



The ECatsBridge Simultaneous Pairs for BBC Children in Need Tuesday 17 November 2009

Dear Bridge Player

We are really grateful to you for coming and playing in this event for BBC Children in Need. It is a charity very close to our hearts and we hope that, with your help, we have managed to raise lots of lovely money for them! Last year you all raised over £56,000 ... and in total we have raised £339,979.58 - just a fantastic amount of money and it is all thanks to you!

You will notice that we have made the booklet (and the type size) smaller for these "CiN" events - this is because that way we can use less paper, less printing, less postage and thus make more money for Children in Need, so we hope you don't object too much ... you may need to wear your reading glasses though!

There are a lot of people to thank for their help on this one. The commentary for this set of hands was done by Liz McGowan, the well know Scottish International player, and we are very grateful to her as, in common with all the commentators over the five days, she did it free of charge.

We would like to thank the many people who help with this event each year - and seem to come back and do it all again and again ! We know you must all appreciate all that they do to try and make it a fun event that you can enjoy.

Results will be at www.ecatsbridge.com as normal, of course. If you want to make an extra donation, please just email anna@ecats.co.uk and pledge the amount - we will add it in, and I will email you to tell you where to send the cheque! And please make sure that someone from your club emails us with the amount you have raised in total as soon as possible after the event.

Again ... thank you very much for supporting us. Book the dates for next year when I expect we will be doing it all over again!

With very best wishes

Anna & Mark

Anna Gudge & Mark Newton,

ECatsBridge.com!

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

Most of you will reach 4♠ with the East-West cards. There is only one top loser, but you need a little help to make 12 tricks. You can establish diamonds with one ruff, but when South wins the ♠A a club switch removes your side entry before you are ready to use it. Any intrepid North-South pair that finds their heart fit will also find that 5-3-3-2 is an unsuitable shape for sacrificing: 5 down in 5♥ doubled is not a great result.

Board 2. NIS Vul. Dealer East.

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

There are 13 easy tricks in 7♦, but the 1-1 break is just 52%, not good enough odds for a Grand Slam unless you are feeling lucky. You need just one club ruff in dummy, so 7♣ can also be made, but that is only for the serially lucky. Most will be happy to reach the 25-point small slam. The shortage of points should mean that not too many match point hogs will reach the top-or-bottom 6NT!

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

Back to reality with a partscore hand. Playing a weak no-trump West will end the auction with a single bid, and make 8 tricks whichever major North leads. Strong no-trumpers must open one of a minor, but East will probably respond INT with the same outcome. If North-South can get into the bidding they might score well, one or two down in a heart partscore, or pushing opponents into three of a minor, but this is pretty academic, since neither has a bid.

Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

If North opens 1♣ East may use Michaels. With 4-card support for one major, an honour in the other and an ace, West is well worth a jump response. But he should not jump to game – the third heart is a poor feature, and the king of diamonds unlikely to be useful. 3♠ is quite high enough when East is minimum. North-South can make a few tricks in clubs but must not overstep at this vulnerability.

Board 5. NIS Vul. Dealer North.

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

A difficult Board for North-South. You can make 3NT by dropping the king of spades and finessing twice in diamonds: you can make 4♠ similarly by applying the Rabbi's Rule (when the king is singleton, you should drop it). I am afraid that with no better reason to drop the king many will go down – though if West has made a weak jump in hearts and ruffs an early diamond you may feel, with hindsight, that there was a case for guessing well.

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

Most East-West pairs will reach 4♣ after a simple 1♣-2♣-2♥-3♣-4♣ auction. To make the game you need to ruff a heart in dummy, so you should aim towards that before touching trump. Cash the ♦AQ, cross to the ♥A, discard a heart from dummy on the ♦K and play a second heart. If you try to draw some trump first you risk promoting a trump trick for North.

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

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

If West opens 1♥ – as who would not? – he will probably reach the excellent slam. All that is required to make 12 tricks in hearts is to ruff two spades in dummy, and the defence cannot stop you, even by leading trump. (Hard to imagine anybody reaching 6♦, which is beaten by trump leads.) West must simply focus on his own hand, and not be seduced by the ruffing club finesse.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

East-West may be headed for trouble here. After 1NT-2♣-2♦-2♥ North should re-open with a double in case partner can pass for penalties. If East pulls himself into spades South can double to show values, but you need 500 to compensate for 3NT – provided 3NT is making. You have five clubs and three aces, but if you choose to finesse in the wrong major for your ninth trick you will go down for a really poor score.

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

North-South are cold for 3NT on a combined 22 count. If East leads a low heart declarer must overtake the ♥9 and make the unlikely play of leading towards the ♣Q, ducking on the way back to remove East's entry. In the real world, if East opens 1♠ and West raises, North-South may never enter the bidding. 2♠ will probably drift one off, a good result for EW. If South overcalls an ugly 2♦ he should buy the contract in diamonds.

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

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

East-West's turn for a silly making 3NT on a combined 21 points. The heart position means you can lose only one heart, you make 3 clubs by picking up the jack, then finessing the eight, and if you manage all that you will hardly go wrong in spades, running the jack, then finessing the eight. Again, I would not be surprised to find most of you defending 2H by South and losing 110.

