

HIWCBA

Chidwick Cup

DUPLICATE PAIRS COMPETITION

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in aid of

Hampshire & Isle of Wight

Air Ambulance



Commentary by Julian Pottage

ECATS Session 4972

<p>Hand 1</p> <p>♠ Q93 ♥ KT73 ♦ QJ92 ♣ 62</p> <p>♠ AT74 ♥ Q95 ♦ T853 ♣ T5</p> <p>N/-</p> <p>♠ KJ ♥ J862 ♦ AK64 ♣ Q98</p>	<p>♠ 8652 ♥ A4 ♦ 7 ♣ AKJ743</p> <p>Despite not holding the majority of the HCP, East-West might get to bid 1♣-1♠-3♠ with no intervention. If South overcalls 1♦, they can still bid that way. After a diamond lead overtaken and a heart switch, the way home is to play three rounds of clubs (with or without cashing the ♠A). Although North can overruff, it is doing so with what in effect is a winner anyway. 3♦ is on North-South.</p>
<p>Hand 2</p> <p>♠ T4 ♥ K874 ♦ K95 ♣ KQT5</p> <p>♠ AQ93 ♥ Q32 ♦ T63 ♣ AJ7</p> <p>E/NS</p> <p>♠ KJ762 ♥ T ♦ QJ7 ♣ 6432</p>	<p>♠ 85 ♥ AJ965 ♦ A842 ♣ 98</p> <p>If West opens a weak 1NT, East transfers into hearts, West completes the transfer and South bravely (foolishly?) reopens with 2♠, West might double. With four good spades, heart support and a maximum, West does not mind whether East leaves in the double or not. 2♠ doubled should go two down. 4♥ is on if you start trumps with the queen, later finessing the six after the ten falls.</p>
<p>Hand 3</p> <p>♠ K3 ♥ AQ85 ♦ A93 ♣ J654</p> <p>♠ AJ875 ♥ T74 ♦ 2 ♣ KT73</p> <p>S/EW</p> <p>♠ QT964 ♥ J93 ♦ J85 ♣ Q8</p>	<p>♠ 2 ♥ K62 ♦ KQT764 ♣ A92</p> <p>This time it could be North who opens a weak 1NT and South who deploys a transfer (if system prevents East from overcalling on the first round). While East should escape a double in 3♦, barring a defensive error the contract should fail with two losers in each red suit and one in clubs. 2♠ should go at least two down, with three down quite likely if West is on lead with the singleton diamond.</p>
<p>Hand 4</p> <p>♠ KQT63 ♥ JT ♦ KQ8 ♣ A32</p> <p>♠ AJ7 ♥ AK8542 ♦ J63 ♣ Q</p> <p>W/All</p> <p>♠ 52 ♥ 763 ♦ AT2 ♣ KT987</p>	<p>♠ 984 ♥ Q9 ♦ 9754 ♣ J654</p> <p>After West opens 1♥, North overcalls 1♠, West competes to 2♥ and North doubles, South must judge whether to bid 3♣ or 2♠. 3♣ should make, the typical losers being three in the majors and an overruff on the third heart – following restricted choice then avoids a further trump loser. North can make nine tricks in a spade contract – but only by ruffing low rather than with an honour if the defenders start with three rounds of hearts.</p>

