



# Commentary for the CBAI Simultaneous Pairs Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Bridge Player,

Thank you very much for playing in the CBAI Simultaneous Pairs 2023, and for your continued support for the CBAI.

Thankfully, the signs are that things are stabilising after a very difficult couple of years, but the Association still faces many challenges, including financial ones, following the disruption caused by the covid hiatus. So the funds raised from the Sims this year will be particularly welcome. If you know of clubs that do not participate in the Sims events, please encourage them to sign up – the feedback is that members really enjoy them and look forward to playing in them every year.

I hope that you found the hands (which are randomly dealt by computer with no human intervention whatsoever) as interesting and challenging as ever, and that you enjoyed the chance to pit your bridge wits against your fellow players across the country (and for those still playing online, perhaps a few overseas players as well). Many thanks to our expert commentators: Monday – Fearghal O’Boyle, Tuesday – Lucy & John Phelan, Wednesday – Enda Glynn, Thursday – Brian Senior, and Friday – Carol-Ann Cummins & John Noonan, for their guidance through the maze. I hope that you have picked up some useful tips from their advice. Don’t forget to check your standing in the national results at [www.ecatsbridge.com/sims](http://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims).

## Pat O’Mahony – President, Contract Bridge Association of Ireland

We will be playing 15-17 NT, 5-card majors, 1♦ natural, and 1♣ 2+, with three weak 2’s and 2♣ as our strong opening.

### Board 1. None. Dealer North

<p>♠ K 9 7 3 ♥ J 10 9 4 2 ♦ 5 ♣ K 8 2</p> <p>♠ Q J 2 ♥ A 8 6 ♦ A 8 6 4 2 ♣ 9 4</p> <p>♠ A 10 6 4 ♥ K Q ♦ K Q ♣ A Q 7 6 3</p>	<p>♠ 8 5 ♥ 7 5 3 ♦ J 10 9 7 3 ♣ J 10 5</p>
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South will open 1♣ in third position. West may overcall 1♦ or Pass. Either way North will bid 1♥. South will rebid 1♠ and North will raise to 2♠. South will now bid 4♠. If South decides to rebid 2♠, this is game forcing and North will raise to 4♠ (shutout). With a better hand and 4-card support North would bid 3♠ as we are in a game-forcing auction. I prefer to rebid 1♠ as it allows more bidding space. If West does come in with 1♦, East should keep quiet. East

has 5 diamonds but no values and the shape is as bad as it can be. Even 3♦ will be too high.

Hearts will play better than Spades as there is no Spade loser but I don’t think anyone will play in Hearts. In 4♠ there is nothing to the play, losing a trump and two Aces.

### Board 2. N/S. Dealer East

<p>♠ A 4 2 ♥ K 10 9 7 ♦ A 10 4 3 2 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ K J 7 5 ♥ A J 5 3 ♦ J 7 ♣ K 9 6</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ 8 ♦ K Q 9 8 6 5 ♣ A Q 8 4 3</p>	<p>♠ 10 9 8 6 3 ♥ Q 6 4 2 ♦ — ♣ 10 7 5 2</p>
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South will open 1♦ and after a double from West, North bids 1♥. North has 12HCP but the 5 diamonds and singleton club make the hand unsuitable for a redouble. East should pass and South now bids 2♣. West has no

more to say and passes. The North hand now becomes very promising with 5-card diamond support and controls in the three other suits. North will bid 2♠, this is the fourth suit forcing (FSF) looking for Partner to describe their hand further. South will now bid 3♣ showing the fifth club. North bids her time by bidding 3♦. This is still forcing having gone through the FSF bid.

Knowing of the trump support and with only 4 losers South bids 3♠ showing some form of spade control. North has heard all they require and uses 4NT (Roman Keycard Blackwood). We are playing 1430 responses, so South bids 5♠ showing 2 keycards plus the Q. North signs off in 6♦. There is no problem to play and 12 tricks roll in. If Declarer plays a heart from hand early, West must be alert and hop up with the Ace.

### Board 3. E/W. Dealer South

<p>♠ —</p> <p>♥ A 10 8 5 4 3 2</p> <p>♦ A 10 9 5 4</p> <p>♣ 8</p>	<p>♠ A K 10 7 5 3</p> <p>♥ 9 6</p> <p>♦ 3 2</p> <p>♣ 10 5 3</p>
<p>♠ Q 6 4</p> <p>♥ K J 7</p> <p>♦ K Q J 6</p> <p>♣ K 9 7</p>	<p>♠ J 9 8 2</p> <p>♥ Q</p> <p>♦ 8 7</p> <p>♣ A Q J 6 4 2</p>

Whether South opens 1♣ or passes N/S will end up in 3NT. At the Vulnerability the one level is the only safe place for E/W to compete to. North will open INT, East passes, and South uses Stayman to enquire for a 4-4 Spade fit and N/S end up in 3NT. If East starts with their two top spades and switches, West must cash out his two Aces, otherwise Declarer makes an overtrick.

If East leads a small spade Declarer can win on the table and start on diamonds, the clubs can wait. Declarer will place West with the two missing Aces as East did not enter the auction. Back to the table with a club and another diamond, if West plays low a second time, Declarer now switches to hearts. If the Q is ducked another diamond is played and if taken now Declarer has two hearts to go along with the nine other tricks.

### Board 4. All. Dealer West

<p>♠ 9 4 2</p> <p>♥ A 10 9</p> <p>♦ J 5</p> <p>♣ A 10 9 4 2</p>	<p>♠ A K 7</p> <p>♥ Q J 3 2</p> <p>♦ A 7 6</p> <p>♣ K Q 7</p>
<p>♠ Q 10 3</p> <p>♥ 8 6 4</p> <p>♦ Q 8 4 2</p> <p>♣ J 6 3</p>	<p>♠ J 8 6 5</p> <p>♥ K 7 5</p> <p>♦ K 10 9 3</p> <p>♣ 8 5</p>

North will open 1♣ and there we play making 1♣. Declarer must make use of the limited entries to Dummy to play towards their fragile hearts. Lots of Souths will make a response of 1♦ and N/S can rebid 2NT showing 18/19 all will be ok, changing +70 into +120. but some Norths will rebid 3NT which will be -1.