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

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

Looks like everybody's 4♠, but not an easy make. If South leads the ♦3 you cannot afford to duck: he can ruff the second diamond and get a second ruff when North wins the ♠A. Not many partnerships can signal for a trump switch, but unless South switches to the ♣K, establishing a ruffing finesse and a discard for dummy's diamond, your game is doomed. If you rise with the ♦A and play trump you lose only one ruff and can establish hearts for 10 tricks.

Board 12. NIS Vul. Dealer West.

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

If North opens South may be unable to describe his shape, since hearts is the Fourth Suit. But 4♠ is a fine spot (better than 3NT, where the defenders can cash 4 tricks). 5-0 trump breaks are annoying but rarely fatal. West does best to cash the ♦A before you can discard your diamond. Ruff the second diamond and play spades. When East shows out cash 3 clubs and 3 hearts, preserving the ♠9 to overruff the fourth heart. West makes only his two aces.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

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

A distinctly tricky 4♥ contract, thanks to another diabolical trump break. You might make game if West leads a club, then ducks the first diamond. You can play spades by taking some deep finesses, losing just two tricks in that suit. But on most defences you will lose at least three tricks in the plain suits, and unless you have some unlikely information from the bidding you will not take the double dummy line in hearts that picks up West's holding.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

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

North-South would like to play this hand in 4♠ and make it for a top score, but that is easier said than done. If East opens 1NT and South shows hearts and another suit North may bid spades, but is unlikely to imagine playing in game. If South passes and North bids 2♠ you may get there. 5♣ can also be made, but is even less likely to be reached – who plays five of a minor at pairs?

Board 15. NIS Vul. Dealer South.

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

If North-South play this Board early they may conclude that this is not their night. Pass-1♠-1NT-2♥-3♥ looks a reasonable sequence, and one could hardly blame North for bidding on to game, but 3♥ is already too high. It generally pays to be aggressive in the auction, so console yourself with the thought that the occasional death trap is the same for everybody and proceed with dignity to the next debacle – I mean Board.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

♠ 6
♥ A 8 7 3 2
♦ J 9 8 6 4
♣ K 5

Both sides have a double fit, and there are lots of tricks about. North-South have 10 winners in either red suit, though they might need to exercise a little care to avoid a diamond ruff in 4♥: playing ♥A and another may not feel right, but it has to be done. East-West can make 4♣ by picking up trump – which would not be unreasonable if North opens INT. Many of you may be pushed to the game level, with pleasing results for those who make their contracts.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

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

♠ A Q
♥ A K 9 8 2
♦ 7 5
♣ J 8 6 5

Those who 'never' open a weak no-trump with a 5-card major should really make an exception here. Luckily partner's 2♥ response promises a 5-card suit, so you can raise to 3♥, but all-too often you will have to rebid these wonderful spades. 4♥ is the spot: you must lose a heart and a spade, but spades provide discards for South's losing cards in the minors. If West ducks the first spade you may have to change horses and play on clubs.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

♠ 8 7
♥ 9 8 4 2
♦ 9 7 4
♣ Q 9 8 7

Some of you will reach 3NT in jig-time when East opens a weak no-trump. On a INT-3NT auction South should choose the major suit lead that holds the contract to 9 tricks. If East passes (a case can be made!) or opens 1♣, North has the chance to overcall hearts, which may deter East from bidding 3NT. Luckily 5♦ makes for the same money, but the best scores go to those who play 3NT on a non-heart lead.

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

♠
♥ A J 5 2
♦ Q 10 8 7
♣ A 10 9 7 3

It is tempting to open 1♣ with the South hand, but when partner responds 1♠ you have to rebid the moth-eaten clubs. The alternative of opening a red suit, then rebidding 2♣, invites false preference to another moth-eaten suit. I would pass, and miss the moth-eaten game. 3NT needs the heart finesse, clubs 3-3, and some help from opponents. Deep Finesse makes 5♦ as North (East is endplayed on lead), but not as South – a heart lead attacks the entries.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

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

♠ 10 6
♥ K 10 9 7 2
♦ A J
♣ Q 10 7 6

British bidding will probably reach 3NT via 1♣-2♥-2NT-3NT, and if East leads a diamond the defenders will collect two diamonds and two aces. On another lead declarer will probably start on spades, giving East a second chance to lead diamonds. Those who must respond INT with the South hand may do better on a red suit lead, but the top match point spot is 4♠ where dummy's trump guard the third diamond.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

It will be easy for East-West to get too high here! A weak 2♦ from North may slow them down – as usual, when they offer to play in your best suit, East does best to pass, collecting a few hundred. If North passes East has an Acol 2♦ opener, after which it will be difficult to stop in a making contract: 3♣ or 2NT is the limit. If East opens 1♦ West will find it hard to pass – if he responds 1♥ and partner rebids 2NT will he find a pass or go for the big money?

