

The 2019 WBU Charity Autumn Pairs

Thursday 5th September, Session # 6465



Dear Bridge Player

Thank you for supporting the WBU Simultaneous Pairs - I hope you enjoyed the hands and the commentary which, in order to give our faithful commentators a rest, was taken from an old set of hands from a simultaneous pairs that none of the WBU clubs played in.

We are absolutely delighted to have a sponsor to cover all necessary costs and I would like to thank Bridge Overseas (<https://bridgeoverseas.com/>) for their generosity. I have been looking at their website and there are some great holidays there – do check it out, I am sure you would find something to suit you !

Because of this, all funds raised from this event will be donated to [Wales Air Ambulance](#)- In order to maximise this donation a decision was taken not to print booklets as I am sure most of you have internet access and can read it online, or download and print it.

The results of this event can be found at www.ecatsbridge.com as usual - just click on the link to Sims and you will see how to find them.

Best wishes - and enjoy your bridge! Remember by being nice to your partner and courteous to the opposition everyone will have an enjoyable evening.

David Newman
President, Welsh Bridge Union
president@wbu.org.uk
<https://welshbridgeunion.org/>

Anna Gudge
WBU Simultaneous Pairs Organiser
anna@ecats.co.uk
www.ecatsbridge.com

*** Commentator's note:*** I should start by saying I did something unusual a couple of night ago: played a session of Pairs just to get in the mood for this tournament. Nothing could be more hair-raisingly exciting than this form of bridge. It produces the best – and the worst – of stories...

Indeed, in the session I refer to we sat down to play 2 chaps who proceeded on the first Board to do the following:

3♣3♠
All Pass

I sat there feeling pretty smug about this. I had nothing, clearly it was a forcing auction and indeed declarer took 10 tricks without trying. Opened up the score-sheet and there was a sea of people - almost the entire field - going down in slam their way. And did they look as smug as smug could be...I was reminded of the old proverb 'he who is smug last is smug longest'...but things weren't over quite yet. Just two Boards later they played INT with many HCP and easily made game...bottom score for them as we crawled up to average for the round. That's Pairs for you!

Board 1. Love All. Dealer North.

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

With everything lying so favourably EW have an easy 10 tricks available in 3NT...double-dummy, that is. If North gets active with a spade preempt first in hand this should make the honour card placement obvious. So too if South gets to open 1♥. But against silent opposition declarer could be forgiven for taking only nine tricks in 3NT. Finally, if system means North tries a 2♦ opening (multi), to which South will most likely respond 2♠, this leaves West awkwardly placed. If EW get to 3NT they will be as good a chance as any to make 10 tricks, but will they get there?

Board 2. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

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

EW have a nice 4♠ contract on this hand...except that a routine club ruff beats it one, while a spectacular diamond underlead by North after his first club ruff will beat it two! Will some NSs find their diamond fit and get too high? 5♦ will be doubled for 2 down and -500. Of course both sides' assets are thin. It is easy enough to foresee auctions going P P INT All Pass which should go one down on straightforward defence.

Board 3. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

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

5♦ is the spot for NS, but who is going to do that at Pairs? Some will be in 6♦ going down. Others will be in 3NT, most likely by South on a club lead. If West has stayed quiet then declarer looks to have a normal, but failing, spade up for contract at some point. Some Wests, however, will get into the auction before leading their suit. Now South is in with a chance because the ace of spades is most likely now off-side. Cash the diamonds. West does not have 4 comfortable pitches and anybody who tries 2 clubs, 1 spade and 1 heart will find themselves thrown in to permit South's ♠ king taking the ninth trick. Nor does pitching 2 spades help as declarer can continue with a round of small spades to set up the king. But West does have one resource available: his one heart pitch has to be the jack. Next, when declarer cashes the ace he has to complete the unblock by following with the king.

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Board 4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

At trick one, or trick two after a spade to the ace, NS can beat 3♣ by playing on diamonds, setting up an extra trump trick. Otherwise EW make 3♣ while NS do well to buy the contract in 2♠ making. 3♠ is problematical. Okay if North-Souths aren't finding find the diamond play against 3♣, AND if they aren't doubled. But East is opposite an opening bid so that just isn't going to happen.