<p>Hand 5</p> <p>♠ 9652 ♥ K632 ♦ 82 ♣ AQT</p> <p>♠ KQJ83 ♥ T75 ♦ Q93 ♣ J7</p> <p>N/NS</p> <p>♠ AT7 ♥ Q84 ♦ JT7 ♣ K532</p>	<p>East-West should play in a diamond partial, 1♦-1♠-2♣-2♦ being a typical path. A boring lead of the unbid suit should secure an easy fourth defensive trick, though any lead other than the ♠A should be good enough. If East-West breach Burn's law (the one to have more trumps than the defending side) and play in 2♠, the benign lie of the cards enables them to score 110 there too.</p>
<p>Hand 6</p> <p>♠ 95432 ♥ Q52 ♦ Q5 ♣ T73</p> <p>♠ K876 ♥ A876 ♦ 63 ♣ A64</p> <p>E/EW</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ KJT94 ♦ T87 ♣ Q852</p>	<p>After East opens 1♦ and West doubles South's 1♥ overcall, East is a bit good just to bid 3♦ and probably bids 2♥. Either way West bids 3NT next. At rubber bridge, after a heart lead you might hold up twice and then play for the drop in diamonds. At matchpoints, it is less clear to do that. If you win the first heart, the fall of the ♦Q and the ♠Q means you can take all 13 tricks.</p>
<p>Hand 7</p> <p>♠ J7 ♥ AQ7652 ♦ Q4 ♣ JT9</p> <p>♠ K98 ♥ T4 ♦ AK852 ♣ K72</p> <p>S/All</p> <p>♠ 6542 ♥ J98 ♦ 73 ♣ AQ85</p>	<p>If West opens a weak 1NT and North decides to overcall 2♥, East will double for takeout (if that is an option). South will surely compete to 3♥ either directly or after West bids 3♦. With the ♥K and ♣K both offside, 3♥ fails by two tricks, conceding the 'kiss of death' 200. The favourable layout (if you drop the ♦Q offside that is) for declarer if East-West declare mean that game is on with a pointed suit or no suit as trumps.</p>
<p>Hand 8</p> <p>♠ AKT763 ♥ 4 ♦ A5 ♣ JT74</p> <p>♠ 9 ♥ T9765 ♦ T86 ♣ AK98</p> <p>W/-</p> <p>♠ Q52 ♥ KQJ ♦ KQJ9 ♣ Q63</p>	<p>North-South will be doing very well if they manage to eschew their nine-card spade fit and play in the no-trump game. Even though South has a lot of soft values and no ruffing value, this may be difficult to judge – well done if you did. 4♠ fails if the defenders take two clubs, a ruff and the ♥A. Making 10 tricks is easy in no-trumps and indeed the defenders may need to cash out to stop declarer from taking even more than that.</p>

<p>Hand 9</p> <p>♠ KQ96 ♥ 98743 ♦ T832 ♣</p>	<p>♠ A3 ♥ A ♦ AQ654 ♣ 96532</p> <p>N/EW</p> <p>♠ JT87 ♥ QJT652 ♦ K9 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ 542 ♥ K ♦ J7 ♣ KQJT874</p>	<p>After opening 1♦, seeing a 3♣ overcall and a 3♥ response, North has little choice but to try 3NT. Were it not for the fall of the ♥K, there would be big entry problems in 3NT. As it is, declarer can make four tricks in each red suit and two aces. Even though 3NT is on, South does better to remove to 4♥. Declarer can make a long diamond by ruffing the fourth round and has no problem getting to any long hearts when the suit is trumps.</p>
<p>Hand 10</p> <p>♠ AKJ94 ♥ 72 ♦ QJT765 ♣</p>	<p>♠ 82 ♥ AJT982 ♦ J64 ♣ A2</p> <p>E/All</p> <p>♠ QT63 ♥ 6543 ♦ AT3 ♣ 94</p> <p>♠ 75 ♥ KQ7 ♦ KQ985 ♣ K83</p>	<p>Assuming East opens a weak 1NT, West starts with a 2♥ transfer intending to rebid 3♣. If North doubles 2♥, it is possible to carry through with this plan but if North overcalls 3♥ then West rebids 4♣. If North leads the ace and another club, you need to take the spade finesse just to make 5♣. On the friendlier lead of the ♥A, North will need to ruff the third spade with the ♣A to stop the overtrick. 4♠ and 3NT are also on.</p>
<p>Hand 11</p> <p>♠ 52 ♥ KJT9875 ♦ 5 ♣ QJ3</p>	<p>♠ AJ7 ♥ Q ♦ AKT76 ♣ T962</p> <p>S/-</p> <p>♠ KQ943 ♥ 62 ♦ J ♣ AK754</p> <p>♠ T86 ♥ A43 ♦ Q98432 ♣ 8</p>	<p>After South opens 1♠, West probably overcalls 3♥ (weak) and North (playing 4-card major openings) might double. East raises to 4♥ and North reopens with 4♠. On the layout there is a sure club loser with either black suit as trumps, making the limit 11 tricks in total. 5♥ doubled would be down three tricks if the defenders get in two trump leads early enough to prevent declarer from taking two club ruffs in dummy.</p>
<p>Hand 12</p> <p>♠ KT74 ♥ J ♦ J876 ♣ KJ43</p>	<p>♠ AQ863 ♥ K753 ♦ Q54 ♣ 5</p> <p>W/NS</p> <p>♠ 952 ♥ A62 ♦ KT9 ♣ A872</p> <p>♠ J ♥ QT984 ♦ A32 ♣ QT96</p>	<p>At a few tables this will be a pass out but mostly North opens 1♠ and will arrive in 3♠ unless the partnership has a way to show the South hand without going beyond 2♠. If you guess well, finessing the ♠Q on the first round and not losing a trick to the ♦J, you can make 3♠. You can also make 2NT and, in that contract, running the ♠9 on the first round of the suit is good enough for doing so.</p>

