

The Scottish Bridge Union

The Easter Sims incorporating
The Bobby Allan Mixed Pairs



Tuesday 12th March 2019 Session # 4468

Dear Bridge Player

Thank you for playing in this Simultaneous Pairs - we do hope you enjoyed the hands and found the commentary interesting - we would like to thank Harry Smith for doing the commentary for you.

This event is run over five days, with different hands for the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and a combined set covering Thursday and Friday.

None of the heats are limited to Mixed Pairs - anyone may take part - but the Bobby Allan Trophy will be awarded to the Mixed Pair having the highest percentage overall - i.e. over the five days. Red Points will be awarded across the whole field regardless of gender mix.

And finally - go to the usual place - <https://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims> to check the results.

Best wishes as always

Anna

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Board 1. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

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

This auction is likely to start with 2♠ by East and West will raise to the game. The cards could not be lying worse, and 8 tricks is the limit. The big question is what South will do. He should certainly not bid over 2♠. It's a golden rule not to pre-empt over a pre-empt, but not knowing about his partner's defensive power, he might be tempted to sacrifice over the game. At this vulnerability, he shouldn't but, had it been favourable, it would have been a reasonable action, despite the result.

Board 2. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

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

An easy game for E/W, but anyone who bids and makes slam will be suspected of peeking at Deep Finesse's analysis. To make 12 tricks on a spade lead, declarer has to take the far-sighted play of finessing against South for J10xx of trumps, an anti-percentage line unless North has shown a 2-suiter. In reality this will be fairly flat in 4♥ making 11, apart from a few N/S pairs who will get too active and attempt a spade sacrifice.

Board 3. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

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

A straightforward game for E/W, but which one? Anyone looking for the 10 point bonus by playing in NT is likely to get a heart lead, whichever defender is on lead. Declarer will then be held to 10 tricks.

The winners will be those who choose to play in spades, as the 3-3 diamond break leads to an easy 12 tricks.

Board 4. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

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

I expect most in the West seat will open this 10-count 1♦, and respond 2♦ over partner's INT. The focus will then be on South who might balance with a double in the pass out seat. This should lead to a final contract of 2♠ by North, or possibly 3♠ if East bids one more after North responds.

Both 3♦ and 3♠ should make, so fortune will favour the bold.

Board 5. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S

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

At most tables I would expect North and East to pass, and South to open leading to a part score NT contract by N/S. 7 tricks look easy, on any lead, with more tricks unlikely.

Board 6. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

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

East as dealer will open 1♠, and will probably end up playing 2♠ on the lead of ♠Q. With the bad trump split, the contract does not look hopeful. The obvious line is to play for the heart suit splitting 3-3, but anyone who does this will fail as the cards lie.

The winning line which Deep finesse finds, of course, is to run the ♣J when in dummy. If North covers, he is left with the trick, and having no trumps left, declarer gets a club ruff. If North doesn't cover, he is squeezed on the play of the trumps, and the defence will not be able to stop declarer making 3 spades, 2 hearts, 2 clubs and a diamond.

Board 7. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

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

As partner will be a passed hand, North will probably open 3♥, despite having 4 of the other major.

With the spade finesse working, 10 tricks will be normal.

Board 8. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

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

If West passes, North will either open or rebid INT. Those playing a strong notrump will probably play there, while those who opened INT will probably stop in 2♥ after a Stayman sequence.

140 will be routine in this latter contract, but there will be a lot of variation in the number of tricks made in INT. It can be held to 7 tricks, but I would expect to see 120 and 150 featuring most of the time.

Board 9. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

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

East will start the auction with 1♣, and South, at favourable vulnerability opposite a passed partner, should bid 3♦. West has a routine take-out double and that will lead the way to a contract of 4♥. This should come to 11 tricks on any lead. Some may gamble on 3NT. This will lose if N/S find a spade lead, but gain hugely if they don't, as the same 11 tricks are available.

Board 10. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

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

There are 2 possible contracts for E/W: 5♣ or 3NT. At first sight, after the routine ♦ lead, there are 3 losers in 5♣. However, if declarer runs his ♣ suit, North will come under pressure and the 11th trick will materialise. The 600 gained from this, however, will not compare well against those who play in 3NT. On the run of the clubs, North must keep his ♥ K protected, and this will guarantee 10 tricks for declarer.