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

If East's first natural bid is 3NT it will be handy to have some partnership agreement that allows you to reach 4♠. You make 12 tricks in spades if you take a good view in trump, but 3NT is a struggle. Win the club lead and tempt North to win the ♠Q. If he ducks lead a heart to the ten and jack. Duck the diamond return, win the next diamond and lead a second heart which South must win to deny you a dummy entry. North is squeezed in spades and diamonds.

Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.

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

5-5 two-suiters can be immensely strong if partner has any sort of a fit, and here North has perfect cards for slam in either of South's suits. Difficult to diagnose though, so if you reach slam on these minimal values you deserve a good score. The 4-1 breaks cannot harm you when your suits are solid and you do not need to take any ruffs.

Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.

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

North-South do rather well in clubs when the ♥K is onside. Restricted Choice should suggest the winning line in spades – but East probably leads his singleton anyway and so gets a ruff to hold you to nine tricks. Since East-West can make 9 tricks in either red suit with this kind lie in diamonds North-South should be happy even to go one down in 4♣, but these part score hands are very hard to judge.

Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

North-South have the edge in points but not in makeable contracts. Seven tricks in either minor will not compete with the nine tricks East-West can make in their nine-card fit. Still, if South opens a weak no-trump it is not easy to see how East-West can get into the bidding. Two down looks inevitable – even if West starts with a spade the defence will surely find the heart switch in time – but that should score quite well.

Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.

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

West makes 4♥ in comfort provided he establishes diamonds before drawing trump – it is vital to keep a trump in dummy to control clubs. There is some danger of a diamond ruff, so declarer may prefer to organise a club ruff in dummy before tackling diamonds, but that risks losing trump control if the defenders pursue an attack in clubs. You have to take some risks, so win the spade lead and concede a diamond, then play it by ear.

Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.

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

A normal 3NT for North-South, even after spade intervention by West. Nine easy tricks when diamonds break well and the defenders cannot get at their heart winners. If East decides to try a club instead of partner's suit he will achieve a bottom score for allowing the overtrick. Normally lead partner's suit unless you have good reason, such as a void.

Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

If 3NT is to be made West must play it: a heart lead from South allows North to score the king, and the defence can cash three diamonds when they make their spade. The auction is likely to start 1♠-INT-2♣, so West is at the helm, but actually bidding 3NT takes a degree of optimism. Match point specialists will probably give false preference to 2♣, scoring 140 on this occasion for a near top.

Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.

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

Some Norths may follow the modern style where the Rule of 500 has become the Rule of 1100, and open the North hand 4♥. Still, East will bid spades, and although 5♥ is a kind of sacrifice I expect a lot of East-West scores of +650. If South underleads his heart to put partner in for a diamond through declarer will have to take a spade finesse, then hold his nose and finesse in clubs to make 5♣. If allowed to play in 4♠ he may settle for 10 safer tricks.

Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.

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

For many this East hand is too strong for a weak no-trump, so they will open 1♦ and rebid INT over the 1♥ response. On this bidding, or even if East opens a heavy weak INT partner may close his eyes and bid 3NT, leaving South to guess what to lead. A heart is the killer, but on a more revealing auction where West bids hearts South is likely to lead something else, allowing 3NT to make.

Board 31. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

East-West have an easy 450 in hearts: if the defenders do not cash their clubs declarer discards his club losers on spades; if they do he discards all his diamond losers. This is a deal where 3NT will score better, making 11 tricks by establishing a club. If South is on lead he can hold declarer to 10 tricks by leading an unlikely diamond, but in practice this is one of many deals when it is best to ignore the 5-3 major fit.

Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

A strange mixture of good and bad news for North-South. When the black suits break nicely there are 13 tricks in no-trump unless the defenders cash their top hearts. The same 13 tricks can be made in spades, but if East leads his heart declarer must ruff the third round with ♠9 to make 11 tricks. There is no particular reason for anyone to play in clubs, where three rounds of hearts promote a trump trick. As for 4♥ – a heart lead is your best chance of making that.

Yes - it was a bit of a squeeze to get it all in, and then I had a bit of space left over, but at least I can tell you a bit about us!

ECatsBridge is owned by ECats Ltd., and is an independant organisation run by Anna Gudge and Mark Newton. You can find out a bit about us by going to the website at

www.ecatsbridge.com and clicking on the tab at the top where it says "About Us" ... we have a bit about each of us there - oh and something about the ECats cats too of course! And there is a link on the front page to Anna's blog as well which will give you additional information throughout the year so do keep coming back and checking - you never know what exciting events you might hear about that way!

We do a lot of work for the World Bridge Federation, some for the European Bridge League, some for the English Bridge Union, the Simultaneous Pairs for Bridge Great Britain, and various other Simultaneous Pairs for different organisations when required, including a number of Charity events.

We can organise Simultaneous Pairs large and small - some have only a few local clubs and it may be a lot less expensive than you think, so if you want to know more, do contact us.

We both love working in bridge. We do our best to make the website at www.ecatsbridge.com user friendly and informative, and the ECatsBridge Club enjoyable for its members.

If we can help you - let us know and we will do our best!