

EBED



Sim Pairs

Commentary by Michael Byrne

Monday
8th May 2023

Welcome to the English Bridge Education & Development (EBED) Simultaneous Pairs. The proceeds raised by this event will go to EBED, the national charity for the promotion and development of duplicate bridge. EBED have responded to the challenges of the past two years by continuing to improve and develop the infrastructure for bridge teaching in England. This has been achieved, by providing focussed training for bridge teachers (members of EBTA, our English Bridge Teaching Association) to support them with the new skills needed for online teaching and adapting methods used in classroom-based learning. We continue to provide a gentle introduction for new players, to online duplicate bridge through our weekly EBED relaxed games. EBED additionally supplies “Bridge for All” teaching materials, organises teacher and director training courses, administers the Junior Award Scheme, organises the Schools Cup, Inter-Schools League and Youth Grand Prix, and runs the Junior Summer Camp. We continue to support county organisations and individual volunteers at the local level to run youth events. You can read more about EBED’s activities in the current issue of English Bridge and at www.ebedcio.org.uk. If you wish to arrange a donation in favour of the charity, please do so at www.ebedcio.org.uk/donate. Do please encourage your friends to come to play in these events which are open to all and raise vital funds for our work. We sincerely thank you for your support.

Giorgio Provenza

Chief Executive English Bridge Education & Development, Registered Charity No: 1153543

<p>♠ J108 ♥ A103 ♦ 1064 ♣ 8532</p> <p>♠ AK752 ♠ Q9643 ♥ K875 ♥ J4 ♦ Q52 ♦ AKJ8 ♣ 10 ♣ KJ</p> <p>♠ - ♥ Q962 ♦ 973 ♣ AQ9764</p>		<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <p>A gentle and traditional game to start with, with EW having a 10-card major suit fit and plenty of points to bid game.</p> <p>East will open 1♠ and South might well try 2♣, although facing a passed hand perhaps 3♣ is better. Regardless, West will power to 4♠ (a 4♣ splinter or good raise via a cue bid looks best) and after some exploration that is where EW shall play.</p> <p>What should South lead? A traditional 4th best heart sets a trap for North, as if he sticks in the ten (after dummy ducks) then declarer can draw trumps and throw the club away on the 4th diamond for no fewer than 12 tricks.</p> <p>A passive diamond gives 11 tricks, only the ♣A and then a non-heart switch holds it to ten – very hard to find.</p> <p>It's strange, the best lead is the Ace from AQ, knowing that you will set up a trick for declarer's king – bridge really is a fascinating game!</p>																																								
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S	2	-	-	-	-																																					
E	-	3	1	4	-																																					
W	-	3	-	4	-																																					

♠ 432

♥ 102

♦ 109432

♣ 732

♠ K5

♥ KQJ854

♦ A8

♣ J96

♠ A8

♥ 976

♦ Q75

♣ AQ1084

♠ QJ10976

♥ A3

♦ KJ6

♣ K5

HCP

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12

14

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	1	-
S	-	-	-	1	-
E	5	1	5	-	4
W	4	-	4	-	4

Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

Three players at the table have nice opening bids, and the 4th player has nothing at all – will their partner get the message in time?

East will start with 1NT (1♣ for some) and South will overcall in spades. With the ♠K that looks keen to be led around to, West will leap to 4♥ and await the dummy with interest.

It is a good idea to have a transfer to hearts available, even after an overcall. Putting the weak hand on lead is normally a bad plan: they can lead their doubleton through dummy's KJx to partners AQ for example. Here it doesn't matter which hand plays 4♥, as on a spade lead declarer will win and draw trumps then run the ♣J and claim 11 when it loses.

South can lead nothing useful, but actually if North hits upon a diamond lead, then the King is set up before the club stopper is dislodged.

Did I say it makes no difference who plays this hand? 11 tricks by East, but were you one of the genius Norths that found a diamond to hold it to ten?

♠ K86

♥ 1093

♦ J1072

♣ K109

♠ A103

♥ A864

♦ A643

♣ 82

♠ 7542

♥ KJ7

♦ K

♣ J7654

♠ QJ9

♥ Q52

♦ Q985

♣ AQ3

HCP

7

12

8

13

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	1	-	-	1
S	-	1	-	-	1
E	2	-	2	2	-
W	2	-	2	2	-

Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable

The first “cricket hand” now, as the points are split equally to both sides. (In fact, you might say they are “twenty20” – see what I did there?)

Where South starts with 1NT that will normally buy the hand and West will choose a red ace to lead from. If South opens 1♦ then North might well respond 1NT and play there.

Only if South opens 1♣ might West venture a double. This might lead to East competing to 2♠ over the inevitable 1NT from NS.