Playing 4-card majors North will open 1♥ and if left there will score 80. The difference here is that if South does respond, it will be INT and now North will bid 3NT. The pairs playing a Strong Club System will enjoy this hand: 1♣-1♦-INT(18/19). If N/S open 2NT showing 19/20 they will survive as long as South decides to pass.

### Board 5. N/S. Dealer North

<p>♠ A 6</p> <p>♥ 5 3</p> <p>♦ Q J 8 6 5</p> <p>♣ 10 7 6 2</p>	<p>♠ J 3 2</p> <p>♥ 7 6 4</p> <p>♦ A K 7</p> <p>♣ Q 9 5 4</p>
<p>♠ K Q 9</p> <p>♥ K J 10 9 2</p> <p>♦ 4</p> <p>♣ A K J 8</p>	<p>♠ 10 8 7 5 4</p> <p>♥ A Q 8</p> <p>♦ 10 9 3 2</p> <p>♣ 3</p>

South will open 1♥ in third seat and after pass from West, North can use the Drury Convention. 2♦ by a passed hand here shows 3-card support and close to a maximum pass and 2♣ shows 4-card support and around the same values; you need to be a bit better with only 3-card support. This allows the partnership to play at the 2-level if the third-seat opener is a bit light. Here South bids 4♥ and that becomes the contract.

If West leads a diamond, Declarer wins in Dummy and plays a trump. East plays small and Declarer wins with the Jack and goes to dummy with a club and plays another trump, this time East hops up with the Ace and returns a high spade. West wins and now must consider the best continuation. The high spade return indicates no future in spades and East's inability to beat the ♣Q gives the defence hope of a ruff. East returns a club and West ruffs. Declarer makes the remainder to make the contract. If West leads Ace and another spade, East can pop up the Ace of trumps and give a spade ruff. Declarer now has to guess whether to drop or finesse for the Queen of trumps. If West leads a club East can defend as when a diamond is led.

#### Board 6. E/W. Dealer East

<p>♠ A 6 5 4 2 ♥ 4 ♦ J 8 6 5 2 ♣ 4 2</p> <p>♠ K Q 9 8 ♥ J 5 ♦ Q 9 ♣ A Q J 9 5</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ K 10 8 6 3 2 ♦ A K 10 ♣ 10 8 3</p>	<p>♠ J 10 3 ♥ A Q 9 7 ♦ 7 4 3 ♣ K 7 6</p>
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South must decide whether to open 1♥ or 2♥ and decides to open 2♥. West makes an off-shape takeout double and East has a decision to make. The Vulnerability makes passing unattractive if game is on. 2♥ will have to be defeated by four tricks to compensate for the vulnerable game. However if it is a part score game 2 off will be good. Another complication now is that 2NT is not Natural. Here we play Lebensohl, 2NT is a puppet to 3♣ (Doubler can take make another bid if holding extra values), that way a direct bid to the 3-level shows values normally around 9-11. With 12+ responder can bid game or cue bid the opponent's suit. We have the values to make a positive bid but no suit so we go for broke and bid 3NT.

The defence will be easy, as whether South leads a heart or not Declarer can only come to 7 tricks. If the defence start on diamonds and North returns a heart, Declarer goes up with the Ace confident from the bidding that North

has the ♠A and no heart to return. Regardless of whether South opens 1♥ or passes, 3NT by East will probably be still the final contract.

#### Board 7. All. Dealer South

<p>♠ J 3 ♥ A 8 ♦ A 3 ♣ A J 7 6 5 4 2</p> <p>♠ Q 2 ♥ J 7 4 3 ♦ Q 10 8 7 ♣ Q 10 3</p> <p>♠ 10 8 7 5 ♥ K 10 9 5 ♦ J 9 4 ♣ K 8</p>	<p>♠ A K 9 6 4 ♥ Q 6 2 ♦ K 6 5 2 ♣ 9</p>
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North opens 1♣ and East bids 1♠ and after a negative double from South North bids 2♣. Whether East decides to compete further by double (the South double showing 4 hearts makes this unattractive) or by bidding 2♦ (bad suit makes this unattractive also). N/S will end up playing in 2♣ or 3♣. If East does bid over 2♣ North will Finesse against West's Q, making 10 tricks. If East passes 2♣ North is on a guess. N/S can make 3NT by taking the winning view on clubs because of the favourable Spade position. I am never that lucky.

#### Board 8. None. Dealer West

<p>♠ Q 9 6 2 ♥ 9 7 ♦ K 5 ♣ K J 10 5 4</p> <p>♠ A 4 3 ♥ 10 5 4 ♦ J 8 7 2 ♣ 7 3 2</p> <p>♠ J 10 8 5 ♥ 8 6 3 ♦ 9 4 3 ♣ Q 8 6</p>	<p>♠ K 7 ♥ A K Q J 2 ♦ A Q 10 6 ♣ A 9</p>
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East will open 2♣ and West will bid 2♦ and East will bid 2♥. West with 3 trumps and an Ace bids 3♥, with Trump Support and no controls the bid would be 4♥. Over 3♥ East has to make a decision, his hand is good but he has opened 2♣. He tries 3NT and this is passed out, West deciding that with no ruffing values it is better to Pass. If E/W are playing control showing responses West will bid 2♥ showing 2 controls

i.e. 1 ace or 2 kings. If E/W are not going to bid a Slam 3NT is probably the best place to play.

A club lead will lead to a few scary moments but a Spade lead is more likely. Declarer wins on the Table and tackles diamonds, Jack first loses to a singleton King with North but gains with K9xx or K9xxx with North. Either way works so 12 tricks roll in. The 4/4 Diamond fit produces 13 tricks. Our 3NT+3 will tie or beat with all not in Slam.

