

Welsh Bridge Union



2021 Autumn Pairs
Tuesday 7th September

After a long absence, the WBU Sim Pairs is back!!!

The Sim Pairs is running over the week of 6 to 10 September, with different hands each day. Clubs playing on the same day will play the same hands and as usual it will be rescored across the field to give an overall ranking list. Enhanced local master points awards are up for grabs to the top third of the field

This is the first time the WBU has held a hybrid Simultaneous Pairs – across multiple online platforms as well as for face to face pairs at the bridge table.

Clubs will hold their heats in their chosen setting – Realbridge, BBO, Stepbridge or Face to Face at the club.

Our thanks go to ECatsBridge for distributing the hands, providing the commentary, and scoring the event ... basically making this possible.

This year's chosen charity will be the Wales Air Ambulance again. We are proud to support them in the work that they do across the country.

We hope you have enjoyed your bridge and the commentary - and have managed to do as well as the experts have done (or better!). Results as always can be found at :
www.ecatsbridge.com/sims

Don't forget to check the WBU Website at <https://welshbridgeunion.org/> for information about future events – whether online or Face to Face. We are all working to give you as much enjoyable bridge as possible ! And – looking into the future – the St David's Day Sims will return next year from **28th February – 4th March** so do put those dates in your diary and come and join us.

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1

♠ A32
 ♥ J1043
 ♦ 43
 ♣ K1092
 ♠ K65
 ♥ A9862
 ♦ AJ5
 ♣ 63
 ♠ Q10984
 ♥ KQ
 ♦ Q102
 ♣ 854
 ♠ J7
 ♥ 75
 ♦ K9876
 ♣ AQJ7

Dealer: North
Neither Vulnerable

South has a thin 1♦, likely overcalled 1♥. North has a 1NT bid, making it awkward for east, who is a bit light for double or 2♠. 2♥ will probably be his choice.

That may well end the auction, and looks like eight or nine tricks.

If south passes, west's 1♥ and east's 1♠ could see south doubling. Although E/W find their best spot in spades, N/S could declare 3♣, which might escape for one light.

West's alternative weak NT sees east transfer, and the comfortable 2♠ eventuate, probably unmolested, 140 or 170 the result.

2

♠ 109
 ♥ A5
 ♦ K87542
 ♣ 1087
 ♠ A85
 ♥ KJ863
 ♦ 10
 ♣ KQ32
 ♠ Q742
 ♥ 1097
 ♦ AQ96
 ♣ AJ
 ♠ KJ63
 ♥ Q42
 ♦ J3
 ♣ 9654

Dealer: East
N-S Vulnerable

East's weak NT will see west bid 2♦, transfer. If north sees fit to double, east's redouble will teach him the error of his ways. This will certainly score more than the 450 available in hearts.

In hearts, south may present 450 on the lead, or declarer may risk the diamond finesse.

In 5 card majors east opens 1♦, west bids 1♥, and east rebids 1♠ or 1NT, depending on methods. This will have west playing 4♥, and the spade ten lead threatens to take three early tricks for the defence. Declarer is unlikely to risk the diamond finesse.

3

♠ QJ5
 ♥ J76
 ♦ A43
 ♣ 10752
 ♠ A107432
 ♥ Q5
 ♦ K8762
 ♣
 ♠ K6
 ♥ K109832
 ♦ Q
 ♣ A863
 ♠ 98
 ♥ A4
 ♦ J1095
 ♣ KQJ94

Dealer: South
E-W Vulnerable

Whether or not south opens, E/W are likely to play one of their eight card major fits. The only danger is that the bidding momentum may carry them to game.

Double dummy both majors are held to nine tricks, but the defence may well lead clubs, rather than trumps. They can still recover defending hearts, since north gets in with the diamond ace to play two rounds of trumps.

Playing spades, declarer wins the club ace, and leads the diamond queen. North can belatedly find the trump switch, but here dummy wins the king, and declarer can use its small trump to ruff a diamond - ten tricks.

