Junior Squad Sim Pairs Monday/Tuesday 3-4.02.2020

Thanks to our commentators:

Andrew Robson

Andrew must be the best-known contributor here, as a leading player, teacher, and writer. But it all started for him as a junior, when he featured on the Great Britain team which won the World Junior Championship in 1989.

Jason Hackett

Jason won the 1994 European Junior Championship and the 1995 World Junior Championship on the Great Britain team. He's gone on to win all the major English events and to represent England many times at Open International level. He was a member of the winning Mossop team in the 2019 transnational European Open Teams.

Ben Norton

Ben is a member of the current England Under-26 team, and has recently earned selection to the Open team in partnership with Mike Bell, making him the first player ever to achieve this double for England.

Michael Byrne

Michael represented England many times in the Under-21 and Under-26 teams, and is now a leading player in the English Open game. He is in his fourteenth year as Squad Leader for the England U-21 team.

Giorgio Provenza

Giorgio is a bridge teacher who especially enjoys the successes of his junior pupils. He has been squad leader for the Under-16 team since 2017. Please contact him with news of any children interested in taking their game to the next level.

Tom Paske

Tom graduated from the Under-25 team in 2015. His partnership with Ed Jones has since gone from strength to strength, notably winning the 2019 transnational European Open Teams.

Shahzaad Natt

Shahzaad signed off from junior bridge playing in partnership with Ben Norton in the England Under-26 team which finished a creditable eighth in the 2019 European Championships. We wish him every success in the Open game.

Mike Bell

Mike played for the England junior team ten or so years ago, and was Giorgio's predecessor running the Under-16 squad. He's had successful partnerships with Michael Byrne and David Gold, and now plays in the Open game with Ben Norton.

Thank you for taking part in this Junior Squad Simultaneous Pairs. I hope you have enjoyed the event and will take pride in having supported our Junior International Teams and the Squad system which supports them.

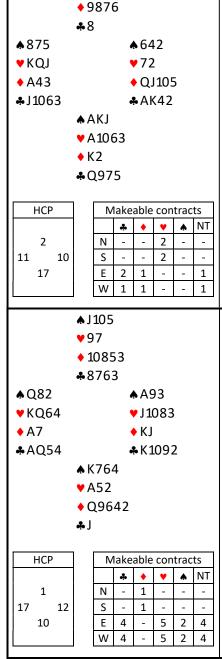
2020 will see our Junior Teams (U16, U21, U26 Women, U26) play in the World Championships in Italy. The EBU provides funding for these teams and this event will help pay for it. Other important areas, such as development and teaching, also require support and that means that the international budgets are never as large as we would wish. We run the Junior teams as economically as possible: players, captains and coaches are unpaid and travel and accommodation are as cheap as we can make them, but money remains very tight.

I very much hope you will enjoy reading the expert commentary, which has been supplied by past and present Junior International players, captains, and coaches. You will see the names of many very well known players, teachers, and writers among them - photographs and biographies are on the EBU website.

I hope also that you will continue to support this event and encourage your club to continue to participate in the future.

Paul Barden Editor

> **♦**Q1093 ♥9854



Board 1:	Dealer Nort		Andrew Robson	
West	North	East	South	
	Pass	Pass	1♥	
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	
Pass	3♥	All pass		

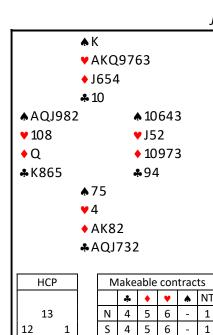
If in doubt, it pays to respond to partner's one-level opener. If partner has a good hand — and in the era of weak twos, it could be really good, you may have a game. If partner is minimum, you may steal the contract from the opponents. After North's 2, South's 2NT shows about 17-18 (pass 2, with 15-16). North hurriedly signs off in 3, wishing she'd passed 1.

West leads ♥K against 3♥, declarer ducking then winning ♥Q with ♥A. With ♦A sitting over ♦K there is no winning line. You'd probably cash four rounds of spades discarding a club (West correctly refraining from ruffing), then lead ♣8. East wins ♣K and switches to ♦Q, covered by ♦K and ♦A. West cashes ♥J and exits with a club, leaving you two down. To escape with one down, you had to run a diamond from dummy after cashing the spades, which looks unnatural to me. E-W +100.

Board 2:	Dealer East	Andrew Robson		
West	North	East	South	
		1NT	Pass	
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	
4♥	All pass			

West uses Stayman, such an important convention at pairs, where the 4-4 fit usually plays a trick better than no trumps.

