

# The 2022 Celtic Simultaneous Pairs Wednesдay $7^{\text {th }}$ 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

- AK 93
- A 109
- QJ5 4
\& 6


North will show a balanced $15-17$ by either opening or rebidding INT over I - I that should certainly get South excited. Those who use RKC will find 2 key cards missing and stop in 5\%. Those who just bash slam will find this is their lucky day.

East-West are unlikely to have any say in this auction but will need to find the club lead to hold declarer to 12 tricks.

I expect the score sheet to have North-South scoring between 450 and IIO0, and that top score only if some over-active East-West pair take the very poor sacrifice in 7\%.

Board 2. N/S. Dealer East

```
            4 Q9632
            - K42
            * -
                            &K8765
& -
                                    4 AK 1074
* AQ 6 5 3
                                    ` JIO97
- AK 1092
                                    -74
% 1032
                                    * J }
            J 8 5
            \bullet 8
            * QJ8653
            * AQ9
```

East will usually pass and then this auction could go any of a myriad of ways. South has to decide if his hand is worth an opener; it's certainly an awful 3 at that vulnerability. Many will try $1 \leqslant$, and then West will usually overcall IP but some might pass in the hope of a reopening double from partner. That won't happen as North will bid Is, silencing East, and then to West's delight, he will hear $2 \triangleleft$ on his right. Double now would show the other 2 suits, so West has to bite his tongue and pass, probably ending the auction. Even undoubled East-West will be scoring a minimum of 200.

But will that be enough? If West does overcall IP, North will bid Is, and West will probably end up in $3 \uparrow$. Some brave souls will reach game, which is actually very difficult to beat. It needs a club lead to South, a diamond ruff, another small club and a second diamond ruff.

I suspect most East-West pairs playing in hearts will make 10 tricks, discarding 2 diamonds on the spades and then playing South for the $Q J$.

Board 3. E/W. Dealer South

- 107543
- Q 53
- A832 \& K


A hand with some similarities to board I. The main difference is that any slam bashers will be disappointed this time. There is no place to get rid of that losing singleton eK and only one of the 2 red suit finesses works. There aren't sufficient entries to set up and enjoy the spades.

North-South should not be in slam and indeed at some tables will have difficulty getting to game. South will open IP and West may overcall 20 not particularly advisable at this vulnerability. If South's opener showed a 5card suit, North can happily raise and South will have no problem bidding the game. However, if it only showed 4 or more hearts, then North will probably double, giving South a difficult rebid. He will probably be helped by East who is likely to raise his partner's clubs, possibly pushing South into bidding game.

Any brave or foolhardy West who tries the sacrifice in 5\% at unfavourable vulnerability is likely to come a cropper. After a heart lead to the jack. South should cash his $\vee A$ and his top spades. A diamond to partner's ace for a spade ruff will now net him IIO0, if West later drops the s K , and 1400 if he doesn't.

Board 4. All. Dealer West

```
< KJ8743
    \bulletQ 3
    * K86
    &Q Q
```

```
& Q 102
\veeK1095 『 7642
* 1052 A Q94
AK6 1098
```

```
                            95
```

                            95
    4 A6
    * AJ8
    - J7 }
    & J7542
    ```

At most tables, West will open as dealer either INT(weak) or le (if playing strong NT and 5-card majors). Whichever it is, North will normally show his spade suit and probably play at the 2-level. 8 tricks is the limit losing 2 clubs, 2 diamonds and 1 heart, so anyone getting to the 3-level is likely to get a poor score.

Board 5. N/S. Dealer North
- K 96
- K8642
- QJ96
\(\%\) Q


There will be some who will open the North hand, but at this vulnerability and with such a poor long suit, it is not to be recommended. Those who do will probably find it difficult to convince partner that North-South do not have any good game available and are likely land in a questionable 3NT. This should fail but might make on a spade lead, as the defence have to find the heart switch when in with \(\forall A\) to beat it.

Those who pass will find their partner opening the auction with either is or a weak INT. The latter will probably lead to South playing, and probably making 2NT, while the former is likely to encourage West, with his major holdings, to double. As East-West cannot
even make 14, whatever happens now will probably give North-South a positive score.

