

Commentary for the u3a Spring Charity Bridge Festival



Wednesday 10th April 2024

Dear Bridge player

Welcome to our third national Bridge Festival, uniting and re-uniting u3a bridge players from across the United Kingdom. Games will be played all week both offline locally and online.

All results submitted will be included in the overall national scoring and the names of each day's winning pair will be posted on the [u3a Bridge website](https://www.u3a.org.uk/bridge) as soon as possible once all the results have been received.

Having raised over £2,000 for last year's charities, we hope you'll help to raise even more for Parkinson's UK and Cruse Bereavement Support this year.

Thank you for joining in, playing and donating at <https://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims/donations.asp>

Have fun, spread the word and enjoy yourselves.

Board 1. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

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

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

Game is on here for E/W with their combined 23 count (and in fact 12 tricks are available double dummy) but I cannot see many E/E pairs finding their ♥ fit, let alone getting to game. South is likely to open a weak NT and, if E/W are playing Asptro (or something similar), then West can overcall to show ♥ and another suit and will buy the part score in ♥. Otherwise if West passes over the weak NT North will transfer to spades and South will play there going several down. This may be expensive if it gets doubled.

Board 2. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

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

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

A part score with no side having a fit. West may open a weak two in ♥ at this vulnerability, which makes, but South is likely to overcall 2NT. North will transfer to spades and 3♠ will drift at least a couple off for the dreaded -200 (or more) and a bad board.

Board 3. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

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

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

Yet another part score hand! It is an E/W hand but North may open a weak NT third in hand and get doubled for a very big minus. Those playing a strong NT (or not wanting to open a weak NT with the good \diamond suit) should be safer but may still get caught. Otherwise E/W can make +120 in no trumps or +110 in \diamond or \heartsuit – even with the bad breaks.

Board 4. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

<p>♠ Q 9 ♥ Q J 9 4 ♦ K 9 3 2 ♣ A 6 3</p> <p>♠ A 6 2 ♥ K 8 5 3 ♦ Q 10 7 ♣ J 9 7</p>	<p>♠ K 5 4 3 ♥ A 2 ♦ A J 6 4 ♣ Q 10 5</p> <p>♠ J 10 8 7 ♥ 10 7 6 ♦ 8 5 ♣ K 8 4 2</p>
--	--

E/W can make 3 NT on their combined 24 count with the favourable \diamond position but I do not see that result occurring very often. If North opens a weak NT on that revolting 12 count vulnerable North may buy the contract and regret it when they see dummy, going several down. Those Norths playing a strong NT, or passing with the North hand, may get a better score defending an E/W part score – probably in INT.

Board 5. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S

<p>♠ A Q J 7 5 ♥ J 2 ♦ 9 3 ♣ 10 9 7 3</p> <p>♠ K 10 4 2 ♥ K 7 6 ♦ A Q J 8 ♣ Q J</p>	<p>♠ 9 3 ♥ Q 9 8 4 3 ♦ 10 7 2 ♣ A 4 2</p> <p>♠ 8 6 ♥ A 10 5 ♦ K 6 5 4 ♣ K 8 6 5</p>
---	---

Yet another part score hand but they can be interesting at match points. The best spot is 2 \spadesuit by South, to protect the K \diamond on the lead, but I cannot see that occurring very often, particularly if West, playing four card majors, opens the hand 1 \spadesuit ; this should lead to E/W playing the hand in no trumps – hopefully at the one level. If E/W play a strong NT the auction

will be a simple INT followed by a transfer for +110 to E/W.

Board 6. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

<p>♠ 10 9 7 2 ♥ Q 7 3 ♦ K J 8 ♣ J 7 2</p> <p>♠ A J 6 ♥ K 5 4 ♦ 10 7 5 4 ♣ 8 5 3</p>	<p>♠ Q 8 4 ♥ 8 ♦ A Q 6 3 2 ♣ A Q 10 9</p> <p>♠ K 5 3 ♥ A J 10 9 6 2 ♦ 9 ♣ K 6 4</p>
---	---

East will open the hand 1 \diamond and South will then overcall in hearts. Both West and North will find some sort of raise. As E/W have the balance of the points they will buy the contract and +130 is available as the spade loser is pitched on the long club. N/S need to be careful as they can only make seven tricks in \heartsuit and it will be costly if they bid too high and get doubled.