Playing in no trumps, NS have seven easy tricks (2 spades, 2 diamonds, 3 clubs) and it doesn't matter if EW attack hearts (giving a potential 8th winner) providing they cash the 13th heart at some point. (Only if EW lead two rounds of hearts, then switch, are eight tricks now possible).

Playing in spades, NS have an impossible defensive task: if they lead trumps and stop the club ruff then East just gives up 3 club tricks and 2 spades to make 8 tricks. Instead, if NS attack in diamonds, then East ruffs the 3rd club and 2 diamonds, and exits in trumps to force an extra heart trick - very nice!

♠ 7

♥ QJ632

♦ AKQ10

♣ A43

♠ KQJ432

♥ K85

♦ 942

♣ 2

♠ 86

♥ 97

♦ J85

♣ KQJ1095

♠ A1095

♥ A104

♦ 763

♣ 876

HCP

16

9

7

8

Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	4	4	1	4
S	1	4	4	2	4
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable

West has a solid weak two to start with, but partner's support (and their hand in general) is a disappointment and the question will be what game do NS end in?

North's best bid after a weak two looks to be double, as overcalling 3♥ risks getting NS into the wrong suit, and missing the chance to defend when South has a bigger spade stack.

South should consider a penalty pass although double dummy defence is needed to extract 800 (North must switch to a trump, zoom in with the ♣A and play a heart to South's Ace, who exits with the ♠10, awaiting carefully his 2nd trump trick with his A-5 a tenace over West's K-4!)

More likely South will bid something (God knows what) and then raise North's 3♥ to 4♥, and this proves an easy 620. The same ten tricks are available to anyone that plays in no trumps, so well done if you chalked up 630, which will be most of the matchpoints, but not all – those 800s are not as rare as they might be!

♠K76

♥104

♦AKJ1094

♣J7

♠Q109432

♥K2

♦Q76

♣K4

♠AJ5

♥AJ63

♦52

♣A1082

♠8

♥Q9875

♦83

♣Q9653

HCP	
12	14
10	4

Makeable contracts						
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	-	-	-	-	-	
S	-	-	-	-	-	
E	1	-	1	4	1	
W	1	-	1	4	4	

♠J5

♥A96

♦K1063

♣KQ43

♠AK97632

♥4

♦A4

♣862

♠84

♥KQ82

♦Q752

♣AJ9

♠Q10

♥J10753

♦J98

♣1075

HCP	
13	12
11	4

Makeable contracts						
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	-	-	-	-	-	
S	-	-	-	-	-	
E	2	2	2	5	5	
W	2	2	2	5	5	

♠108763

♥954

♦KJ

♣AK8

♠A52

♥QJ8

♦A754

♣1074

♠KQ4

♥AK107

♦Q63

♣632

♠J9

♥632

♦10982

♣QJ95

HCP	
11	14
11	4

Makeable contracts						
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	-	-	-	-	-	
S	-	-	-	-	-	
E	-	1	3	1	2	
W	-	1	3	1	2	

Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable

North has a nice hand and a great suit and will no doubt start the auction brightly before being disappointed with the final result.

East will surely double 1♦ and South will bid 1♥, and the only question is how many spades will West bid?

The only thing I can say about a hand like this is that if you didn't bid 4♠ then you need to make sure you do next time. You have a powerful 6-card suit you are bidding one of the other majors, the suits where partner has guaranteed support, and you have a full ten points, enough that partner must have a normal take out double rather than some strong hand in clubs or hearts.

Onto the play! It seems like there are 11 easy tricks, but the 3rd diamond is going to be a nuisance – if you ruff it then you end up losing a trump trick (whether you ruff with the ace or the jack) – so ten tricks are the limit. In fact a very careless declarer might actually go down if they ruff with the 5, but surely that was none of you, was it?.....

Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable

Points aren't everything as the power of a long suit is once more shown with this deal, where an even break and top cards come in very handy.

Whether East opens 1NT or one of the other suits (there will be votes for 1♣, 1♦ or 1♥) West will quickly arrive in 4♠ and NS must hold them to their contract.

A popular choice of lead will be the ♣K – no good I'm afraid since West will win the Ace, pull trumps and lead a heart up, establishing a discard for their losing diamond.

The ♥A lead is equally bad, as West will now make 11 tricks (throwing a club and a diamond and then leading a club up – North must split to avoid 12 tricks being made).

A diamond is the worst lead as declarer can put the queen up and lead a heart up for 12 tricks if the ace is taken, or a different 12 if it is ducked.

In the real world a 4th best club might hold it to ten tricks, but low from KQxx is scarcely attractive....and certainly not recommended!

Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

EW have two balanced hands, no major suit fit and 25 points between them, so the final resting place is surely inevitable. If NS remain silent then EW will bid P-1NT-2NT-3NT or similar and South will lead the Q♣, more on that later.

More likely West will pass and North will try 1♠ in 3rd seat. East might overcall 1NT (very dirty) or double for take-out (my choice – your extra values will prevent it going too badly), West might respond 2NT which will be raised to 3. If East passes 1♠ then West can protect with 1NT (raised to game by East) if South passes.

Either way, if West declarers no trumps then North has a choice between the mediocre 5-card suit and the club sequence.

How did everyone do? Those leading clubs beat it immediately: they take the first four and sit back and wait for their diamond trick. If instead North leads a spade, then they will have to zoom in with the ♦K and switch to a club post haste - or lose 600!

<p>♠ 74 ♥ Q64 ♦ J9652 ♣ J104</p> <p>♠ A982 ♠ K653 ♥ 7 ♥ J93 ♦ AQ ♦ K1083 ♣ AK9852 ♣ 76</p> <p>♠ QJ10 ♥ AK10852 ♦ 74 ♣ Q3</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <p>The 4-4 major suit fit is the only making game for EW. Will they be able to navigate the road to 4♠ safely?</p> <p>Once again one of the opponents will open in front of them as South is dealt an easy 1♥ opener in 3rd seat. West is a little strong for 2♣, the powerful 6-4 shape giving the hand extra bite, so should start with a double. East should prioritise bidding spades (whether or not North raises) and EW have found their fit. If East has made a free bid (1♥-X-2♥-2♠) then West has an easy raise to game; if North passes and East responds a humble 1♠ then West must content themselves with 3♠, showing a hand that would have bid game if East had responded to a 1 bid. Nevertheless, East is well worth 4♠ and game will be reached that way.</p> <p>There doesn't look to be much to the play: East can cash the top spades and ruff out the clubs, an easy 11 tricks.</p> <p>Any smart alec leading the queen of trumps will soon regret it as the heart loser is discarded on the ♦K, but that will be few and far between!</p>																																																
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<p>♠ J3 ♥ 94 ♦ J1082 ♣ AQ1073</p> <p>♠ KQ92 ♠ 10874 ♥ KJ1032 ♥ A876 ♦ 9 ♦ K43 ♣ 962 ♣ J8</p> <p>♠ A65 ♥ Q5 ♦ AQ765 ♣ K54</p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <p>NS have the very rare hand type now, two flat hands and no shortage, yet 5 of a minor is the only making game. Can anyone achieve the impossible?</p> <p>East will pass and some South players will open 1♦, the rest 1NT. A diamond opening will hit the fit immediately, but EW will put up a barrage in hearts, perhaps 1♦ (1♥) 3♦ (3♥) 5♦ might work, although that is slightly contrived. Another possibility is a fit jump, with North bidding 3♣ to show 5+ clubs and 4 card support for opener's diamonds.</p> <p>After a 1NT opener West will show the majors and North can double (to show values or clubs, take your pick) then East will again choose hearts. It's not so easy for NS to find the diamond fit now and I would be surprised if many got to game.</p> <p>A 5-level contract does need the diamond finesse and clubs coming in, so it's not a bargain, and those that stop in part-score can consider themselves unlucky if +150 is a poor score. EW make 140 in a major, and anyone letting them play there will deservedly get close to a zero.</p>																																																
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<p>♠ K2 ♥ 876 ♦ J10982 ♣ AK3</p> <p>♠ A ♠ QJ9874 ♥ KQJ103 ♥ 5 ♦ A7 ♦ KQ65 ♣ Q10742 ♣ 86</p> <p>♠ 10653 ♥ A942 ♦ 43 ♣ J95</p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <p>EW nearly have a game contract on, but the huge misfit prevents them making game in several strains.</p> <p>West will open 1♥ and East respond 1♠ and now West has an easy 2♣ bid (a jump to 3♣ showing enough for game) giving East little choice but to rebid their spades. West might be tempted now but the honours are in the wrong places, and a disciplined pass is best.</p> <p>South will probably try a diamond lead and East does best to win the Ace and lead the ♥K. Should it be obvious for South to play a club? Hopefully NS play attitude on the diamond lead and North has discouraged, allowing South to switch to a club. This will hold it to ten tricks when North cashes two rounds and plays a second diamond, since a 3rd diamond when in with the ♠K will promote the ♠10 (although in practice East will lead the ♠Q on the second round and the ten will be a boss in its own right).</p> <p>If South leads a diamond and plays a second round when in with the ♥A then I'm afraid both clubs vanish and it will be ten tricks for EW – and a top.</p>																																																
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♠Q108

