Bridge $G_{
m reat}$ $\operatorname{Britain}$



Spring



Tuesday 13th April 2010



Dear Bridge Player

Thank you for participating in this BGB Simultaneous Pairs event. We've got a new commentator this time, Mike Swanson - he tells me he enjoyed doing it, but only you will know if he got it right!

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

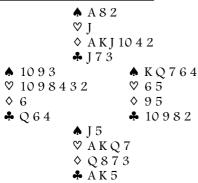
Anna

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

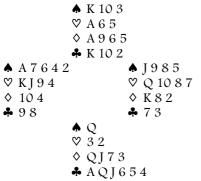
Web Site: http://www.ecatsbridge.com

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.



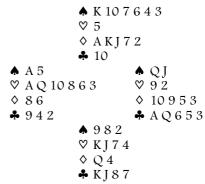
After North's 1♦ opening and a probable pass from East, South has to decide the best response: 1♥ seems an understatement but may well get you to 7♦ if North chooses 3♦ as his rebid; 2♥ gives the impression of a 5-card suit and prevents North from showing 6 Diamonds; a 2NT response showing a good hand (with or without a fit), if available, is an obvious choice. Come what may I am sure that, for most players, it will be a case of Blackwood and a guess between 6♦ and 6NT. If you bid 7 then you are very fortunate to find that you have 4 Heart tricks.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.



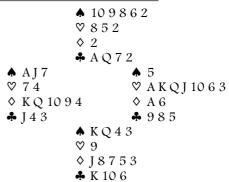
After South's 14 opening and West's likely 14 overcall, many North's may well adopt the no nonsense approach by bidding a hoggish 3NT, which works very well. Otherwise 24 by North will allow East to raise Spades and, if he tries a pre-emptive 34, South is likely to bid 44 and end up being raised to a game that is destined to fail.

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.



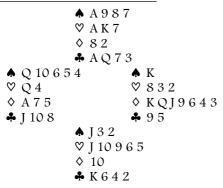
Any Souths who can open a mini NT will certainly end up in 4♠. However if West starts with 1♥ the auction is likely to die in 3♠, whether or not North makes a 2~suited overcall. A Spade contract can be held to 9 tricks provided that East can lead Hearts before declarer plays trumps; West then has to play a second top Heart and rise with the ♠A when declarer plays trumps and then lead a third round of Hearts to ensure that East makes his ♠Q. In reality of course a Spade contract is likely to make 10 tricks.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.



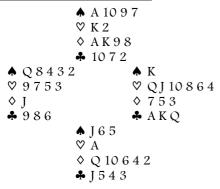
I know that West has 8 playing tricks and 14 HCPs, but in third seat opposite a passed partner I think that 4° is a more practical opening bid. Should West open with 1° (after all it is a rather nice 11 point hand), East may well get carried away and be reliant on South leading a Diamond to give him 12 tricks. Any N/S that finds a Club lead will fare very well.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.



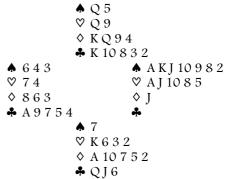
A pre-emptive overcall in Diamonds is likely to help N/S to find their Heart fit. If North opens 1♣, East surely will bid 3♦ and then North can then double for take-out which will prompt 3♥ from South. The only question is then whether North raises to game (he probably shouldn't but it works). If North opens 1♠, an aggressive 4♦ overcall should ensure a good score for N/S, unless South takes his partner's double out into 4♠!

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.



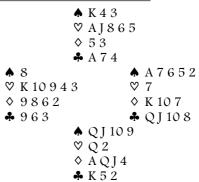
Surely West won't be able to resist raising his partner's 1♥ opening, which should result in 4♥ going one down. If West does pass on the first round, North will re-open with a double, giving South the chance to compete in Diamonds over East's likely 2♥ rebid. The test then is for East to pass if N/S bid to 4♦: I doubt that many Easts will have the nerve to do so.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.



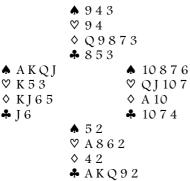
To my mind, North's hand is perfect for opening a slightly lopsided 12-14 1NT, which then poses a problem for East in what to overcall. Traditionally a 2NT overcall shows a big (undefined) 2-suiter, but in this case the Spades are so much better than the Hearts that a bid of 4 strikes me as being more practical. Anyone who shows a major 2-suiter by bidding 2 over a 1 opening may well come unstuck if South doubles and West bids 2, as now the temptation to try for slam is almost irresistible.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.