Board 7. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

<p>♠ 4 2 ♥ A J 9 ♦ A J 10 ♣ J 10 8 4 3</p> <p>♠ 10 5 ♥ 6 5 2 ♦ Q 9 5 ♣ A Q 7 6 2</p>	<p>♠ A K Q 8 7 ♥ Q 8 7 3 ♦ K 8 7 2 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ J 9 6 3 ♥ K 10 4 ♦ 6 4 3 ♣ K 9 5</p>
--	--

I can see this hand getting passed around to East who will open 1 \spadesuit . West should bid 1 NT and East will introduce his diamond suit. Simple preference to the five card spade suit should then follow but that is already too high as seven tricks is the limit in spades – with careful play o help from the defence. The clubs in dummy are nice but rather difficult to get to!

Board 8. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

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

This hand should end up being played in 3NT with the club suit providing an easy seven tricks. It is best played by East, as from the West side the defence can take four tricks in hearts. If the defence do not lead hearts (and I can see that in many cases they would not) then E/W can make 11 tricks (or more if the spades come in – and there will be a lot of discards to find). A heart lead will save a lot of match points.

Board 9. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

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

Some Norths may open the bidding in the modern style but may survive this and avoid a penalty. E/W are likely to play this in NT and will make 9 tricks with careful play, although making 10 tricks in ♥ will score better. South must put in the ♥ Q when the suit is played to give declarer a problem. The question is whether E/W get to game on their combined 24 count.

Board 10. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

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

This hand belongs to N/S but many (myself included) would open the South hand and then would get too high. Unfortunately with an opening hand opposite you will probably play this in game once South opens - unless North has been there before and only treats their hand as being invitational. Making +140 will score well.

Board 11. Dealer South. Vulnerability None

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

South is likely to open a weak two in spades (or a Multi if that is their system) but that will not keep E/W out of their heart game – the problem for E/W will be if North competes with 4 ♠ (bidding to the level of the fit) as 4 ♠ doubled is only two down and this is a cheap save. E/W can make 5 ♥ (if they find the Q ♦) but may not be prepared to bid it.

Board 12. Dealer West. Vulnerability N/S

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

This hand belongs to N/S but when East opens 1♥ in third seat it may be difficult for N/S to get into the bidding. South does not really have a 2♦ or a INT overcall vulnerable and if South passes then 1♠ from West will kill that suit for North. I suspect whoever plays the hand will go down and the key will be how much it will cost you.

Board 13. Dealer North. Vulnerability All

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

There is a slam available here for N/S either in spades or no trumps but it is not a great slam needing the Q♠ on-side and a “guess” in hearts so I would not expect many to be in it; you also only have a combined 29 count. Playing in NT will score better than in spades whether in game or slam and, with the modern style to open a NT with a 5-card Major, those playing a strong NT may get to 3NT for the majority of the match points.

Board 14. Dealer East. Vulnerability None

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

East will open normally 1♦ but some might try a weak NT (it is balanced partner!) but then the paths will diverge. After a 1♦ opening South should bid INT and North will then drive to game, probably via a transfer to spades and then a 3NT bid, where ten tricks are the limit. Spades plays better making five. However, those opening a weak NT will have a torrid time when they get doubled, and deservedly so! Even a run out to 2♦ will be expensive on best defence.

Board 15. Dealer South. Vulnerability N/S

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

A combined 25 count should get you to game in hearts but many will then go down with the club finesse losing, as long as South switches to clubs soon enough – otherwise there are discards for the clubs available in both pointed suits. Some might open a weak NT and play in hearts from the West seat, where a ♣ lead would be friendly.

Board 16. Dealer West. Vulnerability E/W

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

West has 11 count that many will open in the modern style where you bid a lot! There is a ten-card diamond fit for E/W but 8 tricks are the limit on best defence (i.e.: a club lead) and E/W are vulnerable so bidding on may prove expensive. However N/S own this hand and can make nine tricks in either clubs (or hearts) and South may well join in the auction with their six card club suit and North will not get excited.

Board 17. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

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

If South opens a strong NT many will play that a 2NT bid by West is a minor two suiter. Although North has a seven count the diamond holding is now looking like waste paper and they should pass! E/W will the play in a club part score +130. However if South opens 1♥ then North may join in and support to the three level over 2NT. If N/S bid on over 4♣ then they can expect to get doubled and it will be costly.