Overall, if you are North-South and you end up with a negative score expect few MPs.
```

Board 6. E/W. Dealer East
- Q J
- AKQ9752
- K 4
\& 87
- A 1086
- J 106
$\bullet 3$
- Q 10
- A98632
\& K 1095
\& J 3
¢ 942
- 84
- J75
\& A Q 642

```

At most tables the auction will start with 3 passes, leaving North to open IV. If EastWest are silent, he will probably rebid \(3^{\circ}\) over his partner's INT response and play there. As long as East steers clear of leading \(\forall A\), North should be limited to his 7 trump tricks and the \& for one down.

East-West are unlikely to get to play this hand, but should they land in a spade part score they might do rather well if they guess to drop the doubleton \(\uparrow \mathrm{Q}\) J, with the friendly lie of the club suit.
```

Board 7. All. Dealer South

```
```

        & -
    ```
        & -
        - QJ87
        - QJ87
        -Q Q10862
        -Q Q10862
        * A 1096
```

        * A 1096
    ```


A very interesting hand for North-South and I expect a variety of scores. After South opens I 4 , some Wests might want to show their rather poor 6-card suit. North, with both red suits, will double, and South will confirm their diamond fit. Even without the club intervention, the same situation is likely to arise where North will have to choose
between the matchpoint-oriented bid of 3NT or the diamond game.

In 3NT North as declarer will have chances due to the lucky lie of the spade suit. If clubs have been bid the lead will be 9 Q . If declarer takes this, enters dummy in diamonds and plays \(\$ \mathrm{~A}\) then \(\$ \mathrm{Q}\) exposing the good news in that suit, the defence has to be careful to take their 5 top tricks. If there is no club bid, the likely lead is a small heart, after which there is no defence to \(3 N T\).

5 can always be made, again due to the fortunate lie of the spade suit, but many of those in 3NT who are successful will find they make 10 tricks for a better score.

Board 8. None. Dealer West
\[

\]
```

\$8632

- K86
- A43
* AQ94 * 1087532
2 107 % 64
- A 7
-Q 10752
- K 6
\& AK 52

```

North-South have a combined 25 -count but no game is on in reality. The double dummy analysis shows 4s as making but then dropping the offside \(\Phi \mathrm{Q}\) is easy if you can see all 4 hands.
Some may open the North hand with a Lucas 24, showing 5 spades and a minor, if that is part of their armoury. This might be passed out. Otherwise, they should find the club fit, but South might try \(3 N T\) to protect his diamond holding. A heart lead and diamond return will be fatal, and even on a diamond lead declarer has to find that QQ to make. If South decides his side should play in clubs, declarer might well get the spades right, but a club contract should still be limited to 10 tricks at most.

Board 9. E/W. Dealer North
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline & 3 & \\
\hline & K Q 3 & \\
\hline & AK 1063 & 32 \\
\hline & 952 & \\
\hline & & -1094 \\
\hline & & - J62 \\
\hline & & - QJ84 \\
\hline & & 9 1064 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
© AK7652
- A8 8
- -

2 \(A K J 7\)
North will open 1*, South will respond 14, and North will rebid \(2 \downarrow\). Thereafter I expect to see auctions at different tables diverge. Some Souths will see it as a bad misfit and, despite their I9-count, settle for 3NT. Others will try 3\%, describing their hand and hoping perhaps for delayed spade support. It will, however, produce 3NT from North. At this point again, South may well decide to look no further but some brave souls might try a quantitative 4NT which North, with no more than he has shown, should pass.

However, without any doubt, there will be some overbidders who will get to slam, and justice will definitely not be done to the poor East-West pairs sitting opposite them. By giving up a spade early, the \(3-3\) split in that suit will give them 2 clubs, 2 diamonds 3 hearts and 5 spades. It is a horrible slam with no better chance of making than this \(36 \%\) chance on the 3-3 spade split.
```

Board IO. AlI. Dealer East
4 Q 6
`KJ874     * A 106     & A 7 4     -10754     * A 105     \bullet Q }     KJ - 972     &Q953 KJIO62         A AKJ8        ` 632
* Q 8 543
\& 8

```

After 3 passes, North will open either IV or some range of INT. If the latter, then unless they can show a 5 -card major in response to Stayman, North-South will come to grief in the

NT game as a club is the likely lead from either defender. If they can show the 5 -card heart suit, they will play in the much better \(4 \boldsymbol{V}\).