Board 5. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

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

EW have the majority of the points but are really sitting back to see how high NS get in hearts. Deep Finesse says three is the limit, but I rather think this involves East being brave enough to duck a first round of clubs off dummy. Suppose hearts by South and a diamond lead by West (North will probably have bid spades). Now a heart to the ten and ace, win the diamond, heart to the king and a club off dummy. If East ducks NS's source of tricks have come to an end, but if he rises 4♥ will make.

Have you looked at the WBU Website recently ? There are lots of interesting events coming up during the Autumn and into next year.

For example

14/15 September: the **Welsh Foursomes**;

29 September: **Green Pointed Swiss Pairs**

The new **WBU Congress** is on 8th October

The **Premier League** kicks off on 19th October, and of course there is the **Porthcawl Congress** on 15th November and the ever-popular **Llangollen Congress** on 23rd November.

Lots of great bridge events to enjoy !

There is a full calendar of all the WBU Events at

<https://welshbridgeunion.org/bridge-calendar-wbu/>

Board 6. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

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

It looks to me on this hand that it is the side bidding first who will stay out of trouble...Double-dummy only 2♥ makes for EW. But in practice that contract is not going to happen. Easts will be doing the following: opening 1♠, 2♠, 3♠, 2♦ (multi). The occasional perverse soul will begin with pass on the basis that his hand isn't quite right for any of these. My guess is that those players will suffer later in the auction. But all the others will be happily defending some dreadful NS spot...having said that, INT is a chance. When South plays the ♦8 from hand West has to cover. Is that obvious?

Board 7. Game All. Dealer South.

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

Hopefully the NS pairs that go slamming manage to reach 5NT...5♣ is not going to score them anything. In practice Wests are going to be bidding spades at the one or two level after South opens 1♣ (or perhaps a Precision 2♣). At the vulnerability maybe some Souths will be tempted to leave in partner's negative double. That is +800 at the one level.

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

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

Easts will be all ready to bid some spades on this hand, only to hear North bid them first! Well, I expect some auctions will begin 1♥ by West and 1♠ by North. East will pass while reaching for a handkerchief to wipe the drool from his lips. But you know what partners are like. NO WAY is West going to make a take-out double. In fact South may well bid 2♦ in the meantime. From then on I give in on playing Predicto. Deep Finesse says 4♥ will make. Who am I to disagree...

Board 9. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

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

A nobody-makes-anything sort of a hand. EW may make a partscore in clubs, but that just isn't the way things are going to develop. Something like this auction by NS will take place:
1♣ 1♠
INT rebid or 2♣ rebid (ouch).

Board 10. Game All. Dealer East.

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

A part-score battle where EW may well get overBoard. Six tricks are their limit, but it is easy enough to imagine them pushing on to 3♥. Maybe some NS pairs will take the push over that, to their regret as 8 tricks is their limit. There is some guessing to do for any NS contract, but with East opening the bidding that shouldn't prove so hard.

Board 11. Love All. Dealer South.

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

EW have a good save in 4♥ on this deal. Only one down after the opening lead of a diamond...two down if South finds the diabolical spade lead first. The only trouble is that it is a save against nothing much: fine if they are not doubled, otherwise they are getting a bad score. NS have nine tricks in 3NT, but not before the opponents get theirs and 5♦ isn't going to fare better. Perhaps, though, with a fair division of assets between the two sides, the hand will stay at the part-score level.

Board 12. NIS Vul. Dealer West.

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

System may decide the score on this deal: who is going to be playing the notrumps for EW? Those finding the spade opening lead will hold 3NT to 10 tricks for best possible score. Those East-Wests who reach five of a minor should make for a poor score.

Board 13. Game All. Dealer North.

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

In four hearts by NS declarer may have various plans for a tenth trick: a spade ruff in dummy, setting up the clubs...The spade ruff will fail to trump shifts by the defence. Setting up clubs looks okay to me as the defence can't touch spades. So, maybe ducking a club early is best play. Meanwhile EW have a good save in 5♦, -500, but that is going to depend upon a couple of things in the auction. If a weak NT by North, EW will probably stay quiet, though a brave West who bid over a major suit bid by South (Stayman or Transfer) would be suitably rewarded. If, on the other hand a 1♣ opening by North, some Easts will hate their heart holding for a take-out double and maybe stay quiet too. Again, it'll be up to West to bite the bullet and get into the action.