4

♠ 4
 ♥ J5
 ♦ KQJ742
 ♣ 9653
 ♠ K107
 ♥ K8
 ♦ A965
 ♣ KQ72
 ♠ AQJ32
 ♥ 432
 ♦ 103
 ♣ 1084
 ♠ 9865
 ♥ AQ10976
 ♦ 8
 ♣ AJ

Dealer: West
Both Vulnerable

It looks like declarer can manage ten tricks in spades, with the heart and club position favourable. Some may be in game after west's strong NT. Whether west declares (after a transfer) or east, the lead is likely to be a diamond.

A heart must be ruffed in dummy, and entries are awkward. East may be entered in trumps, to lead to the heart king. North eventually gets the lead in diamonds and east must ruff high. Assuming a heart is then ruffed, the same entry problems mean that either east is forced, or south gets a ruff, or both. Declarer could finish two light.

Those avoiding game will gain here.

5

♠ 5432
♥ 52
♦ 4
♣ A86532

♠ A87 ♠ K1096
♥ AQ1083 ♥ K9
♦ K98 ♦ A1075
♣ Q10 ♣ K94

♠ QJ
♥ J764
♦ QJ632
♣ J7

Dealer: North
N-S Vulnerable

East's 1♦ or weak NT will wake west up. Nobody should really reach the 6NT (or 6♥ or 6♠), all makeable by bringing down the spade honours and finessing the heart ten.

3NT is likely to be the spot, probably played by east.

If declarer finds five diamonds in south he may play him for a singleton spade honour, rather than his actual holding.

It looks like the scores will be split between 460s and 490s E/W (maybe even the odd 430), for a rather unexciting board.

6

♠ K542
♥ 94
♦ J9875
♣ 87

♠ J93 ♠ 87
♥ AKJ8765 ♥ 1032
♦ 6 ♦ AK4
♣ Q2 ♣ AK1065

♠ AQ106
♥ Q
♦ Q1032
♣ J943

Dealer: East
E-W Vulnerable

E/W should find 4♥.

Played by east after a transfer over a weak NT south is very unlikely to find the spade lead.

Five card majors open 1♣, meaning west will declare. North may find the only lead to take a trick or two.

It looks like the field will be divided between 650s and 710s.

If east upgrades to a strong NT west just could punt the slam, so the odd 1460 might appear.

7

♠ 1065
♥ AK
♦ K10953
♣ K97

♠ 9 ♠ AQJ42
♥ Q9763 ♥ J85
♦ Q87 ♦ A4
♣ QJ32 ♣ A54

♠ K873
♥ 1042
♦ J62
♣ 1086

Dealer: South
Both Vulnerable

North's weak NT should be doubled by east. Nobody is likely to have anything to add. After the spade queen lead east simply has to avoid giving dummy a second spade trick, and avoid leading diamonds, to ensure a set. Will he manage that?

After 1♦ opener, 1♠ overcall there is every chance of three green cards. East should manage seven or eight tricks.

Some easts might double, finding the heart fit. This is unlikely to get too high, and should chalk up 140, or 170 if north leads a diamond. This could be a top as 1NTx is unlikely to score 300.

8

♠ Q74
♥ AQ6
♦ QJ742
♣ Q5

♠ A10865 ♠ J3
♥ J1097 ♥ K853
♦ ♦ AK98
♣ KJ109 ♣ 863

♠ K92
♥ 42
♦ 10653
♣ A742

Dealer: West
Neither Vulnerable

North's weak NT may well run round to west, who won't give in at love all. A major showing bid should find east declaring hearts. As west has already passed, east should keep low and score 140 or 170.

Playing 5 card majors north has a 1♦ opener. South's inverted minor raise to 3♦ may silence west. A 2♦ raise won't, letting west double, presumably finding the heart fit for E/W.

There could be a few N/S diamond contracts, some maybe doubled, losing 100-500.

9

♠ K95
 ♥ QJ1032
 ♦ J92
 ♣ Q9
 ♠ 107432
 ♥ 7
 ♦ Q5
 ♣ AJ1065
 ♠ Q86
 ♥ K98
 ♦ 873
 ♣ K842
 ♠ AJ
 ♥ A654
 ♦ AK1064
 ♣ 73

Dealer: North
E-W Vulnerable

South has a 1♦ opener, planning to make a thin reverse into hearts. West might like to bid, but unless playing Ghestem, cannot show the black suits, so will probably pass. It is unsound anyway at adverse vulnerability.

