

## The ECatsBridge Summer Pairs Thursday 7th July 2022



Thank you so much for joining us for our Summer Charity Pairs in aid of Kidney Research UK and the British Heart Foundation both of which are charities that need as much funding as possible in order to continue their work.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the recent death of Mike Mollart-Rogerson who founded this Simultaneous Pair. We are happy to be able to continue his work and raise funds for Kidney Research which we know was a charity very close to his heart..

We hope you enjoyed the hands and that they weren't too challenging – and whether or not you did well at least you can at least rest assured that you are helping to support two great charities.

The results are at <https://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims/default.asp> and if you want more general information about the event and a link to make donations then just go to : <https://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims/Summer-Pairs/default.asp>

### Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

P - 1♥ - P - 1♠ - P - 2♣ - P - 3NT seems a normal auction. Declarer has nine tricks, so the defence must take care not to give a trick away, especially in Diamonds. An overtrick will be worth a lot of match-points. I know some players who think that North hand is worth opening 2♥. (They mostly live in secure institutions). If the auction goes 2♥ - P - P - Dbl, East will think it's Christmas. 2♥ doubled -3 or -4 will not score well for NS.

### Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

Although EW have 21 points, the cards lie better for NS. INT by North can scrape home and that might be the contract after 1♦ - P - P - INT (protective). Several EW possible contracts might go just one off e.g. INT or 1♦ or even 2♠. -50 for EW should score quite well. Nothing makes for anyone at the Two Level. I expect that the majority of contracts on this Board will go down.

### Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

4♠ by East will surely be the final contract even if South opens with a Lucas 2♥ bid or a light 1♥. The defence has four tricks and just has to make sure not to give one of them away. A ♣ lead from South or playing ♦A in such a way as to establish the suit for declarer will give away the contract. If South leads ♦6, North must retain the Ace, for even giving partner a ruff will not compensate for establishing a ♦ for a ♣ discard. I expect that 4♠ will make more often than not.

**Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.**

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

I open most of my 11 point hands but I hate 1♠ by North here. It's not a very good ♠ suit, ♥Q is almost worthless and a second suit of ♦J763 is nothing to shout about. On the other hand, 1♠ - 2♥ - 2♠ - 4♠ is an easy auction to the best contract. After three Passes, South will open 1♥ and it's not so easy. 1♥ - 1♠ - 2♥ - 2NT - 3♠ - 4♠ would be a sensible route to the best contract. Some pairs I'm sure will end up in 4♥ or 3NT, both of which can be defeated. 4♠ should make, but there will be lots of variation.

**Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.**

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

Some Souths will open in 3<sup>rd</sup> seat but I wouldn't. After West's 1♥, I imagine that there will be two views in the East. There will be those who think INT is ridiculous and those who think the same about 2♣. It won't make much difference here as after a 2♦ rebid, the two factions will reunite with a 2♥ preference. The cards lie very favourably for declarer and ten tricks will be normal.

**Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.**

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

Please don't tell me you opened 2♠ as East. It's completely the wrong sort of hand. Queens are not worth much unless combined with Kings or Aces. Weak Twos should have the majority of points in the suit bid. Six card suits with ten points are often worth opening at the One Level, but a 1♠ opening here will probably result in EW bidding a game failing by several tricks. NS can make 3♥ because of the miraculous lie of the Heart honours and EW need to defend well even to defeat 4♥.

**Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.**

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

After 1♠ - P - INT - 2♦, South needs to consider how to show his hand. Regular partnerships should discuss this. A weak hand can Pass, one with 5-4 or better in the majors can bid 2♥ or 3♥. 3♣ must be forcing and shows a better hand than this. What does Double show? It probably should be takeout with exactly this shape i.e. with three Hearts rather than four. Game makes in either black suit, but I expect most tables will play part-scores. +170 for NS will be a good score for playing in Spades, but +150 for Clubs will be above average I guess.

**Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.**

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

4♠ making one way and 5♣ the other will lead to some lively action. NS pairs, playing intermediate jump overcalls will be well placed after P - P - 1♥ - 2♠ - P - 4♠. East will surely double, but West may Pass rather than go on to the Five Level. I'm sure some NS Pairs will score +590. After a 1♠ overcall the bidding will be a level or two lower and so West will recognise that East's double is clearly for take-out and even if South bids 4♠ may show some interest in the minors. Some EW pairs will be doubled in 5♣ so some NS pairs will score - 550. A pretty normal simultaneous hand!

**Board 9. EW Vul. Dealer North.**

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

EW have fits in both majors, but NS can make 4♦, so another competitive auction can be expected. After East's 1♠, I prefer a 2♣ overcall to Double with only three cards in Hearts, although I admit that Double might work out better on this hand. After 2♣, West can Double to show 4 cards in Hearts, North will be silenced and 2♥ by East may end the auction. If South doubles, North should introduce ♦s and now North can compete to 4♦. EW must take care because 4 level contracts in the majors will certainly fail, maybe by two tricks and maybe doubled.

**Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.**

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

Most East's will open INT just as South is thinking what to open with his 20 point monster. Plan B is needed. If I had a bid that showed ♠ and another suit, I'd choose that. If South doubles, surely West or North will bid a red suit and so on the next round of bidding it may be difficult to find a bid that shows both suits. If South bids 2♦ to show ♠ and another, then 4♣ on the next round will show the strength and shape of the hand. All this cleverness will not lead to a happy outcome, as the perfectly reasonable 4♠ will fail because of the 5-0 ♣ break. I can see no escape from losing two Aces and two Clubs.

**Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.**

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

EW can make 6♠ on this Board, because there is no Spade loser, the ♦Q is onside and the Clubs can be ruffed out to establish a winner. Not a great contract then and most pairs will surely play 4♠. 1♠ - 4♥ - 4♠ - End seems a likely auction, where 4♥ is a splinter bid showing values for game with a singleton ♥. Holding the A opposite a splinter is a good thing but West only has 11 points and surely will sign off. It takes a little care to make 12 tricks, because Clubs need ruffing in time to establish the fifth one.

**Board 12. N/S Vul. Dealer West.**

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

This North hand with 11 points is clearly worth opening in my opinion. Both majors are held and all the points are in the long suits. East has a clear-cut INT overcall. If West invites game, East will accept. South will have just two chances of defeating 3NT. It's difficult to do anything other than lead partner's suit at Trick One and declarer will attack Diamonds by playing the Ace followed by a small one. When South wins the King, a crucial moment has been reached. Only a Spade switch can defeat the contract. Declarer has three tricks in each of the other three suits. Two things might help. If North plays ♥K at Trick One, this should help South to realise there is no future in that suit. South might also get more help if he delays winning Diamonds until the third round as North can make a discard.

**Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.**

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

After 1♥ opening and a raise to 3♥ by West, what should East do? Look at his points, count to 15 and bid game? Or look at that barren 5332 shape and pass? Count 7½ losers and pass? I'd certainly pass playing pairs, but perhaps that's why I'm writing commentaries instead of playing and winning. With South

holding the ♣A, luck favours the brave, as ten trick will surely be made

**Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.**

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

Whenever I hold a good hand, my opponents always seem to bid first. North will have that feeling here as West opens 1♠. 20 points is too much for a INT overcall, so the plan should be to double and rebid NTs on the next round. Partner will expect the classic take-out shape, but the NT rebid will make it clear. S will bid 2♥, North 2NT (19-20) and with 5 points S should raise to game. Declarer has eight tricks after the ♠ lead and two chances of making the ninth. Playing ♥AK and another will work because ♥s are 3-3. A better chance is to guess which defender has ♣10. West has more Spades than East so it makes sense to expect East to have more Clubs. Lead ♣9 and play small from dummy.

**Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.**

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

2NT passed out will be a surprising auction for North, but West may be even more surprised if it makes. If North leads a ♠ or a ♦, he's likely to find himself on lead again after a ♥ honour is won. This is the last chance for the defence because only a switch to a top ♣ will hold declarer to seven tricks.

**Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.**

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

EW will bid unopposed 1♠ – 2♥ – 2♠ – 3♦ – 4♦ – 4♠ – End. (Well they probably won't bid like that really – West might think of 3NT, but on this occasion should resist the temptation – there are only 9 tricks available in NT). Eleven tricks are available in ♠s. This is the most straight-forward play hand so far.

**Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.**

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

Another big two-suiter for South. 6♦ can be bid and made, but I'd expect most of the NS pairs to settle in 4♠. Again there will be some who respond INT to 1♠ and those who respond 2♣. My choice would be INT, but I accept that the auction might be a little "jammed" after South's 3♦ rebid. I'd bid 4♠ and that would be that. A 2♣ response would leave more room to explore because South could rebid 2♦ (change of suit over a Two Level response is forcing). North might introduce the fourth suit and with room to explore NS might go on to 6♦. Well done to anyone who does this.

**Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.**

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

1♠ - P - INT - P - ??? Every commentator knows that at least once in every set of hands they need to write "Every schoolboy knows that 5422 is not a balanced hand", but with all those honours in the doubletons, it must be right to treat this one as a balanced hand and to raise to 2NT rather than rebid 3♣. North won't accept the invitation however and 2NT will not be straightforward for declarer nor defenders. Say East leads a ♦. Declarer can win with ♦10. Entries are a problem and declarer might choose to attack any of the other three suits. I'd start with ♥AQ and West might duck that to scramble communications. I'd go on with ♣A and ♣6 (keeping the ♣2 to get to the ♣4). As the cards lie, I'd have seven tricks now and I'm sure the eighth would emerge.

**Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.**

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

This is another auction that seems destined to stop at the One Level. North opens 1♣. If East overcalls 1♥, I don't see why anyone should want to bid again. If East passes, South will bid 1♦ and North 1♥. I'd bid INT as South and everyone will Pass. Vulnerability has a huge effect on hands like these where all sorts of low level contracts will be played. EW are

vulnerable so -1 will be +100 for NS. Making INT will only score +90, so perhaps North should strive for an overtrick. Generally a plus score does not score too badly on these very close hands

**Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.**

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

Normally when playing a simultaneous, we hate to sit out, but NS might later wish they had missed this Board. Even if North passes rather than opening, it's difficult to imagine stopping below game. 3NT might be the cheapest, perhaps just going perhaps one off. 4♥ will surely get doubled and rescuing to 5♣ won't help. Don't blame me, sometimes suits just break badly.

**Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.**

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

There are just as many MPs at stake on flat boring hands as on the distributional monsters. INT by East - all pass. Good job I'm not paid by the bid. South's best hope is that North will lead out of turn so he doesn't have to lead himself. I'm not sure anything makes much difference. Eight tricks looks so normal, I'm sure someone will achieve eleven and someone else five. What would I lead? 1<sup>st</sup> choice - ♥7 2<sup>nd</sup> choice - ♦6 3<sup>rd</sup> choice - ♣2. (And of course ♠K is the best lead)

**Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.**

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

Yawn. Another exciting hand. Not. EW have mirror hands and just eight tricks in 2♠. 3♦ will be ok for NS because even if it goes two off no one is likely to double. I don't think many NS pairs will get in the bidding. P - P - 1♠ - P - 2♠ - End looks the most likely auction. Next case.

**Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.**

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

If South opens 1♠, North should respond 3♣. It's tempting to bid just 2♣, but think ahead to what you will be able to do after partner rebids 2♠. Ungainly leap to 5xc or even 6♣, may not be very successful. If you bid 3♣, to start with, then when partner bids ♠s again, you can call 4♣ and have come close to describing your hand. I won't be surprised if pairs get too high here. Many Norths will just sigh and bid 6♣. All is not lost even then, because East has to lead his singleton ♠ to defeat the slam. 4♠ making 10 or even 11 tricks will be the best game, but will North scorn the advice never to put an eight card suit down in the dummy? This won't be a flat Board.

**Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.**

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

After a hand with so many imponderables, there looks to be only one possible auction for standard bidding and only two possible result. P – P – P – 1♠ P – 2♠ – End. 9 tricks. On this layout, declarer looks to have 5 losers, but poor old West is doomed to give one of them away. He might do this at some stage by leading ♦s or later in the play by giving a ruff and discard, but I don't think there is a way out.

**Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.**

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

Although in theory 3NT by East can fail on ♠Q lead, in practice I'm sure it will succeed played by either West, when it is cold, or by East, because South will lead his partner's suit. 1♥ – P – 2♥ looks a normal start at this vulnerability. (Even 3♥ by some who have a pre-emptive raise available) What can West do? Did you think of 3NT? ♥K singleton is probably a stop. Not all Wests will work this one out. Well nine tricks is the limit in any denomination so getting higher will not be a success.

**Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.**

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

Because ♦K is onside, NS can make 2NT or 3♦ on their feeble values. 1♠ – 2♦ – 2♠ – 3♦ looks a normal start. 3♠ would be unwise and might get doubled for 500 to NS. Even 3♠ -2 would be a horrid score for EW. Too much aggression can be just as costly as not enough.

**Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.**

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

Gosh, another eight card suit and although it's West who has it, it might be poor old North with all the problems again. After 1♥, 4♦ would be my choice of overcall. If double by North is negative, his choice will be easy and the best contract of 5♣ should be reached. Some partnerships agree only to play negative doubles up to 3♠ (This hand shows why you should play higher than this). In many social clubs and irregular partnerships, North may not even be sure what a double of 4♦ would show. For these players, the outcome may be less certain. 4♥ will not be a success. I imagine that many North's will just double whatever it means, in the hope that something good might happen. Unless North can find an early trump lead, 4♦ doubled will only go one off and +100 will be a poor score for NS.



Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

  

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

A tricky final test for NS's bidding methods. Lots of Norths will open 2♠ (weak). It will be difficult for either player to envisage a slam. 6♣ is excellent and 6♠ makes because of the fall of ♠J. If South begins with a 2NT Ogust enquiry, the ♣ fit may never come to light and the partnership will subside in 3NT (ugh) or 4♠. I prefer a feature showing enquiry, so if I was North I'd respond 3♣ to 2NT to show a good Weak Two and a ♣ honour. A raise to 4♣ and a ♥ cue bid from North should get the job done. If North passes, South will open 1♣ and after 1♠ many will rebid 1NT. North will bid 4♠ now and the slam will be missed, but at least the best scoring game will be reached. Any pairs who bid 6♣ can feel pleased and will be rewarded with a near maximum on the Board,