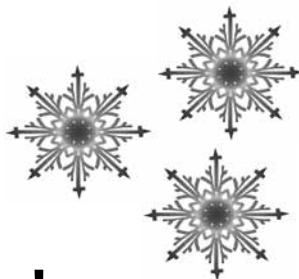
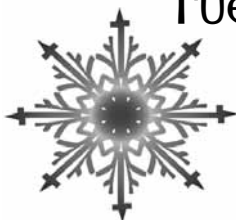


Bridge
Great
Britain
♠♥♣♦



THE BRITISH WINTER SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS

Tuesday 12 January 2010



Dear Bridge Player

First and foremost, even though we are a little way into 2010 (I can't believe we are into a new decade already !), please accept my best wishes for a very Happy New Year - I hope it is a really good year for you ... and not just for your bridge!

Thank you for participating in this BGB Simultaneous Pairs event. Sally Brock had the fun of doing the commentary on this occasion, and I do hope you have had fun reading it! And playing the hands of course! And by now you will know if she got it right - or whether you did better.

Keep an eye on the website, won't you, so you can watch the scores change as new results come in, and see your own position overall and how you are doing.

Just log onto **<http://www.ecatsbridge.com>** and click on the "Sims" button on the side then follow the links.

Once again, thank you for taking part in this event ... I hope you enjoyed yourself, win or lose, and that you will play in some more Simultaneous Pairs events in the future.

With best wishes,

Anna

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Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

The 'normal' auction of 1♠ – 1NT – 2♠ from N/S will not lead to a plus score for them. It works better this time if N passes 1NT (S will usually make 8 tricks), but that is not a normal action. Although W has the values to double 1NT, such a double is generally played as a take-out of spades so is not wise holding only a doubleton heart. I would expect any plus score N/S to score well.

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

E/W are likely to bid to 4♠ here. W will open 1♥ in third seat. If N passes E will respond 1♠ and become declarer in 4♠, while if N overcalls 3♣, E will double and W will be declarer. In either case, declarer can make 11 tricks on any lead. A heart lead is the most challenging. Declarer must win and play the ♦A and ruff a diamond before playing a trump. S can give N his ruff, but later declarer can ruff another diamond and discard dummy's clubs on his long hearts.

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

I would expect most Ns to open 1♣ in third seat and when S responds 1♠ to raise him to 2♠. EW look to be too vulnerable to enter the auction. Because of the kind breaks in both black suits, spades plays very well and S should make 10 tricks. He must knock out the ♣A-K before drawing trumps.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

It's not quite clear who's going to open the bidding on this one – indeed, it might be passed out at some tables. I wouldn't open the W or N hands but might try 1♠ as E. S might double and W redouble. E would quickly bid 2♦ and W's 2♠ might close the auction. A trump lead and careful defence thereafter can beat this contract. If E passes, then S may open 1NT which will probably make after E's likely club lead.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

Although N/S don't really have the values for game they may well stumble into 3NT which is cold as the cards lie. Suppose N opens 1♥ and E overcalls 1♠. S will bid 2♣, N 2♦, and then S will surely bid 3NT. Even if he bids just 2NT, when N removes to 3♦ S will probably try 3NT. With the spade suit behaving as expected, and both minor suits breaking, the defenders can take only 3 tricks on any lead.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

Slams are good for N/S in clubs, hearts and no-trumps. Clubs is best as it will make on 4-1 heart breaks if clubs are 3-2, but this is matchpoints and who wants to play in a minor? 6NT is the most practical shot and the one that scores best here. I like to use 5NT as 'pick a slam' in many sequences and it would work well here. My suggested sequence is: 1♣ - 1♥ - 2NT - 3♣ - 3♥ - 5NT - 6NT, N's bidding suggesting plenty of values with 2-5-2-4 distribution and honours in the doubletons.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

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

Disciplined bidding by N/S after S opens the bidding should lead to a plus score. After 1♦ - 1♥, E is likely to chip in with 1NT on his balanced 17-count. S will rebid his diamonds, suggesting a weak distributional opening. N should content himself with 2NT, and respect S's return to 3♦. Having said that, E has a difficult lead to find against 3NT and is unlikely to choose the club necessary to defeat it.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

A textbook weak 2♠ opening for W and what should N do? Nowadays, there is a conventional tool for N called Leaping Michaels. After an opening weak two-bid, a jump to 4 of a minor, shows 5-5 with that minor and the other major. Perfect here. N bids 4♦ and S bids 4♥. There are just 3 tricks for E/W to take, but they had better take them quickly or an enterprising declarer might take the club finesse and make an overtrick.