Board 11. Dealer South. Vulnerability None

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

Third in hand, North should certainly open 1♥, and East has a routine 1♠ overcall. The likely final contract is 3♥. Making 9 tricks shouldn't prove difficult, as a trump lead from East is the only lead not to help declarer. In reality he will almost certainly lead a top spade and now 9 tricks are easy.

Board 12. Dealer West. Vulnerability N/S

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

Playing with my regular partner, the N/S auction would start 1♣ - 1♦ - 2♥ - 2♠ - 3♠. With the spade suit agreed, it should be normal to bid the small slam. Declarer should lead his ♦7 as soon as possible, and, if he guesses correctly, his contract is made. If not, he should not rush to pull trumps, but should discard 2 hearts on the clubs, play one top heart, and ruff a heart. When they don't split, declarer will need the 3-2 trump split, so he should now pull 2 rounds of trumps and ruff another heart.

Board 13. Dealer North. Vulnerability All

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

At most tables the final spot will be 3NT played by North. On the lead of ♠J, with careful defence this can go down, but is likely to make at most tables. If any N/S pair play it with South as declarer, the contract is un-touchable on any lead.

Board 14. Dealer East. Vulnerability None

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

If either East or West opens his 11-count, then E/W are likely to end up playing in a diamond part score. The cards lie favourably, so 10 tricks should, be easy to make.

If they pass the auction to North, then N/S will find their club fit and E/W may struggle to play in diamonds. 3♣ will be a good score for N/S.

As long as E/W use their entries to pull trumps, declarer will be held to 8 tricks, but still a gain for N/S.

Board 15. Dealer South. Vulnerability N/S

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

I don't expect to see many pairs bidding the diamond slam which makes on the heart finesse.

The winners will be those who play in NT making 630, beating those who play in diamonds for 620. However, West has a huge club suit and is at favourable vulnerability. He is likely to sacrifice, but even at the 4-level he is booked for a poor score of -800.

Board 16. Dealer West. Vulnerability E/W

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

West will normally open 1♦, and North will overcall in spades. After that simple start, this auction is likely to become quite wild. 5♦ by West will make whatever the defence do.

However, at this vulnerability, the 8 tricks, or more likely 9, North should make in spades will be a good save.

Board 17. Dealer North. Vulnerability None

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

N/S will be silent on this auction and East will bid NT either initially or as a rebid. I expect some players holding the West cards will get excited and look for a diamond slam.

They will score badly, even if they stop in game as making 11 tricks is the limit, while 10 tricks in NT are easy.

Board 18. Dealer East. Vulnerability N/S

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

Another auction where N/S will normally be silent. E/W will probably start 1♣ – 1♥ – 1♠, and West will power to game when East shows spade support.

The play is trivial with only the 2 major aces to lose.

Dare I suggest a flat Board???

Board 19. Dealer South. Vulnerability E/W

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

If North opens a weak INT, then much will depend on whether East has a natural 2♦ overcall available. If East does come in, it's likely E/W will get too high and pay for it in vulnerable undertricks, while INT by North would be going down. If North opens 1♣, N/S can play in clubs where 8 tricks are available, but again E/W may get too high.

Board 20. Dealer West. Vulnerability All

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

What a hand! The grand slam in hearts is a very good contract. Any N/S pair who bid the grand has every right to feel aggrieved if it fails on a diamond lead because of the 5-1 spade split. On any other lead, declarer can pull one round of trumps, play 3 rounds of clubs ruffing in dummy, return to hand ruffing a spade high, pull trumps, and use ♦A as an entry for the 2 top spades to dispose of the losing diamond and club.

Board 21. Dealer North. Vulnerability N/S

<p>♠ K J 8 7 6 ♥ — ♦ A K J 6 ♣ 10 7 4 2</p> <p>♠ Q 10 2 ♥ A 10 5 2 ♦ 9 3 2 ♣ K Q 6</p>	<p>♠ A 5 ♥ 9 6 4 ♦ 10 8 5 4 ♣ A J 5 3</p> <p>♠ 9 4 3 ♥ K Q J 8 7 3 ♦ Q 7 ♣ 9 8</p>
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N/S pairs playing Acol will start 1♠ - 2♥ - 2♠. That should be enough for South. Most pairs will come to 8 tricks even if the club lead isn't found. However, North can enter dummy with ♦Q, finesse the ♠8, re-enter dummy ruffing a diamond winner and take another spade finesse for 9 tricks. Any South that decides to bid on over 2♠ is likely to be entering a negative score on his sheet.

