

HIWCBA The IBM Cup

Charity Simultaneous Pairs in Support of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance



Welcome to the 2022 IBM Cup

Hope you have enjoyed some interesting hands,
And that we have raised some funds for the Air Ambulance

Many thanks to Julian Pottage for this commentary.

Hand 1	♠ Q6 ♥ KQJT97 ♦ J ♣ T875	
♠ 52 ♥ A532 ♦ Q9842 ♣ Q2	N/-	♠ AJT943 ♥ 6 ♦ KT65 ♣ A9
	♠ K87 ♥ 84 ♦ A73 ♣ KJ643	

Although both sides can make game (5♦ is on if West declares), the bidding is likely to stop short whether North opens 2♥ or 3♥. If East plays in 4♠, it is likely to make unless South somehow finds the ♦A opening lead. Quite often East will buy the contract in 3♠ and make at least 10 tricks after a heart lead at trick one and a trump finesse at trick two. South will then need to switch to the ♦A to stop 11 tricks.

Hand 2	♠ AT9432 ♥ QT ♦ 95 ♣ AK6	
♠ 865 ♥ K82 ♦ KJ ♣ QJ872	E/NS	♠ KJ ♥ J3 ♦ AQT8643 ♣ 54
	♠ Q7 ♥ A97654 ♦ 72 ♣ T93	

After East opens 1♦, West responds 2♣ and North overcalls 2♠, East will want to bid the diamonds without getting West too excited. I play that a double would show a good hand, leaving 3♦ as competitive. Some people play the 'good bad 2NT' convention (similar to Lebensohl). There are four top losers in 3♦, which makes, but only eight tricks to run in 3NT. 3♠ is on with some good guesswork.

Hand 3	♠ 8743 ♥ QT864 ♦ 765 ♣ 8	
♠ KJ9 ♥ J3 ♦ AKJT9 ♣ J64	S/EW	♠ 5 ♥ 952 ♦ 842 ♣ AKQ972
	♠ AQT62 ♥ AK7 ♦ Q3 ♣ T53	

Following South's 1♠ opening, West is not quite good enough to overcall 1NT, which is just as well since East would surely raise 1NT to 3NT. Defending a no-trump contract, South should put up the ♠A at trick one and try the ♥A at trick two to see whether North encourages. If East-West play in a suit contract, South needs to cash three top cards in the majors at the start or lose at least one of them.

Hand 4	♠ AJ ♥ A9742 ♦ JT82 ♣ J2	
♠ K9643 ♥ K3 ♦ K7 ♣ AQT8	W/All	♠ Q75 ♥ QT85 ♦ 95 ♣ K974
	♠ T82 ♥ J6 ♦ AQ643 ♣ 653	

Some tables will witness a really simple auction: 1♠ from West raised to 2♠ by East and passed out. Others will see more action than that, a game try from West or a reopening double from North perhaps. With the ♦A onside and the ♠A conveniently doubleton in the North hand, 4♠ is a lucky make. With the diamond finesse wrong for them, North-South would go down one in 3♦.

Hand 5

<p>♠ 4 ♥ A82 ♦ KJ9654 ♣ T92</p>	<p>♠ A5 ♥ KQT54 ♦ QT82 ♣ K7</p> <p>N/NS</p> <p>♠ KQT8 ♥ J ♦ A3 ♣ AJ8654</p>	<p>♠ J97632 ♥ 9763 ♦ 7 ♣ Q3</p>
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While the favourable club position means that a slam is possible, a game contract, 3NT most likely, will be the more popular choice. If North declares, a diamond lead from East would give the defenders a diamond trick to go with the ♥A. More likely South declares (1♥-2♣-2♦-3NT for example) and, even if North declares, North may well be the one who bids diamonds rather than West. Despite the favourable vulnerability, East-West would be in big trouble if they buy the contract.

