



The 2025 Welsh Bridge Union Autumn Simultaneous Pairs

Monday 22nd September

*Thank you for supporting the WBU Simultaneous Pairs 2025.
We are once more donating the proceeds to two very worthy
causes – The Air Ambulance and our WBU Juniors.*

*This year, we are running another Freshers Fair at Cardiff
University with follow up lessons for our new recruits. The juniors
have been a delight to have in our clubs and we would very much
like to extend this to other Universities (and schools) in Wales – if
you are interested in participating, please do get in touch. We are
also starting a new initiative working with Teacher Training
students at Cardiff Met University to introduce minibridge into
schools where student teachers are carrying out their teaching
practice.*

*We hope that you have enjoyed playing in the Sims this week
and that you enjoy the write up of the hands – we hope to
see you in future events.*

The Welsh Bridge Union

1

♠ K9854
 ♥ AK1064
 ♦ J
 ♣ Q6

 ♠ A7
 ♥ Q3
 ♦ KQ85
 ♣ K10842

 ♠ Q63
 ♥ J8
 ♦ A9732
 ♣ A75

 Dealer: North
 Neither Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	2	4	6	3
S	-	1	4	5	2
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

North will find himself in 4♠ at most tables when south has decent support for the first bid of his two-suiter, plus has invitational values.

East has an awkward lead, and could make life easier by starting with a club.

However, whatever east leads twelve tricks are there Double Dummy. East's doubleton trump ace can be led through, holding trump losers to one, hearts established with a ruff, and a couple of diamonds trumped, isolating the guard with east.

Declarer's final winners inflict the coup de grace on east, squeezed in the minors. Will any manage it?

2

♠ Q942
 ♥ AJ842
 ♦ Q
 ♣ K92

 ♠ 83
 ♥ K75
 ♦ AK98654
 ♣ 4

 ♠ AJ105
 ♥ Q
 ♦ J73
 ♣ AQ875

 Dealer: East
 N-S Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	4	-	2	5	1
S	4	-	2	5	1
E	-	2	-	-	-
W	-	2	-	-	-

It might prove awkward to find the spade fit on this one when south overcalls east's 1♦ with 2♣. North could raise clubs or make an unassuming cue bid of 2♦, showing a sound club raise. Only where south now continues with 2♠ is the fit likely to come to light.

I can see a fair few not in game here, instead making their club (or spade) part-score.

Those that do play in spades can make as many as eleven tricks, though even ten are not a walk in the park, unless east sets up the diamond knave for declarer.

Well done any with 620 or more on the card.

3

♠ Q765
 ♥ 102
 ♦ QJ62
 ♣ QJ7

 ♠ J1094
 ♥ AJ975
 ♦ K5
 ♣ 92

 ♠ AK82
 ♥ 43
 ♦ 107
 ♣ AK1065

 Dealer: South
 E-W Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	-	-	2	-
S	3	-	-	2	-
E	-	1	4	-	-
W	-	1	4	-	-

We have another spade fit N/S here, easier to find, either north or south likely introducing the suit at the One level.

Indeed, opener's advantage may well come into play, neither east nor west having a sound intervention, and their heart game going a-begging, they silent throughout as N/S score 110 in 2♠ or 3♣.

Will many E/Ws manage to get into the auction, at least getting a plus if they get to the Three level, since N/S surely lose 100 should they outbid hearts to 3♠ or 4♣?

4

♠ A863
 ♥ 953
 ♦ 752
 ♣ 982

 ♠ 107
 ♥ AK1072
 ♦ K986
 ♣ K6

 ♠ J42
 ♥ J6
 ♦ AJ4
 ♣ QJ1053

 Dealer: West
 Both Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	2	5	5	4	4
W	2	5	5	4	4

Whether west opens a weak NT or 1♣ the end result should be 4♥. However, after the weak NT, transfer and raise to 3NT west could pass with his balanced hand.

3NT is in trouble on a club lead, declarer needing to find the diamond knave to make ten tricks, and not having time to get an eleventh in spades. He is probably light he gets diamonds wrong.

Having a trump suit saves the day, stopping the clubs being run, those in 4♥ making either ten or eleven tricks depending on their diamond view.

The 5:3 major suit fit beats 3NT when a ruff is possible in the short hand, or when, as here, it stops the run of the defence's long suit. Today, it is a big winner, 650 possible with a winning view in the side suit.