### Board 9. E/W. Dealer North

♠ 10 6 3	
♥ Q J 8 7 5	
♦ K J 6 3	
♣ K	
♠ K Q J	♠ A 8 5 4
♥ 4	♥ A 10 9 3
♦ 10 9 8 7 5 2	♦ Q 4
♣ A J 2	♣ Q 10 3
♠ 9 7 2	
♥ K 6 2	
♦ A	
♣ 9 8 7 6 5 4	

East opens 1♣ and after 1♦ from West, North may bid 1♥, INT from East showing 12-14 and a stop in Hearts, 2♥ from South. This makes life difficult for West, If South passed the partnership can make use of the XY Convention. That is after 1x-1y-INT, 2♣ is a puppet to 2♦ then any other bid is invitational, and 2♦ is an artificial game force. This will uncover any unbid major fit.

Here West was hoping to bid 2♣ and after 2♦ from Opener 3♦ invitational. but settles for 3♦. West has minimum values so Passes. The Heart lead will enable the defence to shorten Declarer's trumps to give the Defence 4 Trump Tricks. Now Declarer needs to drop the Singleton King of Clubs. This might happen if Declarer places it with him for his overcall.

### Board 10. All. Dealer East

♠ Q 7 2	
♥ 3 2	
♦ A K J 8	
♣ J 9 8 7	
♠ A K J	♠ 10 9 5 4
♥ Q J 10 8 7	♥ A 9 6
♦ 5 2	♦ 9 7
♣ Q 3 2	♣ A 10 6 5
♠ 8 6 3	
♥ K 5 4	
♦ Q 10 6 4 3	
♣ K 4	

West will open 1♥ in 3rd position and East will raise to 2♥. After 2 passes North will protect with a Double. This may work out badly at Game all opposite a Passed Partner but it is equally dangerous to Pass. South bids 3♦ and the lucky Spade, Heart and Club position allows this to make. E/W should not bid to 3♥ as neither have extra Trumps length or high Card strength. If they do they may escape a double and go for 100. If doubled 200 will be a very bad score. If E/W are playing 12-14 NT and open INT they may get to play there. It looks like 7 tricks - 4 Hearts 2 Spades and a 1 Club, but with the Defenders cashing 5 Diamonds West has to discard 1 Spade and 2 Clubs, South can read the position and exit on the Club King, dropping the Q in Declarer's Hand and defeating the Contract by one trick.

### Board 11. None. Dealer South

♠ K 3	
♥ A K J 7 4	
♦ K 10 9	
♣ 5 3 2	
♠ A J 10 9 2	♠ 7 6 4
♥ 10 6 3	♥ 9 5 2
♦ 7 6 5	♦ A 8 3
♣ Q 6	♣ A J 10 4
♠ Q 8 5	
♥ Q 8	
♦ Q J 4 2	
♣ K 9 8 7	

Playing strong NT N will open 1♥ south will bid INT (6 to 10) which will be passed out. Those playing weak NT should open INT to protect their Ks; also they have no rebid if partner bids 1♠. 7 tricks makes from either side – run hearts throwing two clubs and a diamond then play towards ♦QJ.

### Board 12. N/S. Dealer West

<p>♠ Q 9 8 7 ♥ Q 6 ♦ A 9 7 ♣ A J 7 3</p> <p>♠ J 6 5 4 ♥ K 10 7 5 2 ♦ K Q ♣ 10 2</p>	<p>♠ A K 3 ♥ A J 4 ♦ 10 8 5 4 ♣ 9 8 6</p>
<p>♠ 10 2 ♥ 9 8 3 ♦ J 6 3 2 ♣ K Q 5 4</p>	

North will open 1♣, South will bid 1♦ now West as a passed hand can bid 1♥ or double to show the other 2 suits ... I prefer 1♥. North will now pass. East has a good hand but partner is a passed hand so they should not punish partner for bidding; rather they should just bid 2♥. Playing weak NT North will open INT, not a good score for the weak no-trumpers.

### Board 13. All. Dealer North

<p>♠ 5 ♥ 7 4 2 ♦ A 8 4 ♣ K Q 8 7 5 2</p> <p>♠ K 10 7 3 ♥ A Q 3 ♦ 9 6 3 ♣ A 9 4</p>	<p>♠ Q J 9 4 2 ♥ J 9 8 ♦ Q J 2 ♣ J 6</p>
<p>♠ A 8 6 ♥ K 10 6 5 ♦ K 10 7 5 ♣ 10 3</p>	

All Vul here so the wrong time to pre-empt with a bad 6-card suit (John kills me when I do this!). All pass around to West who playing strong NT will open 1♣. East will bid 1♠ and since East is already a passed hand West should pass. Now North can come into the bidding as he knows his partner has values. East should just bid 2♠ as they know partner is weak with ♠ and this will end the bidding. Playing weak NT West will open INT and East will use transfers so we should reach the same contract either way. In the play, Declarer must make use of dummy's entries to play towards ♦s.

### Board 14. None. Dealer East

<p>♠ A K 8 7 ♥ J 10 7 5 2 ♦ 4 2 ♣ 7 2</p> <p>♠ J 3 2 ♥ K 8 6 3 ♦ A K 10 5 ♣ 6 5</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 9 4 ♥ — ♦ J 8 7 6 ♣ A Q 10 9 3</p>
<p>♠ 6 5 ♥ A Q 9 4 ♦ Q 9 3 ♣ K J 8 4</p>	

South will open the bidding 1♣ - P - 1♥ - P - 2♥ - P North will pass this as he has an 8 loser hand opposite a very weak partner now East can come in with a double showing tolerance for the other 3 suits West knows their partner is only competing and will bid 3♦ North is now good enough to bid 3♥ with his 8 loser hand and a fifth heart. This will end the auction, and E/W have done their job pushing N/S up a notch. Declarer should ruff 2 spades in dummy but has entry problems. They know West has ♥K from the double by East so diamond, diamond continuation, ruff third the third diamond, A♠, K♠, ruff a heart, and now you're home and dry for a great score.

