

# The 2022 Celtic <br> Simultaneous Pairs <br> Tuesday $\mathbf{6}^{\text {th }}$ December 

We are so pleased to welcome you once again to the Celtic Simultaneous Pairs, supporting the Celtic Nations. And this year for the first time we are delighted to welcome clubs from the CBAI

We really hope you enjoyed the event and found the hands fun and challenging. Hopefully the commentators managed to get it right - we would like to thank Adam Adamson for his analysis of the Monday hands, lan Sime who did the Tuesday commentary, Harry Smith who puzzled over the Wednesday set and Liz McGowan whose wise words can be found in the Thursday+Friday set.
We hope you will all take care, stay safe and well and - since we are now in December - we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year

Anna Gudge,<br>Simultaneous Pairs Organiser on behalf of the SBU, WBU, NIBU and CBAI

Board I. None. Dealer North

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 109 \\
& \text { AQ } 86 \\
& 542 \\
& 9762
\end{aligned}
$$

```
4 Q 3
` J742
- J873
& AKJ
- AK 872
- 10
- AKQ 10
2443
¢ J 654
- K 953
- 96
\& Q 108
```

The first of three consecutive hands where playing in a $5 / 2$ fit should score well. Plus 450 , or even 420, from Four Spades should beat the pack.
Also, the first of many hands where Deep Finesse can make a poor slam, in this case Six Diamonds. If the defence starts with two rounds of hearts, she* will ruff a spade before drawing the last trump (needed for the reentry). Then slam depends on the club finesse. (*Deep Finesse is a woman, because she is never wrong

Board 2. N/S. Dealer East


Again the $5 / 2$ fit scores best. If you gave the North hand to a panel of experts, they would be split between opening $I$ or $I P$. The latter will chortle as their 140 unfairly out-scores 130, despite diamonds making a trick more.
West might solve North's dilemma by opening 1\%. Now North can overcall 2NT, showing $5 / 5+$ in the red suits.

Board 3. E/W. Dealer South

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { A Q J } 98 \\
& \text { A } \\
& \text { K } 7543 \\
& 86
\end{aligned}
$$

| ¢ 1074 |  | - 652 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - QJ963 |  | - K 42 |
| - 62 |  | - AJ98 |
| Q 95 |  | 2 K 102 |
|  | ¢ K 3 |  |
|  | - 10875 |  |
|  | - Q 10 |  |
|  | \% AJ743 |  |

This time the only makeable game is the $5 / 2$ spade fit. Perhaps it will be reached by some if North bids again after Pass-14-2 Stopping in Two Spades and taking ten tricks is winning matchpoints, as many will take fewer. A trump lead is best; those in game would either have to finesse the diamond ten or set up dummy's clubs. Fraught with danger.

Board 4. All. Dealer West

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 9765 \\
& \text { Q } 10 \\
& \text { AKJ5 } \\
& \text { AK } 3
\end{aligned}
$$

| ¢ K 2 |  | ¢ A 1043 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - AK987 |  | - 65 |
| - Q 42 |  | -8763 |
| - J 102 |  | \% 976 |
|  | - Q J 8 |  |
|  | - J432 |  |
|  | -109 |  |
|  | Q 854 |  |

23 count 3NTs are best avoided at matchpoints. With the diamond Queen onside, and the opposing clubs $3 / 3$, this 3 NT will roll home.

On another day, INT would be too high. I $\downarrow$ -IV-INT-Pass is enough for me. A line of N/S plus 150 in your club would indicate good bridge.

Board 5. N/S. Dealer North

```
\ J5
    `Q 10 3
    - 10982
    &Q 7 5 3
```

```
A A 2
* AK 864
- Q 7 }
% J 106
& KQ 8 764 
` J
- K 3
& 984
- 109
- 9752
- AJ54
\& AK 2
```

East has a Three Spades opener. Whatever your style.