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

♠ K Q ♥ J 7 5 3 2 ♦ J 9 ♣ 10 9 8 4 ♠ 9 8 6 5 3 ♥ 4 ♦ 7 4 ♣ A K Q J 5 ♠ A 10 7 2 ♥ A K ♦ A K 10 8 6 3 ♣ 6	♠ J 4 ♥ Q 10 9 8 6 ♦ Q 5 2 ♣ 7 3 2 ♠ J 4 ♥ Q 10 9 8 6 ♦ Q 5 2 ♣ 7 3 2
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A rare hand where it is right to play in 5 of a minor at Pairs, though 6♦ can make because of the favourable positions in spades and diamonds. An uncontested auction to the best spot might be: 1♦ – 1♥ – 1♠ – 2♦ – 3♣ – 3♠ – 4♥ – 5♦. It usually works better for S to rebid a simple 1♠ rather than cramp the auction with 2♠, even with such a strong hand. When N gives diamond preference, 3♣ shows a very strong hand and N's spade holding is valuable. At some tables W will overcall to show the black suits and now the outcome is less predictable.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

♠ 9 5 4 ♥ 9 7 ♦ A J 9 4 2 ♣ 8 4 2 ♠ 10 7 3 2 ♥ 8 5 4 2 ♦ K Q 6 ♣ 5 3 ♠ A Q ♥ J 6 3 ♦ 7 5 ♣ A K Q J 10 6	♠ K J 8 6 ♥ A K Q 10 ♦ 10 8 3 ♣ 9 7 ♠ K J 8 6 ♥ A K Q 10 ♦ 10 8 3 ♣ 9 7
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If E opens a weak NT South will double. If W passes, the defenders should take 800 for an excellent score. However, most weak no-trumpers play an escape mechanism and W should be able to show both majors. Although +200 or +500 is not as much as N/S can score for their vulnerable 3NT, they are light on values and game may not be bid very often.

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

♠ J 3 ♥ A Q 3 ♦ Q J 8 5 ♣ K Q 9 3 ♠ A K ♥ K J 7 6 4 ♦ K ♣ A J 6 5 4 ♠ 10 9 7 6 2 ♥ 10 8 2 ♦ 9 3 ♣ 10 7 2	♠ Q 8 5 4 ♥ 9 5 ♦ A 10 7 6 4 2 ♣ 8 ♠ Q 8 5 4 ♥ 9 5 ♦ A 10 7 6 4 2 ♣ 8
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E/W have the values for 3NT and may end up there via 1♥ – 1♠ – 2♣ – 2♥ – 3♦ – 3NT. 3NT plays poorly, however, and is unlikely to make. If N overcalls 1NT with his poor 15-count, E/W will do better to take a penalty ... if they can. N might even scramble home in 1NT, but S is likely to remove to 2♠ which plays terribly.

Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

♠ 10 3 ♥ A 10 9 8 7 2 ♦ K Q J 3 ♣ 3 ♠ J ♥ J 4 3 ♦ A 9 2 ♣ A J 10 8 5 2 ♠ A K 6 2 ♥ Q 6 ♦ 10 7 4 ♣ K 9 7 4	♠ Q 9 8 7 5 4 ♥ K 5 ♦ 8 6 5 ♣ Q 6 ♠ Q 9 8 7 5 4 ♥ K 5 ♦ 8 6 5 ♣ Q 6
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4♥ is a fair game for N/S but it can go off if E/W find their spade ruff. W is worth a 1♣ opener with his good 6-card suit and most Ns will overcall 1♥. 1♠ from E and 1NT from S. W will rebid his clubs and S his hearts. Now it is a question of whether S is worth a forward-going move. If N/S play weak jump overcalls, then N's bidding has shown a hand too good for that action and S, with what looks like 3 key cards, might try 2♠, persuading an aggressive N to bid the game. But perhaps it's all too much for the Pairs game.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

♠ 2 ♥ AK53 ♦ AJ86 ♣ AK63	♠ AJ8765 ♥ Q9 ♦ Q2 ♣ Q75
♠ 10 ♥ J10764 ♦ K94 ♣ J942	♠ KQ943 ♥ 82 ♦ 10753 ♣ 108

The bridge computer will tell you that N can make 5♦, although this looks unlikely on a trump lead. The key is for N to play a spade early on. If E ducks declarer can succeed on a cross-ruff; if E wins declarer has 10 top tricks and the 11th will come from squeezing W in hearts and clubs. A more likely good score N/S will come from defending 1♠ doubled, where a normal defence gets 800.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