On a club lead, declarer should ruff a club a trick 2. He can come back to hand with \(\lfloor Q\) and ruff another club, before advancing his last trump from the South hand. He can afford to lose 3 trumps as he has the spade suit on which to discard losing diamonds. If he puts in the King, it will win and he can play another trump before starting on his spades. As the last trump will then be with West who also has 4 spades he will make the game.

On the other hand, if he puts in the Queen, a diamond now will sink the contract. He will have to play on the spade suit but the last round will be ruffed by East's \(\uparrow 9\), and he will still have 2 further trump losers.

I suspect that any North-South playing a heart part score should fare well.
```

Board II. None. Dealer South
\& K9854
* 9863
- A2
8 82

```


The West hand will normally be opened \(1 \%\), and if North remains silent will rebid IV over his partner's \(I \downarrow\). East will then use \(4^{\text {th }}\) suit forcing, IS or 2s according to agreement. Now a club rebid from West will excite his partner who will set the suit with a club raise. A diamond cue now from West should ensure they reach the good club slam.

If North overcalls It on his ropy suit, as he really should non-vulnerable, he could cause East-West problems as East has a difficult bid now. He is too strong for 3NT, and if he doubles, he may have problems convincing his partner that they don't have a \(4-4\) heart fit. He will probably bid \(2 \downarrow\), but, by using up a round of bidding, North will have made it significantly more difficult for his opponents to agree the club suit, and they are likely to end up in the

No Trump game. This has 10 top tricks, and indeed I 2 if a diamond lead isn't found, so will comfortably beat all those who play in clubs but don't reach slam.

Board I2. N/S. Dealer West


North has a routine IY opener and East an equally routine double. South now can bid is and West INT. North might fancy his chances of beating this but will probably bid 2e. Double from East is now clearly penalty and this might encourage West to double South's correction to \(2 \uparrow\). That would not be a good idea playing teams, but at pairs, knowing partner has an opening hand, and that declarer's suits are breaking badly, opportunities have to be taken.

The defence, however, has to be careful to beat \(2 \downarrow\). After the lead of Q , declarer will win and play a club to the Ace. The defence should cash one diamond then cash the A and play 2 rounds of trumps. Declarer makes one diamond, 4 trumps and his Q and but no more.

Board I3. All. Dealer North
- KJ92
- K 987
- QJ3
\& 97

- Q 104
- AQJ4
-K 1042
- J 8

After a pass from North, South will double East's opener. West has an easy pass,
indeed a perfect description of his hand. North has an excellent passed hand and should bid asking partner to pick a major. East will now bid 3 and South has options. If he passes, he will score 100 for few match points, If he bids \(3 \uparrow\), as long as his partner has the good sense to pass this, he will score 140 for a better result. It is not easy for North-South to find a double, but any pair that does will be rewarded with 200 and a very good matchpoint score.

Board I4. None. Dealer East
```

\& AKQJ73
\ K

- AJ96
* 76

| ¢ 1065 | ¢ 8 |
| :---: | :---: |
| -- | - A Q J 10762 |
| - Q 1087542 | - K |
| \& A 2 | \% J 1083 |
| 4 942 |  |
| -98543 |  |
| - 3 |  |
| 2 KQ 94 |  |

```

Many Easts will open this hand 3 , but those playing a more modern style will open 4\%. This aggressive action will work against them. After 2 passes, North now has a routine 4s bid, and this contract is unstoppable. Even on the trump lead (best), declarer can ruff 2 diamonds and only lose one trick in each of the suits outside trumps.

But notice how much harder it is for NorthSouth over a 1 Y or 34 opener. Over \(3 \boldsymbol{y}\), North has to jump to game if he wants to be in it. A gentle 3s will elicit a clear-cut pass from South.