5

♠ 108752
♥ Q8
♦ J
♣ Q10986

♠ AK64
♥ 9
♦ Q862
♣ KJ52

♠ Q9
♥ J1065
♦ A1095
♣ 743

♠ J3
♥ AK7432
♦ K743
♣ A

Dealer: North
N-S Vulnerable

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

When east responds 1NT to west's double of south's 1♥, south could rebid his suit, though at adverse vulnerability this is risky. South should be beaten 100 in 2♥, though could scrape home if allowed a diamond ruff in dummy.

Some easts could respond 2♦ to the double instead of 1NT. Whilst there are only four obvious losers in this spot the trump break makes handling awkward, and most will be happy to go plus.

E/W could score the same 90 in 1NT, the defence having six tricks on a low heart and return, but declarer able to play on diamonds to get his seven before them.

Those E/Ws getting 100 from 2♥ could be near the top of the traveller, scoring more than 90 a rarity declaring.

6

♠ A853
♥ 75
♦ 8432
♣ Q52

♠ KJ1042
♥ KQ109
♦ 107
♣ 43

♠ Q976
♥ AJ82
♦ AKQ
♣ AK

♠ 643
♥ J965
♦ J109876

Dealer: East
E-W Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	1	2	6	6	6
W	1	2	5	6	6

East's rock-crusher finds west with decent values and the spade fit should be established, whether west shows a positive or responds 2♦ to 2♣, east rebidding his 23-24 2NT. Despite only 32HCP slam is cold in spades, and I would like to think that most will get there.

As it happens there are also twelve tricks in 6NT. Will many get the shared top by going for the NT spot, ignoring the 9 card spade fit?

7

♠ KJ987
♥ 85
♦ 932
♣ 1042

♠ A32
♥ KJ6
♦ Q87
♣ KQ87

♠ Q105
♥ A74
♦ 10654
♣ AJ3

♠ 64
♥ Q10932
♦ AKJ
♣ 965

Dealer: South
Both Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	4	3	2	3	4
W	4	3	2	3	4

Most easts will respond 2NT to west's Acol 1♣, declaring game. Where west opens his thin strong NT he is in the hot seat.

With all the cards lying nicely, and north isolated, there are ten tricks by playing on the red suits. However, when west declares he could manage eleven on a spade lead, winning trick one cheaply and rising with the spade ace on the second round. This risks going light where spades are 4:3, but gets a top today.

Where east declares no such option exists so long as south switches to spades early on, ten tricks the limit.

8

♠ AK42
♥ A3
♦ J4
♣ 109862

♠ Q103
♥ Q82
♦ Q72
♣ 7543

♠ J987
♥ J1075
♦ 1098
♣ KJ

♠ 65
♥ K964
♦ AK653
♣ AQ

Dealer: West
Neither Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	7	6	5	5	6
W	7	6	5	5	6

Again, the lies are favourable for declarer, if he realises it, south probably at the helm of 3NT. Even on the best lead of a heart the club position means that the whole suit runs, and declarer can make as many as twelve tricks by ducking a diamond.

I can't see any bidding slam, but will many make the possible dozen?

Anyone bidding 7♣ and making it after picking up trumps and ruffing diamonds good needs to check their Lottery ticket smartish.

9

♠ J54
♥ KQ
♦ Q109
♣ AJ873

♠ K1076
♥ 743
♦ K8
♣ 10654

♠ AQ82
♥ 6
♦ J7654
♣ Q92

♠ 93
♥ AJ109852
♦ A32
♣ K

Dealer: North
E-W Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	-	4	-	3
S	1	-	4	-	3
E	-	-	-	1	-
W	-	-	-	1	-

This looks like 4♥ by all, south probably declaring where north opens 1♣, north where he starts with a weak NT.

E/W need to find a spade lead or south can unblock the club king, enter dummy in trumps, then pitch a spade loser on the club king. Indeed, on a minor suit lead the club queen can be ruffed down, and west helplessly follows to the club knave as the last spade disappears.

Will many manage to make 480 on this one, or will the defence find the spade lead, cash two rounds, then make the trump switch needed to hold it?