N/S should find the heart fit, and the defence need to find the club lead, or declarer can luckily manage thirteen tricks via five diamonds, five trumps, two spades and a spade ruff in south. However, declarer is more likely to take the losing diamond finesse, losing three tricks.

If east leads a spade and the knave scores, declarer needs to eschew the Greek Gift, over-taking with the king, to tackle trumps.

10

♠ K7
 ♥ Q10752
 ♦ 852
 ♣ A106
 ♠ 83
 ♥ A6
 ♦ 976
 ♣ KQ9754
 ♠ AQJ62
 ♥ J4
 ♦ K104
 ♣ J82
 ♠ 10954
 ♥ K983
 ♦ AQJ3
 ♣ 3

Dealer: East
Both Vulnerable

East kicks off with a 1♠ bid in 5 card majors. West responds 1NT, and may well play there. North's heart lead both establishes his suit and knocks out the entry to declarer's clubs. The defence should manage seven or eight tricks.

East could declare 1NT if he opens a weak NT. Any lead but a heart allows declarer at least eight tricks.

N/S can actually make 4♥ but are unlikely to bid. They just might if west elects to show his clubs, south conceivably being able to double for takeout.

Scope for various scores here.

11

♠ K97
 ♥ KJ1085
 ♦
 ♣ AK986
 ♠ 864
 ♥ Q9
 ♦ 953
 ♣ J10543
 ♠ QJ5
 ♥ A76
 ♦ AKJ42
 ♣ Q2
 ♠ A1032
 ♥ 432
 ♦ Q10876
 ♣ 7

Dealer: South
Neither Vulnerable

East may well overcall north's 1♥ with 1NT. This is booked for three off so he is fortunate that south hasn't the values for a double. He may well raise hearts. Even if he passes, north will bid 2♣ and south give heart preference.

All this lets east out of jail to an extent, although since north can make 170 in hearts, the 150 light in 1NT would have been an improvement.

Any E/W venture above 2♥ is liable to find the axe wielded, and the result could be bloody. This may happen at the occasional table.

12

♠ AJ53
 ♥ 1097
 ♦ 1095
 ♣ AJ9
 ♠ K1097
 ♥ Q653
 ♦
 ♣ 107532
 ♠ Q8
 ♥ AJ
 ♦ AK87642
 ♣ K8
 ♠ 642
 ♥ K842
 ♦ QJ3
 ♣ Q64

Dealer: West
N-S Vulnerable

East could easily be passed out in 1♦, and may not be happy with between 90 and 130, depending on south's lead.

Modern tendency is to respond on the west hand, despite subminimum values, since it may silence the opposition and steal a contract. In this instance west's 1♥ will probably be followed by east's 3NT, resulting in a sheepish west putting down the dummy.

South must find the club lead. If north returns clubs south needs to unblock in either minor to allow north access for the necessary heart switch.

I can see a fair few 400s appearing E/W.

13

♠ Q95
 ♥ AQ98
 ♦ 72
 ♣ K986
 ♠ 1082
 ♥ 7
 ♦ J1085
 ♣ AJ742
 ♠ K76
 ♥ K106543
 ♦ K96
 ♣ 10

Dealer: North
Both Vulnerable

West may find himself declaring his weak NT in 4th seat. A club lead means eight tricks. A heart forces a lot of discards. Declarer can keep all his diamonds, two clubs and the spade ace, scraping the last seven tricks on two finesses. However, many will go light.

North has a thin 1♣ in 5 card majors, or south a Multi or heart weak two. Either could see N/S scoring 140 in hearts.

E/W can manage 110 in diamonds (or even 140 double dummy in spades), so we have another finely balance part-score battle, with an uncertain outcome.