Over IV, West will respond INT and now North can either double or bid his spade suit. East will probably rebid his hearts, but whatever North does, short of a lunge into game, he will get no encouragement from South and may well miss the good game. If after 24 or 34 from East, North doubles to show his strength, South might be tempted to pass. If it is \(3 \%\), that will yield a mere 100 for North-South. If they have doubled 2母, they should expect very few matchpoints indeed.

Board I5. N/S. Dealer South
\[
\begin{aligned}
& 7654 \\
& +A 83 \\
& 107 \\
& +\quad \text { AK42 }
\end{aligned}
\]
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline - A Q & - J3 \\
\hline - 962 & - QJ75 \\
\hline - AK32 & - 964 \\
\hline * Q 1065 & \& j 973 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
- K 10982
- K 104
- QJ85
- 8

Playing strong NT, West will open INT and play there. Playing weak NT, he will open one of his minors and rebid INT after partner's response of IV, whether or not South overcalls 14. East might pass West's opener, which would leave the auction clear for North-South.

If there is no spade overcall, INT by West appears to be bound for one off on any lead. Even if the spade lead is found, the defence can only take 3 spades, 2 hearts and 2 clubs, while declarer will play on clubs to ensure his 6 tricks.

If South does overcall is on his passed hand at adverse vulnerability, North will raise him, and +140 will be a good score.

Board I6. E/W. Dealer West
```

4 A 3

* JIO9643
* KJ5
\&2

```
```

Q Q5 K9
\AK75 Q Q2

* 63 AQ98742
* AJ1097 K3
\& J1087642
\bullet 8
- 10
* Q864

```

The match points will go to those East-West pairs who manage to stop in 3NT. If West opens 1\&, North at this vulnerability will probably overcall \(2 \boldsymbol{\text { forcing }}\) East to show his diamonds at the 3 -level. Now \(3>\) from West would usually ask for a heart stop but that is not what he wants to know. Most Wests will hold their noses and bid 3NT in hope.

On the likely heart lead, the diamond suit can be brought in to give II tricks. On the unlikely lead of \(\uparrow\), the same is still true, but what a worried man West will be.

Board I7. None. Dealer North
- 82
- K
- AK 108762

865


The North hand is too good for a nonvulnerable \(3 \$\) opener, so I expect most Norths will open 14. If East-West remain silent, South will bid IV then 2 over North's \(2 \star\) rebid. This will bring \(3 \star\) from North and South will now bid the diamond game. This will be an easy II tricks.

If East decides that his scrappy spade suit is worth an overcall, then South will double for take-out and might be tempted to try 3NT over North's \(2 \downarrow\) in anticipation of a spade lead. If West obediently leads his partner's suit, North-South will get an undeserved top with 12 tricks rolling in, though with that overcall it cannot be said that the bottom for East-West is undeserved.

However, North-South cannot go wrong as even if the club lead is found, the 4-4 split produces the same number of matchpoints as 5

Board I8. N/S. Dealer East

> A Q J 2
> 42
> AQ J 52
> 104
```

\& K63
\vee J9765

- }
* A 9 8 7
\& 10974
\vee Q 103
-43
\&KJ62

```

I suspect most tables will end up in 24 played by South after the auction 1\(\rangle-14-24\), with East-West silent throughout. The matchpoints will be determined by the lead and line taken by declarer.
On the likely lead of \(\downarrow 9\), the only way to make the contract is to go up with the sA and play 2 rounds of trumps. That will limit the defence to one trick in each of spades and diamonds and 2 in hearts. And, even then, declarer still has to guess the clubs correctly. Any NorthSouth pair with a positive score will probably get a good share of the matchpoints.

Board I9. E/W. Dealer South
\[
\begin{aligned}
& \qquad \quad J 74 \\
& \vdash \quad 1098 \\
& 10863 \\
& \text { Q } 84
\end{aligned}
\]
```

\&Q 1065
`Q 7 }
A
* AKJ5432

- 752
    * AJ
\&A95 \& KJ7
\& K9832
` -
    - KQ94
8 10632

```

Unless South has a Lucas 24 in his armoury to show a weak hand with 5 Spades and a minor, there will be 3 passes round to East who has to decide how to handle this exceptionally strong 21 -count. A IV opening would give him no sensible rebid unless his partner raised his suit. Even for those playing Acol 2 s , this hand is too strong for that. In my opinion, this hand merits a 20 game force.