### Board 15. N/S. Dealer South

<p>♠ A 9 4 ♥ Q 7 2 ♦ A K 9 8 4 ♣ J 6</p> <p>♠ 8 5 ♥ A 10 8 ♦ Q ♣ A Q 10 9 8 5 2</p>	<p>♠ Q 6 3 2 ♥ K 9 6 4 3 ♦ J 7 5 ♣ K</p>
<p>♠ K J 10 7 ♥ J 5 ♦ 10 6 3 2 ♣ 7 4 3</p>	

South will pass and West will open 1♣. North will overcall 1♦. If East had 4/4 majors they would double but with 5/4 will just bid 1♥. South can now make it difficult and should raise to 3♦. West knows their partner has points as they made a free bid over 1♦ and his ♣s are very good, so can afford to bid 4♣. There is a nice squeeze on here. The defence can take 1♦ 2♠, but then on the run of the ♣s North cannot keep ♦A and 2♥s ... ten tricks made.

### Board 16. E/W. Dealer West

<p>♠ 10 8 2 ♥ 9 4 ♦ Q 10 4 ♣ A 9 8 6 5</p> <p>♠ A K 9 7 5 ♥ A 10 3 ♦ 9 5 2 ♣ K 10</p>	<p>♠ Q J 3 ♥ K 8 7 5 2 ♦ A J ♣ J 7 2</p>
<p>♠ 6 4 ♥ Q J 6 ♦ K 8 7 6 3 ♣ Q 4 3</p>	

1♠ by West, and East should bid 2♥, forcing, to get more information on partner's hand. West will now simply rebid 3♥ to show weakness. East will just bid game in either suit spades better as East has nothing to protect both games make the same amount of tricks as long as you get ♣s right.

### Board 17. None. Dealer North

<p>♠ 8 5 3 2 ♥ 6 5 ♦ J ♣ Q 10 9 8 5 4</p> <p>♠ K 7 ♥ A K 10 ♦ A 10 4 ♣ A K 7 6 3</p>	<p>♠ 10 4 ♥ Q 9 8 7 2 ♦ Q 8 7 5 2 ♣ 2</p>
<p>♠ A Q J 9 6 ♥ J 4 3 ♦ K 9 6 3 ♣ J</p>	

South will open 1♠. West will double, and North will pass. East will bid 2♥, and West should now cue bid 2♠ to show a really good hand and asking partner if they have anything extra. Now back to East who while he only has 4 points will bid 3♦ letting his partner know that he has a 5-card ♥ suit and has some points. West will now bid 4♥ making 5 for a very good score as in NT only 10 tricks are available.

### Board 18. N/S. Dealer East

<p>♠ A 5 2 ♥ 10 7 5 3 ♦ Q 6 4 ♣ J 8 4</p> <p>♠ 9 6 4 ♥ 6 4 2 ♦ A 8 7 3 2 ♣ 7 6</p>	<p>♠ K J 7 ♥ K Q 9 ♦ 10 9 5 ♣ A K 3 2</p>
<p>♠ Q 10 8 3 ♥ A J 8 ♦ K J ♣ Q 10 9 5</p>	

East will open 1NT which will be passed out. The contract will make at many tables, although it can be defeated double dummy. To make this contract Declarer must duck ♦ twice, making 3♦ 2♣ 1♥, and, on a ♠ lead 1♠. If he gets a ♣ lead while in dummy he must lead towards ♠. This is unlikely to be a good hand for the weak no-trumpers as it will go 1♣ all pass, as South should not double holding ♣s.

### Board 19. E/W. Dealer South

<p>♠ 6 ♥ 4 2 ♦ A Q 10 3 2 ♣ J 9 5 4 2</p> <p>♠ 10 8 5 3 2 ♥ 9 6 ♦ J 9 7 ♣ A Q 3</p>	<p>♠ A K Q 4 ♥ A K J 10 3 ♦ 6 5 ♣ 7 6</p>
<p>♠ J 9 7 ♥ Q 8 7 5 ♦ K 8 4 ♣ K 10 8</p>	

East will open 1♥, and West will respond 1♠. North will now muddy the water as they are NV and bid 2NT (showing 5/5 in the minors). East will now jump to 4♠. To muddy the waters further, and knowing there is a double fit, South will bid 5♣. Now West has a decision to make as they are vul he needs to get them down 4 if he chooses to double! So he will bid 5♠. If he gets a diamond lead and continuation he will be forced to ruff in dummy so can't ruff a ♣ as well or he will lose a ♠ but North's bid has given the game away he will ruff ♦ and draw 2 rounds of trumps and he now knows that N has only 2 ♥ so he can play AK and run the J if covered. Then back to dummy with trumps making 5 for a great score in MPs.

### Board 20. All. Dealer West

<p>♠ A 10 6 ♥ K 8 7 6 5 ♦ Q 9 4 3 ♣ 4</p> <p>♠ — ♥ A Q 9 ♦ A J 6 5 ♣ K J 10 6 5 2</p> <p>♠ K Q ♥ J 4 3 2 ♦ 10 8 7 2 ♣ 9 8 7</p>	<p>♠ J 9 8 7 5 4 3 2 ♥ 10 ♦ K ♣ A Q 3</p>
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West will open 1♣ and East responds 1♠. West is not good enough to reverse so will rebid 2♣. Now back to East - holding 8♠s he should just bid 4♠. A more cautious 3♠ is an option, but with an 8-card suit opposite an opening hand, he should bid game. Best to lead J of ♠ to cater for singleton 10.