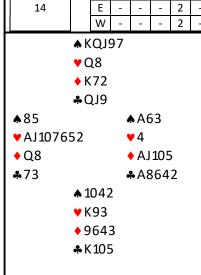
In 3NT, you do not have the time (on a diamond lead) to set up your second spade trick (by leading towards ♠Q), and make only ten tricks. But in 4♥ the trumps give you control of the hand. South leads ♣J, you win and play trumps. South may win the second heart and return a third. You win, cash clubs and diamonds finishing in hand, and lead a spade towards ♠Q. If South ducks smoothly, you might decide to insert ♠8, playing to endplay North, should she hold, say, ♠K10xx. The plan is to let North win cheaply but then have to lead from her ♠K (or give a ruff-and-discard). This unlucky-expert play would hold you to ten tricks, South holding ♠K. Declarers with less imagination or better card reading make eleven, E-W +450.



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Board 3:	Dealer Sout	rable	Andrew Robson	
West	North	East	South	
			1 . *	
1♠	2♥	Pass	3♣	
Pass	4♥	All pass		

The adverse vulnerability puts East-West off from bidding higher – wisely so as 44 doubled would go two down for -500.

Against 4♥, East leads to West's ♠A, felling declarer's bare ♠K. West may switch to ♠Q in the hope of scoring a ruff (should East be able to win the first heart). Declarer wins, draws trumps and, after cashing ♠J to confirm the suit is 4-1, must guess ♣K for her twelfth trick. The indications are that West holds ♣K. It appears he holds more clubs (with only three red cards to East's seven); also East never bid, despite seemingly holding spade support, so probably has a very poor hand. You cross to ♣A and run ♣Q, the ruffing finesse securing a second club trick and a diamond discard. N-S +480.



Board 4:	Dealer West	Jason Hackett		
West	North	East	South	
2♥	2♠	All pass		

Hands with three suits of equal length do not play as well as hands with more shape. So even though the heart suit is strong enough to open 3♥, I'd consider it too dangerous at game all with the 7222 distribution, especially at pairs, and would prefer a 2♥ (or Multi 2♦) opening. Of course North will overcall 2♠ if possible, whereas 3♠ is an uncomfortable stretch, but not wrong, over 3♥. Those who keep their powder dry over 3♥ will be rewarded as spade contracts can be slaughtered by accurate defence. Heart lead and a heart ruff (playing back the ♥7 to indicate a mild preference rather than the ♥J or ♥10 which should show ◆K or singleton), then ♣A, club, win the trump ace and give a club ruff, then either ◆Q or a heart to kill the discard, restricts North to five tricks. Of course the hand plays well in hearts. If West wins the first spade, or ducks and gets a club shift, a heart needs to be played to the ace in order to take a diamond finesse and ditch a black suit loser.

				*	•	*	٨	NT
14			N	-	-	-	-	-
	13		S	-	-	-	-	-
6			Е	2	2	4	2	-
			W	2	2	4	2	-
♦ KJ976								
♥ 7								
		13	13 6	13 S E W	14	14 13 8 N	14 13 S S	14 13 8 N

Makeable contracts

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Board 5: [Dealer North	Jason	Hacke	tt		
West	North	East	South			
	1♠	Pass	2♠			
4♥	All pass					
	_					

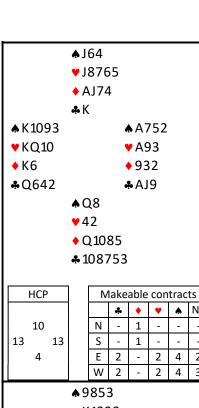
North will open 1♠, and South will make some sort of three-level spade raise (or 2♠ for those playing acol). West now has an easy 4♥ bid but It's not so easy at these colours for north to save in 4♠.

Those left to declare 4♥ will have a big decision at trick one when North leads a spade. Given the bad diamond break, the spade finesse is necessary as there will be no entry to ♣K after ♣A has been driven out. And in view of North's opening bid, it's right to take the finesse: if by some chance it fails, ♥10 is almost certain to be an entry to dummy. If the finesse loses and they cash ♣A at trick two, there will be two discards for your losing diamonds. And if they don't cash it, you'll be able to discard a club on ♠A and hope for diamonds 3-2 — you've lost nothing by trying the finesse.

Those Norths bold enough to save in 4♠ should escape for one down, which may not be such a good board since some declarers will go one down in 4♥.

