

BOARD 25
EW Game
Dealer N

♠ K10
♥ K10653
♦ AJ975
♣ 9

♠ 98752
♥ Q74
♦ 3
♣ K754

♠ QJ63
♥ AJ9
♦ Q104
♣ 1082

	♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	2	-	-	-	-
S	2	-	-	-	-
E	-	4	5	1	1
W	-	4	5	1	1

BOARD 26
Game All
Dealer E

♠ Q109
♥ AJ10732
♦ J
♣ 432

♠ 3
♥ K86
♦ A96432
♣ 965

♠ K654
♥ 5
♦ KQ875
♣ J107

	♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	3	2	2	2	2
S	3	2	2	2	2
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

BOARD 27
Love All
Dealer S

♠ KJ
♥ KJ53
♦ A1097
♣ Q32

♠ 98632
♥ 1087
♦ 832
♣ 65

♠ Q107
♥ A964
♦ K6
♣ J1098

	♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	3	1	3	1	3
W	3	1	3	1	3

BOARD 28
NS Game
Dealer W

♠ 986
♥ K62
♦ 10742
♣ 742

♠ QJ1075
♥ Q
♦ 3
♣ KQJ1086

♠ K3
♥ 107543
♦ J985
♣ A5

	♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	6	4	3	6	5
S	6	4	3	6	6
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

25 A Lucas 2♠ from North and 3♣ (pass or convert) from South will put West under pressure. He may discount ♠K and feel that, vulnerable, 3♥ may be a step too far.

Those passing as North will allow West to overcall 1♥ after South opens 1♣. Once North supports clubs and East hearts, who knows where the bidding may end? With the short club and a second suit, East-West should take the strain and bid game and double any 5♣ sacrifice.

26 The bidding should start 1♠ - 1NT - 2♣ - 2♦. South with extra values should now bid 2NT and North with ♥K can pass.

South must be 5/3/1/4, or shapier with a void diamond. Declarer must try to set up his fifth spade, and in the process the defence are likely to concede two heart tricks along with four clubs, ♠A and ♦A.

27 If South opens 1♣, West can upgrade to a 1NT overcall, propelling East-West into the heart game which goes off on a club ruff.

Strong no-trumpers will hear 2♥ (transfer) from North and 2♠ from South. Either West has to pre-balance with a double or East must double for takeout, harder with only two diamonds. -100 will score very well for North-South.

28 Slam is on with the spade finesse working, but missing two key-cards is unlikely to be bid: 1♠ - 1♦ - 1♠ - 2♥ - 2♠ - 4NT - (no ace) - 5♠.

However, Mrs McGlumpshie will argue, "my partner has opened, I have 18 points, 6NT will be safest" – and can expect a bountiful of match-points.

WEST DISTRICT SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS

Thursday
9 February 2017

Hand Commentary
by Bob McKinnon

BOARD 1
Love All
Dealer N

♠ K42 ♥ 42 ♦ AK654 ♣ 1085

♠ A ♥ K109 ♦ Q92 ♣ K76432

N	
W	E
S	

♠ QJ1087 ♥ AQ63 ♦ 103 ♣ A9

BOARD 2
NS Game
Dealer E

♠ AKJ ♥ Q ♦ J107 ♣ J987642

♠ 10754 ♥ 9854 ♦ Q8 ♣ AQ10

N	
W	E
S	

♠ 3 ♥ A72 ♦ AK643 ♣ K853

BOARD 3
EW Game
Dealer S

♠ 1042 ♥ Q107 ♦ Q ♣ AQJ762

♠ 863 ♥ 854 ♦ 963 ♣ 10854

N	
W	E
S	

♠ KO9 ♥ KJ62 ♦ K752 ♣ 93

BOARD 4
Game All
Dealer W

♠ Q72 ♥ - ♦ J1095 ♣ AQJ1073

♠ AKJ98 ♥ Q7642 ♦ 7 ♣ 84

N	
W	E
S	

♠ 10653 ♥ A985 ♦ 32 ♣ K52

1 Each side has a double fit with the points split – all the ingredients for a part-score battle.

The bidding may start 1♣ - 1♠ - 2♦ - 3♠, and already both sides are too high. The lie of the cards is such that everyone should take their tricks in defence. Anyone having a plus should score well.

2 Again an even split of the points. After 1♦ by South, will West overcall 2♣ with such an anaemic suit?

It's a bidder's game, but opinion will be divided. North will get into the action with two five-card majors and should buy the contract in hearts. Ten tricks are available but it needs careful play: best to set up the diamonds.

3 South may open a weak 1NT, North will investigate a major-suit fit and may elect to play in the top-scoring no-trump contract.