### Board 21. N/S. Dealer North

<p>♠ A 9 6 2 ♥ 7 6 ♦ K 9 3 ♣ J 10 4 3</p> <p>♠ J 10 7 3 ♥ 10 8 5 2 ♦ 10 5 ♣ A 9 2</p> <p>♠ 5 4 ♥ 9 4 3 ♦ Q J 8 4 2 ♣ K Q 6</p>	<p>♠ K Q 8 ♥ A K Q J ♦ A 7 6 ♣ 8 7 5</p>
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North passes and East opens 1♣. Some Souths will overcall 1♦ but that is not recommended for several reasons. You are Vul, the suit is poor, you have only 8hcp, and 1♦ takes up no bidding space, in fact it may make it easier for the opposition to describe their hands. If West passes so will North. If West bids 1♥, most Easts will bid 4♥. Using the losing trick count 3♥ is the winning bid. The pairs playing 4-card majors will open 1♥ and will bid 4♥ after a simple raise from West.

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

<p>♠ A Q 7 ♥ 9 7 4 2 ♦ 8 7 5 ♣ 8 4 3</p> <p>♠ 9 8 6 5 ♥ Q 5 3 ♦ K 10 3 2 ♣ J 5</p> <p>♠ J 4 2 ♥ K 6 ♦ Q J 9 6 4 ♣ 9 7 6</p>	<p>♠ K 10 3 ♥ A J 10 8 ♦ A ♣ A K Q 10 2</p>
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East is the Dealer and has a nice hand. After Partner passed 1♣ on the previous hand, he might be worried it will happen again if the opening bid is 1♣. 2NT and 2♣ are reasonable alternatives but may lead to complications later on in the auction. We take a chance on opening 1♣ and feel relieved when Partner responds 1♠. We now bid 2♥, a reverse which is forcing for 1 round. Playing a form of Lebensohl after a reverse West makes a weakness bid of 2NT. This shows less than 8HCP and requests Partner to bid 3♣. (With more than 8 HCP responder would give preference which is forcing.) Here West intends to pass 3♣ from Partner, but East bids 3NT with the extra values, knowing that there is no slam on after the weakness response of 2NT. Depending on the lead Declarer will make 10 or 11 tricks.

### Board 23. All. Dealer South

<p>♠ K 7 ♥ A K 9 3 2 ♦ 4 2 ♣ Q 9 5 4</p> <p>♠ 10 8 4 3 ♥ Q J 5 ♦ A K J 6 ♣ J 8</p> <p>♠ J 9 ♥ 7 6 ♦ 10 9 8 7 5 3 ♣ 7 6 3</p>	<p>♠ A Q 6 5 2 ♥ 10 8 4 ♦ Q ♣ A K 10 2</p>
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West opens 1♦ and after 1♥ from North, East bids 1♠ confirming 5+Spades. 2♠ from West and 4♠ from East. After AK and a heart ruff Declarer wins and finesses the Queen of Spades making 10 tricks. With the spade and club finesses both working 11 tricks are available in NT. The pairs playing weak NT, or strong NT and 4-card majors will also end up

in 4♠. Probably the flattest board of the session.

**Board 24. None. Dealer West**

<p>♠ J 10 9 7 ♥ Q 10 5 2 ♦ J 8 7 ♣ Q 8</p> <p>♠ 6 4 2 ♥ A 4 3 ♦ A K 10 9 3 2 ♣ 2</p>	<p>♠ A 5 ♥ J 9 8 7 ♦ Q 4 ♣ K J 7 4 3</p>
<p>♠ K Q 8 3 ♥ K 6 ♦ 6 5 ♣ A 10 9 6 5</p>	

West is too good to open 2♦ so opens 1♦. East responds 1♥, and South doubles. Playing support doubles (and redoubles) West makes redoubles showing 3-card heart support. After North bids 1♠, East's best choice is double, showing values and only 4 hearts. If South bids 2♠, West should pass, Now East can bid 2NT or double again. Either way West will convert to 3♦ and there we play. If the defence start on spades Declarer will get to ruff a spade in dummy.

If the defence start on trumps, which is unlikely, Declarer will need to win on the table, come back to hand on a trump and play a club to the Jack, establishing the King while the Ace of Spades is an entry. If East plays in NT there are 8 top tricks on a spade lead but Declarer will be unable to establish a ninth by playing a club to the Jack, as there will be no entry to the established King.

**Board 25. E/W. Dealer North**

<p>♠ Q 9 ♥ A 10 8 7 3 ♦ A Q ♣ K J 4 2</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ K Q J 9 4 ♦ K J 7 5 ♣ 6 5 3</p>	<p>♠ K 7 5 4 3 ♥ — ♦ 10 8 6 4 3 2 ♣ Q 7</p>
<p>♠ A J 10 6 2 ♥ 6 5 2 ♦ 9 ♣ A 10 9 8</p>	

INT by North. I don't like to open INT with this shape, but need to protect my AQ♦. South will transfer to ♠s via 2♥, which West will

double for a lead. North will pass, denying 3♠s. Now back to South who knows game is on here but has no clear choice of which game to bid. The best choice is to bid 3♥ asking partner for a heart stopper. North is happy to bid 3NT.

**Board 26. All. Dealer East**

<p>♠ J 3 2 ♥ A J 7 2 ♦ 8 7 ♣ A J 10 2</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ 8 5 ♦ A K J 6 ♣ K 9 8 6 5 3</p>	<p>♠ A K 9 7 6 5 4 ♥ 6 3 ♦ Q 10 9 4 ♣ —</p>
<p>♠ 10 8 ♥ K Q 10 9 4 ♦ 5 3 2 ♣ Q 7 4</p>	

East is too good to open 3♠ here, so it is either 1 or 4. I prefer the former, so 1♠-P-2♣-P-2♠-P-3♦-3♠ (I'm sorry I opened 1 now!)-P-4♠ end of auction. Opening 4♠ simply saves time, as there is no play in this hand.