♠ KQ952 ♥ 72 ♦ 7 ♣ AJ1094	♠ J108 ♥ AJ ♦ AKQ1093 ♣ K2
♠ 6 ♥ KQ1063 ♦ 842 ♣ 8765	♠ A743 ♥ 9854 ♦ J65 ♣ Q3

I bet there will be a few practical souls sitting E who open 2NT, and come to rest in 3NT after W shows hearts. Then it is a question of S's opening lead, and in my view a spade looks unlikely, so E may well make 10 or 11 tricks. If E starts with 1♦ N will surely get a chance to enter the auction and it is a different story. Now the challenge is for E/W to find a red-suit game, preferably 4♥ at matchpoints.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

♠ K97653 ♥ 73 ♦ 986 ♣ A3	♠ J1082 ♥ Q9 ♦ A542 ♣ KQ8
♠ A4 ♥ K108654 ♦ J10 ♣ 1097	♠ Q ♥ AJ2 ♦ KQ73 ♣ J6542

Most Ss will open 1♣ and W may make a weak jump overcall in hearts, giving N something of a problem. He is not really strong enough for 2♠; maybe his system allows him to make a Sputnik double and then rebid spades to show this hand, or maybe not. Note that the 2♥ overcall has caused a problem that 1♥ would not. Here 2♥ makes only 8 tricks on a club trick (9 otherwise) while a spade contract N/S can be held to 7 tricks.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

♠ Q87 ♥ K9654 ♦ Q7 ♣ 942	♠ J9653 ♥ 10 ♦ J108 ♣ AK85
♠ 10 ♥ AQ873 ♦ AK9653 ♣ 10	♠ AK42 ♥ J2 ♦ 42 ♣ QJ763

These 5-6 major/minor hands with not really enough strength for a reverse bid are really difficult in most systems. My choice is always to open the longer suit and hope for the best. Here, although W has only 13 HCP, with all the values in the two suits I would upgrade it and make a reverse anyway. This would lead to either 3NT or 5♦ by E/W both of which make if declarer plays for the drop in diamonds – indeed either contract might make an overtrick on a club lead.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

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

How many spades should N open? Some would prefer 1♠, some 3♠ and some 4♠. For me, it's too strong for 3♠, non-vulnerable, and I have a tendency to prefer the pressure bid. Here a 4♠ opening would surely end the auction and save everybody's time! However, even a 1♠ opening is unlikely to get S too excited.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

Here slam is available for E/W in diamonds or no-trumps. 6♦ is a better contract. On a neutral trump lead, declarer can draw trumps in two rounds, cash the ♠A-K to see if the queen drops, if it doesn't discard a spade on a heart and ruff a spade, then only if spades are not 3-3 does he need to guess the club position. However, after the sequence: 1♠ – 2♦ – 2NT – 6NT, S may lead the ♣A and solve declarers problems at trick 1.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

This looks like a flat 4♥ for N/S, but at matchpoints the best line for declarer is unclear. On a likely club lead, all the tricks are there for the taking if the diamond finesse is right. Perhaps he will win the ♣A and run the ♦J. Suppose an astute East ducks this. Should declarer now draw trumps and take another diamond finesse he will be very embarrassed. Better is to take a second diamond finesse immediately. If it holds, declarer can then draw trumps safely, but if E wins (as he will here) there is no winning defence.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

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

The top spot is 7♦ E/W. How about: 1♦ – (3♠) – 4♠ – 4NT – 5♠ (2 'aces' plus trump queen) – 5NT – 6♦ – 7♦? A bit pushy, I agree. Does the 4-1 club break scupper the contract? No. Declarer must ruff two spades in dummy and then play off his winners. S will be squeezed in hearts and clubs.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

Good fits for both sides but no-one is likely to on normal defence. The best E/W can do is 10 tricks in clubs while N/S can make 9 tricks in spades. Here is a good start to the auction: P – (P) – 1♦ – (2♣) – 2♦ – 3♥ (showing a club fit as well as a decent heart suit) ... but now what? Will S bid 4♦ (and lose 200 even if not doubled) or 3♠? If he does, will W bid more? Only a look at the travelling scoresheet will tell.

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

No-one has a clear opening bid and this will probably be thrown in at many tables. South's hand looks the most attractive and at the favourable vulnerability some may open. This may well lead to a contract of 3♣ N/S. Should E/W find a way into the auction, they can make 8 tricks in spades.

Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.