Hand 6

<p>♠ K63 ♥ AK74 ♦ 954 ♣ A72</p>	<p>♠ QJT74 ♥ ♦ KJ86 ♣ 9865</p> <p>E/EW</p> <p>♠ A92 ♥ JT9852 ♦ 3 ♣ QJ4</p>	<p>♠ 85 ♥ Q63 ♦ AQT72 ♣ KT3</p>
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Sometimes a weak 2♥ opening from South will steal the contract. 2♥ could go four down if East scores a spade ruff and declarer has to play clubs from hand. 3NT by East-West is a more likely spot. If you guess the diamonds right, you can make at least 11 tricks (12 if a squeeze on South develops). More likely you will make only three tricks from the diamond suit and so nine in all.

Hand 7

<p>♠ T82 ♥ KQJT765 ♦ T83 ♣</p>	<p>♠ AKQ943 ♥ 9 ♦ Q ♣ T9876</p> <p>S/All</p> <p>♠ J75 ♥ 8432 ♦ AKJ6 ♣ Q4</p>	<p>♠ 6 ♥ A ♦ 97542 ♣ AKJ532</p>
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After West opens 3♥ and North overcalls 3♠, East does not really have anything to say and South raises to 4♠. The defenders can cash two clubs and a heart against 4♠, which thus makes exactly. If West declares a heart contract, the defenders can take four tricks either by cashing out or by preventing a spade ruff with a trump switch. Thus the par result is 500 from 5♥ doubled down two.

Hand 8

<p>♠ Q863 ♥ 73 ♦ AT4 ♣ K972</p>	<p>♠ 974 ♥ J54 ♦ J972 ♣ A63</p> <p>W/-</p> <p>♠ AKT2 ♥ 92 ♦ K85 ♣ QJ84</p>	<p>♠ J5 ♥ AKQT86 ♦ Q63 ♣ T5</p>
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East opens 1♥ in second seat and is likely to play in 2♥ after South doubles and the other players do something sensible – maybe 1♠ from West and pass from North. If South starts with a top spade, to stop the overtrick the defenders will need to dislodge West's ♦A entry at trick two or, more likely, at trick three after the ♣Q covered by the ♣K and ♣A. If West plays in no-trumps and North leads the ♦2, South does best to put up the ♦K, again dislodging West's ♦A entry.

Hand 9

<p>♠ 92 ♥ KQT76 ♦ 7 ♣ A9765</p>	<p>♠ K ♥ 95432 ♦ AQ8 ♣ JT83</p> <p>N/EW</p> <p>♠ QJ74 ♥ A8 ♦ K9632 ♣ Q4</p>	<p>♠ AT8653 ♥ J ♦ JT54 ♣ K2</p>
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Nobody can make much on this deal. If East opens a weak 2♠, that might end the auction – or perhaps North finds a reopening double. So long as they do not allow West to score two diamond ruffs, they should beat 2♠ via five tricks in the pointed suits and the ♥A. The 4-1 diamond division means that 3♦ would fail with two tricks in clubs and one in each other suit to lose. 2NT should also go down, again due to the 4-1 diamond split.

Hand 10

<p>♠ AQT32 ♥ 7 ♦ T76 ♣ QT87</p>	<p>♠ 975 ♥ A96 ♦ Q983 ♣ A95</p> <p>E/All</p> <p>♠ K6 ♥ QJ54 ♦ AKJ42 ♣ K4</p>	<p>♠ J84 ♥ KT832 ♦ 5 ♣ J632</p>
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Although they have a diamond fit, North-South are most likely to play in 3NT. Making 9 tricks is easy if West leads a spade. The play is trickier on a club lead. The in form thing to do is to read the ♣7 as fourth highest and cover with dummy's ♣9. If you read the position, you can go on to strip West's red cards and exit with the third round of clubs to score a trick with the ♠K. Most of those who make 3NT will do so because they get a spade lead rather than through an endplay.

Hand 11

<p>♠ 865 ♥ J8 ♦ KQ3 ♣ QJ972</p>	<p>♠ J43 ♥ 9632 ♦ AJ86 ♣ 64</p> <p>S/-</p> <p>♠ AT ♥ AK754 ♦ T974 ♣ AK</p>	<p>♠ KQ972 ♥ QT ♦ 52 ♣ T853</p>
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This time the cards lie favourably for North-South, with any finesses required working and hearts 2-2. They should reach game via 1♥-2♥-4♥ and make an overtrick. Because the cards lie so well you can make 11 tricks in no-trumps as well, though surely people will prefer to play in the 5-4 heart fit. A sacrifice in 4♠ doubled would be costly, down 800.