14

♠ J10985
 ♥ A732
 ♦ Q3
 ♣ 105
 ♠ Q764
 ♥ 95
 ♦ K72
 ♣ KQ86
 ♠ AK
 ♥ K6
 ♦ J985
 ♣ 97432
 ♠ 32
 ♥ QJ1084
 ♦ A1064
 ♣ AJ

Dealer: East
Neither Vulnerable

South's 1♥ should find north raising. South hasn't a game try, so will pass, letting west double, finding the E/W club fit.

3♣ looks unbreakable, so N/S need to play 3♥, and indeed north should bid this, being confident of a nine card fit.

So long as the defence lead clubs, or a spade to east followed by a club switch, 3♥ should be beaten.

Some may allow 2♥ to be declared, and get a poor board, even if it is held to eight tricks

15

♠ J1083
 ♥ Q4
 ♦ Q1092
 ♣ 652
 ♠ A9764
 ♥ 93
 ♦ K
 ♣ AQ943
 ♠ K52
 ♥ J65
 ♦ A765
 ♣ K87
 ♠ Q
 ♥ AK10872
 ♦ J843
 ♣ J10

Dealer: South
N-S Vulnerable

South's 1♥ should find west overcalling Michaels or spades. East has great fitting cards, and will not settle below game.

4♠ is an unfortunate one down on the 4:1 trump break, unless the defence go off-piste and fail to lead hearts.

Predicting flat boards is always dangerous, but it looks like 50 N/S will be a common if not universal outcome.

16

♠ K74
 ♥ J53
 ♦ KJ753
 ♣ J4
 ♠ Q10
 ♥ Q1094
 ♦ AQ42
 ♣ A86
 ♠ AJ9853
 ♥ K7
 ♦ 9
 ♣ 10932
 ♠ 62
 ♥ A862
 ♦ 1086
 ♣ KQ75

Dealer: West
E-W Vulnerable

West's weak NT should result in him declaring 2♠. Playing 5 card majors east gets to declare, rebidding his suit after west has opened 1♦ and rebid 1NT.

Any lead but a trump, or a diamond from south, leads to 10 easy tricks. On the passive lead, declarer can still make 170 by playing clubs to advantage, or by ruffing out the heart knave.

In theory another flattish board, this time 170 E/W, but in reality there will be those only attaining 140.

17

♠ 852
 ♥ J1042
 ♦ AQ
 ♣ J875
 ♠ J9643
 ♥ 973
 ♦ 1054
 ♣ A6
 ♠ KQ107
 ♥ 865
 ♦ J973
 ♣ K4
 ♠ A
 ♥ AKQ
 ♦ K862
 ♣ Q10932

Dealer: North
Neither Vulnerable

South has an awkward hand with 18HCP but no good suit. Reluctantly, he should open 1♣, then reverse into diamonds, unless partner bids 1♠, in which case 2NT stands out.

Here, north bids 1♥ and can see he has a great fit in clubs after south's 2♦ reverse. If 3♣ is played as forcing that is best, otherwise 2♠ FSF looks the answer.

This latter sees south showing secondary heart support, and the end result should be either 5♣ or 4♥, the latter theoretically better, since 450 is possible.

I bet many are light in 3NT.

18

♠ KJ10965
 ♥
 ♦ KQ9
 ♣ 9652
 ♠ Q83
 ♥ K987
 ♦ A102
 ♣ 1083
 ♠ A2
 ♥ A10543
 ♦ J7
 ♣ KQ74
 ♠ 74
 ♥ QJ62
 ♦ 86543
 ♣ AJ

Dealer: East
N-S Vulnerable

East's 1♥ is raised, and many norths will bid 2♠. If east now makes a 3♣ game try west is likely to co-operate.

Even 3♥ is in jeopardy thanks to the bad trump break and opening spade lead through the queen, though this may not be forthcoming if north has been silent.

North can attain eight tricks in spades on best defence, and could even manage nine on the heart ace lead.

Any E/W pair emerging with a plus score here will get a good board.

19

♠ A72
 ♥ AJ3
 ♦ K1073
 ♣ 953
 ♠ 4
 ♥ 109652
 ♦ 865
 ♣ KQ87
 ♠ KQJ3
 ♥ K
 ♦ AQJ9
 ♣ J1062
 ♠ 109865
 ♥ Q874
 ♦ 42
 ♣ A4

Dealer: South
E-W Vulnerable

North's weak NT will be doubled by east, and the takeout to spades likewise. The defence should manage seven or eight tricks, even if declarer brings down the singleton heart king.