Board 14. Love All. Dealer East.

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

A NS part-score in spades making 8 tricks. If EW could get away undoubled in 3♦ that would be okay for them.

Board 15. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

Grand-slam is cold, but I'm guessing it is going to be hard to get too...either South is going to preempt the auction with an opening bid like 2NT, or, if he is able to keep the bidding low with a strong club then it is West who should accelerate things with a 3♥ bid. The NS cards look tailor-made for the convention 2NT 3♠ showing both minors, but I don't quite see a convincing path to seven from there. Maybe
 2NT 3♠
 4♣ 4♥
 4♠ 5NT
 would do it.

Board 16. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

It is all very well to say this is just a heart part-score for NS, but will they be able to stop in time? Left to their own devices, after a start like 1♥ 2♥, South has to pass to stay plus. Then there are the West players opening proceedings with something like 2♠, showing spades + minor. Supposing one of those fetches 3♣ by East, what is South to do next? And then again some Souths will be opening 1NT, playing there. It is easy enough to visualise that making unless the diamond shift is found early. All in all I'm guessing 2♥ + 10 is not going to be a common score.

Board 17. Love All. Dealer North.

<p>♠ A K 9 6 ♥ 4 2 ♦ K 10 8 5 ♣ 8 6 4</p> <p>♠ 4 ♥ Q J 8 3 ♦ Q 7 2 ♣ A Q 10 7 3</p>	<p>♠ 8 5 2 ♥ K 10 5 ♦ 9 6 4 3 ♣ K J 5</p> <p>♠ Q J 10 7 3 ♥ A 9 7 6 ♦ A J ♣ 9 2</p>
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A routine 4♠ by NS but for the cashing out aspect. If EW don't get to those clubs early then one of them can disappear on the diamonds.

Board 18. N/S Vul. Dealer East.

<p>♠ A 6 ♥ 8 7 3 ♦ A J 8 6 4 ♣ 8 7 6</p> <p>♠ Q 10 7 3 ♥ A 6 4 2 ♦ K Q 7 ♣ A 2</p>	<p>♠ K J 8 ♥ K Q 10 9 ♦ — ♣ K Q J 9 5 3</p> <p>♠ 9 5 4 2 ♥ J 5 ♦ 10 9 5 3 2 ♣ 10 4</p>
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I just can't see anything disastrous happening on this hand...6♣ and 6♥ are normal and cold. Maybe a RKCB disaster?

Board 19. E/W Vul. Dealer South.

<p>♠ A 9 5 4 ♥ 5 ♦ Q 9 8 2 ♣ A K 6 2</p>	<p>♠ K 10 6 ♥ K Q J ♦ K 10 7 6 ♣ Q 10 3</p> <p>♠ Q 8 ♥ 9 8 6 ♦ 5 4 3 ♣ J 8 7 5 4</p> <p>♠ J 7 3 2 ♥ A 10 7 4 3 2 ♦ A J ♣ 9</p>
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If South plays 4♥ I can't see it going down as West would have to get off to a low spade to beat it. He could try shifting to one, but I don't think that is a chance to work...In fact a declarer with his thinking cap on won't get it wrong at trick one either, given that West has either opened the bidding or taken action over a heart opening by South.

Board 20. Game All. Dealer West.

<p>♠ 10 4 ♥ Q J 4 ♦ 7 5 ♣ A Q 8 7 5 2</p>	<p>♠ Q 9 8 5 ♥ K 10 7 ♦ K Q 10 ♣ K J 10</p> <p>♠ 6 3 2 ♥ A 6 3 ♦ A 9 8 2 ♣ 6 4 3</p> <p>♠ A K J 7 ♥ 9 8 5 2 ♦ J 6 4 3 ♣ 9</p>
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I'm hoping there are some brave Wests out there opening a vulnerable 3♣. Supposing that is passed to South who doubles, what should North do? Pass and take the money: +500? Bid 4♠ which fails? Bid 3NT which makes? If West begins with pass the auction is likely to stay at the 3 level, either in clubs by EW or spades by NS.