Most will play there and make an easy +140 . Those partnerships who play Three Spades as sound are at risk of a raise to Four Spades by West. Unfortunately, South has an obvious club lead and an early demise beckons.
Board 6. E/W. Dealer East

- K 6
- Q 952
- A 1093
\& K 76

```
A103 & 98542
` JIO4
                                    ` K763
* KQ 8 72
- J64
& 104
* 3
```

4 Q J 7

- A 8
- 5
\& A Q J 9852
At matchpoints, the minor suit game is 3NT. North's diamond intermediates combine for a second stopper. Ten tricks in 3NT (430) will beat eleven in clubs (400). If unopposed, is-IP-3e-3NT. If West sticks in a diamond overcall, East had better not treat it too seriously.

Board 7. All. Dealer South

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Q } 7 \\
& \text { Q J } 6 \\
& \text { Q J } 93 \\
& \text { K } 982
\end{aligned}
$$

```
& &2 &J109
`AKIO82 `4
* AK76 * 108542
&A & J106
    & A864
-9753
* -
&Q % 54 3
```

Should East respond to a One Heart opener by partner with only five points? If he doesn't he risks partner possibly declaring in a $4 / \mathrm{l}$ fit, vulnerable. Rarely a good outcome.

If East does respond is another danger lurks... West rebids a "Game Forcing" 3D, intending to follow with 3S...... unless East finds an undisciplined Pass. Only results merchants would approve.

Board 8. None. Dealer West

> 965
> 9863
> 7
> A10732

```
上 K 842 Q QJ3
- K 54
- Q 864
- K 105
品 5
98
- A 107
\(\bullet 2\)
- AJ932
- K Q 64
```

Love All is "bidders' vulnerability," and NorthSouth should heed that. Defending INT or 29 for $+50 / 100$ will be no good when $+110 / 130$ is possible in clubs. If East opens IH, South should double despite having only three spades.

If East opens INT, the dinosaurs with a natural Two Diamond overcall available had better hope for a second chance to bid clubs. The rest of us would have to risk a 2NT overcall (showing either both minors or any strong two suiter is best).

Board 9. E/W. Dealer North

- A 32
- J64
- K 1094
\& 985

| ¢ Q 86 | ¢ KJ 107 |
| :---: | :---: |
| - AQ 53 | -1098 |
| - J 8 | - A76 |
| \& 642 | Q Q 73 |

\& A 642
Q Q 73
954

- K72
- Q 532
\& KJIO
Lots of passes and INT by West, so let's focus on the play. North starts with a diamond to the Queen and the defence clears the diamonds. Declarer starts spades and North ducks twice, knowing to do so because South shows an odd number. If declarer uses the second spade as an entry to run a heart to the Jack, he is in trouble. A heart to the Queen and clear the hearts would have given him seven tricks.

Board IO. All. Dealer East

```
- 10976532
--
- K 10872
\& Q
```

```
- AQJ
-K7
QJ95 \(\quad 643\)
\& 1084 KJ932
```

    - 84
    ```
    - 84
    - J 986543
    - J 986543
    - A
    - A
    765
```

    765
    ```

East-West belong in 3NT. If unopposed, leI \(\uparrow\)-I -3NT seems reasonable. Eleven tricks all day long.

If South thinks this is a good hand introduce an anaemic seven card suit, minus IIOO is in the offing. However, if North introduces his even-more-anaemic seven card suit, he can make seven tricks for a top. How bizarre.
```