V /						
◆Q1032						
♣ AJ	6					
^ 2	♠ AQ3					
♥ KQJ9654	v 102					
♦ AK87	♦ 9654					
4 10	♣ K872					
♠ 10	854					
♥ A8	33					
♦ J						
♣ Q9	9543					

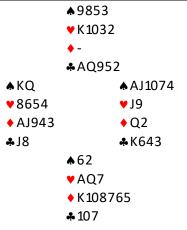
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				*	•	>	٨	NT
11			N	1	-	-	3	-
13	9		S	1	-	-	3	-
7			Ε	-	3	4	1	2
			W	-	3	4	-	2
		-						



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Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable					Jason Hackett			
	West	North	East	South				
			1NT	Pass				
	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass				
	4♠	All pass						

Weak no trumpers will have a simple Stayman auction to 4. If South leads a diamond that will ensure three tricks for the defence, but a club or heart looks more normal. If South doesn't lead a diamond, or if West declares, probably after a strong-no-trump auction starting with 1. by East, the battle will be for an overtrick.

On a heart lead for example, declarer should win the lead, cash two high spades, play a club to the king and ace, cash the hearts, then go back to clubs. North must refuse to ruff and must keep at least one heart. Now when declarer throws North in with his trump winner, North must give a ruff and discard rather than open up the diamonds. The ruff and discard doesn't cost because declarer had a club loser to ruff in any case, so the result of best play will be ten tricks.



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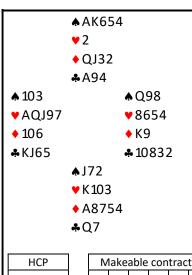
Board 7:	Dealer Sout	erable	Ben Norton	
West	North	East	South	
			Pass	
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	
3♠	All pass			

East has enough Pearson points (spades plus high-cards) to open in fourth seat, and South's ragged diamond suit hardly qualifies for a two-level overcall. North could enter with a take-out double of 2 • , but that could land his side in hot water on a misfit deal such as this. When East rebids his spades, West raises the suit. Lacking clairvoyance, South tries a black suit lead. A trump surrenders the impetus, so let's say he fishes out *10. North takes dummy's *J with *A and must find a way to co-ordinate two diamond ruffs. His best shot is probably to shift to *3 (*10 would cost a trick), hoping South can divine the position. South can deliver two diamond ruffs, using his *AQ as entries. Having taken his ruffs, North then shifts to trumps, and declarer can't dispose of his slow club loser, so the defence gets +200.

<u> </u>		1 1 1 2
	♠ KJ84	
	¥ 4	
	♦K874	
	♣ Q965	
♠ A 1065		♠ 92
♥ KJ863		♥ 1 05
♦ 2		◆AQ109653
♣ A108		4 42
	♠ Q73	
	♥ AQ97	2
	♦ J	
	♣ KJ73	

Board 8:	Dealer West	Ben Norton		
West	North	East	South	
1♥	Pass	1NT	All pass	

The bidding is routine up to West's second turn. He could rebid 2* in an effort to find a fit – the hand is orientated towards suit play – but in practice he will probably pass. The North shape is ideal for a balancing double, if only that were take-out of hearts. The traditional method is for double to be penalties, showing long hearts. Thus East plays the hand in one no-trump. One should strive to lead passively against no-trump partials, but South has no safe lead here. He could try a spade, knowing East doesn't have length there, but a club is more mainstream. North captures dummy's *8 with *9 and continues the suit. With no entries to the long diamonds in hand, declarer should work on hearts, leading one to dummy's ten. When South wins and cashes *K, North should drop *Q as a suit preference signal for spades (and, coincidentally, an unblock). South then shifts to spades immediately, setting up a finesse position on the third round. The defence come to eight tricks: three spades, two hearts and three clubs.



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S	1	5	-	5	3	
Ε	-	-	1	-	-	
W	-	ı	1	ı	-	

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Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable						
West	North	East	South			
	1♠	Pass	2♦			
Dble	3♥	Pass	3♠			
Pass	4♠	All pass				

Some would overcall 2 as West, aiming to put the major-suit game into the picture, but the hand is only worth one call and it's better to get both suits in. A 2♥ bid by North would be natural and forcing, so his jump to 3♥ is artificial, a splinter showing a good hand with short hearts and diamond support, forcing to game opposite the nine-plus shown by a two-level response. The spade fit is then located.

