Club Stratified Sim Pairs



Monday 7th March 2022

Welcome to the eleventh 'Club Stratified Simultaneous Pairs'. Our commentator today is Julian Pottage, experienced bridge teacher and writer.

How stratification works (and which stratum you should be in): There are four strata.

1. Stratum 'A' is open to everyone but if either member of the pair is a Tournament Master or above you will be in this stratum and can only get master points from the overall ranking.

- 2. If both of you are below the rank of Tournament Master you will be 'B' stratum;
- 3. both below Master means you will be in 'C' stratum and
- 4. both below District Master will make you 'D' stratum.

Blue points and local points will be awarded to the top third of the overall ranking list. In addition the top third of each stratum will get blue points and local points. If you are entitled to overall points and points for your stratum, you will only get the higher of the awards – you won't get two lots of points! You will appreciate that Master Points cannot be allocated until after the event is finalised, which usually takes about three weeks. Please keep your scorecard for that period: if we find any unusual scores we may need to contact the club scorer and the players.

Full results may be found at www.ebu.co.uk/sims/

Whichever stratum you find yourself in, I hope you find this set of hands enjoyable and challenging.

Ian Payn, Chairman EBU

	▲ QJ10976				Board 1	: Dealer	North : L	ove all			
	♥QJ2					West	North	East	South		
	♦ 109				2	Pass	3♠				
	*	К9						All Pass			
♠AK8				♠5	5			7 11 1 0 5 5			
♥ A				4 k	(109	97				<i>c</i>	
♦Q865				• k	(74	32		North is maximum for a non-vulnerable weak two and South, with			
♣J7543				* 1	062	2		three-card support, raises to the three level.			
	▲ 432			As it turns out making nine tricks with spades as trumps requires a slice							
	♥86543				of luck, with the heart blockage meaning that the defenders cannot						
	♦AJ			take a heart ruff. Declarer has no diamond loser because one of North's							
	*	AQ	8					diamonds can go on South's third-round club winner			
НСР			Mak	keab	le co	ontra	acts	If East-West buy the contract, they have just four top tricks in the minors			
			*	٠	¥	۸	NT	to lose.	Being no	on-vulnei	rable, it would pay them, even if doubled, to
9		N	-	-	1	3	-	go to th	e four l	evel and	go one down rather than concede a spade
14 6		S	-	-	1	3	-	nart-score			
11		E	3 2	3	-	-	2				
		vv	3	3	-	-	Z				