10

♠ J107
♥ Q93
♦ A98753
♣ 10

♠ A6
♥ KJ52
♦ K6
♣ AKQ86

♠ 95
♥ A108764
♦ J102
♣ 42

♠ KQ8432
♥
♦ Q4
♣ J9753

Dealer: East
Both Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	1	-	3	-
S	-	1	-	3	-
E	3	-	6	-	4
W	3	-	6	-	4

Some might open a Weak Two or Multi with east's cards, but vulnerable that looks thin. More likely south will open 1♠, his version of a Weak Two, or he could pass hoping to get showing his suits later.

E/W get to 4♥ where south opens, east bidding the suit over west's double and being raised. Where west gets to open 2NT it is reached via a transfer. Where south gets to show spades north could find the cheap 4♠ sacrifice.

Playing in hearts there are a few guesses, declarer needing to get hearts right plus deduce the diamond position, it possible to record twelve tricks if on form.

However, a wrong heart view could even see 4♥ beaten on a spade lead, north ruffing the second club, south making a spade then inducing a diamond mis-guess.

11

♠ Q108
♥ A8
♦ AKJ73
♣ QJ4

♠ A7642
♥ KJ654
♦ 106
♣ 10

♠ KJ95
♥ Q2
♦ Q842
♣ K86

♠ 3
♥ 10973
♦ 95
♣ A97532

Dealer: South
Neither Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	4	2	-	-	2
S	4	2	-	-	2
E	-	-	1	3	-
W	-	-	1	3	-

North's strong NT could get passed to west, who shows his majors. Should east bounce to the 3 level in spades, where nine tricks are there on a good trump view, it will surely prevent south from bidding his clubs.

A club transfer by south, where played, could silence west, N/S getting 110 or 130 playing in the suit.

Where north opens 1♦ south could also pass and west use Michaels, almost certainly buying it in spades. The odd south might respond 1♥, overcalled 1♠, the N/S club fit again likely lost.

So scope for part-scores either way on this one, but I can't see that many in clubs N/S.

12

♠ Q954
♥ Q75
♦ 8
♣ AK1086

♠ A6
♥ 109643
♦ AK762
♣ Q

♠ K73
♥ AKJ8
♦ Q43
♣ 542

♠ J1082
♥ 2
♦ J1095
♣ J973

Dealer: West
N-S Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	-	-	1	-
S	2	-	-	1	-
E	-	5	6	-	2
W	-	5	6	-	2

E/W should get to 4♥ again, whether or not north makes a thin 2♣ intervention.

As #10, a lot of tricks are possible. However, not everyone will play north for the heart length, so many will lose a trump and a club, recording eleven tricks when the diamond suit is ruffed good, just losing a club and a trump.

Will many get trumps right, maybe guided by north's overcall, seriously sub-minimum without the vital queen, and have 480 on the card for a great board?

13

♠ 10983
♥ AK10
♦ KJ1092
♣ 7

♠ K654
♥ QJ6
♦ A5
♣ K943

♠ A72
♥ 9842
♦ 74
♣ AJ106

Dealer: North
Both Vulnerable

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

South might redouble when east doubles north's 1♦ opener. The best E/W can do now is lose 200 in 2♣x, and might do worse if they lose three trump tricks.

However, north may well not be prepared to play for a penalty, or south could simply bid 1NT or 1♥, N/S eventually playing 2♦, 2 of a major or 1NT.

None of N/S's spots is any particular fun, but most should at least manage a plus score. 2♥ is probably their easiest spot, and some may even succeed in holding losers to two spades, a trump and a diamond.

Getting a plus N/S could be hard enough.

14

♠ J532
♥ 7
♦ KQ832
♣ A76

♠ Q84
♥ Q1054
♦ 4
♣ 98543

♠ K76
♥ AK932
♦ 9765
♣ 10

Dealer: East
Neither Vulnerable

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

West's strong NT could well be passed out. N/S do far better by competing, the most credible being south showing hearts and a minor. This should lead to the unbeatable 3♦. When allowed to declare west certainly makes 1NT, possibly with an overtrick on a low diamond lead.

Where west opens an Acoll 1♣ it is easier for N/S, north overcalling 1♦. South has enough to support even if east has an inverted 3♣ raise in his bag.

N/S can get 110 declaring this one, but may not be able to, perhaps even writing a minus defending 1NT, or getting 100 at best from 3♣, where north passes 1♣ and south doesn't compete.