Ben Norton

East has a choice between the rounded-suits, but it doesn't matter which lead he plumps for in practice. Say he chooses a heart. West wins cheaply and gets off lead with a safe trump. North is a favourite to hold &A, so no heroics are called for here. Even if AA were with East, North would have to be 6=1=4=2 for a club shift to make any odds. On this passive defence, declarer has no way of avoiding a third loser.

♦ 107432				
	♥ 42			
	◆ AK106			
	♣ 53			
♠ AK985	♠J			
♥AQ1086	5 ♥953			
♦ 32	◆QJ94			
♣ A	♣ KQJ92			
	♠ Q6			
	♥KJ7			
	♦ 875			
	4 108764			

Board 10	: Dealer Eas	Michael Byrne				
West	North	East	South			
		Pass	Pass			
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass			
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass			
3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass			
This auction is quite straightforward playing modern Acol with a weak NT:						

East has enough to respond at the two level, then limits his hand with 2NT, allowing West to bid hearts again, reaching the best matchpoint game contract. Those playing a strong no trump will have a tougher time, East doesn't now have the values to bid two over one and should respond 1NT. West will probably force with 3♥,but that doesn't promise five hearts and 3NT is the likely contract. Although 4♥ might make eleven tricks if the defenders don't cash their

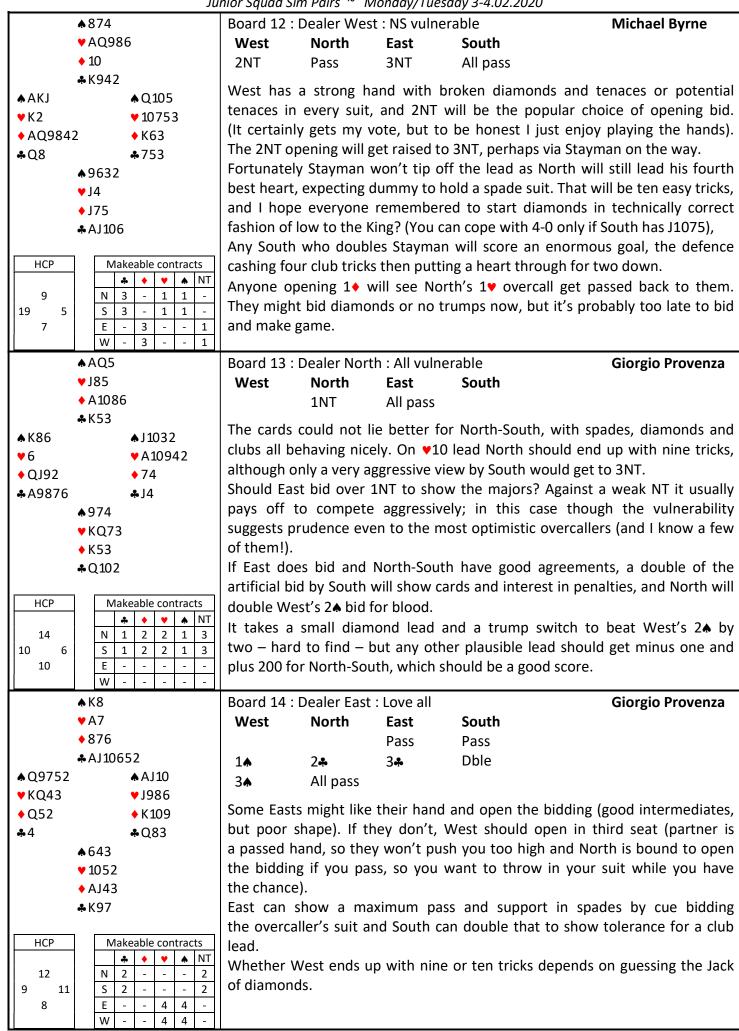
diamonds this will be an obvious line of attack and making ten will require careful play. In 3NT by East the battle is to stop declarer getting to her tricks in the minors. Only an opening diamond lead ducked by North does that, leaving South with a later diamond exit.