Hand 12

<p>♠ KJT97 ♥ A9 ♦ K9765 ♣ K</p>	<p>♠ 62 ♥ QT83 ♦ A82 ♣ AJ73</p> <p>W/NS</p> <p>♠ A4 ♥ J52 ♦ Q43 ♣ QT862</p>	<p>♠ Q853 ♥ K764 ♦ JT ♣ 954</p>
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With North-South only vulnerable, it is quite plausible that East-West will have a simple auction to themselves: 1♠-2♠. In the play it seems normal to guess to play South for the ♦Q rather than the ♦A because you will do so without crashing your own honours and knowing you would likely then need only one ruff in dummy. If South declares, 3♣ is on, but East-West would need to be rather backward in their bidding to sell out to 3♣.

Hand 13

♠ Q9		
♥ A8		
♦ J73		
♣ J98742		
♠ AJ7		♠ KT64
♥ JT932	N/All	♥ 65
♦ 64		♦ AKQ9
♣ T53		♣ AK6
		♠ 8532
		♥ KQ74
		♦ T852
		♣ Q

Playing 4-card majors, East-West might well bid 1♠-2♠-3NT. West, having correctly raised with 3-card support, passes 3NT in the knowledge that East is likely to have only four spades. Although you can make 3NT, indeed with an overtrick on most leads, some will lose a spade, three hearts and a diamond to go down a trick. The entry position does make it easier to try playing South for the ♠Q, which does not succeed as the cards lie.

Hand 14

♠ AQ632		
♥ 96		
♦ AT5		
♣ T93		
♠ T85		♠ J94
♥ QJ84	E/-	♥ AT52
♦ KJ7		♦ 943
♣ 872		♣ 654
		♠ K7
		♥ K73
		♦ Q862
		♣ AKQJ

1♦-1♠-2NT-3NT by South and North will be a common auction. On a normal heart lead the defenders take the first trick and, if West discards correctly, they eventually score a diamond trick as well. West should work out that East might be able to guard the third round of hearts (with the ♥10) but, with the ♦10 visible in dummy and South having shown 18-19 points, East cannot guard the second round of diamonds. The 3-3 splits in both black suits mean that 6♣ makes – ugh!

Hand 15

♠ 82		
♥ 42		
♦ KJ876		
♣ AJ62		
♠ AQJ4		♠ T63
♥ T5	S/NS	♥ AKJ3
♦ T954		♦ A32
♣ KQ5		♣ 983
		♠ K975
		♥ Q9876
		♦ Q
		♣ T74

If West opens 1NT, East's flat shape makes the hand worth only inviting game, an invitation West will decline. North leads the ♦6 against 2NT. South wins with the ♦Q and switches to a club up to the weakness in dummy. After capturing one of West's club honours North needs to trust South for a singleton diamond and either play back a low club or switch to one of the majors.

Hand 16

♠ KQJ74		
♥ K32		
♦ K72		
♣ AT		
♠ A2		♠ 9865
♥ AJ964	W/EW	♥ T8
♦ QJ4		♦ A96
♣ 743		♣ K965
		♠ T3
		♥ Q75
		♦ T853
		♣ QJ82

If West opens 1NT, North doubles and either East or West might remove the double. 1NT (doubled) is beatable, quite easily if North finds an inspired low spade lead (or if East declares and South leads the ♠10). With the common high spade lead, it is quite hard for the defenders to avoid being endplayed. With the hearts sitting kindly and the ♣A as expected onside, 2♥ makes in comfort.

Hand 17

♠ J875		♠ QT4
♥ AJ63		♥ T54
♦ 953		♦ Q862
♣ 98		♣ T52
♠ A	N/-	
♥ KQ8		
♦ AKJ74		
♣ AKQ3		
	♠ K9632	
	♥ 972	
	♦ T	
	♣ J764	

Playing ordinary Acoll, East's 2♦ reply to 2♣ may well result in 6♦ played by the weak hand: 2♣-2♦-3♦-4♦-4NT-5♣-6♦ for example. Those playing Benjamin may reach the slam from the West seat. A trump lead from three low should be safe but if North leads a spade then South must not play the ♠K on the ♠10 (or the ♠4). 6♦ would make if the ♣J fell in three rounds or South had the ♥A but should fail as the cards lie. West would make 10 or 11 tricks in 3NT.