Everything will depend on the lead – with no guaranteed entry West will lead ♣Q or a passive spade. Those with x-ray vision can take the first six tricks. Those with the gadgets to find the diamond fit will investigate slam, but missing a key-card and the trump queen should play in five, but I suspect this will not score well when 3NT rolls in.

4 The bidding may start Pass - 1♦ - 2♦ (both majors) - Pass - 2♠. At this point no-one can justify bidding on, but West may venture 3♠.

Two top diamonds will put East under pressure. The temptation will be to ruff hearts but getting back to hand is the problem. A diamond may be over-ruffed and a trump will only allow one further ruff with the queen. An early club finesse, repeated as trumps are drawn, has the potential for disaster if the club holdings are switched in defence.

21 How to reach 6♦ after a 2NT opener by East? 3♣ - 3♥ (showing 5) - 3♠ (natural) - 4♦ (bidding shape) - 6♦ (punt).

Those in 3NT should make eleven tricks (five diamonds, four hearts and two aces) unless South finds the inspired club lead.

22 South will overcall 1♠ after the 1♥ opener. North should give a courtesy raise.

Now South may well bid game. The sixth spade, a singleton, the well placed ♥K and a decent second suit combined are very persuasive. The useless ♦K gives North a working 4-count which is all that is needed for the game to succeed. With only one entry to dummy necessary to play a heart towards ♥K, it looks like two club losers, but playing a club first creates another entry to later play the heart.

23 Another flat(ish) board in a heart game, where the winning club finesse will bring in eleven tricks.

Will East get busy after 1♥ - Pass - 2NT (Jacoby)? The suit and vulnerability would suggest otherwise. But! This may improve the South hand and have him pushing to slam, resulting in undeserved top for East-West!

24 Opinion is divided on the correct opening bid with 5-5 in the black suits.

I always open 1♠ – it is the boss suit and you want to find the 5-3 fit if available. I may be in the minority but no matter, South should bid 3♥. East-West need good methods to stop short of game, for example 1♠ - 3♥ - Double - Pass - 3♠ - All Pass.

BOARD 21
NS Game
Dealer N

♠ A632 ♥ 8 ♦ A8732 ♣ Q87

♠ Q10 ♥ AKQ94 ♦ KQ95 ♣ A5

N	
W	E
S	

♠ KJ75 ♥ 10532 ♦ J106 ♣ 104

BOARD 22
EW Game
Dealer E

♠ 109 ♥ J109 ♦ J842 ♣ Q765

♠ K32 ♥ 763 ♦ K973 ♣ J84

N	
W	E
S	

♠ AQ8654 ♥ K2 ♦ 5 ♣ A1092

BOARD 23
Game All
Dealer S

♠ 872 ♥ 102 ♦ KQJ ♣ KJ1074

♠ J953 ♥ A ♦ 10976532 ♣ 2

N	
W	E
S	

♠ AK4 ♥ KQJ76 ♦ A ♣ 9853

BOARD 24
Love All
Dealer W

♠ J103 ♥ Q6 ♦ AJ1087 ♣ 762

♠ K94 ♥ J93 ♦ Q542 ♣ A94

N	
W	E
S	

♠ Q6 ♥ K1087542 ♦ 96 ♣ KQ

BOARD 17

Love All
Dealer N

♠ K92
♥ J93
♦ A108
♣ KJ102

♠ A106
♥ 10762
♦ K92
♣ 764

♠ J7543
♥ AQ8
♦ QJ5
♣ A3

N	
W	E
	S

♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	2	-	-	-
S	1	-	-	-
E	-	1	1	2
W	-	1	1	3

♠ Q8
♥ K54
♦ 7643
♣ Q985

BOARD 18

NS Game
Dealer E

♠ J83
♥ J965
♦ AQ43
♣ KQ

N	
W	E
	S

♠ 2
♥ K843
♦ J1098752
♣ 10

♠ Q976
♥ 72
♦ 6
♣ J86432

BOARD 19

EW Game
Dealer S

♠ 9
♥ K109862
♦ KJ4
♣ Q72

N	
W	E
	S

♠ K1082
♥ A7
♦ AQ72
♣ A96

♠ AJ53
♥ Q4
♦ 1086
♣ 8543

BOARD 20

Game All
Dealer W

♠ AK5
♥ J932
♦ 952
♣ KQ8

N	
W	E
	S

♠ Q98643
♥ A6
♦ J76
♣ 106

♠ J102
♥ Q107
♦ K84
♣ 9532

♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-
E	2	3	2	3
W	2	3	2	3

17

A weak 1NT by North may be doubled by East. What will South bid?