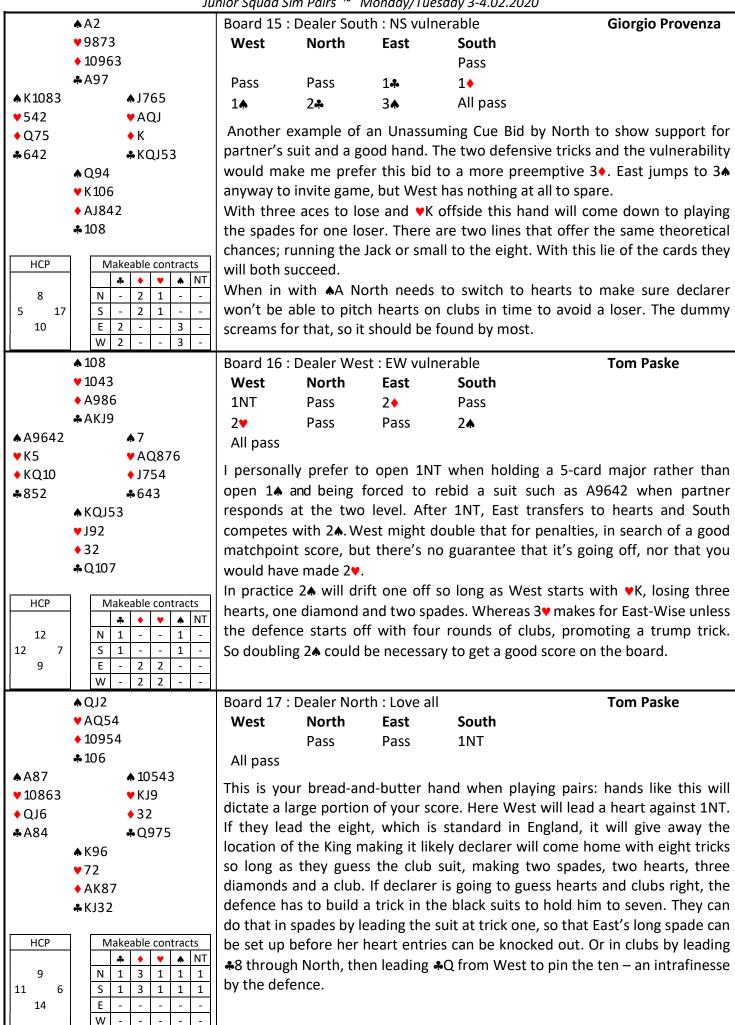
		W	4	3	4	2	3
	♠ A	ΚQ	J 10	86			
	v 8	}					
	• 6	2					
	. 8	43					
♦ 972			4	4 3	3		
♥ KJ974			•	1 0	53		
♦ Q10			•	75	,		
♣ QJ9			•	ŀΑŀ	(10	752	2
	\$ 5	,					
	• A	Q6	2				
	• A	KJS	984	3			
♣ 6							
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			*	•	٧	٨	NT
10		N	-	6	-	6	1

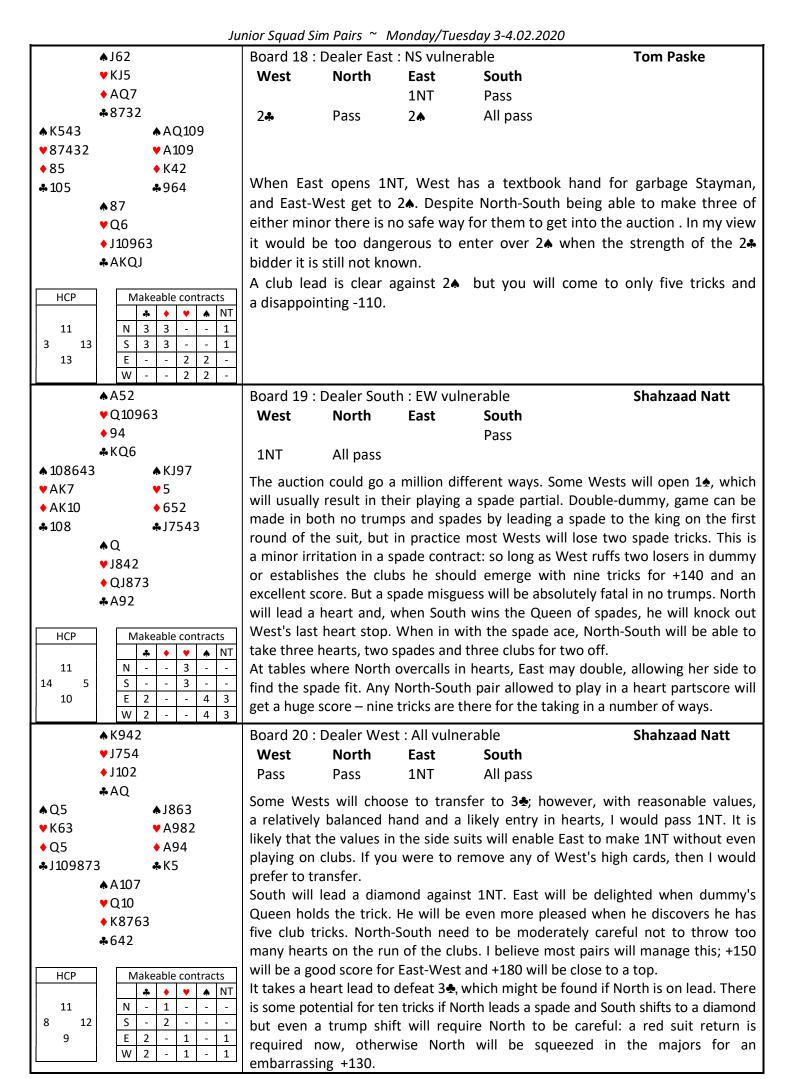
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Board 11	: Dealer So	Michael Byrne		
			1♦	
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦	
Pass All pass	5♠	Pass	6♠	

