diamond lead will have earned their top!

**Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.**

♠ J 10 3 ♥ K 10 2 ♦ K Q 9 8 3 ♣ 8 3	♠ A 8 7 5 2 ♥ Q J 8 6 ♦ 7 ♣ 7 6 2
♠ Q 9 4 ♥ 7 5 3 ♦ A 6 5 4 2 ♣ K 4	♠ K 6 ♥ A 9 4 ♦ J 10 ♣ A Q J 10 9 5

This looks like a good hand for strong no-trumps. South will open 1NT and be raised to 3NT, making, perhaps with overtricks, on a diamond lead. But most Souths will open 1♣ and after North's 1♦ response East can double. Now even if N/S get to 3NT from the South seat, game is in severe jeopardy on either major-suit lead. The spade blockage means declarer can still make nine tricks on that lead, but a heart lead should set the game by force.

**Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.**

♠ A 7 6 4 ♥ 4 3 ♦ K Q J 5 4 ♣ 8 6	♠ Q J 5 ♥ A 9 5 ♦ A 8 7 2 ♣ K J 2
♠ K 10 9 8 ♥ K Q J 7 2 ♦ 10 6 ♣ 10 5	♠ 3 2 ♥ 10 8 6 ♦ 9 3 ♣ A Q 9 7 4 3

Most Souths will respect the vulnerability and pass, leaving North to open 1♦ in third chair. East will probably overcall 1NT (yes, the hand is maybe sub-minimum, but passing does not win Pairs contests)

Now E/W will probably bid to 4♥, down a trick. Since 3NT is down two on the likely club lead, E/W can only go plus by playing partscore or defending minor-suits contracts. +140 from 3♥ will score very well here.

**Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.**

♠ J 9 6 2 ♥ A Q 9 2 ♦ K 6 4 ♣ A 5	♠ Q 7 3 ♥ 8 7 4 3 ♦ 10 9 5 2 ♣ 9 3
♠ A 10 ♥ K J 5 ♦ Q 7 3 ♣ K Q J 10 7	♠ K 8 5 4 ♥ 10 6 ♦ A J 8 ♣ 8 6 4 2

West will open 1♣ and hear a double on his left and 1♠ on his right. Even at unfavourable vulnerability, it seems reasonable to act, by either doubling or rebidding 2♣. But South will generally declare 2♠ on the lead of ♣K. Declarer may not feel able to duck this, and his best move next is to advance the ♠J, although a low spade to the eight also makes sense. While eight tricks are easy, collecting +140 should earn N/S the lion's share of the matchpoints.

**Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.**

♠ A 9 8 5	
♥ Q 10 8 7	
♦ 3 2	
♣ A 10 8	
♠	♠ Q 10 7 6
♥ K J 6 5 4	♥ A 3 2
♦ 8 7 6 4	♦ A K 10
♣ Q J 9 4	♣ 7 6 5
♠ K J 4 3 2	
♥ 9	
♦ Q J 9 5	
♣ K 3 2	

It looks too aggressive for South to overcall a weak no-trump, but he might back in over a transfer to hearts. That delayed sequence would probably prevent North from driving to game; indeed, as the cards lie, North should pass 2♠, since that is technically the limit of the hand. Mind you South will make 140 if West leads anything but a heart. Some E/W pairs will compete to 3♥ and buy the contract, going down just one trick there, for a fine score.

**Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.**

♠ 7 3 2	
♥ 10 9 6 5 4 2	
♦ A Q 10	
♣ K	
♠ 10 6 5 4	♠ Q J 9
♥ A K 7	♥ Q
♦ K 9 8 5 3	♦ 7 6 4
♣ J	♣ Q 9 8 7 6 3
♠ A K 8	
♥ J 8 3	
♦ J 2	
♣ A 10 5 4 2	

The North cards do not look worth an invitation facing a 1NT opening bid, so North will transfer and pass the 2♥ response. As it happens, game is excellent for N/S here, but they may get a second chance. East might stretch to re-open with a take-out double (probably unnecessarily aggressive at Pairs) If East re-opens, N/S might stop off to double their opponents and collect 300 against either spades or diamonds.

**Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.**

♠ Q J 5 3	
♥ J 7	
♦ J 10 8 6 5 2	
♣ K	
♠ 9	♠ A 8 6 4 2
♥ A K 8 6 2	♥ Q 10 4
♦ K 4 3	♦ 7
♣ 10 9 8 7	♣ A Q J 4
♠ K 10 7	
♥ 9 5 3	
♦ A Q 9	
♣ 6 5 3 2	

In third seat any North worth his salt will exploit the vulnerability to open with a diamond pre-empt. It will probably not prevent E/W getting their act together, though; East will double, and West will bid on to 4♥, for 680. Perhaps some N/S pairs might find their sacrifice in 5♦. If you look at the N/S cards, you might hope to get out for 300. Alas, the defenders have THREE spade ruffs coming for 800 if they are accurate – but they will need to be very precise.

**Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.**

♠ A Q J 9 4	
♥ A J 9 6	
♦ K 3	
♣ 4 3	
♠ K 8 6 5	♠ 7
♥ 5	♥ K 10 8 7 4 3 2
♦ A 10	♦ Q 9 8 4
♣ A Q J 9 8 5	♣ 2
♠ 10 3 2	
♥ Q	
♦ J 7 6 5 2	
♣ K 10 7 6	

Both the North and South hands present difficult problems in valuation. Should North double 1♣ or plan to bid spades, then hearts? And if North bids 1♠ as I think he should, will South raise to 3♠ when East makes a pre-emptive jump to 3♥? The bottom line is that E/W can make eight tricks in hearts (nine if West was declarer!) while N/S can only take seven tricks in spades. So there will be virtually no contracts making here today.

**Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.**

♠ 10 8 7	
♥ 10 9 7 3	
♦ K Q 6	
♣ 10 8 3	
♠ Q 9 5	♠ K 4 3
♥ 4 2	♥ J 5
♦ 9 8 4	♦ 10 7 3 2
♣ Q J 9 7 4	♣ K 6 5 2
♠ A J 6 2	
♥ A K Q 8 6	
♦ A J 5	
♣ A	

Another difficult hand for N/S, who are the ♠9 away from a decent slam. South will force to game and show hearts, North will make a constructive raise, South will start cue-bidding, and it will be very hard to apply the breaks in time. On a top club lead declarer cannot both strip off the clubs and lead spades from dummy. He could only make if the defenders donated him an extra entry to dummy, or (far more likely) if East forgets to cover the ♠10!

**Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.**

♠ Q 8 5 2	
♥ A K 2	
♦ K 4 3	
♣ K Q 8	
♠ K 6 3	♠ 10 9 7
♥ Q 8	♥ J 9 7 6 3
♦ A 8 7	♦ 10 9 5
♣ A 10 7 6 4	♣ 5 2
♠ A J 4	
♥ 10 5 4	
♦ Q J 6 2	
♣ J 9 3	

In third seat vulnerable will West open 1♣ or an insouciant INT? If he opens 1♣ then N/S bid smoothly to 3NT, and should make on a heart lead. However, a club lead sets up the clubs for the defence before declarer can knock out both the spade and diamond honours. If West opens INT then the red cards will start to fly, with E/W likely to end up in 2♥ doubled. East should manage to emerge with six tricks – but a very poor matchpoint result.

**Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.**

♠ K 8	
♥ 10 9 5 2	
♦ 10 8 6	
♣ A J 10 7	
♠ 5	♠ J 7 4 3
♥ A K Q 8 7 6 4	♥ 3
♦ J 3	♦ A 7 5 4 2
♣ K 3 2	♣ Q 8 6
♠ A Q 10 9 6 2	
♥ J	
♦ K Q 9	
♣ 9 5 4	

Would you overcall 4♥ as West over 1♠? To my mind, it acts as a transfer to 4♠ for the opponents, and I'm not sure you want that to happen. If you just bid 2♥, then 3♥, N/S will probably buy the hand in a spade partscore and make nine or ten tricks. If you bid 4♥ you may play it there, and even if undoubled will go down 200. Or you might push N/S into 4♠, and now South might make his game by guessing spades or by a trump reduction if he does not.

**Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.**

♠ 9 8 7 4 2	
♥ 2	
♦ 9 5	
♣ A Q J 6 4	
♠ 10 5	♠ A K Q 3
♥ K 6 4 3	♥ J 9
♦ K J 7 4 3	♦ A Q 6
♣ 9 3	♣ K 8 5 2
♠ J 6	
♥ A Q 10 8 7 5	
♦ 10 8 2	
♣ 10 7	

If East does not open 2NT (not a particularly attractive hand for this action) he can choose to bid 1♣ or 1♠ -- I prefer the latter. If South rashly pre-empt to 3♥ he will get to play there doubled at many tables – and be lucky to escape for only three down. Of course 3NT makes ten tricks fairly comfortably for E/W, so this would not be a tragedy at teams; but at Pairs +500 will surely collect the bulk of the matchpoints.



**Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.**

♠ A J 10 8 7 2	
♥ Q 10 9 7	
♦ Q	
♣ 9 2	
♠ K 3	♠ 5 4
♥ J 2	♥ A K 6 3
♦ 9 4	♦ A 10 6 3 2
♣ A K J 10 6 4 3	♣ 8 5
♠ Q 9 6	
♥ 8 5 4	
♦ K J 8 7 5	
♣ Q 7	

As West if you heard 2♠ on your left, raised to 3♠ on your right, you'd bid 3NT – wouldn't you? Who needs red-suit stoppers? East might raise to 4NT but no harm will be done. Thanks to the lie of the red-suits, it may not do North any good to avoid leading a spade. He can be endplayed with a heart to broach spades at the death. In practice, West is likely only to make 630 unless the defence lead spades. Note that 2♠-4♠ might actually buy the pot undoubled!

**Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.**

♠ K J 6	
♥ A 8 6	
♦ 8 4 2	
♣ J 10 6 4	
♠ 9 7 3 2	♠ A Q 8 5
♥	♥ J 7 4 3 2
♦ A K 10 6	♦ Q 5 3
♣ A K 9 7 3	♣ 8
♠ 10 4	
♥ K Q 10 9 5	
♦ J 9 7	
♣ Q 5 2	

E/W will have an unopposed auction 1♣-1♥-1♠-3♠-4♠ at most tables (although at Pairs it would not be unreasonable for East to raise only to 2♠ and for E/W to miss game now). On a normal diamond lead from North, declarer will draw two rounds of trumps then cross-ruff till the cows come home. After wrapping up 12 tricks East will ask innocently if he should have done more – but +480 is a lot less embarrassing than +230!

**Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.**

♠ 4	
♥ J 8 5	
♦ K Q J 8 2	
♣ Q 10 9 4	
♠ J 10 7 6	♠ K 9 8 5 3
♥ 10 6 4	♥ A 7
♦ 10 7 5	♦ A 4 3
♣ J 6 2	♣ A 7 5
♠ A Q 2	
♥ K Q 9 3 2	
♦ 9 6	
♣ K 8 3	

After South opens 1♥ North almost has to raise to 2♥, since 2♦ requires a far better hand than this. East will compete with 2♠, South will re-raise to 3♥, and that will end proceedings. On the lead of ♠J declarer will surely bring home ten tricks without raising too much of a sweat. +170 may score N/S below average, since the odd E/W pair will go overboard, and some N/S pairs may reach 4♥ – but there again, some may play no-trump and not enjoy it.

**Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.**

♠ Q J 9 8	
♥ A K 10 8 5	
♦ 6 3	
♣ 8 6	
♠ A 7	♠ 10 6 5 2
♥ 9 4 3	♥ Q 7 2
♦ K 5	♦ A J 10 9 8 4
♣ K J 10 9 7 3	♣
♠ K 4 3	
♥ J 6	
♦ Q 7 2	
♣ A Q 5 4 2	

After West opens 1♣ and North overcalls 1♥ East will have a negative double available, planning to correct clubs to diamonds. Now it gets murky: South will redouble if he plays that to show a good hand, and then he should compete to 2♥ over 2♦. Can anyone do any more? The answer is that they should not. South can double 3♦ and set it 300 after three rounds of hearts, ruffed, by shifting to trumps.

**Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.**

♠ A K 6 3 2	
♥ K Q 4	
♦ A 9 8	
♣ 10 3	
♠ 10 9 7 4	♠ 8 5
♥ 9 7 3 2	♥ 8 6 5
♦ 10 3	♦ K Q 5
♣ K 7 5	♣ A 9 8 6 2
♠ Q J	
♥ A J 10	
♦ J 7 6 4 2	
♣ Q J 4	

The standard auction 1♠-2♦-2NT-3NT will put East on lead with an obvious fourth-highest club. The defenders can clear clubs and sit back to wait to get on play in diamonds. But declarer will cash ten winners first, and East will forlornly have to discard all his clubs to retain his diamond guard. +630 will be very common here – but probably represent a 60% board or so, because of all the other quirky results that invariably occupy a travelling score-slip!

**Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.**

♠ Q 7	
♥ K 5 4 3	
♦ J 10 9 7 6 4	
♣ 4	
♠ J 10 8	♠ K 9 6 2
♥ Q J 9 7	♥ A 8 2
♦ 3	♦ A K 8 2
♣ J 6 5 3 2	♣ 8 7
♠ A 5 4 3	
♥ 10 6	
♦ Q 5	
♣ A K Q 10 9	

East has a classical super-maximum weak no-trump, but no other action really appeals. In fact, when South doubles, the board will become a delicate partscore battle. West will introduce his clubs, North his diamonds, and maybe West will compete again in hearts. Where should the music stop? The answer is that the last making contract is for East-West. They can take eight tricks in either major or in no-trump; meanwhile 3♦ by North collects at least eight tricks.

**Board 31. N/S Vul. Dealer South.**

♠ 9 6 4	
♥ Q 10 7	
♦ K Q 7	
♣ J 8 7 5	
♠ A Q J 10 7 5 2	♠ 8 3
♥ 6 4	♥ J 9 5 3
♦ J	♦ 10 9 5 3
♣ K Q 6	♣ A 4 2
♠ K	
♥ A K 8 2	
♦ A 8 6 4 2	
♣ 10 9 3	

After South opens 1♦ West has a sensible 4♠ overcall; but will either North or South find another bid now? They should not do so, since par on the board is 420 for E/W, and any five-level contract by N/S will cost 800 on accurate defence. Still, it is not so clear that anyone will double 5♦. Thus the odd South might register -300 or 400, and score surprisingly well!

**Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.**

♠ K	
♥ A J 10 7 2	
♦ Q J 7 6	
♣ 8 6 3	
♠ Q J 10 4 3	♠ A 9 8 5 2
♥ K 3	♥ 9 5 4
♦ A K 10 8	♦ 3
♣ A 10	♣ K Q 7 2
♠ 7 6	
♥ Q 8 6	
♦ 9 5 4 2	
♣ J 9 5 4	

When West opens 2♥ plenty of undisciplined Norths hazard a 2♥ overcall. Few experts come in with moderate suits on poor hands, but people do it until they get punished once too often. This time nothing bad will happen to North, since East will jump to 4♠ and play there. Even if North stays silent, any partnership using key-card Blackwood won't get beyond 5♠ here. With the ♠K singleton outside 12 tricks are easy. Any strong-club pair who reach spades by East, on a heart lead will get a zero.

## The Websites ...

There are a lot of official and unofficial websites connected with bridge.

Here are some of the official ones that you may find interesting and useful

<b><a href="http://www.ecatsbridge.com">www.ecatsbridge.com</a></b>	Simultaneous Pairs Results
<b><a href="http://www.bridgegreatbritain.org">www.bridgegreatbritain.org</a></b>	Bridge Great Britain
<b><a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a></b>	English Bridge Union
<b><a href="http://www.scottishbridge.co.uk">www.scottishbridge.co.uk</a></b>	Scottish Bridge Union
<b><a href="http://www.wbu.org.uk/">www.wbu.org.uk/</a></b>	Welsh Bridge Union
<b><a href="http://www.cbai.ie/">www.cbai.ie/</a></b>	Contract Bridge Association of Ireland
<b><a href="http://www.nibu.co.uk/">www.nibu.co.uk/</a></b>	Northern Ireland Bridge Union
<b><a href="http://www.worldbridge.org">www.worldbridge.org</a></b>	World Bridge Federation
<b><a href="http://www.eurobridge.org">www.eurobridge.org</a></b>	European Bridge League
<b><a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a></b>	American Contract Bridge League
<b><a href="http://www.wbfteaching.org">www.wbfteaching.org</a></b>	WBF Teaching

If you are looking for the official site for a particular country, please go to **[www.ecatsbridge.com](http://www.ecatsbridge.com)**, where there is a list of all official member countries of the World Bridge Federation with their websites listed and contact details. Look in the Quick Links section on the left of the main page and you will see the list of NBO (National Bridge Federation) addresses.

ECatsBridge also runs an **email list**, sending information to players and administrators in the UK about the Simultaneous Pairs and other major events in the UK as well as in Europe and around the World. Emails are sent about every 4 - 6 weeks and anyone is welcome to join the list, either by going to **[www.ecatsbridge.com](http://www.ecatsbridge.com)** and following the link on the front page, or by emailing **[anna@ecats.co.uk](mailto:anna@ecats.co.uk)** and asking to be added to the UK list.