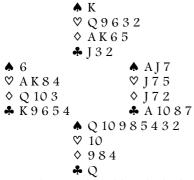
South is likely to end up as declarer in 3NT and could well end up with 12 tricks and a very good score, if West leads a Heart, thanks to the successful Diamond finesse and West's inability to guard both red suits when the black suits are played. My guess is that 11 tricks will be the norm on a Heart lead and 10 tricks otherwise, as the squeeze is certainly not easy to spot at the table.

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.



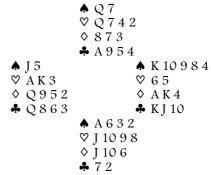
Spades may be the best fit for E/W but, after South's 1♣ opening and West's take~out double, East is more likely to bid his Hearts than his Spades, if only because the suit is better. After that, East will have little choice but to support Hearts, particularly if South rebids 2♣ over East's 1♥. The only saving grace may be that, despite having 25 points between them, E/W may struggle to reach game and so at least achieve a plus score.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.



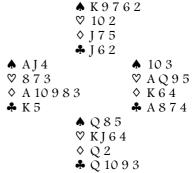
Despite being vulnerable, I doubt that South will be able to resist opening 3. West has the right shape for a take-out double but he only has 12 points opposite a passed partner, which may persuade him to pass, a shame because double works well. East is then likely to try 3NT though, with 3 defensive tricks, he could decide just to leave it in 3. tieller decision should result in a good plus score as even +200 will beat all those just in part-scores.

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.



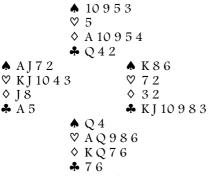
A routine 3NT for East should make either 10 or 11 tricks, depending on North's choice of lead. A Club lead (fourth highest of his longest and strongest after all) gives declarer the time to set up both black suits, but a Heart lead and continuation means that the defence can set up two Heart winners before declarer has time to drive out the A. Any declarer who, after a Heart lead, decides to play Clubs before Spades will only make 9 tricks for a very poor score.

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.



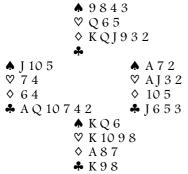
South is likely to be on lead to 3NT, but which of his 4-card suits will he choose to lead? Declarer will sigh with relief if he chooses Hearts, but a Club lead will certainly give cause for concern. On the face of it declarer only has 8 tricks; however when he cashes his Diamonds both defenders have problems with what to discard and as a result an extra trick may well manifest itself (double-dummy, declarer can always make 9 tricks on a Club lead and 10 on a Heart lead).

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.



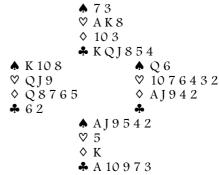
West can do no more than pass after South has opened 1♥. East will probably bid 2♣ over North's 1♠, but this shouldn't prevent South ending up in Diamonds. Best defence is to cash the 4 black suit winners and then for East to lead his ♣K; declarer can still succeed, but only if he ruffs high and then plays as if he can see through the back of the cards. In reality though the defence is likely to start with 3 rounds of Clubs and declarer can now succeed if he throws a losing Spade on the third round.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.



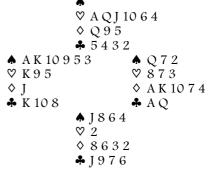
After South's 1♥ opening and West's likely overcall in Clubs, what should North bid? He certainly has both of the other suits, so he could double for take-out; alternatively he has decent 3-card support and a void, so supporting partner's Hearts seems to make sense as well or of course he could start by bidding his Diamonds! Many pairs will end up in 3♥ or even 4♥ making 9 tricks, unless of course West leads his ♣A when 10 tricks should roll home.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.



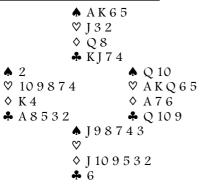
After South's 1 popening and North's 2 response, an unusual 2NT from East is likely (given the favourable vulnerability), which should make for a lively auction. West is bound to compete in Diamonds, whilst N/S's big Club fit will surely cause them to overbid. I expect a lot of N/S pairs to end up in 6 h, which will succeed unless East kicks off with the A. If E/W sacrifice in 6 h, at least their -500 will still give them a few matchpoints.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.



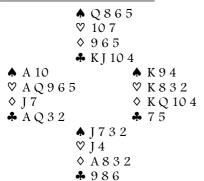
Over West's 1 \spadesuit opening North is likely to bid 2 \heartsuit , or even 3 \heartsuit if playing weak jump overcalls. After 2 \heartsuit East will bid 3 \diamondsuit and then may feel able to do no more then raise 3 \spadesuit to game, given his poor Heart holding. Over 3 \heartsuit East has even more of a problem: if he bids 4 \diamondsuit , partner is going to rebid 4 \spadesuit and then the worry of the Heart suit may again stop him going further. Anyone in 6 \spadesuit should succeed unless North starts with Ace and another Club

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.