Board II. None. Dealer South
\& JIO 5 3
`Q IO
- Q 1065
\& A }6

| - 8 | 4 | K 97 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - AKJ 74 | $\checkmark$ | 832 |
| - K 82 | $\checkmark$ | AJ 943 |
| \% J 852 | d | K 7 |
|  | - AQ642 |  |
|  | - 965 |  |
|  | - 7 |  |
|  | Q Q 1093 |  |

```

Deep Finesse can make Five Hearts. My guess is that nine tricks will be more common than eleven. Some will stop in Three Hearts after | \(\uparrow-2 \uparrow-2^{\vee}-3^{\vee}\) - Pass. Most will bid \(4 \vee\) with the East hand. A diamond lead may scare West into banging out the top hearts to avoid a ruff... Bingo! A passive defence may see declarer use a diamond entry to finesse in trumps. Then a diamond ruff and two black Aces \(=\) one down.

Board I2. N/S. Dealer West
¢ 985
- 1094
- Q 82
\& J 873
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline ¢ KJ742 & & ¢ 10 \\
\hline - AJ3 & & - KQ 872 \\
\hline - J73 & & -1054 \\
\hline \& 104 & & Q Q 952 \\
\hline & - AQ63 & \\
\hline & - 65 & \\
\hline & - AK96 & \\
\hline & \& AK 6 & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

South will open 2NT and North should pass. A probable spade lead will allow 2NT to make four diamonds and two in each black suit. N/S plus 120.

Those Norths who bid an optimistic 3NT ("because of the game bonus") don't properly appreciate how match pointed pairs scoring works. Assuming 120 is the datum, plus 600 would score \(98 \%\) of the matchpoints. But plus 150 from a defensive error is still scoring about \(90 \%\), whereas minus 100 scores \(5 \%\). Gambling \(45 \%\) of the board on a misdefence to gain an extra \(8 \%\) is a losing strategy.

Board I3. All. Dealer North
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{\multirow[t]{4}{*}{\[
\begin{aligned}
& Q \\
& \text { Q } 10932 \\
& 9765 \\
& \& Q 32
\end{aligned}
\]}} \\
\hline & & \\
\hline & & \\
\hline & & \\
\hline ¢ K 10865 & & ¢ AJ 32 \\
\hline - 7 & & - AK 86 \\
\hline - A 1082 & & - K43 \\
\hline - J 64 & & \% 109 \\
\hline 4 & 974 & \\
\hline \(\checkmark\) & Q 54 & \\
\hline - & Q J & \\
\hline & AK 875 & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Not everyone will bid Four Spades. IP-I安-2 Pass would not be stupid. If South sticks in a club overcall, West has more options. Double might again miss the game, but a stretch to Two Spades should prompt East to bid four. Eleven tricks are obvious with all these quacks falling. Sitting Ducks

Board I4. None. Dealer East
```

    A AJ86
    * 9765
    * A9652
    0-
    Q Q 5 2
    - J42
        * AQ 3
    Q QJ73
        - 108
        &Q104 (e)87653
            < K 1074
            ` K 108
    - K4
    & AK92
    ```

Deep Finesse again makes twelve tricks in spades, but most will make fewer. NorthSouth may bid le-I-INT-2\% (Checkback Stayman) -24-44. Those who don't play Checkback are going to have a problem with the North hand.

But not if South belongs to the school which opens One Spade. Not my preference as I would hate I 4 -Pass-INT- Pass- Now What? We've wrong-sided the No Trump contracts, we can miss a big fit elsewhere and I wouldn't know whether to Pass.

Board I5. N/S. Dealer South
\[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { KJ7 } \\
& \text { AJ8763 } \\
& \text { KQJ5 }
\end{aligned}
\]
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline ¢ 105432 & & ¢ Q 96 \\
\hline - Q 1095 & & - K2 \\
\hline - AK 83 & & - QJ62 \\
\hline \% - & & \% 8763 \\
\hline & - A 8 & \\
\hline & \(\checkmark 4\) & \\
\hline & - 109754 & \\
\hline & \% A 10942 & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Six Clubs is better than the slams we have seen so far. Take three top major suit tricks and cross-ruff the next nine. A trump lead would scupper that plan, but West will find that too difficult.