Board 21. N/S Vul. Dealer North.

<p>♠ J 7 ♥ A K J 5 4 ♦ A J 10 6 ♣ Q J</p> <p>♠ K Q 10 8 6 ♥ Q 10 7 6 ♦ 2 ♣ A 4 2</p>	<p>♠ A 5 4 3 ♥ 8 3 ♦ K 8 5 ♣ 10 7 6 3</p> <p>♠ 9 2 ♥ 9 2 ♦ Q 9 7 4 3 ♣ K 9 8 5</p>
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NS make 3♦, EW 3♠. On the likely start I♥ Pass INT West is going to have to try 2♠. Will the strong clubbers NS lose their best spot which is diamonds? Presumably an auction something like:

1♣	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♥	2♠		

and then either a negative double of some sort by South, or a balance by North into diamonds. It seems likely EW will push on to 3♠ and some North-Souths will take the save in 4♦.

Board 22. E/W Vul. Dealer East.

<p>♠ Q 5 ♥ K Q 9 5 ♦ Q 9 ♣ A J 9 8 2</p> <p>♠ A 4 3 2 ♥ A J 10 7 4 ♦ K 6 ♣ 7 6</p> <p>♠ K J ♥ 8 6 2 ♦ A J 2 ♣ K Q 10 5 3</p>	<p>♠ 10 9 8 7 6 ♥ 3 ♦ 10 8 7 5 4 3 ♣ 4</p>
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First of all look at EW's spade contract...it has 10 tricks, but can never get them due to the East hand being forced. Much the same applies to NS. They have 9 tricks in 3NT, but not in time. They have 11 tricks in 5♣ but EW get three first – well CAN get three first. Indeed out of sheer desperation one could imagine West going for that defence, ie giving partner the heart ruff. As for 3NT: the declarers who get a heart lead are making and that seems likely to happen at least some times.

Board 23. Game All. Dealer South.

<p>♠ 10 8 7 5 ♥ Q 10 9 5 ♦ 6 ♣ A K 5 2</p> <p>♠ Q J 9 ♥ A 7 ♦ A K 9 7 ♣ J 9 7 3</p> <p>♠ K 3 ♥ 4 3 ♦ 10 8 5 4 3 ♣ 10 8 6 4</p>	<p>♠ A 6 4 2 ♥ K J 8 6 2 ♦ Q J 2 ♣ Q</p>
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3NT by EW can make 10 tricks...a neat defence could make that difficult. If played by East a club lead and then when in with the king of spades another club puts declarer to the test.

Board 24. Love All. Dealer West.

<p>♠ 10 3 ♥ K 10 6 5 ♦ A 9 5 ♣ A J 3 2</p> <p>♠ A 6 5 2 ♥ A 8 7 3 ♦ 10 8 4 ♣ 9 4</p> <p>♠ K Q J 8 7 ♥ Q J 4 ♦ K 3 ♣ 10 6 5</p>	<p>♠ 9 4 ♥ 9 2 ♦ Q J 7 6 2 ♣ K Q 8 7</p>
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A thin 3NT makes NS on this hand. Declarer has to duck one club and one diamond. That cuts communication to East's minor suit length. Now it is just a matter of knocking out those aces.

Board 25. E/W Vul. Dealer North.

<p>♠ K J ♥ 6 ♦ A 3 2 ♣ A Q J 8 5 4 2</p> <p>♠ Q 10 8 7 6 5 ♥ 5 4 ♦ J 9 ♣ 10 9 7</p> <p>♠ 9 4 2 ♥ Q J 10 7 3 2 ♦ K Q 10 ♣ K</p>	<p>♠ A 3 ♥ A K 9 8 ♦ 8 7 6 5 4 ♣ 6 3</p>
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NS have options on this deal...but not all good. 5♣ is going to need a spade guess, in which case one might as well have played 3NT the wrong way up. Best is 3NT by North protecting the spade holding. I expect some South player will want to make that heart suit trumps and anybody doing that will find themselves putting a score in the out-column. In practice, supposing that North begins with 1♣, at least some Easts will bid, making the spade guess not so hard. There's bound to be a bright spark who gets that heart suit in:

1♣	1♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	

But now West will run to spades and NS can continue on their way to game.