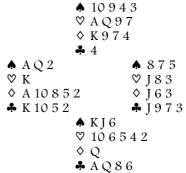
So many players seem to spend more time discussing what to do over 1NT* than many more important things. Well this hand should help them discover whether their methods work! The par result on the hand is 5\(\hbla^*\-1\) but I have a feeling that some N/S pairs will spend too much time "wriggling" and never discover their Spade fit; however, with two big major fits in competition, there will no doubt be contracts played in Hearts & Spades right up to the 6-level.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.



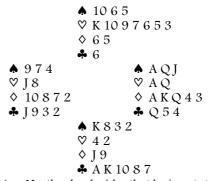
West may be tempted to try for slam after East has raised his 1% opening to 3%. If West cue bids $3\clubsuit$, East should look at his aceless balanced hand and retreat to 4%. If however West doesn't have cue bids in his armoury, all he can do is ask for Aces which won't help as partner will show none, or one if the %K counts as the fifth Ace. The slam does have hope as North needs to lead a red card to ensure that it goes down.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.



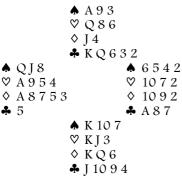
After West has doubled South's 1♥ opening, North has to decide how good his hand is. Most players would decide that it was worth a value raise to 3♥ (shown by a 2NT bid for most players), but Losing Trick Count disciples would count 7 losers and raise to game; unfortunately 4-4-4-1 hands tend to get overvalued with this method and 4♥ should prove a step too far. So long as West does not lead a Spade or a small Diamond, declarer should be held to 9 tricks.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.



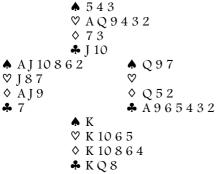
Any North who decides that he is not strong enough to open a vulnerable 3° may well be rewarded by East ending up as declarer in 2NT. However over a 3° opening what can East do other than bid 3NT? Although 10 tricks can be made on the likely Heart lead, it is far more likely that declarer will just cash 9 tricks and then concede. Any South that leads Clubs at any stage before the end will have presented declarer with 10 tricks on a platter.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.



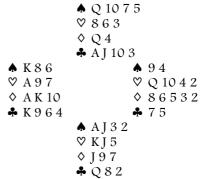
Nearly everyone will reach 3NT by North after his weak NT opening is raised to game by partner. Even if North opens 14, game will be reached unless South miscounts his points and just raises to 34! 3NT should always be held to 9 tricks: any lead other than a Club from East will work provided he persists with that suit when he gets in with the 4A and West ducks on the first round if he chooses a red suit; if West is on lead any small red card will work provided East returns the suit when he gains the lead.

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.



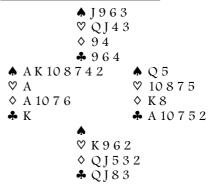
If East opens 3♣, South has little alternative but to pass as he is the wrong shape for a take-out bid. The disciplined thing for West to do is pass also, but a 3♣ bid works spectacularly well as all 13 tricks are there for the taking. If East passes as dealer then West will bid Spades over South's 1♦ opening and, with a bit of luck, E/W might even get doubled sacrificing in Spades over N/S's Heart contract.

Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.



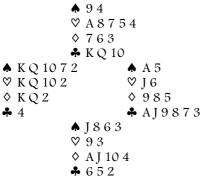
If South opens 1NT, West will double and North should be content enough to play there, albeit redoubled if system demands. East then will want run to $2\diamondsuit$, even though the suit is poor. When this is passed round to North he has an ideal hand for a takeout double (if both he and his partner are convinced double is for take-out in this situation), which should result in the Spade fit being found. The only question then is "Will West compete to $3\diamondsuit$?" Probably is my guess.

Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.



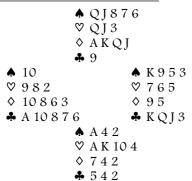
An Acol 2 opposite a positive response should result in most E/W pairs reaching at least 6. Indeed it is only the 4-0 trump break that stops the grand slam succeeding, so my sympathies have to be with those who get to 7. After all once West has discovered partner has an Ace and a King, as well as the Q if he has the methods to do so, it almost seems odds on that 7. will make

Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.