<p>Hand 13</p> <p>♠ 853 ♥ 985 ♦ 985 ♣ J864</p>	<p>♠ KQ7 ♥ AKQJ7632 ♦ 2 ♣ 9</p> <p>N/All</p> <p>♠ T964 ♥ T ♦ AKT43 ♣ Q72</p> <p>♠ AJ2 ♥ 4 ♦ QJ76 ♣ AKT53</p>	<p>If you are playing Benjamin or a strong club system, North can show strength with the opening; otherwise 1♥ is normal. East can double 1♥ or possibly overcall 2♣. South will take some action and, even if North goes looking for a slam, the fact that two aces are missing means the partnership should go no higher than 5♥. Unless East underleads the ♠A at trick two in a desperate attempt to make three spade tricks and a club, declarer should lose two tricks.</p>
<p>Hand 14</p> <p>♠ AKT94 ♥ K83 ♦ 53 ♣ AT9</p>	<p>♠ 763 ♥ AQ94 ♦ KJT2 ♣ K3</p> <p>E/-</p> <p>♠ J85 ♥ 762 ♦ A986 ♣ Q76</p> <p>♠ Q2 ♥ JT5 ♦ Q74 ♣ J8542</p>	<p>East might face a similar decision to the one South did on board 4 if West opens 1♠, North doubles, South bids 2♦ and West doubles. Here with a doubleton spade honour and poor clubs, 2♠ works rather better than 3♣. The reason why a club contract plays a trick worse is that a diamond force on dummy means you lose two club tricks. You can make 2♠ either if you get to dummy twice or if you start with the ♣10 from hand.</p>
<p>Hand 15</p> <p>♠ K63 ♥ A872 ♦ A95 ♣ AQ8</p>	<p>♠ J97 ♥ K63 ♦ J873 ♣ KT6</p> <p>S/NS</p> <p>♠ AQT82 ♥ T4 ♦ KQ6 ♣ 975</p> <p>♠ 54 ♥ QJ95 ♦ T42 ♣ J432</p>	<p>Usually the auction will start with 1♠ from South and 1NT from West. North is a bit too weak to double and some would say too flat to bid 2♠. A spade lead defeats 1NT by a trick so long as North wins a trick with a king at the first opportunity. Playing in 2♠ results in a better score: 110 if the defenders switch to a club before declarer has driven out the ♦A, 140 if they fail to get on to the clubs.</p>
<p>Hand 16</p> <p>♠ KJ95 ♥ 976 ♦ 4 ♣ AQJT8</p>	<p>♠ AQT7643 ♥ A3 ♦ K8 ♣ 94</p> <p>W/EW</p> <p>♠ ♥ JT54 ♦ Q9762 ♣ K765</p> <p>♠ 82 ♥ KQ82 ♦ AJT53 ♣ 32</p>	<p>After West opens 1♣, a simple 1♠ suffices on the North hand – there is no need to pre-empt when you have two aces and a king – and the 7222 shape means quite a few potential losers. East doubles and West will probably have to rebid 2♣ (1NT would show extras if you play a weak no-trump opening). North then either bids 2♠ or doubles first and may well finish in 2♠. Unable to finesse at all in trumps, North goes two off in 2♠.</p>