Over the usual \(2 \checkmark\) reply he will get the news he wants to hear when his rebid of \(2 \varphi\) is raised to 3 . He can now safely roll out RKC, or
whatever Ace-ask he is using, and when he subsequently finds no kings opposite will stop in \(6 \%\).

West's hand is a bit of a disappointment, and the slam has to rely on the club finesse, but this works and the contract makes exactly. Any adventurers who try the NT slam will find it plays exactly as \(6>\) does, but the poor EastWest pair opposite them will get very few match points, merely having been spectators to the hand.
```

Board 20. All. Dealer West
\& 107
\ K 108
- AK 3
\& 109752

| - Q 4 |  | - AJ85 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - A 742 |  | - 653 |
| -109642 |  | - Q 85 |
| 2 Q 8 |  | 2 AK6 |
| 4 | K9632 |  |
|  | QJ 9 |  |
|  | J 7 |  |
|  | J 43 |  |

```

East is likely to end up as declarer in INT. After passes from West and North, those playing a weak NT will bid INT and that should end the auction. For those playing a strong NT East will open IC and rebid INT. Even if South comes in with a dubious is overall on that moth-eaten suit, West will double, and East will then bid INT.

Whatever the lead, declarer is likely to go for the diamond suit using a black queen as entry to the West hand. If North plays low in tempo, declarer could well go wrong inserting the \(\downarrow 8\) and losing to the jack. As long as this pitfall is avoided, 7 tricks in INT should be close to an average.

Board 21. N/S. Dealer North


This hand could lead to a bidding battle, with North adamant about his quality spades and diamonds, South stressing his long club suit and West pursuing his heart suit and shapely hand. East won't have much to say apart possibly from a gentle raise of his partner's hearts.

If West wins the bidding battle, he should be held to 8 tricks - his own 6 trumps, a top spade and a spade ruff with \(\geqslant\) J. Nonvulnerable, as long as East-West stop below game, this should be a good score.

If North-South end up playing in clubs, they can do well. As West has no trump to lead, South can come to II tricks. On the likely heart lead this will be easy, and indeed he can come to 12 tricks with a lot of ruffing. On a non-heart lead he will have to give up a heart and if East wins that and pulls one round of trumps, he won't be able to time the play to catch East 0 .

Board 22. E/W. Dealer East
\[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { - } 107532 \\
& \text { - K } 1094 \\
& \text { - } 8 \\
& \text { 2 A } 83 \\
& \text { - } A \text { Q } \\
& \text { KQ7 } \\
& \text { - Q } 9 \\
& \text { - } 8765 \\
& \text { - AJ95 } \\
& \text { Q Q } 65
\end{aligned}
\]

4 K 84
- J 2
- 10643

2KJ74

At tables where East-West are playing a strong NT, East will open INT, and is likely to play there. On the probable heart lead, declarer will probably start by running 210 . It
looks natural for North to duck. If he does so and takes the third round of the suit, declarer will only have one entry to dummy to enjoy his remaining club, and thus only one chance to play either diamonds or spades from table.

However if North does take the first round, this Greek gift gives declarer plenty of opportunity to find losing plays in diamonds and spades.
Any North who decides to take advantage of the vulnerability and show both majors, may well end up in a doubled part score and come to grief.

Board 23. All. Dealer South


```

- J 82
- AKJ872

```

- AK 103
- 86532
- AK 7

9
With a combined 25 -count and no fit I expect to see some North-South pairs end up in 3NT. South might well open his 5 -card heart suit, but nothing works well in this contract and eventually East-West will find out they are the ones with 5 heart tricks. The double dummy analysis tells us that game can be made in clubs. To do this, declarer must win the lead in dummy, take the trump finesse, and cash a top trump noting the fall of the 10 from East. After exiting with a heart, declarer can then use the remaining entries to the South hand to ruff hearts and will end up catching the trump Queen on the last ruff.

That may be what is possible, but I suspect that any North-South pair who manage to stay in a making part score will do well.