		Ciub Strut	ijieu Siili Fu	115 1010	1100y / 11101C112022
	▲ 1053	Board 1	4 : Dealer	East : Lo	ove all
	♥K104	West	North	East	South
	♦ K1083			1NT	Pass
	♣A92	2	Dace	2	
▲ Q94	▲ KJ76	2	Pd55	2	All Pass
♥A9875	♥Q63				
♦QJ2	♦ A7	The we	ak no-tru	mp ope	ning and transfer response will be common
\$ 105	♣ QJ74	choices.			
	▲A82	At first g	glance de	clarer ap	ppears to have only four losers – two clubs and
	♥J2	one in e	each maio	r. With	the diamond finesse working and either a ruff
	♦ 9654	in the F	ast hand	or disca	rd available on the third round of clubs, there
	& K863	is no dia	and los		
					norran with a fifth trial? They need to begin hy
НСР	Makeable contracts	ноw do	the delei	nuers en	herge with a firth trick? They need to begin by
10	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT	playing	three rou	nds of c	lubs. Then when North comes in with the $\mathbf{\Psi}$ K,
10		South c	an gain th	e lead w	vith the A and play a fourth round of clubs to
8	E 1 - 2 2 1	promot	e the ¥10		
_	W 1 - 2 2 1	1'			
	▲ 1073	Board 1	5 : Dealer	South :	NS vulnerable
	♥AQ6	West	North	Fast	South
	♦ J964		nor en	Lust	Bass
	♣ K105			2	Pass
AKQ94	l2 ∧ 5	1	Pass	2 🗸	Pass
v 1084	∀ KJ753	2♠	All Pass		
♦ A7	♦ 105				
* 74	& AJ983	West's v	wish list o	n this de	eal will be a bidding card for a rebid of two and
	▲ J86	a half sr	oarts! In tl	he abser	nce of such a card it is probably best to bid the
	♥92	chunky	snade su	it at the	minimum level with the option of showing
	♦ KQ832	hoart si	innort late	ar	
	♣ Q62		aut of th	ci.	is executionally for our able for declarer with
				e carus	is exceptionally lavourable for declarer with
НСР	Makeable contracts	spades	3-3 as w	ell as th	$\bullet \ \mathbf{\Psi} \mathbf{Q}, \ \mathbf{\Psi} \mathbf{A} \ and \ \mathbf{A} 10 \ all \ onside.$ The outcome
10		is that	potentiall	y only c	one lead holds a spade contract to 10 tricks:
10 13 9	N	the &K.	The defe	nders ca	in then ensure a trick in each minor as well as
8	E 3 - 4 4 2	the 🗸 A.			
	W 3 - 4 4 2	Any dia	mond lead	d stops 1	1 tricks in a heart contract.
	▲ Λ K	Deard 1		Most · I	
				vvest.	
	♦ A 10 7	west	North	East	South
	▲ 10983	1NT	Double	2 💙	Double
▲ 1052	▲ 1874	All Pass			
¥ Δ197	₩3074 ₩10432				
• 0.62	♦ 84	If as sh	iown, We	est oper	ns a weak no-trump, East-West could be in
• <u>4</u> 04	♣ 162	trouble.	After No	orth's pe	nalty double. I play that bidding a suit shows
	▲0963	the suit	nlus a hig	her suit	South's double is then for takeout but North
	♥6	is hanny	to pass f	or nonal	tion
	♦ K1953		10 pass i		ues. Le defendine 20 de de la de three energie tricke
	♣K75	An 800	penalty is	s availad	ble defending 2 doubled: three spade tricks,
		two hea	art tricks,	two dia	mond tricks and a club. Even if the defenders
НСР	Makeable contracts	drop a t	rick they s	score mo	ore than anything they could declaring.
	🔺 🔶 💙 🔺 NT	1NT dou	ubled wou	uld be do	own 800 too. Indeed there is a slight chance of
16	N 3 4 2 3 3	1100 if (declarer w	vins the	initial club lead.
13 2 0	<u>5</u> 34233 <u>5</u> -	-			
3		-			

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Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all						
Nest	North	East	South			
	Pass	1NT	Pass			
<u>2</u> 🗸	Pass	2 🛦	2NT			
3♠	All Pass					

As on board 13 the disparity in suits means that West decides to make a transfer response to East's weak 1NT rather than invoking Stayman. Holding a singleton spade South does not wish to defend $2 \clubsuit$ (if West is planning to pass) and might bid either $3 \clubsuit$ or, as shown, 2NT to show both minors. With a sixth spade and good shape West is happy to take the push to $3 \clubsuit$.

While South's overcall succeeds in driving East-West to the three level, it has the unfortunate effect of increasing the chance that declarer will take the winning view in trumps, finessing North for the jack.

Board 1	.8 : Dealer	East : NS	vulnerable
Nest	North	East	South
		1♥	2 🔶
Pass	2 💙	Pass	4 🔶
Pass	5 🔶	All Pass	

North has one of those rare hands on which one makes a value showing cue bid without 3-card support for the overcaller's suit. The alternatives are all worse – 3NT with no heart stopper is unattractive while a bid of either unbid suit would sound like more than four cards in it. South, with extra playing strength, must do something other than attempt to sign off in $3 \blacklozenge$. The jump conveys the extra length, even though it does take the bidding past 3NT.

East's opening bid warns declarer in $5 \blacklozenge$ not to take the spade finesse but instead to finesse East for the \clubsuit Q or perhaps play to squeeze East in the black suits.

Board 19	: Dealer	South : E\	N vulnerable
West	North	East	South
			Pass
4♠	4NT	Pass	5 🔶
All Pass			

The adverse vulnerability may persuade West to open $4 \bigstar$ hoping to keep the opponents out of the auction. The pre-empt works, albeit not in the way West expected. North has the shape to bid 4NT to show two suits and South has good support for one of them – but the \bigstar K is not as useful as one of the minor suit kings would be and $5 \bigstar$ has to fail. It should go only the one down as declarer can draw a round of trumps before tackling the clubs, thereby neutralising West's \blacklozenge Q.

4♠ would go two down if the defenders score a heart ruff as well as their three aces and trump trick. The second undertrick could be vital since 200 exceeds 130 while 100 does not.