South may take his chances and one off will not be a disaster with a spade contract available to East-West. East will lead his fourth best spade; now West must cover the card played by dummy to defeat the contract.

18

First in hand, a poor long minor and a four-card major. Everything says don't pre-empt, yet this may be the only route to the making 5♦.

In the real world, unless playing weak jump shifts East will pass West's 1♠ opener. Should West open 2NT with a singleton king? Even then it is a leap in the dark to bid 5♦. The brave will be rewarded by perfect cards.

19

After three passes, the strong no-trumpers will play there, otherwise the bidding may start 1♦ - Pass - 1♠. A crisp East may bid game.

Those recognising the position from board 12 will surely find the winning play: ♠K, then run ♠10 and take successful club and diamond finesses, noting the 3-3 diamond break. However, even those in 3♠ will struggle. The strong no-trumpers will be pleasantly surprised when their plus score does well.

20

Playing a weak 1NT West has a tricky bid, so what is his best lie?

Opening a suit may lead to an upgraded 1NT rebid over partner's 1♠ response. North has a dilemma on the first spade from declarer's hand. Does it look right to play a high honour? This is necessary to ensure three tricks in the suit.

5

With points for game and a nine-card heart fit, this should be the flattest board of the set.

Declarer must lose a diamond and ♠K. A club from either side is an automatic lead. Anyone striving for a match-point top in 3NT will get what they deserve.

6

Most will open 2♠ (or a Multi 2♦) with the East hand. West should pass 2♠ and North will venture 3♣. This will come back to West who has a decision to make.

He can raise spades, bid 3♥ as an alternative place to play (showing tolerance for spades), pass or double. Is the double for penalty or take-out? This is a matter of system agreement. I would expect many different contracts and results.

7

Most Souths will open a weak 2♥, and neither West nor North are quite good enough to take action.

East though has a clear 2♠ bid despite only 11 high-card points. West has enough for game. The odds are in favour of the winning spade finesse, and a diamond to ♦K will result in eleven tricks.

8

Aggressive Wests may open a horrible Lucas 2♠, propelling East-West into a doomed game, doubled (?) by South.

More realistically East will open 1♠, and South doubles. Playing inverted minors West can bid 3♣, and a disciplined East will pass. South will be back in with a double, and now North should bid 3♦. Will he be allowed to play there? One for the road by East will prove successful as ten tricks are available in clubs, helped by ruffs in dummy.

BOARD 5

NS Game
Dealer N

♠ QJ96
♥ 1093
♦ KJ105
♣ A3

N	
W	E
	S

♠ 1075
♥ 54
♦ A42
♣ K8642

♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	1	5	5	2
S	1	5	5	2
E	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-

♠ A82
♥ AKJ862
♦ Q93
♣ 9

BOARD 6

EW Game
Dealer E

♠ A6
♥ A52
♦ K9
♣ K109862

N	
W	E
	S

♠ J108543
♥ 8
♦ AQ42
♣ Q4

♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	1	-	-	-
S	1	-	-	-
E	-	2	2	2
W	-	2	2	2

♠ KO9
♥ 1097
♦ 87653
♣ 73

BOARD 7

Game All
Dealer S

♠ Q104
♥ J103
♦ QJ7
♣ 9873

N	
W	E
	S

♠ AJ632
♥ 2
♦ 98643
♣ AQ

♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	-	1	-	-
S	-	1	-	-
E	2	5	-	5
W	2	5	-	5

♠ 85
♥ Q98654
♦ A10
♣ KJ5

BOARD 8

Love All
Dealer W

♠ 75
♥ 932
♦ 10964
♣ K1096

N	
W	E
	S

♠ Q
♥ KQ76
♦ AK5
♣ AQ732

♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	-	2	-	-
S	-	2	-	-
E	4	-	1	1
W	4	-	1	1

♠ AK862
♥ AJ54
♦ QJ73
♣ -

BOARD 9		♠ AQJ65
EW Game		♥ KJ103
Dealer N		♦ 32
		♣ 42
♠ K73	♠ 10984	
♥ 54	♥ Q92	
♦ AK654	♦ J10	
♣ Q107	♣ AK83	

	♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	-	-	2	-	-
S	-	-	2	-	-
E	1	2	-	-	-
W	1	2	-	-	-

BOARD 10		♠ AJ96
Game All		♥ K82
Dealer E		♦ AKQ
		♣ Q107
♠ Q1075	♠ K432	
♥ J5	♥ 10963	
♦ J1065	♦ 742	
♣ A52	♣ K9	

	♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	4	2	3	1	4
S	4	2	3	1	4
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