Auction? Maybe Pass-IV-2ヶ-2『-3e-3s (4 \({ }^{\text {th }}\) suit Game Forcing)- 3NT- 4e (slam try)-4s (cue bid) - 6\%. It will be easier if South responds 2 C , downsizing the weak diamonds.
Board 16. E/W. Dealer West
\[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { J982 } \\
& \text { A644 } \\
& \text { Q } 107 \\
& \text { K } 96
\end{aligned}
\]
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline ¢ Q 1065 & ¢ 3 \\
\hline - 1095 & - 732 \\
\hline - K & - AJ965 \\
\hline \& Q J 743 & \% A 1082 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { AK } 74 \\
& \text { K Q } 8 \\
& 8432 \\
& 5
\end{aligned}
\]

A part-score battle, where the pairs experts excel. South opens IV in fourth seat and raises 14 to 24. That comes round to East, who realises that defending (a fitting) Two Spades is unlikely to score well. He balances with either a double or 2NT (minors) and West bids 3C, which should be made. Now South is in the balancing seat and can improve his score by bidding 3s.

Important point for West and North. Partner has bid your values, don't hang him by bidding one more. The pairs experts will double you and you will end up with a bottom. And an unhappy partner who may be reluctant to balance again.

Board I7. None. Dealer North
```

- A 103
- J 9
- J 9843
864

```
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline ¢ 872 & ¢ 96 \\
\hline - AKQ 874 & -10532 \\
\hline - A 7 & - Q 62 \\
\hline - J 7 & \& AK95 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
- KQJ54
- 6
- K 105
\& Q 1032
East-West should reach Four Hearts after South opens One Spade. The defence takes two spades and a diamond; plus 420 should score well. South might save a few points by bidding Four Spades. If doubled, the trick target is eight, for minus 300. Careful play is required- establish diamonds whilst retaining a trump entry to dummy.

Failure to double Four Spades should give a poor score to East-West. But not as poor as going down in Five Hearts.
Board I8. N/S. Dealer East
4 K 98
- A 7654
- 76

K K 85
```

\& J75 32
| KQ
K92 JI08543
\nabla J
\&A94 \& QJ73
A A 104
- 109832
- A Q
2 1062

```

West should open INT. Do we really want to have to rebid those spades over a two-level response? East should transfer to diamonds24 for some, 2NT for some, 3e for some. This will make it very difficult for North-South to find their Three Heart contract. My guess is that if one of them bids Three Hearts, the other will ignore my diatribe on Hand 16 and bid the heart game. Without a favourable lead, even Three Hearts needs an endplay.

Board I9. E/W. Dealer South
- QJ76
- KJ72
- Q 3
\& 654
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline ¢ K 1054 & & - 92 \\
\hline - 94 & & - AQ 1086 \\
\hline - A98764 & & - K 105 \\
\hline \% 7 & & 2 A 82 \\
\hline & A 83 & \\
\hline & - 53 & \\
\hline & J2 & \\
\hline & - K Q J & 93 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Another bad slam. Six diamonds is worse than bad.... Trumps \(2 / 2\) (or a lucky guess), spade Ace onside, heart King/Jack onside. Not even 10\%. Some will chance their luck having bypassed 3NT. They will wrongly think that Five diamonds will be outscored by a line of 630s. However, to make 630 after a club lead, East would need to risk the double heart finesse before cashing diamonds. Most will take their seven top tricks and finesse the Heart Queen for plus 600.
Board 20. All. Dealer West
4 -
- 108763
-KJ762
KJ5

- 10974
- Q J 2
- 95
- A 1087

Most East-Wests will be in Four Spades. Perhaps 14-4Y (Splinter)-49. The 4/0 trump split will cause a problem unless North leads a diamond. We can see that Deep Finesse copes. But how after, say, three rounds of clubs? Insomniacs may skip the next paragraph.

To save some others a sleepless night, she builds a second diamond trick (the eight) combined with a dummy reversal (ruff two clubs in hand, so that dummy has the longer trump). Careful timing is required, draw only one trump on discovering the break, and do not ruff a heart.