Hand 18

♠ T4		♠ 872
♥ QT54		♥ A9762
♦ A762		♦ Q53
♣ KQJ		♣ 32
♠ KJ3	E/NS	
♥ K3		
♦ KT94		
♣ T986		
	♠ AQ965	
	♥ J8	
	♦ J8	
	♣ A754	

North-South will be doing well to stay out of game. 1♠-2♦-2♠-2NT is just about possible. The spotlight turns to East. An inspired diamond lead (very hard to find if North has bid the suit) might enable the defenders to make two tricks in each major as well as three diamond tricks. More likely East leads a heart. Then declarer can make two heart tricks to go with four clubs and the pointed-suit aces to score eight tricks in all.

Hand 19

♠ 42		♠ AJ9853
♥ Q98732		♥ KJ4
♦ Q87		♦ 3
♣ 93		♣ 875
♠ KQT	S/EW	
♥ A65		
♦ AKT6		
♣ KJ4		
	♠ 76	
	♥ T	
	♦ J9542	
	♣ AQT62	

West is going to open 2NT or take whatever is the system action to show a balanced 20 points. East can transfer into spade and might make a mild slam try – even with a 6-card suit, a combined 29 points is not generally enough for a slam. As it happens, with all the finesses right you can make 12 tricks in no-trumps or in spades and you might score a lot of matchpoints merely by playing in 3NT rather than 4♠.

Hand 20

♠ Q		♠ KT94
♥ 872		♥ AT3
♦ K964		♦ QJ83
♣ 85432		♣ T6
♠ J62	W/All	
♥ QJ64		
♦ 52		
♣ KQJ7		
	♠ A8753	
	♥ K95	
	♦ AT7	
	♣ A9	

South is likely to open in fourth seat and regret doing so because North has by far the weakest of the other three hands. 1♠ is down only one because declarer can make a long spade (or a club ruff) as well as the five obvious tricks. 1NT could go two down if the lead is not a diamond and the defenders avoid crashing club honours. If North declares, a diamond lead will be common and then 1NT should go down only one trick.

Hand 21

<p>♠ 7 ♥ KT8532 ♦ 62 ♣ T932</p>	<p>♠ 6 ♥ AQ9 ♦ KQ9754 ♣ 854</p> <p>N/NS</p> <p>♠ KQT82 ♥ 76 ♦ T83 ♣ QJ6</p>	<p>♠ AJ9543 ♥ J4 ♦ AJ ♣ AK7</p>
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East may face a ticklish problem having started with a double of 1♦ (the hand being too strong for a 1♠ overcall) and then seeing South bid spades. Perhaps 2♠ should be natural as depending upon whether West has bid 2♥ or North has rebid the diamonds, at least one of doubling again or cue bidding 3♦ will be an option. As South's spade bid is genuine, East-West want to play in hearts. Amazingly, with their combined 19 points, North-South can make 3NT.

Hand 22

<p>♠ 5 ♥ A76 ♦ J432 ♣ 98632</p>	<p>♠ K94 ♥ QT54 ♦ K97 ♣ AQ5</p> <p>E/EW</p> <p>♠ AJT8763 ♥ J ♦ Q865 ♣ K</p>	<p>♠ Q2 ♥ K9832 ♦ AT ♣ JT74</p>
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After opening 1♠ (this is not a pre-emptive hand) South will surely arrive in 4♠. A lead of either red suit allows the defenders to make their two aces and stop the second overtrick. On a passive club lead declarer can discard the singleton heart on a club and, by playing a low diamond towards the queen, restrict the defenders to one diamond trick.