♥Q742

♦85

♣AKJ3

♠J42

♥J8

♦J1072

♣Q962

♠AK6

♥K63

♦9643

♣854

♠9753

♥A1095

♦AKQ

♣107

HCP

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Makeable contracts

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♠K53

♥K8752

♦A85

♣J9

♠AQJ1076

♥10

♦K432

♣74

♠94

♥J943

♦10976

♣1052

♠82

♥AQ6

♦QJ

♣AKQ863

HCP

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♠1086

♥AJ83

♦109

♣AJ72

♠J432

♥K52

♦K65

♣K98

♠5

♥64

♦J7432

♣Q10654

♠AKQ97

♥Q1097

♦AQ8

♣3

HCP

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Makeable contracts

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Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable

25 points and a 4-4 fit – will everyone make it to 4♥ here?

South will start with his weapon of choice, which will be a weak no trump for most people. North will bid Stayman and raise the 2♥ response to 4♥, holding 12 points and a useful doubleton.

Those that start with a short club or better minor will see South raise the 1♥ response to 2♥. North is worth at least a try for game and South will accept, so most will play in 4♥.

With spades 3-3 and the Jack onside, in addition to the club queen lying in the right place, there doesn't seem to be any problems on this hand other than the trump suit. Low to the King and low back to the ten looks like the only losing possibility, as almost every other way works (run the queen then low to the ten, or run the 9, or ace and another). So you can count yourself unlucky if you were one of the few souls to go off.

Sadly, since many people will make 620, anyone that does go off will score very poorly indeed.

Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all

A rare hand here, as West has an opening bid but NS are cold for a slam!

The West hand is too strong for a weak two (holding powerful 6-4 shape and an outside king as well as the semi solid suit) and 1♠ will be the popular choice. North should pass, but in my experience far too many people like to overcall here, and some will give in to temptation and bid 2♥. If they do so, then NS will be irreparably locked into hearts where 11 tricks are the limit. Alternatively, 1♠ may be passed round to South who will double, and North will jump to 3♥. Now South might bid 3♠ and North bid 3NT, and the right game contract is reached.

Without any opposition bidding, slam is pretty dreadful. But with West marked with the values, both 6♣ and 6NT are good contracts, though almost impossible to reach.

There's not much to the play and almost no-one will get to a making slam, so anyone playing in good old 3NT and making 490 will scoop all of the match points – well, almost all.

Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable

Another slam deal for NS, but once again the key issue is to play in the right strain – easier said than done.

North will pass and South will open 1♠ in 3rd seat. North will respond 2♣ (natural) if playing Acol, and 2♣ (Drury) if playing 5 card majors. In both cases South should bid a simple 2♥ (forcing for one round) and North raise to 3♥. South will go on to game, knowing in the back of their mind that slam is unlikely (but possible!)

Playing in hearts, things seem easy but the combination of the 4-1 spade break and the losing diamond finesse means that 12 tricks are very difficult to make – a straight forward line is to ruff the spades good and then take a double diamond finesse.

On a diamond lead into the AQ (it is the unbid suit after all) 13 tricks can be made by ruffing two clubs in hand, drawing trumps and ruffing the spades good – the ♦A remains as an entry to the fifth spade. Well done if you made 480 – as usual at pairs, bidding game and playing it well is where the money is.



About the Bridge for All books and how to order



Beginning Bridge Book 1 is ideal for those who want to learn using the ‘traditional’ method of a lesson once a week, for three terms. It progresses at a steady pace, allowing more time to digest each topic. The cost is £26 plus P&P

Fast Track Bridge is ideal for those who want to learn more quickly, perhaps on a condensed course over a long weekend, or through a number of more intensive classes. It is designed to get you to the table quicker. The cost is £30 plus P&P.

Using either of these programmes will get you to the point at which you can play at a local club.

Continuing Bridge Book 2 covers more advanced topics, for those who have grasped the basics – whether having completed Book 1, or a Fast Track course – and wish to improve their game. The cost is £26 plus P&P.



Beginning Bridge Book 1 and Continuing Bridge Book 2 are accompanied by the refreshed **Practise Beginning Bridge Book 1** and **Practise Continuing Bridge Book 2**, to help consolidate knowledge gained from our Bridge For All books. They provide the bridge student with sets of hands to practice at home with friends. With each hand there is a commentary that highlights one or two topics of bidding and play which feature in teaching books. The cost is £8 each plus P&P.

Completing the set of materials is the **System Summary Card**, which gives the Standard English system taught in the Bridge For All books in an easy to use reference format. The cost is £2.50 plus P&P.

How to Buy the books

All the books are available to purchase directly from EBED - please call Lisa on 01296 317217 - or if you wish to order online please do so through the website of [the Bridge Warehouse](#).