Board 20	: Dealer	West : All	vulnerable
West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2 🔶	Pass
3 💙	All Pass		

Having opened a weak no-trump and seen a transfer response, West jumps to $3 \checkmark$ to show four-card support and a minimum. If West did not jump, North ought to double $2 \checkmark$, so playing in $2 \checkmark$ is never a realistic option on the deal. Knowing that West is minimum and that the queen-jack doubleton are not pulling full weight, East should pass $3 \checkmark$. The defenders can take the first five tricks against $3 \checkmark$ via two top diamonds, a ruff and two clubs. If they do not get the ruff or if they fail to switch to clubs then $3 \checkmark$ makes, in the latter case because one of East's clubs goes on the fourth diamond and the other on the third spade. $3 \bigstar$ would make with just three trumps and a heart to lose.

Board 21	L : Dealer	North :	NS vulnerable
West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2 🗸	Pass	2NT	Pass
All Pass			

Holding three trumps and a singleton, West raises hearts rather than responding 1NT. East, knowing that West might have raised with three-card support, chooses 2NT as a game try – though if the absence of a spade stopper persuades you to try with 3 \bullet instead then I understand. In a no-trump contract, North's short \bullet Q enables declarer to make four tricks from the diamond suit. While finessing against the \blacktriangleleft J is hardly an obvious play, North is probably going to have to find a discard on the fourth round of spades. A club discard does not appeal in view of dummy's length in the suit. Safest is a diamond, though then declarer can cash the diamonds and find out the distribution.

Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable						
North	East	South				
	Pass	Pass				
Pass	2♥	Pass				
All Pass						
	2 : Dealer North Pass All Pass	2 : Dealer East : EW North East Pass Pass 2♥ All Pass				

We have, unless North intervenes with a frisky 2.4 Landy for the majors, another weak no-trump opening and transfer response. Any East who feels tempted to try for game should reflect on the fact that West will not have four spades (if you super accept on all hands with four-card support) and that the high cards will not quite be there for 3NT.

The defenders have two sure ways to ensure four tricks, the more likely one being an initial diamond lead, resulting in a diamond ruff, the less likely one being an initial low heart lead, allowing heart forces to shorten East's trumps. If West plays in no-trumps, the defenders can take four heart tricks and a spade.



♦8652

▲ 10743

♣AQ765

∀J107

♦3

♦QJ

♦ AK952

♦ 1097

*****984

♥3 ♦ AK865 ♣KJ2

♠ AK9

VQ864

♦ QJ42

*****103





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West	North	East	South
		1 🗸	1♠
2 ♦	Pass	3 🔶	All Pass

In the example auction East abides by the traditional Acol rule of opening 1♥ when holding three 4-card suits and a singleton club. I am sure many will open 1♦ or, as the singleton club is the king, 1NT. If East did open 1NT, South might be able to make a Multi Landy 2♠ overcall (spades and a minor) and so find the club fit.

Defending 3 • the defenders can take three aces and a spade ruff. North-South should do better if they manage to buy the contract. With the favourable trump position, they can make at least 10 tricks in a club contract, 11 if the defenders do not lead or switch to diamonds.

Board 2	7 : Dealei	South :	Love all
West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4 🔶	Pass	5♣	Pass
5 💙	Pass	5 🔶	All Pass

East's initial response shows a game-forcing spade raise. West makes a waiting rebid and East's 3NT is a 'serious slam try' showing extra values. East feels obliged to show a club control but, in the context of having already taken the bidding beyond game, has nothing to spare. North's natural heart lead gives the defenders a trick in each red suit.

On any other lead declarer could get East's two hearts away on the clubs and make twelve tricks.

Board 28	: Dealer \	West : NS	vulnerable
West	North	East	South
Pass	1	2 🔶	All Pass

East has rather a good hand for a simple overcall and some will choose a different action. The problem with doubling is that if South raises to $3 \bigstar$, you then feel obligated to bid $4 \blacklozenge$. As it happens South is not going bid $3 \bigstar$ at unfavourable vulnerability and $4 \blacklozenge$ is making anyway with just three aces to lose.

If East were to overcall 3NT, North has two side entries and therefore no need to duck the first round of spades.

If North plays in spades, repeated diamond leads generate a trump trick for the defenders. Declarer can ruff the third round of diamonds high in dummy and drop the ♠K offside but cannot then get back to dummy to take the marked finesse against the ♠10.



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