<p>Hand 17</p> <p>♠ J8 ♥ QT64 ♦ AKQ92 ♣ 63</p>	<p>♠ 97 ♥ J73 ♦ J865 ♣ AKT4</p> <p>N/-</p> <p>♠ AKQ4 ♥ A982 ♦ 43 ♣ Q82</p>	<p>If South opens 1♥ in third seat, West might well overcall 2♦. North will probably raise to 2♥. The play in a 4-3 fit can be a bit scrappy on occasion but in essence you should be able to restrict the losers to two diamonds and three trumps. You can also make eight tricks in a no-trump contract, with seven on top and the possibility of an extra trick in every suit apart from spades.</p>
<p>Hand 18</p> <p>♠ 85 ♥ JT75 ♦ 843 ♣ T976</p>	<p>♠ KT974 ♥ A964 ♦ ♣ K853</p> <p>E/NS</p> <p>♠ AQJ2 ♥ KQ32 ♦ KT52 ♣ Q</p>	<p>Over East's 1♦ opening, South is most likely to overcall a slightly off-shape 1NT. If North transfers into spades, the partnership will reach 4♠; if North prefers Stayman, 4♥ is a possible contract. On a diamond lead you might make two overtricks in 4♠ by ruffing four diamonds in dummy. Making only 11 tricks will be more common even in 4♠.</p>
<p>Hand 19</p> <p>♠ T9852 ♥ K985 ♦ Q3 ♣ J5</p>	<p>♠ J7 ♥ AT7 ♦ AJT ♣ T9874</p> <p>S/EW</p> <p>♠ AK64 ♥ J42 ♦ K87 ♣ Q63</p>	<p>A weak 1NT opening by South might begin and end the auction. On a normal spade lead, you can in theory make 10 tricks if you guess everything right. Few will make that many – and indeed if the first club lead comes from dummy and East ducks smoothly you might make as few as 7 tricks. I expect 120 and 150 to be the most common scores.</p>
<p>Hand 20</p> <p>♠ K97 ♥ A763 ♦ Q ♣ JT852</p>	<p>♠ A543 ♥ QT ♦ AT43 ♣ 943</p> <p>W/All</p> <p>♠ T8 ♥ 9542 ♦ KJ96 ♣ KQ6</p>	<p>With both sides vulnerable, it is likely that none of the four players will manage to scrape up an opening bid. With a pass-out the most common result, any plus score will matchpoint very well. Those playing a 14-16 1NT tend to open balanced 11 point hands, in which case East might open. Even 1NT fails if the defenders get their six tricks in the minors but 2♣, 2♥ and 1♠ are makeable.</p>

<p>Hand 21</p> <p>♠ KQT ♥ 5 ♦ AQ93 ♣ QJT63</p> <p>♠ J73 ♥ JT64 ♦ KT8 ♣ K52</p> <p>N/NS</p> <p>♠ 9865 ♥ Q872 ♦ J72 ♣ A9</p> <p>♠ A42 ♥ AK93 ♦ 654 ♣ 874</p>	<p>North, having opened 1♣ and seen a 1♥ response, will be tempted to rebid 1NT whether that is strong or weak. Undeterred by South's bid, East leads a heart. If it is a low heart and declarer does not put up dummy's queen, the defenders have the chance to stop any overtricks no matter how well declarer guesses. On most lines, however, a finesse of the ♠10 or the ♦9 can lead to an overtrick in 1NT.</p>
<p>Hand 22</p> <p>♠ 52 ♥ K764 ♦ QJ ♣ AJT63</p> <p>♠ AKQJ876 ♥ 3 ♦ T63 ♣ K4</p> <p>E/EW</p> <p>♠ T94 ♥ Q852 ♦ 842 ♣ 975</p> <p>♠ 3 ♥ AJT9 ♦ AK975 ♣ Q82</p>	<p>If you are playing strong jump shifts, West responds 2♠ to East's 1♦ opening. On the next round West might rebid 4♠ to show a solid suit but a minimum. East does not have enough to go on over after that. With the ♦Q-J onside, 12 tricks roll in (13 if North did not cash the ♣A at trick one), so those who overbid to a slam will get a lucky good result. The same number of tricks are available in a no-trump contract.</p>
<p>Hand 23</p> <p>♠ Q65 ♥ AQJ74 ♦ AJ ♣ AT6</p> <p>♠ AT74 ♥ T ♦ QT64 ♣ KQ74</p> <p>S/All</p> <p>♠ 932 ♥ K8652 ♦ 72 ♣ J32</p> <p>♠ KJ8 ♥ 93 ♦ K9853 ♣ 985</p>	<p>If West does not open, North opens 1♥, South raises to 2♥, West doubles and North makes a game try that South declines. If West opens the bidding (1♦), North might judge the hand too strong for a 1♥ overcall and so double. If East raises to 3♦, North may feel obliged to bid 3♥ and South will do well not raise. In 3♥ there are three tricks in spades and one in each minor to lose. 3♦ makes and you do not need to guess the spades as one can go on West's long club.</p>
<p>Hand 24</p> <p>♠ 73 ♥ 754 ♦ AJ96 ♣ K874</p> <p>♠ KQ2 ♥ KQ2 ♦ QT42 ♣ A53</p> <p>W/-</p> <p>♠ J85 ♥ J986 ♦ 873 ♣ Q62</p> <p>♠ AT964 ♥ AT3 ♦ K5 ♣ JT9</p>	<p>If West opens 1♦ and rebids 1NT after a 1♠ response, East (with values in both unbid suits and a good hand overall) might simply raise to 3NT rather than look for a 5-3 spade fit. If East-West play a strong no-trump then West is the one needing to judge to pass 3NT after East transfers into spades and offers a choice of games, the flat shape being a key factor in the decision. 11 tricks are available in either a spade or a no-trump contract.</p>