BOARD 11		♠ K5
Love All		♥ 9
Dealer S		♦ KJ98653
		♣ 752
♠ 43	♠ AQJ10	
♥ QJ8632	♥ AK104	
♦ 10	♦ Q	
♣ 8643	♣ AQJ9	

	♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	-	3	-	-	-
S	-	3	-	-	-
E	4	-	5	2	-
W	4	-	5	1	-

BOARD 12		♠ Q107432
NS Game		♥ 96
Dealer W		♦ 1076
		♣ 109
♠ 96	♠ AK5	
♥ Q754	♥ K1083	
♦ AQJ2	♦ 9854	
♣ A72	♣ K5	

	♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	2	6	6	2	5
W	2	6	6	2	5

9 After 1♠ - Pass - 1NT - Pass, North should bid 2♥, striking gold. Will West, being vulnerable, balance with 3♦?

The badly placed ♠K should warn West off, and North will require careful play to make the contract. Best is to set the spades up without losing a trick, and a heart finesse to fall back on. Anyone making their contract for +110 will score well.

10 1♠ - 1NT - 3NT is a likely sequence. Few Wests will lead a spade to hold declarer to nine or ten tricks.

On a diamond lead declarer will set up the clubs, and East has to find three discards without knowing the South hand. How many will be brave or stupid enough to bare ♠K in order to keep four hearts? Eleven tricks will be made unless a spade switch is found at some stage.

11 Sitting with a powerhouse, East may hear a weak opening bid from any one of the previous three hands.

The most likely sequence is Pass - Pass - 3♦ - Double - 5♦ - Pass - Pass - ? Another double by East now puts West under pressure. Most will pass and take the money, but +300 is scant reward when +650 is available in hearts.

12 No matter the no-trump range - East-West should find the heart fit to play in game.

Don't be deceived by the twelve tricks available in the red suits ("We should be in slam, partner!"). Only a soft defence or a brilliant declarer is bringing this home: ♥K, then run ♥10 to pin ♥9. Why prefer this to low to ♥Q then low towards ♥K10?

13 1♥ - 1♠ will keep the opposition quiet, but can North-South stay out of game?

The bidding may continue 2♥ - 3♦ - 3♥. The failure of North to bid no-trumps may persuade South to pass as just one club stop does not look good when this is the unbid suit. A raise to game in hearts will result in the dreaded -200 or worse.

14 Most will stop short of slam but only the bad trump break beats a reasonable 6♠.

After 1♥ - 1♠ some (me?) play a splinter as a slam try. East with soft values and a 9-count will soon pass. A club lead, or ♦A then an immediate club switch, will hold the contract to ten tricks.

15 With their 6-3 fit and a combined 26 points, this is an easy 4♥ for North-South.

However, declarer should remember to take the diamond ruff before drawing trumps, otherwise just ten tricks will result in a bottom.

16 A laydown 4♥ for North-South, but how to get there when the opposition have bid to a genuine 3NT?

The bidding is likely to start 1♦ - Pass - 2/3♦ depending on system. Can South really bid hearts? In your dreams - East-West will get a free run, and those stopping short of game will do well.

BOARD 13		♠ K2
Game All		♥ AKQ1073
Dealer N		♦ 965
		♣ 103
♠ AQ1054	♠ 3	
♥ 9	♥ J8542	
♦ QJ42	♦ 3	
♣ K96	♣ QJ8742	

	♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	-	3	2	1	1
S	-	3	2	1	1
E	3	-	-	-	-
W	3	-	-	-	-

BOARD 14		♠ 9
Love All		♥ 9765
Dealer E		♦ K872
		♣ K1053
♠ A762	♠ KQ103	
♥ AKJ102	♥ Q8	
♦ 5	♦ 964	
♣ AJ9	♣ Q764	

	♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	-	1	-	-	-
S	-	1	-	-	-
E	4	-	4	4	2
W	4	-	4	4	2

BOARD 15		♠ 84
NS Game		♥ AQ9743
Dealer S		♦ K94
		♣ K2
♠ AJ65	♠ K97	
♥ 6	♥ J108	
♦ Q762	♦ J853	
♣ Q1095	♣ 843	

	♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	2	-	5	2	4
S	2	-	5	2	4
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

BOARD 16		♠ J64
EW Game		♥ KQ7
Dealer W		♦ 973
		♣ A1032
♠ A983	♠ K52	
♥ A9	♥ 842	
♦ KJ862	♦ AQ1054	
♣ 87	♣ QJ	

	♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	4	-	4	-	-
S	4	-	4	-	-
E	-	3	-	2	2
W	-	3	-	2	2