A 1♦ opener could be doubled, or east may overcall 1NT. In either case 1NT may be declared by east, but some 1NT overcallers may find themselves declaring 2♥ - not a pretty spot.

1NT should manage eight tricks, since there are club entries in west to finesse diamonds.

120 may not be a bad score E/W, since not all those doubling N/S will get more than 100, and some will contrive a minus score.

20

♠ 102
 ♥ Q4
 ♦ 7654
 ♣ KQJ82
 ♠ K983
 ♥ J
 ♦ AKJ103
 ♣ 543
 ♠ QJ54
 ♥ 10985
 ♦ 98
 ♣ A109
 ♠ A76
 ♥ AK7632
 ♦ Q2
 ♣ 76

Dealer: West
Both Vulnerable

East is liable to respond 1♥ to west's 1♦ opener, keeping south quiet for the moment. West's 1♠ rebid is likely to be raised to the two level.

2♠ looks a comfortable make with an overtrick, though north's trump ten may come into the game on a heart lead and continuation.

A few brave south's may venture 3♥, and if allowed to play there, may escape for minus 100, and an excellent board.

21

♠ AKJ4
 ♥ K
 ♦ AKQ5
 ♣ 10653

♠ 103
 ♥ 76432
 ♦ 76
 ♣ KJ92

♠ Q9876
 ♥ Q10
 ♦ J843
 ♣ Q8

♠ 52
 ♥ AJ985
 ♦ 1092
 ♣ A74

Dealer: North
N-S Vulnerable

North could open 2NT or 1♦. Both are likely to result in him declaring 3NT, whether or not east overcalls 1♠.

On a spade or diamond lead the lucky heart position could allow twelve, or even thirteen, tricks if the defence make the wrong discards. Some declarers may overtake the heart king with the ace, after the ten pops up, ensuring the contract, whoever holds the queen, assuming a club has not been led.

It takes the improbable club lead from east to hold 3NT legitimately to ten tricks, since the entry to the hearts is prematurely removed. Many could go light, since it is not obvious to duck the first club, then cash all north's winners, finally exiting in clubs to west who must cede the rest to dummy.

22

♠ 62
 ♥ AQ53
 ♦ Q1072
 ♣ A94

♠ 10
 ♥ K1072
 ♦ KJ8
 ♣ J10732

♠ AKJ954
 ♥ 86
 ♦ 96
 ♣ K86

♠ Q873
 ♥ J94
 ♦ A543
 ♣ Q5

Dealer: East
E-W Vulnerable

East is likely to rebid 2♠ over west's 1NT response to his 1♠ opener. This will run round to north, who has a balancing double.

This gives south the choice of a penalty pass, or the more conservative 3♦.

Double dummy 3♦ is makeable, though declarer seems to lose two spades, and one trick in every other suit.

2♠x should be beaten, but declarer could easily be allowed to make, since the normal heart lead (small from dummy) forces the queen. The defence need to be smart now to disentangle their six defensive tricks.

23

♠ KJ42
 ♥ A8
 ♦ K2
 ♣ KJ985

♠ Q763
 ♥ Q6543
 ♦ Q1032
 ♣ Q1032

♠ 985
 ♥ 72
 ♦ 109876
 ♣ A76

♠ A10
 ♥ KJ109
 ♦ AQJ543
 ♣ 4

Dealer: South
Both Vulnerable

South opens 1♦ and reverses into 2♥ over north's 2♣. North now has a great hand, with respectable trump support and Ace/other in partner's second suit.

The decent 6♦ will be reached by some. If west misses the club lead, declarer can still get home double dummy, despite the 5:0 trump break. He needs to finesse both majors through west for a club pitch and ruff his last heart low in dummy. East has to use his natural trump trick over-ruffing.

In reality few will get home in 6♦. Many will get a decent board making 630 or 660 in 3NT.