**Board 27. None. Dealer South**

<p>♠ A K Q J ♥ 8 7 6 2 ♦ 8 5 2 ♣ 8 2</p> <p>♠ 10 9 5 2 ♥ J 10 5 3 ♦ K 4 ♣ K 10 5</p>	<p>♠ 8 7 ♥ A K 9 4 ♦ J 9 7 6 ♣ A J 4</p>
<p>♠ 6 4 3 ♥ Q ♦ A Q 10 3 ♣ Q 9 7 6 3</p>	

Playing strong NT East will open 1♦, and West will respond 1♥, which East will raise to 2♥. After this is passed around to North they now know their partner has values and is short in ♥ so I would bid 2♠ here, even with only a 4-card suit. 2♠ will only go down 1, and might push the opponents up to 3♥. As it happens this should make, but it is not clearcut that they will take the push. Playing weak NT again results is a bad score, as there are only 8 tricks available in NT but 9 in ♥. Matchpoints is a cruel game!



Board 28. N/S. Dealer West

	♠ Q 10 3	
	♥ A K Q 4 3	
	♦ 10	
	♣ K 7 6 3	
♠ J 5		♠ K 9 7 6
♥ J 6 5		♥ 10 7 2
♦ A J 9 6 4		♦ 8
♣ J 8 5		♣ A Q 9 4 2
	♠ A 8 4 2	
	♥ 9 8	
	♦ K Q 7 5 3 2	
	♣ 10	

North will open 1♥ and South will respond 1♠. After North rebids 2♣, South should simply sign off in 2♥. When you have a misfit the winning strategy is to get out as early as possible. With only 9 points in the South hand you were not good enough to bid 2♦ in the first place so don't introduce them now!