Hand 23

<p>♠ 73 ♥ 54 ♦ A8532 ♣ QJT7</p>	<p>♠ KQJT985 ♥ 93 ♦ 6 ♣ 863</p> <p>S/All</p> <p>♠ 4 ♥ KT872 ♦ KQJ ♣ A942</p>	<p>♠ A62 ♥ AQJ6 ♦ T974 ♣ K5</p>
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South and North are likely to have the auction to themselves: 1♥-1♠-2♣-2♠. If you play weak jump shifts, you might have a shorter auction even than that, though some would consider the seventh spade too much for the weak response. East's lead is crucial. A 'safe' diamond turns out to be anything but safe, allowing declarer to get two clubs away on the diamonds and make ten tricks. East-West do well in no-trumps, with eight tricks easily available.

Hand 24

<p>♠ AJ654 ♥ 6 ♦ 742 ♣ K854</p>	<p>♠ Q3 ♥ AJ ♦ KQJ83 ♣ QT96</p> <p>W/-</p> <p>♠ KT87 ♥ KT983 ♦ A65 ♣ J</p>	<p>♠ 92 ♥ Q7542 ♦ T9 ♣ A732</p>
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Having passed as dealer, West is likely to overcall 1♠ after North has opened 1♦ and South has responded 1♥. Whether North doubles (to show a decent hand with no clear direction) or rebids 2♣, South is likely to end in 3NT. If North-South play a strong no-trump then North might well open 1NT and declare the same contract. So long as declarer does not decide to finesse West for the ♥Q, ten tricks result and 430 will be a common score.

Hand 25

♠ J62		
♥ A4		
♦ AK9		
♣ T9875		
♠ K5		♠ AQT743
♥ K3	N/EW	♥ JT76
♦ T8642		♦ J5
♣ AK43		♣ J
		♠ 98
		♥ Q9852
		♦ Q73
		♣ Q62

After North opens a weak 1NT, East might decide that the hand is too weak for a 2♠ overcall directly but will happily come in on the second round after South transfers into hearts. It takes an initial trump lead (or an unlikely ♣Q) to hold a spade contract to nine tricks. A normal club lead from North defeats a possible ambitious 3NT by West. 2♥ would drift a couple off, cheap as North-South are not vulnerable.

Hand 26

♠ A987		
♥ AK65432		
♦ 9		
♣ 4		
♠ QJ643		♠ K2
♥ T97	E/All	♥ Q
♦ K7		♦ Q8643
♣ 972		♣ K8653
		♠ T5
		♥ J8
		♦ AJT52
		♣ AQJT

South and North will typically bid along the lines of 1♦-1♥-2♣-4♥. With the ♥Q bare, the defenders may have their work cut out to stop 12 tricks. Indeed it might take an initial club lead. On other leads declarer can run the trumps and ruff a diamond or two to squeeze East out of a spade, thereby making three club tricks via a finesse and an endplay as well as seven trumps and two other aces.

Hand 27

♠ Q75		
♥ Q43		
♦ Q32		
♣ QJ97		
♠ K86		♠ T93
♥ K86	S/-	♥ 9
♦ JT84		♦ AK76
♣ T64		♣ A8532
		♠ AJ42
		♥ AJT752
		♦ 95
		♣ K

If allowed to do so, North-South will reach 2♥ whether North responds 1NT, 2♣ or 2♥ to South's 1♥ opening. In spite of the lack of a fourth spade East may compete with a double (neither side vulnerable is a great time to be in the bidding). Someone will surely take the push to 3♥. With both the ♥K and ♠K offside, 3♥ should fail by a trick. 3♦ would go down one because you cannot ruff both a heart and a spade in the East hand and still finesse against the ♦Q.

Hand 28

♠ J98		
♥ 75		
♦ KT2		
♣ AQ832		
♠ T63		♠ AKQ4
♥ AJ92	W/NS	♥ KQ3
♦ A973		♦ Q86
♣ JT		♣ K54
		♠ 752
		♥ T864
		♦ J54
		♣ 976

I play a 2NT response to a third- or fourth seat one of a major opening is showing 3-card support. This would work very well since North is most unlikely to lead the ♣A or ♣Q against 3NT. If East declares 3NT, any club lead from South suffices to stop the second overtrick. South might well, however, lead a heart if nobody has bid the suit, in which case the friendly diamond position makes eleven tricks easy enough to make.