South will open 1♦ and North has a powerful spade suit and wants to insist upon playing in it. It is tempting to jump to 4. but this would make it hard to get to a slam, and there's no hurry when you hold the boss suit. The hand is not strong enough for 2♠, so 1♠ it is. East might come in with 2♣ or 3♣, then if South bids hearts and West raises clubs it will make it easier for North to have a bash at slam, three small clubs being a good holding when the opponents bid and raise the suit. If East-West remain silent then South should reverse into hearts, the powerful distribution more than making up for the paucity of points. Over this North should jump to 3♠ as a slam try, and then bid 5♠ over 4♠, demanding partner bid a slam with a club control (in the unbid suit). South bids slam as instructed, and North will make it easily so long as he does nothing too imaginative in diamonds.

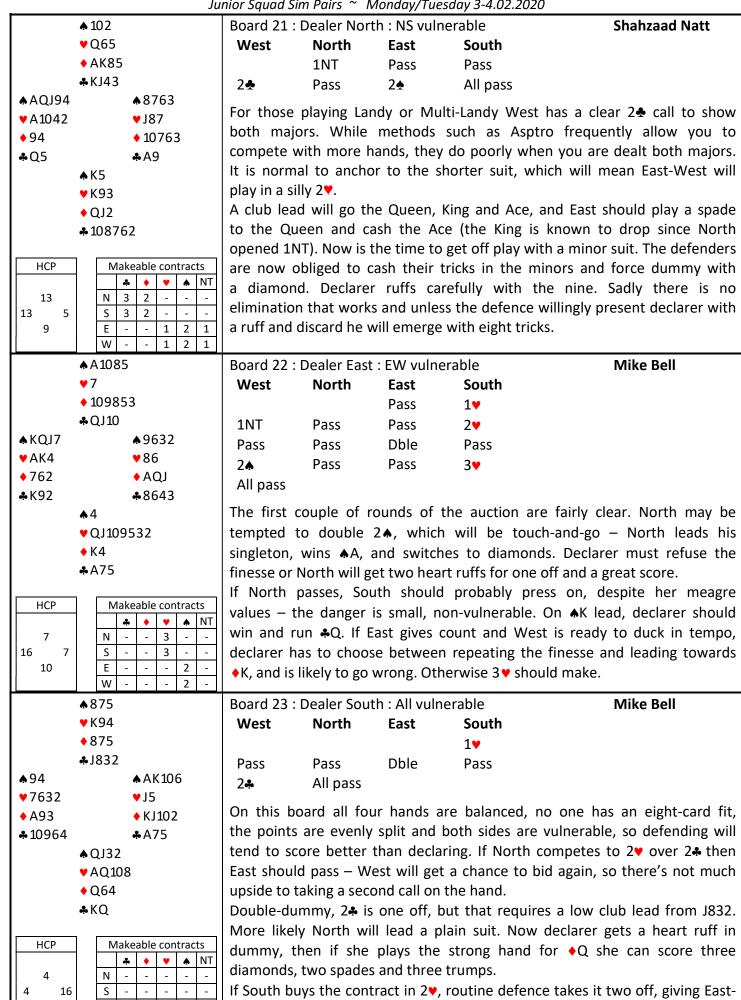






Mike Bell

Mike Bell



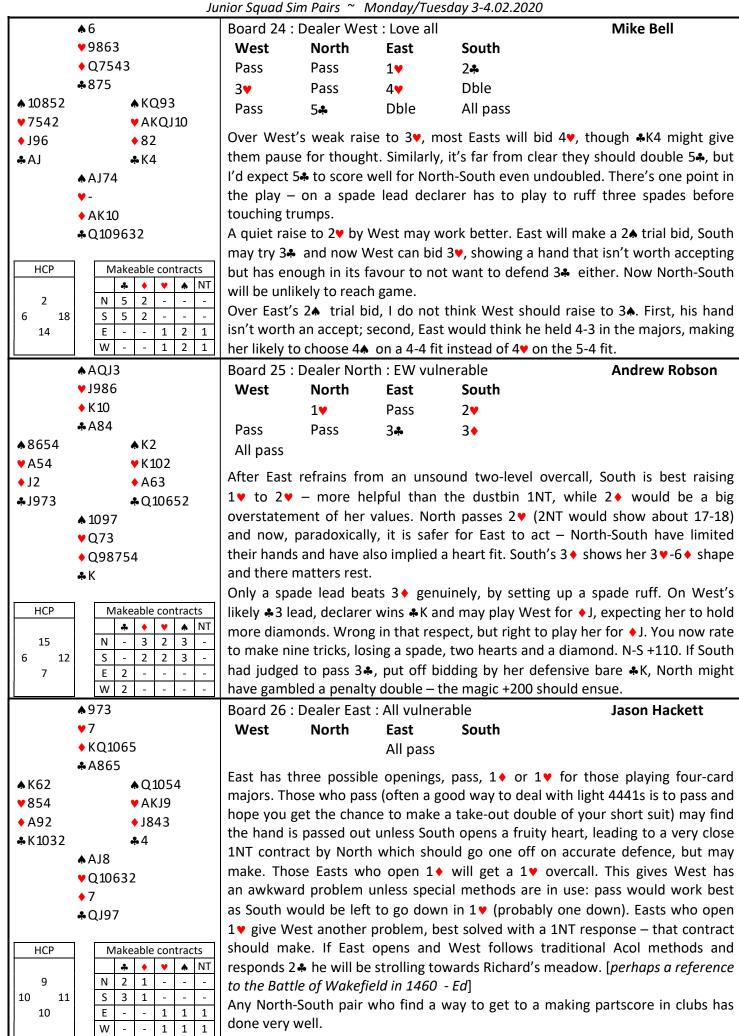
West a very good score.

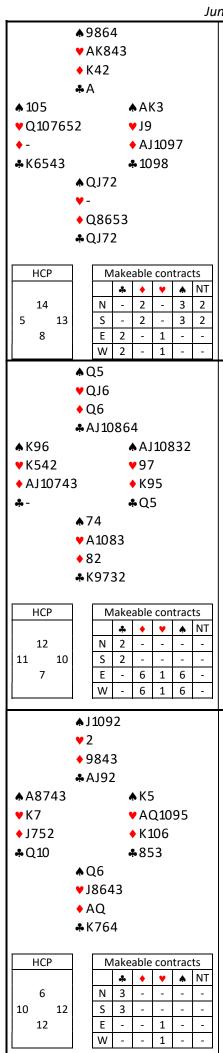
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	Board 27 : D	ealer South		Ben Norton				
	West	North	East	South				
				Pass				
	2♥	All pass						
	Who knows	what's righ	t on the \	Nest hand	Some would	nass others	would	