<p>Hand 25</p> <p>♠ K75 ♥ Q2 ♦ AQ8532 ♣ T9</p> <p>♠ Q86432 ♥ AKT754 ♦ K ♣</p> <p>N/EW</p> <p>♠ ♥ J986 ♦ J94 ♣ J85432</p> <p>♠ AJT9 ♥ 3 ♦ T76 ♣ AKQ76</p>	<p>Over North's 1♦ opening East cannot make a takeout double with a singleton heart and so overcalls 2♣. When West then bids 2♠, East can make a 4♥ splinter. If West continues with 4NT expecting one of East's key cards to be the ♣A, a two key-card reply will lead to a 5♠ sign off. As it happens the A-J-10-9 of spades over the opening bidder are almost as good as A-K-x-x and they miss a good slam. The lead of the ♦A or the ♥Q allows the defenders to stop 13 tricks.</p>
<p>Hand 26</p> <p>♠ T3 ♥ 5 ♦ Q8532 ♣ KQT76</p> <p>♠ 85 ♥ AT42 ♦ J97 ♣ AJ83</p> <p>E/All</p> <p>♠ KJ42 ♥ K9863 ♦ AT6 ♣ 9</p> <p>♠ AQ976 ♥ QJ7 ♦ K4 ♣ 542</p>	<p>1♠-2♣-2♠ is a possible way to bid the East-West hands. West cannot respond 2♥ as that would show a 5-card suit. The play in 2♠ is tricky. If South starts with the ♣9 and switches to the ♥9 after capturing the ♠9 with the ♠J, you need to win in hand and continue with the ♠A. If you finesse the ♠Q rather than ♠9, playing the second trump from hand is easier to find. 2NT by West plays poorly, down two after a normal ♦3 lead.</p>
<p>Hand 27</p> <p>♠ Q8764 ♥ 5 ♦ 62 ♣ J9732</p> <p>♠ KJ53 ♥ Q864 ♦ Q85 ♣ 85</p> <p>S/-</p> <p>♠ T9 ♥ KT973 ♦ AT743 ♣ K</p> <p>♠ A2 ♥ AJ2 ♦ KJ9 ♣ AQT64</p>	<p>Holding a reasonable 5-card club suit, East might well upgrade the hand, treating it as a balanced 20. West then checks for a major-suit fit and settles for 3NT when none is forthcoming. Depending upon the precise East-West methods, South might know that West has four hearts. If so, South leads a diamond, after which declarer will be doing well to make 3NT. By contrast, on an initial heart lead you might make 3NT even after losing a trick to the singleton ♣K.</p>
<p>Hand 28</p> <p>♠ T ♥ A9743 ♦ AQ52 ♣ AT2</p> <p>♠ Q2 ♥ Q52 ♦ KT863 ♣ K73</p> <p>W/NS</p> <p>♠ AKJ763 ♥ J ♦ 74 ♣ QJ98</p> <p>♠ 9854 ♥ KT86 ♦ J9 ♣ 654</p>	<p>1♥-1♠-2♦-3♣-3NT is one way that North-South might bid. The shortage of entries to the South hand means that 3NT does not play well if East finds the lead of either pointed suit. A spade contract fares much better. Although, as expected, there is a trump loser (you would need spades 3-3 with the ♠Q onside to avoid a loser), the minor suits are as friendly as they could be and twelve tricks result.</p>