Board 18. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

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

East will pass and then I expect to see a wide range of opening bid choices being made by South, with 1♥ or 4♥ opening being popular. Some may even have a South African Texas 4♣ bid available to show solid hearts. However N/S have no tricks outside of the seven hearts tricks. A four level opening bid may buy the contract for three off and a score of -300, which could be cheap against the 4♠ contract available to E/W but I think few will get to that Moysian fit, so conceding -300 will be costly. Some might even get doubled.

Board 19. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

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

After a 1♠ opening bid by South, a INT overall by West will have some adherents, myself included. North may be able to bid 2♦ non-forcing (making +130), but they may pass being put off the 2♦ bid by the singleton in partner's suit, wrongly fearing a spade rebid by partner. South does best to pass INT as they have eight tricks to cash defending INT for +200 but I suspect many will rebid 2♠, and this should make losing three trumps and two clubs.

Board 20. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

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

Another 11 point opening bid – this time when West opens 1♦ partner, with a 21 count, will drive to slam, although I am not sure how many will get to the good grand slam. Even with a 4-0 trump break, as long as hearts are no worse than 5-2 you can ruff a heart for the thirteen trick

Board 21. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S

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

After a weak NT by North, it is up to West to take any action and +110 is available to E/W in either red suit. Many will have a two-suited bid available to show hearts and a minor so you had better bid that and take your +110!

Board 22. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

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

I am not a fan of East opening 2♥ vulnerable against not in the first seat with such a poor suit, although E/W can make nine tricks in hearts if they get trumps right and find Ax in the South hand, so what do I know! In contrast N/S only have +110 available in spades. I expect to see an assortment of scores here and any plus should score well.

Board 23. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

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

North has a big hand and will open whatever their system bid is to show 24 points balanced. South, with an 8 count, will then investigate slam but N/S will need to find their 4-4♠ fit as there are only 12 tricks available in that suit where you can ruff a club or diamond for the twelfth trick. At match points anyone who tries 6NT for the extra 10 points will be disappointed.

Board 24. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

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

A simple 4♥ for E/W, regardless of whether West opens 1NT or 1♥. North will intervene in diamonds but that makes East's K♦ look as if it working and East will hopefully drive to game as any invitation is likely to be declined. Game does potentially need a correct guess in spades, but in practice South will not get in to put you to that guess and clubs will provide discards.

Board 25. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

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

North will open INT, if playing a weak NT, and South will then probably transfer to spades and then bid game. Some may bid clubs on the way. Although slam makes in clubs and spades neither is a “gold plated” spot. With West holding the ace of hearts, even 6NT rolls in played from both North or South. I expect some to be in slam but not many!

Board 26. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

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

A weak NT by East, although the “old school” will open 1♥, and this will get a 1♠ response from partner – South does not really have a 2♦ overcall vulnerable. The “old school” will then rebid this moth-eaten heart suit and get a 2♠ bid in response as they are not good enough to bid 3♣ and partner’s rebid dose not excite you. This will end the auction and there is +140 available for West. Those that opened a weak NT will then have a transfer auction and play the hand from the East side, where you can score +170

Board 27. Dealer South. Vulnerability None

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

After a 1♦ opening North will bid 1♠, which will get raised to 2♠ by South. As North has no interest in game they will pass this allowing East to balance with their six card ♥ suit. As 3♥ makes North / South should bid on to their making 3♠, although I suspect that not everybody will do that. The par contract will then be 4♥ doubled for one down -but again I suspect that not everybody will do that.

Board 28. Dealer West. Vulnerability N/S

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

After a third in hand IH opening by East, South will probably start with a double on their 19 count. West may raise partner’s hearts and eventually North will show a spade suit – although this may be after another takeout double from partner. South should not get too excited, even with all those points, as they have forced North to bid and nine tricks is the limit of the hand in either major.

Board 29. Dealer North. Vulnerability All

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

Another 11 point opening bid by Dealer and then it is a case of how far East pre-empts. Put me down for a 4♦ bid at this vulnerability. South might try either 4♥ or a double and North will then probably sign off in spades. N/S can make 11 tricks in hearts but only ten tricks in spades but the pre-empt serves its purpose and makes it harder to find the best spot.

Board 30. Dealer East. Vulnerability None

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

The auction may well start with a weak NT from West and then some two suiter overcall by North to show the Majors (e.g.: Landy or some Asptro variant). South will probably settle for spade part score with any game invitation being rejected by North. However the favourable trump layout, favourable heart layout and lack of any wasted value in diamonds will result in 12 tricks being available.