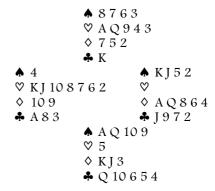
If East opens 1. (I would!), West will respond 1. but when East rebids 2. what should West bid now? I am used to playing 2. as forcing but many players will be uncomfortable with this, so should they leap to 3NT, forsaking any chance of finding a major suit fit, or should they bid 3. and risk hearing 4. from partner when 3NT is the correct contract? Either solution will work on this hand as over 3. East can bid a reluctant 3., which West will convert to 3NT.

Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.



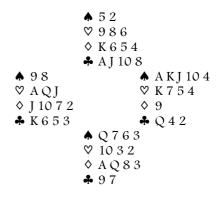
South has Acol's unbiddable hand when North opens 1♠: 2♥ promises a 5-card suit, an old-fashioned 2NT guarantees some cover in all the other suits, and 2♣ or 2♦ should show at least a 4-card suit. The sensible option is to lie about a minor and bid 2♣ (if partner raises Clubs he must have 5 Spades so you can retreat to 3♠) but on this occasion making the bad bid of 2♥ will have wondrous results as 4♥ is the only contract that makes 11 tricks

Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.



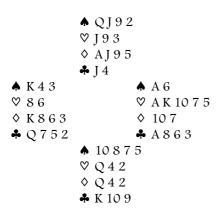
When West bids 3♥ over South's 1♣ opening North will want double to be for penalties, but nowadays many players prefer double to be for take-out. This could end up as a problem hand for the Tournament Director if North passes slowly over the 3♥ and then South re-opens on his minimum hand with a double, an action that would be quite acceptable over 1♥, but over 3♥? I don't think so: instead the TD should be removing the double and admonishing South

Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.



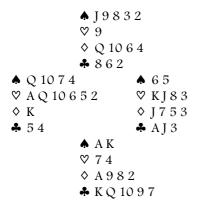
3NT will be a popular contract; West will no doubt either respond or rebid 2NT and, given the quality of his Spades, West will be tempted to bid one more. All 3NT needs to succeed is for North to hold the AQ but it all falls apart when South turns up with it. Any East-West that manages to secure a plus score should do very well.

Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.



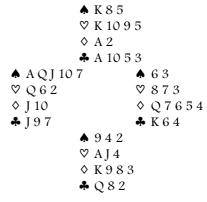
It is tempting for West to pass his partner's 1NT response to his 1♥ opening, but he will do better if he rebids 2♣. Any West who manages to find the really awful 2♥ rebid over partner's 1NT will unjustifiably do very well. It is difficult to envisage declarer making anything other than nine tricks in Hearts or ten tricks in Clubs.

Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.



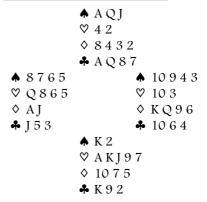
If North decides to bid an adventurous weak 2♠ over West's 1♥ opening he could find himself being propelled to game and, if he is lucky, he won't be doubled. If instead he passes, East will raise to 3♥ and South may well pass; if West manages to pass as well he will do well, as this looks like a hand on which any plus score will be good.

Board 31. N/S Vul. Dealer South.



North-South's methods could be put to the test if South opens 1NT and West bids 2 . Those playing Lebensohl will bid 3 . (or 2NT then 3 . if playing the original version) to show four Hearts and a Spade stop; others may just bid 3NT. This should succeed unless declarer wins the first trick with the AK or plays East for the Q.

Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.



North should end up in 3NT after South has shown his Hearts en route. If East leads a top Diamond he will get his just desserts; however a sensible small Diamond lead will see the defence take the first four tricks. Declarer will still succeed though, as Clubs break 3~3 which avoids him having to take the Heart finesse

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

www.ecatsbridge.com

www.bridgegreatbritain.org www.ebu.co.uk www.scottishbridge.co.uk www.wbu.org.uk/ www.cbai.ie/

www.nibu.co.uk/ www.worldbridge.org www.eurobridge.org www.acbl.org

www.wbfteaching.org

Simultaneous Pairs Results

Bridge Great Britain
English Bridge Union
Scottish Bridge Union
Welsh Bridge Union
Contract Bridge Association

of Ireland

Northern Ireland Bridge Union World Bridge Federation European Bridge League

American Contract Bridge League WBF Teaching

If you are looking for the official site for a particular country, please go to **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** and following the link on the front page, or by emailing **anna**@ **ecats.co.uk** and asking to be added to the UK list.



For information about Bridge Great Britain please contact:

Mrs Sandra Claridge

31 Elmtrees

Long Crendon Aylesbury

Bucks HP18 9DG

Telephone: 01844 208629 email: claridge31@tiscali.co.uk