15

♠ K
♥ AK9865
♦ A1072
♣ A7

♠ 65
♥ 107
♦ K86
♣ KQ10532

♠ 109432
♥ Q43
♦ J5
♣ 986

♠ AQJ87
♥ J2
♦ Q943
♣ J4

Dealer: South
N-S Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	6	6	4	6
S	1	6	6	4	6
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Nobody passes hands like south's any more, do they? So north will almost certainly be eyeing a slam when he sees the 1♠ card on the other side of the table.

A slow approach is best, north starting with 2♥, then bidding or supporting diamonds, though care is needed to do so in a way which is forcing.

6♦ is by far the best slam. Hearts can be ruffed good and the trumps played for one loser by twice finessing through west.

By contrast, 6NT or 6♥ require the heart suit to play for six tricks without loss. A double finesse of the Q/10 with west offers the best percentage, though today pinning the 10 works. Will many go minus, playing the odds in the wrong spot?

16

♠ A54
♥ J3
♦ AKJ1053
♣ A9

♠ 73
♥ Q10972
♦ Q98
♣ Q76

♠ KQ108
♥ K8
♦ 72
♣ J10432

Dealer: West
E-W Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	3	4	-	3	2
S	3	4	-	3	2
E	-	-	1	-	-
W	-	-	1	-	-

Most will finish in 3NT here when north rebids 2NT after 1♦/1♠. Unfortunately, this contract is hopeless on east's heart lead, at least two light on a mis-guess at trick 1, and only making eight tricks anyway when the diamond finesse loses, east having his suit set up.

4♠ is a better contract, and could sneak home on a heart lead if west errs by over-ruffing on the third round of diamonds.

It seems a little unjust that those bidding the reasonable 26HCP game are likely to do worst, those playing a diamond part-score topping the traveller.

17

♠ QJ95
♥ Q9532
♦ Q52
♣ 6

♠ K2
♥ A8
♦ AJ983
♣ 9532

♠ A10863
♥ 107
♦ K76
♣ AJ10

Dealer: North
Neither Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	1	4	-
S	-	-	2	3	-
E	4	1	-	-	1
W	3	1	-	-	-

The boss suit should win out here, south overcalling east's 1♦ with his spades. North will raise, or bounce to 3♠, despite west's Sputnik double, and will usually buy it one way or other at the 3 level.

On a diamond lead the defence are ahead, and can get two tricks in the suit, to go with their two hearts. Should west fail to lead a diamond at the start, declarer can establish a heart for a diamond pitch, making ten tricks.

E/W are far better outbidding N/S with clubs, where the friendly lies mean that they only lose a trump and two spades, maybe even going plus. However, I doubt many will bid to the 4 level.

18

♠ 106
♥ AKJ4
♦ K1075
♣ Q98

♠ Q432
♥ 108532
♦ 864
♣ 6

♠ J987
♥ Q
♦ Q9
♣ K107432

Dealer: East
N-S Vulnerable

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

West's strong NT could prove a winner here, surely keeping north silent on both the first and second round, though south just might protect with 3♣ when east passes west's 2♥ transfer response.

A west Acoll 1♦ also inconveniences north, no sound bid available. However, this time south surely protects with 2♣ when east passes.

E/W's heart contract does surprisingly well, despite the bad break, and could even make eight tricks if north plays the knave on a trump lead from west, crashing south's queen.

N/S's club part-score need only lose two spades, a trump and a diamond, but some could easily get trumps wrong, being held to eight tricks.

19

♠ K64
♥ J52
♦ AKJ865
♣ 5

♠ J87
♥ KQ1064
♦ 4
♣ AKJ3

♠ A1092
♥ A873
♦ 10
♣ 8642

Dealer: South
E-W Vulnerable

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

This could be a competitive auction, east either doubling north's 1♦ or overcalling 1♥. South likely tries 1NT over either, playing there unless north rebids his diamonds, or west bids clubs where east has doubled.

Defending 1NT the defence can cash four clubs. If they then play hearts declarer can set up an extra heart and finesse in diamonds and. If they don't attack hearts a spade is simply ducked, seven tricks resulting either way.

2♦ is easier, declarer simply taking ruffs in hand, in danger of making nine tricks if the defence insist on "forcing" him.

Where E/W do manage to play in clubs the defence have to either let the heart suit get established, or allow a cross-ruff, eight tricks possible.