Board 26. Game All. Dealer East.

<p>♠ Q 5 ♥ J 7 ♦ A K J 2 ♣ K Q J 8 4</p> <p>♠ J 9 4 3 ♥ K 9 3 ♦ 3 ♣ 9 6 5 3 2</p> <p>♠ A K 8 7 2 ♥ A Q 10 4 ♦ Q 9 5 4 ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ 10 6 ♥ 8 6 5 2 ♦ 10 8 7 6 ♣ A 10 7</p>
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Two diamond grand-slams for NS in the same set. This one is harder to get to. Indeed there is some danger of diamonds becoming lost in a fourth-suit sort of way: presumably the auction will begin

1♠	2♣
2♥	

and now? There'll be a lot of different approaches, at least some of which will propel NS to the ideal

pairs spot of 6NT. Superficially it looks like EW need to make the opening lead of a heart from the East hand to beat this. Suppose declarer gets to make the opening lead! West simply can't afford to take 3 pitches. One club and one heart are the first two, but what is the third? West is guarding 3 suits and has to let go of something. Alas for declarer, EW will get to make the opening lead and a heart from the East side isn't the only defence: if West is on lead (or East, of course) a spade lead will do the job. Declarer can't afford to win that in the North hand as the queen is a vital entry to threaten the setting up of the club suit after the run of the diamonds. And the option is winning in the South hand, making communication between the hands messy. It means West can discard a spade: that gives declarer 5 spade tricks, but he can't cash them. If he gives up a club now to set up 2 club tricks, East will shift to a heart while the spades are still blocked. If declarer doesn't give up a club he hasn't enough tricks.

Board 27. Love All. Dealer South.

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

3NT by EW does not inspire any comment.

Board 28. N/S Vul. Dealer West.

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

5♣ is the EW sport on this deal, but pairs being pairs there will be EWs in 3NT. With eight tricks for the taking there is not enough pressure generated by the cashing of the club suit to create that ninth trick.

Board 29. Game All. Dealer North.

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

Anybody for the vulnerable save at the seven level? Of course, it is against a failing 6♠ – but that involves getting a club ruff and I can't imagine too many NSs finding that line of defence. 6♦ over 6♣ goes for -800, that is, unless West is careless enough to get endplayed to provide a ruff and discard for NS's losing heart trick.

Board 30. Love All. Dealer East.

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

4♥ by EW failing will be a common score – one has to double-dummy the heart suit to make. But at Pairs it is likely that EW will also try 3NT and that contract can afford a heart loser and so will take all the money.

Board 31. N/S Vul. Dealer South.

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

A fight between 2♠ EW and 3♦ NS. Left to its own devices 2♠ will make as long as declarer gets spades right, but in practice a 3rd round of diamonds ensures that the defence get 3 spade tricks to go with 2 diamonds and 1 heart. EW's 3♦

contract is one down double-dummy, but those tricks may not be quite as simple to take as one might expect. Suppose this scenario, for example:

1♦ Dble 1♥ 1♠
etc.

A spade lead now and diamonds makes 9 tricks. Equally if West stays quiet, having a marginal take-out double by any standards, over a 1♥ response by North East may butt in with 1♠. So I'm guessing there will be some diamond partials making +110.

Board 32. E/W Vul. Dealer West.

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

Looking at all four hands it appears North is going to sit back against 4♥ by EW, wait for declarer to reach dummy in the fullness of time...and snap up that diamond trick when it is given to him. That seems likely to me if West opens with a preemptive strong bid and North perforce is kept silent. But what if West opens at the one level - would anybody be that pusillanimous? - now action by North may help West to come to the right conclusion in the diamond suit. In any case, shooting 4♥ is not something for NS to be proud of. With 13 HCP opposite 5 HCP and a 4-4 fit they are gin for 4♠!

Board 33. Love All. Dealer North.

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

Unlucky EWs who bid to 6♥. With duplication in spades and diamonds still it is on the club finesse which fails. I would not care to guess whether preemptive activity by South over a 1♥ opening will push EW too high or keep them low.