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<p><b>1</b> Dir: N Vul: None</p> <p>♠ K973 ♥ JT942 ♦ 5 ♣ K82</p> <p>♠ QJ2 ♥ A86 ♦ A8642 ♣ 94</p> <p>♠ 85 ♥ 753 ♦ JT973 ♣ JT5</p> <p>7 ♠ AT64 11 2 ♥ KQ 20 ♦ KQ ♣ AQ763</p> <p>NT N 5 1 5 4 2 S 5 1 5 4 2 E - - - - - W - - - - -</p>	<p><b>2</b> Dir: E Vul: N-S</p> <p>♠ A42 ♥ KT97 ♦ AT432 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ KJ75 ♥ AJ53 ♦ J7 ♣ K96</p> <p>♠ T9863 ♥ Q642 ♦ T752</p> <p>12 ♠ Q 13 2 ♥ 8 13 ♦ KQ9865 ♣ AQ843</p> <p>NT N 3 6 - - 2 S 3 6 - - 2 E - - 1 2 - W - - 1 3 -</p>	<p><b>3</b> Dir: S Vul: E-W</p> <p>♠ Q64 ♥ KJ7 ♦ KQJ6 ♣ K97</p> <p>♠ AT85432 ♥ AT954 ♦ 8</p> <p>♠ AKT753 ♥ 96 ♦ 32 ♣ T53</p> <p>15 ♠ J982 8 7 ♥ Q 10 ♦ 87 ♣ AQJ642</p> <p>NT N 2 - - 1 3 S 4 - - 1 4 E - - 1 - - W - - 1 - -</p>	<p><b>4</b> Dir: W Vul: Both</p> <p>♠ AK7 ♥ QJ32 ♦ A76 ♣ KQ7</p> <p>♠ 942 ♥ AT9 ♦ J5 ♣ AT942</p> <p>♠ J865 ♥ K75 ♦ KT93 ♣ 85</p> <p>19 ♠ QT3 9 7 ♥ 864 5 ♦ Q842 ♣ J63</p> <p>NT N 1 2 1 1 2 S 1 2 1 1 2 E - - - - - W - - - - -</p>
<p><b>5</b> Dir: N Vul: N-S</p> <p>♠ J32 ♥ 764 ♦ AK7 ♣ Q954</p> <p>♠ A6 ♥ 53 ♦ QJ865 ♣ T762</p> <p>♠ T8754 ♥ AQ8 ♦ T932 ♣ 3</p> <p>10 ♠ KQ9 7 6 ♥ KJT92 17 ♦ 4 ♣ AKJ8</p> <p>NT N 4 - 4 2 4 S 4 - 4 2 4 E - 2 - - - W - 2 - - -</p>	<p><b>6</b> Dir: E Vul: E-W</p> <p>♠ A6542 ♥ 4 ♦ J8652 ♣ 42</p> <p>♠ KQ98 ♥ J5 ♦ Q9 ♣ AQJ95</p> <p>♠ JT3 ♥ AQ97 ♦ 743 ♣ K76</p> <p>5 ♠ 7 15 10 ♥ KT8632 10 ♦ AKT ♣ T83</p> <p>NT N - 2 1 - - S - 2 1 - - E 2 - 1 1 - W 2 - - 1 -</p>	<p><b>7</b> Dir: S Vul: Both</p> <p>♠ J3 ♥ A8 ♦ A3 ♣ AJ76542</p> <p>♠ Q2 ♥ J743 ♦ QT87 ♣ QT3</p> <p>♠ AK964 ♥ Q62 ♦ K652 ♣ 9</p> <p>14 ♠ T875 7 12 ♥ KT95 7 ♦ J94 ♣ K8</p> <p>NT N 4 - - - 4 S 4 - - - 4 E - 2 - 1 - W - 2 - 1 -</p>	<p><b>8</b> Dir: W Vul: None</p> <p>♠ Q962 ♥ 97 ♦ K5 ♣ KJT54</p> <p>♠ A43 ♥ T54 ♦ J872 ♣ 732</p> <p>♠ K7 ♥ AKQJ2 ♦ AQT6 ♣ A9</p> <p>9 ♠ JT85 5 23 ♥ 863 3 ♦ 943 ♣ Q86</p> <p>NT N - - - - - S - - - - - E 2 7 6 1 6 W 2 7 6 1 6</p>
<p><b>9</b> Dir: N Vul: E-W</p> <p>♠ T63 ♥ QJ875 ♦ KJ63 ♣ K</p> <p>♠ KQJ ♥ 4 ♦ T98752 ♣ AJ2</p> <p>♠ A854 ♥ AT93 ♦ Q4 ♣ QT3</p> <p>10 ♠ 972 11 12 ♥ K62 7 ♦ A ♣ 987654</p> <p>NT N - - 1 - - S - - 1 - - E 3 3 - 2 2 W 3 3 - 2 2</p>	<p><b>10</b> Dir: E Vul: Both</p> <p>♠ Q72 ♥ 32 ♦ AKJ8 ♣ J987</p> <p>♠ AKJ ♥ QJT87 ♦ 52 ♣ Q32</p> <p>♠ T954 ♥ A96 ♦ 97 ♣ AT65</p> <p>11 ♠ 863 13 8 ♥ K54 8 ♦ QT643 ♣ K4</p> <p>NT N - 3 - - - S - 3 - - - E 1 - 2 1 - W 1 - 2 1 -</p>	<p><b>11</b> Dir: S Vul: None</p> <p>♠ K3 ♥ AKJ74 ♦ KT9 ♣ 532</p> <p>♠ AJT92 ♥ T63 ♦ 765 ♣ Q6</p> <p>♠ 764 ♥ 952 ♦ A83 ♣ AJT4</p> <p>14 ♠ Q85 7 9 ♥ Q8 10 ♦ QJ42 ♣ Q987</p> <p>NT N 2 3 3 - 1 S 2 3 3 - 1 E - - - - - W - - - - -</p>	<p><b>12</b> Dir: W Vul: N-S</p> <p>♠ Q987 ♥ Q6 ♦ A97 ♣ AJ73</p> <p>♠ J654 ♥ KT752 ♦ KQ ♣ T2</p> <p>♠ AK3 ♥ AJ4 ♦ T854 ♣ 986</p> <p>13 ♠ T2 9 12 ♥ 983 6 ♦ J632 ♣ KQ54</p> <p>NT N 2 - - - - S 2 - - - - E - 3 2 2 W - - 3 2 2</p>
<p><b>13</b> Dir: N Vul: Both</p> <p>♠ 5 ♥ 742 ♦ A84 ♣ KQ8752</p> <p>♠ KT73 ♥ AQ3 ♦ 963 ♣ A94</p> <p>♠ QJ942 ♥ J98 ♦ QJ2 ♣ J6</p> <p>9 ♠ A86 13 8 ♥ KT65 10 ♦ KT75 ♣ T3</p> <p>NT N 2 1 2 - - S 2 1 2 - - E - - - 3 - W - - - 3 2</p>	<p><b>14</b> Dir: E Vul: None</p> <p>♠ AK87 ♥ JT752 ♦ 42 ♣ 72</p> <p>♠ J32 ♥ K863 ♦ AKT5 ♣ 65</p> <p>♠ QT94 ♥ J876 ♦ AQT93</p> <p>8 ♠ 65 11 9 ♥ AQ94 12 ♦ Q93 ♣ KJ84</p> <p>NT N - - 3 - - S - - 3 - - E 2 3 - 1 - W 1 3 - 1 -</p>	<p><b>15</b> Dir: S Vul: N-S</p> <p>♠ A94 ♥ Q72 ♦ AK984 ♣ J6</p> <p>♠ 85 ♥ AT8 ♦ Q ♣ AQT9852</p> <p>♠ Q632 ♥ K9643 ♦ J75 ♣ K</p> <p>14 ♠ KJT7 12 9 ♥ J5 5 ♦ T632 ♣ 743</p> <p>NT N - 2 - 1 - S - 2 - 1 - E 4 - 3 - 1 W 4 - 3 - 1</p>	<p><b>16</b> Dir: W Vul: E-W</p> <p>♠ T82 ♥ 94 ♦ QT4 ♣ A9865</p> <p>♠ AK975 ♥ AT3 ♦ 952 ♣ KT</p> <p>♠ QJ3 ♥ K8752 ♦ AJ ♣ J72</p> <p>6 ♠ 64 14 12 ♥ QJ6 8 ♦ K8763 ♣ Q43</p> <p>NT N - - - - - S - - - - - E 1 1 4 4 3 W 1 1 4 4 3</p>
<p><b>17</b> Dir: N Vul: None</p> <p>♠ 8532 ♥ 65 ♦ J ♣ QT9854</p> <p>♠ K7 ♥ AKT ♦ AT4 ♣ AK763</p> <p>♠ T4 ♥ Q9872 ♦ Q8752 ♣ 2</p> <p>3 ♠ AQJ96 21 4 ♥ J43 12 ♦ K963 ♣ J</p> <p>NT N - - - 1 - S - - - 1 - E 1 5 5 - 4 W 1 5 5 - 4</p>	<p><b>18</b> Dir: E Vul: N-S</p> <p>♠ A52 ♥ T753 ♦ Q64 ♣ J84</p> <p>♠ 964 ♥ 642 ♦ A8732 ♣ 76</p> <p>♠ KJ7 ♥ KQ9 ♦ T95 ♣ AK32</p> <p>7 ♠ QT83 4 16 ♥ AJ8 13 ♦ KJ ♣ QT95</p> <p>NT N 2 - 1 1 - S 2 - 1 1 - E - 1 - - - W - 1 - - -</p>	<p><b>19</b> Dir: S Vul: E-W</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ 42 ♦ AQT32 ♣ J9542</p> <p>♠ T8532 ♥ 96 ♦ J97 ♣ AQ3</p> <p>♠ AKQ4 ♥ AKJT3 ♦ 65 ♣ 76</p> <p>7 ♠ J97 7 17 ♥ Q875 9 ♦ K84 ♣ KT8</p> <p>NT N 2 1 - - - S 2 1 - - - E - - 4 5 2 W - - 4 5 2</p>	<p><b>20</b> Dir: W Vul: Both</p> <p>♠ AT6 ♥ K8765 ♦ Q943 ♣ 4</p> <p>♠ AQ9 ♥ AQ9 ♦ AJ65 ♣ KJT652</p> <p>♠ J9875432 ♥ T ♦ K ♣ AQ3</p> <p>9 ♠ KQ 15 10 ♥ J432 6 ♦ T872 ♣ 987</p> <p>NT N - - - - - S - - - - - E 6 1 - 4 4 W 6 1 - 4 4</p>
<p><b>21</b> Dir: N Vul: N-S</p> <p>♠ A962 ♥ 76 ♦ K93 ♣ JT43</p> <p>♠ JT73 ♥ T852 ♦ T5 ♣ A92</p> <p>♠ KQ8 ♥ AKQJ ♦ A76 ♣ 875</p> <p>8 ♠ 54 5 19 ♥ 943 8 ♦ QJ842 ♣ KQ6</p> <p>NT N - 2 - - - S - 2 - - - E - - 3 2 2 W - - 3 2 2</p>	<p><b>22</b> Dir: E Vul: E-W</p> <p>♠ AQ7 ♥ 9742 ♦ 875 ♣ 843</p> <p>♠ 9865 ♥ Q53 ♦ KT32 ♣ J5</p> <p>♠ KT3 ♥ AJT8 ♦ A ♣ AKQT2</p> <p>6 ♠ J42 6 21 ♥ K6 7 ♦ QJ964 ♣ 976</p> <p>NT N - - - - - S - - - - - E 5 2 4 4 4 W 5 2 4 4 4</p>	<p><b>23</b> Dir: S Vul: Both</p> <p>♠ K7 ♥ AK932 ♦ 42 ♣ Q954</p> <p>♠ T843 ♥ QJ5 ♦ AKJ6 ♣ J8</p> <p>♠ AQ652 ♥ T84 ♦ Q ♣ AKT2</p> <p>12 ♠ J9 12 15 ♥ 76 1 ♦ T98753 ♣ 763</p> <p>NT N - - - - - S - - - - - E 3 2 3 4 5 W 3 2 3 4 5</p>	<p><b>24</b> Dir: W Vul: None</p> <p>♠ JT97 ♥ QT52 ♦ J87 ♣ Q8</p> <p>♠ 642 ♥ A43 ♦ AKT932 ♣ 2</p> <p>♠ A5 ♥ J987 ♦ Q4 ♣ KJ743</p> <p>6 ♠ KQ83 11 11 ♥ K6 12 ♦ 65 ♣ AT965</p> <p>NT N - - - 1 - S - - - 1 - E 1 3 2 - 2 W 1 3 2 - 2</p>