20

♠ 93
♥ K109854
♦ A6
♣ 853

♠ KQJ1086
♥ 3
♦ K8743
♣ 7

♠ 72
♥ 72
♦ QJ952
♣ KJ64

♠ A54
♥ AQJ6
♦ 10
♣ AQ1092

Dealer: West
Both Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	5	-	7	-	7
S	5	-	7	-	7
E	-	3	-	2	-
W	-	3	-	2	-

Deep Finesse says we have a heart grand slam here. However, it is not even a good small slam on a spade lead, a 25% shot, needing the double finesse in clubs.

In practice, it could prove awkward enough to even get to game, particularly should west open a Weak Two, Multi or 1♠. South should get an opportunity to double or bid clubs, in danger of losing the heart fit if the latter.

Those that do declare hearts can make the lot when the club suit plays for five tricks. Declaring clubs there aren't the entries to pick up trumps without ceding a ruff, eleven tricks the limit.

Will fortune favour any brave bidders today, declaring slam in the right denomination and making it?

21

♠ AQ107
 ♥ 863
 ♦ Q73
 ♣ AJ9
 ♠ 9543
 ♥ 1074
 ♦ KJ2
 ♣ 532
 ♠ K62
 ♥ Q92
 ♦ 654
 ♣ K1064
 ♠ J8
 ♥ AKJ5
 ♦ A1098
 ♣ Q87

 Dealer: North
 N-S Vulnerable

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

West could well double north's weak NT in fourth seat, and if east passes and leads a red suit it should be beaten. Indeed, passing is east's least worst option, there being no guarantee of a fit anywhere.

Where north opens 1♣ it is south who could be at the helm of 1NT, though rarely doubled. The defence is easier for west, leading a top heart then finding the diamond switch.

Those electing to bid an inverted minor 3♣ with south's cards will do worst, this likely to finish a couple light, losing 200. 1NT by south looks wiser, absent a fifth or sixth club.

22

♠ 63
 ♥ AK1053
 ♦ 32
 ♣ QJ104
 ♠ AQ10
 ♥ 9876
 ♦ J74
 ♣ 763
 ♠ 8754
 ♥ J42
 ♦ AQ5
 ♣ 985
 ♠ KJ92
 ♥ Q
 ♦ K10986
 ♣ AK2

 Dealer: East
 E-W Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	-	1	-	-
S	1	-	1	-	-
E	-	4	-	3	1
W	-	4	-	3	1

North presumably competes with hearts over west's 1♦, east maybe trying 1NT. South could well raise hearts, but west has enough to advance with a competitive double. 3♦ could be end-point, though some could find 2♠ instead.

The diamond spot is comfortable with the trump suit nicely situated, declarer unlikely to be pressed to make ten tricks.

Spades play a trick worse, as west gets forced in hearts, and care is needed to prevent north getting a diamond ruff. However, some fancy footwork could see a better score on the card, nine tricks scoring 140.

The non-vulnerable N/S can compete to 3♥, where they might get out for one light, a good save.

23

♠ A2
 ♥ 1076542
 ♦ 7
 ♣ 10654
 ♠ K643
 ♥ Q
 ♦ AJ2
 ♣ QJ987
 ♠ QJ108
 ♥ K93
 ♦ Q963
 ♣ AK
 ♠ 975
 ♥ AJ8
 ♦ K10854
 ♣ 32

 Dealer: South
 Both Vulnerable

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	4	3	1	4	2
W	4	3	1	4	2

E/W should find their spade fit, though who declares may depend on whether east responds 1♦ or 1♠ to west's 1♣.

Where west declares he could easily get the singleton diamond led. North needs to hop up with the trump ace and lead a heart to south to get his diamond ruff. With south on lead the diamond lead is less likely, many declarers now managing to record an overtrick.

It is unfortunate that results can be affected somewhat arbitrarily when system or style affects the polarity in which a contract is played, this an example.

24

♠ A8
 ♥ Q976
 ♦ A74
 ♣ A654
 ♠ 109752
 ♥ 10
 ♦ K10
 ♣ KJ1097
 ♠ K64
 ♥ KJ82
 ♦ Q9652
 ♣ 8
 ♠ QJ3
 ♥ A543
 ♦ J83
 ♣ Q32

 Dealer: West
 Neither Vulnerable

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

We could have north passed out in his weak NT. North should have an easy time of it, east unlikely to find the diamond lead required to take six tricks.