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

It is my belief that a number of 5-4-2-2 hands are best opened 1NT, which is what I would do with that W hand. That would undoubtedly lead to a contract of 2♠ played by W. A trump lead or trump switch at trick 2 should beat that contract, but there is scope for the defenders to go wrong. A 1♦ opening is more likely to lead to a contract of 2♦ (1♦ – 1♠ – 2♣ – 2♦) which cannot be beaten.

Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.

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

E/W might well investigate a slam here but really ought to stop at a safe level. If W opens a red suit, E will respond 1♠ and W will surely bid 4♣ (though it is never ideal to make a splinter bid with a singleton ace). No doubt E will cooperate with 4♦ but neither E nor W should venture beyond game. W has really said it all with his initial splinter, and although E has two aces, he has only 4 spades and nothing else to say.

Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

If E opens 1♠, W should raise to 2♠ even playing 4-card majors (if E has only 4 spades he will not have 4 hearts, so most of the time the 4-3 fit will play better). A 3♦ trial bid looks right for E now and the W hand is just about worth an acceptance. Most Ss will lead a club leaving E short of options. The only thing to do is play a heart, but when declarer eventually reaches dummy and plays a spade, N's play of the queen is very revealing and enables declarer to pick up trumps for only one loser. No doubt declarer will also lose to the ♦K and make only 10 tricks.

Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.

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

S might open 1♥ or 1NT – a close decision but here it doesn't really matter as N/S are likely to reach 4♠ whichever he chooses. If S is declarer (after opening 1NT), W is likely to lead a club, thus immediately holding declarer to 11 tricks. If N is declarer there is more scope for the defence to go wrong and if they don't take their two black-suit tricks quickly, the miraculous heart position could lead to a 12th trick.

Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.

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

If N opens 1♥ and S responds 1♠, in my view N is just worth a jump raise to 3♠ (a raise to 2♠ is so likely to contain only 3-card support). However, even if he just bids 2♠, S is likely to make a try of 2NT and now the game will be reached. Declarer will just lose two trumps and a diamond.

Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

1♥ – 1♠ – 2♥ is the obvious start to the auction but S has a tricky bid next. The choices are 2♠ (which should be constructive when partner has rebid his suit, but not really this strong), 3♠ (the suit isn't really good enough) or 3♣ which would be my choice. N's hearts are good enough to bid yet again so the best game will be reached, declarer just losing a spade, a diamond and a club.

Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.

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

No-one can make very much on this deal. I guess most Es would open 1♠ and most Ws respond 2♥. Should N bid 3♦ now, or on the next round? Whichever he does, he will regret it as neither E nor W have any reason to bid over that. On the singleton heart lead, N should lose 7 tricks and go 3 down for a very poor score.

Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.

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

I'm sure the normal contract around the room will be 3NT by W (1♣ – 1♥ – 3♣ – 3NT looks fairly normal). If declarer gets everything right he can make all 13 tricks but it is not even clear what he should do at trick 1 on a spade lead. What he needs to do is rise with a top honour from dummy and follow with the other top spade honour, then the ♥K and a heart to the 9, a club to the 10, and a heart to the jack. Now play off the spades and squeeze N in the minors! But that's looking at all 4 hands!

Board 31. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

No doubt at Pairs, N/S would prefer to stay out of game, but if W makes some sort of weak jump overcall in clubs that is likely to push them up a bit too high. It looks as if declarer might go two down in 4♥ (though 3NT is cold on any lead), but E is likely to get endplayed into broaching the diamond suit for declarer.

Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

If N opens 1♠ it would be a mistake for S to raise to 2♠ with just 2 HCP. Better to pass for the time being. W will probably protect with 2♣, N will pass, and E bid 2♥. Now it would be reasonable for S to show his support. However, E is going to show his club support next and 3♣ will surely become the final contract. With the heart suit behaving kindly, declarer should be able to come to at least 9 tricks.

THE WEBSITES ...

There are a lot of official and unofficial websites connected with bridge. Here are some of the official ones that you may find interesting and useful

www.ecatsbridge.com	Simultaneous Pairs Results
www,bridgegreatbritain.org	The official BGB site
www.ebu.co.uk	English Bridge Union
www.scottishbridge.co.uk	Scottish Bridge Union
www.wbu.org.uk/	Welsh Bridge Union
www.cbai.ie/	Contract Bridge Assoc of Ireland
www.nibu.co.uk/	Northern Ireland Bridge Union
www.acbl.org	American Contract Bridge League
www.worldbridge.org	World Bridge Federation
www.eurobridge.org	European Bridge League
www.wbfteaching.org	WBF Teaching

If you are looking for the official site for a particular country, please go to the Address section on www.ecatsbridge.com, where there is a list of all official member countries of the World Bridge Federation with their websites listed and contact details.



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