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<p><b>25</b> ♠ Q9      Dir: N ♥ AT873      Vul: E-W ♦ AQ ♣ KJ42</p> <p>♠ 8      ♠ K7543 ♥ KQJ94      ♥ ♦ KJ75      ♦ T86432 ♣ 653      ♣ Q7</p> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <tr><td>16</td><td>♠ AJT62</td><td>♣♦♥♠NT</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>♥ 652</td><td>N 5 - 4 4 5</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>5 ♦ 9</td><td>S 4 - 4 4 5</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>♣ AT98</td><td>E - 2 - - -</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W - 2 - - -</td></tr> </table>	16	♠ AJT62	♣♦♥♠NT		♥ 652	N 5 - 4 4 5	10	5 ♦ 9	S 4 - 4 4 5	9	♣ AT98	E - 2 - - -			W - 2 - - -	<p><b>26</b> ♠ J32      Dir: E ♥ AJ72      Vul: Both ♦ 87 ♣ AJT2</p> <p>♠ Q      ♠ AK97654 ♥ 85      ♥ 63 ♦ AKJ6      ♦ QT94 ♣ K98653      ♣</p> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <tr><td>11</td><td>♠ T8</td><td>♣♦♥♠NT</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>♥ KQT94</td><td>N - - 1 - -</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>9 ♦ 532</td><td>S - - 1 - -</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>♣ Q74</td><td>E 1 5 - 5 -</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W 1 5 - 5 -</td></tr> </table>	11	♠ T8	♣♦♥♠NT		♥ KQT94	N - - 1 - -	13	9 ♦ 532	S - - 1 - -	7	♣ Q74	E 1 5 - 5 -			W 1 5 - 5 -	<p><b>27</b> ♠ AKQJ      Dir: S ♥ 8762      Vul: None ♦ 852 ♣ 82</p> <p>♠ T952      ♠ 87 ♥ JT53      ♥ AK94 ♦ K4      ♦ J976 ♣ KT5      ♣ AJ4</p> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <tr><td>10</td><td>♠ 643</td><td>♣♦♥♠NT</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>♥ Q</td><td>N - - - 1 -</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>13 ♦ AQT3</td><td>S - - - 1 -</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>♣ Q9763</td><td>E - 1 3 - 2</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W - 1 3 - 2</td></tr> </table>	10	♠ 643	♣♦♥♠NT		♥ Q	N - - - 1 -	7	13 ♦ AQT3	S - - - 1 -	10	♣ Q9763	E - 1 3 - 2			W - 1 3 - 2	<p><b>28</b> ♠ QT3      Dir: W ♥ AKQ43      Vul: N-S ♦ T ♣ K763</p> <p>♠ J5      ♠ K976 ♥ J65      ♥ T72 ♦ AJ964      ♦ 8 ♣ J85      ♣ AQ942</p> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <tr><td>14</td><td>♠ A842</td><td>♣♦♥♠NT</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>♥ 98</td><td>N - 2 2 2 1</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9 ♦ KQ7532</td><td>S - 2 2 2 1</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>♣ T</td><td>E 1 - - - -</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W 1 - - - -</td></tr> </table>	14	♠ A842	♣♦♥♠NT		♥ 98	N - 2 2 2 1	8	9 ♦ KQ7532	S - 2 2 2 1	9	♣ T	E 1 - - - -			W 1 - - - -
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## RECAP

	N	S	E	W
AvgHCP	10.18	9.07	10.61	10.14
Bal-anced	14	16	12	18
Voids/Singles*	0/9	0/10	4/9	2/6
Suit with7+	1	0	2	2
* Number of voids/ Number of singletons in all hands.				