Board 22. Dealer East. Vulnerability E/W

<p>♠ A K 5 ♥ A K 9 2 ♦ 10 9 4 ♣ 9 8 7</p> <p>♠ Q 6 4 2 ♥ 10 ♦ A Q J 7 3 ♣ J 6 5</p>	<p>♠ J 10 9 3 ♥ Q J 6 5 4 ♦ 2 ♣ 10 4 3</p> <p>♠ 8 7 ♥ 8 7 3 ♦ K 8 6 5 ♣ A K Q 2</p>
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At most tables South will play 3NT, and all will depend on West's choice of lead. Any diamond gives declarer his 9 tricks. It looks as if a spade lead will be good for the defence, but careful play can still allow declarer to succeed. On the other hand careful defence after either a club or a heart lead will hold declarer to 8 tricks. My bets are on this making 90+% of the time.

Board 23. Dealer South. Vulnerability All

<p>♠ Q 7 ♥ Q 9 8 5 ♦ A 4 ♣ A 8 6 5 3</p> <p>♠ A 10 6 5 4 3 2 ♥ 4 2 ♦ 10 ♣ Q 9 4</p>	<p>♠ J 8 ♥ K 10 7 6 3 ♦ 8 7 3 ♣ J 7 2</p> <p>♠ K 9 ♥ A J ♦ K Q J 9 6 5 2 ♣ K 10</p>
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The diamond slam for N/S is a reasonable spot but needs either decent splits in both trumps and clubs, or the heart finesse. The NT slam is not so good as it is dependent on the heart finesse.

If West pre-empt in spades over South's 1♦ opener, it will be difficult to reach slam, and I expect most pairs to play in game, with those choosing NT scoring well.

Board 24. Dealer West. Vulnerability None

<p>♠ 10 9 2 ♥ A J 7 2 ♦ A 8 ♣ 10 6 5 2</p> <p>♠ 8 6 4 ♥ 6 4 ♦ 10 9 7 4 3 ♣ A K 8</p>	<p>♠ A J 7 ♥ Q 9 5 3 ♦ K J 6 2 ♣ Q 9</p> <p>♠ K Q 5 3 ♥ K 10 8 ♦ Q 5 ♣ J 7 4 3</p>
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If East plays in INT, uses the club entry to dummy to play the diamonds, and gets this suit right, it will need very accurate defence to beat the contract. It needs a heart lead, and a spade switch, giving the defence 3 tricks in spades, 3 in hearts and a diamond. I think INT will actually make with overtricks at least half the time, beating those who play in the safer diamond contract.

Board 25. Dealer North. Vulnerability E/W

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

The weak NT is a good system, but anyone playing it must be aware that occasionally they will be caught. This is that hand.

South will double East's INT opener, and E/W have nowhere to go. Worse still, N/S can only make a part score their way.

The penalty on sound defence will be at least 500.

Board 26. Dealer East. Vulnerability All

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

With E/W silent, most N/S pairs will end up in 3NT. Unless E/W grab their 4 defensive tricks immediately, N/S will come to 10 tricks, more if E/W lead and continue hearts.

Nine tricks in NT would still be good even if the spades didn't split, but as they actually do, those pairs that end up in 4♠ will find it is a lucky make.

Board 27. Dealer South. Vulnerability None

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

E/W have an excellent slam available in NT, conceding the ♦K for an easy 12 tricks. Bidding it is harder. The auction will normally start 1♦ - 2♣ - 2♥, and, after the reverse, East will probably bulldoze his way there. However, if South starts the auction with 2♠, West will double, and the route to slam could become rather murky.

Board 28. Dealer West. Vulnerability N/S

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

After West passes, North will normally open 1♣ and most with the East hand will overcall 1NT. South has an easy bid of 2♠, and that should finish the auction. Any sensible line should, lead to 8 tricks.