Board 2I. N/S. Dealer North
```

- 10652
- A 1042
- Q 4
K K 7

```
```

ค A 8

- KQ953
- AJ2
- K 109853
\& $A$ Q 9
\& 1084
- KJ4
- J 876
- 76
\& 1632

```

East may open a weak Two Diamonds if that is in his armoury. West does best just to bid \(3 N T\); the same contract is reached if East passes and West opens 2NT. A spade lead is likely, but East's intermediate spades are too powerful. The defence are likely to take a trick in every suit except diamonds, for 430 to East/West.

Meanwhile, Deep Finesse adds another one to her tally of bad slams. But only if Six Diamonds is played by West, avoiding a club lead through the Ace-Queen.

Board 22. E/W. Dealer East
```

\& QJIO6
Q Q9

- 83
\& A 8 742

```
```

4 K 8
` 2
AKQ9742 J6
5 % KJIO9

```
& A9542
```

\& A9542
`10654` 10654
-105
-105
\& Q 6

```
& Q 6
```

West has a dilemma after $1 \vee-2 \vee-2 \vee-$ ? Those who bash 3NT will be rewarded. As usual, making Five Diamonds (600) will be outscored by 630 or, more likely 660 after a spade lead. Even if generous defenders allow an overtrick in 5D, plus 620 is still not enough.

But the real bonus goes to the North-South pairs who traded on the vulnerability to save for 500 in Four Spades doubled. Either South makes a substandard overcall or North sticks in a takeout double after 1 $\uparrow$ - $2 \downarrow$.

Board 23. All. Dealer South

- 97
- A 10
- A 8654
- KJ 42

| 102 | AKJ54 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Q9854 | KJ6 |
| J92 | KQ 3 |
| Q96 | 75 |

4 Q 863

- 732
- 107
- A 1083

If North opens One diamond, East has a choice between overcalling One Spade or INT. The latter works well as West can transfer to the best spot of Two Hearts, shutting out North's Two Club rebid in the process. A diamond ruff restricts West to IIO. If North does manage to reach Three Clubs, he can be excused for mis-guessing trumps. Minus 100 would still beat minus IIO.

Board 24. None. Dealer West

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { J J } 6 \\
& \text { KQ62 } \\
& \text { J } 75 \\
& \text { J } 82
\end{aligned}
$$

| ¢ A 985 |  | K Q 10 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - A 85 | $\uparrow$ | - |
| - AQ 2 | - | 109863 |
| \% 953 | 2 | AKQ 74 |
|  | ¢ 432 |  |
|  | - JI09743 |  |
|  | - K 4 |  |
|  | \& 106 |  |

Deep Finesse can make a poor Six No Trump or an even worse Seven Spades as well as the good Six Diamonds and best Six Clubs. If it was up to me, I would confiscate all the matchpoints from those in the poor slams and redistribute them to those in Six Clubs.

Can your system reach Six Clubs after West opens INT? Maybe if you transfer to clubs rather than diamonds reflecting the suit disparity. Or if you have a minor suit Stayman bid.

Board 25. E/W. Dealer North

```
    Q Q 7
    ` A 10
    K KJ854
    & K976
& 1042
4.98653
\vee J87532 『 Q
* 102 & A 7 3
&Q5 A 1032
    A AKJ
    v K964
    - Q96
    &J84
```

If North-South are still awake after their recent run of spectating, the next two are for them. Too bad if you only played 24 boards! This one is a straightforward $1 \leqslant-1 \vee-29-3 N T$. After dislodging the diamond Ace, South has nine easy tricks. A tenth can come from hearts.

Board 26. All. Dealer East

- KQJ
- Q 1075
- K 10
- AQ63