Board 24. None. Dealer West
\[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { A Q } 43 \\
& \text { Q } 64 \\
& \text { KJ } 1062 \\
& 6
\end{aligned}
\]
\begin{tabular}{ll}
106 & ¢ 982 \\
10973 & V 8 \\
A94 & Q853 \\
AK85 & Q 972
\end{tabular}
- KJ75
- AK 52
- 7
- J 1043

This could be a good hand for East-West pairs playing a weak NT. An Ace and an Ace-King, especially with a stuffy 109xx holding is good enough for a weak INT, and how well NorthSouth do will depend on what defence they use. I could see INT being passed out at a number of tables, and while this will drift 2 or 3 off, it will be poor compensation for NorthSouth with 4s on their way. A 2\& bid from South showing both majors would work on this board. That contract must be played carefully but the defence cannot come near to beating it.

Board 25. E/W. Dealer North
\[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { A Q J } 75 \\
& \text { A } 4 \\
& \text { Q } 1084 \\
& 883
\end{aligned}
\]
```

4.962
K 1083

- J 3
- K 105
- 75
- 9
\& A QJ 642
\& K 10975

$$
\pm 4
$$

- Q 98762
- AKJ632
\% -

```

An easy slam to reach for North-South, providing they look at shape and not just points. South will be showing both his suits after his partner opens I4, and when they find a good fit in diamonds, South will be thinking of great things. Indeed were North's \(\uparrow \mathrm{Q}\) replaced by \(\uparrow \mathrm{K}\), the grand slam would be unstoppable. The play in \(6 \$\) should not prove difficult.

Board 26. All. Dealer East


It is likely to be West that opens this hand in third seat with either INT or le depending on system. Over l\&, North will bid ls, and then East will support his partner's suit at some level. This will probably end the auction. On the lead of a spade honour, declarer can win, clear the trumps and exit with a spade. He will now lose only one spade and one heart for II tricks. On a non-spade lead, South must take the first or second round of hearts and play a spade to hold declarer to 9 tricks. If he doesn't, his partner can be end-played to give declarer 10 tricks.

Over a INT opener, if North has a tool to show spades and a minor, North-South could find their diamond fit, though there is a risk they will play in the 5 -I spade fit as South may assume his partner's minor is the one he doesn't want to hear. This will lead to 9 or 10 tricks depending on the view declarer takes in the trump suit.
I suspect any pair with a positive score on this hand will secure a reasonable number of match points.

Board 27. None. Dealer South
- 1074
- K 95
- 103
- AQJ 32
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline - 92 & & - \(\mathrm{AQJ}^{3}\) \\
\hline -108642 & & - AJ 7 \\
\hline - KJ 7 & & - Q 42 \\
\hline \% K 108 & & 2 764 \\
\hline 4 & K 865 & \\
\hline & Q 3 & \\
\hline & A9865 & \\
\hline & - 95 & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

East-West have the balance of points (just) but cannot make anything. The auction will probably start with 3 passes and East will open fourth in hand. Anyone who misclicks a Pass will have earned himself a good score!
The likely final spot is \(2 \boldsymbol{}\), and decent defence will find 3 club tricks a spade, a diamond, and 2 trumps. There will be a few positive scores for East-West through misdefences, but they will be the exceptions and these East-West pairs will score very well indeed.
Board 28. N/S. Dealer West


This looks like a hand where all roads lead to 3NT, normally played by East. On the diamond lead, if found, declarer will normally be held to 10 tricks. The double dummy analysis says that II can be made but not that requires declarer to duck once, win the second round, then play off 8 winners in the majors, reducing North to 3 cards, so he can be endplayed with his last diamond to lead away from his club holding. That defence will be found at few tables.
However, the diamond lead isn't likely from South, and on any other lead if declarer manages to find the winning club play he will come to 12 tricks. I expect 660 to score about average and any that make 12 tricks will score very well indeed.