Who knows what's right on the West hand. Some would pass, others would preempt to 3 with their wild distribution. The middle ground is a weak 2 w. Should South protect with a double to contest the partscore? Well, North is known to hold at least five hearts and will likely pass it, and South has no defence to speak of against that. Change all the quacks for two aces and it would be a different matter.

North should seek to score his small trumps by way of a force, not by ruffs. He therefore leads his own long suit, spades. Declarer wins in dummy and works on his side-suit, running \$10 to North's \$A. Back comes another spade, won in dummy, and \$9 goes to \$J, \$K and a ruff. Declarer ruffs the spade continuation and gives up a club. North ruffs that, in case South lacks the \$7, then lays down the \$AK to draw dummy's trumps. Declarer takes the next spade force, draws the trump and surrenders another club. Declarer's hand is good for one down.

Board 28	: Dealer We	erable	Michael Byrne	
West	North	East	South	
1♦	2♣	2♠	4.*	
4♠	All pass			

An exciting hand here as East-West can make slam in two suits on the very favourable lie of spades and diamonds. 1 will be the opening bid and most North players will overcall 2, the 10 putting their mind at rest rather more than the load of queens they have outside. East will bid 2 and now the paths diverge as South has to decide how many clubs to bid. There will be votes for 3, 4 or 5 and this might shut out West or push him into something. Certainly over a 3 bid West might bid only 3 and it's not impossible East might pass that, devaluing the club queen.