24

♠ 9
 ♥ K1076542
 ♦ Q63
 ♣ A8

♠ AJ108743
 ♥ 983
 ♦ K10
 ♣ 4

♠ KQ
 ♥ J
 ♦ 8542
 ♣ J109752

♠ 652
 ♥ AQ
 ♦ AJ97
 ♣ KQ63

Dealer: West
Neither Vulnerable

West will usually pre-empt 3♠, rather upsetting north, who was about to do likewise in hearts. With zero defence, east should bid 4♠, hoping to muddy the waters, though most will pass.

South will certainly double 3♠, and probably 4♠. North has a clear game bid in hearts, whether at the four or five level.

Eleven tricks look straightforward in hearts, though declarer could carelessly suffer a club ruff.

E/W can be held to eight tricks in spades, but only if trumps are led before a heart is played. The likelihood is that any sacrificing in spades will do so profitably.

25

♠ J753
♥ 108532
♦ QJ5
♣ 6

♠ K106 ♠ 42
♥ A ♥ K7
♦ AK9732 ♦ 10864
♣ J53 ♣ AKQ87

♠ AQ98
♥ QJ964
♦
♣ 10942

Dealer: North
E-W Vulnerable

West opens 1♦ and east responds 2♣. At favourable vulnerability some souths may bid hearts or double.

West seems to have a 3♦ bid over south's pass, and probably the same (promising extras) if south has bid.

North's 4♥ will make it hard for E/W to find their excellent diamond slam, and they will probably settle for game. This is rather fortunate, since the 3:0 trump break defeats it.

Those bidding on to 5♥ will get a great board, since this should only lose 300, and there is a chance of pushing E/W into the failing slam.

26

♠ J6
♥ K1063
♦ AKQ93
♣ AK

♠ AQ1098 ♠ K74
♥ Q9854 ♥ J2
♦ 42 ♦ 1076
♣ 5 ♣ J9762

♠ 532
♥ A7
♦ J85
♣ Q10843

Dealer: East
Both Vulnerable

West is a bit thin for a 3rd seat opener so north will kick off with either 2NT, or 1♦ planning to reverse in hearts.

The 2NT opener is likely to be raised to game, possibly after a failing 5 card major enquiry. Now east needs to find the spade lead, and may do so, since with such a weak hand trying to find partner's suit is best.

Those opening diamonds and reversing should find the solid 5♦. They will be more than a tad miffed that their good bidding may not be well rewarded, since there will be those scoring 630 in the beatable 3NT.

27

♠ K1076
♥ 107
♦ K85
♣ QJ105

♠ 53 ♠ QJ982
♥ KJ82 ♥ Q5
♦ QJ6 ♦ A10942
♣ K842 ♣ 7

♠ A4
♥ A9643
♦ 73
♣ A963

Dealer: South
Neither Vulnerable

North is likely to respond 1♠ to south's 1♥ opener, and raise the 2♣ rebid to 3♣. This may well end the auction, though some enterprising easts will have bid diamonds.

There are at least four losers in 3♣ and the side suits lie awkwardly, threatening an over-ruff, the result being a theoretical one trick defeat, though some may get home.

The poor lies for 3♣ have the converse effect on 2-3♦ should E/W manage to buy the pot. In theory nine tricks are there, but it may require some fancy footwork.

Another interesting part-score battle.

28

♠ 103
♥ K
♦ Q1086542
♣ 873

♠ K842 ♠ AQJ76
♥ Q9872 ♥ 543
♦ 973 ♦
♣ 4 ♣ AQJ92

♠ 95
♥ AJ106
♦ AKJ
♣ K1065

Dealer: West
N-S Vulnerable

North looks a bit thin for an adverse vulnerability 3♦ so east's nice two suiter should get to open 1♣ or 1♠, depending on methods.

1♣ may quiten south (and possibly west), though I feel west should respond 1♥. Now E/W's spade fit may belatedly come to light.

East's 1♠ opener will be doubled by south. Even after west raises to 3♠ north is likely to try 4♦.

Some E/Ws will end up being pushed into game in spades. This contract is makeable, but needs the 2:2 trump break and a ruffing club finesse to come home. 5♦ looks 500 light.

Could be an exciting end to a see-saw set.