Board 29. All. Dealer North
4 K 10982
-K 982
- A 75

22
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline ¢ A 76 & & © Q 4 \\
\hline - AQJ6 & & - 1043 \\
\hline - Q 32 & & - K 6 \\
\hline - J63 & & 2 A Q 10985 \\
\hline & ¢ J 53 & \\
\hline & - 75 & \\
\hline & - J 10984 & \\
\hline & \% K 74 & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

The likely contract is 3NT by either East or West. Some might try \(5 \%\), but on the lie of the cards, this has no chance.
If East is declarer, the lead will usually be \(\gg\). This will set up South's diamonds, but once the eK is knocked out, they will be useless. In the meantime, declarer will have his 5 clubs, a diamond, and will be able to set up a heart to give him 9 tricks, providing he is careful and enters the West hand for the club finesse with PA, not finessing for the \(\uparrow K\).

A spade lead from either side looks as if it might beat 3NT. Declarer will play on clubs and North's spades will be set up, by trick 4. However, after the play of 3 rounds of spades and 6 rounds of clubs, North has problems, as he wants to keep \(\downarrow\), 甲K 9 and his 2 winning spades. While the West hand can come down to \(\vee A Q J\) and \(\$\).
A smart North might try discarding all his low hearts leaving the \(P K\) singleton. Providing South is on the ball and keeps his apparently useless hearts. Declarer could well get this wrong.
Any North-South pair that beats 3NT will get a good match point score, while any EastWest pair making more than 9 tricks will also do well.
- AQ765
\(\stackrel{-}{\bullet}\)
- Q 8763
- A 53


Can North-South manage to stay low on this horrible misfit. Despite their combined 25count, no game will actually make on normal play and defence. South will open IV, second in hand, North will respond I4, and South will rebid his 6-card suit.

Thereafter the auctions will diverge. Some North players might try 2NT and others 3 \(3 \uparrow\), while some might take the view to pass, on the clear misfit. The play in any denomination will not be easy so any North-South pair emerging with a positive score can be fairly confident of a good match point score.

Board 3I. N/S. Dealer South
\[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { J J } 94 \\
& \text { Q J } 974 \\
& \text { J Q } 94
\end{aligned}
\]
```

Q \& K 108

* AK2 『 10863
* AK542 - 73
\& 732 A 1086
\& A6532
>
    * Q 10 86
\& KJ5

```

At most tables West will play this in INT. Those playing a strong NT will open it INT, those playing a weak NT will rebid INT after partner responds IV to his I\$ opening, though a spade overcall by South on that ropy holding could be inconvenient.

Those who opened the strong INT and some of the weak NT openers will get the lead of Q. This gives declarer 3 heart tricks and with the \(\$\) well positioned there are 2 tricks in that suit, 2 in diamonds and I in clubs for +120 .

However, really whatever is led, 8 tricks should be there. If a spade or a diamond is led, declarer can set up 3 diamond tricks, and if a club is led that suit will provide his eighth trick. Anything above 8 tricks should be good for East-West, and anything better than -I20 should be good for North-South.
```

Board 32. E/W. Dea ler West
- J862
- A 5
- 95
AJJ05 2
- 743
- 10864
4 A Q 9
- J 7
- $7432 \quad$ AKQ 106
93 K K 76
- K 105
- KQ 932
- J8
Q Q 84

```

After 2 passes, at some tables East may open 2 NT , but at most tables East will open I and South will overcall IV. West has an easy pass, and most North's having close to a maximum for a passed hand will want to get into the action with 2\%. East now has a difficult problem. He will be very reluctant to pass with a 19 -count and might try \(2 \downarrow\). Some will double but that is dangerous as partner will take it as certain that he has 4 spades. It won't matter on this hand, but it could lead to problems. In actual fact it is quite reasonable on this very strong defensive hand to pass, but it is essential to do so in tempo.
If East does act, South will raise to \(3 \%\), but if not, facing a passed hand, he may well pass \(2 \boldsymbol{2}\). It matters little as there are only 4 losers in a club contract.

There will be some Easts who will be unable to allow the opposition to play the hand when he has a 19-count. Luckily for such a player, his partner has good diamond support, and he should end up with 8 tricks in diamonds for a loss of 100 . This will score better than the IIO for 3\%, unless some brave North-South player finds the aggressive match-point double.

2022 Celtic Winter Pairs - Wednesday 2


\section*{2022 Celtic Winter Pairs - Wednesday 2}
```