```
& 109874 632
\veeA P9862
Q932 - 86
& 1095 J842
4 A 5
- KJ43
- AJ754
K 7
```

33 points and a $4 / 4$ fit point toward Six Hearts. Perhaps $1 \diamond-1 \vee-3 \vee-4 N T-5 C / *$ (whichever shows $0 / 3$ key cards)- 6甲. Even if the heart Ace takes an honour, one club ruff and a careful management of entries will overcome the $4 / \mathrm{I}$ trump break.

Some matchpoints hogs (knowing that 1440 beats 1430) will play in 6NT and will need to find the Queen of diamonds. Discovering the 4/I heart break will tilt the odds in favour of West having it.

Board 27. None. Dealer South

> | 875 |
| :--- |
| KJ754 |
| K 103 |
| 4 |



East-West may bid IV-IC-INT-3NT. The cards don't lie well, but a diamond lead to the ten and Ace will give East a chance. A winning line is spade to the King, club to hand and a diamond to the nine. Well done to those who found it.

South is unlikely to find a heart lead against this auction or the Strong No Trumpers' INT-2@$2 \vee-3 N T$. But the trendy lead from three small (clubs in this instance) should also beat the game.

```
Board 28. N/S. Dealer West
    - J542
    - AKQ 6
    - J62
        - 76
\(\begin{array}{ll}\text { K } 76 & \text { AQ983 } \\ 103 & 975 \\ \text { A7543 } & \text { - } 109\end{array}\)
    \(\pm 10\)
    - J842
    - K Q 1098
    - 853
```

East opens One Spade and West should raise to 24. East will bid game and make eleven tricks easily by playing spades correctly (Ace then King). In fact playing spades incorrectly (King first) is still ok as the clubs provide an entry for the third round finesse.

One way to score badly is 14-INT-2e-2sPass. I would blame West. That sequence typically delivers two spades and 6/8 points.

Board 29. All. Dealer North


This time it is North who opens One Spade, raised by South, perhaps after a Two Hearts overcall. North tries for game with Three Diamonds and those who value Jacks will accept. My sympathy here to those NorthSouth pairs who subsided in a spade partial.

East will lead the heart King and best is to duck. Winning with the ace, drawing trumps and playing a heart towards the Jack also succeeds, as East would have no good continuation.

Board 30. None. Dealer East

```
- J 1052
- KQ 5
- KJ742
2
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline ¢ K 74 & & 4 Q 63 \\
\hline - AJ 87 & & -106432 \\
\hline -10865 & & - 93 \\
\hline \& KQ & & \& 862 \\
\hline & - A 98 & \\
\hline & \(\checkmark 9\) & \\
\hline & - A Q & \\
\hline & \& AJ10 & 753 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
```

This might start Pass-I IV. South has no wish to defend and expresses his extra values with a jump to Three Clubs. North's 3NT should close the auction. This contract would be in danger if North took two club finesses. Unfortunately for the defence, he cannot do this and many declarers will emerge with eleven tricks. To prevent minus 460, West must win the heart lead and switch to spades before his clubs are dislodged.

Board 3I. N/S. Dealer South

- 1087
- J 87
- K Q 8
\& K 973
$\uparrow K$
$\vee$ Q $1093 \quad \downarrow 54$
- A $\quad 109765432$

A 108542 QJ

- A965432
- AK62
- J
* 6

This might start Pass-I IV. South has no wish to defend and expresses his extra values with a jump to Three Clubs. North's 3NT should close the auction. This contract would be in danger if North took two club finesses. Unfortunately for the defence, he cannot do this and many declarers will emerge with eleven tricks. To prevent minus 460, West must win the heart lead and switch to spades before his clubs are dislodged.

Board 32. E/W. Dealer West

- A 1032
- A 83
- A5 2
\& Q 64

```
& Q J
\ KQ 5
K965
` J109
* QJIO98
-743
& J93
8 1052
- 874
- 7642
- K 6
- AK 87
```

West opens INT and is in minus 500 territory at the wrong vulnerability. However, only those who double INT with a 14 count can take full advantage. If left to play INT, the likely outcome is 200 to North-South. Since North-South can only make part scores, minus 200 won't score well; it rarely does, but there will be plenty of them so not a zero.

I hope that you enjoyed the commentary and that it was helpful. Most of all, I hope that I will meet many of you again at the bridge table in 2023. lain Sime


## 2022 Celtic Winter Pairs - Tuesday