If South bids 44 then West will probably bid 44 and we are in game. If South jumps to 54 then East-West might bid on, although they do best to double and take the money; +800 will score very well even if slam is cold.

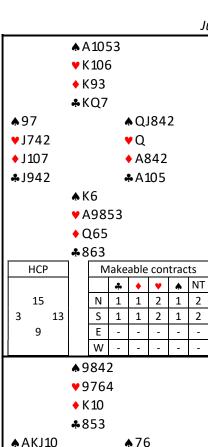
I think most will make twelve tricks, even though declarer has to "guess" the spades – in practice a club lead will push her into doing the right thing.

Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable				Giorgio Provenza
West	North	East	South	
	Pass	1NT	Pass	
2♥	Pass	2♠	All pass	

In modern Acol it is recommended to open 1NT on all 5-3-3-2 hands within range, even with a 5-card major. Is West's hand worth a game try after transferring to spades? If partner has spade support and a maximum, you probably want to have a shot at game. However, you don't want to play in 3NT opposite a maximum with two spades, nor in 3A rather than 2A when she has a minimum with three. The odds at matchpoints favour passing 2A, in my opinion.

In a strong-NT environment, after $1 \vee -1 \wedge$, 1NT West will face a similar decision; Kx facing partner's 5-card suit might convince some to push on here, with no luck.

Some Souths will risk a two-suited overcall after 1NT by East. At these colours it wouldn't be my choice with those pitiful suits, but it might pay off here, finding the club fit. I suspect we will find a bit of everything in the bridgemates.



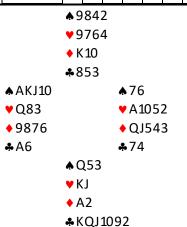
Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all						
West	North	East	South			
		1♠	Pass			
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦			
Pass	2♥	All pass				

When you are in protective position a 1NT overcall shows less than in direct position, but a 4333 15-count is still comfortably in range. Partner will transfer to hearts and that is where it will end.

Tom Paske

Mike Bell

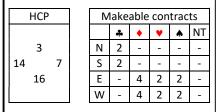
East has a natural spade lead against 2♥. Despite a 4-1 trump break the contract will be safe - you will make two spades, four hearts, and a trick in each minor. It will once again be a question if you can engineer an extra trick from somewhere. East will come under some pressure on four rounds of hearts but should survive with careful disacarding.



Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable				Shahzaad Natt
West	North	East	South	
			1♣	
Dble	pass	1♥	2♣	
Pass	Pass	2♦	All pass	

West should not overcall 1♠ on a four-card suit when there is a good alternative available. East should respond to the double with 1♥ for two reasons: firstly hearts is a major suit, and secondly it allows him to compete easily in diamonds later. Since North passed over the double South should bid a cautious 2♣. West has a minimum without a heart fit so he passes and East balances with 2. If either North or South bids 3♣ after that West should compete with 3\u00e3or could double.

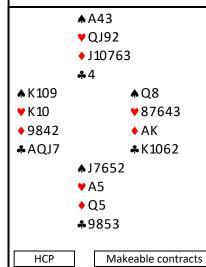
The play in 3♦ is not that interesting. Declarer makes ten tricks if he risks an early space finesse, nine if he doesn't. In 3♣ East-West can challenge declarer: after two top spades and a ruff, East must shift to a low heart to make declarer guess the suit before he can place the other high cards. North-Souths who score -100 will be above average. Those who received this defence or were doubled will score -200 and a bottom.



Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable					
West	North	East	South		
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass		
2♥	Pass	2NT	All pass		
3NT	All Pass				
2NT isn't a great contract but most will b					

3NT isn't a great contract, but most will bid it, and many will make it. East is clearly worth 2NT (but no more); and West will accept with her good 13-count. In fairness, you'd expect oppo to lead a spade given your combined hands, solving the guess for the AJ, and the contract is then simply on the position of the **Y**A.

In practice, North will lead a diamond. The correct card to lead is a low one - there are many positions where either partner or dummy has a singleton or doubleton honour where you need to keep your jack and ten for the later rounds of the suit. Here, the ◆J lead gives declarer the chance to establish her ♦8 to win the fourth round of the suit, but she may not discover in time that South's ◆Q is dropping.



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