Over a north 1♣, south responds 1♥ and gets raised. With such a balanced hand south should not get too excited. Perhaps just a well, as even making eight tricks could prove a challenge with the bad trump break.

East just might enter the auction over the weak NT, if he can show spades and a minor. Allowed to play in 2♠ it is possible to get out for one light. Indeed, it could even make on a sunny day, either being a decent board when the opponents can make at least 90 declaring.

25

♠ 632
♥ J1052
♦ Q75
♣ AK7

♠ KQ84
♥ Q43
♦ J9
♣ Q652

♠ J
♥ AK8
♦ A632
♣ J10984

♠ A10975
♥ 976
♦ K1084
♣ 3

Dealer: North
E-W Vulnerable

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

West has an awkward bid when east's 1♣ is overcalled 1♠. Some could try 1NT or even 2NT, though maybe raising clubs, if a real suit, is best.

We could easily see N/S in 2♠ anyway, or E/W outbidding them with 3♣. 2♠ is not pretty if doubled on a heart lead, 300 light, though on a club lead a heart loser can be pitched, holding the loss to one undertrick.

E/W's 3♣ should make easily, perhaps for a better board. Where E/W elect to play in no trumps they can be held to seven tricks, so long as the defence plug away with the red suits, and don't try to establish spades.

Another battle for a small plus.

26

♠ AK75
♥ K986
♦ J1085
♣ 8

♠ J10862
♥ A2
♦ 97
♣ KQ53

♠ Q9
♥ Q3
♦ KQ64
♣ A10964

♠ 43
♥ J10754
♦ A32
♣ J72

Dealer: East
Both Vulnerable

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

A weak NT is probably best from east, as otherwise he has to rebid 2♣ over west's 1♠, which is not very descriptive. Over the weak NT west transfers to spades, and presumably 2♠ results. This can be held where the defence get a club ruff and a heart trick, only 110 scored, but could score better if these are missed.

Where east opens 1♣ the club fit is established after the 2♣ rebid. Declarer could make ten tricks for a better board if south fails to lead a heart when in with his diamond ace, the 130 scored beating those held to eight tricks declaring spades.

N/S can actually make 3♥, but it is awkward for them to get into the auction at adverse vulnerability. Will any manage it, and have 140 on the card?

27

♠ AKQ932
♥ KQ64
♦ 5
♣ 86

♠ 54
♥ A753
♦ A103
♣ KJ107

♠ J
♥ J1098
♦ J9874
♣ Q32

♠ 10876
♥ 2
♦ KQ62
♣ A954

Dealer: South
Neither Vulnerable

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

North should bid his spades over west's weak NT or 1♣. It would be a mistake to show the majors, in danger of playing in the wrong fit were south to have equal length in the majors or slightly longer hearts.

Today, with south having four trumps, a shortage plus decent high cards, the end result should be 4♠.

To take three tricks in defence against 4♠ east has to lead a club, rather than the "safe" heart sequence, otherwise a north club can be ditched on a south diamond honour once the ace is knocked out.

Will many pass the test?

28

♠ AK63
♥ K4
♦ J84
♣ Q983

♠ Q10974
♥ A7
♦ Q97
♣ K52

♠ 5
♥ J10963
♦ K65
♣ AJ104

♠ J82
♥ Q852
♦ A1032
♣ 76

Dealer: West
N-S Vulnerable

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

A thin 1♠ by west could well see east declaring his 1NT response. Should west pass as opener north could try his weak NT, as like as not also passed out.

North's 1NT is a disaster on a heart lead, declarer having at most five tricks. He will not be happy with several hundred in the minus column.

At favourable vulnerability east could overcall a north 5 card major 1♣ with 1♥, getting N/S out of jail, as does the west 1♠ opener. The best E/W can do now is score 120 in 1NT.

So we finish with another potentially competitive offering, with a variety of results on offer. It is hoped the set proved enjoyable.

Ave HCP	N 10.57	S 9.46	E 9.64	W 10.33	Balanced	N 11	S 11	E 11	W 15
Voids/singletons	N 0/13	S 2/11	E 0/9	W 0/10	7+ suit	N 0	S 1	E 1	W 0